

STATEMENT BY MR. KRENZLER AT THE CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR  
THE RENEWAL OF THE MFA, Geneva, 22 December 1981.

Mr. Chairman,

1. We are at the end of a long and hard negotiation. In order to arrive at the point we have reached to-day, all of us here have had to show patience and understanding for the points of view of others. The Community has played its part, fully and actively, as we promised, to bring the negotiations to a satisfactory conclusion. At the end of this process, we have found that, however difficult, there is a meeting point between the essential requirements of the developed importing countries and the legitimate interests of the developing exporting countries. Once again, and in particularly delicate circumstances, the GATT institution has shown its ability to surmount seemingly intractable obstacles.
  
2. Mr. Chairman, it is probably inevitable that a text negotiated with so much difficulty will give entire satisfaction to nobody. Perhaps none of us has achieved all that we hoped for when we came here on 18 November. As far as the Community is concerned, I have made clear at every meeting of this Committee since July that we had certain essential needs, and these needs formed the basis of the mandate we received from the Council of Ministers. I also stressed that for the Community, as for all of us here, the construction of a basis for a stable textiles policy over the coming years is a two-stage operation. We have now completed the multilateral stage; the bilateral stage remains to be accomplished in the agreements which we shall negotiate with our partners during 1982.
  
3. All this said, I am prepared to recommend to the authorities of the Community acceptance of this Protocol. As I stated in July in this Committee, the conclusion of satisfactory bilateral agreements is essential for the EEC.\* I am sure you will not misunderstand me when I say that for us this second stage is at least as important as the first and that if it proves impossible to conclude satisfactory new bilateral agreements we shall be unable to continue to participate in the MFA. The Community will examine the situation and reassess its position concerning the MFA in the early autumn of next year.

\*) We will take up these bilateral negotiations in a spirit of goodwill with developing countries.

4. Mr. Chairman, for to-day and for this year our work is done. We have had many difficulties and disagreements, but on a personal level at least we have managed to stay friends and I pay tribute to the skill, dedication and comprehension of our negotiating partners. This Committee is indebted to you, Mr. Chairman, and your staff for the results we have been able to achieve. I should like to pay particular tribute to your persistence and tact in guiding the Committee through this difficult and important negotiation.