

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TEX/SB/273
7 November 1977

Special Distribution

Textiles Surveillance Body

REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING¹ (1977)

1. The TSB held its thirteenth meeting on 14 and 15 September 1977. The combined report of its eleventh and twelfth meetings, which had already been approved in the interim, has been circulated in document COM.TEX/SB/260.
2. The TSB reviewed a series of amendments notified by the United States with respect to its bilateral agreements previously concluded under Article 4:4 of the Arrangement with Haiti, Korea, Poland, India, Mexico and the Philippines. It was agreed to circulate these six notifications to the Textiles Committee and this has been done in documents COM.TEX/SB/261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, respectively. Also received from the United States was a notification concerning a new bilateral agreement concluded under Article 4 with Romania which replaced the previous interim agreement.² It was agreed to circulate this notification to the Textiles Committee for information (COM.TEX/SB/267).
3. The TSB reviewed an agreement concluded under Article 4 between Norway and the Philippines. Referring to paragraph 6 of the Memorandum of Understanding the TSB concluded that its provisions were to be understood as being in anticipation of a further agreement while also reflecting the need to avoid undue concentration of exports as the period of validity of the agreement was for a limited duration only. The TSB agreed to circulate the text of the agreement to the Textiles Committee (see COM.TEX/SB/268).
4. The TSB had received from Sweden a bilateral agreement notified under Article 3 of the Arrangement with Sri Lanka. As this agreement was found to be in accord with the MFA it was agreed to circulate it to the participating countries for their information and this has been done in COM.TEX/SB/269. The TSB also reviewed a notification from Sweden concerning a bilateral agreement concluded with Singapore. The TSB considered the agreement according to its procedures for Article 4 agreements³ and noted that it lacked certain provisions for swing and assumed that Singapore had waived its right to swing. The text of the agreement was circulated to the Textiles Committee for its information in document COM.TEX/SB/270.

¹Sixty-first meeting.

²See COM.TEX/SB/237.

³See COM.TEX/SB/35, Annex B.

5. The TSB also reviewed two notifications from Austria. The first concerned the extension of their Article 3 agreement with Korea. This was found to be in conformity with the Arrangement and it was accordingly agreed to circulate the notification to the Textiles Committee for their information (see COM.TEX/SB/271). The second notification referred to the extension of Austria's Article 4 agreement with Korea. In the TSB's review of this notification they also considered the notification of extension covering the previous year which had been inadvertently overlooked at that time. As the extensions were found to be in conformity with the Arrangement, the TSB agreed to transmit them to participating countries for their information and this has been done in document COM.TEX/SB/272.

6. The TSB also noted, during their review of certain notifications concerning the extension of existing agreements, that the information provided by the notifying country was often somewhat lacking in readily accessible details regarding relevant reference periods and levels. In this connexion, the TSB noted that some countries' short reasoned statements were an excellent example of complying with the requirements of Annex A (e.g. Austria) and they accordingly urged that all notifying countries should furnish the required information and comparative data along the lines of Annexes A and B or the indicative check-list¹ when making their submissions to the TSB.

8. The TSB finally took note of the fact that the term of Mr. Dinzl (Austria) as a member would come to an end on 30 September and that Mr. Baser (Turkey) would occupy the quadripartite seat for the period running from 1 October to 31 December 1977.

¹See COM.TEX/SB/83, Annex.