

also to reexamine the rules of the game governing practices having a disruptive effect on the market. This was also the first broad effort to address systematically non-tariff barriers.

Protectionist pressures which manifested themselves in various parts of the world made this review and improvement of the rules of international trade an increasingly urgent priority. At the same time, however, governments placed great emphasis on the Tokyo Round's efforts at trade liberalization, thus making it easier to stave off strong protectionist pressures.

In negotiations aimed at improving international trading rules on non-tariff measures, the interplay of national interests and of the positions of the various participants bears little resemblance to the normal concept one might have of the process of trade negotiations confined to purely tariff matters. The give-and-take is much more complex: trade policy and other issues going beyond the level of industrial tariffs are at stake; existing national laws and regulations stand to be changed, by various amounts from one country to another; previously protected areas of production have to be opened up to international competition; elements of the framework basic to the GATT come under review; finally, highly divergent initial negotiating