Formal action to extend for a further three years the Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Cotton Textiles was initiated in GATT today, 15 June 1970, with the opening for acceptance of a Protocol to prolong the Arrangement until 30 September 1973. The decision to open this Protocol was taken at a meeting of the GATT Cotton Textiles Committee on 27 May 1970.

At the same meeting it was also agreed to undertake discussions on the state of international trade in cotton textiles and the longer-term development of such trade beyond this further period of extension of the Arrangement.

The Arrangement is intended to ensure the orderly development of world trade in cotton textile products, by progressively increasing export opportunities, particularly for less-developed countries, while at the same time avoiding disruption of markets. The Arrangement entered into force on 1 October 1962 for a period of five years, and was renewed for a further three-year period from 1 October 1967.

END

The following Governments are now parties to the Arrangement: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Kingdom of the Netherlands (for its European territory, Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles), Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal (including acceptance on behalf of Macao), Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (including acceptance on behalf of Hong Kong), United States.