

**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY****Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms****Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the Tobacco Products Manufacturers—Notice For Tobacco Products, ATF REC 5210/12 and Records of Operations, ATF REC 5210/1.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before September 2, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Linda Barnes, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20226, (202) 927-8930.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to Cliff Mullen, Wine, Beer and Spirits Regulations Branch, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20226, (202) 927-8181.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Tobacco Products Manufacturers—Notice For Tobacco Products, ATF REC 5210/12 and Records of Operations, ATF REC 5210/1.

*OMB Number:* 1512-0502.

*Recordkeeping Requirement ID Number:* ATF REC 5210/12, ATF REC 5210/1.

*Abstract:* ATF requires tax identification on packages or cases, which is used to validate excise tax payments and verify claims. In order to safeguard these taxes, tobacco products manufacturers are required to maintain a system of records designed to establish accountability over the tobacco products produced. The recordkeeping requirement for this information collection is 3 years.

*Current Actions:* There are no changes to this information collection and it is

being submitted for extension purposes only.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 108.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* None, records are usual and customary requirements.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1.

*Request for Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Dated: June 27, 1997.

**John W. Magaw,**

*Director.*

[FR Doc. 97-17401 Filed 7-2-97; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4810-31-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY****Customs Service**

[T.D. 97-55]

**Revocation of Customs Broker License**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury.

**ACTION:** Broker License Revocation.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Commissioner of Customs, pursuant to Section 641, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, (19 U.S.C. 1641), and Parts 111.52 and 111.74 of the Customs Regulations, as amended (19 CFR 111.52 and 111.74), the following Customs broker license is suspended with prejudice effective May 1, 1997, through June 1, 1997.

Port	Individual	License #
Atlanta, Georgia.	Customs Advisory Services.	11565

Dated: June 26, 1997.

**Philip Metzger,**

*Director, Trade Compliance.*

[FR Doc. 97-17498 Filed 7-2-97; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4820-02-P**

**UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY****Israeli-Arab Scholarship Program**

**ACTION:** Request for proposals.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Academic Programs of the United States Information Agency's (USIA's) Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may apply for an assistance award to provide administrative and program support services for the Israeli-Arab Scholarship Program. Organizations having less than four years experience in conducting international exchange programs may not receive grants in excess of \$60,000, and therefore are ineligible to apply for this assistance award.

The Israeli-Arab Scholarship Program (IASP) is a congressionally mandated and endowed program. The grant making authority for this program is contained in Public Law 102-138, the "Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993." The purpose of the legislation is to establish "a program of scholarships for Israeli-Arabs to attend institutions of higher education in the United States." The funding authority for the program is provided through the legislation.

The Israeli-Arab Scholarship Program provides and opportunity for highly qualified Israeli-Arab graduate students to attend institutions of higher education in the U.S., providing them both a quality graduate education and an opportunity to experience American democracy and society.

Program administration involves performance of services in the following broad categories: Program Planning and Management; Recruitment/Selection Support Services; Placement and Budgeting Services; Supervision and Support Services; Special Programs Management; and Program Projection and Reporting Services.

Programs and projects must conform to Agency requirements and guidelines

outlined in the Solicitation Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

**Announcement Title and Number:** All communications with USIA concerning this RFP should refer to the announcement's title and reference number E/AEN-IASP98-01.

**Deadline for Proposals:** All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on Thursday, July 31, 1997. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. Documents postmarked by the due date but received at a later date will not be accepted. Grants should begin on or about October 1, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** The Near East/South Asian Programs Branch, E/AEN, Room 212, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, telephone: 202-619-5368; fax: 202-205-2466 Internet address: lgtaylor@usia.gov, to request a Solicitation Package containing more detail. Please request required application forms, and standard guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget.

**To Download a Solicitation Package via Internet:** The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/education/rfps>. Please read all information before downloading.

**To Receive a Solicitation Package via Fax on Demand:** The entire Solicitation Package may be received via the Bureau's "Grants Information Fax on Demand System", which is accessed by calling 202/401-7616. Please request a "Catalog" of available documents and order numbers when first entering the system.

Please specify USIA Program Officer Lydia Giles Taylor on all inquiries and correspondences. Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, Agency staff may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

**Submissions:** Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and ten (10) copies of the application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/AEN-IASP98-01, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547.

Applicants must also submit the "Executive Summary" and "Proposal Narrative" sections of the proposal on a

3.5" diskette, formatted for DOS. This material must be provided in ASCII text (DOS) format with a maximum line length of 65 characters. USIA will transmit these files electronically to USIS posts overseas for their review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to get posts' comments for the Agency's grants review process.

### **Diversity, Freedom and Democracy Guidelines**

Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including, but not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle both in program administration and in program content. Please refer to the review criteria under the "Support for Diversity" section for specific suggestions on incorporating diversity into the total proposal. Public Law 104-319 provides that "in carrying out programs of educational and cultural exchange in countries whose people do not fully enjoy freedom and democracy", USIA "shall take appropriate steps to provide opportunities for participation in such programs to human rights and democracy leaders of such countries." Proposals should account for advancement of this goal in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Overview**

The Israeli-Arab Scholarship Program (IASP), a congressionally mandated and endowed program, is jointly administered by USIA's Office of Academic Programs and the U.S. Information Service (USIS) in Tel Aviv, Israel. Applicants are recruited, screened, and selected by USIS Tel Aviv through a panel of host-country academics. USIA's Office of Academic Programs is responsible for the allocation of funding and policy administration. The award recipient will have responsibility for supporting the selection process, placement of applicants at academic institutions and day-to-day management of the program.

