

where an article is being imported into the United States "in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury, or the threat thereof, to the domestic industry producing an article like or directly competitive with the imported article."<sup>31</sup> Section 201 is not designed to provide relief against foreign unfair trade practices. Instead, safeguard provisions exist to facilitate orderly adjustment to the pressures of import competition arising out of the increasing trade liberalization brought about by the series of GATT and other multilateral trade agreements.

A private petition, a request of the president or the USTR, a resolution of the House Committee on Ways and Means or the Senate Committee of Finance, or a motion by the ITC itself all can initiate a Section 201 investigation by the ITC. In its inquiry, the ITC must consider all economic factors and, after holding public hearings, report its findings to the president.

If the ITC finding is affirmative, the president is obliged to provide import relief for the industry unless he deems it not in "the national economic interest of the United States." Import relief can be in the form of an increase in duties on the article, the imposition of tariff-rate quotas, the modification or imposition of quantitative restrictions, the negotiation of orderly marketing agreements or voluntary export restraint agreements with the foreign government involved, or any combination of the above. The president also may order that adjustment assistance be provided to the industry. The president has the absolute discretion to decide whether he will take action and what type of import relief he will impose. Any order for import relief that the president makes under Section 201 is technically subject to most-favored-nation treatment under Article I of the GATT. All GATT countries exporting that article to the United States thus must be treated alike. Furthermore, if sanctions or restrictions are imposed on a