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23 October 1990

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

Special Distribution

Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

Original: English

Negotiating Group on Tariffs

Negotiating Group on Non-Tariff Measures

Negotiating Group on Natural Resource-Based Products

Negotiating Group on Textiles and Clothing

Negotiating Group on Tropical Products

URUGUAY ROUND - MARKET ACCESS

Communication from Norway

The following communication, dated 16 October 1990, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Norway.

Norway's Offer on Market Access

1. Norway's offer on tariffs contains HS Chapters 03, ex 05, ex 16, and 25-97 in the Norwegian customs tariff. Consequently, natural resource-based product, tropical products and textile and clothing products are included in the offer.

In line with the proposed product coverage for the negotiations in NG5, the following HS positions are transferred from the offer in NG5 to the offer in NG1: HS 0511.9101, 0511.9102, 0511.9103 and 0511.9104.

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)

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UR-90-0620

MTN.GNG/NG1/W/57

MTN.GNG/NG2/W/82

MTN.GNG/NG3/W/48

MTN.GNG/NG4/W/61

MTN.GNG/NG6/W/57

Page 2

3. Norway's preliminary proposal (March 1990) contained HS Chapters 25-97 (without exceptions) 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 3.3 to 2.2 per cent, corresponding to a reduction in order of 33.3 per cent. The highest tariff duty in Chapters 25-97 would become 15 per cent.

Some HS positions are removed from this offer and transferred to NG5. Furthermore, on several tropical products, reductions are offered beyond the formula. This may affect the previously estimated trade weighted average reduction.

The share of bindings for industrial products would increase from 97.2 to 100 per cent.

4. The attached offer is improved compared to our March proposal. In addition to Chapters 25-97, Chapters 03, ex 05 and ex 16 (fish and fish products) are included.

The improved offer also includes binding of all tariff items at the offered concession rates.

5. The parts of the offer which concern tropical products will also be introduced in the Negotiating Group on Tropical Products together with other concessions offered concerning these products in HS Chapters 1-24.

6. It remains Norway's view that market access problems facing natural resource-based products are of a horizontal nature. Consequently, negotiations on these products will take place within the general market access groups. However, we will also notify proposals, offers and requests to the Negotiating Group on Natural Resource-Based Products.

7. Norway is prepared to enter into sectorial negotiations in order to eliminate tariffs and non-tariff measures on fish and fish products as well as on pharmaceutical products. Norway would also be willing to consider elimination of low tariffs, e.g. tariffs of 2 per cent or lower. Certain textile products and processed agricultural products are however of such a nature that concessions offered may have to be adjusted. Such possible concessions and withdrawals will be viewed in the light of an overall assessment of the situation in the negotiations.

8. The attached offer is 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 in all areas. Due attention will be paid to concessions of particular importance to Norwegian trade.