

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG14/W/29

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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

Negotiating Group on Functioning
of the GATT System

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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF JAMAICA
30 September 1988

The Jamaican delegation takes an overall view in its approach to the Functioning of the GATT System (FOGs). It sees the inter-relationship of the different subjects being negotiated and their contribution as a whole to strengthening the GATT System. We join in what appears to be broad agreement on the following:

1. With respect to (i) Surveillance - the issues have not been sufficiently clarified nor have all aspects been put before this Group. This will need to be done for there to be agreement on the establishment of "a trade policy review mechanism" as outlined in the Chairman's discussion paper (4th Revision, 24 May 1988). While there are a number of useful and constructive ideas, we agree with others that sufficient work has not been done on the outline format for the country reports nor on the modalities for the reviews of the proposed country reports. The proposal by the Nordic delegations regarding review teams, needs further reflection in light of the experience of the non-governmental roster of panelists. There are important financial and other implications which need to be carefully examined before decisions even of an interim nature can be taken. In this connection, the Negotiating Group will need to have much more information and discussion on (a) the rationalization of the several GATT bodies which carry out reviews or surveillance; (b) the improvement in the surveillance of MTN Codes; (c) the functioning of the Textiles Surveillance Body (TSB) (and its future in light of the possible phase-out of the MFA); (d) the mechanism for carrying-out the surveillance of a strengthened Article XIX; (e) proposals to base liberalization of trade in agriculture on reviews or surveillance of policies including the use of some kind of aggregate measurement of support.
2. With respect to (ii) Ministerial involvement - My delegation also joins in support of greater Ministerial involvement as appropriate in the regular activities of the CONTRACTING PARTIES including annual ministerial sessions. It notes the informal proposals of the Chairman regarding the possible composition of a small ministerial group. There seems to be broad agreement that it is too early to contemplate

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such a group. We agree with others that the functions and the relationship of any small group to the regular work of the GATT will need much further examination so as to enable consideration of organizational matters such as size, frequency of meetings and process for election.

3. With respect to (iii) - Inter-relationship between trade policy and other economic policies, GATT and other relevant international institutions - We also agree that a number of the recent proposals or suggestions require further consideration. Jamaica's ideas are set out in its discussion paper (NG14/W/27) and we believe that a discussion by representatives of governments of contracting parties is necessary to clarify what GATT's contribution to "coherence" would be, both at the governmental and at the secretariat level. While the Canadian proposal in NG14/W/24 sets out a number of useful and constructive ideas which were set out in the Jamaican proposal earlier this year (NG14/W/22), we do not believe that it is either necessary or appropriate for the Chairman of the TNC to request the Director-General of GATT to consult with the heads of the IMF and the World Bank. Any request of the Director-General should come from the CONTRACTING PARTIES, if indeed this is necessary, since the Director-General quite appropriately may undertake such consultations acting in his official capacity or as Chairman of the GNG. Furthermore, we are firmly of the view that the representatives in this Negotiating Group should be involved in clarifying the issues which are identified, inter alia, in the Canadian, Mexican and Jamaican proposals.