

Dated: February 11, 2003.

Frederick J. Kenney,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 03-4362 Filed 2-24-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Secretary

[Public Notice 4283]

Extension of the Restriction on the Use of United States Passports for Travel To, In or Through Iraq

On February 1, 1991, pursuant to the authority of 22 U.S.C. 211a and Executive Order 11295 (31 FR 10603), and in accordance with 22 CFR 51.73(a)(2) and (a)(3), all United States passports, with certain exceptions, were declared invalid for travel to, in, or through Iraq unless specifically validated for such travel. The restriction was originally imposed on the grounds that (1) armed hostilities then were taking place in Iraq and Kuwait and (2) there was an imminent danger to the safety of United States travelers to Iraq. American citizens then residing in Iraq and American professional reporters and journalists on assignment there were exempted from the restriction on the grounds that such exemptions were in the national interest. The restriction has been extended for additional one-year periods since then, and was last extended through February 25, 2003.

Conditions in Iraq remain hazardous for Americans. In an effort to compel Iraq to fulfill its obligations under UN Security Council resolutions, the United Nation has initiated an intensive inspections program. Mounting tensions between the Iraqi regime and the international community create an increasingly hazardous atmosphere for Americans in Iraq. If hostilities were to break out, the risk to Americans would be grave. The Iraqi regime has in the past demonstrated a willingness to use violence and intimidation against foreigners to pursue its foreign policy goals, and we believe it remains prepared to do so in the future.

At the outbreak of the Gulf War, the Iraqi regime took private citizens, including Americans, hostage and forced them to serve as "human shields" at strategic sites throughout Iraq. The Iraqi government has long asserted that it cannot ensure the safety of U.S. citizen United Nations humanitarian workers in Iraq, prompting the United Nations to remove them. Iraq regularly fires anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air missiles at

U.S. and coalition aircraft patrolling the no-fly ones over northern and southern Iraq, and regularly illuminates U.S. and coalition aircraft with target-acquisition radar.

The tactics Iraq uses in the repression of its own civilian population creates a high risk to innocent bystanders. In addition, U.S. citizens and other foreigners working inside Kuwait near the Iraqi borders have been detained by Iraqi authorities in the past and sentenced to lengthy jail terms for alleged illegal entry into the country. Although our interests are represented by the Embassy of Poland in Baghdad, its ability to obtain consular access to detained U.S. citizens and to perform emergency services is constrained. In light of these circumstances, and pursuant to the authorities set forth in 22 U.S.C. 211a, Executive Order 11295, and 22 CFR 51.73, I have determined that Iraq continues to be a country where "there is imminent danger to the public health or physical safety of United States travellers".

Accordingly, United States passports shall continue to be invalid for travel to, in or through Iraq unless specifically validated for such travel under the authority of the Secretary of State. This restriction on the validity of U.S. passports for travel to, in or through Iraq shall not apply to and journalists on assignment there.

The Public Notice shall be effective from the date it is published in the Federal Register and shall expire at midnight on February 25, 2004, unless sooner extended or revoked by Public Notice.

Dated: February 12, 2003.

Colin L. Powell,

Secretary of State, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 03-4105 Filed 2-24-03; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Notice of Request for Public Comment Regarding Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA) Beneficiary Countries

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with section 203(f) of the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) (19 U.S.C. 3201), as amended by the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA), the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is

requesting the views of interested parties on whether the countries designated as ATPDEA beneficiary countries in Presidential Proclamation 7616 of October 31, 2002, are meeting the eligibility criteria provided for in section 204(b)(6)(B) of the ATPA, as amended by the ATPDEA.

DATES: Public comments are due at USTR no later than 5 p.m., March 27, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Submissions by mail or express delivery: Public Reading Room, ATTN: ATPDEA Beneficiary Countries, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 1724 F Street, Room F12P1, NW., Washington, DC 20508. Submissions by electronic mail: FR0030@ustr.gov. See requirements for submissions below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bennett Harman, Office of the Americas, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Room 523, Washington, DC 20508. The telephone number is (202) 395-5190.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Signed into law on August 6, 2002, the Trade Act of 2002 contains, in title XXXI, provisions for enhanced trade benefits for eligible Andean countries. Titled the "Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act" (ATPDEA), the ATPDEA renews the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA), and amends the ATPA to provide preferential treatment for certain products previously excluded from such treatment. In Presidential Proclamation 7616 of October 31, 2002, the President designated Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru as ATPDEA beneficiary countries. Section 203(f) of the ATPA, as amended by the ATPDEA, requires the USTR, not later than April 30, 2003, to submit to Congress a report on the operation of the ATPA. Section 203(f)(2) requires USTR, before submitting such report, to request comments on whether beneficiary countries are meeting the criteria listed in section 204(6)(B). USTR refers interested parties to the **Federal Register** notice published on August 15, 2002 (67 FR 53379), for a full list of section 204(6)(B)'s eligibility criteria.

