

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Multilateral Trade Negotiations

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Group "Agriculture"

Sub-Group on Meat

PROPOSALS BY THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION IN
REGARD TO DOCUMENT MTN/ME/W/24/REV.2
BY THE SECRETARIAT "WORKING HYPOTHESIS
FOR AN ARRANGEMENT REGARDING MEAT"

Introduction

Without prejudice to whatever comments the Argentine delegation may make on the occasion of the forthcoming meeting of the Sub-Group on Meat, convened for 7 March 1978, a few remarks are presented below in the form of comments or adjustments to the revised text prepared by the secretariat for that meeting:

Article V, paragraph 1 - Health and sanitary measures

Without prejudice to whatever might be decided elsewhere concerning the applicability to these measures of all or part of the rules deriving from the Code of Conduct, and without bringing into question the legitimate necessity for each government to protect human and animal health and life, it should be accepted that all such measures would be notified if possible before their implementation, that consultations would be initiated among interested countries (upon request) and that the negative effects of any of the measures on trade could be the subject of appropriate possible solutions.

If consultations do not lead to a determination that the measure under reference still constitutes an obstacle to the development of trade toward or from a particular country, on the proposal of the parties concerned the Council may identify measures that would tend to limit the trade situation created or to promote additional understandings consistent with the objectives set forth in Article I of the present Arrangement.¹

¹As regards general guidelines in regard to health matters, account should be taken of the suggestions set forth in paragraph 29 of document MTN/3B/23.

Article V, paragraph 2 - Safeguards

Without prejudice to the outcome of the negotiations currently proceeding in the Group "Safeguards", or in the light of bilateral, plurilateral or multilateral commitments deriving from the present Arrangement, consideration should be given to more stringent safeguards for this sector designed basically to ensure implementation of those commitments. To that end, prior consultation and material injury seem to be two of the aspects which would have to be considered, together with differential and more favourable treatment for developing countries that might be affected by the application of safeguard measures.

Article V, paragraph 4 - Subsidies

In this sector too, due account should be taken of the outcome of the work proceeding in the Group on Subsidies and Countervailing Duties. Nevertheless, for this particular sector consideration should also be given to subsidies of any kind that contribute to disrupt markets for the products covered by the present Arrangement, including those applied at stages other than that of export but having effects similar to those of subsidies of this kind.

Article VI - Specific provisions

All bilateral, plurilateral or multilateral commitments existing between the countries participating in the present Arrangement, in respect of products covered by Article II, and likewise those resulting from present or future negotiations, must be added and incorporated as an Annex to the present Arrangement.

Likewise, an information annex should be added, setting forth the commitments of participating countries in respect of non-member countries where these can in any way affect the normal operation of the present Arrangement.