

sities, and the public to identify additional ways to improve the safety of our food supply through government and private sector action, including public-private partnerships. Your recommendations should identify steps to further improve surveillance, inspections, research, risk assessment, education, and coordination among local, State, and Federal health authorities. You should report back to me within 90 days with your recommendations.

William J. Clinton

Proclamation 6969—To Modify Application of Duty-Free Treatment of Certain Articles Under the Generalized System of Preferences, and for Other Purposes

January 27, 1997

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Pursuant to section 503(c)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended by Public Law 104-88; 110 Stat. 1755, 1922 (“the 1974 Act”), the President may withdraw, suspend, or limit the application of the duty-free treatment accorded under section 501 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2461) with respect to any article. With due regard for the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2461 and 2462(c)), I have determined that it is appropriate to modify the application of duty-free treatment under title V of the 1974 Act for certain articles, including certain goods previously eligible for such treatment that the Customs Service has reclassified.

2. Presidential Proclamation 6961 of November 28, 1996, provided import relief with respect to certain broom corn brooms. For certain subheadings of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) established to carry out this relief, provisions were omitted that would have continued staged reductions of special rates of duty for the goods concerned, previously proclaimed pursuant to section 201(a) of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3331(a)). Further, other

HTS provisions established by that proclamation contain conflicting dates that complicate their administration. To rectify these omissions and to permit proper administration of the import relief, I have decided that it is necessary and appropriate to continue previously proclaimed duty treatment for the affected goods and to make technical corrections in certain HTS provisions.

3. Section 213 of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, as amended (CBERA) (19 U.S.C. 2703), and section 204 of the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) (19 U.S.C. 3203) authorize the President to provide duty-free entry for all eligible articles, and duty reductions for certain other articles, that are the product of any country that has been designated as a beneficiary country under those Acts. To clarify the preferential tariff treatment provided to particular dutiable goods that are the product of beneficiary countries under the CBERA or the ATPA and that are eligible to enter under HTS heading 9802.00.80, which provides for certain goods assembled abroad using components of U.S. origin, I have decided it is appropriate to provide special rates of duty for purposes of the CBERA and of the ATPA in heading 9802.00.80 to apply to such goods.

4. Presidential Proclamation 6948 of October 29, 1996, modified tariff provisions concerning special import quotas for upland cotton. That proclamation also modified certain provisions of the HTS and of prior Presidential proclamations to correct technical errors and to clarify the intent of previously proclaimed modifications. In proclaiming the modifications to the provisions on upland cotton, a conforming change to U.S. note 6 to subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS was omitted. Further, the instructions in section A(5)(c) of Annex II to such proclamation concerning modifications to subchapter IV of chapter 99 to the HTS contained an error. To rectify the omission and to correct the error in instructions, I have decided it is necessary and appropriate to modify U.S. note 6 to subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS and to amend the instructions in section A(5)(c) of Annex II to Proclamation 6948.

5. Presidential Proclamation 6763 of December 23, 1994, implemented with respect to the United States the trade agreements

resulting from the Uruguay Round of multi-lateral trade negotiations, including Schedule XX—United States of America, annexed to the Marrakesh Protocol to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994. A conforming change in a subheading in subchapter V of chapter 99 of the HTS was omitted from Proclamation 6763. Further, particular HTS additional U.S. notes implementing tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) for specified agricultural products do not clearly reflect the intended quota periods and the quantities permitted entry during such quota periods and have caused administrative difficulties. In order to make the necessary conforming change and to correct the legal notes controlling such TRQs, I have decided it is necessary and appropriate to modify a subheading in subchapter V of chapter 99 and the legal notes pertaining to such TRQs.

6. Presidential Proclamation 6857 of December 11, 1995, implemented with respect to the United States certain modifications to the HTS, in conformity with the obligations of the United States under the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System. The Annex to that proclamation omitted provisions that would have continued previously proclaimed staged reductions of certain rates of duty for the goods concerned, pursuant to section 111(a) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA) (19 U.S.C. 3521(a)). To rectify these omissions, I have decided that it is necessary and appropriate to provide for the continuation of previously proclaimed duty treatment for the affected goods.

