

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TEX/SB/1

30 May 1974

Special Distribution

Textiles Surveillance Body

REPORT ON THE MEETING HELD ON 23 APRIL

1. The Textiles Surveillance Body (TSB) held its first meeting on 23 April at the Villa Le Bocage under the Chairmanship of Mr. Paul Wurth. The meeting was attended by the following members: Mr. Chung (Korea), Mr. Colliander (Sweden), Mr. Garrido (Mexico), Mr. Meynell (EEC), Mr. Mizoguchi (Japan), Mr. Phelan (United States), Mr. Saleem (Pakistan) and Mr. Tomić (Yugoslavia).
2. Mr. Garrido informed the TSB that he would occupy the tripartite seat for the period 1 April to 30 July, that Mr. Dinzl (Austria) would occupy the seat from 1 August to 30 September and, subsequently, Mr. Villars (Spain) from 1 October to 31 December 1974.
3. The meeting was also attended by some alternates, the names of others would be communicated to the Chairman shortly.
4. The TSB addressed itself to a number of procedural and substantive points, in most cases the points were only discussed in a preliminary way and they will be reverted to at further meetings of the TSB.
5. Among the procedural points taken up was that of informal constituencies. In this connexion TSB members pointed out that they did not look upon themselves as representing purely national or sectoral interests but they had responsibilities vis-a-vis all participating countries in the Arrangement.¹ The essential aim of

¹In this connexion, Mr. Meynell (EEC) stated that members of the Textiles Surveillance Body were appointed by Parties to the Arrangement in accordance with its Article 11 (1); that, in the view of the EEC, members had a responsibility not only to the parties they represented but also to the Textiles Surveillance Body itself and to parties not represented on it; and that members had the right to be accompanied by experts as they found necessary. This could involve, in the case of the member appointed by the EEC, the presence of one representative from each member State; but that did not mean that it was the intention that he should be so accompanied except when the subject matter and interests under consideration so warranted.

the TSB was to seek conciliation and to use its good offices for this purpose. It was hoped that the participating countries had already been giving thought to the question as to which constituency their countries could most appropriately belong, and would get in touch with the members of the TSB concerned.

6. On the question of recommendations and findings by the TSB, it was agreed that these should be reached by consensus and not by vote. As regards cases before the TSB, it was agreed that it was essential that the parties to the dispute, whether TSB members or non-members, should be treated completely equally so that their interests were taken fully into account. The view was generally held that members of the TSB should not themselves present or defend individual cases brought before it. It was also agreed that a summary of the major points discussed in addition to the recording in full of any recommendations, findings or decisions would be circulated to all parties to the Arrangement. Such recommendations or findings would, of course, also be forwarded, wherever provided in the Arrangement, to the GATT Council for its information.

7. In discussing substantive points, reference was made inter alia to the notification of existing restrictions in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 2. It was noted that, in conformity with the Arrangement, and having due regard to possible third party interest, all existing restrictions, both against participants and non-participants, should be notified.

8. The TSB received at this meeting all notifications which had been transmitted to the secretariat by participating countries in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1, of the Arrangement. The examination of such notifications would be a principal task of the TSB at its next meeting. It was felt, however, that it would be important so far as practicable for at least the details in terms of the Textiles Committee's decision¹ to be provided therein. The TSB, therefore, asked the secretariat to request the countries concerned to supply any of such details at present lacking in their notifications. It would be for the TSB to consider whether it had any comments to make on the adequacy of such notifications before circulation to other participating countries for their information.

9. It was agreed that the next meeting of the TSB would be held on 21 and 22 May.

¹See COM.TEX/2, paragraph 11.