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## Robert S. Strauss to Senator James O. Eastland, 14 March 1978

Robert S. Strauss

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THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR  
TRADE NEGOTIATIONS  
WASHINGTON

MAR 14 1978

The Honorable James O. Eastland  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Eastland:

The President has asked me to respond to the January 31 letter signed by you and 17 of your colleagues, urging the Administration to protect the U.S. interest in the duty-free bindings on soybeans and soybean meal negotiated with the European Community (EC) during the Dillon Round.

As the President indicated in his February 15 letter to you on this matter, we fully appreciate the importance of these bindings to American agriculture, as well as to the U.S. economy, and intend to continue defending our trade rights associated with them. For some time, we have been aware of pressures within the Community to restrict imports of soybeans and soybean meal. To be sure that there is no misunderstanding, we have taken the firm position that the United States would not accept any impairment of the duty-free access of these products to the EC market. We do not believe that these bindings are negotiable in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations and will reject outright any proposal which would jeopardize their benefit to the United States.

Thank you for informing me of your concern in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Strauss