

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Malaria Vaccine Development Program Federal Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the USAID Malaria Vaccine Development Program (MVDP) Federal Advisory Committee. The meeting will be held from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM on December 15, 1997 and from 8:30 to noon on 16 December 1997 at the Conference Room of the Environmental Health Project located in Suite 300, 1611 North Kent Street in Arlington, VA 22209-2111.

The agenda will concentrate on the activities of the MVDP over the past six months and plans for the next year.

The meeting will be open to the public except for a 30 to 60 minute segment at approximately 2:30 PM on December 15, 1997, during which procurement sensitive information will be discussed. Any interested person may attend the meeting, may file written statements with the committee before or after the meeting, or present any oral statements in accordance with procedures established by the committee, to the extent that time available for the meeting permits.

Those wishing to attend the meeting or to obtain additional information about the USAID MVDP should contact Carter Diggs, the designated Federal Officer for the USAID MDP Federal Advisory Committee at the Office of Health and Nutrition USAID/G/PHN/HN/EH, Room 3.07-013, 3rd floor, RRB, Washington, DC 20523-3700, telephone (202) 712-5728, Fax (202) 216-3702, cdiggs@usaaid.gov.

Carter Diggs,

USAID Designated Federal Officer (Technical Advisor, Malaria Vaccine Development Program).

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 332-388]

Simplification of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Institution of investigation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 5, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eugene A. Rosengarden, Director, Office of Tariff Affairs and Trade Agreements

(O/TA&TA) (202-205-2592). The O/TA&TA fax number is: 202/205-2616. Mr. Rosengarden may also be reached via Internet e-mail at rosengarden@usitc.gov. Hearing impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting our TDD terminal on (202) 205-1810. Media representatives should contact Margaret O'Laughlin, Public Affairs Officer (202-205-1819). This notice, and any subsequent notices published pursuant to section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, may be obtained from the ITC Internet web server: <http://www.usitc.gov>.

SUMMARY: Following receipt of a letter from the Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, U.S. House of Representatives, the Commission has instituted investigation No. 332-388, Simplification of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930. The purpose of the investigation is to propose modifications to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) in order to make it simpler, more transparent and easier to use.

Background:

As requested by the Committee, the Commission will conduct the investigation in accordance with the following guidelines:

- The investigation should examine the difficulties arising from the complexity and size of the HTS, and the Commission should suggest modifications to alleviate compliance and administrative burdens for the business community and the U.S. Customs Service.
- Concession-rate levels scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2004 should be used as the basis for general rates and special rates of duty. Tariff categories scheduled for rate reductions beyond January 1, 2004 should be identified and their staging schedules indicated in the report, along with any suggested modification that take delayed staging into account.
- Consistent with sound nomenclature principles and U.S. international obligations under the Harmonized System Convention, the Commission should suggest ways to simplify the U.S. tariff structure to the extent practicable without affecting duty-rate changes with a significant effect on U.S. industry and trade.
- For each of HTS chapters 1 through 97, the Commission should suggest appropriate methods of reflecting

Column 2 rates. Consistent with guidelines for rate changes, the Commission should avoid proposing or maintaining rate lines solely for the purpose of reflecting Column 2 rates of duty.

- The Commission should suggest conversions of all specific, compound, and complex rates of duty to ad valorem equivalent rates, provided that such conversions would not have significant effects on U.S. industry and trade. In calculating rate conversions, the Commission should use trade data from the three most recent calendar years.
- The Commission should suggest an appropriate simplification of HTS statistical reporting categories for consideration by the Committee for Statistical Annotation of the Tariff Schedules, in accordance with section 484(f) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended.

The Committee on Ways and Means has requested that the Commission complete its investigation and submit its report to that Committee, the Committee on Finance of the Senate, and to the President, by July 13, 2000.

As requested by the Committee, the Commission will consult with interested agencies in the Executive Branch, including the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the U.S. Customs Service, and the U.S. Bureau of the Census. In addition, a primary focus of the investigation will be to obtain the broadest possible range of private-sector input including U.S. producers, U.S. importers, and, via foreign embassies, major foreign exporters to the United States. To that end, the Commission anticipates that frequent notices and repeated contacts with interested parties will take place. Commission staff expect to work closely with various industry groups to ensure that the Commission is in a position to understand their interests and will be able to see that their concerns are recognized in the development of proposals to simplify the U.S. tariff structure. The Commission believes that it is vital to have significant private-sector input during all phases of this work.

The Commission will from time to time issue notices and solicit comments and proposals with respect to specific portions of the HTS. However, comments addressed to the overall scope and direction of this investigation must be submitted by C.O.B. May 29, 1998.

Written Submissions: All submissions in connection with this investigation should be addressed to the Secretary, United States International Trade