

20 JANUARY 1976

SUBJECT: GROUP "TROPICAL PRODUCTS"

1. FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CHAIRMAN AND DELEGATIONS, THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUP "TROPICAL PRODUCTS" WILL BE HELD DURING THE PERIOD 16-20 FEBRUARY COMMENCING AT 3 P.M. ON MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY 1976 IN THE PALAIS DES NATIONS.
2. AS AGREED AT ITS LAST MEETING (MTN/TP/4, PARAGRAPH 12), THE GROUP IS EXPECTED TO: (A) REVIEW THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE CONSULTATIONS ON THE REQUEST LISTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING AND EXAMINING THE REQUESTS SUBMITTED AND ALSO FOR PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBSTANTIVE PRELIMINARY REACTIONS; (B) TAKE A DECISION ON THE QUESTION OF THE CIRCULATION OF OFFERS AND THE FORMAT; (C) CONSIDER ANY QUESTIONS COVERED BY PARAGRAPHS 1(V), 1(IX) AND 2(III) OF THE GUIDELINES RELATING TO SPECIAL AND PRIORITY TREATMENT, MULTILATERAL ACTION AND THE TAKING ACCOUNT OF SOLUTIONS PROPOSED IN GROUP 3(f) RESPECTIVELY; (D) TAKE UP ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR CARRYING FORWARD THE NEGOTIATIONS ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF SECURING THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONCESSIONS ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS.
3. AS BACKGROUND FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF POINT (A), A NOTE ON THE STATUS OF CONSULTATIONS IS BEING CIRCULATED TO PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES FOR INFORMATION. WITH REGARD TO POINT (B), A PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE ON THIS SUBJECT AT THE LAST MEETING. IN THIS RESPECT, THE GROUP HAS BEFORE IT A BACKGROUND NOTE (MTN/TP/W/6) SUMMARIZING, INTER ALIA, PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH OFFERS IN EARLIER GATT ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS. DELEGATIONS MAY HAVE SOME COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE IN CONNEXION WITH POINTS (C) AND (D) IN THE LIGHT OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MAY BE RELEVANT TO THESE MATTERS.
4. THE MEETING IS OPEN TO THOSE COUNTRIES HAVING AN INTEREST IN TRADE IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS WHICH HAVE INDICATED THEIR DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND HAVE THUS ASSUMED MEMBERSHIP OF THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE. SUCH MEMBERS ARE ACCORDINGLY INVITED TO INFORM ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF THE NAMES OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WHO WILL ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE GROUP.
5. REPRESENTATIVES NOT HAVING YET REGISTERED FOR THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS ARE REQUESTED TO REGISTER WITH THE CONFERENCE OFFICER, VILLA LE BOCAGE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY ENTRANCE CARDS.

O. LONG