

of the Bureau's policy on diversity. Achievable and relevant features should be cited in both program administration (selection of participants, program venue and program evaluation) and program content (orientation and wrap-up sessions, program meetings, resource materials and follow-up activities). The proposal should demonstrate an understanding of the specific diversity needs in Romania and strategies for addressing these needs as relevant to achieve program goals.

6. *Institutional capacity and record:* Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals. Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Bureau grants as determined by the grants staff. The Bureau will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

7. *Project evaluation:* Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the project's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. A draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives are recommended. Successful applicants will be expected to submit intermediate program and financial reports after each project component is concluded or quarterly, whichever is less frequent.

8. *Cost-effectiveness/Cost-sharing:* The overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate and should reflect a commitment to pursuing project objectives. Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

Authority

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries* * *; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the

people of the United States and other nations* * *and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world." The funding authority for the program above is provided through the Support for East European Democracy (SEED) Act.

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any Bureau representative. Explanatory information provided by the Bureau that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Bureau reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal Department of State procedures.

Dated: May 16, 2000.

Evelyn S. Lieberman,

Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Department of State.

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BILLING CODE 4710-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice #3312]

Shipping Coordinating Committee, Subcommittee on Safety of Life at Sea, Working Group on Fire Protection; Notice of Meeting

The U.S. Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Working Group on Fire Protection will conduct an open meeting on Tuesday, June 13, 2000, at 9:30 AM, in room 6103 at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW, Washington, DC 20593. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the outcome of the Forty-fourth Session of the International Maritime Organization's Subcommittee on Fire Protection, held February 21-25, 2000. In addition, preparations for the next session will also be discussed at the meeting.

The meeting will focus on proposed amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention for the fire safety of commercial vessels. Specific discussion areas include: comprehensive review of SOLAS Chapter II-2, unified interpretations to SOLAS II-2 and

related fire test procedures, recommendations on evacuation analysis for passenger ships and high-speed passenger craft, fire test procedures for fire retardant materials used in the construction of lifeboats, and use of perfluorocarbons in shipboard fire-extinguishing systems.

Although the meeting will focus primarily on the outcome of the previous session, preparations and plans for the next session will also be discussed. This offers the opportunity for members of the public to be involved early in the standards development process. Members of the public wishing to make a statement on new issues or proposals at the meeting are requested to submit a brief summary to the U. S. Coast Guard five days prior to the meeting.

Members of the public may attend this meeting up to the seating capacity of the room. Interested persons may obtain more information regarding the meeting of the SOLAS Working Group on Fire Protection by writing: Office of Design and Engineering Standards, Commandant (G-MSE-4), U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 Second St., SW, Washington, DC 20593, by calling: LCDR Kevin Kiefer at (202) 267-1444, or by visiting the following World Wide Website: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mse4/stdimofp.htm>.

Dated: May 17, 2000.

Stephen M. Miller,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 00-13193 Filed 5-24-00; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP): Notice of Review Timetable and Public Hearings Regarding Additional Product Designation for Beneficiaries of the African Growth and Opportunity Act

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice lists products that the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) will be reviewing for possible duty-free importation from certain sub-Saharan African countries as provided under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which Congress recently enacted. The notice provides the dates and places the TPSC will hold public hearings on this subject, explains how to make written comments on products included in the