

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may obtain copies of the proposed information collection and supporting documents from Frank Venson McCoy, Bureau of Human Resources, Office of Overseas Employment, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20520 who may be reached on 703-820-5155 or at mccoyfv@state.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary to properly perform our functions.
- Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond.

Abstract of Proposed Collection

The DS-0174, Application for Employment as a Locally Employed Staff or Family Member, is needed to meet information collection requirements for recruitments conducted at approximately 170 U.S. embassies and consulates throughout the world. Current employment application forms do not meet the unique requirements of Mission recruitment (e.g., language skills and hiring preferences) under the FS Act of 1980 and 22 U.S.C. 2669. The DS-0174 is needed to improve data gathering and to clarify interpretation of candidate responses.

Methodology

Candidates for employment use the DS-0174 to apply for Mission-advertised positions throughout the world. Mission recruitments generate approximately 40,000 applications per year. Data that HR and hiring officials extract from the DS-0174 determine eligibility for employment, qualifications for the position, and selections according to Federal policies.

Dated: September 10, 2009.

Ruben Torres,

Director, HR/EX, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E9-22539 Filed 9-17-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 6764]

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "Falnama: The Book of Omens"

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, Delegation of Authority No. 236 of October 19, 1999, as amended, and Delegation of Authority No. 257 of April 15, 2003 [68 FR 19875], I hereby determine that the objects in the exhibition: "Falnama: The Book of Omens," imported from abroad for temporary exhibition within the United States, are of cultural significance. The objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with the foreign owners or custodians. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, from on or about October 24, 2009, until on or about January 24, 2010, and at possible additional exhibitions or venues yet to be determined, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these Determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a list of the exhibit objects, contact Julie Simpson, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202-632-6467). The address is U.S. Department of State, L/PD, SA-5, 2200 C Street, NW., Suite 5H03, Washington, DC 20522-0505.

Dated: September 11, 2009.

Maura M. Pally,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Professional and Cultural Exchanges, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E9-22538 Filed 9-17-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP): Initiation of a Review To Consider the Designation of the Republic of Maldives as a Beneficiary Developing Country Under the GSP

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and solicitation of public comment.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initiation of a review to consider designating the Republic of Maldives as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP program, and solicits public comments on whether Maldives meets the eligibility criteria for designation as a beneficiary developing country. Comments are due by Friday, October 16, 2009, and must be submitted in accordance with the requirements set out below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tameka Cooper, GSP Program, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508. The telephone number is (202) 395-6971, the fax number is (202) 395-2961, and the e-mail address is Tameka_Cooper@ustr.eop.gov.

Public versions of all documents relating to this review will be made available for public viewing in docket USTR-2009-0030 at <http://www.regulations.gov> upon completion of processing and no later than approximately two weeks after the due date.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Maldives' GSP eligibility was suspended in 1995 because, following a review by the Trade Policy Staff Committee, it was determined that Maldives had not taken and was not taking steps to afford internationally recognized worker rights to workers in Maldives. The review was initiated in 1993 in response to a petition filed by the AFL-CIO.

Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding the eligibility of the Republic of Maldives for designation as a GSP beneficiary developing country. Documents should be submitted in accordance with the below instructions to be considered in this review.

Eligibility Criteria

The trade benefits of the GSP program are available to any country that the President designates as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP program. In designating countries as beneficiary developing countries, the President must consider the criteria in sections 502(b) and 502(c) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2462(b) and 2462(c)) (the "Act").

Section 502(b)(2) provides that, in determining whether to designate any country as a GSP beneficiary developing country, the President shall not designate any country a beneficiary developing country if any of the following applies:

1. Such country is a Communist country, unless—

(a) The products of such country receive nondiscriminatory treatment, (b) Such country is a WTO Member (as such term is defined in section 2(10) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act) (19 U.S.C. 3501(10)) and a member of the International Monetary Fund, and (c) Such country is not dominated or controlled by international communism.

2. Such country is a party to an arrangement of countries and participates in any action pursuant to such arrangement, the effect of which is—

(a) To withhold supplies of vital commodity resources from international trade or to raise the price of such commodities to an unreasonable level, and (b) To cause serious disruption of the world economy.

3. Such country affords preferential treatment to the products of a developed country, other than the United States, which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on United States commerce.

