A statistical working group met in Geneva at the Palais des Nations on July 12th and 13th. This group was convened to make available to the meeting of representatives of countries substantially interested in the importation and exportation of textile products, which will start on July 17th, preliminary statistical data on trade and production of cotton textile articles for the main importing and exporting countries.

The group reviewed the statistical tables assembled by the secretariat and by the Commission of the European Economic Community, and made the necessary arrangements for completing these tables wherever the data were not available in the GATT secretariat.

The group came to the conclusion that the data assembled with respect to yarns and fabrics (including a number of made-up articles), were reasonably comparable and would give to the members of the meeting valuable indications of the trends in imports and of the effects of such imports on domestic markets. On the other hand it noted that the situation was far more difficult with respect to garments. So far as trade figures are concerned, it has not been possible in a number of cases to segregate cotton garments from other fibres. The comparison between the trade statistics of the various importing countries would therefore have to be limited to imports of garments "other than wool." So far as production figures are concerned, the figures would not have been available immediately and international comparisons would have been of doubtful value since these figures would generally relate to the entire garment field and not to the cotton garment, and would include only industrial production the coverage of which varies very substantially from country to country. After reviewing the various methods which could be contemplated, the working group came to the conclusion that the secretariat should confine itself to submitting to the meeting a table containing the imports per capita of garments from Hong Kong and Japan and the expenditure per capita on clothing in the importing countries. Although these data do not relate exclusively to cotton garments and the values are not strictly comparable between imports and expenditure, since imports represent landed values and expenditure data are expressed in retail prices, this table would at least give a rough estimate of the share of the market which is accounted for by the imports from Hong Kong and Japan. Additional data on total imports, exports and expenditure on clothing have been added to throw some light on the structure of the garment industry in the importing countries.

As regards the methods adopted for the establishment of the preliminary tables to be submitted to the meeting, the following points have been agreed.

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English only
A. General:

1. The statistical tables will give data for the years 1958, 1959, 1960. At a later stage it will be attempted to assemble data for 1961.

2. The tables should state which type of imports is shown (e.g., total imports or retained imports), and whether articles re-exported after processing are or are not included in the figures shown. If statistics are not available concerning temporary imports an estimate of the magnitude of such imports should be given.

3. The tables should distinguish between:

   (i) Cotton yarns
   (ii) Cotton grey fabrics
   (iii) Other cotton fabrics and made-up articles (if possible, made-up articles will be shown separately)
   (iv) Cotton clothing

B. Fabrics:

1. It was noted that "cotton fabrics" include not only pure cotton fabrics, but also fabrics where cotton is the predominant fibre (i.e., more than 50 per cent by weight in the case of the trade statistics of Canada and countries applying the Brussels Nomenclature; more than 50 per cent by value in the case of imports into the United States).

2. "Made-up articles of cotton" will include the following items of the Brussels Nomenclature:

   58.04
   61.05
   62.02,

in so far as the articles are made of cotton.

   As far as possible, additional data will be given by the countries concerned on such other made-up articles as cotton carpets, fishing nets, ribbons and braids.

3. Imports or exports of fabrics will be expressed in tons.

4. Production of fabrics would be given at the "loom stage", but the countries concerned have been asked to provide the secretariat with more detailed figures distinguishing between grey cloth, other fabrics and made-up articles.
C. **Clothing:**

1. Trade statistics should relate to "articles of all fibres other than wool" and, if possible, give a breakdown of these figures into:
   - cotton
   - artificial synthetics
   - silk.

2. The following items should be shown separately:
   
   (i) men's and boys' outer garments (HTN 61.06)
   
   (ii) women's, girls' and infants' outer garments (HTN 61.02)
   
   (iii) men's and boys' under garments (HTN 61.03)
   
   (iv) women's, girls' and infants' under garments (HTN 61.04)
   
   (v) knitted and crocheted goods (excluding fabrics) (HTN 60.02, 60.03, 60.04, 60.05)
   
   (vi) other wearing apparel (HTN 61.01 to .04, 61.06, 61.07, 61.08, 61.09, 61.10, 61.11)

   Wherever feasible, separate figures should be given for the following sub items: blouses, shirts, trousers and slacks, corsets and brassieres.

3. The data should indicate values as well as quantities (if possible, the quantities will be converted into square yards or square metres)

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