

A copy of the Authority's complete decision may be obtained by telephoning Peter Constantine at the number listed above.

#### A. Background

The National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) was certified in 1985 as the exclusive representative of a consolidated unit of 325 professional and nonprofessional employees of the original Weapons Station Yorktown (WSY). Working conditions for the employees were set by the commanding officer of WSY, and their competitive area for RIF was limited to WSY employees. In 1997 and 1998, the Agency underwent reorganizations.

As a result of the reorganizations, the original WSY's functions were split among three separate entities: (1) WSY; (2) the Atlantic Ordnance Command (AOC); and (3) the Housing Department and Regional Resource Services Office of the U.S. Department of the Navy, Commander, Naval Base, Norfolk (COMNAVBASE). Of the bargaining unit employees who worked for WSY prior to the reorganizations, 84 employees continue to work for WSY, and they have experienced no change in their working conditions. The commanding officer of WSY now reports to the commanding officer of COMNAVBASE.

Of the bargaining unit employees who worked for WSY prior to the reorganizations, 239 employees have been transferred to AOC. They have experienced no change in their working conditions, although they now report to the commanding officer of AOC, who reports, in turn, to the commanding officer of COMNAVBASE. Their competitive area for RIF is now limited to AOC employees.

Three bargaining unit employees from the original WSY now work for the Housing Department of COMNAVBASE, and three other bargaining unit employees from the original WSY now work for the Regional Resource Services Office of COMNAVBASE. Their working conditions have not changed, except that one of the employees now splits his time between Yorktown and COMNAVBASE's Norfolk headquarters. The six employees report to the commanding officer of COMNAVBASE. Their competitive area for RIF includes all COMNAVBASE employees.

The Agency has conducted simultaneous negotiations with NAGE for employees of both WSY and AOC, and has submitted similar, but not identical, proposals to the Union to cover employees of both entities.

#### B. The Regional Director's Decision

The Regional Director dismissed the Union's petition seeking certification of a unit consisting of all of the employees of the original WSY. The Regional Director found that WSY, AOC, and COMNAVBASE constitute three distinct activities, and as such, the employees are now employed by three different entities. Specifically, he found that the employees' working conditions are set by three different commanding officers, they are in three different competitive areas for RIF, and they support three different missions. The Regional Director concluded that the employees do not continue to share a community of interest, and that, consequently, the unit is not appropriate, within the meaning of section 7122(a) of the Statute. The Regional Director also found that recognition of the proposed unit would not promote effective dealings with the Agency, because the working conditions of the employees are established by three separate commanding officers, and because two different human resources offices provide personnel services to the employees. The Regional Director dismissed the petition.

#### C. The Application for Review

NAGE filed the application for review, contending that review of the Regional Director's decision is warranted, under 5 CFR 2422.31, because: There is an absence of relevant Authority precedent; the Regional Director failed to apply established precedent; the Regional Director committed several clear and prejudicial errors concerning substantial factual matters; and established law and policy warrants reconsideration.

#### D. Question on Which Briefs Are Solicited

The Authority granted the application for review under 5 CFR 2422.31(c). The Authority found that Authority precedent warrants reconsideration because that precedent does not provide sufficient guidance in cases where units have been certified on an installation-wide basis, and where organizational changes affect the chains of command but do not otherwise affect day-to-day working conditions of bargaining unit employees. In granting the application on these grounds, the Authority found that some precedent supports a conclusion that changes in chains of command are sufficient to destroy a unit's community of interest, while other precedent supports continued recognition of the existing unit despite such changes in chains of command.

The Authority directed the parties in the case to file briefs addressing the following question: How should the Authority assess the effect on bargaining units of reorganizations that modify portions of the chains of command at managerial levels, but do not affect the day-to-day working conditions of bargaining unit employees? As this matter is likely to be of concern to agencies, labor organizations, and other interested persons, the Authority finds it appropriate to provide for the filing of amicus briefs addressing this issue.

For the Authority.

Dated: June 28, 1999.

**Peter Constantine,**

*Director of Case Control.*

[FR Doc. 99-16760 Filed 6-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6727-01-P

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## FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

### Notice of Agreement(s) Filed

The Commission hereby gives notice of the filing of the following agreement(s) under the Shipping Act of 1984. Interested parties can review or obtain copies of agreements at the Washington, DC offices of the Commission, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Room 962. Interested parties may submit comments on an agreement to the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573, within 10 days of the date this notice appears in the **Federal Register**.

*Agreement No.:* 202-007690-027

*Title:* India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Ceylon and Burma Outward Freight Conference

*Parties:*

The Shipping Corporation of India, Ltd.

Waterman Steamship Corporation  
*Synopsis:* The proposed Amendment revises Articles 13 and 14 of the Agreement to comply with the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 for independent action and service contract authorities.

