

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 2606]

**International Telecommunications Advisory Committee (ITAC) Ad Hoc on Administrative Preparations for the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference Meeting Notice**

The Department of State announces a meeting, under the International Telecommunications Advisory Committee (ITAC), of its Ad Hoc Group on administrative preparations for the next ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, to be hosted by the United States in Minneapolis in October/November 1998. The Ad Hoc meeting will be held Thursday, October 9, 1997, at 10 a.m. in Room 1207 of the Department of State, 22nd and C Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The purpose of ITAC is to advise the Department on policy, technical and operational matters and to provide strategic telecommunications and information issues. To assist in preparations for specific international events and issues, the Department may establish an ITAC Ad Hoc group. The purpose of the upcoming Ad Hoc meeting is to provide an update on preparations for the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

Working group chairpersons of the Ad Hoc will report on past and upcoming activities. The telecommunications requirements for the Plenipotentiary Conference will be reviewed. Questions regarding the agenda may be directed to Anne Jillson, Department of State (202) 647-9117, fax number (202) 736-4933.

All participants may join in discussions, subject to instructions of the chair. In this regard, entry to the building is controlled. If you wish to attend, please send a fax to (202) 647-5957 at least 24 hours before the meeting, providing name, affiliation, date of birth and social security number, to arrange for pre-clearance. One of the following valid photo ID's is required for admittance: U.S. driver's license with picture, passport, government ID (company IDs are not accepted). Enter the "C" Street Main Lobby.

Dated: September 16, 1997.

**Richard E. Shrum,**

*ITAC Executive Director.*

[FR Doc. 97-25525 Filed 9-25-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-45-M

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 2607]

**International Telecommunications Advisory Committee; Telecommunications Development Sector (ITAC-D) Group Meeting Notice**

The Department of State announces the United States International Telecommunications Advisory Committee (ITAC) Telecommunications Development Sector (ITAC-D) Group will meet over the next several months to prepare for the upcoming International Telecommunications Union (ITU) World Telecommunication Development Conference scheduled for March 23-April 1, 1998 in Valletta, Malta. First preparatory meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 17, 1997, Room 1408, U.S. Department of State.

The agenda for the preparatory meeting is to discuss and review proposals to the Conference regarding the Development Sector's mission and strategic plan, its structure and methods of work and the priorities for the programme 1999-2003. U.S. proposals for new Study Group questions will also be discussed. It is expected that ad hoc committees will be formed at the first meeting to work on specialized or specific topics.

Questions regarding the meeting may be addressed to Ms. Doreen McGirr at 202-647-0201. If you wish to attend please send a fax to 202-647-7407 no later than two days before the scheduled meeting. Please include your name, Social Security number and date of birth. One of the following valid photo ID's will be required for admittance: U.S. driver's license with picture, U.S. passport, U.S. Government ID (company ID's are no longer accepted by Diplomatic Security). Enter from the "C" Street Main Lobby.

Dated: September 17, 1997.

**Doreen F. McGirr,**

*Chair of ITAC-D.*

[FR Doc. 97-25526 Filed 9-25-97; 8:45 am]

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**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

[Docket No. 301-102]

**Determinations Under Section 304 of the Trade Act of 1974 With Respect to Certain Canadian Practices Affecting Periodicals**

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice of determinations, termination and monitoring.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Trade Representative (USTR) has determined pursuant to section 304(a)(1)(A)(ii) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2414(a)(1)(A)(ii)) ("the Trade Act") that certain acts, policies and practices of the Government of Canada that restrict or prohibit imports of certain periodicals into Canada and apply discriminatory treatment to certain imported periodicals violates, or otherwise denies benefits to which the United States is entitled to under, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994. This determination is based on the report of a dispute settlement panel convened under the World Trade Organization (WTO), at the request of the United States, to examine the Canadian measures at issue. That report, as modified by a report of the WTO Appellate Body, and adopted by the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), found four Canadian measures affecting periodicals to be inconsistent with Canada's obligations under GATT 1994.

Following the adopting of this report by the DSB, Canada submitted a letter to the DSB announcing its commitment to meet its obligations under the WTO with regard to this matter and comply with the panel and Appellate Body reports within a reasonable period of time. Thus, pursuant to section 304(a)(1)(B) of the Trade Act, the USTR has determined that, by making this commitment, Canada is taking satisfactory measures to grant the rights of the United States under the GATT. Therefore, the USTR will not take action under section 301 of the Trade Act at this time and has terminated this investigation, but will monitor under section 306 of the Trade Act Canada's implementation of this commitment.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 11, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William Kane, Associate General Counsel, (202) 395-6800; or Megan Waters, Director for Canadian Affairs, (202) 395-3412.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 11, 1996, the United States Trade Representative initiated an investigation under section 302(b)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 ("the Trade Act") regarding certain measures adopted by the Government of Canada affecting periodicals and requested public comment on the issues raised in the investigation and the determinations to be made under section 304 of the Trade Act. 61 FR 11067 (March 18, 1996).

