

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Original: Spanish

Group "Agriculture"

Sub-Group on Grains

## DOCUMENTATION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GRAINS

Note by the Secretariat

### Addendum

The present addendum to document MTN/GR/W/8 contains information concerning measures affecting exports and imports (Chapter C) received from the Argentine delegation.

### ACTION BY STATE ORGANS FOR THE MARKETING OF GRAINS IN ARGENTINA

The National Grain Board is the official body handling the Government's marketing policy. Its activity in the field of purchasing and selling has evolved since 1968 as follows:

1. Up to and including 1973, grains and oilseeds were purchased at prices established for each harvest by the Government, and private enterprise was authorized to intervene in trade provided the price it paid producers was at least as high as that fixed by the State.

The annual tonnages of grains purchased under this scheme were very small, so much so that in some instances the Board did not participate at all, when the prices on the domestic market were found to be higher than the intervention price. Breadgrains were most in demand, although the quantities were quite insignificant in comparison with the size of the harvests.

The tonnages purchased were sold to industry to make up the supplies needed, or were exported by arrangement with exporting firms or Governments with which Argentina had sales contracts at the international prices current at the time.

Although the National Grain Board had and still has the option of purchasing at prices higher than those fixed each year for the harvest with a view to regulating the domestic market, this option has rarely been exercised.

2. Beginning with the 1973/74 harvest, the system was changed in respect of breadgrains and durum wheat, maize, grain sorghum and sunflower seeds, the arrangement indicated in paragraph 1 above remaining in force for other grains.

The products in question are purchased by the National Grain Board exclusively, except in the case of seed, at purchase prices established by the Government, and subsequently it disposes of them for consumption or export.

Industry is supplied at prices laid down by the Government, and for export purposes the official organ is authorized to act in one or other of the following ways:

- (a) Directly in the case of Governments, official bodies or marketing agents representing them;
- (b) Through the system of public bids on an f.o.b. c. & f. or c.i.f. basis;
- (c) By means of direct operations, or through co-operatives and national capital undertakings.