1. In accordance with the task assigned it by the Textiles Committee at its meeting 26-28 March (COM.TEX/2), the Technical Sub-Group on Documentation met on 30 April-1 May, 5 June, and 22 and 24 July to discuss what statistical and other data should be provided by participating governments to enable the Textiles Committee to carry out the functions prescribed by the Arrangement on International Trade in Textiles, Article 10, paragraph 2.

2. After a general discussion concerning the type of documentation required, the Sub-Group examined what statistics national authorities were in general collecting in the field of textiles and clothing, and what further statistics could be produced if necessary. Since comprehensive information on the data available could not be obtained in Geneva, the secretariat sent to all participating countries a Questionnaire Concerning the Statistics Available on Textiles and Clothing, (COM.TEX/W/10). Replies from the EEC and seventeen other countries accounting for more than three quarters of world trade were received before the meeting of 22 and 24 July and were summarized in document COM.TEX/W/11 and Addenda. Several delegations whose governments have so far not responded to the questionnaire, indicated in broad lines what statistics could be reported.

3. The Sub-Group considered that the statistics which could be provided by the countries which responded to the questionnaire would be in general adequate, provided the comparability of these statistics can be ensured.

4. The Technical Sub-Group has recognized the need for statistical reporting to the Textiles Committee to be on a routine basis, in other words to consist, to the maximum extent possible, of data regularly collected and processed by national statistical offices, whether for internal purposes or for submission to other international organizations. It has further recognized the need for the scheme of statistical reporting to be, on the one hand, kept to a minimum of data relevant and indispensable to the tasks of the Textiles Committee yet, on the other hand, to be open to modification as needs and circumstances may require. In general, the Technical Sub-Group has considered the tasks of statistical and other documentation for the Textiles Committee in the form of a programme to be developed and perfected.
over time in the direction of ensuring better international comparability of textile statistics. It recognized that the programme would inevitably require a special effort, and many delegations indicated their willingness to supply the statistics enumerated below, on the understanding that a commensurate effort would be undertaken by all countries participating in the Arrangement. The European Communities and Spain were among those emphasizing the importance of reciprocity in this matter.

Trade statistics

5. The Technical Sub-Group considers the nomenclature provided by SITC/Rev.2 to be the optimum basis for regular statistical reporting on trade in textiles and apparel. This nomenclature makes a distinction by fibre possible even in the division of apparel, where difficulties in this respect existed before the revision. Since this nomenclature is likely to be adopted by all members of the United Nations, reporting to the GATT secretariat on this basis should imply no extra work for national statistical services.

6. Most countries will not, however, be able to implement this nomenclature before 1976, although several countries will be able to report on this basis already as from 1975. At present, import and export statistics are available in most countries quarterly, by origin and destination, at the 5-digit level of the SITC/Rev.1. The Sub-Group considers that, in the interim, this should be a suitable basis for regular statistical reporting. Because this nomenclature has been in force for a period of years it should not pose a major difficulty for the reporting countries to submit on this basis statistical information for several years past, say, going back to 1972.

7. Some countries do not report trade according to SITC/Rev.1 but on the basis of national classifications which, however, without great difficulty can be correlated to the SITC/Rev.1 at the 4 or 5-digit level. These countries have indicated their readiness to assist the secretariat in providing a concordance by which their national nomenclatures can be converted to SITC/Rev.1 as well as such further information that may be required, and is available, for perfecting the comparability of data.

8. The Group noted that it had no competence whatsoever on the question of interpretation of the product coverage of the Arrangement and that in fact there had been no discussions on the scope of textiles and clothing in the context of Article 12 of the Arrangement; and it was clearly understood that the scope of statistical collection has no implication on the product coverage of the Arrangement. For statistical convenience, the Technical Sub-Group recommends that all participating countries report statistics on the value and volume of their trade in cotton, wool and man-made fibre textiles and clothing within
Section XI of BTN. As far as possible, these statistics should be applied on magnetic tape in quarterly intervals. They should be in the 5-digit detail of SITC/Rev.1 or Rev.2, or its equivalents in terms of BTN or national classifications, by origin and destination, as from 1972.

9. The Sub-Group discussed the problem of units in which trade volumes should be indicated, and of the conversion factors to be used in cases where different statistical authorities report in different units. A number of delegations expressed the view that, to the extent possible, volumes of trade in fabrics, made-up articles and clothing should be reported in two units of measurement (e.g., surface and weight for fabrics, number of pieces and weight for clothing). Other members of the sub-group stated that they would not be in the position to supply such data on the basis of statistics currently collected. No agreement was, furthermore, reached with respect to the use of conversion factors applicable to different categories of textiles and clothing. It was generally recognized that complete uniformity in this respect could not be achieved at present.

