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## **Gulf War Enhances Prospects Of Failure For Uruguay Round**

*by Barbara Khol*

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In a Jan. 21 interview with Knight-Ridder Financial in Tokyo, Deputy US Trade Representative Linn Williams said the war in the Persian Gulf has increased the probability of failure of the Uruguay Round trade talks because high-level political attention has been diverted to the Gulf. From a US standpoint, he said, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) must be completed if a March 1 congressional deadline is to be met. Williams stated that if the Uruguay Round fails, the rice issue will certainly become a bilateral one. The US Rice Miller Association is expected to file a petition under Section 301 of the US Omnibus Trade Act to open up Japan's rice market if the trade talks collapse. In the past the USTR has twice rejected the association's petitions on grounds that the issue was a multilateral concern to be settled at the Uruguay Round. (Basic data from Knight-Ridder Financial, 01/21/91)

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