

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

**G/SG/22**  
17 February 2000

(00-0594)

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**Committee on Safeguards**

Original: English

## COMMUNICATION FROM JAPAN

The following communication, dated 14 February 2000, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Japan.

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With reference to document G/SG/N/8/USA/7/Suppl.1 and for your information, please find enclosed a copy of the letter Ambassador Haraguchi to Ambassador Hayes, concerning our request for consultations with the Government of the United States under Article 12.3 of the Agreement on Safeguards on this issue.

"Dear Ambassador,

In response to the notifications circulated by the United States under document G/SG/N/8/USA/7/Suppl.1, my authorities have instructed me to request consultations with the Government of the United States under Article 12.3 of the Agreement on Safeguards on this issue.

In our view, this safeguard measure has many questionable aspects, in particular, the affirmative determination regarding the serious injury by the USITC and the remedial measures recommended by commissioners of the USITC to the President of the United States.

A US decision to initiate a safeguard measure which is apparently inconsistent with WTO obligations would go against the member countries' current effort, including ours, to curb trade restrictive measures and to promote further trade liberalization through the relaunch of the New Round. In this spirit, the Government of Japan is concerned with the protectionist measures taken by the United States.

We would like to have consultation on this issue as soon as possible.

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