

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., August 17, 2000.

Any prehearing briefs (original and 14 copies) should be filed not later than 5:15 p.m., August 31, 2000; the deadline for filing post-hearing briefs or statements is 5:15 p.m., September 21, 2000. In the event that, as of the close of business on August 17, 2000, 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 August 17, 2000, to determine whether the hearing will be held.

Written Submissions

In lieu of or in addition to participating in the hearing, interested parties are invited to submit written statements (original and 14 copies) concerning the matters to be addressed by the Commission in its report on this investigation.

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. All submissions requesting confidential treatment must conform with the requirements of section 201.6 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 201.6).

All written submissions must conform with the provisions of section 201.8 of the Commission's Rules. All written submissions, except for confidential business information, will be made available in the Office of the Secretary of the Commission for inspection by interested parties. To be assured of consideration by the Commission, written statements relating to the Commission's report should be submitted to the Commission at the earliest practical date and should be received no later than the close of business on September 21, 2000. 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

European Union, EU, South Africa, free trade area, FTA, imports, exports, foreign direct investment.

Issued: May 18, 2000.

By order of the Commission.

Donna R. Koehnke,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-13078 Filed 5-23-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 731-TA-828 (Final)]

In the Matter of Bulk Aspirin From China; Notice of Commission Determination To Conduct a Portion of the Hearing In Camera

AGENCY: U.S. International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Closure of a portion of a Commission hearing.

SUMMARY: Upon request of domestic producer Rhodia, Inc. ("Petitioner"), the Commission has determined to conduct a portion of its hearing in the above-captioned investigation scheduled for May 18, 2000, *in camera*. See Commission rules 207.24(d), 201.13(m) and 201.36(b)(4) (19 CFR §§ 207.24(d), 201.13(m) and 201.36(b)(4)). The remainder of the hearing will be open to the public.

The Commission has determined that the seven-day advance notice of the change to a meeting was not possible. See Commission rule 201.35(a), (c)(1) (19 CFR 201.35(a), (c)(1)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tina Potuto Kimble, Office of General Counsel, U.S. International Trade Commission, telephone 202-205-3116, e-mail tkimble@usitc.gov.

Hearing-impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter may be obtained by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on 202-205-1810.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission believes that Petitioner has justified the need for a closed session. Petitioner seeks a closed session to allow for a discussion of its financial and operating condition and specific customer accounts. In this investigation, the aggregate data of the domestic industry are business proprietary information (BPI). Because discussion by Petitioner of its own operations and of the domestic industry's data will necessitate disclosure of BPI, it can only

occur if a portion of the hearing is held *in camera*. In making this decision, the Commission nevertheless reaffirms its belief that whenever possible its business should be conducted in public.

The hearing will begin with public presentations by Petitioner with questions from the Commission. In addition, the hearing will include a 10-minute *in camera* session for a confidential presentation by the Petitioner (Rhodia) and for questions from the Commission relating to the business proprietary information ("BPI"). For any *in camera* session the room will be cleared of all persons except those who have been granted access to BPI under a Commission administrative protective order (APO) and are included on the Commission's APO service list in this investigation. See 19 CFR 201.35(b)(1), (2). The time for the petitioners' presentation in the *in camera* session will be taken from their respective overall allotment for the hearing. All persons planning to attend the *in camera* portions of the hearing should be prepared to present proper identification.

Authority: The General Counsel has certified, pursuant to Commission Rule 201.39 (19 C.F.R. 201.39) that, in her opinion, a portion of the Commission's hearing in Bulk Aspirin from China, Inv. No. 731-TA-828 (Final) may be closed to the public to prevent the disclosure of BPI.

Issued: May 17, 2000

By order of the Commission.

Donna R. Koehnke,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-13077 Filed 5-23-00; 8:45 am]

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigations Nos. 731-TA-825-826 (Final)]

Certain Polyester Staple Fiber From Korea and Taiwan

Determinations

On the basis of the record¹ developed in the subject investigations, the United States International Trade Commission determines, pursuant to section 735(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1673d(b)) (the Act), that an industry in the United States is materially injured by reason of imports from Korea and Taiwan of certain subject polyester staple fiber, other than low-melt fiber, provided for in subheading 5503.20.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of

¹ The record is defined in sec. 207.2(f) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR § 207.2(f)).

the United States, that has been found by the Department of Commerce to be sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV).²