Production statistics

10. The majority of participating countries surveyed by the questionnaire can supply output (or manufacturers' sales) statistics for representative product groups listed in the questionnaire and accounting, in practically all cases, for the bulk of national textiles and clothing production. The Technical Sub-Group consequently considers the product list contained in the questionnaire to be suitable basis for the reporting on production statistics. The Sub-Group, however, noted that even if national statistical programmes adhered to a common international nomenclature, national definitions of production might differ, and for this reason, international comparisons must be made with the greatest care. The Sub-Group recommends, therefore, that in making their statistical submissions, national statistical authorities also specify the definitions and methods used in collecting production statistics.

11. At present, several countries may not be able to report in the full detail of this product list, due to difficulties in distinguishing products of various processing techniques (e.g., woven/knitted apparel, woollen/worsted yarns and fabrics). The Technical Sub-Group considers it important to retain such detail where it can be supplied while countries who cannot make the distinctions in question can merge such product groups for the time being.

12. In considering the periodicity of this reporting, the Technical Sub-Group has noted that quarterly as well as annual data are available in most countries, and that definitive annual data are in most cases available only with a delay of twelve or more months. If only annual data were reported, therefore, the annual reports of the Textiles Committee would, in most cases, be based on the state of production
two years ago. The Group therefore recommends that reporting on production be made both annually and, to the extent possible, quarterly; the quarterly data to keep the Textiles Committee informed on recent production developments, the definitive annual data to provide more precise information on production trends over time.

Industry statistics

13. The Technical Sub-Group has also considered several statistics illustrating the more general state of the textile and apparel industry. It recommends the collection and reporting of the following data separately for the textile and for the apparel industry:

- value added by manufacturing (annually);
- investment in the two industries, distinguishing the outlay for plant and for machinery (annually);
- total employment, production workers and average hours worked, per week per worker (to the extent possible on a quarterly basis).

Recommendations

14. In sum, the Technical Sub-Group on Textile Documentation recommends to the Textiles Committee that it urge all parties to the Arrangement to report to the Secretariat:

(i) Statistics on foreign trade in all textiles and clothing of cotton, wool and man-made fibre, on magnetic tape, in the 5-digit detail of SITC/Rev.2, as soon as possible, and of SITC/Rev.1 in the meantime, or in equivalents of these nomenclatures in terms of BTN or national classifications, by origin and destination, as far as possible quarterly, as from 1972;

(ii) Production statistics for the representative product groups listed in Annex I, both quarterly and annually; and

(iii) Separately for the textile and apparel industry, data on value added by manufacturing (annually); investment, distinguishing the outlay for plant and for machinery (annually); total employment, production workers and average hours worked per week per worker (quarterly).

15. The Sub-Group understands that not all statistical services possess all the data in the required detail or periodicity. All parties to the Agreement should report to the full extent of their present ability and, bearing in mind the importance of reciprocity, should undertake all the effort needed to bring their reporting in line with that of the other countries. It recommends that the statistical reporting scheme be re-examined after two years of operation, with the view of assessing its adequacy and the progress made towards better comparability of the data submitted.
ANNEX I

Production Statistics

List of Product Groups

1. Man-made staple fibres not carded, combed or otherwise prepared for spinning, continuous filament tow for discontinuous fibres and waste of man-made fibres
2. Man-made fibre tops
3. Continuous single yarn, monofil and strip of man-made fibre materials
4. Wool tops
5. Yarn of carded sheep's or lambs' wool (woollen yarn), single
6. Yarn of combed sheep's or lambs' wool (worsted yarn), single
7. Cotton yarn, single
8. Yarn of man-made staple (discontinuous) fibres, single
9. Woven pile fabrics (velvets and plusses) and chenille fabrics, including tufted fabrics
10. Woven fabrics of continuous man-made fibres
11. Woven fabrics of yarn of worsted (combed) wool
12. Woven fabrics of woollen yarn (carded yarn)
13. Cotton fabrics: terry towelling and similar terry fabrics
14. Other woven fabrics of cotton yarn
15. Woven fabrics of man-made staple fibres
16. Carpets, machine-made, other than of jute, of coir or other hard fibres
17. Knitted or crocheted fabric, not elastic or rubberized
18. Women's stockings of man-made textile fibres

1,2 If separate data are not available, the two items may be reported together.
19. Panty hose, or "tights" of man-made textile fibres (yarn of 60 deniers or finer)

