

**MEXICO – CERTAIN MEASURES PREVENTING THE  
IMPORTATION OF BLACK BEANS FROM NICARAGUA**

Request to Join Consultations

*Communication from the United States*

The following communication, dated 27 March 2003, from the Permanent Mission of the United States to the Permanent Mission of Mexico, the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

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This letter concerns the request for consultations by Nicaragua with respect to *Mexico – Certain Measures Preventing the Importation of Black Beans from Nicaragua* (WT/DS284/1). My authorities have instructed me to notify the consulting Members and the Dispute Settlement Body of the desire of the United States to be joined in these consultations pursuant to Article 4.11 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes*.

The United States has a substantial trade interest in these consultations. In 2002, Mexico's total imports of black beans were valued at \$20 million, of which \$19 million (95%) represented imports from the United States. The measures at issue in Nicaragua's request for consultations have also restricted US exports of black beans.

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