

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TEX/SB/322

29 May 1978

Special Distribution

Textiles Surveillance Body

REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING (1978)¹

1. The Textiles Surveillance Body held its fourth meeting on 24 and 25 April 1978. The following members were present: Messrs. Hagfors, Hamza², Jayanama, Klaric, Phelan, Shin, Suarez and Terada. The report of the third meeting was approved and it has been circulated to the Textiles Committee in document COM.TEX/SB/319.
2. The TSB considered two notifications received from the United States. The first communication concerned an amendment to extend the bilateral agreement with Hong Kong, which was due to expire on 30 September 1977, for a three-month period ending 31 December 1977. The second communication regarding this agreement related to the establishment of new limits on imports of certain categories from Hong Kong for the fifteen-month period ending 31 December 1977. The TSB, after having reviewed the two notifications, agreed to circulate the texts of the communications to the Textiles Committee for information, see document COM.TEX/SB/320.
3. The TSB also reviewed a notification from the United States concerning a new cotton, wool and man-made fibre agreement concluded between the United States and Hong Kong under Article 4 of the Arrangement for the period 1 January 1978 to 31 December 1982. After its review the TSB agreed to circulate the text of the agreement to the Textiles Committee for the information of the participating countries (COM.TEX/SB/321).
4. The TSB received a report from Hong Kong on consultations held between Hong Kong and Canada in accordance with the TSB's recommendation issued in December 1977.³ The TSB noted that restrictions on imports of bedsheets from Hong Kong, imposed by Canada in July 1977 under Article 3:5 of the MFA, had been lifted.

¹Sixty-eighth meeting.

²Alternate replacing Mr. P. Kumar.

³For TSB's recommendations see documents COM.TEX/SB/299, paragraph 6, COM.TEX/SB/283, paragraph 3, and COM.TEX/SB/260, paragraphs 5 to 7.

5. During the course of its examination of bilateral agreements notified under the MFA, the TSB noted that certain of these notifications had an expiry date which went beyond the validity of the Arrangement. In such cases, the TSB reaffirmed that the validity of the relevant TSB reviews could extend no longer than the life of the MFA.

6. The TSB also recalled its previous decision to examine all bilateral agreements notified to it on a case-by-case basis¹ and on their own merits.

¹See COM.TEX/5, paragraph 25.