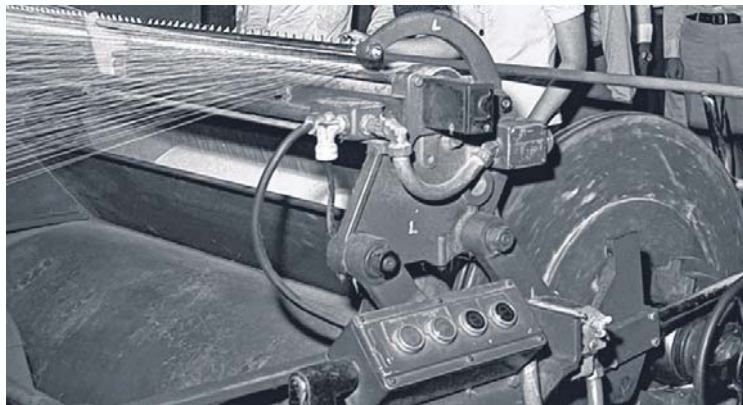


Excerpt



A loom at Singapore Textiles Industries

Anxious time for textile industry

MAKE OR BREAK AT EEC TALKS

OBVIOUSLY, Singapore's authorities are not taking EEC's (European Economic Community) plans on import curbs lying down.

The industry, consisting of some 72 textile firms employing 18,000 workers (at end-1975), is important enough to warrant official attention to its needs and problems.

After all, it spearheaded Singapore's job creation programme in the early 60s and it will still be needed for the same reason in the years ahead, when a second wave of new labour entrants swamps the market.

Understandably, a delegation from Singapore led by Mr. Ridzwan Dzafir, director of Singapore's energetic Trade Depart-

ment is now in Brussels. The authorities here are not revealing the team's stand, but Singapore is expected to oppose the EEC's proposals vigorously.

The EEC is seeking to hold down textile imports under a renewed international textile agreement, the Multi-Fibre Agreement (MFA) which expires at the end of the year. It wants 25 of its principal suppliers to keep their exports into the EEC close to their 1976 level.

The EEC has met nine countries to date and expects to see 11 more by the end of the week. Yesterday, Singapore was among the teams involved in the exploratory discussions with EEC officials.

JANUARY 27, 1977

'I HAVEN'T RUN AWAY FROM MY PROBLEMS'

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH CHO

SEPTEMBER 20, 1977

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