

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/AG/7
28 July 1977

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Agriculture"

MEETING OF JULY 1977

Chairman's Summing-Up and Record of Decisions

1. Group "Agriculture" met on the 19, 20, and 27 July 1977.
2. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Group as an observer.
3. The Group took note of the communications received from the Chairmen of other Groups or Sub-Groups (MTN/AG/W/25). The Group's particular attention was drawn to paragraph 8 of the summing-up by the Chairman of Group "Tropical Products" of the Group's meeting in May (MTN/TP/11).
4. The Group took note of the work which had been done in the three Sub-Groups (MTN/GR/4 and 5; MTN/ME/3 and 4; MTN/DP/3 and 4).
5. The Group's attention was drawn to the fact that twelve participants had submitted reports on bilateral consultations which they had held under the procedures of MTN/AG/4. The reports (MTN/AG/W/22 and Addenda 1-11) had been circulated in accordance with the provisions of MTN/AG/5.
6. (a) The Group had before it proposals regarding the further conduct of work which had been submitted by Australia (MTN/AG/W/14) and the European Communities (MTN/AG/W/23), as well as a proposal by the United States (MTN/AG/W/26) and a statement by Australia (MTN/AG/W/27) which were presented at the meeting. After considerable discussion on this issue, the Group agreed on the decisions set out in the Annex.

(b) To facilitate the implementation of these decisions, the secretariat, as heretofore, will upon request, prepare documentation for the developing countries concerning tariff and non-tariff barriers affecting trade in agricultural products of particular interest for these countries.

(c) The Group will keep under review the progress made in the negotiations on agricultural products and take such action as may be needed to achieve the objectives of the negotiations, in particular with respect to the trade of developing countries. The Group will meet as necessary, and would report periodically to the Trade Negotiations Committee.

7. The Group agreed to continue the review of the applicability of the draft standards code to agricultural products at its next meeting.

8. There was no agreement as to if and where export measures by developing countries should be discussed.

9. It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of the Group would be fixed by the Chairman in consultation with delegations.

ANNEXDecision by Group "Agriculture"

Following its procedures, Group "Agriculture" agreed to pursue the negotiations in the following manner, account being taken of progress in other parts of the negotiations:

General procedures

1. Participants in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations will submit lists of requests regarding any agricultural products by 1 November 1977, it being understood that request lists may be modified or additional lists be submitted as the negotiations proceed.
2. The requests should indicate in specific terms the tariff items and the products for which the participant concerned wishes to secure concessions on any tariff or non-tariff measure, and the nature of the concession or concessions being sought. A suggested pro-forma would be made available by the secretariat.
3. For the purpose of the negotiations, agricultural products shall in general be deemed to be the products falling within Chapters 1 to 24 inclusive of the CCCN. Participants may indicate to the secretariat, for the information of all other participants, any differences between this definition and their own. While it was understood that this may be done at any stage in the negotiations, it was considered desirable that any such differences be indicated as early as possible.
4. The request lists would be submitted to the participants concerned either directly or through the secretariat. In either case, copies of the lists would be filed simultaneously with the secretariat which would circulate such lists to all participants in the negotiations, subject to requirements of confidentiality.
5. Group "Agriculture" accepts 15 January 1978 for the submission of offers and agrees that a maximum effort should be made by all participants in this regard.
6. The Group recommends that the Sub-Groups on Meat and Dairy Products meet from 11 October 1977, and that the Sub-Group on Grains meet at the earliest possible date in the light of the discussions in the Preparatory Group of the International Wheat Council, with a view to speeding up their work within the framework of their terms of reference.

Special procedures for developing countries

7. Taking into account the relevant provisions of the Tokyo Declaration, Group "Agriculture" agreed that the procedure applicable to developing countries in the negotiations on agricultural products would be as follows:

- (a) Individual developing countries or groups of developing countries will submit lists of initial requests for tariff and/or non-tariff concessions to developed countries by 1 November 1977 if possible, on a product-by-product or line-item basis with a copy to the secretariat. All items considered to be agricultural products by the requesting developing countries and all measures affecting such products may be included in the initial request lists. Requests may be modified or requests for additional concessions submitted as the negotiations proceed.
- (b) With respect to agricultural products, requests submitted by developing countries in the tropical products negotiations which are still pending or which were not fully met, will be considered as having been resubmitted by interested developing countries following a communication to that effect sent to the developed country concerned by 1 November if possible, with a copy to the secretariat. Requests on tropical products will not lose their special and priority character.
- (c) Developed countries wishing to do so will submit to developing country participants indicative lists of their agricultural export interests in the markets of the developing countries concerned, by 1 November 1977, it being understood that indicative lists may be modified or additional lists be submitted as the negotiations proceed.
- (d) Copies of the request or indicative lists referred to in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) above together with lists of requests by developed countries addressed to other developed countries will be circulated by the secretariat to all participants in the negotiations to ensure transparency of negotiations in this field, subject to requirements of confidentiality.
- (e) Arrangements will be made for bilateral and plurilateral consultations and negotiations with respect to the request lists between participants making requests and those to whom requests are addressed. The indicative lists may be subject to consultations among the participants concerned.
- (f) In keeping with the procedures for the submission of offers under the general procedures, priority and special attention will be given in presenting offers, to the requests submitted by developing countries especially when developing countries are individually or jointly principal or substantial suppliers, with a view to ensuring substantial benefits for the international trade of developing countries in the field of agriculture.

- (g) Having regard to developments in the negotiations as a whole, within a reasonable period of time after the offers are presented by developed countries, developing countries in a position to do so will indicate on a provisional basis their contributions to the negotiations. Such contributions will be finalized not on a sectoral basis but in the light of the additional benefits they receive from the negotiations as a whole.
8. (a) The application of differential measures for developing countries in ways which will provide special and more favourable treatment for these countries where feasible and appropriate in the product-by-product agricultural negotiations, will be reverted to at the next meeting of the Group, on the basis of proposals put forward by interested participants with the objective of reaching understandings on these issues sufficiently in advance of the date for submission of offers to enable developed countries to apply them in the formulation of their offers.
- (b) In the application of differential measures for developing countries, the particular situation and problems of the least developed among the developing countries shall receive special attention and treatment in accordance with the provisions of the Tokyo Declaration including its paragraph 6.
- (c) Developing countries stressed that their acceptance of the programme of work was conditional to satisfactory agreements in respect of special procedures and special and differential measures applicable to them.