GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

Group on Tropical Products

PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS

1. The general objectives of the trade negotiations in respect of agricultural products are the creation of acceptable conditions of access to world markets for agricultural products in furtherance of the significant development and expansion of world trade in such products.

2. With a view to achieving these objectives, particularly for tropical products, the Group on Tropical Products shall pursue further the question of trade in tropical products with a view to working out arrangements and procedures for their treatment in the trade negotiations.

3. An indicative list of tropical products or group of products which are important in the export trade of less-developed countries will be established by the Group and circulated to participating countries.1

4. Taking this list as a basis every developed country should decide:

   (i) for which products it may take measures to abolish or reduce barriers to trade

   (ii) from which date and over which period of time this could be done

   (iii) the degree of reduction envisaged

   (iv) other relevant measures they might be able to take in conjunction with, or independently of, (i), (ii) and (iii) above.

5. The offers referred to in paragraph 4 above will be tabled by 16 September. They would not be made conditional upon similar offers being made by other developed countries.

1 This list will not, in this or any other negotiation have a binding effect as regards the definition of tropical products. Any country can thus choose also among products or group of products not included in the list.
6. Negotiations based on the offers referred to in paragraph 4 above should start by a multilateral confrontation in the Group on Tropical Products in the course of which participating governments should be prepared to furnish explanations on the contents and the scope of their offers, in relation to the objectives stated in paragraph 1, to the interested participating governments which so request. Where exceptionally particular products are excluded from the offer list explanations for their exclusion could also be requested.

6. With regard to products referred to in paragraph 3 above, discussions shall commence on the with a view, inter alia, both to seeking to identify the relevant elements of support or protection which could enter into the negotiation and to exploring the views of the participating countries regarding the type and content of offers required to achieve the objectives referred to in paragraph 1 above.

7. Thereafter, the negotiations would proceed on the basis of the offers tabled in accordance with paragraph 5 above.

8. For certain tropical products or groups of tropical products the Group may consider it useful and desirable to establish a commodity group. It is agreed that this possibility will be considered if and when a specific proposal for the establishment of such a commodity group is submitted to the Group.