

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG6/W/17  
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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

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Negotiating Group on Tropical Products

PROPOSAL BY THE UNITED STATES

The following communication, dated 12 November 1987, has been received from the delegation of the United States with the request that it be circulated to the members of the Group.

Introduction

The United States submits the following proposal to achieve the objectives set forth in the Punta del Este Declaration with regard to tropical products. We submit this proposal with the aim of achieving the "fullest liberalization of trade in tropical products."

As the United States has stated, we are willing to eliminate all barriers to trade and trade-distorting subsidies on all agricultural products, tropical and non-tropical, as long as our trading partners are willing to do the same. As evidence of that, the United States has proposed in MTN.GNG/NG5/W/14 that all participants in the Uruguay Round negotiations on agriculture completely phase out over 10 years all support and protective measures that affect trade in all agricultural products. The United States submitted that proposal in the firm belief that a free market oriented system of agricultural trade would be beneficial to all agricultural exporters and importers.

Given that the majority of tropical products are agricultural, the United States proposes in the tropical products group that, contingent upon a global agreement in the agricultural negotiations to phase out all support and protective measures affecting trade, all participants in the tropical products negotiations agree to eliminate all such measures on agreed-upon tropical agricultural products on an expedited basis.

With regard to non-agricultural tropical products, the United States recommends that these products be subject to a request/offer procedure.

#### IMPLEMENTATION

To achieve the "fullest liberalization of trade in tropical products," the United States proposes that the negotiations proceed as follows:

- 1) The negotiating group on tropical products should identify all support and protective measures affecting trade in tropical products. A data base which includes all such measures which affect trade maintained by all participants in the tropical products negotiations is therefore necessary.
- 2) By March 1988, delegations would submit a proposed priority list of tropical agricultural products for which they would like to see all participants eliminate all support and protective measures that affect trade on an expedited basis. These lists would be submitted in such a manner as to provide the utmost transparency as to what products are of concern. Ensuing negotiations would result in an agreed list of tropical products suitable for expedited treatment.
- 3) Once the list is agreed upon, the tropical products negotiating group should decide upon a timetable for the expedited elimination of all support and protective measures on this list. Any expedited timeframe need not be uniform for all products on the list.
- 4) Delegations should aim to submit specific requests for reduction or elimination of trade barriers on non-agricultural tropical products as early as possible in 1988. These would be subject to negotiation, including reciprocal concessions.