

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3152]

State of New York

Queens County and the contiguous Counties of Bronx, Kings, Nassau, and New York in the State of New York constitute a disaster area as a result of damages caused by heavy rain and flooding that occurred on January 3, 1999. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on March 19, 1999 and for economic injury until the close of business on October 15, 1999 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 1 Office, 360 Rainbow Boulevard South, 3rd Floor, Niagara Falls, NY 14303.

The interest rates are:

	Percent
For Physical Damage:	
Homeowners with credit available elsewhere	6.750
Homeowners without credit available elsewhere	3.375
Businesses with credit available elsewhere	8.000
Businesses and non-profit organizations without credit available elsewhere	4.000
Others (including non-profit organizations) with credit available elsewhere	7.000
For Economic Injury:	
Businesses and small agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere ...	4.000

The numbers assigned to this disaster are 315206 for physical damage and 9A8200 for economic injury.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: January 15, 1999.

Mary Kristine Swedin,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 99-2167 Filed 1-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Region X Advisory Council Meeting; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration Region X Advisory Council, located in the geographical area of Portland, OR, will hold a public meeting at 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 04, 1999, at the Atwater's Restaurant, Adams Room, 30th Floor, 111 SW Fifth Avenue, Portland, Oregon, to discuss such matters as may be presented by

members, staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration, or others present.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Write or call Mr. Phillip E. Gentry, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration, 1515 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 1050, Portland, Oregon 97201-5494, (503) 326-5210.

Dated: January 20, 1999.

Shirl Thoms,

Director, External Affairs.

[FR Doc. 99-2168 Filed 1-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Bureau of Consular Affairs

[Public Notice 2969]

Certain Foreign Passports Validity

In accordance with section 212(a)(7)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(7)(B)), a nonimmigrant alien who makes an application for a visa or for admission into the United States is required to possess a passport that: (1) is valid for a minimum of six months beyond the date of the expiration of the initial period of the alien's admission into the United States or contemplated initial period of stay and, (2) authorizes the alien to return to the country from which he or she came, or to proceed to and enter some other country during such period. Because of the foregoing requirement, certain competent authorities have agreed that their passports will be recognized as valid for the return of the bearer for a period of six months beyond the expiration date specified in the passport, thereby effectively extending the validity period of the foreign passport an additional six months beyond its expiration date, see 22 CFR 41.104(b).

This public notice adds Russia to the list of competent authorities that have provided the necessary assurances to the Government of the United States. The updated list of competent authorities who have made the necessary assurances is shown below:

Table of Foreign Passports Recognized for Extended Validity

ALGERIA
 ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
 ARGENTINA
 AUSTRALIA
 AUSTRIA
 BAHAMAS, THE
 BANGLADESH
 BARBADOS
 BELGIUM
 BRAZIL

CANADA
 CHILE
 COLOMBIA
 COSTA RICA
 COTE D'IVOIRE
 CUBA
 CYPRUS
 CZECH REPUBLIC
 DENMARK
 DOMINICA
 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
 ECUADOR
 EGYPT
 EL SALVADOR
 ETHIOPIA
 FINLAND
 FRANCE
 GERMANY
 GREECE
 GRENADA
 GUINEA
 HONG KONG (Certificates of identity & passports)
 HUNGARY
 ICELAND
 INDIA
 IRELAND
 ISRAEL
 ITALY
 JAMAICA
 JAPAN
 JORDAN
 KOREA
 KUWAIT
 LAOS
 LEBANON
 LIECHTENSTEIN
 LUXEMBOURG
 MADAGASCAR
 MALAYSIA
 MALTA
 MAURITIUS
 MEXICO
 MONACO
 NETHERLANDS
 NEW ZEALAND
 NICARAGUA (Diplomatic & official only)
 NIGERIA
 NORWAY
 OMAN
 PAKISTAN
 PANAMA
 PARAGUAY
 PERU
 PHILIPPINES
 POLAND
 PORTUGAL
 QATAR
 RUSSIA
 SENEGAL
 SINGAPORE
 SLOVAK REPUBLIC
 SLOVENIA
 SOUTH AFRICA
 SPAIN
 SRI LANKA
 ST. KITTS & NEVIS
 ST. LUCIA
 ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
 SUDAN
 SURINAME
 SWEDEN
 SWITZERLAND
 SYRIA
 TAIWAN
 THAILAND

TOGO
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
TUNISIA
TURKEY
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
UNITED KINGDOM
URUGUAY
VENEZUELA

Public Notice 2920 of October 24, 1998 published at 63 FR 60436 is hereby superseded.

