INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 332–424]

U.S.-Israel Agricultural Trade: Likely Effects on the U.S. and Israeli Agricultural; Industries of U.S.-Israel Trade Conducted in a Free Trade Environment

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission (ITC).

ACTION: Initiation of investigation and notice of hearing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 21, 2000.

SUMMARY: Following receipt of a request on December 1, 2000, from the United States Trade Representative (USTR), pursuant to authority under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, the Commission instituted investigation No. 332–424, U.S.-Israel Agricultural Trade: Likely Effects on the U.S. and Israeli Agricultural Industries of U.S.-Israel Trade Conducted in a Free Trade Environment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information, contact Stephen Burket (202–205–3318; burket@usitc.gov), John Fry (202–708–4157; jfry@usitc.gov), or Cathy Jabara (202–205–3309; jabara@usitc.gov), Agriculture and Forest Products Division, Office of Industries. For information on legal aspects, contact William Gearhart (202–205–3091; wgearhart@usitc.gov), Office of the General Counsel, U.S. International Trade Commission. Hearing impaired persons can obtain information on these studies by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on (202) 205–1810. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its internet server (http://www.usitc.gov).

Background

The United States-Israel Agreement on Trade in Agricultural Products (ATAP), an adjunct to the 1985 Agreement on the establishment of a Free Trade Area between the Government of Israel and the Government of the United States (FTA Agreement), is a five-year agreement signed in 1996 and expiring on December 31, 2001. The FTA Agreement applies, in full, to trade in all products between the two countries. However, the United States and Israel held differing interpretations as to the meaning of certain rights and obligations related to agricultural products under the FTA Agreement. In the interest of achieving practical improvements in agricultural trade between the two countries, the United States in 1996 entered into the ATAP with Israel. In 2001, the Governments of the United States and Israel will initiate review of the ATAP to seek ways to improve the Agreement prior to its expiration. In order to assist USTR in preparing for these negotiations, under authority delegated by the President and pursuant to section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, USTR requested that the ITC conduct a study analyzing the likely effect on both the U.S. and Israeli agricultural industries of U.S.-Israel agricultural trade conducted in a free trade environment. USTR requested that the Commission's report include the following:

- An analysis of the effects on free U.S./Israel trade in agriculture at the industry level, focusing on the main products traded or likely to be traded by the United States and Israel. In preparing this analysis, the Commission should assume that the new ATAP would include elimination of tariffs and tariff-rate quotas on agricultural products so as to calculate its maximum potential impact. To the extent possible, and depending on data availability, the analysis should include the use of partial equilibrium analysis and other quantitative methods.
- A review of existing Israeli non-tariff barriers to agricultural trade and an analysis of their impact on U.S. agricultural exports to Israel.

The Commission plans to submit its report U.S.-Israel Agricultural Trade: Likely Effects on the U.S. and Israeli Agricultural Industries of U.S.-Israel Trade Conducted in a Free Trade Environment on June 1, 2001. USTR indicated that portions of the report will be classified as confidential.

Public Hearing

A public hearing in connection with the investigation will be held at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on March 6, 2001. All persons shall have the right to appear, by counsel or in person, to present information and to be heard. Requests to appear at the public hearing should be filed with the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20436, no later than 5:15 p.m., February 20, 2001. Any prehearing briefs (original and 14 copies) should be filed not later than 5:15 p.m., February 22, 2001; the deadline for filing post-hearing briefs or statements is 5:15 p.m., March 16, 2001. In the event that, as of the close of business on February 21, 2001, no witnesses are scheduled to appear at the hearing, the hearing will be canceled. Any person interested in attending the hearing as an observer or non-participant may call the Secretary of the Commission (202–205–1806) after February 21, 2001, to determine whether the hearing will be held.

Written Submissions

Commercial or financial information that a person desires the Commission to treat as confidential must be submitted on separate sheets of paper, each clearly marked ''Confidential Business Information'' at the top. The Commission's Rules do not authorize filing of submissions with the Secretary by facsimile or electronic means. All written submissions must conform with the provisions of section 201.8 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 201.8). All submissions requesting confidential treatment must conform with the requirements of § 201.6 of the Commission's Rules (19 CFR 201.6). All written submissions, except for confidential business information, will be made available for inspection by interested persons in the Office of the Secretary to the Commission. To be assured of consideration, written statements relating to the Commission's report should be submitted at the earliest possible date and should be received not later than March 16, 2001. All submissions should be addressed to the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20436. The Commission's rules do not authorize filing submissions with the Secretary by facsimile or electronic means.

Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202–205–2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server (http://www.usitc.gov).

List of Subjects: ATAP, imports, exports, tariffs, agricultural trade, Israel, non-tariff barriers.

Issued: December 22, 2000.

By order of the Commission.

