

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

MEETING OF JANUARY 1977

Summing-up by the Chairman

1. The Group met on 13 January 1977. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend the session of the Group as an observer. It noted the communications from the chairmen of other Groups or Sub-Groups referred to in MTN/NTM/W/79. At the end of the meeting, the Chairman gave the following summing-up on his own responsibility.

Establishment of a second list of non-tariff measures

(a) Variable levies, minimum import prices or non-tariff charges on imports

2. The Group reverted to the proposal that a Sub-Group on variable levies, minimum import prices or non-tariff charges on imports be established. The Group noted that the positions on the basic issues set out in MTN/NTM/11, paragraph 4 and MTN/NTM/16, paragraph 2 remained unchanged.

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

(b) Anti-dumping

4. The Group heard a statement by Mr. Eggert (Finland) made at the request of the Anti-Dumping Committee, inter alia, inviting representatives of countries not adhering to the Anti-Dumping Code to discuss with the members of the Committee the problems that these countries were facing in the field of anti-dumping. A large number of delegations expressed reservations on this statement. Among the points made were that the specific problems of developing countries in connexion with the Anti-Dumping Code was outside the terms of reference of the Anti-Dumping Committee and that a GATT Working Party had in the past already discussed the matter at length without reaching a solution to these problems. These delegations reiterated their request for the establishment of a sub-group, pointing out that the Tokyo Declaration provided that all trade problems of developing countries be dealt with in the negotiations. Some

delegations indicated that they were not opposed to the establishment of a Sub-Group at an appropriate time. Some delegations said that discussion in the Anti-Dumping Committee would be useful and indicated that further reflection should be given to the question. The Group agreed to revert to the proposal for the creation of a sub-group at its next meeting. In this connexion the Group noted the views expressed by several delegations that a decision should be taken sufficiently early to enable any sub-group that may be set up, to deal with the matter within the time-frame of the negotiations.

Procedures for negotiations on measures not dealt with multilaterally

(a) Procedures

5. The Group decided to adopt the procedures set out in the Annex, noting the decision taken by Group "Agriculture" in December 1975 and the procedures decided in the three Sub-Groups.

(b) Other matters

6. The Group agreed to revert to the other matters relating to negotiations on measures not dealt with multilaterally, including those mentioned in MTN/NTM/W/1 and to the precise formulation of the subject matter under this agenda item, at a subsequent meeting.

Establishment of a comprehensive data base for item-related non-tariff measures

7. The Group recalled its previous discussions on this matter (MTN/NTM/16 and 21) and took note of the conclusions of Group "Agriculture" (MTN/AG/5). There being no objections, the Group invited the GATT secretariat to include in the tariff rate information file the relevant information concerning all products.

8. To this end, the secretariat would initially record in the Tariff Rate Information File all non-tariff measures which were identified at the four-digit level in the available GATT documents relating to non-tariff measures. The secretariat would also include, at the four-digit level, non-tariff measures when the product description was sufficiently precise to enable this to be done without risk of error. Also, in the relatively rare case where information for a particular type of measure is generally available at the tariff line level, it could be recorded at that level. The Group will revert at its next meeting to the question of the further elaboration of this information.

Other business

(a) The Group heard a statement by the United States delegation relating to the impact of varying tax practices on international trade.

(b) Work of the Sub-Groups

The Group noted the summings-up of the Chairmen of the Sub-Groups which had met in the interval (MIN/NTM/22-25).

(c) Programme of meetings

The Group agreed on the following programme of meetings for the Group and its Sub-Groups:

Sub-Group "Customs Matters": week of 21 February

Sub-Group "Subsidies and Countervailing Duties": 28 February-2 March

Sub-Group "Government Procurement": 3-4 March

Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions"

- Technical level meeting on
import licensing procedures: 7-8 March

- Sub-Group: 9-11 March

Sub-Group "Technical Barriers to Trade": week of 21 March

Group "Non-Tariff Measures": week of 18 April

ANNEX

Group Non-Tariff Measures agreed to pursue its work on Non-Tariff Measures Not Dealt with Multilaterally. As an initial step delegations will undertake a process of information, examination and dialogue with respect to non-tariff measures other than those currently being dealt with multilaterally. To that end, the countries concerned would notify to the secretariat such non-tariff measures of direct interest for their trade. Bilateral or plurilateral consultations would be organized on the basis of notifications received. Assistance from the secretariat would be available on request.

The notifications will be circulated to all participants in the negotiations in the appropriate document series MTN/NTM/W/-.

After bilateral or plurilateral consultations have taken place delegations should endeavour, in advance of the next meeting, to send to the secretariat summary notes with respect to the consultations in which they had participated; the secretariat would assemble and distribute these summaries for the further work of the Group. The report may be unilateral or jointly agreed. Written reports would be circulated by the secretariat in the appropriate Group NTM document series.

Taking into account such summary notes and any further oral comments Group Non-Tariff Measures would review the results of these consultations with a view to determining the next step in this aspect of the negotiations. Such determination should include the possibility of multilateral solutions to these measures.

In the course of these consultations and negotiations priority attention will be given to non-tariff measures of interest to the developing countries.