

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

**G/STR/Q1/TUN/5**

11 July 1997

(97-2917)

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**Working Party on State Trading Enterprises**

Original: English

## STATE TRADING

### Question Posed by the UNITED STATES Concerning the Article XVII Notification of TUNISIA<sup>1</sup>

The following communication, was received 8 July 1997 from the Permanent Mission of the United States.

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It is our understanding that the Tunisian National Tobacco and Matches Agency (RNTA) uses a differential excise tax and retail price control system to restrict the sales and distribution of international brand cigarettes in the domestic market. Could Tunisia please provide explicit details on the structure and operation of this system? As this system is clearly a violation of the national treatment provisions of GATT Article III, can Tunisia provide us with an indication of when it intends to bring this system into conformity with its WTO obligations?

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<sup>1</sup>G/STR/N/1/TUN and Corr. 1.