GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Textiles Committee

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 3 APRIL 1978

Chairman: Mr. O. Long

Subject discussed: The membership of the Textiles Surveillance Body for 1978

1. The Chairman recalled that the Committee at its meeting on 1\textsuperscript{st} December 1977 had addressed itself to the question of the composition of the TSB for the year 1978. It was then agreed that it should adjourn so as to allow more time for delegations to reflect on this matter and discuss it among themselves. Following the discussions which had been held, the Committee reconvened on 22 December and had decided that the term of office of the present members of the Textiles Surveillance Body should be extended until such time as the new members would be designated. It was also decided that the Committee should meet for this purpose before the end of the winter.\textsuperscript{1}

2. As a result of further consultations which had since been held, and on the basis of the consensus emerging therefrom, the Chairman proposed that the TSB for the remainder of 1978 should be composed of members designated by the following parties: Colombia, EEC, Finland, India, Japan, Korea, Thailand and the United States. This was agreed by the Committee.

3. Having regard to the important tasks conferred upon the TSB, and in the light of past experience, the Chairman reiterated the criteria which should be borne in mind when nominating members on this Body. He stressed that members should be designated ad personam so as to ensure the efficient operation of the TSB and should be prepared to devote most, if not all their time to its work. Given the various activities of this Body, and the preparatory work involved, members would be expected to be available at short notice and to work as a coherent team for the common good of all parties to the Arrangement. The nature of the work entrusted to them, presupposed that members should be fully conversant with textile trade problems.

\textsuperscript{1}COM.TEX/10
4. In the course of the discussion, the representative of Canada said that his authorities anticipated that in the event that Canada acceded to the MFA means would be found for it to be accorded the same kind of membership conditions on the TSB as enjoyed by other principal importers. This would seem essential to meet the requirements of Article 11 that membership of this Body be broadly representative of the parties to the Arrangement. In view of the prospect that Canada and other importing countries would accede to the Arrangement soon, Canada would expect that the Committee, in taking a decision on the TSB's membership, would allow sufficient flexibility to accommodate such a situation.

5. The representative of Sweden speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries recalled that at the Committee's meeting in December last year, they had made a declaration to the effect that they would not be able to take a definite position as to their possible accession to the Protocol until they had concluded the necessary bilateral negotiations. Since then, they had undertaken intensive negotiations to conclude mutually acceptable agreements with their exporting partners. In a number of cases negotiations had been successfully concluded, while in others they were still under way. Finland had already signed the Protocol extending the MFA. For its part, Norway had entered into a number of bilateral agreements, but pending the conclusion of some other negotiations it was not yet in a position to make a decision as to its accession to the Protocol. Sweden had concluded a certain number of bilateral agreements of a comprehensive nature on the basis of mutually acceptable solutions as foreseen in the protocol of extension in document COM.TEX/W/47. Basing itself on a continuation of this policy, and on the understanding that the same flexibility would continue to apply in future negotiations, the Swedish Government intended to accede to the Protocol of extension upon completion of the necessary constitutional procedures.