

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TEX/SB/142
5 January 1976

Special Distribution

Textiles Surveillance Body

AUSTRALIAN RESTRICTIONS UNDER ARTICLE 3:5 ON IMPORTS FROM SINGAPORE

Findings and Recommendations

1. At its meeting of 15-19 December the TSB noted with regret reports from Australia and Singapore which indicated that they had been unable to find a basis on which to take up consultations in accordance with the advice of the TSB. The TSB has also been advised by Singapore that, as a result of the Australian import control action, exports of knitted tops (coats, jumpers, cardigans, outerwear, shirts, blouses and like garments - Australian tariff item ex 60.05) from Singapore continued to be seriously affected.
2. In the light of the inability of both parties to follow the advice given by the TSB in this matter (see document COM.TEX/SB/116), the TSB reverted to the question pursuant to the provisions of Article 3, paragraph 5(iii), and on 19 December reached its conclusion with respect to this case as set out below.
3. After a further examination of all the relevant evidence available at the time the Australian import restriction was imposed, the TSB while considering there may have been grounds for concern on the part of Australia arising from high rates of increase of imports into Australia of knitted tops, including a high rate of increase of imports of knitted tops from Singapore, noted that the quantitative level of imports of knitted tops from Singapore was minimal, and further noted that Australia did not appear to have taken into consideration the provisions of Article 6 of the Arrangement. Accordingly, the TSB was unable to find that the Australian restriction was justified under the provisions of the Arrangement, and recommended a prompt review of the measure as envisaged in Article 3, paragraph 5(iii).
4. In making this recommendation, the TSB noted that, despite their inability to find a common basis on which to resume consultations, both parties continued to indicate a willingness to consult with each other. The TSB expressed the hope that some flexibility on the part of both countries could overcome existing difficulties and offer opportunity for meaningful consultations to arrive at a mutually satisfactory solution of such problems as might at that time exist or be foreseeable.

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