Donna R. Koehnke,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00–33256 Filed 12–28–00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Notice of Lodging of Consent Decree Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act

Notice is hereby given that on December 22, 2000, a proposed Consent

Decree (''Decree'') in *United States and State of Colorado* v. *Robert Friedland,* Civil No. 96 N 1213, was lodged with the United States District Court for the District of Colorado. The United States and State of Colorado filed this action pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act for recovery of costs incurred by the United States and State of Colorado in responding to releases of hazardous substances at the Summitville Mine Superfund Site near Del Norte, Colorado.

Pursuant to the proposed Consent Decree, defendant Robert Friedland will pay $27,750,000, to be paid over a nine year period, to the United States and State of Colorado to resolve the claims of the governments. This action also resolves claims of Robert Friedland filed in Canada against the United States and employees of the United States, including claims by each side for attorneys' fees. The United States will pay $1.25 million to defendant Friedland to resolve all issues related to the Canadian litigation.

The funds received from defendant Friedland will be used, in part, to fund ongoing and future response actions still required at the Site. In addition, $5 million of the settlement will be paid to the Federal and State natural resource trustees to be used for restoration, replacement or acquisition of natural resources damaged by releases of hazardous substances from the Site.

The Department of Justice will receive for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of this publication comments relating to the Decree. Comments should be addressed to the Assistant Attorney General of the Environment and Natural Resources Division, Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530, and should refer to, *United States and State of Colorado* v. *Robert Friedland,* Civil No. 96 N 1213, and D.J. Ref. # 90–11–3–1133B.

The Decree may be examined at the office of the U.S. Department of Justice, Environmental Enforcement Section, 999 18th Street, Suite 945, North Tower, Denver, Colorado; at U.S. EPA Region 8, Office of Regional Counsel, 999 18th Street, Suite 300, South Tower, Denver, Colorado. A copy of the Decree may be obtained by mail from the Consent Decree Library, U.S. Department of Justice, P.O. Box 7611, Washington, DC 20044. In requesting a copy, please enclose a check in the amount of $5.50 for the Decree (25 cents per page reproduction cost) payable to the Consent Decree Library.

Walker B. Smith,

Deputy Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section, Environment and Natural Resources Division.

[FR Doc. 00–33351 Filed 12–28–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410–15–M

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Federal Alternative Dispute Resolution Council

Confidentiality in Federal Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs

AGENCY: Federal Alternative Dispute Resolution Council, Department of Justice.

ACTION: Guidance.

SUMMARY: This notice publishes a document entitled ''Confidentiality in Federal Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs,'' which provides guidance to assist Federal agencies in developing ADR programs. The document was created by a subcommittee of the Federal ADR Steering Committee, a group of subject matter experts from federal agencies with ADR programs. It was approved by the Federal ADR Council, a group of high-level government officials chaired by the Attorney General. The document contains detailed guidance on the nature and limits of confidentiality in Federal ADR programs and also includes guidelines for a statement on these issues that Federal neutrals may use in ADR proceedings.

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this guidance. A draft was submitted for public comment in the **Federal Register**, and due consideration has been given to the comments received. Comments were provided by private sector organizations and government agencies from around the country.

ADDRESSES: Address any comments to Jeffrey M. Senger, Deputy Senior Counsel for Dispute Resolution, United States Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW., Room 4328, Washington, DC. 20530.

Dated: December 19, 2000.

Jeffrey M. Senger,

Deputy Senior Counsel for Dispute Resolution, Department of Justice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

The Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1996 (ADR Act), 5 U.S.C. 571–584, requires each Federal agency to promote the use of ADR and calls for the establishment of an interagency committee to assist agencies in the use of ADR. Pursuant to this Act, a Presidential Memorandum dated May 1, 1998, created the Interagency ADR Working Group, chaired by the Attorney General, to ''facilitate, encourage, and provide coordination'' for Federal agencies. In the Memorandum, the President charged the Working Group with assisting agencies with training in ''how to use alternative means of dispute resolution.'' The following document is designed to serve this goal.

Introduction

The subject of the document is confidentiality, which is a critical component of a successful ADR process. Guarantees of confidentiality allow parties to freely engage in candid, informal discussions of their interests in order to reach the best possible settlement of their claims. A promise of confidentiality allows parties to speak openly without fear that statements made during an ADR process will be used against them later. Confidentiality can reduce posturing and destructive dialogue among parties during the settlement process.

Public comment was solicited on a draft of this document that was published in the **Federal Register** at 65 FR 59200, October 4, 2000. The draft was revised to incorporate many suggestions on the draft received from the following private sector organizations, government agencies, and individuals from around the country:

American Bar Association, Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice
American Bar Association, Section of Dispute Resolution
Association of the Bar of the City of New York, Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution
Executive Council on Integrity and Efficiency
Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service
Martin J. Harty
Lawrence A. Huerta
Oregon Department of Agriculture Farm Mediation Program
Margaret Porter, Administrator, Federal Sharing Neutrals Program
Karen D. Powell
President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency
Texas Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution
United States Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General