

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 10, 1996, the United States requested establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel to examine whether India's legal regime is inconsistent with the obligations of the TRIPS Agreement. The WTO dispute Settlement Body (DSB) considered the U.S. request at its meeting on November 20, 1996, at which time a panel was established. Very recently, three panelists were chosen to hear the dispute: Professor Thomas Cottier of the University of Berne in Switzerland, Mr. Yanyong Phuangrach of the Ministry of Commerce in Thailand, and Mr. Doug Chester of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Australia. The first meeting of panelists is scheduled to take place on February 19, 1997. Under normal circumstances, the panel would be expected to issue a report detailing its findings and recommendations within six to nine months after it is established.

Major Issues Raised by the United States and Legal Basis of Complaint

The TRIPS Agreement requires all WTO Members to grant patents for the subject matter specified in Article 27 of the Agreement. Article 70.8 of the TRIPS Agreement provides that where a Member takes advantage of the transitional provisions under the Agreement and does not make product patent protection available for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical inventions as of the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement (i.e., January 1, 1995), that Member must implement measures to permit Members' nationals to file patent applications drawn to such inventions on or after that January 1, 1995. When the Member fully implements the product patent provisions of TRIPS Agreement Article 27, these applications must be examined according to the criteria for patentability set forth in the Agreement, based on the earliest effective filing date claimed for the application. Patents granted on these applications must enjoy the term and rights mandated by the TRIPS Agreement.

The TRIPS Agreement further requires Members subject to the obligations of Article 70.8 to provide exclusive marketing rights to those persons who have filed an application under the interim filing procedures, provided that the product covered by the invention has been granted marketing approval in the Member providing this transitional protection and another Member, and a patent has been granted on the invention in another Member.

The legal regime in India currently does not make patent protection available for inventions as specified in Article 27 of the TRIPS Agreement, or provide systems that conform to obligations of the TRIPS Agreement regarding the acceptance of applications and the grant of exclusive marketing rights. As a result, India's legal regime appears to be inconsistent with the obligations of the TRIPS Agreement, including but not necessarily limited to Articles 27, 65 and 70.

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the issues raised in the dispute. Comments must be in English and provided in fifteen copies. A person requesting that information contained in a comment submitted by that person be treated as confidential business information must certify that such information is business confidential and would not customarily be released to the public by the commenter. Confidential business information must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page of each copy.

A person requesting that information or advice contained in a comment submitted by that person, other than business confidential information, be treated as confidential in accordance with section 135(g)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155)—

(1) Must so designate that information or advice;

(2) Must clearly mark the material as "SUBMITTED IN CONFIDENCE" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page of each copy; and

(3) Is encouraged to provide a non-confidential summary of the information or advice.

Pursuant to section 127(e) of the URAA, USTR will maintain a file on this dispute settlement proceeding, accessible to the public, in the USTR Reading Room: Room 101, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20508. The public file will include a listing of any comments received by USTR from the public with respect to the proceeding; the U.S. submissions to the panel in the proceeding; the submissions, or non-confidential summaries of submissions, to the panel received from the other participants in the dispute, as well as the report of the dispute settlement panel and, if applicable, the report of the Appellate Body. An appointment to review the public file (Docket WTO/D-11, "U.S.-India: Mailbox"), 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. A. Jane Bradley,

Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Monitoring and Enforcement.

[FR Doc. 97-3546 Filed 2-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

[Docket No. WTO/D-15]

WTO Dispute Settlement Proceeding: Practices of the Government of Turkey Regarding the Imposition of a Discriminatory Tax on Box Office Revenues

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 127(b)(1) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA) (19 U.S.C. 3537(b)(1)), the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is providing notice that the United States has requested the establishment of a dispute settlement panel under the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO), to examine whether Turkey's imposition of a tax on box office revenues from the showing of foreign films, but not on the revenues from the showing of domestic films, is inconsistent with Turkey's obligations under Article III of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (GATT 1994). USTR also invites written comments from the public concerning the issues raised in the dispute.

