

No. 20843

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
FINLAND**

Exchange of letters constituting an agreement concerning alcoholic beverages, reached on the Tokyo Round of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (with related letter dated 30 January 1980). Geneva, 12 April 1979, and Washington, 4 December 1979

Authentic text: English.

Registered by the United States of America on 1 March 1982.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
FINLANDE**

Échange de lettres constituant un accord concernant les boissons alcooliques, convenu lors des négociations commerciales multilatérales dites de Tokyo (avec lettre connexe en date du 30 janvier 1980). Genève, 12 avril 1979, et Washington, 4 décembre 1979

Texte authentique : anglais.

Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 1^{er} mars 1982.

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND
FINLAND CONCERNING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
REACHED ON THE TOKYO ROUND OF THE MULTI-
LATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

I

*The Ambassador to the Permanent Mission of Finland in Geneva
to the American Deputy Special Representative for Trade Negotiations*

PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND IN GENEVA

Geneva, 12 April 1979

Sir,

I have the honour to confirm the following understandings reached between the delegations of Finland and the United States in the course of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations:

1. The State Alcohol Monopoly of Finland (ALKO) has confirmed that it will continue to stock U.S. brands of bourbon whisky and wine.

2. If the United States eliminates the current wine-gallon/proof-gallon taxation system, ALKO will proceed promptly to list two additional whiskies and one additional wine of U.S. origin, bottled in the United States. Finland will also, on the same condition, reduce the customs duty of a new ex-out item "bourbon and sour mash whiskies and blends thereof" from the present rate of 4.17 Fmk/liter to 1.50 Fmk/liter.

3. The Government of Finland states that prepared fruit products in CCCN chapters 20.06 and 20.07, containing 25 per cent or less by weight of sugar are exempt from any excise tax applied by Finland to fruit products containing added sugar. It is not the intention of the Government of Finland to introduce excise taxes on the above products. Should Finland remove or alter this exemption, it will enter into negotiations with the United States to determine appropriate offsetting measures relating to the above products.

Sincerely yours,

[Signed]

PAAVO KAARLEHTO
Ambassador

H.E. Mr. Alonzo McDonald
Ambassador, Head of Delegation
United States Delegation to the MTN

¹ Came into force on 13 March 1980, the date on which schedules XX (United States) and XXIV (Finland) to the Geneva (1979) Protocol* became schedules to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade,** in accordance with the provisions of the said letters.

* United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 1187 to 1193, No. A-814 XC.

** *Ibid.*, vol. 55, p. 187.

II

EMBASSY OF FINLAND
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Washington, D.C., December 4, 1979

Dear Mr. Bale,

Referring to your earlier request, I have the honour to confirm the following measures undertaken in Finland, thus implementing the understanding reached between the delegations of Finland and the United States in the course of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations:

1. On January 1, 1980, the customs duty of bourbon and sour mash whiskies and blends thereof will be reduced to 1.50 Fmk.

2. The State Alcohol Monopoly of Finland (ALKO) has listed two additional whiskies of U.S. origin: Jim Beam as of October 1, 1979, and Old Grand Dad as of December 1, 1979. Also as of December 1, 1979, one additional wine of U.S. origin, namely Sauvignon Blanc by E. and J. Gallo, has been listed.

Sincerely yours,

[Signed]

SEPPO KAUPPILA
First Secretary

Mr. Harvey Bale
Office of Special Trade Representative
Washington, D.C.

RELATED LETTER

[For the text of the letter, see p. 3 of this volume.]