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ulgaria Agreement On Trade Relations

Agreement on Trade Relations etween the United States of America and the Republic of ulgaria

y the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, as President of the United States of America, I, acting through duly empowered representatives, entered into negotiations with representatives of the Republic of ulgaria to conclude an agreement on trade relations between the United States of America and the Republic of ulgaria.

2. These negotiations were conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Trade Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-618, January 3, 1975; 88 Stat. 1978), as amended (the "Trade Act").

3. As a result of these negotiations, an "Agreement on Trade Relations etween the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of ulgaria," including exchanges of letters which form an integral part of the Agreement, the foregoing in English and ulgarian, was signed on April 2, 1991, by duly empowered representatives of the two Governments and is set forth as an annex to this proclamation.

4. This Agreement conforms to the requirements relating to bilateral commercial agreements set forth in section 405(b) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2435(b)).

5. Article XVII of the Agreement provides that the Agreement shall enter into force on the date of exchange of written notices of acceptance by the two Governments.

6. Section 405(c) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2435(c)) provides that a bilateral commercial agreement providing nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of a country heretofore denied such treatment, and a proclamation implementing such agreement, shall take effect only if approved by the Congress under the provisions of that Act.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE USH, 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 sections 404, 405, and 604 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, do proclaim that:

(1) This proclamation shall become effective, said Agreement shall enter into force, and nondiscriminatory treatment shall be extended to the products of the Republic of ulgaria, in accordance with the terms of said B Agreement on the date of exchange of written notices of acceptance in accordance with Article XVII of said B Agreement. The United States Trade Representative shall publish notice of the effective date in the Federal Register.

(2) Effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, into the customs territory of the United States on or after the date provided in paragraph (1) of this proclamation, general note 3(b) of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, enumerating those countries whose products are subject to duty at the rates set forth in rate of duty column 2 of the tariff schedule, is modified by striking out " ulgaria". B

IN WITNESS WHERE I have hereunto set my hand and this twenty-fourth day of June. In the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

AGREEMENT MADE BETWEEN

BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria (hereinafter referred to collectively as "Parties" and individually as "Party")

Desiring to adopt mutually advantageous and equitable rules governing their trade and to ensure a predictable commercial environment

Affirming that the evolution of market-based economic institutions and the strengthening of the private sector will aid the development of mutually beneficial trade relations

Recognizing that the development of bilateral trade will contribute to better mutual understanding and cooperation and can contribute to the general well-being of the peoples of each party and promote respect for internationally recognized workers' rights

Taking into account Bulgaria's membership in the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the prospects for economic reform and restructuring of the economy and taking into account Bulgaria's request for Contracting Party status in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (hereinafter referred to as "GATT") and Bulgaria's intention to become a Party to the European Patent Convention of October 1973

Desiring to create a mutually beneficial framework which will foster the development and expansion of commercial ties between their respective nationals and companies

Having agreed that economic ties are an important and necessary element in the strengthening of their bilateral relations

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

MOST FAVORABLE NATIONAL AND NONDISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT

1. Each Party shall accord unconditionally to products originating in or exported to the territory of the other Party treatment no less favorable than that accorded to like products originating in or exported to the territory of any third country in all matters relating to:

(a) Customs duties and charges of any kind imposed on or in connection with importation or exportation including the method of levying such duties and charges;

(b) methods of payment for imports and exports and the international transfer of such payments;

(c) rules and formalities in connection with importation and exportation

including those relating to customs clearance, transit, warehouses and transshipment

(d) taxes and other internal charges of any kind applied directly or indirectly to imported products; and

(e) laws, regulations and requirements affecting the sale offering for sale, purchase, transportation, distribution, storage and use of products in the domestic market.

2. Each Party shall accord to products originating in or exported to the territory of the other Party nondiscriminatory treatment with respect to the application of quantitative restrictions and the granting of L

licenses.

3. Each Party shall accord to imports of products and services originating in the territory of the other Party most-favored-nation treatment with respect to the availability of and access to the currency needed to pay for such imports.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply to

(a) development accorded by either Party by virtue of such Party's full membership in a customs union or free trade area ;

(b) development accorded to adjacent countries for the facilitation of frontier traffic; and

(c) actions by either Party which are required or specifically permitted by the GATT (or by any joint action or decision of the Contracting Parties to the GATT) during such time as such Party is a Contracting Party to the GATT, including development accorded to developing countries; equivalent development accorded to developing countries under other multilateral agreements; and special development accorded by virtue of the GATT.

5. The provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article shall not apply to trade in textiles and textile products.

ARTICLE II

MARKET ACCESS FOR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

1. Each Party shall administer tariff and nontariff measures affecting trade in a manner which affords, with respect to both third country and domestic competitors, meaningful competitive opportunities for products and services of the other Party.

2. Accordingly, neither Party shall impose, directly or indirectly, on the products of the other Party imported into its territory internal taxes or charges of any kind in excess of those applied, directly or indirectly, to like domestic products.

3. Each Party shall accord to products originating in the territory of the other Party treatment no less favorable than that accorded to like domestic products in respect of all laws, regulations and requirements affecting their internal sale, offering for sale, purchase, transportation, distribution, storage or use.

4. The charges and measures described in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article should not be applied to imported or domestic products so as to afford protection to domestic production.

