

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TEX/56

7 April 1988

Special Distribution

Textiles Committee

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 14 MARCH 1988

1. The Textiles Committee held its third meeting under the 1986 Protocol of Extension on 14 March 1988. The Committee, as set out in GATT/AIR/2561 of 1 March 1988, was to consider a request received from the Government of Costa Rica to accede to the Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles.
2. The Chairman recalled that the request received from Costa Rica had been circulated in document COM.TEX/W/203, dated 28 January 1988 to the member countries of the Arrangement inviting their comments by 29 February 1988. He stated that Costa Rica was seeking accession under the provisions of Article 13:2, as a non-contracting party, and that in its request Costa Rica had accepted all obligations deriving from the MFA and had complied with the procedural requirements adopted by the Textiles Committee in 1974 (COM.TEX/2, paragraphs 14-16). The Chairman noted that no objection had been received in response to his invitation nor were any raised during the meeting.
3. The Textiles Committee accepted Costa Rica as a participant in the MFA and the Chairman, on behalf of all participants, extended a warm welcome to the Costa Rican delegation.
4. The delegate of Costa Rica, who was invited to attend the meeting, thanked the members of the Committee for the acceptance of his Government's request. He commented that Costa Rica's textiles industry was still in an early stage of development and had only recently entered the export market. He said that in developing its textiles industries, Costa Rica would abide by the MFA in order to maintain open trade relations with all of its trading partners. He confirmed that his Government would be notifying in detail to the Textiles Surveillance Body all restrictions applied by Costa Rica on imports of textiles and clothing covered by the Arrangement, adding that such restrictions were few in number.
5. In concluding the discussion, the Chairman referred to the procedural requirements and invited the Government of Costa Rica to send him, in his capacity as Director-General and depository of the Arrangement, a letter confirming its notification as set out in document COM.TEX/W/203 with reference being made to the decision taken by the Committee.¹ The effective date of Costa Rica's accession to the MFA would be the date on which this letter was received by the Director-General.

¹This letter was received by the Director-General at the end of the meeting and was circulated in document COM.TEX/W/203.Add.1. Thus, the effective date of Costa Rica's accession to the Arrangement is 14 March 1988.