

By order of the Commission.

Issued: March 17, 2003.

Marilyn R. Abbott,

Secretary to the Commission.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigations Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Preliminary)]

Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand

Determinations

On the basis of the record¹ developed in the subject investigations, the United States International Trade Commission (Commission) determines, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 733(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1671b(a) and 1673b(a)) (the Act), that there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is materially injured by reason of imports from India of prestressed concrete steel wire strand ("PC strand") that are alleged to be subsidized by the Government of India and by reason of imports from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand of PC strand that are alleged to be sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV). The subject merchandise is provided for in subheading 7312.10.30 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

Pursuant to section 207.18 of the Commission's rules, the Commission also gives notice of the commencement of the final phase of its investigations. The Commission will issue a final phase notice of scheduling, which will be published in the **Federal Register** as provided in section 207.21 of the Commission's rules, upon notice from the Department of Commerce (Commerce) of affirmative preliminary determinations in the investigations under sections 703(b) and 733(b) of the Act, or, if the preliminary determinations are negative, upon notice of affirmative final determinations in the investigations under sections 705(a) and 735(a) of the Act. Parties that filed entries of appearance in the preliminary phase of the investigations need not enter a separate appearance for the final phase of the investigations. Industrial users, and, if the merchandise under investigation is sold at the retail level, representative consumer organizations

have the right to appear as parties in Commission antidumping and countervailing duty investigations. The Secretary will prepare a public service list containing the names and addresses of all persons, or their representatives, who are parties to the investigations.

Background

On January 31, 2003, a petition was filed with the Commission and Commerce by American Spring Wire Corp., Bedford Heights, OH; Insteel Wire Products Co., Mt. Airy, NC; and Sumiden Wire Products Corp., Stockton, CA, alleging that an industry in the United States is materially injured and threatened with material injury by reason of subsidized imports of PC strand from India and by reason of LTFV imports of PC strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand. Accordingly, effective January 31, 2003, the Commission instituted countervailing duty investigation No. 701-TA-432 and antidumping duty investigations Nos. 731-TA-1024-1028 (Preliminary).

Notice of the institution of the Commission's investigations and of a public conference 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 February 7, 2003 (68 FR 6511). The conference was held in Washington, DC, on February 21, 2003, and all persons who requested the opportunity were permitted to appear in person or by counsel.

The Commission transmitted its determinations in these investigations to the Secretary of Commerce on March 17, 2003. The views of the Commission are contained in USITC Publication 3589 (March 2003), entitled *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand: Investigations Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Preliminary)*.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation TA-2104-6]

U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement: Potential Economywide and Selected Sectoral Effects

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Institution of investigation and scheduling of public hearing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 3, 2003.

SUMMARY: Following receipt of a request on January 21, 2003, from the United States Trade Representative (USTR), the Commission instituted investigation No. TA-2104-6, U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement: Potential Economywide and Selected Sectoral Effects, under section 2104(f) of the Trade Act of 2002 (19 U.S.C. 3804(f)).

Background: As requested by the USTR, the Commission will prepare a report as specified in section 2104(f)(2) of the Trade Act of 2002 (19 U.S.C. 3804(f)(2)) assessing the likely impact of the U.S.-Singapore FTA on the United States economy as a whole and on specific industry sectors and the interests of U.S. consumers. Specifically, the report will—assess the likely impact of the agreement on the United States economy as a whole and on specific industry sectors, including the impact the agreement will have on the gross domestic product, exports and imports, aggregate employment and employment opportunities, the production, employment, and competitive position of industries likely to be significantly affected by the agreement, and the interests of United States consumers.

In preparing its assessment, the Commission will review available economic assessments regarding the agreement, including literature regarding any substantially equivalent proposed agreement, and will provide in its assessment a description of the analyses used and conclusions drawn in such literature, and a discussion of areas of consensus and divergence between the various analyses and conclusions, including those of the Commission regarding the agreement. Section 2104(f)(2) requires that the Commission submit its report to the President and the Congress not later than 90 days after the President enters into the agreement, which he can do 90 days after he notifies the Congress of his intent to do so. The President notified the Congress on January 30, 2003, of his intent to enter into the FTA with Singapore.

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