5. The Parties shall ensure that technical regulations and standards are not prepared, adopted or applied with view to creating obstacles to international trade. Furthermore, each Party shall accord products imported from the territory of the other Party treatment no less favorable than that accorded to like domestic products and to like products originating in any third country in relation to such technical regulations or standards, including conformity testing and certification.

6. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria shall accede to the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System and shall take all necessary measures to implement such Convention with respect to the Republic of Bulgaria. The Government of the United States of America shall endeavor to provide technical assistance, as appropriate, for the implementation of such measures.

7. The Parties agree to maintain substantial balance of market access opportunities, including through concessions in trade in products and services and through the substantial reciprocity of reductions in tariffs and nontariff barriers to trade resulting from multilateral negotiations.

ARTICLE III

GENERAL OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO TRADE

1. Trade in products and services shall be effected by contracts between nations and companies of the United States and nations and companies of the Republic of Bulgaria concluded on the basis of nondiscrimination and :

in the exercise of their independent commercial judgment and on the basis of customary commercial information on such a price, quality, availability, delivery and terms of payment.

2. Neither Party shall require or encourage national or companies of the United States or national or companies of the Republic of Bulgaria to engage in barter or countertrade transactions. Nevertheless, where national or companies elect to enter into barter or countertrade operations, the Parties will encourage them to turn to each other all necessary information to facilitate the transactions.

ARTICLE IV

EXPANSION AND PROMOTION OF TRADE

1. The Parties affirm their desire to expand trade in products and services consistent with the terms of this Agreement. They shall take appropriate measures to encourage and facilitate the exchange of goods and services and to ensure available information regarding long-term development and investment trade between their respective national and companies.

2. The Parties shall take appropriate measures to encourage the expansion of commercial contacts with a view to increasing trade. In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria expects that, during the term of this Agreement, national and companies of the Republic of Bulgaria shall increase their purchases of products and services from the United States, while the Government of the United States expects that the effect of this Agreement shall be to encourage in increase purchases by national and companies of the United States of products and services from the Republic of Bulgaria. Therefore, the Parties shall publicize this Agreement and ensure that it is made available to all interested parties.

3. Each Party shall encourage and facilitate the holding of trade promotional events such as fairs, exhibitions, missions and seminars in its territory and in the territory of the other Party. Similarly, each Party shall encourage and facilitate the participation of its respective national and companies in such events. Subject to the laws in force within their respective territories, the Parties agree to allow the import and re-export of duty-free samples of all articles shown in such events, provided that such articles are not sold or otherwise transferred.

ARTICLE V

GOVERNMENT COMMERCIAL OFFICES

1. Subject to its laws and regulations governing foreign missions, each Party shall allow government commercial representatives to hire directly host-country national and, subject to immigration laws and procedures, third-country nationals.

2. Each Party shall ensure unhindered access of host-country nationals to government commercial offices of the other Party.

3. Each Party shall encourage the participation of national and companies in the activities of the other Party's government commercial offices especially with respect to event held on the premises of such commercial offices.

4. Each Party shall encourage and facilitate access by government commercial representatives of the other Party to host-country officials at both the national and subnational level, and representative national and companies of the host Party.

ARTICLE VI

BUSINESS FACILITATION

1. Each Party shall assure commercial representatives of the other Party fair and equitable treatment with respect to the nature of their operations.

2. Subject to its laws and procedures governing immigration and foreign missions, each Party shall permit the establishment within its territory of commercial representatives of national and companies of the other Party and of

shall accord such reciprocal treatment at least as favorable as that accorded to commercial reciprocal trade agreements of similar character of their countries.

3. Subject to its laws and regulations governing immigration and for immigration purposes, each Party shall permit such commercial reciprocal trade agreements to be established in its territory to hire directly employ persons who are nationals of either Party or of their countries to compensate such employment so terms and conditions that are mutually agreeable between the parties, consistent with each Party's minimum wage laws.

4. Each Party shall permit commercial reciprocal trade of the other Party to import and sell in accordance with normal commercial practices, office and other premises, such as typewriters, photocopies, computers and telefax machines in connection with the conduct of their activities in the territory of such Party.

5. Subject to laws and regulations regarding for immigration purposes, each Party shall permit on a non-discriminatory basis a trademark, commercial reciprocal trade of the other Party access to a series of offices and facilities for accommodation.

6. Subject to its laws and regulations governing immigration and for immigration purposes, each Party shall permit nationals and companies of the other Party to engage agents, consultants and distributors of either Party and of their countries or persons mutually agreeable between the parties.

7. Subject to its laws and regulations governing immigration and for immigration purposes, each Party shall permit nationals and companies of the other Party to serve as agents, consultants and distributors of nationals and companies of either Party and of their countries or persons mutually agreeable between the parties.

8. Each Party shall permit nationals and companies of the other Party to advertise their products and services (a) through direct agreement with the advertising media, including television, radio, retail billboards, and (b) by direct mail, including the use of closed volume sales representatives to that national or company.

9. Each Party shall encourage direct contact, and permit direct sales, between nationals and companies of the other Party and persons and other customers of their goods and services, and with agencies and organizations whose services will affect potential sales.

10. Each Party shall permit nationals and companies of the other Party to conduct market studies, either directly or by contract, within its territory. To facilitate the conduct of market research, each Party shall, on request, make available on a confidential, non-proprietary information within its possession to nationals and companies of the other Party engaged in such efforts.

