

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/4989

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## APPLICATION OF PRIOR PERMISSION SYSTEM TO RAW SILK OR SILK YARN - ACTION BY JAPAN

The following communication, dated 30 June 1980, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Japan.

1. Further to GATT document L/4509 dated 8 June 1977, effective as from 26 May 1980, the Government of Japan has regarded as raw silk or silk yarn, as the case may be, and has thus subjected to the prior permission system for their importation, those products which are listed below and which are silk products in disguise with the purpose of being unravelled back to a form of raw silk or silk yarn, respectively, after being imported, in addition to the products referred to in the GATT document under reference:

- (i) fabrics of silk and other fibre mixture (excluding figure textured fabrics and scoured fabrics);
- (ii) woven pile fabrics;
- (iii) twine cordage ropes and cables;
- (iv) bonded fibre fabrics.

2. The present measure has been taken because cases have been found in which raw silk or silk yarn has been imported in the form of products other than those referred to in the said GATT document with the aim of circumventing the monopolized import system on raw silk and the prior permission system on silk yarn.

3. The present measure has been taken simply with a view to preventing the importation of raw silk or silk yarn in the disguised form of silk products and thus it is not foreseen that the measure will have any adverse effects on the importation of the above-mentioned products insofar as they are to be imported not in disguise.

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