

Proclamation 7981 of February 22, 2006**To Modify the Duty Free Treatment Under the Generalized System of Preferences**

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Section 502 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “1974 Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2462), authorizes the President to designate countries as beneficiary developing countries, and to designate any beneficiary developing country as a least-developed beneficiary developing country, for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program.

2. Pursuant to section 502 of the 1974 Act, and taking into account the factors set forth in section 502(c) (19 U.S.C. 2462(c)), I have determined that the suspension pursuant to Proclamation 6123 of April 26, 1990, of preferential treatment for Liberia as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP should be ended.

3. Pursuant to section 502 of the 1974 Act, and having considered the factors set forth in sections 501 (19 U.S.C. 2461) and 502(c), I have also determined that Liberia should be designated as a least-developed beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

4. Section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2483), as amended, authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) of the United States the substance of relevant provisions of that Act, or other acts affecting import treatment, and of actions taken thereunder.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including title V and section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2461–67, 2483), do proclaim that:

(1) In order to reflect in the HTS the restoration of preferential treatment for Liberia as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP, general note 4(a) is modified by adding in alphabetical order “Liberia” to the list entitled “Independent Countries.”

(2) In order to reflect in the HTS the designation of Liberia as a least-developed beneficiary developing country under the GSP, general note 4(b)(i) is modified by adding in alphabetical order “Liberia.”

(3) The modifications to the HTS made by paragraph 1 of this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after 15 days after the date of this proclamation.

(4) The modifications to the HTS made by paragraph 2 of this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after 60 days after the date of this proclamation.

(5) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7982 of February 24, 2006

American Red Cross Month

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Throughout our Nation’s history, Americans have worked together to care for those in need. The work of the American Red Cross exemplifies this tradition and reflects the good heart of our country. This year during American Red Cross Month, we recognize this organization for its 125 years of faithful service to our Nation and for its continued mission to help those in need at home and abroad.

Since Clara Barton founded the organization in 1881, the American Red Cross has offered aid and disaster relief to millions of individuals. From conducting blood drives and arranging family communications and other forms of support for our troops to providing relief for victims of natural disasters, the American Red Cross carries out emergency response around the globe. Local chapters help American communities respond to regional catastrophes and promote emergency preparedness with American Red Cross First Aid and CPR courses. Members of these chapters serve their communities by visiting homebound seniors, mentoring youth, distributing hot lunches, volunteering at homeless shelters, and offering transitional housing. They also educate young people on violence and substance abuse prevention and help in hospitals and nursing homes.

In 2005, a devastating hurricane season left millions displaced and homeless. The American Red Cross network of more than 800 chapters and thousands of volunteers provided food, shelter, counseling, and care to more than a million Gulf Coast families. Working in coordination with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the American Red Cross has also assisted with relief efforts for victims of hurricanes and landslides in Latin America and the recent earthquake in South Asia.

By donating their time and energy to selflessly serve others, American Red Cross volunteers demonstrate the compassion and generosity for which Americans are known. Their service paves the way to a brighter future for our citizens and people around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America and Honorary Chairman of the American Red Cross, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2006 as American Red Cross Month. I commend the good work of the American Red Cross, and I encourage all Americans to continue to help the recovery efforts in the Gulf Coast region and around the world through volunteering their time, energy, and talents for others.