

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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MEXICAN IMPORT PROHIBITION OF THAI MILLED RICE

Statement by Thailand at the Meeting of 10-11 June 1998

Thailand would like to recall its concerns with regard to the Mexican import prohibition of Thai milled rice, which Thailand raised consecutively in the two previous meetings of this Committee. We will not repeat our concerns in detail again as the matter has already been elaborated.

Thailand would like to express its disappointment with Mexico on this issue. We have tried to solve this problem with Mexico on many occasions for more than four years now, both bilaterally and multilaterally, with submissions of detailed information, but nevertheless Mexico has not provided any response.

In the case of this subject matter, it is our intention to pursue this matter even though it may not have substantial economic impact on our exports of the product concerned, but as a matter of "principle".

According to Article 5.8 of the SPS Agreement, when a Member requests another Member for an explanation of the reasons behind the use of an SPS measure which has the potential of constraining its exports, the Member concerned should provide a response to that request.

Therefore, under Article 5.8 of the SPS Agreement, Thailand would like to strongly request Mexico to provide a response at the earliest opportunity. We also reserve our rights under the WTO to pursue this matter.
