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This past summer, I undertook an internship at the U.S. Commercial Service. The Commercial Service (CS) is one of three branches under the International Trade Administration, a sub-branch of the Department of Commerce. The CS has regional offices all over the U.S. and internationally. The CS is made up of international trade specialists - civil servants from a variety of backgrounds with expertise in specific industries. My office had three senior international trade specialists and a director, making up what is called a U.S. Export Assistance Center. Each of the trade specialists has a number of industries they oversee that are part of the New York City economy. Throughout the global field offices, different trade specialists make up the 100+ member teams for these varying industries. However, several of the specialists are global team leaders, meaning that they are the head of the global team for that particular industry or region. In our office, the senior trade specialist I was primarily assigned to was the leader of the global Europe (and Eurasia) team.

A large number of my projects involved data analysis. Due to the imposition of Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum, American businesses submitted thousands of requests for exemption to the Department of Commerce. Companies file exclusion requests in order to import intermediate goods from abroad without them being subject to increased tariff rates. There are a number of reasons the Department of Commerce will accept an exclusion request. These reasons include if the product is simply not manufactured at all in the United States, it is not made in the quantity needed by the company, or the quality is not up to the par the business requires (rarely approved). When these requests are posted on the Department of Commerce's website, American businesses have the ability to comment on these postings and claim they can manufacture the product and quantity desired. In this way, companies either begin working with these American manufacturers or



halt production with these steel and aluminum intermediate goods. For my project, I went through all the requests specific to imports from European (and Eurasian) countries, creating graphs and a summary report on the trends of the companies, products, and countries these requests were from and aimed at.

Much of the data analysis I did was for varying global team leaders. Each of the team leaders wanted trends over the last decade on a number of products in the European market. Some of them also requested additional information, such as a report on the future of the underwater technologies market in Europe and an overview of different port projects being undertaken by the E.U. For the global team leaders, I created graphs, slides, and summary reports. The leaders I did research for came from the Global Health Technologies Team, Marine Technologies Team, Textiles, Apparel & Sporting Goods Team, and Global Auto and Smart Mobility Team. Some other data analysis projects I undertook was a report on the mining/extraction product market in Ukraine and Kazakhstan and preparing widespread research and data for one of the senior trade specialists and their meeting in Washington D.C. with ITA Under Secretary Gil Kaplan.

Outside projects, I was able to take part in USEAC and the Europe team's field calls, webinars, and client meetings with famous fashion designers to small Brooklyn jewelers. I also had the chance to attend several conferences, including one on CETA and the state of global trade and another by Alibaba about their service Taobao and how it can be utilized by the fashion industry. It was an exciting time to be at the ITA during the ongoings of a trade war. Much of the work I was able to take a part in was important, insightful, and enlightened me about the inner workings of international trade.