



## **U.S. Embassy Belize** *Press Release*

August 20, 2003

### **U.S. EMBASSY ANNOUNCES SUGAR ALLOCATION FOR BELIZE**

The United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced on August 15, 2003, the Fiscal Year 2004 tariff-rate-quotas (TRQs) for raw cane sugar, refined sugar, and sugar-containing products for 40 participating quota-holding countries. The TRQs cover imports into the United States for the period October 1, 2003, through September 30, 2004, and are based on historical market shares with the United States.

U.S. Ambassador to Belize Russell Freeman confirmed today that of the total TRQ of 1,117,195 metric tons (1,231,497 short tons) of raw cane sugar, Belize was allocated 11,583 metric tons (12,768 short tons) for quota year 2004. According to Ambassador Freeman, when Belize sells sugar under the U.S. base quota system, the country receives a significantly higher price than when it sells the sugar on the world market. This generates higher revenues for Belize's sugar producers and enhances employment opportunities in Belize's primary agricultural sector.

The FY 2004 raw cane sugar tariff-rate-quota of 1,231,497 short tons is the minimum level to which the United States is committed to under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement. Belize's allocation, as well as the overall level of the WTO TRQ, have not changed in the past four years.

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