

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MIN/NTM/6
26 June 1975

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

MEETING OF JUNE 1975

Chairman's Summing-up and Record of Decisions Taken at Meeting

1. The Group met on 24 and 25 June 1975. It agreed that the Group should be chaired by the secretariat. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Group as an observer.

(a) Procedures for negotiations on non-tariff measures not dealt with
multilaterally

2. Some delegations agreed that most of the basic elements contained in the procedures set out in paragraph 3 of MIN/NTM/W/4 provided a suitable framework for negotiations on individual measures not dealt with multilaterally. It was suggested that these procedures should be flexible and transparent and could provide for (a) specific requests or suggestions with respect to individual items, (b) information to other participants with respect to such requests or suggestions and for (c) other participants joining in any consultations or negotiations subject to concurrence of the participants concerned. Occasional reports on the progress on these matters could be made to the Group "Non-Tariff Measures". Some other delegations considered that it would be premature to adopt procedures for such negotiations before the Group had a fuller idea of the measures which would be dealt with multilaterally.

3. Some delegations considered that there is an essential link between all frontier measures relating to individual items and that procedures on such non-tariff measures and procedures concerning tariff negotiations should be considered jointly.

4. Some delegations also considered that any procedures for negotiations on individual measures would need to provide for special procedures for negotiations between developed and developing countries in this area.

5. The Group agreed to revert to this matter at its next meeting.

6. One delegation proposed that where product related non-tariff measures form a part of countries' import régimes this fact should be indicated at the tariff line level by expanding the present tariff rate information file. Some delegations supported this proposal in principle. Some delegations raised a number of questions about the practical implications of this proposal. It was noted that this delegation would submit a paper setting out the details of this proposal for examination at the next meeting of the Group.

(b) Consideration of the summing-ups by Chairmen of Sub-Groups

7. The Group noted the Chairman's summing-up and record of decisions taken by the Sub-Groups "Quantitative Restrictions", "Technical Barriers to Trade", "Customs Matters" and "Subsidies and Countervailing Duties" (MTN/NTM/2, MTN/NTM/3, MTN/NTM/4 and MTN/NTM/5) and of the statements made on these in the Group.

8. Some delegations stressed the need for more rapid progress in the negotiations on various non-tariff measures and for the early development of special procedures to take account of the interest of developing countries. Several delegations from developing countries stressed that the lack of progress in the development of special procedures for the negotiations between developed and developing countries should be brought to the attention of the Trade Negotiations Committee. It was noted that, since the provisions of the Tokyo Declaration applied in each area of the negotiations, it was open to delegations to pursue the question of differential treatment in favour of developing countries in the context also of the bilateral or plurilateral consultations or discussions agreed upon in this area.

(c) Report by the secretariat on the status of bilateral or plurilateral consultations or discussions on quantitative restrictions

9. The Group noted the secretariat report on the status of notifications which should be made in accordance with paragraph 8(a) of MTN/NTM/2 and the statements made to the effect that further notifications would be made in the near future. The Group suggested that delegations intending to submit notifications should do so at the earliest possible date.

10. The Group agreed that technical arrangements for the conduct of the consultations or discussions would as far as possible be made by the exporting and importing countries concerned and that the secretariat should, if requested, be ready to assist by providing meeting rooms and interpretation facilities for such consultations or discussions and, again where exporting and importing countries so request, by arranging contacts between delegations wishing to consult.

11. The Group noted the difference of opinion regarding the coverage of the consultations or discussions in terms of both products and measures. The Group noted the discussions of the Sub-Group with regard to the product coverage as contained in MTN/NTM/2, paragraph 2(v) and (vi) and its conclusion on the measures to be covered, inter alia, in paragraph 3 of that document. It was expected that practical problems of definition would be taken up in the first instance in the consultations or discussions themselves. The Group agreed that paragraph 2(vi) of the Chairman's summing-up of the Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions" should be brought to the attention of the Group "Agriculture".

(d) Information to the Trade Negotiations Committee

12. The Group agreed that the Chairman should make an oral report to the Trade Negotiations Committee covering the work of the Group and its Sub-Groups.

(e) Establishment of Programme of Work and Calendar of meetings

13. The Group noted the indications in respect to the work programme of the Sub-Groups as contained in the summing-ups made by their respective Chairmen.

14. The Group agreed that the length of meetings of the Group and the Sub-Groups would depend on a number of factors including the progress made but that in the normal course of events meetings might be expected to last up to two weeks.

15. The Group agreed that the meetings might open in the weeks beginning:

Technical barriers to trade	22 September
Customs matters	6 October
Group "Non-Tariff Measures"	13 October
Quantitative Restrictions	27 October
Subsidies and Countervailing Duties	10 or 17 November (the precise date to be decided by Group "Non-Tariff Measures" at its October meeting).

16. The Group agreed that at its meeting in October it might, if necessary, set the date of a further meeting to take stock of the situation prior to the meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee.

(f) Other business

17. It was stated by some delegations that they would wish to raise topics relating to anti-dumping duties and charges on imports and variable levies including minimum import prices at the next meeting in connexion with the establishment of further Sub-Groups. Some delegations reserved their position regarding the competence of the Group to deal with some of these topics and regarding the measures which could be taken up multilaterally in the second stage. It was noted that a decision on the additional items that might be taken up would be taken at the next meeting in the light of the proposals made at that meeting.