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UNITED STATES – CONTINUED SUSPENSION OF OBLIGATIONS IN THE EC – HORMONES DISPUTE (WT/DS320)

CANADA – CONTINUED SUSPENSION OF OBLIGATIONS IN THE EC – HORMONES DISPUTE (WT/DS321)

Communication from the Chairman of the Panels

The following communication, dated 1 August 2005, has been received by the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) from the Chairman of the above-mentioned Panels.

With regard to the proceedings of the Panels in the two above-referenced cases, I am writing to advise you that following a common request made by the parties on 13 June 2005 and after careful consideration of the existing provisions of the DSU, we have decided that the panel meetings to which the parties are invited to appear will be open for observation by the public through a closed-circuit TV broadcast. The meeting of the Panels with the third parties will remain closed as not all the third parties have agreed to have it open for observation by the public.

The first meeting of the Panels with the parties will take place on 12-15 September 2005. We are asking the Secretariat to make appropriate logistical arrangements for this meeting. We understand that this meeting could be broadcast through closed-circuit TV into the General Council Room, where other WTO Member delegations and the general public will be able to observe the broadcast.

With a view to ensuring full transparency and non-discriminatory access to the broadcast by all, in particular by all WTO Members, we are also requesting the Secretariat, when making the appropriate logistical meeting arrangements, to guarantee that each WTO Member delegation has at least two seats available in the room where the closed-circuit broadcast will be shown. Delegations interested in having more than two seats should indicate it to the Secretariat. In addition we will ask the Secretariat to provide further logistical information to Members as soon as possible.

I would very much appreciate it if you could please circulate this communication to all Members of the Dispute Settlement Body.
