

meetings of the full Committee or a subcommittee thereof may be convened if necessary.

The meetings will generally be held in the Treasury Department, Washington, D.C. However, typically one meeting period year, but generally not more than two, may be held outside of Washington at a Customs port. In recent years, meetings have been held in Baltimore, New Orleans, Oakland, Nogales, Los Angeles and Seattle, among other locations.

The meetings are open to public observers, including the press, unless special procedures have been followed to close a meeting. During the first five terms of the Committee, only a portion of the one meeting was closed.

The members shall be selected by the Secretary of the Treasury from representatives of the trade or transportation community serviced by Customs, the general public, or others who are directed affected by Customs commercial operations. In addition, members shall represent major regions of the country, and not more than ten members may be affiliated with the same political party. No person who is required to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent or representative of a foreign principal may serve on an advisory committee. Members shall not be paid compensation nor shall they be considered Federal Government employees for any purpose. No per diem, transportation, or other expenses are reimbursed for the cost of attending Committee meetings at any location.

Members who are serving on the Committee during its expiring two-year term are eligible to reapply for membership. A new application letter and updated resume are required. It is expected that approximately half of the current membership of the Committee will be replaced with new appointees.

Membership on the Committee is personal to the appointee. Under the Committee By-Laws, a member may not send an alternate to represent him at a Committee meeting. However, since Committee meetings are open to the public, another person from a member's organization may attend and observe the proceedings in a nonparticipating capacity. Regular attendance is essential; a member who is absent for two consecutive meetings or two meetings in a calendar year shall lose his seat on the Committee.

Application for Advisory Committee Appointment

Any interested person wishing to serve on the Treasury Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations

of the U.S. Customs Service must provide the following:

- Statement of interest and reasons for application;
- Complete professional biography or resume;
- Political affiliation. In order to ensure balanced representation. (Mandatory. If no party registration or allegiance, indicate "independent" or "unaffiliated").

In addition, applicants must state in their applications that they agree to submit to preappointment security and tax checks. There is no prescribed format for the application. Applicants may send a cover letter describing their interest and qualifications and enclosing a resume.

The application period for interested candidates will extend to July 15, 1998. Applications should be submitted in sufficient time to be received by the close of business on the closing date by Dennis M. O'Connell, Director, Office of Tariff and Trade Affairs, Office of the Under Secretary (Enforcement), Room 4004, Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20220, ATTN: COAC 1998.

Dated: June 2, 1998.

Dennis M. O'Connell,

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary,
(Regulatory, Tariff and Trade Enforcement).*
[FR Doc. 98-14959 Filed 6-4-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Treasury Advisory Committee on International Child Labor Enforcement

AGENCY: Departmental Offices, Treasury.

ACTION: Proposed establishment of the Treasury Advisory Committee on International Child Labor Enforcement ("the Committee") and solicitation of applications for committee membership.

SUMMARY: The Treasury Department has determined that it is in the public interest to establish an Advisory Committee on International Child Labor Enforcement. A Charter for the Committee has been prepared and will be filed 15 days following the date of publication of this notice. This notice establishes criteria and procedures for the selection of members.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis M. O'Connell, Director, Office of Tariff and Trade Affairs, Office of the Under Secretary (Enforcement), (202) 622-0220. Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. I (1962), the Under Secretary (Enforcement) proposes to establish the following advisory committee:

Title: The Treasury Advisory Committee on International Child Labor Enforcement.

Purpose: The purpose of the Committee is to present advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Treasury regarding the enforcement of restrictions on the importation of merchandise manufactured in foreign countries using forced or indentured child labor.

Statement of Public Interest: It is in the public interest to establish, under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Advisory Committee on International Child Labor Enforcement for an initial two-year term. The Committee will provide a critical forum for distinguished representatives of nongovernmental organizations, private businesses, trade associations, academia, and the public to present their views on enforcement of the import restrictions on merchandise manufactured overseas with forced or indentured child labor. These views are offered directly to senior Treasury and Customs officials on a regular basis in a candid atmosphere. There exists no other single body that could serve a comparable function.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307) prohibits the importation of "goods, wares, articles, and merchandise mined, produced, or manufactured wholly or in part in any foreign country by convict labor or/and forced labor or/and indentured labor under penal sanctions * * *." The prohibition is enforced by the United States Customs Service in accordance with the Customs Regulations, 19 CFR 12.42-12.48. A general provision in the Fiscal Year 1998 Treasury Appropriations Act made explicit that merchandise manufactured with "forced or indentured child labor" falls within the prohibition of Section 307, and also mandated that Customs not use any of the appropriation to permit the importation into the United States of such merchandise.