20. Other stockings and socks

21. Pyjamas and nightdresses (for men, boys, women, girls and infants)

22. Undergarments for men, boys, women, girls and infants\(^1\) -
   knitted and crocheted
   other

23. Shirts for men and boys -
   knitted or crocheted
   other

24. Blouses and shirtblouses for women, girls and infants -
   knitted or crocheted
   other

25. Jerseys, pull-overs, slip-overs, twinsets and the like for women, girls,
    infants, men and boys

26. Coats for women, girls and infants

27. Dresses, suits and costumes for women, girls and infants

28. Skirts for women, girls and infants

29. Trousers for women, girls and infants

30. Overcoats for men and boys (3/4 or longer)

31. Suits for men and boys

32. Jackets for men and boys

33. Trousers for men and boys

34. Cover-overalls (boiler suits)

\(^1\)Excluding shirts and blouses
NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT ON MEETING OF TECHNICAL SUB-GROUP ON DOCUMENTATION, 30 April-1 May

The Technical Sub-Group on Documentation, created by the decision of the Textiles Committee, held its first meeting 30 April-1 May 1974, under the chairmanship of Mr. Gardner Patterson, Deputy Director-General. It was agreed at the outset that the group would base its discussion on the points set forth in COM.TEX/W/8, although several representatives reserved their right to make general statements on points D, E, and F of that note. Before the discussion opened on point A, a delegation requested the secretariat to compile a list of SITC and BTN positions covering the textile products enumerated in Article 12 of the Textiles Arrangement. Such a compilation was prepared and distributed before the end of the meeting, the secretariat stressing, however, that it was only a tentative compilation, not intended as an interpretation of Article 12, and therefore subject to discussion and confirmation, or amendment, by parties to the Textiles Arrangement.

A. Product classification

(a) Trade statistics

The first point of discussion concerned the product classification of trade statistics needed by the Textiles Committee for carrying out the studies required of it by Article 10, paragraph 2.

The Chairman explained that the task under discussion was one of setting up a system of regular statistical reporting, and of determining its optimal degree of detail so that, on the one hand, the Textile Committee had all the information it needed for its regular analyses of the current state of world production of, and trade in textile products and which, on the other hand, would impose the least possible burden on both national and secretariat statistical services. While intended primarily for the Textile Committee, these regularly collected statistics would also form a general framework of information for the Textiles Surveillance Body.

The Technical Sub-Group was then asked whether it would consider the textiles section of SITC Rev.2 a suitable basis for the regular reporting and, if so, whether it would be technically possible to accelerate the implementation for textiles of this revised nomenclature which is expected to be in general application only in 1976. The representative of the Customs Cooperation Council reported on the current work on trade classifications and nomenclatures, emphasizing that the BTN was currently
being subdivided so as to preserve its traditional one to one correspondence with SITC Rev.2.

Most delegations felt that SITC Rev.2 would provide a suitable basis for the regular statistical reporting on trade in textiles and apparel. It was pointed out that it made a distinction by fibre possible even in the division of apparel where difficulties in this respect had existed before the revision. Most importantly, since SITC Rev.2 was going to be adopted by all members of the United Nations, reporting to the GATT secretariat on its basis would imply no extra work for national statistical services. The majority of countries represented in the sub-group found it possible to report on the basis of SITC Rev.2; some were able to do this in full detail of this classification while some others informed the group that, for the time being, they might have difficulties reporting in more detail than available at 3 or 4 digit levels. Those countries which could report would also find it possible to report in this form as of January 1975. Some members of the group, however, considered that an expansion to other fibres of the classification used in statistical reporting to the Cotton Textiles Committee would be satisfactory for the purpose at hand, and favoured this approach, but agreed to study the possibility of supplying more statistical detail within the scheme so that their own reporting could gradually approach the structure and degree of detail of SITC Rev.2. In this context, several delegations emphasized the desirability of having uniform criteria for distinguishing blended products by fibre content.

A discussion of the question of temporary imports and exports for processing revealed that for a number of countries this trade was unimportant, for most of them comprehensive detailed reporting would create serious difficulties, and that the few countries able to provide such data could not do so on a comparable basis. One delegation was prepared to collect data for temporary imports on a monthly basis, provided other participants undertook to do the same. Some others could provide these figures only on a global basis without indicating sources or destinations. It was agreed that special reporting on this trade would be, for the time being, at least, too ambitious.

The sub-group then discussed at considerable length the problem of reporting the quantities traded. It recognized that the practice under LTA of converting different quantity units (e.g. units of surface into units of weight) by constant factors was unsatisfactory. It was further recognized that for different groups of products different quantity units gave the best results, e.g., tonnage for yarns, tonnage and surface for fabrics, tonnage and units for apparels; and that it would be desirable if reporting in two different quantity units could be commonly adopted for fabrics and apparel. Delegates of several countries announced that, for various reasons, this would not be possible for the time being, but that they would discuss the possibility with their statistical authorities.
(b) Production statistics

It was generally recognized that for its assessment of the state of world production and trade in textile products, the Textiles Committee will need reliable data on national production, and that it would be highly desirable for this data to be provided in a form comparable with the data on trade. A number of delegations recalled the fact that, in present statistical practices, production and trade data are not collected according to a common classification and that, while in the area of textiles there might exist some, though not insuperable, problems in obtaining comparability between production and trade data, in the sector of apparel it has been so far impossible even to collect comprehensive data on total production (and, a fortiori on production by fibre) let alone obtain comparability between production and trade data.

