preliminary determination of sales at less than fair value in the above-cited investigation (60 FR 438, January 4, 1995).

On January 11, 1995, the petitioner alleged that the Department made a significant ministerial error in the preliminary determination in the abovementioned investigation and requested that the Department correct this ministerial error accordingly.

In its submission, the petitioner alleged that the Department made a ministerial error in its calculation of the foreign market value (FMV) for SC Vanadium-Tulachermet (Tulachermet). This FMV was used for comparison to sales made by both Tulachermet and Odermet, Ltd. The petitioner's allegation deals with the valuation of vanadium slag, the principal raw material used to produce the subject merchandise.

On January 19, 1995, the Department received comments from Odermet, Ltd. and Tulachermet in response to the petitioner's January 11, 1995 letter regarding a ministerial error. Odermet submitted additional comments on January 26, 1995. However, standard Department practice with respect to preliminary determinations, does "not permit parties to comment on another party's allegations of significant ministerial errors". (See the Department's Proposed Rules 57 FR 1133 (January 10, 1992). Any party objecting to the Department's amendment, will have the opportunity to present its arguments in its administrative case briefs and at the hearing.

On January 23, 1995, the Department determined that the petitioner's allegation regarding the ministerial error in our calculation of FMV for Tulachermet, requires correction in an amended preliminary determination (See January 23, 1995, Memorandum from Gary Taverman to Barbara R. Stafford).

# Amendment of Preliminary Determination

The Department does not normally amend preliminary determinations since these determinations are only estimated margins subject to verification and may change for the final determination. It is, however, the Department's practice to amend preliminary determinations in those instances involving a significant ministerial error. (See Amendment to Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Fresh Cut Roses From Columbia, 59 FR 51554, 51555 (October 12, 1994) (Roses); and Amendment to Preliminary

Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Sweaters Wholly or in Chief Weight of Man-Made Fiber from Hong Kong, 55 FR 19289–90 (May 9, 1990)).

The Department has defined "significant ministerial errors" as those unintentional errors which result in a change of the estimated margin of at least 5 absolute percentage points but not less than 25 percent of the calculated margin. See Roses. In this case, these criteria have been met.

In its questionnaire response,
Tulachermet reported its consumption
of vanadium slag, the principal input
used to produce the intermediate
product vanadium pentoxide, on the
basis of net vanadium content. The
Department used as a surrogate value a
price quote for vanadium slag expressed
in terms of net vanadium pentoxide
content. The petitioner alleges that the
Department made a significant
ministerial error in not converting the
consumption factor or surrogate value to
reflect the different basis of the
surrogate value to the factor consumed.

The Department agrees with petitioner that the reported factor should have been adjusted to a vanadium pentoxide basis. The Department did not intend to apply a surrogate value to consumption factor expressed in an incompatible unit of measure. Furthermore, correcting this ministerial error will result in a change in the estimated margin of greater than 5 absolute percentage points and greater than 25 percent of the original estimated margin. Therefore, pursuant to the Department's practice, the error constitutes a significant ministerial error and the Department is amending the preliminary determination accordingly. The calculations have been corrected by applying the methodology from the petition for converting the consumption factor for vanadium slag from units of net vanadium content to units of net vanadium pentoxide content. The recalculation affects the margin percentage for Tulachermet, Odermet, and the all others rate for non-Russian exporters.

## Suspension of Liquidation

In accordance with section 733(d)(2) of the Act, the Department will direct the U.S. Customs Service to continue to require cash deposit or posting of bond on all entries of subject merchandise from the Russian Federation at the newly calculated rates, that are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of the original preliminary determination publication notice in the Federal Register (60 FR 438, January 4, 1995).

The suspension-of-liquidation will remain in effect until further notice.

The revised estimated margins are as follows:

Weighted average margin percent
94.92
40.46
40.40
49.18
40.10
108.00
60.09
108.00
82.29
82.29

#### ITC Notification

In accordance with section 733(f) of the Act, we have notified the International Trade Commission (ITC) of the amended preliminary determination. If our final determination is affirmative, the ITC will determine whether imports of the subject merchandise are materially injuring, or threaten material injury to, the U.S. industry, before the later of 120 days after the date of the original preliminary determination (December 27, 1995) or 45 days after our final determination.

### **Public Comment**

Public hearings in this proceeding will be held to afford interested parties an opportunity to comment on arguments raised in case or rebuttal briefs. The tentative schedule for the case briefs, rebuttal briefs, and hearings for this proceeding is described in the preliminary determination. We will make our final determination by May 19, 1995.

Dated: February 17, 1995. Susan G. Esserman, Assistant Secretary for Import Administration. [FR Doc. 95–4728 Filed 2–24–95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

#### [C-533-812]

Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination: Certain Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From India

**AGENCY:** Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** February 27, 1995. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan M. Strumbel, Office of