

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

G/STR/Q1/TTO/2

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Working Party on
State Trade Enterprises

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STATE TRADING

Replies to Questions posed by the UNITED STATES¹ concerning
the Updating Article XVII Notification of TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO²

The following communication, dated 21 May 1999, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago.

Q. The notification for Trinidad and Tobago is a comprehensive and highly commendable notification. One omission appears to be information about the National Flour Mill Ltd. and its share of total imports. Could Trinidad and Tobago clarify whether the National Flour Mill Ltd. has a monopoly of wheat and flour imports. Does the National Flour Mill Ltd. resell its imports to other mills? If so, at what mark-up?

Reply

The Mission has been advised by the competent authorities in Trinidad and Tobago that the National Flour Mills Limited (NFM) is in the business of importing wheat, soyabeans and crude soyabean oil, semi-milled rice and corn for the production and/or distribution of flour and related wheat by-products; crude, refined and hydrogenated soyabean oil and soyabean meal; fully milled rice, and corn for the animal feed industry. As is the case in most other Caribbean countries, only one flour mill and one soyabean crushing plant operate in Trinidad and Tobago. There are currently no restrictions on the importation of wheat or flour into Trinidad and Tobago. NFM, by reason of the fact that it operates the only flour mill in the country, is the sole importer of wheat. In the case of flour, NFM does not have a monopoly and there have been flour imports from both CARICOM and extra-CARICOM sources. Since no other flour mills operate in Trinidad and Tobago, NFM has never been faced with the question of reselling to another mill in its domestic market. NFM has on occasion come to the aid of other flour mills in the region by supplying wheat in cases of emergency.

¹ G/STR/Q1/TTO/1

² G/STR/N/3/TTO