

State Department Basic Authorities Act (22 U.S.C. 2651(a)), I hereby delegate to the Chief Information Officer the authority to redelegate to the Bureau of Administration the functions conferred on the Department of State by the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3506) governing the Department's information collection procedures.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this delegation of authority, the Secretary of State or the Deputy Secretary of State may at any time exercise any function hereby delegated.

This delegation of authority shall be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: September 11, 1998.

Madeleine K. Albright,

Secretary of State.

[FR Doc. 98-28424 Filed 10-22-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-10-M

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Request for Public Comment: Proposed Determination in Section 301 Investigation Concerning Intellectual Property Laws and Practices of the Government of Paraguay

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of proposed determination and request for written comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Trade Representative (USTR) is seeking public comment on a proposed determination that certain acts, policies and practices of the Government of Paraguay concerning the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights are unreasonable and constitute a burden or restriction on United States commerce.

DATES: This action was taken October 16, 1998. Written comments of interested persons are due by noon on November 16, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Claude Burcky, Director for Intellectual Property, (202) 395-6864; Kellie Meiman, Director for Mercosur and the Southern Cone, (202) 395-5190; or GERALYN S. Ritter, Assistant General Counsel, (202) 395-6800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 16, 1998, the USTR identified Paraguay as a "priority foreign country" under the "Special 301" provisions of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2242). In identifying Paraguay as

a "priority foreign country," the USTR noted deficiencies in Paraguay's acts, policies and practices regarding intellectual property, including a lack of effective action to enforce intellectual property rights. The USTR also observed that the Government of Paraguay had failed to enact adequate and effective intellectual property legislation covering patents, copyrights and trademarks. As required under Section 302(b)(2)(A) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2412(b)(2)(A)), an investigation of these acts, policies and practices was initiated on February 17, 1998. On August 4, 1998, the investigation was extended until November 17, 1998, in light of the complex and complicated issues involved. Thus, pursuant to section 304(a)(3)(B) of the Trade Act, the USTR must determine on or before November 17, 1998, whether the Government of Paraguay's acts, policies and practices regarding intellectual property are unreasonable and burden or restrict U.S. commerce.

During bilateral negotiations held to resolve these issues, the Government of Paraguay indicated that it has undertaken and will undertake a number of actions to improve the protection of intellectual property rights in Paraguay. For example, since this investigation was initiated, Paraguay has passed new copyright and trademark laws, and has undertaken efforts to legalize government use of software. The Government of Paraguay also has made efforts to improve enforcement of intellectual property rights, including conducting a number of notable recent seizures of counterfeit and pirated products.

Despite these efforts, significant issues remain unresolved. Piracy and counterfeiting of U.S. products continue to be serious problems in Paraguay. Paraguay remains a major transshipment point from which pirated and counterfeit products are distributed to markets throughout Latin America. Pirated and counterfeit products continue to be widely available in retail outlets, particularly in Ciudad del Este. Moreover, the Paraguayan judicial system fails to provide effective relief for violations of intellectual property rights. There are frequent reports that infringers are not prosecuted, that seized products are not destroyed, that cases are often mishandled, and that judges lack sufficient understanding of intellectual property issues. In addition, the recently-passed copyright law fails to provide that copyright piracy is a "public" criminal offense, and therefore public prosecutors will not enforce its provisions. Finally, Paraguay appears to have made little progress toward

enacting legislation to provide adequate and effective patent protection.

Proposed Determination

If the issues that are the basis for this investigation are not addressed, the USTR proposes to determine pursuant to section 304(a)(1) of the Trade Act that acts, policies, and practices of the Government of Paraguay with respect to the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights are unreasonable and constitute a burden or restriction on U.S. commerce. In the event the USTR makes such a determination, the USTR also must determine pursuant to section 304(a)(1)(B) what action, if any, to take in response.

Public Comment

In accordance with section 304(b)(1)(A) of the Trade Act, USTR invites the presentation of views of interested persons concerning the determinations required under section 304(a)(1). In particular, written comments should address: (1) The USTR's proposed determination that the Government of Paraguay's acts, policies or practices concerning the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights are unreasonable and constitute a burden or restriction on U.S. commerce; and (2) what actions, if any, would be appropriate to take in response.

Comments must be filed in accordance with the requirements set forth in 15 CFR 2006.8(b) (55 FR 20,593) and must be filed on or before noon on Monday, November 16, 1998. Comments must be in English and provided in twenty copies to: Sybia Harrison, Staff Assistant to the Section 301 Committee, Room 416, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508.

Comments will be placed in a file (Docket 301-117) open to public inspection pursuant to 15 CFR 2006.13, except confidential business information exempt from public inspection in accordance with 15 CFR 2006.15. Confidential business information submitted in accordance with 15 CFR 2006.15 must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page on each of 20 copies, and must be accompanied by a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. The nonconfidential summary shall be placed in the file that is open to public inspection. An appointment to review the docket (Docket No. 301-117) may be made by calling Brenda Webb (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 12

noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and is located in Room 101.

