

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

spec(82)36

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PROGRAMME OF CONSULTATIONS ON TRADE LIBERALIZATION

QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS AND OTHER NON-TARIFF MEASURES AFFECTING THE TRADE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS MADE BY A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS FOR IMPROVED CONDITIONS OF ACCESS

As indicated in Spec(82)34, paragraph 14, the following specific suggestions put forward by a number of countries for consideration by the developed countries concerned have been extracted from the informal record, prepared by the secretariat, of the consultations on quantitative and other restrictions made available in document Spec(82)37. Further details relating to these suggestions and the exchange of views concerning possibilities for further progress are contained in the informal record.

1. A number of developing country delegations recalled the proposal of the Australian delegation, presented in the course of the Tokyo Round¹, for a general framework in which quantitative import restrictions would be removed on a programmed basis. It was to involve joint action by all participants and include the following elements: (i) standstill on new quantitative restrictions not justifiable under the General Agreement; (ii) all QR's not permitted under GATT would be phased-out on a programmed basis by a specific date, with priority being given to restrictions affecting developing country exports; (iii) exceptions to (ii) would be discussed among interested participants with a view to drawing-up a phasing-out programme; (iv) where compliance with (ii) and (iii) is being exercised, contracting parties whose rights under the GATT were being nullified or impaired as a result of QR's not justified under GATT exception clauses would undertake not to exercise their GATT rights in this regard; (v) the phasing-out programme would be included in appropriate GATT schedules; (vi) QR's

¹See COM.TD/338/Rev.1.

justified under GATT exceptions would be catalogued and published and provision made for regular reporting and consultation; (vii) any QR not covered by (ii) and (iii) above would also be catalogued and published; and (viii) QR's would be subject to agreed rules relating to their administration.

2. The representative of Turkey proposed the establishment of a work programme covering the following points:

1. Elimination of all quantitative restrictions inconsistent with the provisions of the General Agreement.
2. Indication of a time-frame for the phasing-out of remaining restrictions, priority being given to restrictions affecting exports of developing countries.
3. Standstill on new tariff and non-tariff barriers against exports of developing countries.
4. Until and during the phasing-out of the remaining restrictions, action should be taken with regard to the following:
 - (a) Progressive enlargement of quotas in favour of developing countries.
 - (b) Adoption of measures to ensure the full utilization of quotas.
 - (c) Removal of discriminatory aspects of quantitative restrictions.

3. The representative of India suggested that firstly, restrictions which were not consistent with the provisions of the General Agreement should be eliminated or phased-out within a time-frame to be agreed upon. Secondly, restrictive measures adopted under GATT provisions should be the object of examination and justification, and progressively liberalized in accordance with procedures to be determined.