

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Special Distribution

Textiles Committee

Draft Report of the Committee Meeting held on 21 May 1982

Chairman: Mr. A. Dunkel

1. The Textiles Committee held its first meeting under the 1981 Protocol of Extension on 21 May 1982. The agenda for the meeting was:

- (a) Nomination of the Chairman of the Textiles Surveillance Body
- (b) Other business

Nomination of the Chairman of the TSB

2. The Chairman recalled that at the Textiles Committee meeting held in December 1981, he had impressed upon participants the need to designate a successor to Ambassador Wurth, Chairman of the TSB, well before the expiry of his term of office on 30 June 1982, in order to ensure the good functioning of the TSB and to avoid uncertainty.

3. Following extensive consultations over the past months, he was now in a position to propose that Ambassador Marcelo Raffaelli, a distinguished Brazilian diplomat, be designated to the post of Chairman of the TSB in succession to Mr. Wurth. He believed many participants had met Mr. Raffaelli, especially during the negotiations of MFA I. Mr. Raffaelli would assume duties from 1 July 1982. After necessary consultations, he could also propose that the duration of Mr. Raffaelli's term of office should be the same as the duration of the Protocol extending the Multifibre Arrangement signed in December 1981, i.e. until 31 July 1986. He expressed appreciation for the cooperation of the Brazilian authorities in making available the services of such an eminent diplomat.

4. The Committee endorsed the proposal put forward by the Chairman and welcomed the appointment of Ambassador Raffaelli to the post of Chairman of the Textiles Surveillance Body.

5. The representative of Turkey, while supporting the appointment of Ambassador Raffaelli, expressed regrets as to the procedure followed in which his delegation was not among those consulted. He strongly opposed procedures within the GATT framework which did not respond to the principle of equal treatment of all parties concerned. If decisions taken on a consensus basis were to be acceptable, consultations which preceded these decisions should take place with all parties and not leave the impression of selectivity.

6. The Chairman expressed regret that Turkey had not been consulted and said that the procedures of consultation would have to be improved further.

7. The Chairman then said that while this was an occasion to look forward with pleasure to working with Mr. Raffaelli, it was also an occasion to mark the impending loss of the services of Mr. Wurth, to whom the Committee owed a great debt. Mr. Wurth had assumed his duties as the first Chairman of the TSB when no one had a clear idea of how such a Body would function, and he had set his mark on what had become a unique example of international co-operation. Those who were members of the Textiles Surveillance Body had participated in a unique experience. Mr. Wurth had brought to his job a wealth of experience, a great sense of courtesy, inexhaustible patience, and in particular a sense of humour. The task of Chairman of the TSB was difficult, not only because the textiles sector had its own special problems, but because the drafters of the MFA left large areas of discretion to the TSB. The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Committee and the GATT secretariat to both Mr. Wurth and Mrs. Wurth, who together had committed themselves so completely to the task of international diplomacy.

8. A large number of delegations paid tribute to Ambassador Wurth, for his great achievements as Chairman of the TSB. They expressed sincere appreciation of his dedicated work and wished him well in the future.

9. The Chairman of the TSB, Mr. Wurth, expressed his thanks for the appreciation that had been expressed for his work and paid tribute to past and present members of the TSB for working together to find constructive and equitable solutions in a spirit of cooperation. He also expressed his appreciation to the staff of the secretariat, past and present, for their contribution.

Other business

Acceptances of the Protocol of Extension.

10. The Chairman drew attention to the fact that at present twenty-four parties to MFA II had accepted the 1981 Protocol of Extension, six of which had accepted it subject to completion of internal procedures. The signatories were Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Colombia, the European Economic Community, Egypt, Finland, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom on behalf of Hong Kong and the United States. The Chairman expressed the hope that countries which had not as yet accepted the Protocol would do so without undue delay. He drew attention to the status of acceptances which was contained in COM.TEX/27 and Add.1. He pointed out that after the circulation of this document Indonesia had accepted the 1981 Protocol of Extension on 19 May 1982.

Sub-Committee on Adjustment

11. The Chairman then drew attention to Paragraph 15 of the Conclusions of the Textiles Committee attached to the Protocol extending the MFA adopted on 22 December 1981, and said that the Textiles Committee should take note of the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Adjustment set out therein. The Sub-Committee, which would be open to all participating countries, should meet in due course to organize its work and report back to the Textiles Committee.

Next meeting of the Textiles Committee

12. The representative of Colombia, speaking on behalf of developing exporting countries, requested the Chairman to arrange in consultation with delegations a meeting of the Textiles Committee towards the end of June. This would make it possible to review what had happened in the textiles sector since the signing of the Protocol of Extension in December 1981.

13. In the ensuing discussion some delegations, while agreeing in principle to a meeting if there was a consensus, asked for consultation and clarification on the purpose and the agenda for such a meeting. The spokesman for the European Economic Community reserved its position as regards the date.

14. The Chairman took note of the request to look at the possibilities of having a meeting of the Textiles Committee around the end of June with an agenda undetermined at this stage. Consultations with delegations would be undertaken as to the precise agenda and the date for such a meeting.