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ACP - EEC

CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr COTTRELL

on imports of textiles into the Community

CA/157

The ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly,

- realising the significance of assisting the ACP countries to achieve an industrial base, both to promote and develop economic stability and to provide an increased market opportunity for European exports;
  - noting the decision of the Commission to maintain import controls on textiles for ACP countries, although these account for only 1.8% of EEC textile imports;
  - viewing the decision with concern, since it is in direct contravention of the principles of free trade enshrined in the EEC-ACP joint agreement;
  - noting also that it denies the spirit of the so-called North-South dialogue;
  - recognizing the difficulties of European textile manufacturers, particularly with regard to loss of jobs, but observing that many years of the strongest protection for the European industry have failed to ensure its prosperity;
  - doubting the value of protection as an incentive to assist the European industry in the task of essential re-structuring;
  - determined that many of the lofty sentiments expressed in the EEC-ACP dialogue should now be turned to practical effect;
  - determined, equally, to resist the spread of protectionism within and without the Community;
1. RESOLVES :
- to request the EEC to negotiate urgently with its ACP partners with a view to dismantling barriers to ACP textile imports;
  - to consider, as part of the practical nature of such negotiations, that removal of trade barriers may best be achieved over a period of three years;
  - to request the Commission to bring the EEC textile industry into full consultation during these negotiations.