ARTICLE XIX ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES

Ceramic Tableware Articles

The following communication, dated 28 April 1972, has been received from the Minister for Economic Affairs of the United States Mission.

After studying the Tariff Commission report described in document L/3678, my Government has decided to take action under Article XIX of the General Agreement to raise the rates of duty applicable to certain ceramic tableware articles. Detailed information is enclosed (see below) regarding the products affected and their revised rates.

The United States is prepared to consult with contracting parties having a substantial interest as exporters of the products concerned.

The White House announced 24 April that the President had proclaimed increases in the rate of duty applicable to imports of certain ceramic tableware articles. This action follows a Tariff Commission finding that the domestic industry producing such articles is being seriously injured by increased imports resulting in major part from trade agreement concessions. The new rates, effective 1 May, are (previous TSUS item in parentheses):

(a) Earthen dinnerware in sets valued at between $12.00 and $22.00 per norm\(^1\) (533.28 part): 10 cents per dozen pieces plus 21 per cent ad valorem.

(b) Earthen mugs and steins valued at not more than $3.60 per dozen. (533.31 part): 10 cents per dozen pieces plus 25 per cent ad valorem.

\(^1\) The 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.
(c) Low value earthen dinnerware not in sets (533.33): 5 cents per dozen plus 14 per cent ad valorem.

(d) Some high value earthen dinnerware not in sets (533.38 part): 10 cents per dozen pieces plus 21 per cent ad valorem.

(e) China mugs and steins valued at not more than $3.60 per dozen (533.71 part): 45 per cent ad valorem.

(f) Low value china dinnerware not in sets (533.73): 10 cents per dozen plus 48 per cent ad valorem.

(g) Medium value china dinnerware not in sets (533.75): 10 cents per dozen pieces plus 55 per cent ad valorem.

The President also provided that firms and workers in the domestic earthenware industry may apply for adjustment assistance to help them to adjust to the impact of import competition.

The prevailing rates of duty on medium value earthen dinnerware articles not in sets (533.35 and 533.36) were left unchanged at 10 cents per dozen pieces plus 21 per cent ad valorem. (The Commission had proposed they be increased to 10 cents plus 40 per cent and 10 cents plus 22 per cent ad valorem, respectively.)

The new rate for item 533.73 is somewhat higher than that proposed by the Tariff Commission, but those for certain other items (533.33, 533.38 part, and 533.75) are less.

In cases where the rates proposed by the Tariff Commission were modified (or the prevailing rates were not increased) the purpose, in part, was to align (or to retain the alignment of) the rates for individual dinnerware pieces with those for dinnerware sets.

The Presidential proclamation does not affect the prevailing rates of duty applying to (a) ceramic kitchenware articles entering under any of the TSUS items of interest or (b) any table articles other than mugs or steins entering under items 533.31 and 533.71. New rates are likely to have little, if any, impact on earthen or china steins as the imported articles are usually valued in excess of $3.60 per dozen.

Copies of the Presidential proclamation are available for consultation at the Secretariat and the United States Mission.