



GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/4320  
29 March 1976

Limited Distribution

Original: English

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
COMMISSION INVESTIGATIONS

Mushrooms

The following communication has been received from the United States mission.

The United States International Trade Commission in a press release dated 17 March announced that the Commission, by a 3-2 vote, has determined that the United States mushroom industry is eligible for assistance under the import relief provisions of the Trade Act of 1974.

Commissioners Will E. Leonard, Joseph O. Parker, and Italo H. Ablondi formed the majority finding the United States mushroom industry eligible for import relief under the Trade Act of 1974. Commissioners Parker and Ablondi predicted their affirmative determination on the domestic industry's being threatened with serious injury by increased canned mushroom imports. Commissioner Leonard said the industry was presently suffering import-caused serious injury.

Commissioners Daniel Minchew and George M. Moore determined that increased imports of canned mushrooms were not a substantial cause of serious injury or the threat of serious injury to the domestic industry producing articles like or directly competitive with the imported article. Commissioner Catherine Bedell did not participate in the decision.

Commissioners Leonard, Minchew, and Ablondi recommended adjustment assistance, which provides for financial and technical aid for workers, firms, and communities, as the appropriate remedy for the mushroom industry.

Commissioner Joseph O. Parker recommended the imposition of a tariff quota of 48 million pounds, allocated by country. Imports in excess of the quota would be assessed an additional duty of 25 per cent ad valorem.

Imports of canned mushrooms have been increasing over the last decade to the current level of about 21 per cent of total United States mushroom consumption. About 87 per cent of all imported mushrooms are canned, and the remainder are dried. Taiwan and South Korea are the principal suppliers of imported mushrooms. Fresh mushrooms are supplied almost exclusively by domestic growers.

Pennsylvania, California, New York, and Delaware are the primary mushroom-growing States. Although the number of establishments producing mushrooms has dropped in recent years, United States production has more than doubled in the last decade. Production of fresh mushrooms in the United States in the marketing year 1974/75 was 299 million pounds. Production of canned mushrooms increased during the period 1968/69 through 1971/72 and then decreased irregularly to 112 million pounds in 1974/75.

Executive agencies will analyze, report and formulate a recommendation to the President. The President may accept, modify or reject the recommendation that adjustment assistance be provided in lieu of restrictions on imports and has sixty days in which to arrive at a decision.