



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1992

AT
(202) 514-2007
TDD (202) 514-1888

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WILL CHALLENGE FOREIGN RESTRAINTS ON U.S. EXPORTS UNDER ANTITRUST LAWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Department of Justice announced today a change in antitrust enforcement policy that would permit the Department to challenge foreign business conduct that harms American exports when the conduct would have violated U.S. antitrust laws if it occurred in the United States.

"Applying the antitrust laws to remove illegal barriers to export competition makes sense as a matter of law and policy," said Attorney General William P. Barr. "Our antitrust laws are designed to preserve and foster competition, and in today's global economy competition is international."

The new policy, effective immediately, does not alter the jurisdiction of U.S. courts over foreign persons or corporations, Barr said. Ordinary jurisdictional principles will continue to apply.

Under the changed policy, the Department will challenge anticompetitive conduct such as boycotts and other exclusionary activities that hinder the export of American goods or services to foreign markets, the Attorney General said. For example, the Department would take action against a foreign cartel aimed at limiting purchases from U.S. exporters or depressing the prices

(MORE)