



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

Office of the Director  
Bureau of Competition

Kenneth G. Starling  
DLA Piper LLP (US)  
500 Eighth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Re: **McCormick Spices, FTC File No. 961-0050**

Dear Mr. Starling:

The Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Competition has conducted a nonpublic investigation to determine whether McCormick & Company, ("McCormick") had engaged or was engaging in unfair methods of competition in or affecting commerce in violation of Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45, as amended, including but not limited to entering into agreements with retailer and wholesaler customers that restrict the ability of those customers to deal with competing spice producers.

Upon reviewing this matter, it now appears that no additional action is warranted by the Commission at this time. Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated by the Commission, 49 Fed. Reg. 6147 (1984), the investigation has been closed. This action is not to be construed as a determination that a violation may not have occurred, just as the pendency of an investigation should not be construed as a determination that a violation has occurred. The Commission reserves the right to take such further action as the public interest may require.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David P. Wales, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David P. Wales, Jr.  
Acting Director