

MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG5/W/171

21 June 1990

Special Distribution

Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

Negotiating Group on Agriculture

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF EGYPT ON BEHALF OF  
NET FOOD-IMPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

We have recently received a note from the GATT secretariat (MTN.GNG/NG5/W/167) called "Food Balances in Selected Countries".

The information provided and the methodology used require that we make the following comments:

It is stated that the definition of food, "used in all the statistical sources available" ... "comprises products falling within the SITC Rev.3 Sections 0, 1, 4 and Division 22."

However, a definition of food related specifically to the negotiations on agriculture in the Uruguay Round would be more appropriate. The concern of net-food importing developing countries has been that the prices of basic foods will rise, that is, the prices of the products which comprise a significant portion of the diet of our populations.

Products such as coffee, tea, spices, tobacco, sugar, fish, meal, etc., clearly do not fall into this group. On the other hand, the products falling under sub-total A of the secretariat note are clearly appropriate.

Furthermore, we are concerned about the negative effects of rises in the prices of basic foodstuffs not only because they constitute the essential components of our people nutrition but also because it is these products which are mainly subject to support measures and whose prices will rise as a result of the reform process.

A final point is that most of the products contained under sub-total B belong to the Negotiating Groups of Tropical Products or Natural Resource-Based Products. These negotiating Groups have a different mandate than that of the Negotiating Group on Agriculture which is concerned not only with market access but, inter alia, with support.

GATT SECRETARIAT

UR-90-0358