Joanna K. McIntosh,

Chairperson, Section 301 Committee.

[FR Doc. 98-28441 Filed 10-22-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Aviation Proceedings, Agreements Filed During the Week Ending October 16, 1998

The following Agreements were filed with the Department of Transportation under the provisions of 49 U.S.C. Sections 412 and 414. Answers may be filed within 21 days of date of filing.

Docket Number: OST-98-4570

Date Filed: October 13, 1998

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association

Subject:

PTC12 MATL-EUR 0034 dated October 6, 1998

Mid Atlantic-Europe Resos r1-31

PTC12 MATL-EUR 0035 dated October 9, 1998 Minutes

PTC12 MATL-EUR Fares 0009 dated October 6, 1998 Tables

Intended effective date: March 1, 1999.

Docket Number: OST-98-4571

Date Filed: October 13, 1998

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association

Subject:

PTC23 EUR-JK 0031 dated October 9, 1998

PTC23 EUR-JK 0032 dated October 9, 1998

Expedited Europe-Japan/Korea Resos r1-002nn r3-002jj

r2-074I r4-015v

Intended effective date: as early as November 15, 1998.

Docket Number: OST-98-4572

Date Filed: October 13, 1998

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association

Subject:

PAC/RESO/401 dated October 7, 1998

Expedited Agency Resolutions in Southwest Pacific

Intended effective date: expedited November 1, 1998.

Docket Number: OST-98-4580

Date Filed: October 14, 1998

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association

Subject:

COMP Telex Reso 033f

Local Currency Rate Changes—Zimbabwe

Intended effective date: November 1, 1998.

Docket Number: OST-98-4581

Date Filed: October 14, 1998

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association

Subject:

PTC2 Telex Mail Vote 963

Roll Back 2% Passenger Increase from Kuwait to Europe

Intended effective date: January 1, 1999.

Docket Number: OST-98-4584

Date Filed: October 14, 1998

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association

Subject:

PTC23 ME-TC3 0051 dated October 13, 1998 r1-6

PTC23 ME-TC3 0052 dated October 13, 1998 r7-8

Middle East—TC3 Expedited Resos

Intended effective date: as early as December 1, 1998.

Docket Number: OST-98-4585

Date Filed: October 14, 1998

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association

Subject:

PTC12 NMS-ME 0065 dated October 2, 1998 r1-18

PTC12 NMS-ME 0066 dated October 2, 1998 r19-37

North Atlantic-Middle East/Israel Resos

PTC12 NMS-ME 0067 dated October 9, 1998 Minutes

PTC12 NMS-ME FARES 0028 dated October 9, 1998 Tables

Intended effective date April 1, 1999.

Docket Number: OST-98-4594

Date Filed: October 16, 1998

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association

Subject:

COMP Telex Resos 024f (r1) & 033f (r2)

Local Currency Fare/Rate Changes—Botswana

Intended effective date: October 15, 1998.

Docket Number: OST-98-4595

Date Filed: October 16, 1998

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association

Subject:

PTC2 Telex Mail Vote 964

Extend Expire Date on Within-Africa Fares

Intended effective date: December 1, 1998.

Docket Number: OST-98-4596

Date Filed: October 16, 1998

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association

Subject:

PTC23 AFR-TC3 0052 dated October 13, 1998 r1

PTC23 AFR-TC3 0053 dated October 13, 1998 r2

Expedited Africa—TC3 Resos

r1-002ss r2-002tt

Intended effective date: December 1, 1998.

Dorothy W. Walker,

Federal Register Liaison.

[FR Doc. 98-28511 Filed 10-22-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Foreign Carrier Permits Air Filed Under Subpart Q During the Week Ending October 16, 1998

The following Applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Foreign Air Carrier Permits were filed under Subpart Q of the Department of Transportation's Procedural Regulations (See 14 CFR 302.1701 et. seq.). The due date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motions to Modify Scope are set forth below for each application. Following the Answer period DOT may process the application by expedited procedures. Such procedures may consist of the adoption of a show-cause order, a tentative order, or in appropriate cases a final order without further proceedings.

Docket Number: OST-98-4582.

Date Filed: October 14, 1998.

Due Date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motions to Modify Scope: November 11, 1998.

Description: Application of Polyot Airlines pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 41302, Part 212 and Subpart Q, applies for an initial foreign air carrier permit authorizing it to provide cargo transportation of property and mail on a charter basis between a point or points in the Russian Federation and a point or points in the United States, and other charters.

Dorothy W. Walker,

Federal Register Liaison.

[FR Doc. 98-28512 Filed 10-22-98; 8:45 am]

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