The following notification regarding United States sugar imports has recently been submitted by the United States and supersedes the information contained in document AG/DOC/6/US/1 of 23 June 1982.

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. 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.

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 19.080 cents per pound for raw sugar, and other factors were also updated. These changes resulted 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. On 1 April 1982 the import fees were raised to 3.0703 and 4.1782 cents per pound, respectively; and on 21 April 1982 to 4.0703 and 5.1782 cents.

On 6 May 1982 Presidential Proclamation 4940 modified the procedures for the Secretary of Agriculture to establish and adjust fees and lower the fee for refined sugar to 5.0703 cents. The fees were subsequently decreased: on 1 July 1982 to 3.4193 and 4.4193 cents per pound; on 21 July 1982 to 2.4193 and 3.4193 cents; on 10 August 1982 to 1.4193 and 2.4193 cents per pound; and on 28 August 1982 to 0.4193 and 1.4193 cents per pound. On 1 October 1982 the fee for refined sugar was reduced to 1.0000 cents per pound and for raw sugar it was reduced to zero.

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