One way of overcoming this difficulty, and obtaining at least a rough but comprehensive notion of national apparel production, a delegation suggested, would be to calculate the intake of yarns and fabrics, by fibre, into each domestic apparel industry. Another way, which the majority of delegations considered more promising and deserving further study, would be to agree on a representative list of products and to establish a regular reporting of their output.

Those countries which collect production statistics do it in terms of volume, and in a few countries additional statistics on the value of production or sales are also available. A few countries do not regularly collect any production data at present, or collect them in terms which are not comparable with those of the majority of other countries. It was understood that considerable effort by all governments would be needed to develop a satisfactory comparable set of production data. Delegates of several countries stated that all statistics supplied to the Textiles Committee should stem from official sources, and this was generally agreed.

(c) Other statistics

The group had a first exchange of general views on the additional statistics relating to the textile industry that the Textiles Committee might require. One delegation emphasized that additional data should relate to specific points of study in order to avoid a massive build-up of statistical information which may not always be relevant. From a discussion of the usefulness of such statistical indicators as those of value added in manufacturing, employment, unemployment, investment and machinery of the industry, it emerged that all additional information of this kind relates to the industry, possibly its individual branches, and could not be related to individual products. It also appeared that, while a large majority of countries collected statistics on several of the aspects mentioned above, there were considerable divergences in national statistical practices and definitions. Statistics on value added by and on employment and/or unemployment
in, the textiles and apparel industry were available in the majority of countries, the former because the majority of governments practice national income accounting, the latter because of their immediate importance for policy formation. These two types of statistics would therefore seem to deserve more discussion at the next meeting in which the national methods, definitions and periodicity of reporting could be clarified further in order to ascertain to what extent the international comparability of the data could be improved.

B. Extent and geographical detail of reporting

Only general statements were exchanged under this heading. It was emphasized that all participating countries should supply a commonly agreed minimum of statistics. While it was recognized that some countries may have difficulties with respect to particular statistical series, it was hoped that these difficulties would be gradually overcome. A number of specific points remain to be discussed and decided at the next meeting, such as the geographical detail of trade reporting (should each country supply detail on exports by destination and imports by origin?).

On the question of periodicity of reporting, some countries showed willingness to report trade monthly and production quarterly. While some other countries felt that annual or bi-annual reporting would be sufficient, most delegations favoured quarterly reporting of trade and annual reporting of production. With very few exceptions, trade statistics generally seem to be available within three months. With respect to production statistics, there is much more diversity among individual countries, some able to compile them within three months, some only with a delay of six months or more. This might raise problems should the report of the Textiles Committee on the state of the textile production and trade be required to appear in summer. An agreement on specific reporting deadlines should be sought at the next meeting.

With respect to the past period to be covered by trade statistics on an agreed basis, most countries felt able to supply data for the past three years, and some could go even further.

C. The form of regular reporting

The delegate of the European Communities announced that the reporting would be made by the Statistical Office of the Communities and would be in terms of aggregates for the nine member countries combined. The secretariat expressed a preference for the reporting of trade statistics to be effected on magnetic tapes, since all governments report in this form to the Statistical Office of the United Nations. Making another tape copy of the textiles sector would thus minimize the work of national services as well as facilitate the processing of the data in the secretariat, a decision on this, however, was left for a future meeting.
D. Statistics required by the TSB and E. Trade policy reporting to the TSB

Most delegations felt that the TSB itself should decide on the nature and form of the data it will need, and that discussion of these points in the technical sub-group would be superfluous and even inappropriate. It was stressed in this context that the product categorization discussed in the present meeting was for the sole purpose of regular statistical reporting to the Textiles Committee, and had no implications as to the definition of product categories subject to bilateral negotiations.

F. Adjustment reporting to the TSB (and Textiles Committee)

Only a few general statements were made on this issue. There was no disagreement with the view of several delegations that governments should report on the adjustment measures "sufficiently often" (e.g. annually) to permit the Textiles Committee to make an assessment of the general trend of adjustment efforts. It remains for the Textiles Committee to indicate more specifically the nature and form of this reporting.

Several countries including those which did not participate in the debate reserved their right to return to all points discussed on 30 April-1 May 1974 in the next meeting of the group which was set for 5 June at 10 a.m.