

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG5/TG/W/1

1 March 1988

Special Distribution

Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

Negotiating Group on Agriculture

Technical Group on Aggregate Measurement of Support  
and Related Matters

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE  
TECHNICAL GROUP IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 21 MARCH 1988

At the last meeting of the GATT Agricultural Negotiating Group, it was agreed that a technical group should meet during the third week of March to begin a detailed discussion of aggregate measurement of support.

To make that discussion as useful as possible the secretariat has prepared the proposed annotated agenda which appears below. The secretariat suggests that delegations also again refer to the two earlier secretariat papers, Spec(87)37 and MTN.GNG/NG5/W/34, as well as to the discussion paper submitted by Canada, MTN.GNG/NG5/W/46, the statement by Jamaica (MTN.GNG/NG5/W/48), and the discussion papers submitted by the European Communities, MTN.GNG/NG5/W/45, and by the United States, MTN.GNG/NG5/W/44.

The secretariat realizes that the Negotiating Group has so far reached no decision on whether an aggregate measure of support should be used in the negotiations and, if so, how.

Item 1: Aggregate measurement of support: basic concept

Under this item, it is proposed that consideration be given to:

- (a) the methodology employed by the OECD, in particular as regards:
  - possible reference year,
  - reference prices,
  - the problems of currency fluctuations;
- (b) limitations of the OECD work on PSEs in particular as regards the countries to be selected initially;
- (c) possibility of using as a working hypothesis the PSE estimates already calculated by the OECD.

Item 2: Aggregate measurement of support: negotiating instrument

It is proposed to discuss the following points under this item:

- (a) measures to be included in estimates of aggregate support (see Annex II of Spec(87)37 and paragraphs 26 to 29 of MTN.GNG/NG5/W/34). Discussion under this point would also include the questions of decoupled measures, supply control measures and assistance under development programmes;
- (b) products to be included in the calculation.  
The aim here would be to determine whether, beyond the various primary commodity sectors, it is possible or desirable to extend the coverage to processed agricultural products.

Item 3: Collection of data and calculation of PSE estimates

Under this item it is proposed that the technical group should examine the specific issues related to data collection and calculation of PSE estimates outlined in the secretariat note MTN.GNG/NG5/W/34.

Item 4: Further work of the Technical Group