

**UNITED STATES – SECTION 306 OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974
AND AMENDMENTS THERETO**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Honduras

The following communication, dated 21 June 2000, from the Permanent Mission of Honduras to the Permanent Mission of the United States, the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

My authorities have instructed me to request, pursuant to Article 4.11 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) and Article XXII of the GATT 1994, that Honduras be joined as a third party in the consultations requested by the European Communities with the United States in document WT/DS200/1, dated 13 June 2000.

The substantial trade interest that Honduras has in this issue derives from the fact that before the European Communities' regime for the importation of bananas came into force, bananas were our main export product. From the moment it came into force the European Communities' regime for the importation of bananas has been damaging for Honduras and has devastated its economy, with clear social repercussions.

On the legal front, Honduras has been a party to the proceedings brought before the WTO, which is the real object underlying the present consultations. Since we obtained a favourable ruling, it has been frustrating to see how the European Union has repeatedly evaded compliance. The consultations which the EC has requested with the United States will require the widest possible margin of action, should the decision be taken to apply its own retaliatory measures. That is also why Honduras requests to participate as a third party.
