

made before the initiation of the investigation, be based on whether a minimum percentage of the relevant regional industry supports the petition. A petition meets the minimum requirements if (1) domestic producers or workers who support the petition account for at least 25 percent of the total production of the domestic like product in the region; and (2) those domestic producers or workers in the region expressing support account for more than 50 percent of the production of the domestic like product produced by that portion of the industry in the region expressing support for, or opposition to, the petition.

A review of the production data provided in the petition and other information readily available to the Department indicates that the petitioners account for more than 50 percent of the total regional production of the like product. The Department received no expressions of opposition to the petition from any regional producers or workers. Accordingly, the Department determines that the petition is supported by the regional industry.

Scope of the Investigation

The product covered by this investigation is all stock deformed steel concrete reinforcing bars ("rebar") sold in straight lengths and coils. This includes all hot-rolled deformed rebar, rolled from billet steel, rail steel, axle steel, or low-alloy steel. It excludes (i) plain round rebar, (ii) rebar that a processor has further worked or fabricated, and (iii) all coated rebar. Deformed rebar is currently classifiable in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under item numbers 7213.10.00 and 7214.20.00. The HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes.

The written description of the scope of this investigation is dispositive.

Export Price and Normal Value

The petitioners based export price on: (1) a contracted price for 7,000 to 10,000 metric tons of deformed rebar, and (2) an offer of sale for about 10,000 metric tons of deformed rebar. The terms of the contract and offer are C.I.F. The petitioners made deductions to export price for insurance, port expenses, and shipping costs.

The petitioners based NV on an offer sheet published in Turkey by Turkish rebar producers. Since the terms are ex-factory, petitioners made no deductions to NV. The petitioners adjusted and/or inflated the prices on the offer sheet in an effort to make more contemporaneous comparisons to export price. However, the Department

considers the prices as shown on the offer sheet already to be contemporaneous and thus used them as the basis for normal value without adjustment. See memorandum to the file dated March 26, 1996.

Based on comparisons of export price to NV, the estimated dumping margins, as recalculated by the Department, range from 27.4 to 41.8 percent.

Fair Value Comparisons

Based on the data provided by the petitioners, there is reason to believe that imports of rebar from Turkey are being, or are likely to be, sold at less than fair value. If it becomes necessary at a later date to consider the petition as a source of facts available under section 776 of the Act, we may further review the calculations.

Critical Circumstances

The petition contains an allegation that there is a reasonable basis to believe or suspect that critical circumstances exist with respect to imports of subject merchandise.

Section 733(e)(1) of the Act provides that the Department will determine that there is a reasonable basis to believe or suspect that critical circumstances exist if:

(A)(i) there is a history of dumping and material injury by reason of dumped imports in the United States or elsewhere of the subject merchandise, or

(ii) the person by whom, or for whose account, the merchandise was imported knew or should have known that the exporter was selling the subject merchandise at less than its fair value and that there was likely to be material injury by reason of such sales, and

(B) there have been massive imports of the subject merchandise over a relatively short period.

The petition contains information that satisfies the criteria. First, petitioners state that Singapore has recently imposed final antidumping duties on rebar from Turkey. Because there is an indication of a history of dumping and material injury, it is not necessary to address importer knowledge.

Because we have information indicating that the first statutory criterion is met, we must consider the second statutory criterion: whether imports of the merchandise have been massive over a relatively short period. According to the import statistics contained in the petition, imports of rebar from Turkey into the region increased by 252 percent from 1993 to 1994. Based on import statistics from January through October 1995, petitioners projected the increase of

Turkish imports into the region from 1994 to 1995 to be 51 percent.

Because the petition provides evidence that there is a history of dumping and material injury, and that imports of subject merchandise from Turkey have been massive over a relatively short period of time, we find a reasonable basis to believe or suspect that critical circumstances may exist and will investigate this matter further.

Initiation of Investigation

We have examined the petition on rebar and have found that it meets the requirements of section 732 of the Act, including the requirements concerning allegations of the material injury or threat of material injury to a regional industry of a like product by reason of the complained-of imports, allegedly sold at less than fair value. Therefore, we are initiating an antidumping duty investigation to determine whether imports of rebar from Turkey are being, or are likely to be, sold at less than fair value on a regional basis. Unless extended, we will make our preliminary determination by August 15, 1996.

Distribution of Copies of the Petition

In accordance with section 732(b)(3)(A) of the Act, a copy of the public version of the petition has been provided to the representatives of the Government of Turkey. We will attempt to provide a copy of the public version of the petition to each exporter of rebar named in the petition.

International Trade Commission (ITC) Notification

We have notified the ITC of our initiation, as required by section 732(d) of the Act.

Preliminary Determinations by the ITC

The ITC will determine by April 22, 1996, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of rebar from Turkey are causing material injury, or threatening to cause material injury, to a U.S. industry. A negative ITC determination will result in the investigation being terminated; otherwise, the investigation will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

This notice is published pursuant to section 732(c)(2) of the Act.

