

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TEX/SB/406
15 March 1979

Special Distribution

Textiles Surveillance Body

REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING (1979)¹

1. The Textiles Surveillance Body held its third meeting in 1979 from 26 to 28 February. The following members were present: Messrs. Beck/de Gouvion St. Cyr², Hamza, Kujirai³, Martin, Mills⁴, Phelan⁵, Seng⁶ and Suarez.
2. The report of the second meeting was approved, and has been circulated to the Textiles Committee in document COM.TEX/SB/403.
3. In a general discussion of the issues pertaining to the provisions of Article 12, arising from the review of bilateral agreements at this and previous meetings, the TSB noted the importance of handloom fabrics and handmade products thereof to many participating countries, and in this regard drew the attention of all participants to the provisions of Article 12, paragraph 3. The TSB also recalled that in cases where difficulties arose out of the interpretation of these provisions, recourse to Article 12, paragraph 4, was always available to all participants. The TSB is of the view that the effective operation of the provisions of paragraph 3 of this Article depends primarily upon those parties concluding agreements thereunder. It remains for the TSB to discharge its responsibilities under the Arrangement, having due regard to the provisions of Article 12:4 and to its established procedure for the review of notifications.
4. The TSB considered two notifications made by the European Community under Article 4:4 of the Arrangement of initialled agreements concluded between the EEC on the one hand, and each of Brazil and Singapore, on the other. The TSB noted that its general observations and recommendations as set out in COM.TEX/SB/380 and 388 will apply to these agreements. With respect to the agreement with Singapore, the TSB further noted that, in the absence of a limit on Category 1 of Group 1 the last part of paragraph 3 of Article 5 of the agreement is inapplicable.

¹The Eighty-first meeting overall of the TSB.

²Alternate to Mr. Beck.

³Part attendance.

⁴Substitute for Mr. Tsao.

⁵Absent first day.

⁶Alternate to Mr. Valdepenas.

5. After concluding its examination of these two notifications, the TSB agreed to circulate their texts to the Textiles Committee. This has been done in documents COM.TEX/SB/404 and 405.

6. A notification from Sweden of a new bilateral agreement notified under Article 4:4 with Hong Kong, together with an Article 4 notification by the United States of a new agreement concluded with the Philippines, are still under consideration by the TSB.