Additional Views of Commissioners Papadimitriou, Becker, D'Amato, Lewis, Thurow, and Wessel

Chapter 7

We also need to examine possible sources of missing imports in our trade data. Some of these could be related to illegal or sub-rosa trade such as (1) smuggling of imports into the United States to avoid tariffs or quotas; and (2) imports of illegal drugs, pharmaceuticals, and other banned substances.

Second, there is a tremendous need for better public information on intrafirm and other related party trade. Data should be collected on the flows of goods into and out of the country to all related firms, including contract manufacturers. Additional information should also be collected on operations here and abroad relating to plant closings and openings, including the role of contract manufacturing arrangements.

Finally, additional data should be developed on the geographical destination of imports within the United States. While data are available on the exports from each state, reliable information on the destination of imports is not now available. These data are needed to adequately assess the impact of trade flows on different regions and states.