

(Embassy letterhead)

August 27, 2002

The Honorable Donald Evans
Secretary of Commerce
Attn.: Import Administration
Central Records Unit, Room 1870
US Department of Commerce
Pennsylvania Ave. & 14th Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20230

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

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This submission contains no business
proprietary information.

Attn.: Bernard Carreau,
Acting Assistant Secretary for Import
Administration
George Smolik, Shauna Lee – Alaila
Alex Villanueva, Lisa Shishido
James Doyle

Re: *Investigation of Certain Frozen Fish Fillets From the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: Request for Extension for the Deadline to Submit Comments and Rebuttal Comments on Petitioner's Allegation that Vietnam Has a Non-Market Economy*

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Embassy of Vietnam would like to present its compliments to the Department of Commerce. We hereby respectfully request a 30-day extension for the deadline to submit comments and 20-day extension for the deadline to submit rebuttal comments on Petitioner's allegation that Vietnam has a non-market economy. In the Department's August 14, 2002 *Federal Register* notice, the Department provided a 21-day deadline for submitting comments and a 10-day deadline for submitting rebuttal comments on the above-mentioned issue. See 67 Fed. Reg. 52,942, 52,943 (Aug. 14, 2002). Under the current deadline, comments are due September 4, 2002 and rebuttal comments are due September 14, 2002. If the Department grants this request, the Government of Vietnam

will submit its comments on October 4, 2002 and its rebuttal comments on November 3, 2002. The reasons for the extension request are provided below.

As the Department itself has recognized in deciding to postpone the preliminary antidumping duty determination until January 24, 2002, the above-mentioned investigation is extraordinarily complicated because it is the first anti-dumping investigation against Vietnam and because the Department must determine whether Vietnam is a market or non-market economy for purpose of the antidumping duty investigation. See *Certain Frozen Fish Fillets From the Socialist Republic of Vietnam*, 67 Fed. Reg. 55,003 (Aug. 27, 2002). In order for the government of Vietnam to provide detailed comments on the proper characterization of the Vietnam economy in the context of U.S. antidumping laws additional time is needed to compile the necessary detailed factual information. Further, holidays in both the United States (Labor Day, September 2) and Vietnam (the National Day, September 2) will delay efforts to do so. Lastly, as the Department has decided to postpone the preliminary determination for 50 days, no parties will be prejudiced by providing the government of Vietnam and other parties concerned additional time to comment on Vietnam's economic status. Moreover, we note in previous cases, countries have been provided 45 days to submit comments and 30 days for rebuttal comments on non-market economy status. See, e.g. *Investigation of Carbon and Certain Alloy Steel Wire Rod From Ukraine: Opportunity to Comment on the Status of Ukraine as a Non-Market Economy Country*, 67 Fed. Reg. 19,394 (Apr. 19, 2002).

We would appreciate your favorable consideration and disposition of this request as soon as possible. Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

The Embassy of Vietnam avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of Commerce the assurances of its highest consideration

Respectfully submitted,

(signed)

Minh Vu , Counselor, Head of Economic Section

(signed)

Toan To, First Secretary, Economic Section