

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.SB/SN/10
19 April 1988

Special Distribution

Surveillance Body

Original: English

STANDSTILL

Notification

1. <u>Participant notifying:</u> United States
2. <u>Participant maintaining the measure:</u> Greece
3. <u>Description of the measure</u> (including date of entry into force and reference to any relevant legislation or other document): On 6 November 1987, the Greek Ministry of Commerce banned the import of almonds. This ban was imposed without prior notification by the Government. As a result of the decree, import licences required from the Committee for Control of Foreign Exchange in the Bank of Greece are not being granted for almond imports and imports have been suspended. Greek imports of US almonds for the 1987/88 marketing year (July/June) were estimated to be 5,000 metric tons or 35 per cent of Greek domestic consumption. Prior to enactment of the ban, US almond exports to Greece had reached 2,000 metric tons valued at US\$6 million. Due to the small domestic crop this season, Greece was expected to import at least US\$18.6 million worth of US almonds by the end of the marketing year. The import ban has significantly cut into US sales since it denied the US access during the holiday season, a traditional time of strong demand.
4. <u>Products covered, including tariff headings</u> (CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff lines): 0802.12.90 shelled almonds 0802.11.90 in shell almonds
5. <u>Country or countries to which the measure applies:</u> All

6. Relevance of the measure to the standstill commitment:

The unilateral introduction of a prohibition on almonds is inconsistent with GATT Article XI, which prohibits quantitative restrictions other than duties, taxes and other charges, and the ban nullifies and impairs the EC's common external tariff binding of 7 per cent.

7. Comments by the participant maintaining the measure: