NEGOTIATING GROUP ON NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED PRODUCTS

Meeting of 18 November 1987

Addendum

In document MTN.GNG/NG3/5, insert as paragraph 15bis the following text presented by Chile:

15bis. "The representative of Chile said that natural resources were a priority topic and one could not speak of new tariff reductions and elimination of non-tariff measures unless, at the same time, those reductions and eliminations applied likewise to natural resource-based products.

"The same and identical reduction mechanism should be applied in the Negotiating Groups on Tariffs, -Non-Tariff Measures, -Natural Resource-Based Products and the Negotiating Group on Textiles and, furthermore, natural resource-based products should already be liberalized to the same extent as the historic liberalization of industrial products.

"There was an indissoluble link between the Groups on Tariffs, Non-Tariff Measures and Natural Resources, and work in the first two groups should not proceed at a different rate from work in the third group.

"It was difficult, therefore, for Chile to accept the Australian proposal made in the Negotiating Group on Natural Resource-Based Products. Australia had made one and the same proposal in the Negotiating Groups on Tariffs and on Non-Tariff Measures, but had now made a different proposal in the present group which seemed to conflict with the idea that there should be uniformity in the treatment of tariffs, non-tariff measures and natural resources.

"In other words, if Australia presented a proposal in the Negotiating Group on Natural Resource-Based Products, it should preferably be the same as the proposal presented by that country in the Negotiating Groups on Tariffs and on Non-Tariff Measures.
"The new Australian document presented to the Negotiating Group on Natural Resource-Based Products had the disadvantage of diverting attention toward other products away from products that had traditionally been dealt with in GATT, namely forest products (including also paper), non-ferrous metals and mineral ores and fishery products.

"The negotiations should aim at immediate liberalization of those three product groups.

"The position, as presented in the paper by the African countries, was different, however, and coincided fully with that of the Chilean delegation."