ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES

Notification under Article 4:4

The Extension and the Establishment of Certain New Export Limits to the Existing Bilateral Agreement Between the United States and Hong Kong

The Textiles Surveillance Body has received two notifications from the United States which concern, firstly, an amendment to extend, for three months, to 31 December 1977, the existing bilateral agreement with Hong Kong\(^1\) and, secondly, an exchange of letters regarding the establishment of certain new limits on exports from Hong Kong to the United States for the period 1 October 1976 to 31 December 1977.

The TSB, pursuant to its procedure regarding bilateral agreements notified under Article 4:2, has examined the relevant documentation and is circulating the text of the notification to participating countries for their information.

\(^1\)For original agreement see COM.TEX/SB/48 and 236.
\(^2\)See COM.TEX/SB/35, Annex B.
The United States and Hong Kong exchanged notes on 25 July 1977 to effect a new bilateral textile agreement on trade in cotton, wool and man-made fiber textiles. Texts of the notes follow:

UNITED STATES NOTE

Hong Kong, 25 July 1977

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the arrangement regarding International Trade in Textiles (hereinafter referred to as the Arrangement), done in Geneva on December 20, 1973.

I also refer to the Bilateral Agreement of July 25, 1974, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement), relating to trade in cotton, wool and man-made fiber textiles between Hong Kong and the United States of America, and to discussions between representatives of the Governments of Hong Kong and the United States held in Lyon and Geneva from June 1 to June 23, 1977, concerning the extension of the Agreement. As a result of these discussions, and in conformity with Article 4 of the Arrangement, I propose on behalf of my government that the Agreement be amended as follows:

1. The Agreement is extended also to cover the period October 1, 1977 through December 31, 1977.

2. The Agreement year covering the period October 1, 1976 through September 30, 1977 under the Agreement is extended to include the period from October 1, 1976 through December 31, 1977, with the aggregate and
specific limits for the agreement year covering the period from
October 1, 1976 to December 31, 1977 being equal to 126.5625 percent of
the equivalent limits of the October 1, 1976 to September 30, 1977 agreement
year; except that specific limits on wool textiles shall be equal to
125.25 percent of the equivalent limits for the October 1, 1976 to
September 30, 1977 agreement year. The group limit for wool textiles
(Group IV) for the agreement year covering the period October 1, 1976 to
December 31, 1977 shall be equal to 125.25 percent of the group limit for
wool textiles (Group IV) for the agreement year October 1, 1976 to
September 30, 1977; the difference between the amounts resulting from the
application of 6.25 percent annual growth to the aggregate limit and 1 per­
cent annual growth to the wool group limit shall be divided pro rata among
the group limits for Groups I, II and III. Restraint levels on products
(categories) established in accordance with Paragraph 8 of the Agreement for
the agreement year covering the period October 1, 1976 to September 30, 1977
are to be applied to exports of such products (categories) for the agreement
year covering the period October 1, 1976 to December 31, 1977; such levels
for the agreement year covering the period October 1, 1976 to December 31,
1977, shall be 125 percent of the corresponding levels for the agreement
year covering the period October 1, 1976 to September 30, 1977 unless other­
wise agreed.

3. In order to avoid distortion of existing trade patterns, the aggregate,
group, and specific limits for the agreement year covering the period
October 1, 1976 to December 31, 1977 may, after mutually satisfactory com­
pletion of consultations, be exceeded by not more than 6 percent of the limits
applicable to the agreement year covering the period October 1, 1976 to
September 30, 1977 multiplied by 1.015625, except for wool limits, which
shall be multiplied by 1.0025, provided that an equivalent reduction is made
to the appropriate applicable limits during the first agreement year of the
4. Both governments, recognizing outstanding statistical and category differences pertaining to shipments of cotton knit shirts/tank tops, agree to meet at the expert level before August 18, 1977 in order to resolve such differences prior to September 30, 1977.

If this proposal is acceptable to the Government of Hong Kong, this note and your note of acceptance on behalf of the Government of Hong Kong shall constitute an agreement between our two governments, amending the agreement.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

/S/ Mr. Charles T. Cross
Consul General

The Honorable
W. Dorward, O.B.E., J.P.
Acting Director of Commerce and Industry
Hong Kong

HONG KONG NOTE

25 July 1977

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 25 July 1977 proposing amendments to the bilateral agreement of 26 July 1974, as amended, relating to trade in cotton, wool and man-made fibre textiles between Hong Kong and the United States of America, and to confirm that your proposed amendments are acceptable to the Government of Hong Kong.
Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my high consideration.

/S/W. Dorward
Acting Director of Commerce
and Industry
Hong Kong

Mr. Charles T. Cross,
Consul-General,
American Consulate-General,
26 Garden Road,
Hong Kong.
LIMITS SET FOR EIGHT CATEGORIES OF U.S. - HONG KONG BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT

The U.S. Government and the British Embassy, representing Hong Kong, have exchanged letters on July 25 and 27 setting limits for eight categories of the U.S.-Hong Kong bilateral textile agreement for the period October 1, 1976 through December 31, 1977. The texts of the letters follow:

HONG KONG LETTER #1

British Embassy
3100 Massachusetts Avenue NW Washington DC 20008

Mr. Charles Angevine
Chief
Fibers & Textiles Division
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

25 July 1977

Dear Chuck,

I refer to the recent consultations between the Government of Hong Kong and the United States, requested by the latter on May 3 under paragraph 8 of the Hong Kong/United States Textiles Agreement of 1974, on category 39 (cotton gloves). I refer also to the request of May 27 for consultations on category 228 (man-made fibre woven blouses).

