

Dated: May 10, 2004.

Judith L. Osborn,

Attorney-Adviser, Office of United Nations Affairs, Office of the Legal Adviser, Executive Director, Advisory, Committee on International Law, Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4719]

Public Meeting on Universal Postal Union Issues

SUMMARY: The Department of State will host a briefing on Thursday, June 10, 2004, to provide an update on current Universal Postal Union issues, including work leading up to and preparations for the UPU Congress to be held in Bucharest, Romania from September 15 to October 5, 2004.

The briefing will be held from 10 a.m. until 12 noon, on June 10, in Room 1207 of the Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC. The briefing will be open to the public up to the capacity of the meeting room (40 persons).

The briefing will provide information on the results of the February 2004 sessions of the UPU Council of Administration and Postal Operations Council, whose major focus was to approve proposals and documentation for submission to the Bucharest UPU Congress. Special attention will be paid to several major issues to be taken up by the Bucharest Congress including terminal dues, the creation of a Consultative Committee within the UPU with primary membership from the private sector, service performance measurement, extra-territorial offices of exchange and an outline of the U.S. government's expected goals for the UPU for 2005-2008 period. Information will also be provided on the status of United States preparations for the Bucharest UPU Congress. The briefing will be chaired by Donald Booth, Director of the Office of Technical Specialized Agencies, Bureau of International Organization Affairs of the Department of State.

Entry to the Department of State building is controlled and will be facilitated by advance arrangements. In order to arrange admittance, persons desiring to attend the briefing should, no later than noon on June 9, 2004, notify the Office of Technical and Specialized Agencies, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, Department of State, preferably by fax, providing the name of the meeting and the individual's name, Social Security

number, date of birth, professional affiliation, address and telephone number. The fax number to use is (202) 647-8902. Voice telephone is (202) 647-1044. This request applies to both government and non-government individuals.

All attendees must use the main entrance of the Department of State at 23rd Street between C and D Streets, NW. Please note that under current security restrictions, C Street is closed to vehicular traffic between 21st and 23rd Streets. Taxis may leave passengers at 21st and C Streets, 23rd and C Streets, or 22nd Street and Constitution Avenue. One of the following means of identification will be required for admittance: Any U.S. driver's license with photo, a passport, or any U.S. Government agency identification card.

Questions concerning the briefing may be directed to Mr. Dennis Delehanty at (202) 647-4197 or Heather Von Behren at (202) 647-2753 or via e-mail at delehantydm@state.gov.

Dated: May 10, 2004.

Dennis Delehanty,

Program Officer, Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4720]

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; Certifications Pursuant to Section 609 of Public Law 101-162

SUMMARY: On April 30, 2004, the Department of State certified, pursuant to Section 609 of Public Law 101-162 ("Section 609"), that 14 nations have adopted programs to reduce the incidental capture of sea turtles in their shrimp fisheries comparable to the program in effect in the United States. The Department also certified that the fishing environments in 24 other countries and one economy, Hong Kong, do not pose a threat of the incidental taking of sea turtles protected under Section 609. Shrimp imports from any nation not certified were prohibited effective May 1, 2004 pursuant to Section 609.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 14, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James Story, Office of Marine Conservation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520-7818; telephone: (202) 647-2335.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 609 of Public Law 101-162 prohibits

imports of certain categories of shrimp unless the President certifies to the Congress not later than May 1 of each year either: (1) That the harvesting nation has adopted a program governing the incidental capture of sea turtles in its commercial shrimp fishery comparable to the program in effect in the United States and has an incidental take rate comparable to that of the United States; or (2) that the fishing environment in the harvesting nation does not pose a threat of the incidental taking of sea turtles. The President has delegated the authority to make this certification to the Department of State. Revised State Department guidelines for making the required certifications were published in the **Federal Register** on July 2, 1999 (Vol. 64, No. 130, Public Notice 3086).

On April 30, 2004, the Department certified 14 nations on the basis that their sea turtle protection programs are comparable to that of the United States: Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Department also certified 24 shrimp harvesting nations and one economy as having fishing environments that do not pose a danger to sea turtles. Sixteen nations have shrimping grounds only in cold waters where the risk of taking sea turtles is negligible. They are: Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Uruguay. Eight nations and one economy only harvest shrimp using small boats with crews of less than five that use manual rather than mechanical means to retrieve nets, or catch shrimp using other methods that do not threaten sea turtles. Use of such small-scale technology does not adversely affect sea turtles. The eight nations and one economy are: the Bahamas, China, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Oman, Peru and Sri Lanka.

The Department of State has communicated the certifications under Section 609 to the Office of Trade Program of the United States Customs Service.

Dated: May 5, 2004.

David A Balton,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries, Department of State.

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