

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

## TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TEX/W/246

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Special Distribution

Textiles Committee

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### COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The following communication has been received from the delegation of the United States for circulation to the members of the Textiles Committee.

"This is in response to your request for any comments members of the Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles (generally known as the Multifiber Arrangement or the MFA) might have with respect to the request from the Government of Honduras to accede to the Arrangement.

My government welcomes and supports Honduras' application to join the Multifiber Arrangement. We believe that Honduras' accession will be beneficial to Honduras, the United States and to all MFA participants.

We would, however, along with our welcome, and in light of the increasing problems that the United States is encountering with the illegal transshipment of textiles through various countries, like to take this opportunity to call particular attention to the provisions of Article 8 of the Arrangement and paragraph 16 of the 1986 Protocol of Extension. Specifically, we take seriously the obligations MFA countries accept to avoid circumvention of the Arrangement by transshipment, re-routing, or action by non-participants and to collaborate by taking appropriate action to avoid such circumvention. We would also stress the importance we attach to participants full adherence to the rules of origin applicable to imports into the United States.

We make this statement to heighten the awareness of a prospective MFA member as well as the current members of the Arrangement that the United States Government is growing increasingly alarmed about the growth of fraud and transshipment with respect to exports of textiles and apparel to our market.

The United States warmly welcomes Honduras as a member of the Arrangement. We are sure that Honduras' MFA membership will contribute to ensuring the orderly development of textiles and apparel trade between our two countries. We look forward to a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with Honduras in the textiles and apparel sector."

NOTE: The request referred to in the first paragraph of this letter was circulated in document COM.TEX/W/243, dated 27 October 1992.