The Government of the United States has submitted the following notification concerning a recent limitation on imports of mixtures containing sugar and butterfat or flour.

The United States Department of Agriculture has issued a regulation establishing limitations on imports of mixtures containing sugar and butterfat or flour. The regulation provides that mixtures subject to the limitations shall not be imported after 13 July 1966, except pursuant to procedural requirements involving approval by the United States Department of Agriculture of applications to import. Prior to taking this action, a notice of proposed rule making was filed in the Federal Register, and all briefs postmarked before 1 July 1966 were fully considered in developing the regulation.

Although this regulation became effective 13 July 1966 special provision was made for entry within 30 days after that date: (a) of mixtures which departed the port of lading before the effective date and (b) for mixtures subject to an irrevocable contract entered into prior to 15 June 1966.

The regulation limits imports of mixtures this year to the larger of (a) the quantity imported before the effective date and permitted during the next 30 days subject to the provisions referred to in the above paragraph or (b) the quantity of mixture containing 100 short tons, raw value, of sugar (187,000 pounds of sugar, refined basis) from each country except Australia, for which the limitation is 2,240,000 pounds, and Denmark, for which the limitation is 350,000 pounds of product.

For future years the quantities which may be imported from any country will be the larger of: (1) the average annual importations during the immediately preceding three years or (2) the quantity of mixtures containing 100 short tons, raw value, of sugar. (The limitation for Australia, however, shall not be less than 2.24 million lbs. of product.)

The regulation is in accordance with Sec. 206 of the Sugar Act and is needed in view of the rapidly expanding importation of such mixtures during the current year. Each month this year imports have exceeded the quantity imported in prior months of the year. By May, imports for that month were greater than the total imported in the six years preceding 1966.