*Agreement No.:* 202-011454-001

*Title:* U.S.A./Oceania Agreement

*Parties:*

Safbank Line, Ltd.

Mediterranean Shipping Co., S.A.

*Synopsis:* The proposed Amendment revises Articles 13 and 14 of the Agreement to comply with the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 for independent action and service contract authorities.

Dated: June 25, 1999.

By Order of the Federal Maritime Commission.

**Ronald D. Murphy,**  
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-16693 Filed 6-30-99; 8:45 am]

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## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1843). Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than July 26, 1999.

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago** (Philip Jackson, Applications Officer) 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60690-1413:

1. *HSBC Holdings plc*, London, United Kingdom (HSBC Holdings), HSBC Finance, Netherlands, London, England, HSBC Holdings BV, Amsterdam, Netherlands, and a newly established intermediate holding company (USHoldco, New York, New York), to acquire all of the voting shares of Republic New York Corporation, New York, New York (RNYC), and thereby acquire the following bank subsidiaries of RNYC: Republic National Bank of New York, New York, New York (Republic Bank), and Republic Bank California, National Association,

Beverly Hills, California. Following these transactions, HSBC would merge RNYC with and into HSBC Americas, Inc., Buffalo, New York, a bank holding company that is the current parent of HSBC Bank USA, Buffalo, New York. RNYC would survive this merger and be renamed HSBC USA. HSBC Holdings and its subsidiaries (collectively HSBC) may form one or more intermediate bank holding companies to facilitate these transactions.

In connection with the proposed transaction, HSBC has provided notice to acquire all of the nonbank subsidiaries of RNYC and to engage, directly or indirectly through such nonbank subsidiaries, in a variety of nonbanking activities that previously have been determined to be permissible for bank holding companies. HSBC also would continue to control all its existing bank and nonbank subsidiaries. The nonbanking companies that HSBC proposes to acquire are listed in the notice filed with the Board and include Republic Bank Delaware, National Association, Wilmington, Delaware; Republic New York Securities Corporation, New York, New York (RNYSC); Republic Business Credit Corporation, New York, New York. The nonbanking activities of the companies to be acquired also are listed in the notice and include extending credit and servicing loans, pursuant to 12 CFR 225.28(b)(1); performing functions or activities that may be performed by a trust company, pursuant to 12 CFR 225.28(b)(5); providing securities brokerage, riskless principal, private placement, futures commission merchant, and other agency transactional services, pursuant to 12 CFR 225.28(b)(7); and underwriting and dealing in government obligations and money market instruments, engaging in certain investing and trading activities as principal, and buying and selling bullion and related activities, pursuant to 12 CFR 225.28(b)(8).

In connection with the proposed transaction, HSBC also has applied to acquire an option to purchase up to 19.9 percent of the outstanding shares of RNYC common stock. This option would expire upon consummation of the merger.

2. *Security Bancorp, M.H.C.*, Monmouth, Illinois; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Security Savings Bank, Monmouth, Illinois.

**B. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City** (D. Michael Manies, Assistant Vice President) 925 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64198-0001:

1. *Griffith Family Financial Holdings, L.L.C.*, Lindsay, Oklahoma; to become a

bank holding company by acquiring 79 percent of the voting shares of First Fletcher Bankshares, Fletcher, Oklahoma, and thereby indirectly acquire First National Bank of Fletcher, Fletcher, Oklahoma; and 68 percent of the voting shares of American Holding Company, Lindsay, Oklahoma, and thereby indirectly acquire American Exchange Bank, Lindsay, Oklahoma.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, June 25, 1999.

**Jennifer J. Johnson,**

Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 99-16703 Filed 6-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### Notice of Proposals to Engage in Permissible Nonbanking Activities or to Acquire Companies that are Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities; Correction

This notice corrects a notice (FR Doc. 99-16170) published on page 34257 of the issue for Friday, June 25, 1999.

Under the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco heading, the entry for Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, Limited, Tokyo, Japan, is revised to read as follows:

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco** (Maria Villanueva, Manager of Analytical Support, Consumer Regulation Group) 101 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105-1579:

1. *Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, Limited*, Tokyo, Japan; to acquire Yasuda Bank and Trust Company (U.S.A.), New York, New York, and thereby engage in performing functions or activities that may be performed by a trust company, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(5) of Regulation Y.

Comments on this application must be received by July 9, 1999.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, June 25, 1999.

**Jennifer J. Johnson,**

Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 99-16701 Filed 6-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### Notice of Proposals to Engage in Permissible Nonbanking Activities or to Acquire Companies that are Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHC Act) and Regulation Y, (12 CFR Part 225) to engage *de novo*, or to