

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/NTM/11

8 December 1975

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

MEETING OF DECEMBER 1975

Chairman's Summing-Up

1. The Group met on 4 and 5 December 1975. It invited the Secretary General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Group as an observer.

Establishment of a second list of non-tariff measures

2. The Group reverted to proposals made by different delegations that four measures or groups of measures be included in a second list of non-tariff measures to be taken up multilaterally (MTN/NTM/8, paragraph 2).

3. A number of general points were made regarding the establishment of a second list. There was general agreement that no measure should be excluded from the negotiations. Some delegations considered, however, that no new subjects should be taken up at the present time since participants needed to concentrate their resources on securing progress in the ongoing work in the existing Sub-Groups. Other delegations considered that a decision should be taken on a second list as to delay such a decision indefinitely would involve the risk of certain measures being left out of the negotiations.

4. The Group also addressed itself to the specific proposals before it. Delegations proposing that variable levies and minimum import prices or non-tariff charges on imports be taken up stated that the Sub-Group should deal with general problems relating to the mechanisms as such, rather than with problems relating to particular products. There was a difference of opinion in the Group as to whether these measures fell within the mandate of the Group. Several delegations considered that these matters should be dealt with in the Group "Agriculture". Several delegations considered that these matters should be dealt with in the Group "Non-Tariff Measures".

5. Some delegations said that the question of taking up anti-dumping duties in the negotiations should be examined when the results of the work programme adopted in the Anti-Dumping Committee were available. The hope was expressed that these results would be available to all members of the Trade Negotiations Committee. Some delegations believed that, though the work undertaken in the Anti-Dumping Committee may be useful, anti-dumping duties should be taken up in the negotiations. Some delegations pointed out that the special problems of developing countries were not being dealt with in the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices.

6. There was a broad consensus that government procurement practices should be taken up in the negotiations at an appropriate time. The Group requested the secretariat to bring its Note on this subject (MTN/NTM/W/16) up to date and to find out whether any further information was available from the OECD.

7. The Group agreed that at its next meeting, to be held not later than April 1976, it would endeavour to establish additional categories of non-tariff measures to be dealt with multilaterally.

Procedures for negotiations on non-tariff measures not dealt with multilaterally and related matters

8. Many delegations considered that it might be premature to adopt procedures for negotiations on non-tariff measures not dealt with multilaterally at this time. Several delegations supported a flexible and transparent approach. One delegation suggested that, as a first step towards developing procedures, notifications could be made by countries with respect to non-tariff measures applied by individual countries which are prima facie, in their view, not susceptible of multilateral solutions. A number of clarifications were requested with regard to this proposal. Some delegations said that the implications of the Group "Non-Tariff Measures" endorsing a bilateral request procedure should be examined. The delegation making the proposal indicated its willingness to present a written paper on this subject.

9. The Group agreed to keep the question of the link between negotiations on non-tariff measures and tariffs on its agenda.

10. The Group turned to the proposal contained in MTN/W/21. It invited the secretariat to examine, in consultation with delegations, the possibility of improving the data base on non-tariff measures and to make a report on the matter at the next meeting. The Group agreed to revert to the question at its next meeting.

Work of Sub-Groups

11. The Group took note of the summings-up made by the respective Chairmen of the work of Sub-Groups "Quantitative Restrictions" and "Subsidies and Countervailing Duties" (MTN/NTM/9 and 10). A number of comments were made. The Group expressed the hope that the work of the Sub-Groups would be accelerated.

Other matters

12. The Group agreed to hold its next meeting not later than April 1976. 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.