

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/GR/5  
31 May 1976

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## Multilateral Trade Negotiations

### Group "Agriculture" Sub-Group on Grains

MEETING OF MAY 1976

Note by the Chairman

At the end of the meeting the Chairman on his own responsibility summed up as follows:

1. The Sub-Group held its fifth session from 24 to 26 May 1976. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, or his representative, to attend this session of the Sub-Group as an observer.
2. As had been agreed at its fourth session (MTN/GR/4, paragraph 8), the Sub-Group continued the multilateral examination and analysis of measures affecting exports and imports applied by individual countries. On the basis of document MTN/GR/W/8/Rev.1 and addenda, and of information provided by delegations in the course of the discussion, the Sub-Group carried out a multilateral examination and analysis of measures affecting exports and imports of grains applied by Australia, Canada, Hungary, South Africa and Turkey. The Sub-Group agreed to continue this exercise for other countries at its next session.
3. In accordance with the agreement reached at its previous meeting, (MTN/GR/4, paragraph 7), the Sub-Group continued the discussion on various elements contained in proposals with regard to the three interrelated categories of topics listed in paragraph 5 of MTN/GR/1. During the discussion of this item the United States delegation presented a further elaboration of its proposal tabled at an earlier session (MTN/GR/W/13). Other delegations provided further explanations and clarifications to their proposals.
4. The discussion permitted participants to gain a more complete understanding of the proposals and views of others.

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5. Given the amount of work that remained to be done, and in light of the date now set for the completion of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, it was noted, with regret, that little progress had been made since the Sub-Group's last meeting in narrowing the differences between some of the major trading countries.
6. There was a general view in the Sub-Group that, in order to advance its work more rapidly, bilateral and plurilateral discussions among participants on the outstanding issues should be intensified in the period between now and the next meeting.
7. There was a consensus that, in the light of the discussions which had already taken place, the time had come for the Sub-Group to deal in depth with the details of the elements contained in the various proposals with a view to agreeing on mutually acceptable solutions at an early date.
8. The Sub-Group agreed to continue at its next meeting the examination of all the elements of all proposals that have been or may be made with regard to the three interrelated categories of topics listed in paragraph 5 of MTN/GR/1. In order to facilitate a focusing of attention, delegations wishing to address themselves to certain specific topics at the next meeting were invited to notify the Sub-Group, through the secretariat, of their intentions, including, where appropriate and possible, specific proposals on such topics.
9. While recalling that when Group "Agriculture" had established a Sub-Group on Grains it had been stated that the Sub-Group should at the appropriate time consider how best to integrate into its work any results of the work going on within the framework of the International Wheat Council (MTN/AG/1, para. 5(a)), the Sub-Group considered that it was still premature to consider this matter, but agreed to revert to it at its next meeting.
10. There was a brief discussion of a suggestion that to facilitate future work of the Sub-Group, the secretariat prepare, on its own responsibility, a factual document setting out in a systematic and orderly way the elements of possible solutions contained in the various proposals and suggestions that had so far been made. It was agreed to revert to this matter at the next meeting.
11. Some delegations favoured that the next meeting of the Sub-Group be held in the early autumn, but not all delegations could agree on a specific date, and it was left to the Chairman to set the date of the next meeting in consultation with delegations.
12. It was agreed that the Chairman should make an oral report to Group "Agriculture" should that Group meet prior to the next session of the Sub-Group.