

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

G/STR/Q1/TUN/2

7 February 1997

(97-0461)

Working Party on State Trading Enterprises

Original: English

Questions posed by the UNITED STATES
concerning the Article XVIII notification of
TUNISIA¹

The following communication, dated 4 February 1997, has been received from the Permanent Mission of the United States.

We appreciate Tunisia's initial notification of its State Trading Enterprises (STE) as submitted in G/STR/N/1/TUN. However, we are disappointed with the incomplete answers and general lack of information provided by Tunisia concerning the majority of the STEs that were notified in this document. While the information submitted in this notification is helpful, we would appreciate if Tunisia could provide more detailed responses to the following questions for each of its notified STEs: the Tunisian Trade Board, the Tunisian Central Pharmacy (PCT), the Pasteur Institute of Tunis (IPT), the Grain Board, the National Edible Oils Board, the National Alcohol Agency (RNA), the National Tobacco and Matches Agency (RNTA), the Tunisian Refining Industries Corporation, and the Tunisian Petroleum Enterprise (ETAP).

Under the reporting requirement for "reason and purpose" for each STE that Tunisia has notified in this document, Tunisia provides only a very general response that describes the overall responsibilities of these enterprises. While this information is useful, could Tunisia please describe more specifically the reason or purpose for introducing or maintaining each of its notified state trading enterprises and a description of the functioning of each of these State Trading Enterprises? Do any of these boards allow a portion of trade to be handled by private importers? If not, could Tunisia provide a rationale for restricting trade to these STEs only?

Could Tunisia provide further details on how import and export prices are determined? In the case of imports, please describe the relationship of import prices to resale values, including calculations of representative purchase and sales prices, as well as representative management costs?

¹G/STR/N/1/TUN.