REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH MEETINGS (1976)

1. The TSB held its seventeenth and eighteenth meetings on 10 December and 17 and 20 December 1976 respectively. The report of the fifteenth and sixteenth meetings was approved and has been circulated in document COM.TEX/SB/206.

2. A bilateral agreement between Norway and Macao under Article 4 was reviewed and has been circulated as document COM.TEX/SB/204. The TSB noted that quotas in this agreement had been denominated in value terms.

3. The TSB had received from Sweden a notification of an agreement under Article 3 between Sweden and Pakistan. The TSB noted that the agreement contained no fixed growth rate, but that the parties had agreed to discuss this question not later than two months before the expiry of the agreement. The TSB therefore deferred its own consideration of the agreement's conformity with the MFA pending the outcome of these discussions. It was agreed that in the meantime the agreement should be circulated to participating countries for information, and this has been done in COM.TEX/SB/205.

4. The TSB heard presentations by delegations from India and Sweden concerning the imposition of unilateral restrictions under Article 3:5 by Sweden on imports of bedlinen and women's blouses from India.

5. The TSB noted with regret that Sweden had not observed the prescribed procedures for the application of unilateral measures under Article 3:5. In particular, it had failed to notify them to the TSB, for which the Swedish delegation expressed its regret. The TSB also regretted that communications between the two Governments appeared to have been unsatisfactory and not conducive to the solution of their respective problems.

1For the seventy and forty-eighth meetings.
2For previous observations by the TSB see COM.TEX/SB/64 and 134.
6. However, since both parties were in principle prepared to resume negotiations, the TSB recommended that in order to allow such negotiations to be held in the best conditions Sweden should lift the unilateral restrictions before the opening of new consultations, which should begin not later than 31 January 1977, and end not later than 28 February 1977. In order to avoid the possibility of damage to those involved in the trade and without prejudice to the outcome of negotiations or to any future consideration of the case by the TSB, the TSB urged both parties to co-operate with a view to ensuring that during this month imports from India should not exceed the monthly average of imports in the first nine months of 1976.

7. The TSB requested the two parties to inform it of the result of these negotiations by 10 March 1977 at the latest.

8. Consideration of a unilateral measure taken by Norway with respect to imports from Thailand was deferred at the joint request of the two countries concerned.