

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG5/W/213
19 October 1990

Special Distribution

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

Original: English

COMMUNICATION FROM THAILAND ON
BORDER PROTECTION PROPOSAL

1. As one of the developing exporting countries, Thailand attaches considerable importance to the negotiations on market access in the Uruguay Round, particularly with respect to border protection. We strongly believe that the outcome of the negotiations of this Round will be balanced only if the overall border protection is substantially reduced. Therefore, we welcome and wish to respond to the call by the Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee in July 1990 that specific tariff and non-tariff offers on all product sectors be completed by 15 October 1990 (MTN.TNC/16).
2. Although tariff reduction can be negotiated in various market access groups, Thailand prefers to see that consistency in reduction commitment across a broad range of products be given appropriate consideration. Specifically, an offer submitted in one group should not be undermined by an offer submitted in another group. With this in mind, Thailand wishes to draw the Group's attention to our tariff proposal reduction submitted to the Negotiating Group on Tariffs on 16 October 1990. The proposal contains an offer to reduce and to bind a total of 2,218 tariff lines covering agricultural products, industrial products, machinery and textile products. We submit, therefore, that this proposal becomes part of our border protection offer for agriculture negotiations as envisaged by paragraph 15 of MTN.GNG/NG5/W/170.
3. In summary, our agricultural offer list includes 270 tariff lines. For those lines which have the base rates of 40 per cent or above, we offer to reduce the rates to 40 per cent and to bind at those rates. In the case where requests have been put forward to Thailand, we would reduce appropriate items by 33 per cent and bind at the reduced rates. But the reduced rates will not be lower than 30 per cent. We consider that the proposal constitutes an offer that is in accordance with our development, financial and trade needs. The proposal is conditional on a mutually satisfactory outcome of the agricultural negotiation.
4. Recognizing the need to arrive at an agricultural agreement within the remaining short period of time, Thailand considers it important that the negotiations on agriculture adopt, to the maximum extent possible, the formula-offer approach involving the consideration of a package of liberalization commitments applicable to all participants multilaterally. As a member of the Cairns Group, we are of the view that the Proposal for a Multilateral Reform Programme in Agriculture submitted recently to the Negotiating Group could be used as a basis for intensifying the negotiation. For reasons described in paragraphs 1-3 above, we would like to state that Thailand's tariff proposal on agricultural products should not be prejudiced by the proposal of the Cairns Group on border protection commitment by developing countries as stated in paragraph 15.