

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/NTM/57

28 November 1978

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

Sub-Group "Government Procurement"

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1978

Summing-up by the Chairman

1. The Sub-Group met on 22 November 1978.
2. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend as an observer.
3. The Sub-Group continued its work on the negotiation of an arrangement on government procurement.
4. In the light of the stage of the work now reached and in the light of the documentation available, the Sub-Group heard statements of a general nature as well as comments and suggestions by participants on various points in the draft integrated text (MTN/NTM/W/174), on proposals put forward by some least-developed countries in MTN/W/37 and also with respect to special and differential treatment for developing countries in the area of government procurement (MTN/NTM/W/178/Rev.1).
5. The Sub-Group noted that intensive bilateral and plurilateral consultations among participants would continue with the object of having a revised text available as quickly as possible, taking into account the various comments and suggestions made by delegations and in the light of the overall objectives being sought in an arrangement on government procurement as identified in the course of the work of the Sub-Group. In this connexion, delegations having any further proposals to make were urged to send them to the secretariat for circulation as soon as possible so that they could be taken into account in the final phase of the negotiations.
6. The Sub-Group took note of the lists of procurement entities available in the secretariat for inspection, which had already been submitted by a number of participants (MTN/NTM/W/165, 166, 173, 180 and 193). The Sub-Group welcomed the information provided by a participant to the effect that he had lodged with the secretariat his government's provisional offer as well as a statement by one other participant indicating that an information list concerning entities in his country had been submitted to the secretariat for inspection by interested delegations. Other participants having an interest in an arrangement on government procurement were invited to present their lists of entities having

regard to the procedures in GATT/AIR/1468 and the relevant provisions of the draft texts in documents MTN/NTM/W/174 and MTN/NTM/W/178/Rev.1. These lists of entities should be tabled as soon as possible and, as an indicative date, by 10 December. In tabling lists of entities, delegations would bear in mind that a final decision to participate in the arrangement could be taken by governments in the light of all relevant circumstances at the end of the negotiations. Delegations from developing countries were invited to discuss with participants from developed countries any questions they might have in relation to procurement entities.

7. The Sub-Group agreed that it would continue to meet as frequently as required with a view to finalizing the negotiations on government procurement, it being understood that the date of the next meeting would be fixed by the Chairman in consultation with delegations.