

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN

OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON TRADE OF LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries has requested that the following letter addressed to the Chairman of the GNG be circulated to members of the Group.

Dear Mr. Dunkel,

At the last meeting of the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries held on 26 October 1988, I was asked by the Ambassador of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the least-developed countries represented, and with the concurrence of the Sub-Committee as a whole, to address a letter to you in your capacity as Chairman of the GNG. The object of my letter would be to convey to your attention and through you to the attention of the Ministerial TNC meeting in Montreal the problems and interests of the least-developed countries in connection with the Uruguay Round.

As you will know the Sub-Committee is continuing to carry out a review of developments in the Uruguay Round of interest to least-developed countries, in accordance with the mandate given to it by the Committee on Trade and Development. In this context, a number of general and specific proposals have been made regarding the Uruguay Round and least-developed countries. Members of the Sub-Committee have shared a common concern that special attention must be given to the particular situation and problems of the least-developed countries as expressed in Section B, paragraph (vii) of the Punta del Este Declaration. In this respect it is generally felt that the Ministerial Meeting in Montreal will provide an important opportunity to consider also the problems of least-developed countries within the framework of the Uruguay Round negotiations and to take action as appropriate to meet the objectives laid down at Punta del Este.

The delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the least-developed countries has submitted a comprehensive set of proposals for consideration in the Uruguay Round to the GNG at its meeting on 25/26 July of this year (document MTN.GNG/W/14). These proposals have been examined in the

Mr. A. Dunkel
Director-General
GATT
Chairman of the Group of Negotiations on Goods

Sub-Committee and least-developed countries have urged that they be given careful consideration in the respective negotiating groups as well as in the GNG. Other proposals may also be tabled in the near future.

I am therefore requesting you, in your capacity as Chairman of the GNG to alert the attention of the Montreal meeting to the importance which the least-developed countries attach to obtaining a substantial advance in the treatment of their particular problems within the Uruguay Round at the Mid-Term Review, with particular reference to the proposals put forward by Bangladesh on behalf of these countries. Reference is also made to the expressed need for more technical assistance related to the Uruguay Round and adapted to the requirements of the least-developed countries.

I would think there can be no doubt that a positive move by the Montreal meeting in the direction of meeting the particular situation and problems of the least-developed countries would add to the strength and the credibility of the result of that meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Martin Huslid", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Martin Huslid

Chairman

Sub-Committee on Trade of
Least-Developed Countries