

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

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NEGOTIATING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand

I would like to thank the distinguished delegate of Australia for introducing the Cairns Group proposal on "Comprehensive Proposal for the Long-Term Reform of Agricultural Trade" (NG5/W/128).

First, it is the understanding of my delegation that nothing in this proposal, specifically the elimination of provisions which provide exceptional treatment, will in any way modify or weaken the rights of developing countries under the General Agreement, especially as contained in Part IV and other relevant provisions.

Special and differential treatment for developing countries is an integral element of this Round of negotiations as well as the evolving GATT system. I would like to quote a paragraph from the TNC agreement on agriculture. On page 10 of MTN.TNC/11, Ministers agreed that:

"Special and differential treatment to developing countries is an integral element of the negotiations particularly on the strengthened and more operationally effective GATT rules and disciplines."

Secondly, it is also the understanding of my delegation that to arrive at strengthened and more operationally effective rules and disciplines, we must not lose sight of the fact that the production and marketing of agricultural products are more vulnerable to uncontrollable factors, and hence in such an effort we need a certain degree of flexibility to accommodate such uncertainties inherent in agriculture.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to raise an additional point of concern not only to my country but to the international community as a whole. This relates to the international efforts to substitute the growing of illicit narcotic crops by other cash crops.

Since the return to illicit narcotic crops is extraordinarily high, there is a need for a wide range of incentives, including internal support measures as well as import restrictions and export subsidies, in order to ensure the viability of this crop substitution programme.

It is in this regard that we deem it vital that the evolving rules and disciplines do not apply to these incentive measures which are undertaken for the benefit of mankind.