Textiles Surveillance Body

ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES

Notification under Article 3:6

Interim action taken by Canada against imports from Jamaica

Note by the Chairman

Attached is a notification received from Canada of an interim measure taken under Article 3:6 with respect to imports of underwear from Jamaica. The measure has been taken for the period 15 May to 31 July 1993.

*English only/Anglais seulement/Inglés solamente
Dear Ambassador Raffaelli:

Pursuant to Article 3 of the Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles (MFA) and further to my letter of 12 March 1993 concerning exports of T-shirts and underwear from Jamaica to Canada, I am pleased to enclose a copy of a recent diplomatic note from the Canadian High Commission in Kingston to the Jamaican authorities.

As you will note from the content of this diplomatic communication, the Canadian authorities have agreed to extend the consultation period provided for in MFA Article 3:5 (1) to 31 July 1993 but, in the meantime, pursuant to MFA Article 3:6, introduced an interim restraint level on imports of underwear from Jamaica in an amount equal to 292,000 units for the period 15 May through 31 July 1993. This interim arrangement has been implemented in the continuing absence of the Jamaican response promised in an agreed record of discussion from bilateral consultations which took place in Kingston from 12-14 May 1993.

The latest information I have indicates that efforts are being made to hold a further round of bilateral discussions in either the week of 19 July or the week of 26 July 1993.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Donaghy
Counsellor
The Canadian High Commission presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica and has the honour to advise that the Canadian authorities wish to refer to the agreed record of discussions dated May 14, 1993 regarding the consultations held in Kingston May 12-14, 1993 under article 3 of the arrangement regarding international trade in textiles (MFA) concerning exports from Jamaica of T-shirts and underwear.

During these consultations, Canada provided statistics indicating that imports of these products were continuing to surge. Therefore, Canada proposed an interim restraint for the period May 15 to June 30, 1993 with restraint levels of 298,000 units for T-shirts and 175,000 units of underwear. Canada also indicated that it reserved its rights under the MFA to impose unilateral restraint.

As noted in the agreed record of discussions the Jamaican delegation undertook to communicate their reaction to this proposal to Canada by May 21, 1993. Despite frequent contact with the Jamaican authorities during the past four weeks, a response has not been forthcoming.
Owing to the continuing market disruption being caused by imports of underwear which originates in Jamaica, and in the absence of a response by the Jamaican authorities concerning proposed interim restraints, Canadian authorities wish to advise the Jamaican Government that it will be unilaterally restraining imports of underwear to 292,000 units until July 31, 1993. As of June 18 we have issued import permits for 190,482 units with an additional 65,480 units at Canada Customs awaiting clearance.

Although at this time Canada is taking this action in the case of underwear only, Canada continues to reserve its rights with regard to T-shirts.

The Canadian authorities are also proposing that the consultation period provided for in article 3:5(1) of the MFA be extended to July 31, 1993. Canadian authorities wish to emphasize their willingness to enter into further consultations at the earliest mutually convenient time.

The Canadian High Commission avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica the assurances of its highest consideration.

KINGSTON, June 21, 1993