

RESTRICTED

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

COT/M/2
27 November 1962

Limited Distribution

COTTON TEXTILES COMMITTEE

Report on Meeting of the Committee Held at the
Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 13 November 1962

1. The Committee considered the following subjects at its meeting on 13 November 1962:

- (a) accession of Colombia to the Long-Term Arrangement;
- (b) accession of Mexico to the Long-Term Arrangement;
- (c) distribution of statistical information;
- (d) enquiry by the Republic of China regarding accession to the Long-Term Arrangement.

I. Accession of Colombia to the Long-Term Arrangement (L/1832, COT/W/3, COT/W/7)

2. Colombia's application for accession to the Long-Term Arrangement was distributed in document L/1832. A further communication from the delegation of Colombia, and statistics prepared by the secretariat, were distributed in documents COT/W/7 and COT/W/3 respectively.

3. The application for accession by Colombia was warmly welcomed by the Committee, although the representative of Austria was obliged to reserve the position of his delegation for the time being, as he was without instructions from his Government.¹ Satisfaction was expressed that Colombia had decided to associate itself with an arrangement which had been set up under the auspices of GATT.

4. The representative of Italy, having expressed the support of the member States of the EEC for Colombia's application, said that perhaps there should be the possibility of examining, in the case of countries seeking accession to the Long-Term Arrangement, whether such countries might be able for their part to make an effort in the direction of an increase in their imports of cotton textiles. He added that his comments were not directed specifically to the case of Colombia but concerned a question of principle which he wished to raise at this stage.

¹ Since the meeting of the Committee, the delegation of Austria has confirmed that the Austrian Government welcomes the accession of Colombia to the Long-Term Arrangement.

5. It was agreed that, subject to confirmation from the Austrian delegation that their Government also supported the accession of Colombia, the Chairman should address a formal communication to the Colombian delegation informing them that Colombia's application had been unanimously accepted by the Committee and inviting their Government to file with the Executive Secretary a formal letter of accession which should repeat the earlier assurances given (L/1832) regarding the acceptance of the obligations of the Long-Term Arrangement, including the obligation stipulated in paragraph 2 of Article 11 of the Arrangement. The effective date of Colombia's accession to the Arrangement would be the date on which this communication was received by the Executive Secretary.

II. Accession of Mexico to the Long-Term Arrangement (L/1839; COT/W/3, COT/W/4)

6. Mexico's application for accession to the Long-Term Arrangement was distributed in document L/1839. A further communication from the delegation of Mexico, and statistics prepared by the secretariat, were distributed in documents COT/W/4 and COT/W/3 respectively.

7. The application for accession by Mexico was warmly welcomed by the Committee, although, as in the case of the application from Colombia, the representative of Austria was obliged to reserve the position of his delegation for the time being as he was without instructions from his Government.¹ In the case of Mexico likewise, satisfaction was expressed by members of the Committee that the Mexican Government had decided to associate itself with an arrangement which had been set up under the auspices of GATT.

8. It was agreed that the same procedure should be followed to give effect to Mexico's accession to the Long-Term Arrangement as was decided upon in the case of Colombia's accession. (See paragraph 5 above.)

III. Distribution of statistical information (COT/W/5)

9. At the Committee's meeting on 10-12 September 1962 it was agreed that members of the Committee would draw the attention of their governments to the fact that participating countries would be expected to communicate to the secretariat statistics and other information as envisaged by the Statistical Sub-Committee in its report (L/1717) and in accordance with Article 5 of the Arrangement. Questionnaires which the secretariat proposed to send to governments had been distributed to the Committee for information in document COT/W/5; these questionnaires related to the submission of monthly, quarterly and annual statistics.

¹ Since the meeting of the Committee, the delegation of Austria has confirmed that the Austrian Government welcomes the accession of Mexico to the Long-Term Arrangement.

10. The Committee agreed that thought would have to be given in due course to the kind of studies which the Committee should undertake under the terms of sub-paragraph (a) of Article 8 of the Long-Term Arrangement, bearing in mind the desirability that such studies should be helpful in the context of the orderly development of trade in cotton textiles.

11. As regards the questions on which it was desirable for the Committee to reach a decision at its present meeting, it was agreed that:

- (a) the three questionnaires (COT/W/5) should be sent to governments by the secretariat;
- (b) the replies received from individual governments on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis, should be distributed by the secretariat as and when they are received;
- (c) the secretariat should consolidate and issue statistics on a quarterly and on an annual basis;
- (d) the statistics already supplied by governments to the secretariat in connexion with the Short-Term Arrangement should be distributed by the secretariat without delay.

IV. Enquiry by the Republic of China regarding accession to the Long-Term Arrangement

12. It was agreed that the Chairman would keep in touch with delegations regarding a suitable date for the consideration of this question.