

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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## Multilateral Trade Negotiations

### Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

#### Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions"

### SUMMING-UP BY CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING HELD 12-13 JULY 1976

1. The Sub-Group met on 12-13 July 1976. It invited the Secretary General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Sub-Group as an observer. At the end of the meeting the Chairman, on his own responsibility, gave the following summing-up.

A. QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS (including import prohibitions and so-called voluntary export restraints)

2. The Sub-Group had before it a number of summary notes on consultations held by delegations as exporting or importing countries under the procedure agreed upon at its meeting in April 1975 (MTN/NTM/W/40 and Addenda 1-10). A number of delegations also made oral reports on consultations which they had held, or were preparing to hold, in the near future. It was noted that, unless otherwise indicated, the summary notes reflected only the views of the country having submitted them for circulation.

3. Disappointment was expressed by some delegations that the consultations had not advanced further. Some other delegations had none the less found the process useful in clarifying factual information. Some delegations repeated their views on the product coverage of the consultations. It was noted that some of these had come up earlier in connexion with the mandate of the Sub-Group.

4. Some delegations expressed the view that it was difficult to undertake an analysis of the existing situation in the light of the differing character of the summary notes, and the fact that the consultation process had not been completed.

It was agreed that the consultation process should be continued and that delegations which had not yet submitted summary notes should endeavour to do so prior to the next meeting of the Sub-Group with a view to facilitating an analysis of the existing situation.

5. The Sub-Group continued its discussion of the possibility of formulating additional procedures for bilateral and/or plurilateral negotiations on quantitative restrictions and the possibility of working out a general formula or formulae of automatic application. In this context the Sub-Group had before it a proposal earlier submitted by a delegation in MTN/NTM/W/6. A number of delegations expressed the view that both bilateral and multilateral elements should be included in any formula, while a number of other delegations stressed the importance of the latter. Some delegations repeated their views on the relationship between the work of the Sub-Group and that of other MTN groups and sub-groups. Some delegations expressed the hope that at its next meeting the Sub-Group would be in a position to address itself to specific issues related to this point. One delegation said that it expected to submit suggestions concerning negotiations on quantitative restrictions at the next meeting of the Sub-Group.

6. The Sub-Group continued its discussion on the possibility of differential treatment including special procedures in favour of developing countries. In this context the Sub-Group had before it a proposal made previously by one delegation in MTN/NTM/W/29. References were also made to several earlier proposals contained in COM.TD/188 and 198, and in MTN/3B/15 and 20 as well as the Annex to MTN/3B/18. Some delegations expressed the view that priority treatment of quantitative restrictions affecting exports from developing countries should be an important element in the process of liberalization of quantitative restrictions generally. The view was expressed that such priority treatment could be achieved by means of specific requests related to particular restrictions adversely affecting the export interests of developing countries, including such restrictions maintained by other developing countries. A delegation stated that priority attention of the Sub-Group should not be limited to differential treatment for developing countries, but should also include the elaboration of special procedures, similar to those presently under consideration in Group "Tariffs", to be agreed upon before actual negotiations on quantitative restrictions began.

7. The Sub-Group agreed to revert to the above matters at its next meeting.

8. The Sub-Group agreed to revert at a subsequent meeting to the question of a review of the GATT provisions relating to the use of quantitative restrictions from the point of view of the interests of developing countries.

9. The Sub-Group discussed the question of ensuring that there was an accurate and complete data base on quantitative restrictions. There were differences of opinion in the Sub-Group with regard to additional procedures for the inclusion of quantitative restrictions notified for the purposes of the present consultations into the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures. The Sub-Group therefore agreed that additions to the Inventory would continue to be governed by the procedures already established. Some delegations expressed the view that proposals with respect to quantitative restrictions on agricultural products should have been brought to the attention of Group "Agriculture" in accordance with the Chairman's suggestions made in the Trade Negotiations Committee (MTN/W/24). Some other delegations could not agree that a specific reference to this matter, in addition to the transmittal of the summing-up of the Chairman to the Chairman of Group "Agriculture", was called for.

B. IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

10. The Sub-Group continued its discussion on import licensing procedures on the basis of the two draft texts reproduced at pages 15-19 of document MTN/NTM/W/2, communications from delegations that had been circulated as document MTN/NTM/W/11 and Addenda 1-8, and a note by the secretariat presenting in a systematic manner all the comments and proposals made by delegations (MTN/NTM/W/39/Rev.2).

11. The Sub-Group agreed to continue the discussion at its next meeting with a view to a detailed examination of the different proposals made. It invited delegations wishing to do so to submit in writing to the secretariat, in time for the next meeting, any new or additional proposals and comments on the two draft texts and on the proposals already received (MTN/NTM/W/11 and Addenda). The secretariat was requested to update document MTN/NTM/W/39/Rev.2 taking these proposals into account.

C. DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

12. The Sub-Group agreed that the date for the next meeting would be fixed by the Group "Non-Tariff Measures" at its forthcoming meeting.