

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Agriculture"
Sub-Group on Grains

MEETING OF JANUARY 1976

Note by the Chairman

1. The Sub-Group held its fourth session from 22 to 29 January 1976. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, or his representative, to attend this session of the Sub-Group as an observer.
2. As had been agreed at its third session (MTN/GR/3, paragraph 7), the Sub-Group undertook an examination of the documentation on international trade in grains (MTN/GR/W/8/Rev.1 and addenda 1 to 11). It was suggested that delegations which were in a position to submit additional or more up-to-date information to the secretariat should do so and, where appropriate, on a continuing basis. Such information would be circulated in addenda or corrigenda to the existing document.
3. On the basis of document MTN/GR/W/8/Rev.1 and of information provided by delegations in the course of the discussion, the Sub-Group carried out a multilateral examination and analysis of all measures affecting exports and imports of grains applied by Argentina, Austria, the European Communities, Finland, Japan, Norway, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.
4. In accordance with the agreement reached at its previous meeting (MTN/GR/3, paragraph 6) the Sub-Group continued the discussion on various elements contained in proposals with regard to the three interrelated categories of topics listed in paragraph 5 of MTN/GR/1. The discussion permitted delegations to give further details on their proposals and views, as well as to gain a more complete understanding of the proposals and views of others.
5. The discussion brought out a number of issues which required further reflection and clarification. In order to advance the work as rapidly as possible, the Sub-Group decided that informal discussions be held on these issues among its members (with the assistance of the secretariat if requested) in the period between the present and the next meeting.

6. It was recalled that when the Group "Agriculture" had established the Sub-Group on Grains it was stated that the Sub-Group should at the appropriate time consider how best to integrate into its work any results of the work going on within the framework of the International Wheat Council (MTN/AG/1, paragraph 5(a)). It was agreed that the Sub-Group should revert to the matter, but it was believed that it would be premature to have a consideration of the results achieved in that forum at the present session of the Sub-Group.
7. The Sub-Group agreed that at its next meeting it would, benefiting from the results of the informal discussions, continue the examination of all the elements of all proposals that have been or may be made with regard to the three interrelated categories of topics listed in paragraph 5 of MTN/GR/1.
8. The Sub-Group also agreed that it would continue, and aim to conclude at its next session, the examination and analysis of export and import measures maintained by countries whose measure it had not been possible to examine at the present session. It was further agreed that the Sub-Group might also address itself to other topics covered by the documentation before it.
9. It was agreed that the Chairman should make an oral report to Group "Agriculture", should that Group meet prior to the next session of the Sub-Group.
10. The Sub-Group agreed to hold its next session in the week beginning 24 May 1976.