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Conformément au règlement (CEE, Euratom) n° 354/83 du Conseil du 1er février 1983 concernant l'ouverture au public des archives historiques de la Communauté économique européenne et de la Communauté européenne de l'énergie atomique (JO L 43 du 15.2.1983, p. 1), modifié en dernier lieu par le règlement (UE) 2015/496 du Conseil du 17 mars 2015 (JO L 79 du 25.3.2015, p. 1), ce dossier est ouvert au public. Le cas échéant, les documents classifiés présents dans ce dossier ont été déclassifiés conformément à l'article 5 dudit règlement ou sont considérés déclassifiés conformément aux articles 26(3) et 59(2) de la décision (UE, Euratom) 2015/444 de la Commission du 13 mars 2015 concernant les règles de sécurité aux fins de la protection des informations classifiées de l'Union européenne.

In accordance with Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 354/83 of 1 February 1983 concerning the opening to the public of the historical archives of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community (OJ L 43, 15.2.1983, p. 1), as last amended by Council Regulation (EU) 2015/496 of 17 March 2015 (OJ L 79, 27.3.2015, p. 1), this file is open to the public. Where necessary, classified documents in this file have been declassified in conformity with Article 5 of the aforementioned regulation or are considered declassified in conformity with Articles (26.3) and 59(2) of the Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information.

In Übereinstimmung mit der Verordnung (EWG, Euratom) Nr. 354/83 des Rates vom 1. Februar 1983 über die Freigabe der historischen Archive der Europäischen Wirtschaftsgemeinschaft und der Europäischen Atomgemeinschaft (ABl. L 43 vom 15.2.1983, S. 1), zuletzt geändert durch die Verordnung (EU) Nr. 2015/496 vom 17. März 2015 (ABl. L 79 vom 25.3.2015, S. 1), ist dieser Akt der Öffentlichkeit zugänglich. Soweit erforderlich, wurden die Verschlussachen in diesem Akt in Übereinstimmung mit Artikel 5 der genannten Verordnung freigegeben; beziehungsweise werden sie auf Grundlage von Artikel 26(3) und 59(2) der Entscheidung der Kommission (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 vom 13. März 2015 über die Sicherheitsvorschriften für den Schutz von EU-Verschlussachen als herabgestuft angesehen.

COMMISSION DES COMMUNAUTES EUROPEENNES

SEC(73)2457

BRUXELLES, le 5 juillet 1973

NOTE VERBALE DU GOUVERNEMENT DE L'Australie, EN DATE
DU 21 JUIN 1973, CONCERNANT LES NEGOCIATIONS MULTIL-
ATERALES DANS LE CADRE GATT.



Australian Statement

GATT - MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

The Australian Government has noted that the Council of Ministers is considering the question of a mandate for the European Communities' participation in the forthcoming round of multilateral trade negotiations to be convened under the auspices of the GATT. As Member Governments of the Communities will appreciate, in the context of past consultations between Australian representatives and the Commission and Member Governments, the Australian Government is concerned that in the continuing preparations to formulate a mandate the particular importance which Australia attaches to trade in agricultural products should be fully understood.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which has provided the framework for multilateral trade negotiations in the post-war period, includes in its objectives the raising of living standards, developing the full use of the resources of the world and expanding the production and exchange of goods. It is moreover a matter of record that agricultural products in general have not benefitted significantly from previous negotiating rounds, particularly compared with the substantial liberalisation achieved in trade in manufactures.

Accordingly, for countries in Australia's position it is imperative that the forthcoming negotiations offer broader opportunities for progress in trade in agricultural products than in the past and comparable with what was achieved for trade in manufactured products. For this reason it will be important that agricultural products are included as an integral part of the negotiations and that the same basic objectives and principles should apply for these products as for the rest of the products covered by the negotiations. Within this overall approach it will, of course, be necessary to spell out particular objectives for agricultural products.

The Australian Government believes that the particular objectives of the negotiations should include a progressive liberalisation and expansion of world trade in agricultural products under stable conditions. As one means to this end the Australian Government is of the view that there should be improved and more predictable access to import markets, in particular for countries with a comparative advantage in the production of particular commodities and for whom the export of those commodities is important. Similarly, it is important that fair competition should prevail with fair and remunerative prices for agricultural products and reasonable prices for consumers. There is also a need to avoid chronic surpluses.

The Australian Government accepts that there are reasons why Governments must retain the right to pursue agricultural price and income support policies but considers that, without altering the fundamental bases of these policies, it should be possible to negotiate adjustments aimed at achieving these objectives. It is

also appreciated that, because of the nature of agricultural problems, provision should be made where required for a reasonable period of time for the adjustment process arising from the negotiations.

The Australian Government considers a number of principles to be central to the form of the negotiations as they relate to agriculture. The negotiations should, for instance, cover all agricultural products whether in their natural, semi-processed or processed form. Where the achievement of objectives cannot be fulfilled by negotiations on tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade alone, the negotiations should also encompass the relevant elements of production policies and other measures affecting imports and exports.

The Australian Government would be interested in the negotiation of "codes of conduct" to further the effectiveness of the negotiations on specific elements affecting trade and as a further means for the achievement of the objectives for the negotiations. Also, the possibility could be explored whereby countries would pursue the objective of ensuring that their agricultural support policies do not have the effect of increasing self-sufficiency in given products if the access of efficient producers in other countries is thereby impaired.

The Australian Government noted with pleasure the demonstrated interest of the European Communities in a further liberalisation of world trade when, in February 1972, they joined with the United States and

Japan in proposing that multilateral trade negotiations be initiated in 1973. The Australian Government asks that consideration be given to the view outlined above when the Council of the Communities is considering its mandate to ensure that it is capable of contributing to the success of the negotiations in its overall balance. In view of the importance of the negotiations in so far as they relate to agricultural products to countries such as Australia it is hoped that the Communities' mandate dealing with agriculture will give an indication of what the Communities regard as being negotiable in this respect.

Brussels, 21st June 1973