

CHINA'S TRANSITIONAL REVIEW MECHANISM

Questions to China from Thailand in the context of the Transitional Review Mechanism under Paragraph 18 of the Protocol of Accession of the People's Republic of China

The following communication, dated 20 September 2002, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Thailand, with the request that it be circulated to Members, for the purposes of the Transitional Review to take place at the Committee's meeting on 26 September 2002.

1. According to People Republic of China's Schedule of Commitment, China has to announce tariff quota allocation of agricultural products including sugar for the year 2002 by 1 January 2002. However, up to now China has not yet announced the allocation of this tariff-quota quantity. We are of the opinion that delay of this announcement may cause problem of full market access. My delegation would like to seek clarification why this announcement has been so delayed and we would like to urge China to announce the allocation of tariff-quota for sugar as soon as possible.

2. As indicated in the Schedule of Commitment that all applications for an allocation of the tariff quota will be submitted to the State Development and Planning Commission (SDPC). We also learnt that importation of agricultural products of sub-regional governments has to be approved by the SDPC for SPS measures. This causes problem of lesser exports of agricultural products such as chicken and fruit from Thailand to China than before due to longer period of time for getting approval from the SDPC and this problem did not happen before China's accession to the WTO. My delegation would therefore like to seek clarification from the delegation of China of such procedure and request that proper adjustment should be made to accelerate this procedure.
