

31 May 1996

ORGANIZATION

(96-2051)

Original: English

KOREA - MEASURES CONCERNING INSPECTION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Request for Consultations by the United States

The following communication, dated 24 May 1996, from the Permanent Mission of the United States to the Permanent Mission of Korea and to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.4 of the DSU.

My authorities have instructed me to request consultations with the Government of the Republic of Korea pursuant to Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes ("DSU"), Article XXIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, Article 11 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Article 14 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, and Article 19 of the Agreement on Agriculture regarding the requirements of the Republic of Korea for the importation of agricultural products, including, but not limited to, testing, inspection, incubation, sorting, fumigation, and product specifications, including all amendments, revisions, and new measures adopted since our request for consultations of 4 April 1995 (WT/DS3/1).

These measures impose requirements with respect to imports of agricultural products from the United States and other Members of the World Trade Organization that restrict imports of those products and appear to be inconsistent with the obligations of the Republic of Korea under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, and the Agreement on Agriculture. The provisions of these agreements with which these measures appear to be inconsistent include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, Article III and Article XI;
- (2) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Articles 2, 5, and 8;
- (3) Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Articles 2, 5 and 6; and
- (4) Agreement on Agriculture, Article 4.

We look forward to receiving your reply to the present request and to fixing a mutually convenient date for consultations.