

Street diplomatic entrance (22nd and C Streets, N.W.) where Department personnel will direct them to the Dean Acheson auditorium.

Following the open portion of the meeting, a working lunch and briefings that the Department of State will arrange for DTAG members will involve discussions of classified and/or proprietary information pursuant to Executive Order 12958. The disclosure of classified and/or proprietary information essential to formulating U.S. defense trade policies would substantially undermine U.S. defense trade relations with foreign competitors. Therefore, these segments of the meeting will be closed to the public, pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. Appendix and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1), and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B).

For further information, contact Catherine Shelton of the DTAG Secretariat, U.S. Department of State, Office of Arms Transfer and Export Control Policy (PM/A TEC), Room 2422 Main State, Washington, D.C. 20520-2422. She may be reached at telephone number (202) 647-4231 or fax number (202) 647-4232.

Dated: November 15, 1996.

Martha C. Harris,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Controls, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs.

Determination for a Partially Closed Meeting of the Defense Trade Advisory Group

In accordance with Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (P.L. 92-463), as amended, I hereby determine that the afternoon portions of the meeting of the Defense Trade Advisory Group (DTAG) on Thursday, December 5, 1996 in the Department of States Dean Acheson Auditorium, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520 will be devoted to discussion of matters recognized as not subject to public disclosure pursuant to P.L. 92-463 and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1), and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B), and in accordance with Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and that the public interest requires such discussion to be withheld from public disclosure.

The reasons supporting this determination are:

(1) Documents classified in accordance with Executive Order 12958 will be discussed; and

(2) Discussions will include classified and/or proprietary information concerning defense trade issues, the public disclosure of which would adversely affect future actions of the Department.

Other matters not requiring such protection may be discussed during the initial open portion of the meeting.

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Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

[Public Notice 2469]

Certifications Pursuant to Section 609 of Public Law 101-162

SUMMARY: On April 30, 1995, the Department of State certified, pursuant to Section 609 of Public Law 101-162, that 36 countries with commercial shrimp trawl fisheries have adopted programs to reduce the incidental capture of sea turtles in such fisheries comparable to the program in effect in the United States, or that the fishing environment in the countries does not pose a threat of the incidental taking of species of sea turtles protected under U.S. law and regulations. The Department also certified Honduras on August 1, 1996. The Department was unable to issue a certification on April 30 for Thailand and, as a result, imports of shrimp harvested in Thailand in a manner harmful to sea turtles were prohibited effective May 1, 1996. The Department of State subsequently issued a certification for Thailand on November 8, 1996 and, as a result, the ban on shrimp imports that had been in effect since May 1, 1996, was lifted.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 22, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Hollis Summers, Office of Marine Conservation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520-7818; telephone: (202) 647-3940.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 609 of Public Law 101-162 prohibits imports of shrimp unless the President certifies to the Congress by 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 April 19, 1996 (61 FR 17342).

On April 30, 1996, the Department of State certified that 36 shrimp harvesting nations have met, for the current year, the requirements of the law. The Department of State was unable to certify Thailand at that time. As a result, imports of shrimp from Thailand that were harvested in ways harmful to sea turtles were prohibited pursuant to Public Law 101-162 effective May 1, 1996.

The Department did not previously certify Thailand because the Government of Thailand had not required all commercial shrimp trawl vessels subject to its jurisdiction that operated in waters where there is a likelihood of intercepting sea turtles to use turtle excluder devices at all times. The Department of State has determined that Thailand has now instituted such a requirement. Shrimp trawl vessels in Thailand are now required to use turtle excluder devices comparable in effectiveness to those used in the United States. The requirement to use them is being enforced. The Department of State, therefore, was able to certify to Congress that Thailand is in accordance with the provisions of Section 609 of Public Law 101-162.

Dated: November 8, 1996.

Larry L. Snead,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[CGD8-96-050]

Lower Mississippi River Waterway Safety Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lower Mississippi River Waterway Safety Advisory Committee will meet to discuss various navigation safety matters affecting the Lower Mississippi River area. The meeting will be open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to approximately 11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the basement GSA conference room of the Hale Boggs Federal Building, 501 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Monty Ledet, USCG, Administrator, Lower Mississippi River Waterway Safety Advisory Committee, c/o