

17 exporting countries based on the framework established by the 1979 bilateral arrangements, with a view to concluding restraint arrangements for the period 1982-1986. The Government also renewed its commitment to take prompt action where there is evidence of new sources of market disruption with respect to any low-cost textile and clothing imports.

In 1982, five-year bilateral restraint arrangements were negotiated with Hong Kong, India, Czechoslovakia, Pakistan, Singapore, Hungary and Uruguay, bringing to 17 the total number of long-term textile and clothing arrangements concluded with low-cost suppliers. All arrangements were negotiated under Article 4 of the GATT Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles (MFA) for MFA member countries. The MFA provides the international legal framework for the negotiation of bilateral textile restraint arrangements. On July 12, 1982 Canada formally ratified the Protocol extending the MFA to July 31, 1986. In terms of the domestic legal framework for administration of bilateral restraint arrangements, textile and clothing items are placed on the ICL under the authority of Section 5(c) of the Act.

In October 1982, the Government invoked the consultation clauses in its bilateral restraint arrangements with Hong Kong, Korea, China and the Taiwan Textile Federation because imports of a number of clothing products had increased significantly in 1982, with serious implications for the domestic clothing industry. Canada sought to negotiate lower restraint levels for selected clothing products for 1983. The consultations were scheduled to take place in December 1982 and in January and February 1983.

A Ministerial Order, dated May 28, 1982, amended all general import permits for textiles, clothing, work gloves and handbags by adding the words "except Argentina" immediately after the words "import into Canada from any country", effective June 23, 1982.