11. Each Party shall provide non-discriminatory access to governmentally-owned products and services, including public utilities, to nationals and companies of the other Party at fair and reasonable rates (a) in order to facilitate the sale of their products and services to a national or company of their country where such services are sold or controlled by the government) in connection with the operation of their commercial reciprocal trade agreements.

12. Each Party shall permit commercial reciprocal trade to stock a adequate supply of samples and place materials for after-sale services on a non-commercial basis.

13. Neither Party shall impose measures which reasonably impair contractual or property rights or other interests acquired within its territory by nationals and companies of the other Party.

ARTICLE VII

TRANSPARENCY

1. Each Party shall make available publicly on a timely basis all laws, regulations, judicial decisions and administrative rulings of general application to commercial activity, including trade, investment, taxation, bankruptcy, insurance and other financial services, transportation and labor. Each Party shall make such information available in a language in its own national language shall endeavor to make such information available in the language of the other Party.

2. Each Party shall provide information and companies of the other Party with access to available non-confidential information, non-proprietary data on the national economy and individual economic, including information on foreign trade.

3. Each Party shall allow national and companies of the other Party the opportunity, on the expenditure account, of common information of use and regulation which affects the conduct of business activities.

ARTICLE VIII

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO TRADE

IN PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

1. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties to individual transactions, a commercial transaction between national and companies of the Parties shall be made in United States dollars and the currency shall be determined from time to time by the International Monetary Fund as being a free usable currency.

2. Neither Party shall exercise the export from its territory of convertible currencies deposited, or in unimproved estate, obtained in connection with trade in products and services by national and companies of the other Party.

3. Expenditure in the territory of a Party by national and companies of the other Party may be made in local currency received in an authorized manner.

4. Withholding of payment from paragraph 2 or 3 of this Article, in connection with trade in products and services, each Party shall grant national and companies of the other Party the benefit of most-favored-nation treatment in the area mentioned with the exception:

(a) opening and maintaining accounts, in both local and foreign currency, and having access to funds deposited in financial institutions located in the territory of the Party;

(b) payment, remittance and transfer of convertible currencies, or financial instruments improved estate, between the territory of the two Parties, as well as between the territory of the Parties and host countries;

(c) rate of exchange and realized margin; and

(d) the receipt of local currency and its use for local expenditure.

ARTICLE IX

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

1. Each Party shall provide adequate and effective protection and enforcement for patent, trademark, copyright, design, and other distinctive signs registered with the competent authorities of the other Party.

ARTICLE X

MEASURES FOR THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

1. For the purpose of further developing bilateral trade and providing for a steady increase in the exchange of products and services, both Parties shall strive to achieve mutual acceptable agreements on taxation and investment issues, including the repatriation of profits and transfer of capital.

2. The Parties shall take appropriate steps for the economic and technical cooperation on a broad basis and provide in a field deemed to be in their mutual interest, including with the participation of aid.

3. The Parties, taking into account the growing economic significance of services industries, agree to continue mutual efforts affecting the conduct of service business between the two countries and particularly the mutual information of individual economic relations with the objective, among other things, of attaining maximum possible mutual access and liberalization. R

ARTICLE I

IMPORT RELIEF SAFEGUARDS

1. The parties agree to consult promptly at the request of either party whenever either actual or prospective imports into the territory of one of the parties of products originating in the territory of the other party cause or threaten to cause or significantly contribute to market disruption. Market disruption exists within a domestic industry whenever imports of an article, like or directly competitive with an article produced by such domestic industry, are increasing rapidly, either absolutely or relatively, so as to be a significant cause of material injury or threat thereof, to such domestic industry.
2. Determination of market disruption or threat thereof by the importing party shall be based upon a good faith application of its laws and on an affirmative finding of relevant facts and on their examination. The importing party, in determining whether market disruption exists, may consider, among other factors: the volume of imports of the merchandise which is the subject of the inquiry; the effect of imports of the merchandise on prices in the territory of the importing party for like or directly competitive articles; the impact of imports of such merchandise on domestic producers of like or directly competitive articles; and evidence of disruptive pricing practices or other efforts to unfairly manage trade patterns.
3. The consultations provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article shall have the objectives of (a) presenting and examining the factors relating to such imports that may be causing or threatening to cause or significantly contributing to market disruption, and (b) finding means of preventing or remedying such market disruption. Such consultations shall be concluded within sixty days from the date of the request for such consultation, unless the parties otherwise agree.
4. Unless a different solution is mutually agreed upon during the consultations, and notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article I, the importing party may (a) impose quantitative import limitations, tariff measures or any other restrictions or measures to such an extent and for such time as it deems necessary to prevent or remedy threatened or actual market disruption, and (b) take appropriate measures to ensure that imports from the territory of the other party comply with such quantitative limitations or other restrictions. In this event, the other party shall be free to deviate from its obligations under this Agreement with respect to substantially equivalent trade.
5. Where in the judgment of the importing party, emergency action, which may include the existence of critical circumstances, is necessary to prevent or remedy such market disruption, the importing party may take such action at any time and without prior consultations provided that such consultations shall be requested immediately thereafter.
6. In the selection of measures under this Article, the parties shall endeavor to give priority to those which cause the least disturbance to the achievement of the goals of this Agreement.
7. Each party shall ensure that its domestic procedures for determining market disruption are transparent and afford affected parties an opportunity to submit their views.
8. The parties acknowledge that the elaboration of the market disruption safeguard provisions in this Article is without prejudice to the right of either party to apply its laws and regulations applicable to trade in textiles and textile products and its laws and regulations applicable to unfair trade, including antidumping and countervailing duty laws.

