

WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

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(95-3873)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**STATEMENT MADE BY KOREA AT THE MEETING
OF 15-16 NOVEMBER 1995**

(On Korea-US Shelf-life Dispute)

We would like to recall that our notification of the HS headings for items subject to a shelf-life requirement in Korea was made precisely in accordance with paragraph 2 of Part II of the Korea-US Agreement on the shelf-life issue.

We understand that the issue raised by the US delegation involves the technical process of converting the items in Korea's Food Code to the relevant HS headings. This process is intended to provide convenience to foreign traders who are presumably not familiar with the classification system under our Food Code. However, the conversion itself does not, and cannot involve any change in the Korea-US Agreement on shelf-life, as notified through document WT/DS5/5 (G/SPS/W/27) of 31 July 1995.

We would also like to point out that our notification of 12 October was made merely as the first step of a series of notifications concerning the conversion into HS headings. You may be assured that subsequent notifications will follow. It would thus be premature to say that some of the products covered by the July Agreement are not included in the said notification.

Furthermore, we have explained on several occasions the precise technical matters involved in the conversion. On these occasions, we have made it clear that we are very willing to respond to any specific questions which the United States may come up with regarding any perceived discrepancies between the notification and the agreement. We also understand that as recently as last Monday Korean officials clarified in great detail the very points raised today by the United States.

Given all this, we regret that the US delegation raised at this Committee meeting exactly the same points on which we had spent so much time and effort to sort out any confusions and misunderstandings in recent weeks. Nevertheless, we would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our willingness to clarify any questions regarding the 20 October notification, responding to such questions as are addressed to us in due course.