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ID# 319926

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

TA 004-de

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 06, 1992

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE HELEN DELICH BENTLEY

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN REGARDING THE VOLUNTARY
RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS FOR MACHINE TOOLS; URGES
THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH TAIWAN AND JAPAN NOT
INCLUDE ANY SPECIAL EXEMPTIONS

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION		
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
NICK CALIO		ORG	92/04/06	NC	92/04/06	
✓ 99 USTR	REFERRAL NOTE:	CR	92/04/22	DJ	adapted	
99 DOS	REFERRAL NOTE:	VI	92/04/20			
99 DOC	REFERRAL NOTE:	CI	92/04/20			
LACali ✓	REFERRAL NOTE:	R	92/06/12	C	92/06/12	
	REFERRAL NOTE: DJ: FYD-USTR					

COMMENTS: **RL** Letters sent to all signees

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 7 MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1240 1230
MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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*ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION *OUTGOING *
* * *CORRESPONDENCE: *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL * OF SIGNER *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE *C-COMPLETED * CODE = A *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC *S-SUSPENDED *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * * OUTGOING *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE * * *
*X-INTERIM REPLY * * *

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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE  
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590  
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING  
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT.

HELEN DELICH BENTLEY  
2ND DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON  
THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC WORKS AND  
TRANSPORTATION

COMMITTEE ON  
MERCHANT MARINE  
AND FISHERIES

SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2002

CAUCUSES:  
STEEL  
ART  
TRADE AND TOURISM  
MARITIME  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
ENERGY TASK FORCE

April 2, 1992

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Three months ago you decided to seek a two-year extension of the machine tool Voluntary Restraint Agreements (VRA's) with Japan and Taiwan. We applaud that decision and believe these VRA's serve the best interests of both the domestic machine tool industry and national security.

When you announced your decision on December 27, 1991, you declared a 30-day grace period to allow for negotiations. That grace period has long since passed and our understanding is that the negotiations are no closer to a resolution now than they were two months ago. We believe the success of these negotiations is important to both the machine tool industry and to national security. We must all recognize that if the negotiations fail to protect American interests, the public perception will be extremely negative. U.S. workers are tired of being denigrated in the foreign press by our U.S. trade competitors and tired of losing their jobs to foreign competitors, some of whom use questionable trade practices that place many U.S. industries at a substantial disadvantage.

Mr. President, we believe that your advisors, the interagency group which has been charged with the responsibility for guiding these negotiations, have failed. Amazingly, the interagency group apparently has allowed the interests of a single machine tool importer to stall the negotiations and has actually considered providing special exemptions for this single company, despite the negative impact of such exemptions on a number of other machine tool manufacturers. U.S.T.R., the interagency panel and this Administration should be operating in the interests of U.S. manufacturers and in the interest of U.S. jobs, not in the interests of Taiwan or of a single importer.

We urge you to take a direct hand in these negotiations to ensure that they are concluded in a manner that is consistent with your original intent to protect both the industry and national security.

Respectfully yours,

PLEASE REPLY TO:

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1610 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2002  
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3061  
FAX: (202) 225-4251

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
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TELEPHONE: (410) 337-7222  
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DISTRICT OFFICE:  
7458 GERMAN HILL ROAD  
DUNDALK, MD 21222  
TELEPHONE: (410) 285-2747

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
6 NORTH MAIN STREET  
BEL AIR, MD 21014  
TELEPHONE: (410) 879-2517

BUY U.S.A! SAVE AMERICAN JOBS!

President Bush  
April 2, 1992

  
Beverly B. Byron, M.C.

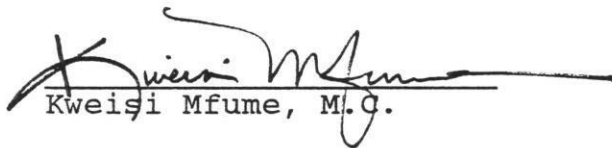
  
Steny H. Hoyer, M.C.

  
Helen Delich Bentley, M.C.

  
Benjamin L. Cardin, M.C.

  
Thomas C. McMillen, M.C.

  
Constance A. Morella, M.C.

  
Kweisi Mfume, M.C.

  
Wayne T. Gilchrest, M.C.

THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, D.C. 20506

The Honorable Beverly Byron  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Byron:


This is in further response to your letter to the President with respect to the negotiations of voluntary restraint agreements (VRA's) with Japan and Taiwan to implement the President's December 27, 1991 decision.

Since your letter, we have concluded negotiations with Japan. Japan is our major trading partner for machine tools, and we believe our agreement with Japan will permit U.S. companies to complete the necessary programs for advancing U.S. national security interests while providing a gradual return to market-determined competition.

Negotiations with Taiwan are continuing. We are frustrated and disappointed with the pace of negotiations. I want to assure you that imports of machine tools in the interim period before an agreement is reached will not be allowed to undermine the President's machine tool revitalization program, and I hope very much to conclude this negotiation in the near term.

With respect to special license procedures, we expect that the Department of Commerce will consider such requests on the same basis as it did in the 1986-91 VRA period, namely, so as to contribute to the creation of a strong, technologically advanced domestic machine tool industry.

Sincerely,



Carla A. Hills