ARTICLE II

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

1. Nationals and companies of either party shall be accorded national treatment with respect to access to a courts and administrative bodies in the territory of the other party, as plaintiffs, defendants or otherwise. They shall not claim or enjoy immunity from suit or execution of judgment, proceedings for the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards, or other liability in the territory of the other party with respect to commercial

transactions that also shall not claim or enjoy immunity from taxation with respect to commercial transactions, except as may be provided in other bilateral agreements.

2. The Parties encourage the adoption of arbitration for the settlement of disputes arising out of commercial transactions concluded between nationals or companies of the United States and nationals or companies of the Republic of Bulgaria. Such arbitration may be provided for by agreements in contracts between such nationals or companies, or in separate written agreements between them.

3. The parties may provide for arbitration under an internationally recognized arbitration rules, including the UNCITRAL Rules of 15 December 1976 and any modifications thereto, in which case the parties should designate an Appointing Authority under said rules in a country other than the United States or the Republic of Bulgaria.

4. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, the parties should specify as the place of arbitration a country other than the United States or the Republic of Bulgaria, that is a party to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, done at New York, June 10, 1958.

5. Nothing in this Article shall be construed to prevent, and the Parties shall not prohibit, the parties from agreeing upon another form of arbitration or on the law to be applied in such arbitration, or other form of dispute settlement which is mutually preferred and agreed to by the parties in particular instances.

6. Each Party shall ensure that an effective means exists within its territory for the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards.

ARTICLE XIII

NATIONAL SECURITY

The provisions of this Agreement shall not limit the right of either Party to take any action for the protection of its security interests.

ARTICLE XIV

CONSULTATION

1. The Parties agree to set up a Joint Commercial Commission which will, subject to the terms of reference of its establishment, foster economic cooperation and the expansion of trade under this Agreement and review periodically the operation of this Agreement and make recommendations for achieving its objectives.

2. The Parties agree to consult promptly through appropriate channels at the request of either Party to discuss any matter concerning the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement or other relevant aspects of their relations between the Parties.

ARTICLE XV

DEFINITION

As used in this Agreement, the terms set forth below shall have the following meaning:

(a) "company", means any kind of corporation, company, association, sole proprietors, partnership, statutory or other enterprise, cooperative or other organization legally constituted under the laws and regulations of a Party or a political subdivision thereof, whether or not organized for pecuniary gain or private or governmental ownership

(b) "commercial representation", means a representation of a company of a Party and

(c) "national," means a natural person who is a national of a Party under its applicable law.

ARTICLE XVI

GENERAL EXCEPTIONS

1. Subject (the equi-ment) as such measures are not applied in a manner which would insure a means for a bi-lateral justifiable discrimination between countries where the same conditions prevail, a disguised restriction on international trade, notwithstanding in this Agreement shall be understood to prohibit trade in enforcement by a Party of:

- a) measures necessary to secure compliance with laws or regulations which are not a requirement of the parties to the Agreement;
- b) measures for the protection of intellectual property rights and the protection of the private parties as set out in Article IX and the related side letter) of this Agreement, provided that such measures shall be related to the extent of any injury suffered by the protection of the injury;
- c) any measure effective in Article XX of the GATT.

2. Notwithstanding in this Agreement limits the application of any agreement in force which enters into force between the Parties not made in excess and in excess of the duties.

3. Both Parties shall not deny any company the advantages of this Agreement if nationals of any third country not a Party and, in the case of a company of the Party, a company as a subsidiary business activities in the territory of the Party is controlled by nationals of a third country which is denying undue disadvantage to the main national interests.

ARTICLE XVII

ENTRY INTO FORCE, TERM, SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION

1. This Agreement including its side letters which are an integral part of the Agreement shall enter into force on the date of exchange of written notes of ratification by the two Governments and shall remain in force as provided in paragraph 2 and 3 of this Article.

2. a) The initial term of this Agreement shall be five years, subject to paragraph b) and c) of this paragraph.

b) If either Party encounters a problem in the implementation of the legal authority of any of its obligations under this Agreement, such Parties shall request immediate consultations with the other Party. Once consultations have been requested, the Parties shall enter into consultations as soon as possible in the event of a dispute and shall have a view to finding a solution in accordance with paragraph c).

c) If either Party determines that the legal authority of any of its obligations under this Agreement, either Party may suspend the application of this Agreement, with the agreement of the other Party, any part of this Agreement. In the event, the Parties will, to the fullest extent practicable and consistent with domestic law, seek to minimize disruption in existing trade relations between the two countries.

3. This Agreement shall be extended for successive terms of five years each unless either Party has given written notice to the other Party of its intention to terminate this Agreement at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the term.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Washington D.C. on this twenty-second day of April 1991, in duplicate, in the English and Bulgarian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE

UNITED-STATES OF AMERICA

Carl A. Hills (

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA:

Ognian Raytchev ishev

Washington, April 22, 1991

Dear . Ambassador:

I have the honor to confirm receipt of your letter which reads as follows:

Dear . Ambassador:

In connection with the signing on this date of the Agreement on Trade Relations between the United States of America and the Republic of Bulgaria (the "Agreement"), I have the honor to confirm the understanding reached by our Governments regarding the protection of intellectual property as set forth in Article IX of the Agreement.

