

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG5/13

24 May 1989

Special Distribution

Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

Negotiating Group on Agriculture

THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE

Note by the Chairman

1. The Negotiating Group on Agriculture met on 18 May 1989 to consider the organization of its work in the light of the Mid-Term Review Decision on agriculture and in line with the agenda outlined in GATT/AIR/2766.
2. With respect to the long-term elements and guidelines for reform it was agreed that the Group at its next meeting would: (i) undertake a general discussion of the terms and use of an AMS with a view to reaching agreement on guidelines that would facilitate the further work of the Technical Group and progress generally in this area; (ii) initiate detailed consideration of strengthened and more operationally effective GATT rules and disciplines on the basis, inter alia, of a comprehensive note by the secretariat on the existing framework of rules and disciplines; (iii) take up tariffication, decoupled support and other ways to adapt support and protection with a view to defining the basic issues to be addressed in relation to each of these topics; and (iv) also take up consideration of ways to take account of the possible negative effects of the reform process on net food-importing developing countries. The modalities for special and differential treatment in favour of developing countries would be for consideration as appropriate under each item of the work programme, including policy and product coverage in connection with the terms and use of an AMS and the provisions for such treatment in the note on the existing framework of rules and disciplines.
3. As regards the short-term elements, it was agreed, with respect to paragraph 17 of the MTR Decision, that a participant proposing to raise a matter relating to or affecting the observance of status quo commitments should normally give notice in writing to the participant concerned prior to a meeting of the Negotiating Group, as well as to the secretariat for communication forthwith to all participants. A special item would be maintained on the Group's regular agendas for this purpose. Other aspects of the short-term elements of the MTR Decision would be taken up at the next meeting of the Group.
4. It was agreed to revert to the question of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regulations at the next meeting of the Negotiating Group, with the possibility of the Working Group meeting shortly thereafter.
5. At its next meeting, to be held on 10-12 July 1989, the Group would consider an autumn schedule involving at least three meetings - in late September/early October, mid-November and December.