

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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19 September 1975

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Tropical Products"

CONSULTATIONS ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its second meeting in June 1975, the Group "Tropical Products" agreed, inter alia, that intensive consultations should proceed as rapidly as possible between participants making requests for concessions and the participants to which requests are addressed. It was expected that such consultations would, among other things, serve to clarify the factual information contained in the request lists and cover the examination and discussion of the initial requests as well as the preliminary substantive reactions to initial requests with a view to the early tabling of offers. The Group further agreed that participants should keep the secretariat informed of arrangements for consultations so that adequate information with respect to the consultations taking place is available.
2. The purpose of this note is to provide an indication of developments in connexion with the consultation procedures adopted by the Group. The information hereunder is generally based on informal contacts with delegations and is therefore subject to revision and updating as the case may be.
3. An attempt has been made in the attachment to provide a summary picture of the status of the consultations on tropical products as at 10 September 1975. It will be noted that as at that date thirty developing country participants had submitted requests for concessions to developed countries. In addition to the developed countries shown, one request for concessions was submitted to Hungary and one request to South Africa.
4. The symbol "a" has been used in the tabulation to show the developed country participants to which requests for concessions were submitted by developing countries. The symbol "b" indicates where consultations have taken place and the symbol "c" where no clarifications of request lists were required by the country or countries to whom requests were addressed.
5. It is understood by the secretariat that the consultations undertaken by 10 September have served mainly to clarify, examine and discuss the factual information contained in the request lists. However, in certain cases possibilities

for concessions were also discussed on a preliminary basis and without any commitment as to the concession or concessions which might be offered in the context of the negotiations in the Group "Tropical Products".

6. The tabulation indicates, in particular, those developing countries with which the EEC, Japan, the Nordic countries, Switzerland and the United States have had consultations. There have been cases where the country to which requests have been addressed have found it difficult to arrange consultations with certain requesting countries not having permanent representation in Geneva. With respect to the countries mentioned above, the secretariat has been informed that they hope to be able to complete an initial round of consultations with requesting countries within the coming weeks.

7. It is understood from the delegations of Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Austria that an intensive examination of the request lists submitted has been proceeding in their respective capitals. Canada and New Zealand have stressed that they will be in a position to enter into consultations with requesting countries during the month of September. In the case of Australia a programme of consultations has been agreed with the countries concerned for the period 25 September-3 October 1975. The delegation of Austria has indicated that Austria will be communicating written comments to requesting countries, informing them at the same time of the preparedness of the Austrian authorities to enter into consultations at mutually convenient dates.

8. Paragraph (iii) of document MTN/TP/3 refers to the possibilities for plurilateral consultations between two or more participants interested as exporters of the same products and the countries receiving requests on the same products. Other than in the case of certain regional groupings of developing countries which have consulted with some developed country participants, no plurilateral consultations have been undertaken so far on particular products.

9. It would seem, on the basis of the information available to the secretariat, that the consultations which have taken place or are about to take place are serving a useful purpose in clarifying the exact nature of the requests and providing an opportunity for a better understanding of the objectives and possibilities for negotiations on tropical products between the parties concerned. The consultations may also serve the purpose of facilitating the work of the Group at its next meeting on 20 October when it takes up the points referred to in paragraph (iv) of document MTN/TP/3.

GROUP - "TROPICAL PRODUCTS"

Request List for Concessions

Status of Consultations as at 10 September 1975

Requesting country	Date of initial submission to secretariat	Document MTW/TP/	Australia	Austria	Canada	EEC	Japan	New Zealand	Nordics			Switzerland	United States
									Finland	Norway	Sweden		
Sri Lanka	12 May	R/3, Add.1, Rev.1	a	a	a	a, b	a, b	a	a, b	a, b	a, b	a, b	a, b
Ghana	14 May	R/6, Rev.1	a	a	a		a, c	a	a, b	a, b	a, b	a, b	a, b
<u>ASEAN</u>													
Indonesia	15 May	R/7, Rev.1	a		a	a, b	a, b	a					a, b
Malaysia			a		a	a, b	a, b	a	a, b	a, b	a, b	a, b	a, b
Singapore			a	a	a	a, b	a, b	a	a, b	a, b	a, b	a, b	a, b
Philippines			a	a	a	a, b	a, b	a	a, b	a, b	a, b	a, b	a, b
Thailand			a		a	a, b	a, b	a					a, b
India	15 May	R/1, Rev.1 & 2	a	a	a	a, b	a, b	a	a, b	a, b	a, b	a, b	a, b
Ivory Coast	15 May	R/2 & Corr. 1	a	a	a		a, b	a			a, b	a, b	a, b
Nigeria	16 May	R/4, Add.1, Rev.1	a	a	a		a, b	a	a, b	a, b	a, b	a, b	a, b
		Rev.2											
Brazil	16 May	R/5 & Rev.1				a, b	a, b						a, b
Jamaica	2 June	R/9			a								a, c
Kenya	4 June	R/10	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	a	a	a
Argentina	4 June	R/11			a	a, b	a, c			a, b	a, b	a, b	a, b
Mexico	13 June	R/13			a	a, b	a, c					a, b	a, b
Turkey	13 June	R/12, Add.1	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	a	a, b	a, b
Hong Kong	30 June	R/15					a, c						a, b
Bangladesh	30 June	R/16, Add.1, 2	a		a	a		a	a	a	a	a, b	a, c
Uganda	4 July	R/17	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	a	a	a
<u>CACM</u>													
Costa Rica	11 July	R/18											
El Salvador													
Guatemala			a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a, b	a, b
Honduras													
Nicaragua													
Pakistan	22 July	R/19	a		a	a	a, b			a, b	a, b	a, b	a, b
Trinidad & Tobago	29 July	R/20	a		a		a	a				a	a
<u>ANDean</u>													
Colombia	18 June	R/14, Add.1		a	a	a, b	a		a	a	a	a, b	a, b
Venezuela	31 July	R/22				a							a, c
Ecuador		R/23			a	a	a			a	a	a, b	a
Burma	11 August	R/21	a			a	a						a, c

Symbols: a - submission of initial request lists by developing country participants to other participants.
b - consultations have taken place between the participants making requests and the participants to which requests have been addressed.
c - no classification of initial request lists required.