

13 OCTOBER 1977

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS - SUBMISSION OF LISTS OF REQUESTS AND OF INDICATIVE LISTS

1. DELEGATIONS ARE REMINDED THAT IN JULY 1977 GROUP "AGRICULTURE" DECIDED THAT PARTICIPANTS IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WILL SUBMIT LISTS OF REQUESTS REGARDING ANY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS BY 1 NOVEMBER 1977, AND THAT GROUP "NON-TARIFF MEASURES" SIMILARLY DECIDED THAT PARTICIPANTS WILL SUBMIT LISTS OF REQUESTS REGARDING ANY NON-TARIFF MEASURES BY THE SAME DATE. THE SECRETARIAT WISHES TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF ADHERING TO THIS DATE BECAUSE IT CONSIDERS THAT PARTICIPANTS WILL NEED THE FULL PERIOD AFTER 1 NOVEMBER TO MEET THE AGREED 15 JANUARY DATE FOR TABLING OF REQUESTS.
2. DELEGATIONS ARE ALSO REMINDED THAT BOTH GROUPS ALSO ADOPTED SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. GROUP "AGRICULTURE" DECIDED, INTER ALIA, THAT "INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR GROUPS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WILL SUBMIT LISTS OF INITIAL REQUESTS FOR TARIFF AND/OR NON-TARIFF CONCESSIONS TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES BY 1 NOVEMBER 1977 IF POSSIBLE" AND THAT "DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WISHING TO DO SO WILL SUBMIT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTICIPANTS INDICATIVE LISTS OF THEIR AGRICULTURAL EXPORT INTERESTS IN THE MARKETS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CONCERNED, BY 1 NOVEMBER 1977". SIMILARLY GROUP "NON-TARIFF MEASURES" DECIDED THAT LISTS OF INITIAL REQUESTS AND INDICATIVE LISTS RELATING TO ANY NON-TARIFF MEASURES WILL BE SUBMITTED BY 1 NOVEMBER 1977. THE SECRETARIAT STANDS READY, ON REQUEST, TO ASSIST ANY DELEGATION IN HELPING THEM TO MEET THE AGREED TIME-TABLE.
3. THE TEXTS OF THE RELEVANT DECISIONS ARE CONTAINED IN MTN/AG/7 AND MTN/NTM/35, WHICH SHOULD BE CONSULTED FOR FULL DETAILS. SUGGESTED FORMATS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF REQUEST LISTS ARE CONTAINED IN MTN/AG/W/28/REV.1 AND IN MTN/NTM/W/110/REV.1.
4. THE SECRETARIAT WISHES TO TAKE THIS OCCASION TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE HIGH PROBABILITY OF A SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED MTN WORKLOAD AHEAD RESULTING FROM THE 1 NOVEMBER DATE FOR TABLING OFFERS. BASED ON THE SECRETARIAT'S EXPERIENCE IN PREVIOUS ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS - ROUNDS THAT WERE FAR LESS COMPLEX THAN THE TOKYO ROUND - IT CAN BE ANTICIPATED THAT DELEGATIONS WILL WISH TO BE ENGAGED IN BILATERAL AND PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME AFTER THE INITIAL TABLING OF OFFERS. THEREFORE DELEGATIONS WHO MAY NOT FEEL ADEQUATELY STAFFED AT PRESENT TO HANDLE THE VOLUME OF WORK CLEARLY IN SIGHT MIGHT WISH TO BRING THIS MATTER URGENTLY TO THE ATTENTION OF THEIR AUTHORITIES.

O. LONG