

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/MA/W/20
1 May 1992

Special Distribution

Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

Original: Spanish

Negotiating Group on
Market Access

COMMUNICATION FROM HONDURAS

The following communication, dated 21 April 1992, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Honduras.

The Permanent Mission of Honduras to GATT presents its compliments to the Director-General and requests that the following information note concerning the autonomous international-trade liberalization measures recently introduced by Honduras be circulated to Uruguay Round participants.

This information note is a supplement to our communication dated 26 July 1991 (MTN.GNG/MA/W/4) which provides a full and detailed description of the trade liberalization measures adopted by Honduras since the outset of the Uruguay Round, pursuant to the commitments assumed under the Punta del Este Declaration.

That earlier summary gives quite an accurate picture of the efforts made by Honduras to open its economy to international competition despite the problems caused by difficulties in external-debt management and the sharp slump in world market prices for its main export products. The Government of Honduras therefore hopes that participants will take these efforts duly into account when conducting negotiations for its accession to the General Agreement and also when evaluating its contributions to the Uruguay Round as regards market access.

The Government of Honduras is continuing to implement trade liberalization measures under its Structural Adjustment Programme. During 1992, the maximum tariff ceiling applied to imports has been reduced to 20 per cent while the floor rate has been fixed at 5 per cent. The law was recently adopted creating a single window for the country's land customs: this window will centralize import and export formalities for goods in order to reduce the steps and procedures involved in foreign trade operations.

In addition, in the framework of the new Central American Integration Process, the Transitional Multilateral Agreement on Free Trade between Honduras with the rest of Central America came into force on 7 February 1992, having been adopted by the National Congress in November 1991. This provides for the free movement of 1,600 products in the region; the product coverage will be expanded until free trade is attained, in accordance with the definitive General Treaty, by 31 December 1992 at the latest.

GATT SECRETARIAT

UR-92-0082