The following new notification regarding United States sugar imports has been submitted by the United States:

Under Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933, as amended, the United States collects import fees on all imports of sugars and syrups of sugar cane and sugar beets, except sugar for the production (other than by distillation) of polyhydric alcohols for inedible uses. Such fee-exempt imports are administered by licensing by the United States Department of Agriculture. For imports subject to fees, the fees are administered by the United States Customs Service, United States Department of Treasury.

Import fees were originally established on 11 November 1977 to protect the price support programme for sugar. The fees were changed on 20 January 1978. On 28 December 1978, fixed import fees were replaced by a flexible fee system which continues in effect. The fees are determined quarterly by the Secretary of Agriculture, but within-quarter adjustments in the fees may also be made, if necessary due to sharp changes in world prices. The import fee for refined sugar is fixed at 0.52 cents per pound above the fee for raw sugar. The fee for raw sugar was originally fixed to maintain the domestic market price for raw sugar at no less than 15.0 cents per pound. However, the fee for raw sugar may not exceed 50 per cent of average spot-price quotations for raw sugar, as reported by the 'New York Coffee and Sugar Exchange', Caribbean ports in bulk.
The recent history of this programme is as follows: there was no price support loan programme in effect for the 1980 and 1981 crops of sugar cane and sugar beets, but support operations for the 1979 crop remained in effect, including the import fee. The import fee, however, was set at 0 for raw sugar and 0.52 cents per pound for refined sugar until 11 September 1981. On that date because of falling, low prices the fees were increased to 1 cent and to 1.52 cents per pound respectively. On 1 October, continuing price declines necessitated further fee increases to 1.531 cents per pound for raw sugar and 2.051 cents per pound for refined sugar. All of these fees were keyed to a market-price objective of 15 cents per pound, as originally established in 1978.

The Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 reinstituted support programmes for sugar cane and sugar beets and made necessary an adjustment in the import fee system, to make it consistent with the provisions of the legislation. The market-price objective was changed to 19.086 cents per pound for raw sugar, and other factors were also updated. These changes result in a further increase in the import fees to 2.1418 and 3.1104 cents per pound for raw and refined sugar respectively, effective 24 December 1981.

The new market-price objective relates to price support loan rates for the 1982 crop of 17 cents per pound. For the 1983, 1984 and 1985 crops, it will be 17.50, 17.75 and 18.00 cents per pound respectively.