

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/GR/6
10 April 1979

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Agriculture"

Sub-Group on Grains

MEETING OF APRIL 1979

Summing-Up 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 sixth session on 9 April 1979. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, or his representative, to attend this session of the Sub-Group as an observer.
2. It was recalled that when Group "Agriculture" had established the 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, paragraph 5(a)). At its fifth meeting, in May 1976, the Sub-Group considered that it was still premature to consider the matter, but agreed to revert to it at its next meeting. It was left to the Chairman to set the date of the next meeting in consultation with delegations (MTN/GR/5, paragraphs 9 and 11).
3. Accordingly, the Chairman had been in frequent consultations with delegations. The consultations had clearly shown that, until now, delegations had considered it neither desirable nor useful for the Sub-Group to reconvene.
4. At its present session, the Sub-Group took note that negotiations had taken place in the United Nations Conference to Negotiate an International Arrangement to Replace the International Wheat Agreement, 1971, as Extended. It further took note of the Decision adopted by the Conference on 14 February 1979, by which the Conference, inter alia, decides to adjourn and requests the International Wheat Council, once it is satisfied that the necessary conditions exist for a resumption of the negotiations, to request the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to fix a date for the reconvening of the Conference.
5. The Sub-Group regretted that it had not been possible for the Conference to come to a successful conclusion so far, but expressed the hope that a fruitful and mutually satisfactory agreement in this area would be reached soon.
6. The Sub-Group also noted that the International Wheat Council had decided to extend the International Wheat Agreement until 30 June 1981.
7. The Chairman concluded that the Sub-Group had taken its work as far as it could.