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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Framework"

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1977

Acting Chairman's Summing-up

1. The Group met on 21 and 22 February 1977. It agreed that the secretariat should provide the Chairman for this session of the Group. It agreed to invite the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Group as an observer.

2. The Group noted the communications received from Chairmen of other Groups or Sub-Groups (MTN/P9/W/1).

3. In response to a question, the Acting Chairman said that the practice had developed in GATT negotiations of giving delegations latitude to address themselves to issues in which they had an interest, but that no delegation was obliged to comment on any particular issue and its position was not prejudiced by its silence.

4. As agreed at its first meeting (MTN/P9/1 paragraph 6), members of the Group addressed themselves to substantive questions which the Group was called upon to deal with in the context of its work.

5. A large number of statements were made which contained many proposals. Certain of these statements are being circulated in document form (MTN/FR/W/1, 2, 3 and 4). It was noted that some delegations may also wish to submit proposals in advance of the next meeting of the Group.

6. The Group agreed to hold its next meeting in the month of May, the exact date to be set by the Acting Chairman in consultation with delegations. It also agreed that at that meeting members of the Group would continue to address themselves to substantive questions which the Group is called upon to deal with in the context of its work.