The following communication, dated 1 March 1972, has been received from the permanent mission of the United States.

On 22 February, the United States Tariff Commission reported to the President the results of its investigation under the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 of a petition for an increase in import restrictions on earthen and china table and kitchen articles.

The Commission found, by majority vote, that the domestic industry producing earthen table and kitchen articles is being seriously injured by increased imports resulting from trade-agreement concessions on certain of the articles concerned. Further, a majority of the Commission found that the rates of duty on imports of those articles should be increased approximately 90 per cent, which would establish the same rates of duty which were in effect in 1967.

The Commission found, by unanimous vote, that the domestic industry producing household china table and kitchen articles is not being seriously injured, or threatened with serious injury, by increased imports resulting from trade-agreement concessions on any of the articles concerned.

With respect to the affirmative finding respecting the earthenware industry, four Commissioners found that several categories of the ceramic table and kitchen articles covered by the investigation are, as a result in major part of trade-agreement negotiations, being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to cause serious injury to the domestic industry producing earthen table and kitchen articles. The categories of articles involved in this finding (and the item number under which the articles are classifiable in the Tariff Schedules of the United States) are as follows: (1) earthen dinnerware valued over $12 but not over $22 per norm1 (533.28 (pt.)); (2) earthen mugs and miscellaneous articles (533.31);

1The term "norm" means a specified set made up of the seventy-seven pieces listed in the headnotes to the Tariff Schedules of the United States. The value per norm shown above represents the aggregate value of the seventy-seven pieces in the country of manufacture. The United States retail price of imported earthen dinnerware valued for duty purposes at between $12 and $22 per norm would range from approximately $25 to $50 for a forty-five piece set.

...
(3) earthen non-dinnerware articles (not available in sets) except very high-valued ware (533.33 to 533.36, and 533.38 (pt.)); (4) china mugs and miscellaneous articles (533.71); and (5) china non-dinnerware articles of low and medium value (533.73 and 533.75). The categories encompass the bulk of the earthen dinnerware, and the bulk of the earthen and china non-dinnerware articles imported into the United States.

United States executive agencies will now review the Commission's report and formulate a recommendation to the President.