

Proclamation 7554 of May 3, 2002**To Extend Duty-Free Treatment for Certain Agricultural Products of Israel**

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. On April 22, 1985, the United States entered into the Agreement on the Establishment of a Free Trade Area between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Israel (the “FTA”), which the Congress approved in the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act of 1985 (the “FTA Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2112 Note).

2. On November 4, 1996, the United States entered into an agreement with Israel concerning certain aspects of trade in agricultural products, effective from December 4, 1996, through December 31, 2001 (the “1996 Agreement”), in order to maintain the general level of reciprocal and mutually advantageous concessions with respect to agricultural trade with Israel while acknowledging differing interpretations regarding the meaning of certain rights and obligations in the FTA as to such trade.

3. Section 4(b) of the FTA Act provides that, whenever the President determines that it is necessary to maintain the general level of reciprocal and mutually advantageous concessions with respect to Israel provided for by the FTA, the President may proclaim such withdrawal, suspension, modification, or continuance of any duty, or such continuance of existing duty-free or excise treatment, or such additional duties as the President determines to be required or appropriate to carry out the FTA.

4. Pursuant to section 4(b) of the FTA Act, President Clinton issued Proclamation 6962 of December 2, 1996, to provide through the close of December 31, 2001, access into the United States customs territory for specified quantities of certain agricultural products of Israel free of duty or certain fees or other import charges, consistent with the 1996 Agreement.

5. On December 31, 2001, the United States entered into an agreement with Israel to extend the 1996 Agreement through December 31, 2002, in order to allow for additional time to negotiate a successor arrangement to the 1996 Agreement.

6. Pursuant to section 4(b) of the FTA Act, I have determined that it is necessary, in order to maintain the general level of reciprocal and mutually advantageous concessions with respect to Israel provided for by the FTA, to provide through the close of December 31, 2002, duty-free treatment for specified quantities of certain agricultural products of Israel.

7. Section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2483) (the “Trade Act”) 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 removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

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, including section 4 of the FTA Act and section 604 of the Trade Act, do hereby proclaim:

(1) In order to implement U.S. commitments under the 1996 Agreement as extended through December 31, 2002, and, in particular, to provide duty-free treatment for specified quantities of certain agricultural products of Israel, subchapter VIII of chapter 99 of the HTS is modified as provided in the Annex to 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.

(3)(a) The modifications to the HTS made by the Annex to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods that are the product of Israel and are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after January 1, 2002, including entries for which the liquidation of duties has not become final under section 514 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1514).

(b) The provisions of subchapter VIII of chapter 99 of the HTS, as modified by the Annex to this proclamation, shall continue in effect through the close of December 31, 2002.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

Modifications to Subchapter VIII of Chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States

Effective with respect to goods that are the product of Israel and are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after January 1, 2002, and through the close of December 31, 2002, subchapter VIII of chapter 99 of the HTS is modified as provided herein:

1. U.S. note 1 to such subchapter is modified by striking “December 31, 2001,” and by inserting in lieu thereof “December 31, 2002,”.

2. U.S. note 3 is modified by inserting at the end of the table therein the following additional applicable time period and quantity: “Calendar year 2002 383,000”.

3. U.S. note 4 is modified by inserting at the end of the table therein the following additional applicable time period and quantity: “Calendar year 2002 1,160,000”.

4. U.S. note 5 is modified by inserting at the end of the table therein the following additional applicable time period and quantity: “Calendar year 2002 1,279,000”.

5. U.S. note 6 is modified by inserting at the end of the table therein the following additional applicable time period and quantity: “Calendar year 2002 116,000”.

6. U.S. note 7 is modified by inserting at the end of the table therein the following additional applicable time period and quantity: "Calendar year 2002 405,317".

Proclamation 7555 of May 3, 2002

Small Business Week, 2002

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

The strength of our economy is built on the creativity and entrepreneurship of our people. Those who own and operate our Nation's 25 million small businesses make a vital contribution to our prosperity through their ongoing work to create new technologies, products, and services. These hard-working men and women and their employees define the American spirit through their innovation, dedication, and determination.

The tragedy of September 11, 2001, greatly affected our Nation and our economy; but our economy is recovering and remains fundamentally sound. In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, the business community rose to this challenge by volunteering their time and services to help with the relief and rebuilding efforts in New York City and Washington, D.C. This compassionate spirit demonstrated America's true character.

To help businesses recover from September 11, my Administration has made more than \$520 million in disaster loans available to business owners nationwide. I also remain committed to a domestic policy that stimulates economic growth, boosts consumer purchasing power, and creates a level playing field. Our efforts to lower taxes, enact reasonable regulations, and reduce tariffs and other barriers to free trade will increase the competitive position of our small businesses. To further encourage economic growth, I recently signed into law the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002. The Act helps to create more jobs across our country by providing tax incentives for companies to expand and create jobs by investing in facilities and equipment. This action will lead to more opportunities in manufacturing, high-tech sectors, and our small businesses. I am also committed to achieve a permanent repeal of the death tax and the permanent extension of tax relief to help ensure the strength and survival of small businesses.

America's small business owners represent more than 99 percent of all employers and their businesses employ more than half of the private work force. These entrepreneurs who create more than 66 percent of the new jobs nationwide and generate more than 50 percent of the Nation's gross domestic product growth are critical to our country's prosperity and the well-being of our communities. We salute these employers by celebrating Small Business Week and recognizing their contributions to all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 5 through May 11, 2002, as Small Business Week. I call on all Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that celebrate the achieve-