

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/TMB/N/333
27 July 1998

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Textiles Monitoring Body

Original: English

AGREEMENT ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING

Communication from the United States

The Textiles Monitoring Body has received the following communication from the United States and is circulating it to WTO Members for their information.

Executive Office of the President
Office of the United States Trade Representative
Washington D.C.

(This communication was faxed to the TMB on 10 July 1998)

The Honourable András Szepesi
Chairman
Textiles Monitoring Body
World Trade Organization
Geneva

Dear Ambassador Szepesi,

This letter is provided pursuant to my letter to you dated 25 June 1998¹, regarding the request of India, Pakistan and Hong Kong, China for the Textiles Monitoring Body (TMB) to review the United States' continuation of visa requirements for products included in the Stage 2 integration programme. In that letter, I promised you a definitive response of the United States to the issues raised by that request.

The United States held consultations on this matter with the representatives of the Government of India on Wednesday, 8 July 1998; and with representatives of the Governments of Hong Kong and Pakistan on Thursday, 9 July 1998. During these consultations, without conceding its right to maintain such measures, the United States informed the Parties that it would eliminate visa requirements with respect to products integrated in Stage 2, without condition and as soon as practicable, but in any event no later than 31 December 1998. We also indicated our expectation that, as a reflection of our withdrawal of this measure, the Parties would consider further measures of cooperation to address outstanding and serious problems regarding circumvention of the Agreement within their territories.

As a result of these discussions, it is the understanding of the United States that the matter of visa requirements for integrated products is now resolved and that the TMB will not undertake a review of this matter.

Sincerely,

(signed) Don Johnson
Chief Textile Negotiator

cc: Mr. Munir Akram
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Pakistan to the WTO

Mr. Srinivasan Narayanan
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of India to the WTO

Mr. Stuart Harbinson
Permanent Representative of Hong Kong
SAR of China to the WTO

¹ See G/TMB/N/330.