

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

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

MEETING OF 3 OCTOBER 1990

1. The Negotiating Group met on 3 October 1990 under the Chairmanship of Ambassador G. Maciel of Brazil.

A. Draft text of a comprehensive agreement  
(Informal Note No. 2178 dated 18 September 1990)

2. On the 3 October 1990, the Chairman presented to the Group an informal draft text of a comprehensive agreement (Informal Note No. 2376) and explained that this was a revised version of the informal draft contained in the Informal Note No. 2178 circulated at the end of the last meeting. He said that it represented the outcome of intensive informal consultations conducted by him from 1-3 October 1990. He stressed that it was still a Chairman's text. It contained many square brackets. In some cases these indicated major issues not yet resolved or new proposals not yet thoroughly examined. In other cases, they indicated difficulties in drafting but not necessarily disagreement on substance. For example, the footnote to paragraph 3 was put in brackets because the Group had not yet had the time to redraft it in such a way that it would have a uniform interpretation by all participants. Paragraph 24, dealing with Article XIX measures taken legally prior to the entry into force of the new agreement, was a new paragraph which had not yet been discussed. Similarly, paragraph 40 contained two new sub-paragraphs (d) and (e). The text of sub-paragraph (d) was bracketed as it referred to paragraph 25 which was in brackets. The Chairman also pointed out the fact that some parts of the draft text were in square brackets did not mean that there was agreement on the remainder of the text. Several drafting proposals were received very recently. Examples included those with respect to paragraphs 5, 7(b), 8, 18 and 20, which had not yet been thoroughly discussed by the Group. He referred to the footnote on page 2 which stated that the legal form of this agreement would be examined at a later stage and said that among the possibilities were a formal agreement modifying Article XIX or a protocol of interpretation or a decision by the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The Chairman recalled the statement made by the Chairman of the TNC at its last meeting that the Chairmen of individual negotiating groups would be requested to submit, by 8 October 1990, the date on which the Uruguay Round of

negotiations would enter its final phase, the texts on which they were working, together with their assessments of the situation of their respective groups. He said that he intended to submit the draft text contained in the Informal Note 2376 to the TNC as the best available basis for the negotiations in the final phase. He informed the Group that he would conduct further informal consultations with delegations in the week of 22 October 1990 and convene another meeting of the Group on 26 October 1990. This would enable the Group to prepare a further revision of the draft text.

3. One representative expressed his appreciation for the Chairman's efforts in producing the revised version of the draft text and noted that it was still a Chairman's text.

4. One representative said that there was a certain lack of transparency in the negotiations. He considered it important that negotiators were thoroughly informed of the evolution of the various negotiating positions in the informal consultations and of the direction in which the negotiations were going.

B. Other business: Date of next meeting

5. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Group would be held on 26 October 1990.