7. (a) Section 115 of the URAA (19 U.S.C. 3524) requires the President to (1) obtain advice regarding certain proposed actions; (2) submit a report to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and (3) consult with those Committees on the proposed action during a subsequent 60-day period to meet the consultation and layover requirements of that section.

(b) Section 604 of the 1974 Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2483), authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modifica-

tion, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

8. I have decided that it is appropriate to authorize the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to perform the functions specified in section 115 of the URAA and certain functions under section 604 of the 1974 Act.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including but not limited to section 503 of the 1974 Act, section 213 of the CBERA, section 204 of the ATPA, section 604 of the 1974 Act, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to reflect in the HTS various technical and conforming changes, to correct provisions of Proclamations 6948 and 6961, and to modify the special duty rates subcolumn for heading 9802.00.80, the HTS and Proclamations 6948 and 6961 are each modified as set forth in Annexes I and II to this proclamation.

(2) In order to modify the application of duty-free treatment under title V of the 1974 Act for certain articles, the HTS is modified as set forth in Annex III to this proclamation.

(3) The modifications to the HTS made by Annexes I, II, and III to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the dates set forth in such Annexes and during the time periods specified therein.

(4) The USTR is authorized to perform the functions vested in the President under section 115 of the URAA. In addition, the USTR is authorized to exercise the authority provided to the President under section 604 of the 1974 Act to embody rectifications, technical or conforming changes, or similar modifications in the HTS.

(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-seventh day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence

of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

William J. Clinton

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NOTE: This proclamation and the attached annexes were published in the *Federal Register* on January 29.]'

The President's News Conference

January 28, 1997

The President. Good afternoon. Please be seated. Before I take your questions, I would like to make a brief statement about the balanced budget that I will send to Congress next week.

This budget shows that we can meet two of our most crucial national priorities at the same time. It proves we can protect our children from a future burdened by reckless debt even as we give them the educational opportunities they need to make the most of the 21st century.

The budget finally moves us beyond the false choices that have held us back for too long and shows that we can cut our debt and invest in our children. The budget will help to renew our public schools. It will expand Head Start, help rebuild crumbling classrooms. It will double funding for public charter schools, giving parents more choice in how they educate their children. It will increase funding for Goals 2000 by 26 percent. And it will help our students to reach high standards and master the basics of reading, writing, math, and science.

It will also enable us to connect our schools and our libraries to the information superhighway. The budget more than doubles our investment in technology to hook our children up to computers and the Internet, and it increases by a third our investment in partnerships with teachers and industries to develop quality educational programming and technology. In short, the budget will connect our children to the best educational technology in the world.

It will also open the doors of college education wider than ever before. I'd like to take a minute now simply to outline our unprece-

dent commitment to higher education. With this budget, national support for college education in the year 2002 will be more than double what it was on the day I first took office, going from \$24 billion to \$58 billion per year. The budget will fully pay for a \$1,500 a year tuition tax credit, a HOPE scholarship for the first 2 years of college, to make the typical community college affordable for every American and to achieve our goal of making 2 years of college education as universal as a high school diploma is today.

It will also allow a working family to deduct up to \$10,000 a year for taxes for the cost of any college tuition or job training. And with our special IRA for education, most parents will be able to save for college tuition without ever paying a penny in taxes.

In addition, my balanced budget takes further steps to widen the circle of educational opportunity. It provides a 25 percent increase in funding for Pell grants, the largest increase in the maximum scholarship in 20 years, so that over 4 million students will get up to \$3,000 a year. We'll make 130,000 more students eligible for these scholarships, and we will open the scholarships to 218,000 older, low income Americans who want to go to college.

Second, under the balanced budget we will present—we will continue to reform our student loan programs to make college loans easier for students to get and easier to pay back. We will cut interest rates on loans to students while they're in school. We will cut loan fees for 4 million low and middle income students in half. Fees on 2½ million more will be cut by 25 percent. Taken together, these two steps will save American families \$2.6 billion over 5 years.

Third, we will increase funding again for work-study positions for students. That will take us over about a 3-year period from 700,000 work-study positions to 1 million work-study positions per year. And it will help us to meet our goal of getting 100,000 of those work-study students to participate as tutors in our initiative to make sure that all of our 8-year-olds can read independently.

To encourage community service, we will also provide tax incentives to encourage loan forgiveness for students who, after college,