

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG5/WGSP/5

19 June 1990

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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

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

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH 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 10-11 May 1990 and again on 5-6 June 1990. At its May meeting, the Working Group undertook a detailed issue-by-issue discussion of the key concepts and mechanisms, on the basis of a synoptic table of the proposals (MTN.GNG/NG5/WGSP/W/17). The issues examined by the Working Group included, among others, the basic objectives and scope of the proposed discipline, harmonization, risk assessment, non-discrimination, equivalency, regionalization of control measures, technical assistance, special and differential treatment, dispute settlement, and transparency. To help focus the discussions and clarify where consensus might be possible and where divergences existed, the secretariat provided texts designed to identify those areas where there appeared to be some commonality of views.
2. The Nordic countries presented, at the May meeting, a draft Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, proposing specific text for commitments on the above, and other, issues (NG5/WGSP/W/21). They suggested that the agreement should have a detailed, code-like format, but be an integral part of the final Uruguay Round package of agreements and decisions.
3. At the June meeting, the Working Group again discussed the key concepts in detail, on the basis of a revised synoptic table which took into account the new Nordic proposal and suggested changes to the secretariat text.
4. On the basis of these discussions, the Negotiating Group on Agriculture is requested to give the mandate to the Working Group to prepare a draft of the framework for an agreement on sanitary and phytosanitary measures, on the basis of a draft to be prepared by the secretariat.
5. The next meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for 2-4 July 1990.