

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/FR/W/21  
30 March 1979

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations  
Group "Framework"

Original: English

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE DELEGATION OF CANADA

The following communication has been received from the delegation of Canada.

The Canadian delegation wishes to make the following statement concerning the Understanding Regarding Export Restrictions and Charges and regarding the separate issue of any possible future negotiations regarding export restrictions and charges.

On several occasions during the MTN, beginning more than three years ago, the Canadian delegation has offered in writing to negotiate in the course of the MTN obligations regarding export restrictions and charges, provided, inter alia, major importing countries were to make substantial moves in the direction of dismantling trade barriers which they maintain against imports of processed resource products. This offer was not responded to by all of our major partners.

The Understanding Regarding Export Restrictions and Charges involves acceptance of no new obligations additional to those already contained in the GATT. As for the proposed reassessment agreed to in the understanding, the Canadian Government will wish to consider at the appropriate time the basis for its participation in any such exercise. Clearly other aspects of the "international trade system as a whole" having a bearing on export restrictions and charges would need to be discussed at the same time, and there would be little utility in such a discussion unless participants had the authority to address these other issues including access at the same time. Furthermore, it is clear that what is proposed is a reassessment and not a negotiation. It would be for consideration in the process of the reassessment, inter alia, whether certain of the GATT provisions with respect to export restriction may be too onerous.

The Canadian delegation would like to make clear now that if, at a later date, following the reassessment certain countries were to consider a negotiation on this issue desirable, it would be essential that such a negotiation deal with the directly related issue of the reduction and removal of trade barriers to imports of processed resource products at the same time as it dealt with the issue of export restrictions and charges.