1. Each party reaffirms its commitments to these international agreements relating to intellectual property to which both parties are signatories. Specifically, each party reaffirms the commitments made with respect to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property as revised at Stockholm in 1967, the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works as revised at Paris in 1971, and the Universal Copyright Convention of September 6, 1952 as revised at Paris on July 24, 1971. The parties agree to adhere to the Geneva Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms Against Unauthorized Duplication of their Phonograms (1971).

2. To provide adequate and effective protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, each party shall, inter alia, observe the following commitments:

(a) Copyright and related rights

(i) Each party shall protect the works listed in Article 2 of the Berne Convention (Paris 1971) and any other works now known or later developed, that embody original expressions within the meaning of the Berne Convention, not limited to the following:

(1) all types of computer programs (including application programs and operating systems) expressed in any language, whether in source or object code which shall be protected as literary works and works created by or with the use of computers; and

(2) collections or compilations of protected or unprotected material or data whether in print, machine readable or any other medium, including data bases, which shall be protected if they constitute intellectual creation by reason of the selection, coordination, or arrangement of their contents.

(ii) Rights in works protected pursuant to paragraph 2 (a) (i) of this letter shall include, inter alia, the following:

(1) the right to import or authorize the importation into the territory of the party of lawfully made copies of the work as well as the right to prevent the importation into the territory of the party of copies of the work made without the authorization of the right-holder;

(2) the right to make the first public distribution of the original or each authorized copy of a work by sale, rental, or otherwise; and

(3) the right to make a public communication of a work (e.g., to perform, display, project, exhibit, broadcast, transmit, or retransmit a work); the term "public" shall include:

(A) communicating a work in a place open to the public or at any place where a substantial number of persons outside of a normal circle of a family and its social acquaintances is gathered; or

(B) communicating or transmitting a work, a performance, or a display of a work, in any form, or by means of any device or process to a place specified in clause 2 (a) (ii) (3) (A) to the public, regardless of whether the o

members of the public capable of receiving such communications can receive them in the same place or several places and at the same time or at different times.

(iii) Each Party shall extend the protection afforded under paragraph 2(a)(ii) of this Agreement to authors of literary, dramatic, musical, cinematographic, television, and other works, where they are natural persons or, where the other Party's domestic law so provides, companies and other successors in title.

(iv) Each Party shall permit protected rights under paragraph 2(a)(ii) of this Agreement to be freely and separately exercised and transferable. Each Party shall also permit assignees and exclusive licensees to enjoy a right in their assignments and licensors acquired through voluntary agreements, and be entitled to enjoy and exercise their acquired exclusive rights.

(v) In cases where a Party measures the term of protection of a work from other than the life of the author, the term of protection shall be no less than 50 years from the authorized publication or, failing such authorized publication within 50 years from the making of the work, 50 years after the making.

(vi) Each Party shall confine any limitations or exceptions to the rights provided under paragraph 2(a)(ii) of this Agreement (including any limitations or exceptions to the right of "public" activity) to clearly and carefully defined special cases which do not impair an adequate opportunity for the evaluation of a protected work.

(vii) Each Party shall ensure that any compulsory or non-voluntary license (or any restriction of exclusive rights to a right of remuneration) shall provide means to ensure payment and remuneration of royalties at a level consistent with what would be negotiated on a voluntary basis.

(viii) Each Party shall, at a minimum, extend to producers of sound recordings the exclusive rights to do or to authorize the following:

(1) to reproduce the recording by any means or process, in whole or in part; and

(2) to exercise the importation and exclusive distribution and rental rights provided in paragraphs 2(a)(ii)(1) and (2) of this Agreement.

(ix) Paragraphs 2(a)(iii), 2(a)(iv) and 2(a)(vi) of this Agreement shall apply mutatis mutandis to sound recordings.

(x) Each Party shall:

(1) protect sound recordings for a term of at least 50 years from publication; and

(2) grant the right to make the first public distribution of the original or each authorized sound recording by sale, rental, or otherwise except to the first sale of the original or such sound recordings shall not exhaust the rental or importation right therein (the "rental right" shall mean the right to authorize or prohibit the disposal of the possession of the original or copies for direct or indirect commercial advantage).

(xi) Parties shall not subject the acquisition and

validity of intellectual property rights in sound recordings to any formalities, and protection shall arise automatically on creation of the sound recording.

(b) Trademarks

(i) Protectable Subject Matter

(1) Trademarks shall consist of at least any sign, words, including personal names, designs, emblems, numerals, colors, or the shape of goods or of their packaging, provided that the mark is capable of distinguishing the goods or services of one natural person, company or organization from those of other natural persons, companies or organizations.

(2) The term "trademark" shall include service marks, collective and certification marks.

(ii) Acquisition of Rights

(1) A trademark may be acquired by registration or by use. Each Party shall provide a system for the registration of trademarks. Use of a trademark by a registrant as a prerequisite for registration.

() Each Party shall publish each trademark that is for trademark registration or promptly after trademark registration and shall afford other parties a reasonable opportunity to petition to cancel the registration. In addition, each Party may afford an opportunity for the other Party to oppose the registration of a trademark.

(3) The nature of the goods or services to which a trademark is to be applied shall in no case form an obstacle to registration of the trademark.

() Rights conferred a

(1) The owner of a trademark shall have exclusive rights therein. He shall be entitled to prevent all third parties not having his consent from using in connection with his goods or services which are identical or similar to those in respect of which the trademark is protected, where such use would result in a likelihood of confusion.