Following the enactment of the FY 1998 appropriations amendment regarding child labor, both the Treasury Department and the National Economic Council chaired in-depth interagency discussions aimed at strengthening the capability of the Executive Branch to enforce the prohibition on child labor imports. In his State of Union address on January 27, 1998, President Clinton pledged to "fight the most intolerable labor practice of all—abusive child labor." The establishment of the Committee is intended to create a

partnership between Executive agencies, labor and human rights advocacy groups, industry representatives, and the public to promote effective enforcement of the law and to further the President's commitment to combat abusive child labor.

Objective, Scope and Description of the Committee

The Committee will advise the U.S. Treasury Department, the U.S. Customs Service, and other Executive agencies, on measures to enhance the effectiveness of enforcement of the import prohibition on merchandise manufactured in foreign countries with forced or indentured child labor. Among other matters, the Committee will assist in identifying specific information resources regarding, and avenues of productive inquiry into, prohibited child labor operations overseas. A major objective of the Committee is to share the expertise of private sector specialists regarding methods of operation employed, and international trade channels used, by manufacturers and distributors of merchandise produced with forced or indentured child labor. The ultimate purpose of this combined effort is to support a vigorous law enforcement initiative to stop illegal shipments of products of forced or indentured child labor and to punish violators.

Among other things, the Committee may make recommendations in the following areas. The Committee may consider additional governmental and nongovernmental measures to prevent child labor imports. The Committee may recommend measures and furnish information that will assist the Executive agencies in establishing a vigorous outreach and educational program calling upon industries and individuals in the private sector to promote voluntary compliance with the child labor prohibition. The Committee may explore avenues for encouraging the cooperation of both foreign governments and foreign nongovernmental organizations in nations where child labor is widely perceived to be a serious problem in order to enlarge the reach and effectiveness of U.S. enforcement efforts and resources.

Private sector members will be selected by the Secretary of the Treasury from persons with expertise in the subject of the use of child labor in foreign countries, particularly in the production of merchandise for international trade and/or who have commercial interests that may be affected by governmental enforcement measures. Members will be drawn from

such organizations as labor rights, human rights, and child welfare groups; labor unions; affected private firms and trade associations; academic experts and others who possess relevant expertise and/or who represent affected constituencies. Appointments will be made with the objective of creating a diverse and balanced body with a variety of interests, backgrounds, and viewpoints represented. In general, there will be at least twelve private sector members and not more than twenty. The Committee also will include ex officio members from relevant government agencies and entities.

The Committee will be chaired by the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement who may designate another official to serve in his absence as Acting Chairperson for purposes of presiding over a meeting of the Committee or performing any other duty of the Chairperson. The Committee will function for a two-year period before renewal or termination. It will meet periodically, but generally not more than four times per year, at the Treasury Department in Washington. The Committee may elect to hold a meeting(s) at another location if there is a consensus that this would further the objectives of the Committee.

The meetings are open to public observers, including the press, unless special procedures have been followed to close a meeting.

No person who is required to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent or representative of a foreign principal may serve on an advisory committee. Members shall not be paid compensation nor shall they be considered Federal Government employees for any purpose. No per diem, transportation, or other expenses are reimbursed for the cost of attending Committee meetings at any location.

Membership on the Committee is personal to the appointee. Regular attendance is essential to the effective operation of the Committee. However, in the event of an unavoidable absence, a member may designate an alternate to represent him or her at a meeting.

Application for Advisory Committee Appointment

Any interested person wishing to serve on the Treasury Advisory Committee on International Child Labor Enforcement must provide the following:

- Statement of interest and reasons for application;
- Complete professional biography or resume;

In addition, applicants must state in their applications that they agree to submit to preappointment security and tax checks. There is no prescribed format for the application. Applicants may send a cover letter describing their interest and qualifications and enclosing a resume.

The application period for interested candidates will extend to July 10, 1998. Applications should be submitted in sufficient time to be received by the close of business on the closing date and be addressed to Dennis M. O'Connell, Director, Office of Tariff and Trade Affairs, Office of the Under Secretary (Enforcement), Room 4004, Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20220, Attention: CHILD 1998.

Dated: June 2, 1998.

Dennis M. O'Connell,

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
(Regulatory, Tariff and Trade Enforcement).*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Treasury Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of the U.S. Customs Service; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Departmental Offices, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the date and location of the next meeting and the agenda for consideration by the Treasury Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of the U.S. Customs Service.

DATES: The next meeting of the Treasury Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of the U.S. Customs Service will be held on June 26, 1998. The session will be held at the Marriot Financial Center, 85 West Street, New York, New York. (Tel. 212-266-6246, FAX: 212-385-9174) from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis M. O'Connell, Director, Office of Tariff and Trade Affairs, Office of the Under Secretary for Enforcement, Room 4004, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220. Tel.: (202) 622-0220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is the seventh meeting of the current two-year term of the Committee. The provisional agenda to be considered at the meeting is as follows:

1. Introduction of the Chief U.S. Textile Negotiator, Mr. Donald Johnson, and a discussion of the textile program.