

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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ARTICLE XIX ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES

Ceramic Tableware Articles

Addendum

Partial Restoration of Concessions

The following communication, dated 3 May 1976, has been received from the United States Mission.

Import relief tariff protection for domestic producers of certain ceramic earthen table and kitchenware articles - granted in 1972 - will be terminated on some items, and continued for one year and subsequently phased out on others, President Ford has determined. These decisions were announced on 30 April by Ambassador Frederick B. Dent, the President's Special Representative for Trade Negotiations.

The President's determinations are in response to the recommendations of the Interagency Trade Policy Committee, following findings and recommendations of the United States International Trade Commission resulting from its investigation of a petition by the American Dinnerware Emergency Committee for continuance of the higher tariff relief, filed last 30 October.

The President determined that the ceramic dinnerware industry has substantially - but not completely - adjusted to import competition which caused serious injury to domestic firms and workers.

Since the purpose of "escape clause" import relief is to provide temporary assistance to domestic producers to adjust to such competition, the President ended the tariff increases on items which he determined to have adjusted to competition, and

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ordered the extension of tariff increases for one year and their subsequent phasing down and out over a three year period for those items which are still in the process of adjusting.

The President also directed the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations to review the classification and rates of duty on dinnerware and related articles (Schedule 5, Part 2, Sub-part C, of the Tariff Schedules of the United States) to determine if changes are necessary to close tariff loopholes and change obsolete descriptions brought about by currency changes and inflation, and to enter into negotiations to make any changes he considers necessary.

Parts of seven categories of ceramic tableware under the Tariff Schedules of the United States (TSUS) received import relief in the form of higher tariffs as a result of the 1972 escape clause case.

The increased duties will be terminated as of the close of business on 30 April on earthen and china steins and mugs, and on low-priced earthen tableware, and phased down and terminated on 30 April 1979 on certain high-priced earthen dinnerware and other tableware, and on certain low-priced and medium-priced china tableware.