

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COT/W/12

2 December 1963

Special Distribution

COTTON TEXTILES COMMITTEE

Material for Studies

Note by the Secretariat

1. It is desirable that the Committee should decide, at its forthcoming meeting, what sort of data it wishes to have available to enable it to carry out its broader responsibilities as to the future development of trade in cotton textiles. Inter alia, the Committee will certainly need to have estimates of future trends in consumption, production, productive capacity, etc., in order to follow structural changes and adjustments and to discuss prospects for a further expansion of international trade in these products.
2. Among sources of data would be the statistics submitted by participating countries; in this connexion document COT/W/14, at present before the Committee, is relevant. Some of this information might, in due course, be forthcoming in connexion with the examination of development plans by Committee III to the extent that the countries which will be studied in that Committee are parties to the Long-Term Arrangement. It is assumed, moreover, that the Committee would wish the secretariat to avail itself of whatever data is obtainable from outside sources. In this connexion, the OECD Special Committee for Textiles has started a study of the textile industry in the OECD member countries, which will deal principally with the cotton sector. Further, the International Federation of Cotton and Allied Textile Industries has recently started a survey of present and future (1967) capacity in the spinning and weaving sectors of the Western European countries, based on enquiries in the industry. The Federation has offered to expand this investigation to include other countries and to make the results available to the Committee should the Committee consider such an investigation to be of interest.
3. However, despite availability of such data as is referred to in the preceding paragraph, it is certain that additional basic material for many countries might have to be sought by the secretariat on the following: projections of consumption, production, international trade and investments, as well as countries' plans or programmes for future developments or adjustments in the industry, and information on governmental and industry measures influencing levels of production and increases in productivity. The secretariat is therefore seeking a decision by the Committee authorizing it to seek such information, as necessary, from the countries which are members of the Committee or from any other source.

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