

(1) Revise SSA's special procedures for access to medical records in accordance with *Bavido v. Apfel*;

(2) Clarify that an individual is not required to designate a representative in writing unless the Agency first determines that direct access to those records would adversely affect him; and

(3) Indicate that a designated representative does not have discretion to withhold the records from the individual.

Dated: July 26, 2000.

**Darrell Blevins,**  
SSA Privacy Officer.

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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### Bureau of European Affairs, Office of European Security and Political Affairs (EUR/RPM)

[Public Notice 3376]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Department of State.

**ACTION:** 60-Day Notice of proposed information collection; election observer questionnaire.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of State is seeking Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the information collection described below. The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment in the **Federal Register** preceding submission to OMB. This process is conducted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

The following summarizes the information collection proposal submitted to OMB:

*Type of Request:* Data Collection from Election Observers

*Originating Office:* Bureau of European Affairs, Office of European Security and Political Affairs (EUR/RPM)

*Title of Information Collection:* Election Observer Questionnaire.

*Frequency:* Occasionally, linked to elections in certain OSCE Participating States.

*Form Number:* None.

*Respondents:* U.S. citizens selected and funded by the U.S. Department of State to serve as election observers as part of OSCE Election Observation Missions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 100 per year.

*Average Hours Per Response:* 10 minutes per response.

*Total Estimated Burden:* 1000 minutes = 16 hrs 40 minutes.

Public comments are being solicited to permit the agency to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency.

- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of technology.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Public comments, or requests for additional information, regarding the collection listed in this notice should be directed to the OSCE Coordinator, Bureau of European Affairs, Room 6227, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20520 (telephone number 202-736-7290).

Dated: July 19, 2000.

**Walter E. Andrusyszyn,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European Affairs, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 00-19364 Filed 7-31-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 3371]

### United States-Egypt Science and Technology Joint Board; Science and Technology Program for Competitive Grants To Support International, Collaborative Projects in Science and Technology Between U.S. and Egyptian Cooperators

August 1, 2000.

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of State.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** August 1, 2000.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Vickie Alexander, Program Administrator, U.S.-Egypt Science and Technology Grants Program, U.S. Embassy, Cairo/ECPO, Unit 64900, Box 6, APO AE 09839-4900; phone: 011-(20-2) 797-2925; fax: 011-(20-2) 797-3150; E-mail: alexanderva@state.gov.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Authority:** This program is established under 22 U.S.C. 2656d and the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

A solicitation for this program will begin August 1, 2000. This program will provide modest grants for successfully competitive proposals for binational collaborative projects and other activities submitted by U.S. and Egyptian experts. Projects must help the United States and Egypt utilize science and apply technology by providing opportunities to exchange ideas, information, skills, and techniques, and to collaborate on scientific and technological endeavors of mutual interest and benefit. Proposals which fully meet the submission requirements as outlined in the Program Announcement will receive peer reviews. Proposals considered for funding in Fiscal Year 2001 must be postmarked by November 1, 2000. All proposals will be considered; however, special consideration will be given to proposals that address priority areas defined/approved by the Joint Board. These include priorities in the areas of information technology, environmental technologies, biotechnology, standards and metrology, and manufacturing technologies. More information on these priorities and copies of the Program Announcement/Application may be obtained by request.

**William R. Gaines,**

*Director, Office of Science and Technology Cooperation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State, and Chair, U.S.-Egypt S&T Joint Board.*

[FR Doc. 00-18784 Filed 7-31-00; 8:45 am]

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## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. WTO/DS-176]

### WTO Dispute Settlement Proceeding Regarding United States of America—Section 211 of the Department of Commerce Appropriations Act, 1999

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of the United States Trade Representative ("USTR") is providing notice of a request for the establishment of a dispute settlement panel under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization ("WTO"), requested by the European Communities and their Member States (the "EC"). The EC has asked that a panel examine whether section 211 of the "Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1998" [sic] is consistent with U.S. obligations under

the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights ("TRIPs Agreement"). The statutory provision to which the EC refers is section 211 of the Department of Commerce Appropriations Act, 1999, as included in Pub. L. 105-277 ("Section 211"). Section 211 concerns the registration or enforcement, by Cuban entities or their successors in interest, of trademarks, trade-names, or commercial names that are substantially similar to trademarks, trade-names, or commercial names associated with businesses confiscated without compensation by the Cuban government, without the consent of the previous owners of the trademarks, trade-names or commercial names.

