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UNITED STATES – CERTAIN MEASURES ON STEEL AND ALUMINIUM PRODUCTS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE UNITED STATES

The following communication, dated 29 August 2018, from the delegation of the United States to the delegation of the Russian Federation, is circulated to the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) at the request of the United States.

The United States has received your letter dated 20 July 2018, requesting to join in the consultations requested by Switzerland, as circulated in document WT/DS556/1.

Switzerland's request concerns an action that the United States considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests, taken by the President of the United States pursuant to Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. Issues of national security are political matters not susceptible to review or capable of resolution by WTO dispute settlement. Every Member of the WTO retains the authority to determine for itself those matters that it considers necessary to the protection of its essential security interests, as is reflected in the text of Article XXI of the GATT 1994.

The United States does not consider that Russia's claim of a substantial trade interest in these consultations is well-founded. The United States is declining your request to join these consultations.
