NEW CHAIRMAN APPOINTED FOR TEXTILES SURVEILLANCE BODY

Ambassador Marcelo Raffaelli (Brazil) was appointed today as the new Chairman of the Textiles Surveillance Body (TSB), which supervises operation of the Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles, generally known as the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA).

Ambassador Raffaelli will take up his new position on 1 July 1982, succeeding the current Chairman, Ambassador Paul Wurth (Switzerland), whose eight-year term expires on 30 June.

Mr. Raffaelli's appointment was made by the Textiles Committee, a body made up of representatives of the countries participating in the MFA.

Mr. Raffaelli has served as a Brazilian diplomat for nearly 30 years; since 1979 he has been Ambassador to the Ivory Coast.

Born in Rio de Janeiro on 9 October 1929, he graduated in Law from the Catholic University, Rio, and then from the Instituto Rio Branco (Diplomatic Academy), in 1953.

After joining his country's diplomatic service, he served during the period 1955-76 in the following countries: Venezuela, Netherlands, United States, Uruguay and the United Kingdom.

From 1971-72, Mr. Raffaelli was head of the Commodities Division at the Ministry of External Relations in Brasilia. He was then head of the Trade Policy Division from 1972-73.

In 1977 he was appointed head of the Africa, Asia and Oceania Department at the Ministry, and in 1978 as head of the American Regional Organizations Department.
Mr. Raffaelli has served as Brazilian delegate to many United Nations and regional bodies, such as the U.N. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Bank, GATT, and the Latin American Free Trade Association (LAFTA).

In textile negotiations, he was head of the Brazilian Delegation to the 1973 negotiations leading to the Multifibre Arrangement, and was again head of the Brazilian Delegation to the 1977 meeting of the Textiles Committee which negotiated the extension of the MFA.

Mr. Raffaelli is married, with two sons and three daughters.

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As a result of negotiations in GATT during 1981, agreement was reached at the end of the year that the MFA should be extended for a further period of four years and seven months, from 1 January 1982 until 31 July 1986.

The MFA, whose signatories account for about four fifths (about US$80 billion worth) of world trade in textiles and clothing, was originally negotiated in 1973 under GATT auspices.

The Arrangement took effect on 1 January 1974 for a period of four years, and was then extended for another four years from 1 January 1978 until 31 December 1981.

The Textiles Surveillance Body (TSB) consists of an independent Chairman and eight members chosen to constitute a balanced membership representative of the countries participating in the Arrangement. Its main functions are to review all new textile import restrictions imposed, whether unilateral or bilaterally agreed, to determine whether they are fully consistent with the provisions of the Arrangement, and to provide a forum for the settlement of disputes. In cases of dispute an important aim of the TSB is to lend its good offices in pursuit of conciliation and, where appropriate, to make such recommendations to the countries concerned as may help to bring about a resolution of the problem.

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1For 1982, members have been nominated by Canada, EEC, Egypt, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico and the United States.

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