

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG6/W/55
23 October 1990

Special Distribution

Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

Original: English

Negotiating Group on Tropical Products

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

Offer by Norway

The following communication dated 16 October 1990 has been received from the delegation of Norway with the request that it be circulated to the members of the Group.

1. Norway's offer on tropical products is covered by the general market access offer submitted on 15 October 1990. It contains items from HS chapter 6 to chapter 94 in the Norwegian customs tariff. The offer also includes items covered by the Norwegian offer on agricultural products. Adjustments in the tropical offer have, however, not been made.

2. Norway has adopted the following formula approach when reducing tariffs:

- base rate of 40 per cent or higher:
reduction to a binding of 20 per cent.
- base rate of less than 40 per cent:
 - rates between 0 per cent and 29 per cent:
 $R = D + 20$
(where R is the percentage reduction and D, the base rate of the custom duty)
 - rates between 30 per cent and 40 per cent:
 $R = 50$
(flat reduction of 50 per cent)

3. Norway's preliminary proposal (March 1990) contained items from chapter 6 to chapter 94 and the above described formula was applied when reducing tariffs. According to the GATT-secretariat's analysis, the trade weighted average would be reduced from 1.4 to 1.1 per cent, corresponding to a reduction in the order of 24.1 per cent.

Some HS positions are removed from this offer and transferred to NG 5. On the other hand further tariff reductions may be considered on the following items:

0804.50, 0807.20, 0901.21, 0901.22, 0909.10,
0909.30, 0909.40, 0910.30 and 1805.00.

This may affect the previously estimated trade weighted average reduction.

4. Norway is prepared to consider elimination of low tariffs, e.g. tariffs of 2 per cent or lower. Such concessions will however be viewed in the light of an overall assessment of the situation in the negotiations.

5. The detailed line-by-line offers to be circulated separately are flexible in the sense that both further improvement and withdrawals are possible. Such actions are conditional on an assessment of concessions offered by all participants.