() Each Party shall refuse to register or shall cancel the registration of a trademark likely to cause confusion with a trademark of another which is considered to be well-known. A Party may not require that the reputation of the trademark extend beyond the sector of the public which normally deals with the relevant goods or services.

(3) The owner of a trademark shall be entitled to take action against any unauthorized use which constitutes an act of unfair competition or passing off.

(v) Term of Protection

The registration of a trademark shall be indefinitely renewable for terms of no less than 10 years when conditions for renewal have been met. In the registration of a trademark shall be for a term of at least 10 years.

(v) Requirements of use

(1) If use of a trademark is required to maintain trademark rights, the registration may be cancelled only after an uninterrupted period of at least two years of non-use, unless legitimate reasons for non-use exist. Use of the trademark with the consent of the owner shall be recognized as use of the trademark for the purposes of maintaining the registration.

() Legitimate reasons for non-use shall include non-use due to circumstances arising independently of the will of the trademark holder (such as import restrictions on or other governmental requirements for products protected by the trademark) which constitute an obstacle to the use of the trademark.

(v) Other Requirements

The use of a trademark in connection with the goods shall not be hindered by special requirements, such as use which restricts the function of a trademark as an indication of source or use with another trademark.

(v) Compulsory Licensing

Compulsory licensing of trademarks shall not be permitted.

(v) Transfer

Trademark registrations may be transferred.

(c) Patents

() Patentable Subject Matter

(1) Patents shall be available for all inventions, whether products or processes, in all fields of technology.

() Patents exclusively for patentability:

(A) any invention disclosed by which is substantially in the utilization of special nuclear material atomic energy in an atomic weapon; and

(B) plant and animal materials.

(3) If a Patent is granted to a plant and animal material, the Patent shall provide for the right of the public to use the material for scientific purposes.

(4) Notwithstanding paragraphs 2 (c) (i) (2) and 2 (c) (i) (3),

(A) patents shall be available for biologic processes and products, and

(B) Patents may exclude plant and animal materials from patenting only in the case of such inventions as biomes and biological and natural agents which bear the patentable character.

(ii) Rights conferred

(1) A patent shall confer the right upon the holder of the patent to make, using, selling the subject matter of the patent. In the case of a patent for a process, the patent confers the right upon the holder of the process to use the process and for using, selling, importing a product produced directly by the process.

(2) Where the subject matter of a patent is a process for obtaining a product, each Patentee shall have the burden of establishing that an alleged infringing product was not made by the process shall be in the alleged infringer, as in the case of the following provisions:

(A) the product is new;

(B) a substantial likelihood exists that the product was made by the process and the patent owner has been unable to establish that the process actually used.

In granting and allowing an invention, the court may, in the light of the facts and circumstances in the case, find that the invention and business of the process shall be taken into account.

(3) A patent may not be granted to an invention which would have justifiably been granted to the patent.

(iii) Exceptions

Each Patentee may provide limited exceptions to the exclusive rights conferred by a patent, such as for acts done for experimental purposes, provided that the exceptions do not significantly prejudice the commercial interests of the holder.

(i) Term of Patent

Each Patentee shall provide a term of protection for a patent for a period of 20 years from the date of filing of the patent application or 17 years from the date of grant of the patent. Each Patentee is encouraged to extend the term of protection for a patent, in appropriate cases, to compensate for delays caused by regulatory approval processes.

() Transitional Patent

A Patentee shall provide transitional protection for products made by subject matter described in a patent which is not yet in force. The transitional protection shall be provided for a period of not more than 5 years from the date of the patent becoming effective, where the transitional protection is necessary for the purpose of the patent.

(1) the subject matter which the product relates to will become patentable after implementation of the provisions of this law;

(2) a patent has been issued for the product by the Patent Office, an application is pending for the product with the Patent Office, or the product is in the process of being developed; and,

(3) The product has not been made in the country of the Patentee providing such transitional protection. /

The owner of an ending licence or producer is giving the conditions set forth above shall have the right to submit to the owner or provide notification of the existence of an ending licence with the other Party to the Party providing notification for execution. These submissions and notifications shall be made by the Party before the signing of this Agreement and the exchange of letters and before the implementation of the new Bulgarian law. This period, however, shall not be less than nine months. In the case of an ending licence, the licence shall not be a compulsory licence or a licence of the issuer of the patent based on his licence within six months of the date of grant by the other Party. The Party providing notification for execution shall limit the right to make use or sell the product in a territory of such owner or term of exercise with the other Party submitted.

(vi) Compulsory Licenses

(1) Each Party may limit the owner's exclusive rights through compulsory licenses but only:

(A) to remedy a judicially determined violation of competition laws;

(B) to address only during its existence declared national emergency;

(C) to address failure to meet the reasonable demands of the domestic market, however, importation shall constitute means of meeting the demands of the domestic market; and

(D) to enable compliance with national intellectual property standards where compulsory licenses are essential to such compliance.

(2) Where the law of a Party allows for the grant of compulsory licenses, such licenses shall be granted in a manner which minimizes distortions of trade and the following provisions shall be respected:

(A) Compulsory licenses shall be non-exclusive and non-assignable except with the prior consent of the holder which exists for such license.

(B) The payment of remuneration to the owner of a patent or the owner of a copyright or the licensee shall be required except for compulsory licenses to remedy judicially determined violations of competition laws.

