

Nym/p22p061/12

## OFFICE OF THE US TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) was created as the Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations in 1963. The Trade Act of 1974 established the office as an agency of the Executive Office of the President. The Office of the USTR is charged with administering the trade agreements programme under the Tariff Act of 1930, the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 and the Trade Act of 1974.

In 1980, the Office of the USTR was also charged with responsibility for setting and administering overall trade policy and the USTR became the chief representative of the United States for: all activities concerning the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT); discussions, meetings and negotiations in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) when such activities deal primarily with trade and commodity issues; negotiations in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTD) and other multilateral institutions when such negotiations deal primarily with trade and commodity issues; other bilateral and multilateral negotiations when trade, including East-West trade, or commodities is the primary issue; negotiations under sections 704 and 734 of the Tariff Act of 1930; and, negotiations concerning investment incentives and disincentives and bilateral investment issues concerning barriers to investment.

The Omnibus Trade and Development Act of 1988 codified these prior authorities and added additional authority, including the implementation of section 301 actions (regarding enforcement of US rights under international trade agreements).

The office is headed by the USTR (Michael Kantor), a Cabinet-level official with the rank of Ambassador, who is directly responsible to the President. There are three Deputy USTRs (Charlene Barshefsky and Rufus Yerxa -- the third post is currently vacant), who also hold the rank of Ambassador.

The USTR serves as an ex officio member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank and the Private Overseas Investment Corporation, and serves on the National Advisory Council for International Monetary and Financial Policy.





**T**he U.S.-South Africa Business Council is an advocacy organization for U.S. companies doing business in South Africa, providing a forum for business leaders in the two countries to discuss public policy issues affecting trade and investment with each other and with political leaders in both countries. The Business Council supports policies which facilitate expanded trade and investment between the United States and South Africa.

The Business Council's membership represents diverse sectors, such as consumer products, manufacturing, telecommunications, services, energy, data processing and banking. Although the Business Council is under the sponsorship of the National Foreign Trade Council, Inc., its policy positions are established through its own Board of Advisors.

The chairman of the Business Council is Aldrage B. Cooper, Jr., Vice President, Community Relations, Johnson & Johnson. The executive director is J. Daniel O'Flaherty, Vice President of the National Foreign Trade Council.

**The National Foreign Trade Council** has long been a leader in the business community on South Africa, chairing the Washington Business Coalition on South Africa since 1988. The U.S.-South Africa Business Council represents an adaptation of this long-standing NFTC commitment to the emergence of a new South Africa with a changed relationship with the United States. The Business Council's 1993-94 agenda reflects these changes:

- advocate a U.S. policy framework that will encourage trade and investment, including the business facilitation programs of the U.S. Government, such as OPIC, Eximbank and the Trade and Development Agency;
- lead and coordinate efforts to repeal state and local sanctions on U.S. commerce with South Africa;
- convey U.S. private sector views to the South African political leadership to ensure that their policies will be made with an accurate understanding of how their trading partners and potential U.S. investors will respond;
- provide private sector liaison with the multilateral development banks;
- make available expert information on the economic and political environment for business in South Africa.