

The specific features of the global test of market disruption would be established by this Negotiating Group. Special safeguard measures would be implemented in the form of global quotas on a product basis, administered by the importing country.

LIBERALIZATION

The special safeguard mechanism would be progressively liberalized during the transition period through the operation of two mechanisms, both established multilaterally within these negotiations. First, the range of products that would be eligible for access to this mechanism would be progressively reduced over the transition period according to previously negotiated criteria. Excluded products would be subject to normal GATT rules. Second, any restrictions imposed under this special safeguard mechanism would be subject to minimum growth rates.

DURATION

An immediate return of this sector to normal GATT disciplines on the expiry of the current MFA Protocol would be desirable. However, given the current distortions of trade in this sector, a period of transition to normal GATT rules will be required if this process is to be politically viable for all participants.

The period of transition would be of finite duration and would begin with the expiry of the current MFA Protocol on July 31, 1991. The duration would be defined by these negotiations and necessarily influenced by the nature of the modalities for the transition period and the nature of the strengthened GATT rules and disciplines.

SCOPE

The integration process should involve the phase-out of all restrictions on trade in textiles and clothing not consistent with GATT rules and disciplines, including those maintained under the Multi-Fibre Arrangement.

There are a number of other measures and practices which, while consistent with GATT rules and disciplines, negatively affect trade in this sector. These measures and practices should be addressed in the appropriate negotiating groups with a view to their full integration into GATT, thus contributing to the overall liberalization of trade in this sector.