**DATES:** Although USTR will accept any comments received during the course of the dispute settlement proceedings, comments should be submitted by September 1, 2000, to be assured of timely consideration by USTR in preparing its first written submission to the panel.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted to Sandy McKinzy, Litigation Assistant, Office of Monitoring and Enforcement, Room 122, Attn: Section 211, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20508.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** L. Daniel Mullaney, Associate General Counsel, at (202) 395-3581.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to section 127(b) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA) (19 U.S.C. 3537(b)(1)), USTR is providing notice that, on June 30, 2000, the EC submitted a request for the establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel to examine the consistency of Section 211 with the WTO TRIPs Agreement. Under normal circumstances, the panel, which will hold its meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, is expected to issue a report detailing its findings and recommendations within six to nine months after it is established.

### Major Issues Raised and Legal Basis of the Complaint

In its request for the establishment of a panel, the EC alleges that three substantive provisions of section 211 are inconsistent with the TRIPs Agreement:

1. The EC alleges that Section 211(a)(1) limits the right to register or renew trademarks, trade-names or commercial names at the United States Patent and Trademark Office, in violation of TRIPs Article 2.1, in conjunction with Article 6 quinquies A(1) of the Paris Convention for the

Protection of Industrial Property (1967) ("Paris Convention"), and TRIPs Article 15.1. The EC alleges that Section 211(a)(1) does this by, in the case of trademarks, trade-names and commercial names that are substantially similar to trademarks, trade-names, or commercial names associated with businesses confiscated without compensation by the Cuban government, requiring the consent of the original owner or his successor-in-interest of the trademark, trade-name, or commercial name.

2. The EC alleges that Section 211(a)(2)—by providing that U.S. courts shall not recognize, enforce, or otherwise validate common law or registration rights asserted by designated nationals or their successors in interest in trademarks, trade-names and commercial names that are substantially similar to trademarks, trade-names and commercial names associated with businesses confiscated without compensation by the Cuban government—violates TRIPs Art. 2.1, in conjunction with Articles 6 bis (1) and 8 of the Paris Convention, and TRIPs Article 16.1 (which require WTO Members to provide protection for well-known trademarks and for trade-names). The EC also alleges that Section 211(a)(2) violates the TRIPs enforcement provisions, such as TRIPs Article 42, and the most favored nation and national treatment provisions of the TRIPs Agreement (TRIPs Articles 3.1, 2.1 (in conjunction with Article 2(1) of the Paris Convention), and 4).

3. Finally, the EC alleges that Section 211(b)—by providing that U.S. courts shall not recognize, enforce, or otherwise validate treaty rights asserted by designated nationals or their successors in interest in trademarks, trade-names and commercial names that are substantially similar to trademarks, trade-names, or commercial names associated with businesses confiscated without compensation by the Cuban government (unless the original owner consents)—violates TRIPs Art. 2.1, in conjunction with Articles 6 bis (1) and 8 of the Paris Convention (requiring protection of well-known trademarks and trade-names) and TRIPs Articles 3.1, 4, 16.1, and 42 (provisions concerning most favored nation treatment, national treatment, trademark rights conferred, and fair and equitable enforcement procedures).

### Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the issues raised in this dispute.

Comments must be in English and provided in fifteen copies to Sandy McKinzy at the addressed provided above. 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 submitting person. Confidential business information must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page of each copy.

Information or advice contained in a comment submitted, other than business confidential information, may be determined by USTR to be confidential in accordance with section 135(g)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155(g)(2)). If the submitting person believes that information or advice may qualify as such, the submitting person—

(1) Must so designate the 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 of advice. Pursuant to section 127(e) of the URAA (19 U.S.C. 3537(e)), 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, NW., 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 parties 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/DS-176, "Section 211") made be made by calling Brenda Webb, (202) 395-6186. The 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.*

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