Dated: March 28, 1996.

Susan G. Esserman,
Assistant Secretary for Import
Administration.

[FR Doc. 96-8216 Filed 4-3-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

U.S.-KOREA COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS COOPERATION

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Membership Opportunity in U.S.-Korea Committee on Business Cooperation.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce is currently seeking nominations of outstanding individuals to serve on the U.S. section of the U.S.-Korea Committee on Business Cooperation ("CBC"). On December 15, 1995, Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown and South Korean Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Park Jae Yoon signed a memorandum of understanding creating the CBC. The purpose of the CBC is to provide a forum through which the U.S. and Korean public and private sectors can cooperate to exchange information on commercial matters and to encourage discussions on a variety of issues that impact their bilateral commerce. The CBC is composed of two sections, a U.S. section and a Korean section. The U.S. section is chaired by Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown and will be comprised of approximately 20 private sector representatives. The Korean section is chaired by Minister Park and will be comprised of approximately 20 private sector members. The inaugural meeting of the CBC is expected to take place during the summer of 1996 in Washington. Subsequent plenary and working group meetings are expected to be with the government and private sector members from both countries in attendance.

OBLIGATIONS: Private sector members will be appointed for a two year term. Nominations are now being sought for private sector members to serve for the initial term. Private sector members will serve at the discretion of the Secretary and shall serve as representatives of the business community and the industry their business represents. They are expected to participate fully in defining the agenda for the CBC and in implementing its work program. It is expected that private sector individuals chosen for CBC membership will attend at least 75% of the CBC meetings which will be held in the U.S. and South Korea.

Private sector members are fully responsible for travel, living and personal expenses associated with their participation in the CBC. The private sector members will serve in a representative capacity presenting the views and interests of the particular business sector in which they operate; private sector members are not special

government employees. It is anticipated that the private sector members of the Committee may form a Steering Committee, upon their own initiative, to guide overall private sector participation. If the Steering Committee is formed, it is expected that the activities conducted by the Steering Committee, and staff support for the Committee, will be undertaken at the expense of the private sector members.

The CBC will work on issues of common interest to encourage bilateral trade and investment, such as, but not limited to, the following:

- Identifying commercial opportunities, impediments, and issues of concern to the respective business communities;
- Improving the dissemination of appropriate commercial information on both markets;
- Adopting sectoral or project-oriented approaches to expand business opportunities, addressing specific problems, and making recommendations to decision-makers where appropriate;
- Promoting trade/business development and promotion programs to assist the respective business communities in accessing each market, including trade missions, exhibits, seminars, and other events;
- Facilitating appropriate technical cooperation; and
- Considering other steps that may be taken to foster growth and enhance commercial relations.

CRITERIA: The U.S. private sector section of CBC will consist of approximately 20 members representing the diversity of American business. Selection criteria will emphasize, to the extent possible, the following interests and issues with respect to Korea: infrastructure, high technology manufacturing, and market access. The Commerce Department is currently seeking nominations of outstanding individuals or companies to serve on the CBC.

In order to meet eligibility requirements for membership, potential candidates must be:

- A U.S. citizen residing in the United States or a U.S. permanent resident;
- A CEO or other top management level employee of a U.S. company or organization involved with South Korea in the trade and investment fields; and
- Not a registered foreign agent under the Foreign Agent Registration Act of 1938, as amended (FARA).

In reviewing eligible candidates, the Commerce Department will consider such selection factors as:

- Experience in the South Korean market;

- Industry or service sector represented;
- Export/investment experience;
- Contribution to diversity based on company size, location, demographics, and minority/gender ownership; and
- Stated commitment to actively participate in CBC activities and meetings.

To be considered for membership, please provide the following: name and title of at least two individuals requesting consideration; name and address of the company or organization sponsoring each individual; company's product or service line; size of the company; export experience and major markets; a brief statement of why each candidate should be considered membership on the CBC; the particular segment of the business community each candidate would represent; a personal resume; and a statement that applicant is not a registered foreign agent under FARA.

DEADLINE: In order to receive full consideration, requests must be received no later than May 3, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Please send your requests for consideration to Susan M. Blackman, Director, Office of Korea and Southeast Asia, either by fax on (202) 482-4760 or by mail at Room 3203, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan M. Blackman, Director, Office of Korea and Southeast Asia, either by fax on (202) 482-4760 or by mail at Room 3203, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230.

Authority: Act of February 14, 1903, c. 552, as amended, 15 U.S.C. 1501 et seq., 32 Stat. 825; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1979, 19 U.S.C. 2171 note, 93 Stat. 1381.

Dated: March 29, 1996.

Peter Cashman,
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia Pacific.

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[C-122-825]**Notice of Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation: Certain Laminated Hardwood Flooring from Canada**

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 4, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sue Strumbel or David Boyland, Office of Countervailing Duty Investigations, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 3099, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20230; telephone