



BONN ECONOMIC SUMMIT: 2 - 4 MAY 1985

GATT WORK PROGRAMME

Brief by Department of Trade and Industry

1. The GATT Work Programme was agreed by the 1982 GATT Ministerial meeting. It provides for studies and some negotiations on a range of issues, some left undecided after the Tokyo Round. No conclusions have been reached.
2. Developing countries have called for the completion of unfinished business from the Work Programme. (IBRD Development Committee, April 1985). This is disingenuous: LDCs themselves are blocking progress on subjects of no interest to them, such as services. It is a tactical ploy to delay agreement to a new Round.
3. Items on the Work Programme can, like any subject, be proposed for inclusion on the new Round agenda. Of UK priorities for a new Round, the Programme covers services and agriculture, but not the opening of Japan and NIC markets.
4. Major items on the Work Programme include:
  - Safeguards: EC holding out for a Code that allows discriminatory safeguard action against one country only. US, Japan, LDC's favour present non-selective rules.
  - Agriculture: US wants rapid progress to constrain Community food exports. LDCs wants better access to developed country markets.



- Services: EC and US want faster progress on studies of trade in services. LDCs are hanging back.
  
- Tropical Products: LDC's want better access for exports of coffee, cocoa etc. Work Programme calls for "appropriate negotiations": none have taken place.
  
- Tariff Escalation: LDCs seek an end to imposition by Developed Countries of higher tariffs on finished goods than on raw materials. LDCs do it too.

Department of Trade and Industry  
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