1. The Textiles Committee held its tenth meeting under the 1986 Protocol of Extension on 16 May 1991. The agenda for the meeting, as set out in GATT/AIR/3167 of 9 April and Addendum 1 of 2 May, 1991 was adopted.

Agenda Item A.bis: Request by the Government of Fiji to Become a Member of the Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles

2. The Chairman, referring first to Agenda Item A.bis, recalled that the request from Fiji to become a party to the MFA had been circulated to all member countries in the Arrangement in document COM.TEX/W/235, dated 3 May 1991. He stated that Fiji was seeking accession under the provisions of MFA Article 13:2, as a non-contracting party, and that in its request Fiji had accepted all obligations deriving from the MFA and had complied with the procedural requirements adopted by the Textiles Committee in 1974 (COM.TEX/2, paragraphs 14-16).

3. The Textiles Committee accepted Fiji as a participant in the MFA and the Chairman, on behalf of all participants, extended a warm welcome to the delegation of Fiji.

4. The delegate of Fiji, who was invited to attend the meeting, thanked the members of the Committee for the acceptance of his Government's request. He said that Fiji accepted without reservation the obligations and disciplines that come with membership and looked forward to an orderly and equitable development of its textiles trade. He commented that, being a developing country and a new entrant in this sector of trade, Fiji anticipated that it would benefit from the relevant provisions of the MFA, in any bilateral agreements. He confirmed that his Government would be notifying to the Textiles Surveillance Body all relevant information concerning its import regime for textiles and clothing covered by the Arrangement to assist the Body in carrying out its responsibility.
5. In concluding the discussion of this item, the Chairman referred to the procedural requirements and invited the Government of Fiji to send him, in his capacity as Director-General and depository of the Arrangement, a letter confirming its notification as set out in document COM.TEX/W/235 with reference being made to the decision taken by the Committee. The effective date of Fiji’s accession to the MFA would be the date on which this letter was received by the Director-General.

Agenda Item A: Continuation of Discussion of the Future of the MFA

6. The Chairman reported that, since the last meeting of the Committee, extensive consultation had taken place and that some progress had been achieved in certain areas. He considered, however, that further, intensive consultations would be required in order to reach a consensus on this item in the shortest possible time period. To facilitate this process, he offered the assistance of the Secretariat in organising some of these consultations. As regards the date of the next meeting of the Committee, he suggested that such date be set in the light of the outcome of these consultations. The Committee took note of the Chairman’s comments.

Agenda Item B: Other Business, Including, as Necessary, the Membership of the TSB

7. The Chairman suggested that, in the light of the outcome of the discussion of Agenda Item A, the Committee was not in a position to address this item at the current meeting. Consequently, it was agreed that this item will be deferred to the next meeting.