

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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SOCIAL STANDARDS IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The following communication has been received by the Executive Secretary from the Assistant Director-General of the International Labour Office:

"At its Fourth Session (Geneva, February 1953) the Textiles Committee of the International Labour Organisation adopted a Resolution (No.33) concerning international trade and social standards in the textile industry.

"Paragraph 1 of the operative part of this Resolution invited the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to instruct the Director-General to continue to take all possible steps in consultation with the international organisations concerned, with a view to preventing competition in international trade in textile goods from nullifying in part the benefits of international trade by leading to a worsening of conditions of employment and a lowering of standards of living or an abandonment of social policies generally recognised to be basic, and to bring to the attention of all organisations concerned with such trade the essential principle that basic social standards must be safeguarded.

"At its 121st Session the Governing Body authorised the Director-General to draw the attention of the governments and of the international organisations concerned to the recommendations contained in the Resolution and to point out that the intention of the words 'preventing competition in international trade in textiles from nullifying in part the benefits of international trade' was to suggest that the benefits of international trade should not be nullified by attempts to meet competition through the lowering of social standards.

"I am therefore, on behalf of the Director-General, communicating the text of this Resolution to you for consideration."