

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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UNITED STATES TARIFF COMMISSION INVESTIGATIONS

Marble and Travertine Products

Addendum

ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

The following communication, dated 2 February 1972, has been received from the Minister for Economic Affairs of the United States Mission.

I have been asked to advise you for the information of contracting parties that the President, on 28 January, announced his decision to permit firms and workers producing marble and travertine products for structural uses to apply for trade adjustment assistance. The President's action follows a tie vote by the Tariff Commission on an escape clause relief petition (L/3590). The President accepted the finding that the industry is threatened with serious injury due to competition from increased imports, and informed the Secretaries of Labour and Commerce that the industry's workers and firms may request certification of eligibility to apply for adjustment assistance.

Under the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, firms certified by the Secretary of Commerce as eligible to receive adjustment assistance may receive such help as loans and loan guarantees, technical assistance, and certain tax relief. Workers certified by the Secretary of Labour as eligible may receive cash adjustment allowances, counselling, training, and relocation allowances if needed and desired.

The President also announced that he has decided not to proclaim the tariff increases on finished marble and travertine which had been requested by two members of the Commission. He has concluded that even the maximum possible tariff increases would not bring the prices of imports up to domestic price levels and would, to the contrary, serve to raise domestic construction costs and thus create inflationary pressures which could reduce the already limited demand for marble and travertine products.

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The President has also decided to seek elimination of tariffs on all unfinished and some semi-finished marble and travertine imports which are vital to domestic production and fabrication. This move, which will reduce costs for domestic producers and fabricators and enable them to compete more successfully against foreign bidders, is also designed to shift some United States imports from finished to unfinished marble products, thereby increasing United States employment in fabrication work.

The elimination of duties on imports of all unfinished and some semi-finished marble and travertine will affect trade of an estimated value of more than \$3 million.