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## **U.S. Congressional Committee Agrees On Permanent Tariff Exemptions For Caribbean; Cbi To Include Textiles**

*by John Neagle*

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On June 20, the House Ways and Means Committee agreed to make tariff exemptions for Caribbean nations permanent, and to extend the exemptions to textiles. The new preferential trade system would also establish a guaranteed minimum floor for US sugar imports from the region at current quota levels. Original trade preferences were extended under the Reagan administration's Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), implemented in 1983. The CBI has permitted duty-free imports of a variety of Caribbean exports but it has specifically exempted several major categories, including textiles. The new measure would include textiles and clothing, i.e., such products from the Caribbean would not carry the 8.1% tariff. (Basic data from AFP, AP, 06/20/89)

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