

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/24

10 August 1990

Special Distribution

Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

GROUP OF NEGOTIATIONS ON GOODS

Seventeenth meeting: 23 July 1990

1. The Group of Negotiations on Goods held its seventeenth meeting on 23 July 1990 under the Chairmanship of the Director-General.

Item I: Review of progress in the negotiations under Part I of the Punta del Este Declaration

2. The Chairman drew the attention of the Group to the reports submitted to the GNG by the Chairmen of the 14 Negotiating Groups reporting to it. The reports were as follows:

Tariffs (NG1/W/43)
Non-Tariff Measures (NG2/W/72)
Natural Resource Based Products (NG3/W/40)
Textiles and Clothing (NG4/W/56/Rev.1)
Agriculture (NG5/23 and NG5/W/170)
Tropical Products (NG6/W/47)
GATT Articles (NG7/W/73)
MTN Agreements and Arrangements (NG8/W/83, and Adds 1-5)
Safeguards (NG9/W/25/Rev.2)
Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (NG10/W/38)
TRIPS (NG11/W/76)
Trade Related Investment Measures (NG12/W/27)
Dispute Settlement (NG13/W/43)
Functioning of the GATT System (NG14/W/44)

3. The Chairman thanked the Chairmen of the Negotiating Groups, and all those participating in their work, for the efforts which had been made in the production of these reports. All of the reports merited serious consideration and all marked progress towards final agreement - even if not always sufficient progress. The Chairman then said that, on the basis of consultations as to the most efficient way to use the time available during this week, he wished to propose that the GNG should now take note of these reports and transmit them to the Trade Negotiations Committee. This would enable discussion of the reports, and of the overall state of the negotiations, to be concentrated in a single forum. This procedure would have no legal consequences; it would not be implied that in taking note of the reports the GNG had in any way signified its approval of them.

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Furthermore, if any participant making a statement in the TNC wished to have it understood that the statement should also be treated as having been made in the GNG, this would be made clear in the report of the TNC meeting; this had often been done in the past, when participants had chosen to concentrate their remarks in one or other of the two bodies.

4. The representative of Mexico, speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean participating countries, said that they agreed with the Chairman's proposal in relation to the organization of work and would present their statements only in the meeting of the TNC. However, they would do so without ignoring the important difference in the formal character of the two bodies and without prejudice to their positions as to the contents or the formal nature of the reports submitted by the Chairmen of Negotiating Groups. He requested that the statements made by these countries in the TNC should be considered an integral part of the proceedings and records of the GNG. It was so agreed.

5. The Group took note of the reports submitted by the Chairmen of the Negotiating Groups and transmitted them to the Trade Negotiations Committee.

Item II: Other Business Including Date of Next Meeting

6. The Chairman said that he was not yet in a position to propose a date for the next meeting of the GNG. The question of the organization of work in the Autumn would be taken up in the TNC. However, he envisaged that the Group would need to remain on call, if necessary at short notice, and he reminded the Group of the agreement by Ministers of Punta del Este that in order to ensure effective application of differential and more favourable treatment, the GNG should, before the formal completion of the negotiations, conduct an evaluation of the results in terms of the objectives and general principles governing the negotiations, taking into account all issues of interest to less developed contracting parties.