#### **Guidelines**

Program administration activities should cover the time period October 1,

1997 through September 30, 1998. The expected grantee caseload for Fiscal year 1998 is projected as follows: 6 second-year (renewal) grantees, 4 first-year (new) grantees, 6 new FY 1999 principals and 2 alternates.

### **Administrative Services for the Israeli-Arab Scholarship Program Must Include**

#### *I. Program Planning and Management*

Includes: Development of a Cadre of Cost-Sharing Institutions; Development and Maintenance of a Financial Aid and Institutional Network; Monitoring and Adjustment of Grantee Allowances; Establishment and Maintenance of Grantee Statistical Database; Records Maintenance; Review of Grant Agreement; and Recommendation of Program Adjustments or Improvements.

#### *II. Recruitment/Selection Support Services*

Include: Materials Disbursement; Forecasting Costs; Preparing and Distributing Grant Documents and Related Forms.

#### *III. Placement and Budgeting Services*

Include: Applications Review; Candidate Evaluation/Academic Program Matching; Admissions Form Preparation/Submission; Estimation of University Expenses; Preparation and Distribution of Individual Cost Estimates; Finalization of Placements; Arranging Temporary Housing.

#### *IV. Supervision and Support Services*

Include: Oversight and Management of Grantees' Visa Status; Management of Travel Arrangements/Allowances; Accident and Illness Insurance Enrollment; Academic Monitoring; Processing of Grant Renewals, Extensions and Transfers; Disbursement of Grant Benefits; Management of Grantee Emergencies; Monitoring of Departure Plans.

#### *V. Special Programs Management*

Includes: English Language Evaluation; English Language/Orientation Enrollment; Management of Professional Enhancement Stipend; Publication and Distribution of Israeli-Arab Scholarship Program Newsletter; Publication and Distribution of Israeli-Arab Scholarship Program Handbook.

#### *VI. Fiscal Management*

Includes: Preparation and Distribution of Payments; Auditing Payments and Tuition Bills; Reviewing Accounting System; Auditing Internal Functions and Controls; Tax Assistance to Grantees; Preparation and Submission of Financial Reports.

### VII. Program Projection and Reporting Services

Include: Maintenance of Grant Records (computer and paper); Preparation of Departure and Status Reports (computer and paper); Preparation of Statistical Studies and Semester Reports; Preparation of Subsequent Year Program Projections.

#### Proposed Budget

Organizations must submit a comprehensive line item budget based on the specific guidance in the Solicitation Package. Total award may not exceed \$400,000.

Program costs are pre-determined and will be fixed at an amount not-to-exceed \$345,000. (USIA will provide a budget break-down of program costs for inclusion in the proposal.) Administrative costs are limited to \$55,000.

Please Note: Organizations having less than four years experience in conducting international exchange programs may not receive grants in excess of \$60,000, and therefore are ineligible to apply for this assistance award.

Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. There must be a summary budget as well as a break-down reflecting both the administrative budget and the program budget. Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

#### Review Process

USIA will acknowledge receipt of all proposals and will review them for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the Solicitation Package. Eligible proposals will be forwarded to panels of USIA officers for advisory review. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by the program office, the USIA Office of North African, Near Eastern, and South Asian Affairs and the U.S. Information Service Intel Aviv, Israel. Proposals may be reviewed by the Office of the General Counsel or by other Agency elements. Funding decisions are at the discretion of the USIA Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) resides with the USIA grants officer.

#### Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria

are not rank ordered and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation:

1. *Proposal Quality*: Proposals should address all program administration requirements set forth in the request for proposal and PSI (POGI).

2. *Plan of Operation*: Proposal should clearly demonstrate how the institution will manage program operations.

3. *Institution's Record/Ability*: Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Agency grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

4. *Institutional Capacity*: Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve program objectives.

5. *Institutional Network*: proof of existing network with U.S. academic and international exchange community or demonstrated potential to develop such a network.

6. *Facilitation of Communications*: Proposal should demonstrate the organization's ability to maintain communication with grantees and to put grantee in touch with each other. Particular emphasis should also be placed on program coordination between USIA, USIS Tel Aviv and the organization.

7. *Support of Diversity*: Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity. Achievable and relevant features should be cited in the program's administration e.g., selection of academic institutions and geographic distribution of grantees.

8. *Understanding of Program Impact*: Proposal should address how the organization views the Israeli-Arab Scholarship Program as strengthening long-term mutual understanding.

9. *Project Evaluation*: Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the activity's success. A draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives is recommended.

10. *Cost-Effectiveness*: The overhead and administrative components of the proposal should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate.

12. *Cost-Sharing*: Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through private sector support, e.g., from academic institutions. The plan should reflect the organization's willingness and/or ability to secure tuition and fee waivers,

scholarships, and financial aid for IASP grantees.

13. *Value to U.S.—Partner Country Relations*: Proposed projects should receive positive assessments by USIA's geographic area desk and overseas officers of program need, potential impact, and significance in the partner country.

#### Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

#### Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Dated: June 27, 1997.

**David Whitten,**

*Acting, Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.*

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BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

#### Advisory Committee on Women Veterans; Notice of Availability of Biennial Report

Under section 10(d) of Public Law 92-462 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) notice is hereby given that the biennial Report of the Department of Veterans Affairs' Advisory Committee on Women Veterans for 1996 has been issued. The Report summarizes activities of the Committee on matters relative to women veterans, and the identification of areas where further study and improvements are required. It is available for public inspection at two locations:

Federal Documents Section, Exchange and Gift Division, LM 632, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540 and

Department of Veterans Affairs, Center for Women Veterans, Central Office—Suite 700, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420

Dated: June 20, 1997.