

Week Ending Friday, May 10, 2002

**Proclamation 7553—To Restore
Nondiscriminatory Trade Treatment
(Normal Trade Relations Treatment)
to the Products of Afghanistan**

May 3, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

1. Section 118(a)(1) of Public Law 99–190, 99 Stat. 1319, authorized the President to deny nondiscriminatory trade treatment to the products of Afghanistan and thereby cause such products to be subject to the rate of duty in column 2 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

2. Presidential Proclamation 5437 of January 31, 1986, modified the HTS so as to deny nondiscriminatory trade treatment to the products of Afghanistan.

3. Restoration of nondiscriminatory trade treatment will support U.S. efforts to normalize relations with Afghanistan and facilitate increased trade with the United States, which could contribute to economic growth and assist Afghanistan in rebuilding its economy.

4. Pursuant to section 118(c)(1) of Public Law 99–190, I have determined that it is appropriate to restore nondiscriminatory trade treatment to the products of Afghanistan and thereby cause such products to be subject to the applicable rate of duty in column 1 of the HTS.

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 118 of Public Law 99–190, and section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2483), do hereby proclaim that:

(1) Nondiscriminatory trade treatment (normal trade relations treatment) shall be restored to the products of Afghanistan;

(2) General note 3(b) of the HTS is modified to exclude Afghanistan; and

(3) The restoration of nondiscriminatory trade treatment and the modification to general note 3(b) of the HTS shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the thirtieth day after the date of publication of this proclamation in the *Federal Register*.

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.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 6, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 7. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Message to the Congress on the
Restoration of Normal Trade
Relations Treatment to the Products
of Afghanistan**

May 3, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Public Law 99–190, 99 Stat. 1319, which took effect on December 19, 1985, authorized the President to deny normal trade relations (NTR) tariff treatment to the products of Afghanistan. On January 31, 1986, President Reagan issued a proclamation denying NTR treatment to Afghanistan.

I have determined that it is appropriate to restore NTR treatment to the products of Afghanistan. Restoration of NTR treatment will support U.S. efforts to normalize relations with Afghanistan and facilitate increased trade with the United States, which could contribute to economic growth and assist Afghanistan in rebuilding its economy. Therefore, in accordance with section 118 of

Public Law 99-190, I hereby provide notice that I have issued the attached proclamation restoring NTR tariff treatment to the products of Afghanistan. The Proclamation shall take effect 30 days after it is published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 3, 2002.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain and an Exchange With Reporters at Camp David, Maryland

May 3, 2002

President Bush. Laura and I are honored to welcome our friend the President and First Lady of *España* to Camp David. It's an opportunity for us to share some private time together, to talk about issues of concern between our countries as well as opportunities we can have to work together for world peace. We've got great relations with Spain; Spain is a very close friend. And I've got good—very strong personal relations with Jose Maria.

So it's such an honor to welcome you here, *Señor Presidente*. And it's great to see the First Lady as well.

Quiere habla?

[At this point, President Aznar made brief remarks in Spanish, and no translation was provided.]

President Bush. A couple of questions.

Russia-U.S. Nuclear Arms Agreement

Q. Mr. President, the Russian Foreign Minister today, after he left the meeting with you today, said there's a very high probability for a U.S.-Russian nuclear deal in time for your trip. Do you think prospects are that good for an agreement?

President Bush. *Espero que sí.* I hope so. We've been spending a lot of time with Russia to reach an agreement that will codify that which I've told our country and told Mr. Putin—that we're going to substantially re-

duce our offensive nuclear weapons. I hope so. It's—the Secretary of State is optimistic. There's some work that remains to be done. I'm looking forward to my trip. I look forward to getting—to continue working closely with President Putin. Jose Maria has got the same intentions. And what's interesting is, right after I leave, *el va a* Russia to visit with Mr. Putin as well.

Upcoming Meetings With Middle East Leaders

Q. Mr. President, on Tuesday you will meet with Prime Minister Sharon. It will be the fifth meeting. You've talked to him a number of times on the phone. And people might say this weekend showed what a difference that makes. But you haven't really interacted with Chairman Arafat as much, and I wondered about that. Do you feel as though it really wouldn't make that big a difference? Or is there a strategic reason for not engaging him?

President Bush. I'm looking forward to my meeting with Prime Minister Sharon. I'm looking forward to my meeting with King Abdullah. We have got, obviously, a lot of activity, a lot of discussions, a lot of interface with the different people in the region, the different interested parties. And there's going to be a lot more discussion going on.

As you know, Secretary of State Powell talked about a ministerial meeting. It's just a series of ongoing discussions to help solidify the visions that have been expressed by not only the United States but the Europeans—but, more importantly, the visions expressed by Israel, the Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. And so there's going to be a lot of discussions and a lot of meetings. And I've had a lot already, and I'm going to have more.

Unemployment Rate

Q. The unemployment rate today, 6 percent—is that just a bump in the road, or is that a sign of some reversal?

President Bush. No, that's—listen, I've been saying all along that the growth number of the first quarter of this year was very positive, but I said—listen, I'm not confident;