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Proclamation 7335—To Modify Duty-Free Treatment Under the Generalized System of Preferences

August 27, 2000

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Pursuant to sections 501 and 502 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2461 and 2462), the President is authorized to designate countries as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

2. Pursuant to sections 501 and 502 of the 1974 Act, and having due regard for the eligibility criteria set forth therein, I have determined that it is appropriate to designate Nigeria as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

3. Section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

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 of America, including but not limited to title V and section 604 of the 1974 Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to reflect in the HTS the addition of Nigeria as a beneficiary country under the GSP, general note 4(a) to the HTS is modified by adding "Nigeria" to the list of independent countries, effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the date of signature of this proclamation.

(2) 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of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.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 August, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:04 p.m., August 29, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on August 30.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting an Amendment of the Generalized System of Preferences

August 27, 2000

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I hereby transmit a Proclamation in which I have determined that it is appropriate to grant preferential treatment for Nigeria as a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). GSP benefits must be granted to Nigeria before that nation can receive further trade benefits under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (Public Law 106–200).

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

Remarks to the Community in Ushafa, Nigeria

August 27, 2000

Well, thank you very much. Let me say, first of all, I want to thank your chief for making me feel so welcome, and all the elected officials. I want to thank the people who danced for us and played for us. They were very good, yes? [*Applause*] And I want to thank all those who made the gifts you gave me and my daughter and our family. And I want to thank the schoolchildren who walked down here with me and sang the beautiful songs.

I came to Nigeria to express the support of the people of the United States. We support your democracy. We want to help you build your economy, educate your children,

and build a better life in all the villages of this country.

Thank you very, very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. in the main market square. In his remarks, he referred to Chief Alhaji Mohammadu Baba of Ushafa Village. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to Health Care Providers in Abuja, Nigeria

August 27, 2000

Thank you very much. Mr. President, John, and Tayo, thank you very much. I would also like to acknowledge the presence here of the Minister of Women's Affairs Ismail; Dr. Agary, the director of the center; Dr. Resemane, who came to the White House last year and spoke movingly about her battle for women's health. I want to thank the members of the American delegation, and especially the Members of Congress, for joining us here, and say that I am particularly honored to be welcome by John Ibekwe because he is the leader of the Network for People Living With AIDS. That is—they have brought a lot of help and hope to Nigeria.

And let me say I want to thank Tayo again for telling us her story and speaking so powerfully for the young people of Nigeria. I'd like to hear them both on a regular basis again. I thought they were terrific, and I know you're proud of them.

I would like to acknowledge the contributions in particular of one Member of the American Congress who is here, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, who along with Representative Jim Leach—[*applause*]—thank you, Barbara. Along with Representative Jim Leach of Iowa, she sponsored the historic bipartisan global AIDS act I signed last week. And I thank her and the Congress for their support of the worldwide battle against AIDS.

This program today is a sober reminder that while it is wonderful that the people of Nigeria are finally free, to be free does not mean to be free of all burdens or all challenges. Indeed, there are challenges so serious that if they are left unmet, your democracy will not mean very much. The fight against infectious diseases is one such challenge.

Believe it or not, for all our modern medical advances, infectious diseases still account for one out of every four deaths around the world, and half the victims—that's why it's good this baby is crying; it will remind us of this—half the victims of infectious diseases are under 5 years of age. Chiefly because of malaria, mosquitoes will be responsible for the death of more than one million people this year.

And of course, there is no greater challenge than AIDS. No child should come into the world with such a deadly disease when it could have been prevented. Yet that is happening to millions of African children. No community should go without a teacher, yet teachers are dying and schools are actually closing because of AIDS. No country should struggle to rise out of poverty while fighting a disease that can cut life expectancy by as much as 30 years. Yet that already had happened—already—in some countries on this continent.

It hasn't happened in Nigeria, thank goodness. But that should not be a cause for complacency but instead a call for action. Already there are almost 3 million Nigerians living with AIDS. President Obasanjo has spoken eloquently today and before today about the challenge and his determination to meet it. The only thing I can say to the rest of the people of Nigeria is that you must join with the President and with all the public health advocates and all the citizens' groups and all the people that are present here and the people you represent to help. AIDS can rob a country of its future. I know you are not going to let that happen to Nigeria.

I also want to acknowledge that this is not just Nigeria's fight or Africa's fight. It is America's fight and the world's fight, too.

I hope the wealthier countries will do their part, first by supporting our initiative to speed the development of vaccines for AIDS, malaria, and TB. Just a month ago, at the G–8 summit in Japan, at which President Obasanjo appeared, we mobilized billions of dollars to fight infectious diseases with the development of vaccines. In addition, we have to do more to support the efforts you