WTO publishes trade ruling against China

Associated Press July 18, 2008

GENEVA — The World Trade Organization has made public the first official condemnation of Chinese commercial practices, an auto parts ruling that sides with the United States, the European Union and Canada.

The verdict released Friday in Geneva finds that China was breaking trade rules by taxing imports of auto parts at the same rate as foreign-made finished cars. The Associated Press first obtained the findings in February.

The sweeping decision rules against China on nearly every point of contention with the U.S., the EU and Canada. It says China subjected foreign auto parts to less favorable treatment or higher charges than Chinese-made car parts.

It ordered China to comply with WTO rules. China can still appeal.