4. Such country—

(a) Has nationalized, expropriated, or otherwise seized ownership or control of property, including patents, trademarks, or copyrights, owned by a United States citizen or by a corporation, partnership, or association which is 50 percent or more beneficially owned by United States citizens, (b) Has taken steps to repudiate or nullify an existing contract or agreement with a United States citizen or a corporation, partnership, or association which is 50 percent or more beneficially owned by United States citizens, the effect of which is to nationalize, expropriate, or otherwise seize ownership or control of property, including patents, trademarks, or copyrights, so owned, or (c) Has imposed or enforced taxes or other exactions, restrictive maintenance or operational conditions, or other measures with respect to property, including patents, trademarks, or copyrights, so owned, the effect of which is to nationalize, expropriate, or otherwise seize ownership or control of such property, unless the President determines that—

(i) Prompt, adequate, and effective compensation has been or is being made to the citizen, corporation, partnership, or association referred to above, (ii) Good faith negotiations to provide prompt, adequate, and effective compensation under the applicable provisions of international law are in progress, or the country is otherwise taking steps to discharge its obligations under international law with respect to such citizen, corporation, partnership,

or association, or (iii) A dispute involving such citizen, corporation, partnership, or association over compensation for such a seizure has been submitted to arbitration under the provisions of the Convention for the Settlement of Investment Disputes, or in another mutually agreed upon forum, and the President promptly furnishes a copy of such determination to the Senate and House of Representatives.

5. Such country fails to act in good faith in recognizing as binding or in enforcing arbitral awards in favor of United States citizens or a corporation, partnership, or association which is 50 percent or more beneficially owned by United States citizens, which have been made by arbitrators appointed for each case or by permanent arbitral bodies to which the parties involved have submitted their dispute.

6. Such country aids or abets, by granting sanctuary from prosecution to, any individual or group which has committed an act of international terrorism or the Secretary of State makes a determination with respect to such country under section 6(j)(1)(A) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. Appx. section 2405(j)(1)(A)) or such country has not taken steps to support the efforts of the United States to combat terrorism.

7. Such country has not taken or is not taking steps to afford internationally recognized worker rights to workers in the country (including any designated zone in that country).

8. Such country has not implemented its commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

Section 502(c) provides that, in determining whether to designate any country as a GSP beneficiary developing country, the President shall take into account:

1. An expression by such country of its desire to be so designated;

2. The level of economic development of such country, including its per capita gross national product, the living standards of its inhabitants, and any other economic factors which the President deems appropriate;

3. Whether or not other major developed countries are extending generalized preferential tariff treatment to such country;

4. The extent to which such country has assured the United States that it will provide equitable and reasonable access to the markets and basic commodity resources of such country and the extent to which such country has assured the United States that it will refrain from engaging in unreasonable export practices;

5. The extent to which such country is providing adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights;

6. The extent to which such country has taken action to—

(a) Reduce trade distorting investment practices and policies (including export performance requirements); and (b) Reduce or eliminate barriers to trade in services; and

7. Whether or not such country has taken or is taking steps to afford to workers in that country (including any designated zone in that country) internationally recognized worker rights. The term “internationally recognized worker rights” is defined in section 507(4) of the Act, as amended, (19 U.S.C. 2467), to mean: (A) The right of association; (B) the right to organize and bargain collectively; (C) a prohibition on the use of any form of forced or compulsory labor; (D) a minimum age for the employment of children and a prohibition on the worst forms of child labor as defined in section 507(6) of the Act; and (E) acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours of work, and occupational safety and health.

Requirements for Submissions

Submissions in response to this notice must be submitted electronically by 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2009, using <http://www.regulations.gov>, docket number USTR-2009-0030. Instructions for business confidential versions are provided below. Hand-delivered submissions will not be accepted. Submissions must be submitted in English to the Chairman of the GSP Subcommittee, Trade Policy Staff Committee, by the applicable deadlines set forth in this notice.

To make a submission using <http://www.regulations.gov>, enter docket number USTR-2009-0030 on the home page and click “Search.” The site will provide a search-results page listing all documents associated with this docket. Locate the reference to this notice by selecting “Notices” under “Document Type”. In the results table below, click on the “Send a Comment” link that corresponds to this notice. Follow the instructions given on the screen to submit the comment. The <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site offers the option of providing comments by filling in a “Type Comment” field or by attaching a document. While both options are acceptable, USTR prefers submissions in the form of an attachment.

Comments must be in English, with the total submission not to exceed 30

single-spaced standard letter-size pages in 12-point type, including attachments. Any data attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files.

Business Confidential Petitions

Persons wishing to submit business confidential information must submit that information by electronic mail to FR0807@ustr.eop.gov. Business confidential submissions will not be accepted at <http://www.regulations.gov>. For any document containing business confidential information submitted as a file attached to an e-mail transmission, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters "BC." The "BC" should be followed by the name of the party (government, company, union, association, etc.) that is making the submission.

