

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions"

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1977

Summing-Up by the Acting Chairman

1. The Sub-Group met on 17 November 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/NTM/W/125). 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. The Sub-Group had before it proposals and statements by delegations that had been circulated previously in MTN/NTM/W/6, 29, 66, 67 and 106 as well as proposals submitted at an earlier stage by developing countries concerning special and differential treatment (COM.TD/W/188 and 198) and those reflected in MTN/3B/15, 18 (Annex) and 20. Certain clarifications were given with respect to some of these proposals, and certain additional suggestions were made. It was noted that all these proposals and suggestions remained on the table. The Sub-Group also noted that as a result of the agreement on general procedures of requests and offers on any non-tariff measures as well as on special procedures for negotiations with developing countries reached in Group "Non-Tariff Measures" at the July 1977 meeting of that Group (MTN/NTM/35, paragraph 7 and Annex), a number of countries had recently submitted request and indicative lists related to import restrictions and similar measures. These lists had been or were

being circulated to all MTN participants. Several delegations stressed the importance attached to these procedures and indicated their intention to make full use of them. Some delegations stressed their support for a multilateral solution. It was also suggested that there was a link between the procedures of requests and offers and the proposals for multilateral procedures under discussion in the Sub-Group.

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

7. The Sub-Group noted reports by delegations on the consultations in which they had participated as exporting or importing countries. In this connexion, reference was made to the procedures for requests and offers adopted in Group "Non-Tariff Measures", as noted by the Sub-Group earlier. The Sub-Group agreed that the secretariat would continue to circulate summary notes received from delegations concerning consultations in which they had participated as exporting or importing countries.

B. IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

8. Reference was made to the proposal contained in MTN/NTM/W/73/Rev.1/Add.1 to include export licensing procedures into the work of the Sub-Group. The Sub-Group noted the divergence of views which existed with respect to this proposal.

9. The Sub-Group had before it two draft texts on import licensing procedures drawn up by the secretariat in consultation with delegations: Automatic Licensing (MTN/NTM/W/111) and Licensing to Administer Import Restrictions (MTN/NTM/W/103) as well as a note by the secretariat (MTN/NTM/W/104/Rev.1) indicating the relationship between the relevant GATT provisions and the two draft texts. The Sub-Group agreed to base its further work on import licensing procedures on the two draft texts, as amended, it being understood that these texts, as amended, would serve as a startingpoint for further negotiations and discussion. The Sub-Group also heard comments and suggestions concerning the two draft texts and requested the secretariat to establish a document which would contain a list of general points made, as well as revised versions of the texts in MTN/NTM/W/103 and 111, taking account of specific proposals made by delegations. The Sub-Group agreed to meet at technical level to examine the two draft texts in detail.

C. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

10. The Sub-Group agreed that the date of the next meeting, including the meeting at technical level, would be determined by the Acting Chairman in consultation with delegations.