DATES: Although USTR will accept any comments received during the course of the dispute settlement proceedings, comments should be submitted on or before March 3, 1997, to be assured of timely consideration by USTR in preparing its first written submission to the panel.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted to Ileana Falticeni, Office of Monitoring and Enforcement, Room 501, Attn: Turkey Film Tax Dispute, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Robertson, Associate General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20508, (202) 395-6800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Turkey's Law on Municipal Revenues (Law No. 2464) imposes a 25% municipality tax on box office revenues generated from the showing of foreign films, but not the

revenue generated from the showing of domestic films. Current information is that the revenues are allocated to municipal coffers for general use. On January 9, 1997, the United States formally requested establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel to examine whether Turkey's imposition of the Municipality Tax is inconsistent with the obligations of the GATT 1994. The WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) considered the U.S. request at its meeting on January 22, 1997. Under the WTO Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes, the DSB must establish a panel at the next DSB meeting whether this request is on the agenda, unless the DSB determines by consensus otherwise. Under normal circumstances, the panel would be expected to issue a report detailing its findings and recommendations within six to nine months after it is established.

Major Issues Raised by the United States and Legal Basis of Complaint

Article III of the GATT 1994 provides, among other things, that the products of the territory of one WTO member imported into the territory of another WTO member shall not be subject to internal taxes or other changes of any kind in excess of those applied, directly or indirectly, to like domestic products. WTO members are also prohibited from applying internal taxes or internal charges to imported or domestic products so as to afford protection to domestic production. Turkey's imposition of a tax on box office revenues that is applied only to revenues generated by foreign films, and not to revenues generated by domestic films, would appear to be inconsistent with the obligations set forth in Article III of the GATT 1994.

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the issues raised in the dispute. Comments must be in English and provided in fifteen copies. A person requesting that information contained in a comment submitted by that person be treated as confidential business information must certify that such information is business confidential and would not customarily be released to the public by the commenter. Confidential business information must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page of each copy.

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business confidential information, be treated as confidential in accordance with section 135(g)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155)—

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Pursuant to section 127(e) of the URAA, USTR will maintain a file on this dispute settlement proceeding, accessible to the public, in the USTR Reading Room: Room 101, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington DC 20508. The public file will include a listing of any comments received by USTR from the public with respect to the proceeding; the U.S. submissions to the panel in the proceeding; the submissions, or non-confidential summaries of submissions, to the panel received from other participants in the dispute, as well as the report of the dispute settlement panel and, if applicable, the report of the Appellate Body. An appointment to review the public file (Docket WTO/D-15, "U.S.-Turkey: Film Tax"), 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. A. Jane Bradley,

Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Monitoring and Enforcement.

[FR Doc. 97-3545 Filed 2-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements, Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for extension of currently approved collections. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden. The Federal Register Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was

published on October 28, 1996 [FR 61, page 55684].

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before March 17, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jackie Hathaway, (202) 366-0187 and refer to the OMB Control Number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

1. *Title:* 49 U.S.C. 5312(a).

Type of Request: Extension to a currently approved information collection.

OMB Control Number: 2132-0546.

Form(s): N/A.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, Federal Government State, local government, transit and planning.

Abstract: 49 U.S.C. 5312(a) authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to make grants or contracts for research, development, and demonstration projects that will reduce urban transportation needs, improve mass transportation service, or help transportation service meet the total urban transportation needs at a minimum cost. In carrying out the provisions of this section, the Secretary is also authorized to request and receive appropriate information from any source.

The information collected is submitted as part of the application for grants and cooperative agreements and is used to determine eligibility of applicants. Collection of this information also provides documentation that the applicants and recipients are meeting program objectives and are complying with FTA Circular 6100.1B and other Federal requirements.

Estimated Annual Burden: The estimated annual burden is 20,840 hours.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention FTA Desk Officer.

Comments are Invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.