If a comment contains business confidential information that the submitter wishes to protect from public disclosure, the confidential submission must be marked "Business Confidential" at the top and bottom of each page. In addition, the submission must be accompanied by a non-confidential version that indicates, with asterisks, where confidential information was redacted or deleted. The top and bottom of each page of the non-confidential version must be marked either "Public Version" or "Non-Confidential". The file name of the public version should begin with the characters "P". The "P" should be followed by the name of the party (government, company, union, association, etc.) that is making the submission.

Business confidential comments that are submitted without the required markings or that are not accompanied by a properly marked non-confidential version as set forth above may not be accepted or may be treated as public documents.

Marideth J. Sandler,

*Executive Director for the GSP Program,
Chairman, GSP Subcommittee of the Trade
Policy Staff Committee.*

[FR Doc. E9-22525 Filed 9-17-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-W9-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. MC-F-21035]

Stagecoach Group PLC and Coach USA, Inc., et al.—Acquisition of Control—Twin America, LLC

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of Finance Application.

SUMMARY: On August 19, 2009, Stagecoach Group PLC (Stagecoach), a noncarrier, its noncarrier intermediate subsidiaries (Stagecoach Transport Holdings plc, SCUSI Ltd., Coach USA Administration, Inc.), Coach USA, Inc. (Coach USA), International Bus Services (IBS), a motor passenger carrier (MC-155937) controlled by Coach USA, City Sights Twin, LLC (City Sights Twin), a noncarrier, and Mr. Zev Marmurstein (collectively, Applicants), filed an application under 49 U.S.C. 14303 to acquire control of Twin America, LLC (Twin America) when it becomes a carrier.¹ Applicants advised the Board that the New York State Attorney General's office served subpoenas *duces tecum* on Gray Line New York Tours, Inc., Gray Line Twin, LLC, CitySights LLC, City Sights New York LLC, City Sights Daily LLC, and Twin America inquiring into the operation of those entities, the formation of Twin America, and related matters. On August 26, 2009, the New York State Attorney General filed a notice of intent to participate as a party of record. A copy of this notice will be served on the New York State Attorney General. Persons wishing to oppose this application must follow the rules at 49 CFR 1182.5 and 1182.8.

DATES: Comments must be filed by November 2, 2009. Applicants may file a reply by November 17, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Send an original and 10 copies of any comments referring to STB Docket No. MC-F-21035 to: Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, send one copy of comments to Applicants' representative: David H. Coburn, Steptoe & Johnson LLP, 1330 Connecticut Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20036.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julia Farr (202) 245-0359 [Federal Information Relay (FIRS) for the hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339].

¹ Twin America is in the process of applying with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to be a registered motor passenger carrier. It holds USDOT number 1924173 and has been assigned docket number MC-688284 by FMCSA.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Stagecoach is a public limited corporation organized under the laws of Scotland. Coach USA is a Delaware corporation that controls numerous motor passenger carriers. Mr. Zev Marmurstein is the sole member and owner of City Sights Twin, a noncarrier formed for the purpose of owning an interest in Twin America.

In March 2009, City Sights Twin and IBS formed Twin America. Twin America was formed because Applicants recognized that IBS and City Sights LLC, the previous operator of transportation services now provided by City Sights Twin, were experiencing declining revenues due to the challenging economic environment. The companies have determined that combining their assets under common management would provide cost savings. According to Applicants, Twin America currently operates motor carrier tourism transportation services in New York City as well as transportation to destinations outside the state of New York. Specifically, Twin America transports passengers from hotels in New Jersey to New York City and "conducts occasional interstate charter operations with its own vehicles between the New York City area and other states." Additionally, Applicants state that Twin America is involved in transportation arrangements with other carriers to provide interstate travel between the New York City area and other States.

Applicants have submitted the information required by 49 CFR 1182.2,² and submitted a statement that the 12-month aggregate gross operating revenues of the carrier applicants exceed the \$2 million jurisdictional threshold of 49 U.S.C. 14303(g). Applicants state that the proposed transaction will not affect the adequacy of transportation services available to the public because the charter/tour bus segment is competitive, the proposed transaction will not adversely impact competition, and this agency's prior finding regarding low entry barriers in this segment continues to be accurate. Applicants also state that the proposed transaction will not adversely impact fixed charges because it will not have an adverse impact on the level of debt held by Twin America or on the ability of Twin America to repay that debt, and that the employees of Twin America, other than a small number of

² By pleading filed on September 14, 2009, Applicants supplemented their original filing by including the FMCSA safety ratings as required by 49 CFR 1182.2(8).