These measures included, but were not limited to, the following: (1) Tariff Code 9958, which prohibits the importation into Canada of certain periodicals; (2) Part V.1 of the Excise Tax Act, as enacted by Bill C-103 of December 15, 1995, which imposed an excise tax on certain so-called "split-run" periodicals, and (3) application of two types of discriminatory postal rates in favor of certain Canadian periodicals. As required under section 303(a) of the Trade Act, the USTR requested consultations with the Government of Canada under the procedures of the WTO Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU).

Pursuant to Section 304(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act, the USTR must determine in this case whether any act, policy or practice of the Government of Canada violates, or otherwise denies benefits to which the United States is entitled to under, any trade agreement. If that determination is affirmative, the USTR must take action under section 301 of the Trade Act, subject to the specific direction of the President, if any, unless, *inter alia*, the United States finds that the foreign country is taking satisfactory measures to grant the rights of the United States under the trade agreement.

#### Reasons for Determinations

##### (1) Canada's Acts, Policies and Practices

The WTO panel in this case circulated its report on March 14, 1997. The panel found that the following three Canadian measures violated Canada's obligations under the GATT: (1) Canada's import ban on certain periodicals; (2) Canada's 80 percent excise tax on so-called "split-run" periodicals, and (3) Canada's discriminatory "commercial" postal rates. Canada appealed the WTO panel's finding regarding the 80 percent excise tax, and the United States cross-appealed the panel's conclusion that a fourth Canadian measure—Canada's discriminatory "funded" postal rates—were a subsidy exempt from GATT national treatment requirements. The Appellate Body upheld the WTO panel's findings on the excise tax, but reversed the panel's finding (agreeing with the United States) regarding Canada's "funded" postal rates. The DSB adopted the WTO panel and Appellate Body reports on July 30, 1997. Thus, based on the results of the WTO dispute settlement proceedings, the public comments received and appropriate consultations, the USTR has determined pursuant to section 304(a)(1)(A)(ii) of the Trade Act that certain acts, policies and practices of the

Government of Canada violate, or otherwise deny benefits to which the United States is entitled to under, GATT 1994.

##### (2) U.S. Action

Upon affirmative determination of the denial of rights under a trade agreement, the USTR must decide pursuant to section 304(a)(1)(B) of the Trade Act to take action unless, *inter alia*, the USTR finds that the foreign country is taking satisfactory measures to grant the rights of the United States under the trade agreement. On August 29, 1997, Canada submitted a letter to the DSB stating that it will meet its WTO obligations and will comply with the WTO panel and Appellate Body reports within a reasonable period of time. The USTR has determined that, in light of Canada's letter of intention, Canada is taking satisfactory measures to grant the rights of the United States under GATT. Thus, the USTR will not take action under section 301 of the Trade Act at this time and has determined this investigation. Pursuant to section 306 of the Trade Act, the USTR will monitor Canada's compliance with the WTO panel and Appellate Body report and will take action under section 304(a) of the Trade Act if Canada does not come into compliance.

Irving A. Williamson,

Chairman, Section 301 Committee.

[FR Doc. 97-25586 Filed 9-25-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Coast Guard

[CGD 97-063]

### National Boating Safety Advisory Council

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) will meet to conduct a comprehensive review of currently effective boating safety regulations as previously announced. Special subcommittees will meet to review boating safety regulations dealing with manufacturer requirements, boat and equipment standards and operator requirements. Additionally, Council subcommittees on boat occupant protection, navigation lights, and personal flotation device-life saving index will meet to discuss various issues relating to recreational boating. All meetings will be open to the public.

**DATES:** NBSAC will meet on Monday and Tuesday, October 27 and 28, 1997, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Manufacturer Requirements, Boat and Equipment Standards, and Operator Requirements Regulations Review Subcommittees will meet on Saturday, October 25, 1997, from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, October 26 from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. The Navigation Light and the Personal Flotation Device-Life Saving Index Subcommittees will meet from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., and the Boat Occupant Protection Subcommittee from 10:00 a.m. to noon, on Sunday, October 26, 1997. Written material and requests to make oral presentations should reach the Coast Guard on or before October 20, 1997. Requests to have a copy of your material distributed to each member of the committee or subcommittee in advance of a meeting should reach the Coast Guard on or before October 14, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** NBSAC will meet at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, 210 Holiday Court, Annapolis, Maryland. The subcommittee meetings will be held at the same address. Send written material and requests to make oral presentations to Mr. Albert J. Marmo, Commandant (G-OPB-1), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Albert J. Marmo, Executive Director of NBSAC, telephone 202-267-0950, fax 202-267-4285. You may obtain a copy of this notice by calling the U.S. Coast Guard Infoline at 1-800-368-5647, or read it on the Internet, at the Web Site for the Office of Boating Safety, at URL address [www.uscgboating.org/](http://www.uscgboating.org/).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice of these meetings is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2. A Notice of Request for Comments concerning the review of currently effective boating safety regulations by NBSAC was published in the **Federal Register** on May 28, 1997 (62 FR 28824).

### Agendas of Meetings

*National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC).* The agenda includes the following:

- (1) Executive Director's report.
- (2) Chairman's session.
- (3) Manufacturer Requirements Regulations Review Subcommittee report.
- (4) Boat and Equipment Standards Regulations Review Subcommittee report.
- (5) Operator Requirements Regulations Review Subcommittee report.