

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/NTM/46

26 July 1978

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

Sub-Group "Government Procurement"

MEETING OF JULY 1978

Summing-up by the Chairman

1. The Sub-Group met on 19 and 20 July 1978.
2. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend as an observer.
3. The Sub-Group continued its work towards the negotiation of an arrangement on government procurement. In addition to earlier documentation available to the Sub-Group, it had before it two notes issued since its previous meeting in June entitled "Government Procurement" (MTN/NTM/W/174) containing a draft integrated text circulated by a number of delegations for the consideration of participants and a note from the Chairman "Special and Differential Treatment for Developing Countries" issued as document MTN/NTM/W/178.
4. The Sub-Group noted that neither of these documents prejudiced the negotiating position of any delegation on government procurement or in any other area of the negotiations and that previous documentation concerning government procurement remained on the table for consideration. It was also noted that because the documents had been issued in the past few days, most delegations were only in a position to offer preliminary comments on them.
5. The meeting permitted statements of a general nature as well as explanations to be given and observations and suggestions to be made on the papers before the Sub-Group. With regard to special and differential treatment for developing countries, some delegations indicated to the Sub-Group that the broad approach in document MTN/NTM/W/178 was generally acceptable although they had comments on specific points. A number of delegations made preliminary suggestions as to how document MTN/NTM/W/178 could be improved and some others indicated that they needed more time to consider the various points before expressing a view. A number of other delegations stated that in their view the document did not provide an adequate basis for negotiations on special and differential treatment for developing countries. The Sub-Group agreed to come back to the question of special and differential treatment at its next meeting.

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6. The Sub-Group agreed that further bilateral and plurilateral consultations and negotiations would need to be held over the coming period in order to take up outstanding issues of interest to the participants concerned with a view to finding mutually acceptable solutions. It was also noted that some delegations had expressed the intention of putting forward certain suggestions, in writing, for the consideration of the Sub-Group.

7. The Sub-Group noted that some participants intended shortly to submit their initial offers of procurement entities or modifications to offers already presented. The Sub-Group, in referring to the procedures for negotiations on procurement entities circulated in GATT/AIR/1468, invited other interested delegations, not having done so, to table their offers and submit their requests at the earliest possible date. As agreed at the last meeting of the Sub-Group, in the negotiations on procurement entities, full account would be taken of the individual development, financial and trade needs of developing countries.

8. It was understood that it would be the intention of participants making requests and offers on purchasing entities to enter into intensive negotiations during the September/October period with a view to reaching agreement on the maximum possible coverage of entities by the arrangement.

9. The Sub-Group agreed that the date of its next meeting would be fixed by the Chairman in consultation with delegations.