(C) Each case involving the possible grant of a compulsory license shall be considered on its individual merits.

(D) Any compulsory license shall be revoked when the circumstances which led to its grant cease to exist or when, in accordance with the law, the interests of the owner and of the licensee. The continued existence of these circumstances shall be reviewed upon request of the right holder.

(E) Judicial review shall be available for:

1. decisions on grant of compulsory licenses except in the instance of declared national emergency

2. decisions on continuation of compulsory licenses and

3. the compensation provided for compulsory licenses.

(d) Layout Designs of Semiconductor Chips

(i) Subject Matter of Protection

(1) Each Party shall provide protection for original layout designs incorporated in semiconductor chips, however, the layout design may be fixed or encoded.

(2) Each Party may condition protection on fixation or registration of the layout designs. If registration is required, licences shall be granted to the works of the semiconductor commercial exploitation of the layout design in which, at least, a Party which requires disclosure of identifying material or other material related to the layout design shall not require licences to disclose confidential or proprietary information unless it is essential to allow identification of the layout design.

(ii) Rights Acquired -

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(iv) Gove nmen U e B

(1) If a Party, as a condition of approving the making of pharmaceutical products which utilize new chemical entities, the submission of undisclosed data, the origination of which involves a considerable effort, the Party shall protect such data against unfair commercial use. Further, each Party shall protect such data against disclosure except where necessary to protect the public interest or to protect the health of the population.

(2) Unless the national or company submitting the information agrees, the data may not be relied upon for the approval of competing products for a reasonable period of time, taking into account the efforts involved in the origination of the data, the nature, and the expenditure involved in the preparation, and such period of time shall generally be no less than five years from the date of making the application.

(3) Where a Party relies upon a making-application and the other Party or a country other than the United States or Bulgaria, the reasonable period of exclusivity of the data submitted in connection with obtaining the application shall upon commencement with the date of the first making application be relied upon.

(f) Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights

(i) Each Party shall protect intellectual property rights covered by its laws by means of civil law, criminal law, or administrative law or a combination thereof in conformity with the provisions below. Each Party shall provide effective procedures, in national and appellate, to protect rights in intellectual property against an act of infringement, and effective remedies to stop and prevent infringement and to provide full and effective remedies to the injured party. The procedures shall be applied in such a manner as to avoid the creation of obstacles to legitimate trade and to provide safeguards against abuse.

(ii) Procedures concerning the enforcement of intellectual property rights shall be fair and equitable.

(iii) Decisions on the merits of a case shall, as a general rule, be binding and reasoned. They shall be made known at least to the parties to the dispute without undue delay.

(iv) Each Party shall provide an opportunity for judicial review of final administrative decisions on the merits of an action concerning the protection of an intellectual property right. Subject to jurisdictional provisions in national laws concerning the importance of a case, an opportunity for judicial review of the legal aspects of initial judicial decisions on the merits of a case concerning the protection of an intellectual property right shall also be provided.

(v) Remedies against a Party

Notwithstanding the other provisions of paragraph 2(f), where a Party is sued for infringement of an intellectual property right as a result of the use of a high biotechnology government, the Party may limit remedies against the government to payment of full compensation of the high-hold.

3. Each Party agrees to submit for notification, no later than December 31, 1992, the legislation necessary to carry out the obligations of this part and to submit to the other Party and implement the legislation by the date.

4. For purposes of this part:

(a) "high-hold," means high-hold himself, an individual or legal person authorized by him who a exclusive license of the high, or authorized persons, including foundations and associations, having legal standing under domestic law to assert such rights;

(b) "A manner contrary to honest commercial practice" is understood to encompass, in addition, practices such as theft, bribery, breach of contract, inducement to breach, illicit and other forms of commercial espionage, and includes the acquisition of trade secrets by dishonest means who know, or had reasonable grounds to know, that such practices were involved in the acquisition.

(c) Unless otherwise indicated by the context, all terms in this part shall have the same meaning as in the Agreement.

5. Nothi i thi tt r ha b co tru d to dimi i h th ri ht of atio a a d compa i of a Party u d r th A r me t.

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Si c r y,

ara A. Hi

Wa hi to , Apri 22, 1991

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Dæ Madam Amba ador:

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Si c r y, C

Carla A. Hill

Washington, April 22, 1991

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to confirm receipt of your letter of today's date which reads as follows:

"I collect with the foregoing the date of the Agreement on Trade Relations Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria (the "Agreement"), I have the honor to confirm the understanding reached by our Government (the "Parties") regarding tourism and travel-related services as follows:

1. The Parties recognize the need to encourage and promote the growth of tourism and travel-related activities and trade between the United States of America and the People's Republic of Bulgaria. In this regard, the Parties recognize the desirability of exploring the possibility of negotiating a separate bilateral agreement on tourism.
2. The Parties recognize the benefit to both economies of creating tourism and travel-related activities and trade between the two territories.

Official Tourism Promotion Objectives

3. Each Party shall seek permission of the other Party prior to the establishment of official, governmental tourism promotion offices in the other's territory.

4. Permission to operate tourism promotion offices or offices, and the status of personnel who head and take up offices, shall be agreed upon by the Parties and subject to the applicable laws and regulations of the respective countries.