As a result of the consultations the Government of Hong Kong agrees to limit exports to the United States, during the 15 months beginning October 1, 1976 and ending December 31, 1977, to the following amounts:
UNITED STATES LETTER #1

July 25, 1977

Mr. Alexander H. B. Hermann
Counselor (Hong Kong Commercial Affairs)
British Embassy
3100 Massachusetts Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Mr. Hermann:

I refer to your letter of July 25, 1977 to Mr. Charles Angevine reporting the agreement of the Government of Hong Kong to limit its exports to the U.S. of cotton gloves in Category 39 to 3,900,000 dozen pairs, and of man-made fiber blouses in Category 228 to 742,689 dozen, during the 15 month agreement period October 1, 1976 through December 31, 1977.

I confirm to you the agreement of the U.S. to this limit.

Sincerely,

/S/ Paul H. Boeker
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs
UNITED STATES LETTER #2

July 25, 1977

Mr. Alexander H. B. Hermann
Counselor (Hong Kong Commercial Affairs)
British Embassy
3100 Massachusetts Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Mr. Hermann:

I refer to Mr. Charles Angevine's letters of May 27 and June 28, requesting consultations under paragraph 8 of the Agreement of July 25, 1974, as amended, between the United States and Hong Kong on textile trade, concerning appropriate levels of restraint for the current agreement year for, inter alia, Categories 234, 235, 238, 122, and 124 of the Agreement.

My Government notes that these consultations have not resulted in Agreement between the United States and Hong Kong on appropriate levels of restraint for these categories. Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 8 of the Agreement, my Government hereby requests that the Government of Hong Kong limit exports in these categories to the following levels for the 15-month agreement period October 1, 1976 through December 31, 1977, established by the amendment of July 25, 1977, to the Agreement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Restraint Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>125,000 pieces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>250,000 pieces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>234/235 (combined)</td>
<td>812,500 dozen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>238</td>
<td>375,000 dozen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I will appreciate your confirmation that the Government of Hong Kong will limit exports in the above categories to the stated levels for this agreement period.

Sincerely,

/S/ Paul H. Boeker
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs
HONG KONG LETTER #2

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.,

Mr. Paul H. Boeker,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Economic and Business Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Boeker,

I acknowledge your letter of July 25, conveying the request of the U.S. Government that the Hong Kong Government limit exports in the following textile categories to the following levels for the 15-month period ending December 31, 1977:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Restraint Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>125,000 pieces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>250,000 pieces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>234/5 combined</td>
<td>812,500 dozen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>238</td>
<td>375,000 dozen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I am instructed to confirm that the Hong Kong Government will limit exports in the above categories to the stated levels for the agreement period in question.

I am further instructed to state that the Hong Kong Government reserve their position on possible further action, including the possible exercise of their right under paragraph 8(f) of the Agreement of July 25, 1974.

Yours sincerely,

/S/ A. Hermann
Counsellor for Hong Kong Commercial Affairs.
UNITED STATES LETTER #3

July 25, 1977

Mr. Alexander H. B. Hermann
Counselor (Hong Kong Commercial Affairs)
British Embassy
3100 Massachusetts Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Mr. Hermann:

I refer to Mr. Charles Angevine's letter of May 3 requesting consultations under paragraph 8 of the agreement of July 25, 1974, as amended, between the United States and Hong Kong on textile trade, concerning an appropriate level of restraint for the current agreement year for, inter alia, Category 120 for the Agreement.

My Government notes that these consultations have not resulted in agreement on an appropriate level of restraint for this Category. We therefore suggest that consultations on this Category be continued through September 27, 1977, with a view toward reaching agreement on such a level.

Pending the outcome of such consultations, my Government agrees that the Government of Hong Kong may issue export authorizations for the period October 1, 1976 through December 31, 1977 up to a level equal to 125% of the level at which authorizations were suspended pursuant to my Government's request for consultations. Authorizations were suspended at 82,027 units; they may be resumed up to a level of 102,534 units.

I will appreciate your confirmation that the Government of Hong Kong will limit exports in Category 120 to the above stated figure while consultations are continuing concerning an appropriate level of restraint for this Category.

Sincerely,

/S/ Paul H. Boeker
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs
Mr. Paul H. Boeker,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Economic and Business Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Boeker,

Thank you for your letter of July 25th, concerning the current consultations between Hong Kong and the United States on Hong Kong's exports in textile category 120.

I am instructed by the Hong Kong Government to inform you that, in view of the extension of the current Bilateral Agreement to the end of 1977, they are prepared (without prejudice to Hong Kong's position on the U.S. request on category 120) to accept your suggestion that consultations be continued, provided they will be concluded by September 27th, 1977.

As suggested, they will now resume the issue of export authorizations up to 102,534 units for the 15 months ending on December 31, 1977.

Yours sincerely,

/S/ A. Hermann,
Counsellor for Hong Kong Commercial Affairs.