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verifications conducted in a manner consistent with article 3.21 of the USCFTA.

(5) The CITA is authorized to exercise the authority of the President under subtitle B of title III of the USCFTA Act to review requests and to determine whether to commence consideration of such requests; to cause to be published in the *Federal Register* a notice of commencement of consideration of a request and notice seeking public comment; to determine whether a Chilean textile or apparel article is being imported into the United States in such increased quantities and under such conditions as to cause serious damage, or actual threat thereof, to a domestic industry producing an article that is like, or directly competitive with, the imported article; and to provide relief from imports of an article that is the subject of such a determination.

(6)(a) The amendments to the HTS made by paragraph (2) of this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the relevant dates indicated in Annex II to Publication 3652.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (6)(a) of this proclamation, this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after January 1, 2004.

(7) All provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:33 a.m., December 30, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 31, 2003.

Proclamation 7747—To Implement the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement

December 30, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. On May 6, 2003, the President entered into the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (USSFTA). The USSFTA was approved by the Congress in section 101(a) of the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (the ''USSFTA Act'') (Public Law 108–78, 117 Stat. 948) (19 U.S.C. 3805 note).

2. Section 105 of the USSFTA Act authorizes the President to establish or designate within the Department of Commerce an office that shall be responsible for providing administrative assistance to panels established under Chapter 20 of the USSFTA.

3. Section 201 of the USSFTA Act authorizes the President to proclaim such modifications or continuation of any duty, such continuation of duty-free or excise treatment, or such additional duties, as the President determines to be necessary or appropriate to carry out or apply articles 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, and 2.12 of the USSFTA and the schedule of reductions with respect to the Republic of Singapore (Singapore) set forth in Annex 2B of the USSFTA.

4. Section 202 of the USSFTA Act provides certain rules for determining whether a good is an originating good for the purposes of implementing tariff treatment under the USSFTA. I have decided that it is necessary to include these rules of origin, together with particular rules applicable to certain other goods, in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

5. Section 205 of the USSFTA Act authorizes the President to take certain enforcement actions relating to trade with Singapore in textile and apparel goods.

6. Subtitle B of title III of the USSFTA Act authorizes the President to take certain

actions in response to a request by an interested party for relief from imports that constitute a substantial cause of serious damage, or actual threat thereof, to a domestic industry producing certain textile or apparel articles.

7. Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended, establishes the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA) to supervise the implementation of textile trade agreements.

8. Section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974 (the ''1974 Act'') (19 U.S.C. 2483), as amended, authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of relevant provisions of that Act, or other acts affecting import treatment, and of actions taken thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including but not limited to sections 105, 201, 202, 205, and 321–328 of the USSFTA Act, section 301 of title 3, United Code, and section 604 of the 1974 Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to provide generally for the preferential tariff treatment being accorded under the USSFTA, to set forth rules for determining whether goods imported into the customs territory of the United States are eligible for preferential tariff treatment under the USSFTA, to provide certain other treatment to originating goods for the purposes of the USSFTA, and to provide tariff-rate quotas with respect to certain originating goods, the HTS is modified as set forth in Annex I of Publication 3651 of the United States International Trade Commission, entitled *Modifications to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Implementing the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement* (Publication 3651), which is incorporated by reference into this proclamation.

(2) In order to implement the initial stage of duty elimination provided for in the USSFTA and to provide for future staged reductions in duties for products of Singapore for purposes of the USSFTA, the HTS is modified as provided in Annex II of Publication 3651, effective on the dates specified in the relevant sections of such publication and on any subsequent dates set forth for such duty reductions in that publication.

(3) The Secretary of Commerce is authorized to exercise the authority of the President under section 105(a) of the USSFTA Act to establish or designate an office within the Department of Commerce to carry out the functions set forth in that section.

(4) (a) The amendments to the HTS made by paragraphs (1) and (2) of this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the relevant dates indicated in Annex II to Publication 3651.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (4)(a) of this proclamation, this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after January 1, 2004.

(5) The CITA is authorized to exercise the authority of the President under section 205 of the USSFTA Act to exclude textile and apparel goods from the customs territory of the United States; to determine whether an enterprise's production of, and capability to produce, textile and apparel goods are consistent with statements by the enterprise; to find that an enterprise has knowingly or willfully engaged in circumvention; and to deny preferential tariff treatment to textile and apparel goods.

(6) The CITA is authorized to exercise the authority of the President under subtitle B of title III of the USSFTA Act to review requests and to determine whether to commence consideration of such requests; to cause to be published in the *Federal Register* a notice of commencement of consideration of a request and notice seeking public comment; to determine whether imports of a Singaporean textile or apparel article constitute a substantial cause of serious damage, or actual threat thereof, to a domestic industry producing an article that is like, or directly competitive with, the imported article; and to provide relief from imports of an article that is the subject of such a determination.

(7) All provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:33 a.m., December 30, 2003]

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Proclamation 7748—To Take Certain Actions Under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, and for Other Purposes

December 30, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Section 506A(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the ''1974 Act'') (19 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(1)), as added by section 111(a) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (title I of Public Law 106–200) (AGOA), authorizes the President to designate a country listed in section 107 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3706) as a ''beneficiary sub-Saharan African country'' if the President determines that the country meets the eligibility requirements set forth in section 104 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3703), as well as the eligibility criteria set forth in section 502 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462).

2. Section 104 of the AGOA authorizes the President to designate a country listed in section 107 of the AGOA as an ''eligible sub-Saharan African country'' if the President determines that the country meets certain eligibility requirements.

3. Section 112(b)(3)(B) of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)(3)(B)) provides special rules for certain apparel articles imported from ''lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries.''

4. In Proclamation 7350 of October 2, 2000, President Clinton designated the State of Eritrea (Eritrea) and the Central African Republic as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries pursuant to section 506A(a) of the 1974 Act and provided that they would be considered lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries for purposes of section 112(b)(3)(B) of the AGOA.

5. Section 506A(a)(3) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(3)) authorizes the President to terminate the designation of a country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country for purposes of section 506A if he determines that the country is not making continual progress in meeting the requirements described in section 506A(a)(1) of the 1974 Act, effective on January 1 of the year following the year in which such determination is made.

6. Pursuant to section 104 of the AGOA and section 506A(a)(1) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that the Republic of Angola (Angola) meets the eligibility requirements set forth or referenced therein, and I have decided to designate Angola as an eligible sub-Saharan African country and as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country.

7. Angola satisfies the criterion for treatment as a ''lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country'' under section 112(b)(3)(B) of the AGOA.

8. Pursuant to section 506A(a)(3) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that Eritrea and the Central African Republic are not making continual progress in meeting the requirements described in section 506A(a)(1) of the 1974 Act. Accordingly, I have decided to terminate the designation of Eritrea and the Central African Republic as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries for purposes of section 506A of the 1974 Act, effective on January 1, 2004.

9. Section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.