5. Tourism promotion offices operated by either Party shall be operated on a non-commercial basis. Official tourism promotion offices and the personnel engaged to them shall not constitute a separate or principal commercial transaction, the terms of contractual agreements to be of a commercial organization or engage in other commercial activities. Such offices shall not otherwise compete with private sector travel agents or tour operators of the respective countries.

6. Official governmental tourism offices shall engage in activities related to the facilitation of development of tourism between the United States and the People's Republic of Bulgaria, including:

a) providing information about the tourism facilities and attractions of the respective countries to the public, and travel trade and media;

b) conducting meetings and working groups or representative of the travel industry;

c) participating in trade fairs;

d) distributing advertising material such as posters, brochures and slides, and coordinating advertising campaigns; and

e) performing market research.

7. Notwithstanding the letter shall obligate either Party to open offices in the territory of the other Party.

Commercial Tourism Interpretation

8. Commercial tourism interpretation, whether privately or governmentally-owned, shall be treated as private commercial interpretation, fully subject to all applicable laws and regulations of the respective countries.

9. Each Party shall ensure with the cooperation of legal authority and accordance with laws and regulations that a company owned, controlled or administered by that Party or a joint venture thereof or a private company or joint venture between private companies, which effectively controls a significant portion of the supply of

of any other member of the Party related to the Party shall provide the necessary information and compensation of the other Party on a fair and equitable basis.

10. Nothing in this letter on the Agreement shall be construed to mean that the Party and the related member shall not receive the benefit of the Agreement fully and all other duties and obligations.

I have the honor to propose that the understanding be entered into an integral part of the Agreement. I would be grateful if you would confirm that the understanding has been agreed by your Government.

I have the further honor to confirm that the foregoing has been agreed by my Government and constitute an integral part of the Agreement.

Sincerely,

Wyle H. Whelan, Jr.

Acting Under Secretary

Text of Reference:

The United States-Bulgaria Joint Commercial Commission

The United States-Bulgaria Joint Commercial Commission established by the President of the United States and Bulgaria to facilitate the development of commercial relations and related economic matters between the United States of America and the Republic of Bulgaria.

The Commission shall work and shall formulate recommendations on the basis of mutual consent.

The Commission shall:

--Review the operation of the U.S.-Bulgaria Trade Agreement and make recommendations for achieving its objectives in order to obtain the maximum benefit therefrom

--Exchange information about the development in the regulation of the United States and Bulgaria affecting trade under the U.S.-Bulgaria Trade Agreement;

--Consider measures which would develop and define trade and commercial cooperation. The measures shall include, but are not limited to encouraging and supporting contact and cooperation between business of both countries, and between firms established in the United States and Bulgaria;

--Monitor and exchange views on U.S.-Bulgaria commercial relations; identify and where possible recommend solutions to issues of interest to both Parties;

--Provide a forum for exchanging information on areas of commercial, industrial, and technological cooperation, where they have an impact on commercial relations;

--Consider other steps which could be taken to facilitate and encourage the growth and development of commercial relations and related economic matters between the two countries.

The Commission shall be composed of two sections, a U.S. section and a Bulgarian section. Each section shall be composed of a chairman and other members appointed by each Party.

The Commission shall meet as often as mutually agreed by the Parties, alternately in Washington and Sofia.

Appropriate officials of the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations shall act as co-chairmen of the Commission, and shall head the respective sections; each section of the Commission shall include other government officials designated by each Party.

The Co-Government shall work on the basis of mutual agreement. The Co-Government shall, as necessary, adopt rules of procedure and working arrangements. The Co-Government, mutually agreed, shall jointly working group to

consider specific matters. These working groups shall function in accordance with the instructions of the Commission.

Each section shall have an Executive Secretary, named by the chairperson, who shall arrange the work of their respective section of the Commission. The Executive Secretary shall arrange the work of their respective section of the Commission, and perform the tasks of an organization or administrative nature connected with the meetings of the Commission.

The Executive Secretaries shall communicate with each other as necessary to arrange Commission meetings and to perform other functions. Agendas for Commission meetings shall be agreed upon not later than one month prior to the meeting. The meeting shall consider matters included in this agenda, as well as further matters which may be added to the agenda by mutual agreement.

The Commission and its working groups shall work on the basis of mutual agreement. Agreed minutes signed by the co-chairperson of the Commission shall be made public by each side. The Parties shall advise each other whenever measures and recommendations agreed to be subject to the subsequent approval of their respective governments.

Any document mutually agreed upon during the work of the Commission shall be in the English and Bulgarian languages, each language being equally authentic.

Expenses incident to the meetings of the Commission and any working group established by the Commission shall be borne by the host country. Travel expenses from one country to the other, as well as living and other personal expenses of representatives participating in meetings of the Commission and any working group of the Commission shall be borne by the Party which sends such persons to represent it.

Each section may invite advisers and experts to participate in any meeting of the Commission or its working groups, except that such participation must be mutually agreed by the Parties in advance of the meetings.

The terms of reference of the Commission may be amended by mutual agreement of the Parties at any meeting or during the periods between meetings of the Commission.

Done in Washington, D.C., April 22, 1991, in two copies, in the English and Bulgarian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :

Thomas J. Duesterberg

Assistant Secretary

U.S. Department of Commerce

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA :

Ognian R. Pisher

Ambassador

TANC offers these agreements electronically as a public service for general reference. Every effort has been made to ensure that the text presented is complete and accurate. However, copies needed for legal purposes should be obtained from official archives maintained by the appropriate agency. A