The Commission further determines, pursuant to section 735(b) of the Act, that an industry in the United States is not materially injured or threatened with material injury, and the establishment of an industry in the United States is not materially retarded, by reason of imports from Korea and Taiwan of low-melt polyester staple fiber, provided for in subheading 5503.20.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, that have been found by the Department of Commerce to be sold in the United States at LTFV.³

Background

The Commission instituted these investigations effective April 2, 1999, following receipt of a petition filed with the Commission and the Department of Commerce by E.I. DuPont de Nemours, Wilmington, DE; Arteva Specialties S.a.r.l. d/b/a KoSa, Spartanburg, SC; Nan Ya Plastics Corp., America, Lake City, SC; Wellman, Inc., Shrewsbury, NJ; and Intercontinental Polymers, Inc., Charlotte, NC on April 2, 1999.⁴ The final phase of the investigations was scheduled by the Commission following notification of a preliminary determination by the Department of Commerce that imports of certain polyester staple fiber from Korea and Taiwan were being sold at LTFV within the meaning of section 733(b) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1673b(b)). Notice of the scheduling of the Commission's investigations and of a public hearing to be held in connection therewith was given by posting copies of the notice in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, Washington, DC, and by publishing the notice in the **Federal Register** of November 24, 1999 (64 FR 66198). The hearing was held in Washington, DC on March 28, 2000, and all persons who requested the opportunity were permitted to appear in person or by counsel.

² Chairman Bragg found one domestic like product and therefore made an affirmative determination with respect to all certain polyester staple fiber, provided for in subheading 5503.20.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

³ Chairman Bragg found one domestic like product and therefore made an affirmative determination with respect to all certain polyester staple fiber, provided for in subheading 5503.20.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

⁴ Nan Ya Plastics Corp. is no longer a petitioner in these investigations. DuPont is not a petitioner in the investigation on Taiwan.

The Commission transmitted its determination in this investigation to the Secretary of Commerce on May 15, 2000. The views of the Commission are contained in USITC Publication 3300 (May 2000), entitled Certain Polyester Staple Fiber from Korea and Taiwan: Investigations Nos. 731-TA-825-826 (Final).

Issued: May 17, 2000.

By order of the Commission.

Donna R. Koehnke,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-13076 Filed 5-23-00; 8:45 am]

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 332-415]

U.S. Trade and Investment With Sub-Saharan Africa; Import Investigations

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Institution of investigation and notice of opportunity to submit comments.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 15, 2000.

SUMMARY: Following receipt on March 12, 2000, of a letter from the United States Trade Representative (USTR), the Commission instituted investigation No. 332-415, U.S. Trade and Investment with Sub-Saharan Africa.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Constance Hamilton, Office of Economics (202-205-3263), or Mr. William Gearhart, Office of the General Counsel (202-205-3091) for information on legal aspects of the investigation. The media should contact Ms. Margaret O'Laughlin, Office of External Relations (202-1819). Hearing impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the TDD terminal on 202-205-1810.

Background

Pursuant to authority under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, the USTR requested that the Commission prepare a series of annual reports for five years containing the following information:

1. For the last five years (and the latest quarter available), data for U.S. merchandise trade and U.S. services trade with sub-Saharan Africa, including statistics by country, by major sectors, and by the top 25 commodities, as well as statistics on imports from sub-Saharan Africa under the GSP program by country and major product categories/commodities.

2. Country-by-country profiles of the economies of each sub-Saharan African country, including information on major trading partners, by country.

3. A summary of the trade, services, and investment climates in each of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including a description of the basic tariff structure (e.g., the average tariff rate and the average agricultural tariff rate). The summaries should also include information on significant impediments to trade, including any import bans.

4. Updates on regional integration in sub-Saharan Africa and statistics on U.S. trade with major regional groupings (COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS, IGAD, SACU, SADC, and WAEMU). Where applicable, information should be provided on the regional group's tariff structure.

5. A description of the U.S. tariff structure for imports from Africa.

6. A summary of U.S. and total foreign direct investment and portfolio investment in sub-Saharan Africa.

7. Information on sub-Saharan African privatization efforts based on publicly available information.

8. A summary of multilateral and U.S. bilateral assistance to the countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

The USTR requested that the Commission provide its first report by December 2000, and annually for a period of 4 years thereafter. The 48 countries of sub-Saharan Africa covered in this investigation include: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Written Submissions

The Commission does not plan to hold a public hearing in connection with this investigation. However, interested persons are invited to submit written statements concerning matters to be addressed in the report. 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