

shipment of apparel of man-made fibers is also stimulated by technological developments (previously referred to) which invite increased use of man-made fibers in garment production.

The rapid rise in imports of apparel (knit and woven) following the Second World War was facilitated by the reductions in custom duties made by the United States under Reciprocal Trade Agreements or under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The concessions granted prior to this year were made, for the most part, against an entirely different background of trade from the one that has subsequently developed. When those concessions were negotiated, they only took account of the then existing pattern of trade. At the time the rise of apparel shipments from low-wage, low-cost countries was not even contemplated. And yet, this is precisely what took place.

A further growth of apparel (knit and woven) imports is in the offing as a result of the most recent Kennedy Round negotiations. Up to the present, our tariffs and import practices with regard to apparel were among the most liberal in the world. As a result of the recent Kennedy Round discussions, the United States agreed to lower duty rates on apparel made of silk, cotton and other vegetable fibers and on a few selected wool and man-made products. Some tariff rates on apparel were also cut by foreign nations, but the likelihood is great that a number of them, as they have in the past, will use non-tariff barriers to offset duty reductions they made in the course of the Kennedy Round. Even prior to the conclusion of