GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

Multilateral Trade Negotiations
Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

MEETING OF APRIL 1976

Summing-up by the Chairman

1. The Group met on 27-29 April 1976. It invited the Secretary General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Group as an observer.

Establishment of a second list of non-tariff measures.

(a) Variable levies, minimum import prices or non-tariff charges on imports

2. The Group addressed itself to the proposal that a Sub-Group on variable levies and minimum import prices or non-tariff charges on imports be established. There was a difference of opinion in the Group as to whether these measures fell within the mandate of the Group. Several delegations considered that these matters should be dealt with in the Group "Agriculture". Several delegations considered that these matters should be dealt with in the Group "Non-Tariff Measures". After discussion the Group noted that the position on the basic issue set out in paragraph 4 of MTN/NTM/11 remained unchanged and that therefore it could not carry the discussion further at this time.

(b) Anti-dumping

3. The Group addressed itself to the proposal that a Sub Group be established to deal with anti-dumping including the specific problems faced by developing countries in this field. Some delegations supporting the proposal noted that not all members of the Group participated in the Anti-Dumping Committee and that its terms of reference did not provide for consideration of the problems affecting the developing countries. They also recalled in this connexion that a Working Party had dealt inconclusively with these problems. During the discussion some delegations, while recognizing that an opportunity may need to be provided in the multilateral trade negotiations for dealing with problems of developing countries in this area, said that the time was not ripe to take a decision, as work was still going on in the Anti-Dumping Committee. Some delegations said that certain aspects of anti-dumping may need to be brought into the negotiations at an appropriate time.
4. No consensus was reached on this matter at this stage. The Group agreed to come back to it at the next meeting.

(c) Government procurement

5. A number of delegations, recalling the discussions on the subject at the last meeting of the Group, stressed that the time had now come to start work on government procurement in a sub-group which the Group "Non-Tariff Measures" should set up at its present meeting.

6. After discussion there was agreement on the principle of creating a Sub-Group "Government Procurement". It was agreed that at its next meeting the Group would consider and decide on matters relating to the creation of the sub-group, its timetable etc.

7. The Group agreed that the OECD should be requested to provide a more extensive note on the work going on in that body.

Procedures for negotiations on measures not dealt with multilaterally

8. The Group noted statements by some delegations on their approach to negotiations in this area. Some delegations indicated their basic preference for negotiations on a multilateral basis. Reference was made to the link which some delegations saw between negotiations on tariffs and non-tariff measures.

9. The Group discussed the proposals contained in MTN/NTM/W/1 and MTN/NTM/W/45. Many delegations said that they could give their support to the idea behind the proposal for notifications.

10. It was understood that the procedure constituted a preliminary first step, in that it provided for notification of information on non-tariff measures and not negotiations on such measures, and that it would not prejudice the procedures which might be adopted for negotiations. It was also understood that some of the measures might in fact be found later to be suitable for being dealt with multilaterally. It was further understood that acceptance of the proposal would not delay a decision by the Group on the establishment of a second list of non-tariff measures to be taken up multilaterally. It was noted that the procedure should be open ended and that there should be no time limit for notifications.

11. Some delegations said that the notification procedure should be supplemented in due course by an appropriate surveillance and reporting procedure.
12. After a discussion on the nature of the products to be covered by this procedure, which did not result in a conclusion, there was broad agreement in principle on a process of notification on non-tariff measures not now being dealt with multilaterally. It was agreed that at its next meeting, the Group would consider and decide on matters relating to such a procedure, the timetable for notifications etc., and would revert to the other matters, including those mentioned in MTN/NTM/W/1 and 45, before it under this agenda item.

13. The Group agreed that at its next meeting it would examine the precise formulation of the subject matter of this item of the agenda.

**Question of establishing a comprehensive data base for item-related non-tariff measures**

14. The Group examined the possibility of establishing a comprehensive data base for item-related non-tariff measures as proposed in MTN/11/21. It took note of the consultations and discussions that had taken place on this matter.

15. During the course of the discussions it was suggested that the proposal could be taken in two stages and that as a first step the secretariat, with the assistance of delegations, should endeavour to record notifications of item-related non-tariff measures contained in the relevant documentation on a tariff-line basis.

16. The Group noted that there was no consensus on the proposal before it and agreed to leave it open for reflection. It also agreed to revert to the proposal at its next meeting, it being understood that informal contacts between delegations would take place in the interval.

**Work of Sub-Groups**

17. The Group took note of the summings-up made by the respective Chairmen of its four sub-groups (MTN/11/12, 13, 14 and 15). A number of comments were made. There was a widespread concern with the slow pace of the work of the Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions", and the hope was expressed that the process of consultation would be expedited. Some delegations of developing countries stressed the importance which they attached to the question of differential treatment and expressed the hope that at its next meeting the Group would be able to consider procedures for negotiations with respect to quantitative restrictions in accordance with proposals already made. Mention was also made of problems relating to e.g. product coverage and delays in reporting on consultations.

**Further work**

18. The Group agreed to hold its next meeting before the summer recess, the precise date to be decided by the Chairman in consultation with interested delegations.
19. The Group noted that the Sub-Group "Technical Barriers to Trade" would meet in the week of 17 May. It agreed that the Sub-Group "Customs Matters" would meet in the week of 5 July in alternance with the Group "Tariffs". It also decided that the Sub-Groups "Quantitative Restrictions" and "Subsidies and Countervailing Duties" would meet in the week of 12 July in alternance with one another.