

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TARIFFS AND TRADE

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UNITED STATES - MEASURES AFFECTING ALCOHOLIC AND MALT BEVERAGES

Follow-up on the Panel report

Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 11 March 1993, has been received from the Office of the United States Trade Representative in Geneva, with the request that it be circulated to contracting parties.

Pursuant to paragraph I:3 of the 1989 Improvements to the GATT Dispute Settlement Rules and Procedures (BISD 36S/61), the United States advises Contracting Parties of the status of implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Panel in "United States - Measures Affecting Alcoholic and Malt Beverages".

Since the Report was adopted, the United States has made substantial and persistent efforts to comply with the Panel's recommendations. These implementation efforts were described in a detailed statement circulated by the United States to contracting parties in advance of the February meeting of the GATT Council (DS23/6). All of these efforts have continued since the previous statement was circulated.

Obtaining legislative changes by multiple independent state legislatures has proved to be an involved and slow-moving process. In its previous statement, the United States explained that, for most states, pertinent legislation had been submitted to the state legislature, legislation was in the process of being drafted, or review of possible solutions and consultation with affected public and private parties was in progress. The previous statement noted that one state (Mississippi) had already eliminated a tax-related measure cited by the Panel Report. Other states continue to hold legislative hearings on these matters (e.g., Oregon, Montana). We expect that these activities will continue and intensify in the coming months.

Given the broad scope and the number of practices covered by the Panel's recommendations, full implementation has not yet been achieved. The United States will continue its efforts to make additional progress toward compliance with the Panel's recommendations.

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