

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Textiles Surveillance Body

REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING (1979)¹

1. The Textiles Surveillance Body held its seventeenth meeting from 28 to 30 November 1979. The following members were present²: Messrs. Beck, Kujirai, Martin/Pullinen, Shepherd, Suarez, Valdepenas³ and Wise.⁴
2. The report of the sixteenth meeting was approved and has been circulated in document COM.TEX/SB/518.
3. The TSB discussed the report on its activities during the period 21 October 1978 to 30 November 1979, to be submitted to the Textiles Committee, in accordance with the provisions of Article 10, paragraph 4. The report was approved and is being circulated to participating countries (see COM.TEX/SB/519).
4. After having received the further information it had requested from Sweden on the status of its restrictions in accordance with Article 11, paragraphs 11 and 12, the TSB agreed to circulate this report to the Textiles Committee (see COM.TEX/SB/520).
5. The TSB considered the unilateral measures taken by Canada under Article 3:5 to restrict imports from India of (a) shirts with tailored collars for men and boys; (b) blouses and shirts for women and girls; and (c) dresses and skirts, for the twelve-month period beginning 1 October 1979. These measures had been imposed in the absence of an agreement having been reached in the consultations and negotiations so far held between the two parties under Articles 3 and 4.
6. The TSB heard statements by both parties of their respective positions, in the course of which it appeared that more precise information could have been given at the time of the consultation. The TSB noted that there was a probability that Canadian imports of the above-mentioned products from India included such products made of handloom fabrics by the Indian cottage industry and, thus, possibly subject to the provisions of Article 12, paragraph 3. In the absence of a breakdown of the component products, however, the TSB could not establish the relative level of products that could be exempt.

¹Ninety-fifth meeting overall of the TSB.

²Mr. El Gowhari and his alternate were absent.

³Part attendance.

⁴Substitute for Mr. Chau.

7. The TSB noted that additional data had recently been provided, and believed that the possibility still existed for further consultation between the parties concerned aimed at arriving at a mutually acceptable solution, and took note of their willingness to do so. In the circumstances, the TSB recommended that the parties enter into consultation promptly with a view to reaching a mutually acceptable agreement, and requested both parties to report back to the TSB not later than 29 February 1980, at which time the TSB would revert to this matter.