

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TEX/SB/116
16 October 1975

Textiles Surveillance Body

REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING

1. The TSB held its eleventh meeting of 1975¹ on 15-18 September. The report of the tenth meeting was approved and has been circulated (COM.TEX/SB/113).
2. The TSB discussed the bilateral agreements concluded by Sweden under Article 3 with Pakistan, and under Article 4 with India, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Macao, and decided that these agreements should be circulated to the Textiles Committee. These have been circulated in documents COM.TEX/SB/123, 120, 119, 118, 117 and 124 respectively. At the same time, the TSB recalled the comments made on its review of earlier agreements concluded by Sweden with some of these countries (see COM.TEX/SB/63) and noted that certain aspects of the current agreements, such as growth rates and considerations of equity, could have been further improved.
3. The TSB reviewed an agreement under Article 4 between Austria and the Republic of Korea and agreed that it should be circulated to participating countries for information. It has been circulated as COM.TEX/SB/121.
4. The report of Poland under Article 2:4 was reviewed and has been circulated in document COM.TEX/SB/122.
5. The TSB was notified by Australia on 28 July 1975 that negotiations under Article 3 of the MFA with the Philippines and Singapore, which had been undertaken following requests for restraint addressed to these countries on 30 April, had broken down, and that in consequence Australia had imposed unilateral restrictions on imports of certain textile products from these countries. The matter having been referred to it in accordance with Article 3:5(ii) of the Arrangement by the Philippines and Singapore, the TSB was required to examine the matter and make appropriate recommendations to the parties concerned within thirty days of the date of the reference. However, after discussions with all three delegations it was agreed that the TSB should consider these cases at its meeting scheduled to begin on 15 September, since no earlier date on which all three countries could be represented could be found.

¹Twenty-fifth meeting; this meeting was preceded by a special short meeting held on 31 July 1975.

6. At a special meeting held on 31 July, the TSB addressed a number of questions to Australia. Replies to these were received before the meeting of 15 September. During this meeting the TSB reviewed the material submitted to it by the three parties and heard statements on their respective positions in accordance with Article 11:6 from the Philippines, Singapore and Australia.
7. Having considered the evidence presented to it, written and oral, and following consultations between each of the parties concerned on the one hand, and the TSB on the other, it was the consensus within the TSB that Australia and the Philippines in one case and Australia and Singapore in the other should hold further consultations, having due regard to the relevant provisions of the Arrangement, including those of Article 6 and Annex A, with a view to reaching mutually acceptable solutions by 30 October 1975, at which time a report on the results achieved should be presented to the TSB.
8. Upon a request from the Swedish Government in accordance with Article 3:5(ii) of the Arrangement, and after having heard the two parties concerned, the TSB made a recommendation on 13 June with regard to importation into Sweden of certain textile products from Mexico. The TSB stated that "there may be a real risk of market disruption" and recommended consultations with a view to the elimination of this risk while ensuring an orderly development of the trade. The two parties were asked to report to the TSB on progress within thirty days, but this time-limit was later extended to 31 August. In a letter dated 1 September, Sweden reported that it has not yet been possible to reach agreement. The TSB took note and requested a further report on progress by 30 September 1975.
9. It was agreed that the next meeting of the TSB should be held on 6 and 7 October 1975.