

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/4312/Add.1  
26 April 1976

Limited Distribution

Original: English

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION INVESTIGATIONS

Slide Fasteners

Addendum

Negative Finding on Injury

The following communication has been received from the United States mission.

President Ford has directed expedited trade adjustment assistance to United States manufacturers of metal slide fasteners (zippers) and parts, and their employees, Ambassador Frederick B. Dent, the President's Special Representative for Trade Negotiations announced 14 April.

The President decided in favour of a finding by three of the six United States International Trade Commissioners that imports of these products are not causing or threatening serious injury to the domestic industry, and recommending no import relief. In its evenly-divided report on a petition for "escape clause" import relief under Section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974, the Commission's three members who found injury recommended adjustment assistance as the prescribed remedy.

The USITC zipper report of 18 February 1975 was based on the Commission's investigation of a petition filed by the Slide Fastener Association last August.

The Commission reported that United States consumption of zippers in 1975 was well below the 1972 peak, due in large part to changes in fashion and to recession, which reduced demand for articles incorporating zippers. The economic upturn since that time warrants the expectation that the demand for slide fasteners will improve in the current year.

In the first nine months of 1975 imports accounted for about 5 or 6 per cent of apparent United States consumption. Imports carry duties of 35 per cent ad valorem on parts and 20-25 per cent on fasteners. Shipments increased through 1972, remained at about the 1972 level through 1974 but dropped significantly in

./.

1975. Imports come mainly from Japan, and are accounted for by an American subsidiary of a Japanese firm. This subsidiary, in addition to importing finished zippers, has a number of domestic assembly operations and since 1974 has been manufacturing parts in the United States on a substantial scale.

Domestic production and employment have declined, and a number of firms are operating at a loss. In view of these facts, the President has instructed the Secretaries of Commerce and Labor to give expeditious consideration to any petitions for adjustment assistance filed by firms and workers.

This is the second such action by the President under the Trade Act. The first was taken in a case involving imports of fresh and processed asparagus.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>L/4315/Add.1