

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG5/W/193
9 August 1990

Special Distribution

Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)
Negotiating Group on Agriculture

Original: English

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUP
ON AGRICULTURE: JULY 1990

Statement by Thailand (13 July 1990)

Thailand joins other delegations in extending our thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, for presenting the draft of the Framework Agreement on Agricultural Reform Programme.

In expressing our view on the draft text, we would like to thank the Australian delegation for the statement made on behalf of the Cairns Group this morning. The Cairns Group's position is clear. We accept the draft text as it stands, as the minimum basis for further negotiations.

Nevertheless, there are particular points of concern which we would like to emphasize here.

First, for us, a successful outcome on agriculture means that an agreed package must encompass specific commitments on reducing internal support, border protection and export subsidies, and multilateral disciplines on sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

This package must cover the widest range of agricultural products possible. In this respect, we note a wide range of agreement as expressed by several delegations including Mexico, Colombia and Chile.

Second, we welcome the emphasis on tariffication in the area of border protection in the draft text.

Nevertheless, as we have previously made clear in our statements made on several occasions, we strongly oppose the rebalancing concept. It leaves us no doubt that this concept is not consistent with the spirit of the General Agreement.

Third, we welcome the recognition in the text on special and differential treatment for developing countries. However, we consider that a wider scope for special and differential treatment as outlined in the Cairns Group proposal is necessary.

. / .

We would like to stress, as acknowledged in the text, that assistance to agriculture to encourage agricultural and rural development is an integral part of the development programmes of developing countries, and in particular developing countries' assistance to agriculture in the pursuit of development objectives must be exempted from reduction commitment. It is imperative that this provision accords an adequate degree of flexibility in its implementation.

Fourth, we recognize the need for assistance to be given to producers in certain areas to encourage diversification away from illicit narcotic crops. We are of the view that assistance for such a purpose must be allowed without any prerequisite.

My last remark is that we think it is timely for this Negotiating Group to define safeguards in agriculture more clearly.

In our view, a special safeguard must be crafted to accommodate agricultural trade. Such a safeguard mechanism should provide a venue to cope with vagaries of nature in cases such as food surplus and shortage.