

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/NIM/34

8 July 1977

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## Multilateral Trade Negotiations

### Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

#### Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions"

### MEETING OF JULY 1977

#### Summing-Up by the Acting Chairman

1. The Sub-Group met on 5 July 1977.
2. It was agreed that the secretariat should act as Chairman for the present meeting.
3. The Sub-Group invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, or his representative, to attend the session of the Sub-Group as an observer.
4. The Sub-Group noted the communications received from Chairmen of other Groups or Sub-Groups (MTN/NIM/W/105). At the end of the meeting, the Acting Chairman summed-up the discussion, on his own responsibility, as follows:

#### A. QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS

5. The Sub-Group continued its discussion on 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 as well as the question of differential treatment including special procedures in favour of developing countries. In this context the Sub-Group had before it proposals and statements by delegations that had been circulated previously in MTN/NIM/W/6, MTN/NIM/W/29, MTN/NIM/W/66 and MTN/NIM/W/67. A reference was also made to proposals submitted at an earlier stage by developing countries concerning special and differential treatment (COM.TD/W/188 and 198). The Sub-Group heard a statement from a delegation tabling a new proposal, reproduced in MTN/NIM/W/106. Several delegations raised a number of questions and sought clarification on particular aspects of this proposal. Further comments were also made on previous proposals, and views were expressed with regard, inter alia, to the bilateral and multilateral aspects of a possible approach for the elimination of quantitative restrictions, the justification of quantitative restrictions under the GATT, the socio-economic realities underlying existing restrictions, the relationship between further progress in this area and other areas of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, the product coverage of proposed procedures, treatment of other measures

having the same effect as quantitative restrictions and the possible elaboration of criteria for the elimination of quantitative restrictions. Delegations from developing countries reiterated their position on how to provide special and more favourable treatment for developing countries in this field.

6. The Sub-Group requested the secretariat to examine, in consultation with delegations, the feasibility of establishing a list of quantitative restrictions which have emerged from the consultations held under the procedures of MTN/NIM/2, paragraph 6 and contained in MTN/NIM/W/40 and addenda, as well as other GATT documentation on import restrictions.

7. The Sub-Group noted reports by delegations on the consultations in which they had participated as exporting or importing countries under the procedure adopted in April 1975 which had been submitted since its last meeting. The Sub-Group agreed that the consultation process should be continued and that delegations should endeavour to send to the secretariat summary notes with respect to the consultations in which they had participated.

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

B. IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

9. The Sub-Group heard a report by the Acting Chairman on the meeting at technical level held on 24-25 May 1977 with a view to working out an improved text on import licensing procedures for further negotiations in the Sub-Group. It was noted that while in some instances the discussion at the meeting had contributed to narrowing down existing differences of view, no final conclusions were reached on any of the points under consideration.

10. The Sub-Group noted a proposal which had been made by one delegation at the May meeting held at technical level, and circulated in MTN/NIM/W/73/Rev.1/Add.1, to include export licensing procedures into the work of the Sub-Group. Some delegations supported this proposal and it was pointed out that Articles VIII and XIII of the GATT covered both imports and exports. Other delegations expressed the view that this matter fell outside the competence of the Sub-Group and should be raised at a higher level.

11. The Sub-Group requested the secretariat to examine, in consultation with delegations, the feasibility of drawing up a draft text on Automatic Licensing along the same lines as the draft text on Licensing to Administer Import Restrictions (MTN/NIM/W/103). The Sub-Group would consider at its next meeting whether these draft texts could constitute a basis for the discussion on import licensing procedures.

12. The Sub-Group noted a document prepared by the secretariat (MTN/NTM/W/104) which indicates the relationship between the relevant provisions of the GATT, especially Articles VIII and XIII, and the draft texts elaborated by the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products. The Sub-Group requested the secretariat to replace the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products' texts by the draft texts drawn up or to be drawn up on import licensing procedures.

Other business

13. A proposal was made that the secretariat prepare, on the basis of views expressed and proposals submitted, a checklist of the main issues raised in the Sub-Group. The Sub-Group agreed to revert to this proposal at its next meeting.

Date for the next meeting

14. The Sub-Group requested the Group "Non-Tariff Measures" to establish the date for its next meeting and for a further meeting of the Sub-Group at technical level.