DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Immigration and Naturalization Service
[INS No. 1853–97; AG Order No. 2087–97]
RIN 1115–AE26
Termination of Designation of Rwanda Under Temporary Protected Status Program After Final 6-Month Extension

AGENCY: Immigration and Naturalization Service, Justice.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice terminates, effective on December 6, 1997, the Attorney General’s designation of Rwanda under the Temporary Protected Status (“TPS”) program for an additional 12-month period on June 7, 1998. Subsequently, the Attorney General extended the designation of Rwanda under the TPS program for additional 6-month periods until June 6, 1997. 60 FR 27790. Subsequently, the Attorney General extended the designation of Rwanda under the TPS program for additional 6-month periods until June 6, 1997. 61 FR 29428 and 61 FR 58425.

Section 244(b)(3)(A) of the Act requires the Attorney General to review, at least 60 days before the end of the initial period of designation or any extended period of designation, the conditions in a state designated under section 244(b)(1) of the Act. The section also requires the Attorney General to determine whether the requirements for such a designation continue to be met, and to terminate the state’s designation when the Attorney General determines that those requirements are not met.

This notice terminates the designation of Rwanda under the TPS program. In accordance with section 244(b)(3) (B) and (C) of the Act, this termination will be effective on December 6, 1997, following the final 6-month extension granted by this notice. This notice also describes the procedures with which eligible aliens who are nationals of Rwanda (or who have no nationality and who last habitually resided in Rwanda) must comply in order to re-register for TPS during this final 6-month period.

In addition to timely re-registrations and late re-registrations authorized by this notice’s extension of Rwanda’s TPS designation, late initial registrations are possible for some Rwandans under 8 CFR 244.2(f)(2), formerly 8 CFR 240.2(f)(2). Such late initial registrants must have been “continuously physically present” in the United States since June 7, 1994, must have had a valid immigrant or non-immigrant status during the original registration period, and must register no later than 30 days from the expiration of such status.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service requires all TPS registrants to submit Form I–765, Application for Employment Authorization, for data-gathering purposes. Therefore, a Form I–765 must always be submitted with the Application for Temporary Protected Status, Form I–821, as part of either a re-registration or late initial registration, even if employment authorization is not requested. The appropriate filing fee must accompany Form I–765 unless a properly documented fee waiver request is submitted to the Immigration and Naturalization Service or unless the applicant does not request employment authorization.

Notice of Termination of Designation of Rwanda Under the TPS Program

By the authority vested in me as Attorney General under section 244 of the Act (8 U.S.C. 1254), as amended, and pursuant to section 244(b)(3) of the Act, I have had consultations with the appropriate agencies of the U.S. Government concerning (a) the conditions in Rwanda; and (b) whether permitting nationals of Rwanda (and aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Rwanda) to remain temporarily in the United States is contrary to the national interest of the United States.

As a result of these consultations, I have determined that Rwanda no longer continues to meet the conditions for designation of TPS under section
244(b)(1) of the Act. The situation in Rwanda has greatly improved since the designation of TPS in 1994. The return of comparative stability throughout most of Rwanda has led the U.S. Government to strongly encourage the repatriation of Rwandan refugees from neighboring countries. During the last half of 1996 and the beginning of 1997, approximately 1.3 million refugees returned to Rwanda. The ability of so many to return in relative safety demonstrates the end of the extraordinary circumstances that existed in 1994.

While other avenues of immigration relief, including asylum, remain available to Rwandans in the United States who believe that their particular circumstances make return to Rwanda unsafe, we have determined that TPS is no longer appropriate for Rwandans in general. Accordingly, it is ordered as follows:

(1) The TPS designation of Rwanda under section 244(b)(3) of the Act is extended for a final 6-month period starting June 7, 1997, and terminating December 6, 1997.

(2) I estimate that there are approximately 200 nationals of Rwanda (and aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Rwanda) who have been granted Temporary Protected Status and are eligible for the final 6-month period of re-registration.

(3) In Order to maintain current registration for TPS, a national of Rwanda (or an alien having no nationality who last habitually resided in Rwanda) who received a grant of TPS during the initial period of designation from June 7, 1994, to June 6, 1995, must comply with the re-registration requirements contained in 8 CFR 244.17, formerly 8 CFR 240.17, which are described in pertinent part in paragraphs (4) and (5) of this notice.

(4) A national of Rwanda (or an alien having no nationality who last habitually resided in Rwanda) who has been granted TPS and wishes to maintain that status must re-register by filing a new Application for Temporary Protected Status, Form I–821, together with an Application for Employment Authorization, Form I–765, within the 30-day period beginning on [June 19, 1997], and ending on [July 18, 1997], in order to be eligible for TPS during the period from June 7 to December 6, 1997. Late re-registration applications will be allowed pursuant to 8 CFR 244.17(c), formerly 8 CFR 240.17(c).

(5) There is no fee for Form I–821 filed as part of the re-registration application. A Form I–765 must be filed at the same time. If the alien requests employment authorization for the 6-month extension period, the fee prescribed in 8 CFR 103.7(b)(1), currently seventy dollars ($70), must accompany the Form I–765. An alien who does not request employment authorization must nonetheless file Form I–765 together with Form I–821, but in such cases no fee will be charged.

(6) Information concerning the TPS program for nationals of Rwanda (and aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Rwanda) will be available at local Immigration and Naturalization Service offices upon publication of this notice.

Dated: June 12, 1997.

Janet Reno,
Attorney General.

[FR Doc. 97–16050 Filed 6–18–97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4410–10–M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration


Grant of Individual Exemptions; Washington National Retirement Plan

AGENCY: Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

ACTION: Notice of typographical corrections.

SUMMARY: This document contains the corrections.

For Further Information Contact: Mr. Ronald Willett of the Department, telephone (202) 219–8881. (This is not a toll-free number.)

Howes Leather Company, Inc., Employee Stock Ownership Plan Located in Curwensville, Pennsylvania

[Prohibited Transaction Exemption 97–31; Application No. D–10385]

Correction

In 60 FR published at page 31631 June 10, 1997, in the second column, the third line in the heading is hereby corrected to read as follows:

[Prohibited Transaction Exemption 97–31].

For Further Information Contact: Ronald Willett of the Department, telephone (202) 219–8881. (This is not a toll-free number.)

Thrift Savings Plan and Trust Located in New York, New York

[Prohibited Transaction Exemption 97–32 Application No. D–10391]

Correction

In 60 FR published at page 31632 June 10, 1997, in the second column, the fourth line in the heading is hereby corrected to read as follows:

[Prohibited Transaction Exemption 97–32].

For Further Information Contact: Karin Weng of the Department, telephone (202) 219–8883. (This is not a toll-free number.)

Signed at Washington, DC, this 13th day of June 1997.

Ivan L. Strasfeld, 
Director of Exemption Determinations, 
Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, 
U.S. Department of Labor.

[FR Doc. 97–16012 Filed 6–18–97; 8:45 am] 
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