

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

**WT/DS176/4**  
20 April 2001

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## **UNITED STATES – SECTION 211 OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 1998**

### Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 17 April 2001, addressed to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the DSU.

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Article 12.8 of the DSU stipulates that the period in which a panel shall conduct its examination, from the date that the composition and terms of reference of the panel have been agreed upon until the date the final report is issued to the parties shall, as a general rule, not exceed six months. Pursuant to Article 12.9 of the DSU, when a panel considers that it cannot issue its report within six months, it shall inform the DSB in writing of the reasons for the delay together with an estimate of the period within which it will issue its report.

The Panel on "United States – Section 211 Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1998" was established by the DSB on 26 September 2000, and its composition and terms of reference were determined on 26 October 2000. I wish to inform you that the Panel will not be able to complete its work within the six months provided for in the DSU. The complex nature of the matter is responsible for this delay.

The Panel intends to finalize its work as soon as possible, probably by the end of June 2001.

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