MINISTERIAL MEETING TOKYO, 12-14 SEPTEMBER 1973

Declaration

1. The Ministers, having considered the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Trade Negotiations and having noted that a number of governments have decided to enter into comprehensive multilateral trade negotiations in the framework of GATT and that other governments have indicated their intention to make a decision as soon as possible, declare the negotiations officially open. Those governments which have decided to negotiate have notified the Director-General of GATT to this effect, and the Ministers agree that it will be open to any other government, through a notification to the Director-General, to participate in the negotiations. The Ministers hope that the negotiations will involve the active participation of as many countries as possible. They expect the negotiations to be engaged effectively as rapidly as possible, and that, to that end, the governments concerned will have such authority as may be required.

2. The negotiations shall aim to:

- achieve the expansion and ever-greater liberalization of world trade and improvement in the standard of living and welfare of the people of the world, objectives which can be achieved, inter alia, through the progressive dismantling of obstacles to trade and the improvement of the international framework for the conduct of world trade.

- secure additional benefits for the international trade of developing countries so as to achieve a substantial increase in their foreign exchange earnings, the diversification of their exports, the acceleration of the rate of growth of their trade, taking into account their development needs, an improvement in the possibilities for these countries to participate in the expansion of world trade and a better balance as between developed and developing countries in the sharing of the advantages resulting from this
expansion, through, in the largest possible measure, a substantial improvement in the conditions of access for the products of interest to the developing countries and, wherever appropriate, measures designed to attain stable, equitable and remunerative prices for primary products.

To this end, co-ordinated efforts shall be made to solve in an equitable way the trade problems of all participating countries, taking into account the specific trade problems of the developing countries.

3. To this end the negotiations should aim, *inter alia*, to:

(a) conduct negotiations on tariffs by employment of appropriate formulae of as general application as possible;

(b) reduce or eliminate non-tariff measures or, where this is not appropriate, to reduce or eliminate their trade restricting or distorting effects, and to bring such measures under more effective international discipline;

(c) include an examination of the possibilities for the co-ordinated reduction or elimination of all barriers to trade in selected sectors as a complementary technique;

(d) include an examination of the adequacy of the multilateral safeguard system, considering particularly the modalities of application of Article XIX, with a view to furthering trade liberalization and preserving its results;

(e) include, as regards agriculture, an approach to negotiations which, while in line with the general objectives of the negotiations, should take account of the special characteristics and problems in this sector;

(f) treat tropical products as a special and priority sector.

4. The negotiations shall cover tariffs, non-tariff barriers and other measures which impede or distort international trade in both industrial and agricultural products, including tropical products and raw materials, whether in primary form or at any stage of processing including in particular products of export interest to developing countries and measures affecting their exports.

5. The negotiations shall be conducted on the basis of the principles of mutual advantage, mutual commitment and overall reciprocity, while observing the most-favoured-nation clause, and consistently with the provisions of the General Agreement relating to such negotiations. Participants shall jointly endeavour in the negotiations to achieve, by appropriate methods, an overall balance of advantage at the highest possible level. The developed countries do not expect reciprocity for commitments made by them in the negotiations to reduce or remove tariff and other barriers to the trade of developing countries, i.e., the
developed countries do not expect the developing countries, in the course of the
trade negotiations, to make contributions which are inconsistent with their
individual development, financial and trade needs. The Ministers recognize the
need for special measures to be taken in the negotiations to assist the developing
countries in their efforts to increase their export earnings and promote their
economic development and, where appropriate, for priority attention to be given
to products or areas of interest to developing countries. They also recognize
the importance of maintaining and improving the Generalized System of Preferences.
They further recognize the importance of the application of differential measures
to developing countries in ways which will provide special and more favourable
treatment for them in areas of the negotiation where this is feasible and
appropriate.

6. The Ministers recognize that the particular situation and problems of the
least developed among the developing countries shall be given special attention,
and stress the need to ensure that these countries receive special treatment in
the context of any general or specific measures taken in favour of the developing
countries during the negotiations.

7. The policy of liberalizing world trade cannot be carried out successfully
in the absence of parallel efforts to set up a monetary system which shields the
world economy from the shocks and imbalances which have previously occurred. The
Ministers will not lose sight of the fact that the efforts which are to be made
in the trade field imply continuing efforts to maintain orderly conditions and to
establish a durable and equitable monetary system.

The Ministers recognize equally that the new phase in the liberalization of
trade which it is their intention to undertake should facilitate the orderly
functioning of the monetary system.

The Ministers recognize that they should bear these considerations in mind
both at the opening of and throughout the negotiations. Efforts in these two
fields will thus be able to contribute effectively to an improvement of
international economic relations, taking into account the special characteristics
of the economies of the developing countries and their problems.

8. The negotiations shall be considered as one undertaking, the various elements
of which shall move forward together.

9. Support is reaffirmed for the principles, rules and disciplines provided for
under the General Agreement.\footnote{This does not necessarily represent the views of representatives of
countries not now parties to the General Agreement.} Consideration shall be given to improvements in the
international framework for the conduct of world trade which might be desirable
in the light of progress in the negotiations and, in this endeavour, care shall
be taken to ensure that any measures introduced as a result are consistent with
the overall objectives and principles of the trade negotiations and particularly
of trade liberalization.

10. A Trade Negotiations Committee is established, with authority, taking into
account the present Declaration, inter alia:

(a) to elaborate and put into effect detailed trade negotiating plans and
to establish appropriate negotiating procedures, including special
procedures for the negotiations between developed and developing
countries;

(b) to supervise the progress of the negotiations.

The Trade Negotiations Committee shall be open to participating governments.¹
The Trade Negotiations Committee shall hold its opening meeting not later than
1 November 1973.

11. The Ministers intend that the trade negotiations be concluded in 1975.

¹ Including the European Communities