

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG5/WGSP/4

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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

Negotiating Group on Agriculture:
Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary
Regulations and Barriers

FIFTH AND SIXTH MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SANITARY
AND PHYTOSANITARY REGULATIONS AND BARRIERS

Report by the Chairman to the Negotiating Group on Agriculture

1. The Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regulations and Barriers met on 19-20 February 1990 and again on 2-3 April 1990. At its February meeting, the Working Group discussed communications and proposals by several contracting parties, including Korea (NG5/W/130), Austria (NG5/W/144), the European Communities (NG5/W/146), Japan (NG5/W/131 and NG5/W/156), and the Nordic countries on harmonization (NG5/WGSP/W/9), on the form of an agreement (NG5/WGSP/W/10) and on dispute settlement procedures (NG5/WGSP/W/11). A detailed examination of the proposals was undertaken, permitting substantial discussion of the major concepts common to the various proposals including acceptable levels of protection, burden of proof or of justification, disciplines to be applied to measures relating to production and processing methods (PPMs), technical assistance for developing countries, and the role of scientific advice in dispute settlement procedures.

2. At its April meeting, the Working Group undertook a detailed examination of the proposal by the Cairn's countries (NG5/W/164), again discussing those major concepts common to the various proposals. A proposal by the Nordic countries on technical assistance and special and differential treatment of developing countries (NG5/WGSP/W/14) was also presented. A detailed discussion of the major issues was begun by the Working Group, and it was agreed that at its next meeting the Working Group would proceed with an issue-by-issue discussion on the basis of an expanded synoptic table to be prepared by the Secretariat.

3. At the February meeting of the Working Group, the United States proposed that a request be made to the International Office of Epizootics to develop guidelines for the use of trade restrictions with regard to Foot and Mouth Disease (NG5/WGSP/W/112). Such a request, if accepted, would advance work on the preparation by the relevant scientific organizations of international guidelines on sanitary issues of major trade concern. The Working Group recommends that the Negotiating Group on Agriculture make such a request of the International Office of Epizootics.

4. Future meetings of the Working Group have been tentatively scheduled for 10-11 May, 5-6 June and 2-3 July 1990.

GATT SECRETARIAT

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