Submitting Comments: Comments, in English, may be submitted by mail, express delivery service, or e-mail (to FR0030@ustr.gov). It is strongly recommended that comments submitted by mail or express delivery service also be sent by e-mail. Persons making submissions by e-mail should use the following subject line: "ATPDEA Beneficiary Countries". Documents should be submitted as either WordPerfect, MSWord, or text (.TXT) files. Supporting documentation

submitted as spreadsheets are acceptable as Quattro Pro or Excel. For any document containing business confidential information submitted electronically, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters "BC-", and the file name of the public version should begin with the characters "P-". The "P-" or "BC-" should be followed by the name of the submitter. Persons who make submissions by e-mail should not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. Similarly, to the extent possible, any attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files. Persons submitting written comments by mail or express delivery service should provide 20 copies.

Written comments, notices of testimony, and testimony will be placed in a file open to public inspection pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.5, except confidential business information exempt from public inspection in accordance with 15 CFR 2003.6. Confidential business information submitted in accordance with 15 CFR 2003.6 must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" at the top of each page, including any cover letter or cover page, and must be accompanied by a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. All public documents and nonconfidential summaries shall be available for public inspection in the USTR Reading Room. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public, by appointment only, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. An appointment to review the file may be made by calling (202) 395-6186. Appointments must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance.

Regina Vargo,

Assistant United States Trade Representative for the Americas.

[FR Doc. 03-4391 Filed 2-24-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[USCG-2003-14494]

National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (NOSAC) will meet to discuss various issues relating to offshore safety and security. The meeting will be open to the public.

DATES: NOSAC will meet on Thursday, April 3, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The meeting may close early if all business is finished. Written material and requests to make oral presentations should reach the Coast Guard on or before March 20, 2003. Requests to have a copy of your material distributed to each member of the committee should reach the Coast Guard on or before March 20, 2003.

ADDRESSES: NOSAC will meet in room 2415, of the Coast Guard Headquarters Bldg, 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington, DC. Send written material and requests to make oral presentations to Captain M. W. Brown, Executive Director of NOSAC, Commandant (G-MSO), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001. This notice is available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Captain M. W. Brown, Executive Director of NOSAC, or Mr. Jim Magill, Assistant to the Executive Director, telephone 202-267-0214, fax 202-267-4570.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

Agenda of Meeting

National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee. The agenda includes the following:

(1) Report on issues concerning the International Maritime Organization and the International Organization for Standardization.

(2) Report by the Coast Guard on meetings held and plans to develop maritime and offshore security rules.

(3) Report from Offshore Security Subcommittee and discussion of any recommendations to the Coast Guard regarding security regulations.

(4) Report from Liftboat Subcommittee.

(5) Report from Task Force on development and implementation of the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) Convention for offshore supply vessels (OSVs).

(6) Progress report from the Subcommittee on Pipeline-Free Anchorages.

(7) MMS presentation on the use of their pipeline database for the Gulf of Mexico.

(8) Revision of 33 CFR subchapter N, Outer Continental Shelf activities.

(9) Status report on Coast Guard/Minerals Management Service Inspection of Fixed Facilities.

(10) Update on Coast Guard Initiatives on Crew Fatigue.

Procedural

The meeting is open to the public. Please note that the meeting may close early if all business is finished. At the Chair's discretion, members of the public may make oral presentations during the meeting. If you would like to make an oral presentation at the meeting, please notify the Executive Director no later than March 20, 2003. Written material for distribution at the meeting should reach the Coast Guard no later than March 20, 2003. If you would like a copy of your material distributed to each member of the committee in advance of the meeting, please submit 25 copies to the Executive Director (*see ADDRESSES*) no later than March 20, 2003.

Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, telephone the Executive Director at 202-267-0214 as soon as possible.

Dated: February 13, 2003.

Howard L. Hime,

Acting Director of Standards, Marine Safety, Security & Environment Protection.

[FR Doc. 03-4409 Filed 2-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Notice of Intent To Rule on Application (03-06-C-00-SLC) To Impose and Use the Revenue From a Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) at Salt Lake City International Airport, Submitted by the Salt Lake City Department of Airports, Salt Lake City, Utah

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent to rule on application.

SUMMARY: The FAA proposes to rule and invites public comment on the application to impose and use PFC revenue at Salt Lake City International Airport under the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 40117 and part 158 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 158).

DATES: Comments must be received on or before March 27, 2003.