Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

Negotiating Group on Natural Resource-Based Products

NEgotiating GROUP on NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED PRODUCTS
(Meeting of 1 November 1990)

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Group, chaired by H.E. Ambassador Lindsay Duthie (Australia), held its twentieth meeting on 1 November 1990, and adopted the agenda set out in GATT/AIR/3125. It was informed of the Chairman's intention to hold an informal meeting, immediately following the formal meeting, to discuss the Chairman's paper of 24 October 1990.

Discussion of issues, submissions and notifications in accordance with paragraph 3 of the procedures for negotiations adopted by the Group on 21 March 1990 (MTN.GNG/NG3/16)

2. The Chairman advised the Group that since its last meeting on 20 September 1990, the secretariat had received and circulated submissions from Austria, Bolivia, the European Communities, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Romania, Switzerland, Thailand and Yugoslavia. This brought the total of countries having submitted proposals, notifications and other submissions concerned with natural resource-based products up to thirty-four, as set out in document MTN.GNG/NG3/W/36/Rev.4. It was also noted that several of these countries had submitted more than one proposal, notification and/or other submission.

3. The representative of the Philippines informed the Group that the Philippines had recently tabled a revised tariff offer in NG1, which included natural resource-based products. The representative of Nigeria advised the Group that his country had recently submitted a tariff offer, which also included offers concerning natural resource-based products. The representative of Venezuela informed the Group that his country would very soon present a contribution to the negotiations in the access groups.

4. The representative of the European Community, in response to a question, said that the EC tariff offer on natural resource-based products referred to in MTN.GNG/NG3/W/47 and which concerned in particular some fish products, had been made in an effort to satisfy concerns expressed by developing countries. This offer was open to improvement depending on trading partners' proposals.