

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG9/10

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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)
Negotiating Group on Safeguards

MEETING OF 24 AND 27 APRIL 1989

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Negotiating Group met on 24 and 27 April 1989. The main agenda item was the organization of the Group's work in the light of the Trade Negotiations Committee's decision of April 1989 (MTN.TNC/9).
2. At the meeting held on 24 April, the Chairman drew the Group's attention to three changes in the Trade Negotiations Committee's decision on safeguards which were agreed upon at its April meeting (page 8 of MTN.TNC/9), namely: (i) wording was inserted in the introductory language relating to the objectives of the safeguards negotiations; (ii) the TNC recognized in sub-paragraph (c) that safeguard measures are by definition of limited duration; and (iii) the procedural decision in sub-paragraphs (d) and (e) were streamlined. He referred to sub-paragraph (d) of the decision which asked him, as Chairman of the Group, "with the assistance of the secretariat and in consultation with delegations, to draw up a draft text of a comprehensive agreement as a basis for negotiation, without prejudice to the rights of participants to put forward their own texts and proposals, preferably before the end of April 1989". He asked the Group for advice and guidance on the substance of the matter as he had to put together a draft text by the end of the week. It was his intention to conduct informal consultations with delegations during the course of the week.
3. Several delegations remarked that the proposals already presented should provide enough material for the Chairman to draw up a text in time for the substantive negotiations scheduled for June. Some of them said that the draft text at this stage should be general in nature, thus permitting participants to develop their thinking on particular elements as negotiations evolved. Others, however, said that the Chairman's text should be precise and detailed in as many elements as possible. Some delegations pointed out that written proposals were still awaited from major players and asked on what basis, under such a situation, would the Chairman's draft text be presented. They also asked what would happen to the draft if new proposals were received.
4. The representative of the European Community said that his delegation was actively working on some written comments but these would not be ready

by the end of the week. Since it was still two months from June, he wondered if a little more time could be made available for the European Community to make its contributions. The representative of the United States expressed mild surprise at the Chairman's suggestion to circulate a draft text so soon. He said that his administration was at present working very intensively with a view to submitting a written proposal. The United States had previously presented some papers and had actively participated in the deliberation of the Negotiating Group. He trusted, therefore, that the Chairman had a clear idea of the US position in respect of a number of issues.

5. At the meeting held on 27 April 1989, the Chairman informed the Group that during informal consultations held in the past two days, he had learnt that there was a real possibility that two major proposals would be submitted in the near future. In the circumstances, he intended to wait until the end of May 1989 before he would finalize a text and circulate it to delegations. He was not going to wait indefinitely because, to observe the TNC decision on safeguards, the Group had to ensure that substantive negotiations should start in June and he had to circulate a draft text in time for the June meeting.

6. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Group would be held on 26, 27 and 29 June 1989.