

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/AG/1
9 May 1975

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations Group "Agriculture"

SUMMING-UP BY THE CHAIRMAN

The following summing up by the Chairman of Group "Agriculture" was approved by the Group at its meeting on 8 May 1975.

1. The Group met from 24 to 27 March, from 15 to 17 April and on 8 May 1975 and took the following decisions. The Group agreed that the Group should be chaired by the secretariat. It invited the Secretary General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Group as an observer.
2. The Group agreed that it would treat tariffs and non-tariff measures relating to agricultural products.

It was noted that matters of a global nature, including tariff and non-tariff measures affecting agriculture, would be taken up in a number of contexts within the overall framework of these negotiations. In such cases, the Group and its sub-groups will concern themselves with the agricultural aspects of these matters and will treat them in conjunction with the work of the "Tariffs" and "Non-tariff Measures" Groups and the results of this work will be communicated to other groups concerned with a view to arriving at the harmonious and balanced development of all the elements subject to negotiation in furtherance of paragraph 8 of the Tokyo Declaration.

3. There have been discussions of whether it was necessary to create subgroups on some tariffs or non-tariff measures and the Group has agreed to come back later to this question.
4. The Group agreed that some agricultural products which represented a large share in world trade and were widely traded might lend themselves to multilateral solutions. With this in view it agreed to address itself initially to grains, dairy products and meat. It was understood that other products might be added at a later stage.
5. The Group agreed to establish negotiating sub-groups, dealing with all the elements relevant to trade in these products, for the following sectors:

(a) Grains. It was understood that governments participating in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations which were also participating in the work recently started in the framework of the International Wheat Council would

continue actively to pursue that work also. At the appropriate time, the sub-group shall consider how best to integrate into its work any results of the work at present going on in the International Wheat Council.

(b) Dairy products.

(c) Meat (including live animals).

6. The Group agreed the above sub-groups would themselves organize their work.

7. The Group emphasized the importance of the application of differential measures to developing countries in ways which will provide special and more favourable treatment for them, especially in the agricultural negotiations, in accordance with the principles and objectives embodied in the Tokyo Declaration.

8. Subject to the understandings set out in paragraph 9 below, the Group agreed that the sub-groups below should hold their first meeting on:

Sub-group on Grains:	26 May, beginning in the morning
Sub-group on Meat:	16 June, beginning in the afternoon
Sub-group on Dairy Products:	23 June, beginning in the afternoon

9. In respect of the agreement in paragraph 8 above, it was understood that any delegation to which the dates specified caused serious inconvenience would be free to notify the secretariat up to 16 May 1975; in that case the secretariat would undertake appropriate consultations with delegations, with a view to reaching agreement on an alternative date. As regards the date set for the first meeting of the Sub-group on Grains, it was understood that, assuming the meeting in the framework of the International Wheat Council took place on 28 May, the Sub-group would adjourn on 27 May, but could, if it so decided, reconvene in the week beginning 2 June. As regards the date set for the Sub-group on Meat, it was understood that in order to avoid any serious difficulties to delegations, every effort would be made to reduce to the greatest extent possible any conflict in timing which might arise between the sessions of the Sub-group and those of the Group "Tropical Products".

10. The Group agreed to hold its next meeting on 8 July 1975.