Dated: January 16, 1999.

Mary A. Ryan,

Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs.

[FR Doc. 99-2075 Filed 1-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 2962]

Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy; Notice of Partially Closed Meeting

The Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy (ACIEP) will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10, 1999, in Room 1107, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20520.

Shorter notification was necessitated by changes in the agenda and scheduling conflicts. The meeting will be hosted by Committee Chairman R. Michael Gadbaw and by Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Alan P. Larson.

The ACIEP will first meet in closed session, which will be devoted to State and Local Sanctions. The closed briefing involves discussion of classified information, pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1), 5 U.S.C. 442b(c)(4), and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B). Open session topics will be: the Global Economic Crisis: Proposals for Reform; Combating Corruption in Commercial Transactions; Y2K: the International Challenge; Civil Society and Economic Agreements; and Human Rights and the International Economy. Members of the public may attend the open session beginning at approximately 10:00 a.m. as seating capacity allows. As access to the Department of State is controlled, persons wishing to attend the meeting should notify the ACIEP Executive Secretariat by phone at (202) 647-5968 or fax (202) 647-5713 (Attn: Sharon Rogers) by Wednesday, February 5, 1999. Each person should provide his or her name, company or organization affiliation, date of birth, and social security number. On the date of the meeting, persons who have registered should bring a valid photo ID for entry into the State Department. A list will be

made up for Diplomatic Security and the Reception personnel will direct them to Room 1107.

For further information, contact Sharon Rogers, ACIEP Secretariat, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, Room 6828, Main State, Washington, DC 20520.

Dated: January 25, 1999.

Alan P. Larson,

Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs.

[FR Doc. 99-2241 Filed 1-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-27-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences; Imports Statistics Relating to Competitive Need Limitations; Invitation for Public Comment

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; invitation or public comment.

SUMMARY: The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is informing the public of interim 1998 import statistics relating to Competitive Need Limitations (CNLs) under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. The TPSC also invites public comments by 5:00 p.m. March 19, 1999, regarding possible de minimis CNL waivers with respect to particular articles, and possible redesignations under the GSP program of articles currently subject to CNLs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: GSP Subcommittee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Room 518, Washington, DC 20508. The telephone number is (202) 395-6971.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Competitive Need Limitations

Section 503(c)(2)(A) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)), provides for Competitive Need Limitations on duty-free treatment under the GSP program. When the President determines that a beneficiary developing country exported to the United States during a calendar year either (1) a quantity of a GSP-eligible article having a value in excess of the applicable amount for that year (\$85 million for 1998), or (2) a quantity of a GSP-eligible article having a value equal to or greater than 50 percent of the value of total U.S. imports of the article from all countries (the "50 percent"

CNL), the President shall terminate GSP duty-free treatment for that article from that beneficiary developing country by no later than July 1 of the next calendar year.

II. Discretionary Decisions

A. De Minimis Waivers

Section 503(c)(2)(F) of the 1974 Act provides the President with discretion to waive the 50 percent CNL with respect to an eligible article imported from a beneficiary developing country if the value of total imports of that article from all countries during the calendar year did not exceed the applicable amount for that year (\$14 million for 1998).

B. Redesignation of Eligible Articles

Where an eligible article from a beneficiary developing country ceased to receive duty-free treatment due to exceeding the CNLs in a prior year, Section 503(c)(2)(C) of the 1974 Act provides the President with discretion to redesignate such an article for duty-free treatment if imports in the most recently completed calendar year did not exceed the CNLs.

III. Implementation of Competitive Need Limitations, Waivers, and Redesignations

Exclusions from GSP duty-free treatment where CNLs have been exceeded, as well as the return of GSP duty-free treatment to products for which the President has used this discretionary authority to grant redesignations, will be effective July 1, 1999. Decisions on these matters, as well as decisions with respect to de minimis waivers, will be based on full 1998 calendar year import statistics.

IV. Interim 1998 Import Statistics

In order to provide advance indication of possible changes in the list of eligible articles pursuant to exceeding CNLs, and to afford an earlier opportunity for comment regarding possible de minimis waivers and redesignations, interim import statistics covering the first 10 months of 1998 are included with this notice.

The following lists contains the HTS subheadings and beneficiary country of origin for GSP-eligible articles, the value of imports of such articles for the first ten months of 1998, and their percentage of total imports of that product from all countries. The flags indicate that status of GSP eligibility.

Articles marked with an "*" are those that have been excluded from GSP eligibility for the entire past calendar year. Flags "1" or "2" indicate products that were not eligible for duty-free