

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Textiles Committee

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ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES

Accession under Paragraph 2 of Article 13

The following is a communication received by the Director-General from the Government of THAILAND concerning its request for accession to the Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 13.

I have the honour to invite your attention to the Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles, done at Geneva in 1974, and to inform you that Thailand wishes to accede to this Arrangement under its Article 13 paragraph 2, including the undertakings therein.

The accession is not subject to reservation, ratification or any other internal procedures.

Textiles has become the single most important manufacturing industry in Thailand, in terms of income, employment and foreign exchange earnings. Investment in textile industry now represents 72 per cent of total investment under government promotion. Thailand's exports of yarn, clothes and garments accounted for some US\$90 million annually for 1973 and 1974 and it is on the increase; while her imports amounted to US\$100 million a year during the same period.

For reason of security and economic stability, Thailand has currently, unless authorized by the Minister of Commerce, prohibited the importation of fibre, yarns, weaving fabrics, cloths, garments, ready-made clothes and the like, lace, silk, embroidery, ribbon, cords, gunny bags, woollen yarns, plastic cloths, and oil cloths. This regulation has been, however, relaxed from time to time. The circumstances will be notified at the appropriate time to the Textiles Surveillance Body.

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My Government expects, as from the date of its accession to the Arrangement and for matters within the purview of that instrument, to receive treatment equivalent to that granted to other participating countries having similar economic system and level of development.