

through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of technology.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of the proposed information collection and supporting documents may be obtained from Daria Darnell, 2401 E Street NW, Rm L-703, Tel: 202-663-1253, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20520. Public comments and questions should be directed to the State Department Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20530, (202) 395-5871.

Dated: August 11, 2000.

Nancy Sambaiew,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Visa Services, Bureau of Consular Affairs.

[FR Doc. 00-23637 Filed 9-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice #3409]

U.S. Advisory Panel to the U.S. Section of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (Notice of Renewal)

The Department of State has renewed the Charter of the U.S. Advisory Panel to the U.S. Section of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) for another two years, effective September 1, 2000.

The NPAFC is a venue for consultation and coordination of cooperative high seas fishery enforcement among Convention parties.

The NPAFC was established by the Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean, signed on February 12, 1992, by Canada, Japan, the Russian Federation, and the United States, and entered into force on February 16, 1993. The U.S. Advisory Panel will continue to work with the U.S. Section to promote the conservation of anadromous fish stocks, particularly salmon, throughout their migratory range in the North Pacific Ocean, as well as ecologically related species.

The U.S. Section of the Commission is composed of three Commissioners who are appointed by the President. Each Commissioner is appointed for a term not to exceed four years, but is eligible for reappointment. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, may designate alternate commissioners. The Advisory Panel to the U.S. Section is composed of 14 members appointed by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, who serve for a term not to exceed four years, and may

not serve more than two consecutive terms.

The Advisory Panel will continue to follow the procedures prescribed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Meetings will continue to be open to the public unless a determination is made in accordance with Section 10 of the FACA, 5 U.S.C. Secs. 552b(c)(1) and (4), that a meeting or a portion of the meeting should be closed to the public. Notice of each meeting will continue to be provided for publication in the **Federal Register** as far in advance as possible prior to the meeting.

For further information on the renewal of the Advisory Panel, please contact Sally Cochran, International Relations Office, Office of Marine Conservation in the Department of State, (202) 647-2335.

Dated: September 11, 2000.

Sally A. Cochran,

International Relations Officer, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 00-23636 Filed 9-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-09-M

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3408]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Request for Proposals: Georgian School of Journalism Project

NOTICE: Request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Global Educational Programs of the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award program. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may submit proposals to assist in establishing and developing a school of Journalism in the Republic of Georgia with the goal of training 25 journalists each year during the grant period. Bureau policy stipulates that awards to organizations with less than four years experience in conducting international exchanges are limited to \$60,000. The Bureau anticipates awarding one grant in the amount of \$540,000 to conduct activities outlined in this Request for Proposals. Therefore, only organizations with four or more years experience in coordinating international exchange programs are eligible to apply for this competition.

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Overview

This project is designed to provide training to journalists in Georgia in ways that reflects the practice of American journalism with special emphasis on training in fact-based, fair and balanced reporting. In partnership with the Media Development Center, a Georgian NGO, a one-year English language Master's certificate program in journalism will be established, using American practitioners to train the next generation of Georgian journalists. The curriculum for the program should begin with three months of intensive training in economics, followed by nine months of training in journalism. Twenty-five students will be trained each year in the Master's program during the period of this grant. Applicants should propose a plan to provide instruction for up to three years. The applicant should also propose plans to establish a professional student newspaper as a practical training-based component of the overall program.

Background

The Republic of Georgia is undertaking efforts to implement democratic reforms, including steps to establish a free press in Georgia. However, Georgian journalists currently lack the skills to explain the forces of change. Journalists also do not always perceive their obligation to act as credible watchdogs; nor do they see the need to form associations to protect practitioners. The lack of professionalism creates severe impediments to the development of democracy, depriving citizens of reliable information about what is happening in their societies.

Program

This program is designed to provide journalism training in Georgia that reflects the practice of American journalism with special emphasis on training in fact-based, fair and balanced reporting. A one-year English language Master's certificate program in journalism will be established. Training should emphasize the fundamentals of reporting, writing, researching and editing. Courses in visual journalism and broadcast techniques should be provided, as well as theory courses that focus on ethics, the influence of media on society, and the role of a journalist in a democratic society. Since it is important that all of the students have a basic understanding of economics, it is recommended that the school year start with an intensive three-month session on micro and macro-economics. Economics in Georgia as in other

transitional economics in the NIS plays a pivotal role in all aspects of Georgian life. An academic background in economics will aid in the graduates' ability to report on and interpret current events in Georgia for their audience.

For the remaining nine months, students will choose either a print or broadcast component in the journalism program, though the grantee organization will be free to consider whether students may train in both areas, to give them greater professional flexibility. The focus should be on developing basic reporting and research skills for print and broadcast; computer-assisted research and reporting should also be included in the curriculum. By the end of the academic year students should be doing advanced reporting, and completing a final project. The journalism school should also function as a resource for graduates of the program in their work as practicing journalists. Courses will be taught in English, so language testing will be required as part of the application process.

Applicants should propose a plan to provide instruction for up to three years. Applicants are encouraged to look for outside sources of funding for certain components, such as the student newspaper or purchase of broadcast equipment. Additional USG funding may be available to expand the program to include students from other countries in the NIS region or to continue the program after the initial funding period.

Staffing

A minimum of two full-time American faculty, or the equivalent, will teach 25 students each year in the print and broadcast components of the Master's program. A third American instructor will consult on the creation of a student newspaper and serve as faculty mentor for the newspaper. The paper should be run as independently as possible and be able within a year to select student reporters on its own from the Master's program and from other Georgian university faculties and departments. Applicants should suggest ways to sustain the newspaper at the end of the training program. Students enrolled in the journalism program will likely hold undergraduate degrees in a variety of disciplines. Faculty should be available to spend extensive time one-on-one with students, for editorial conferences and individual critiques. The locally hired Georgian journalism program director and founder of the Media Development Center will help with recruitment of students, assist students in obtaining access to press

conferences and policy makers, and locate media outlets that will accept student-produced news stories. The grant will cover the costs for local staff positions including but not limited to: administrative support staff, security personnel, computer technical support, and library staff. The grantee will be responsible for final decisions regarding the hiring of local staff but will consult with the local Georgian journalism program director. The grantee will not be responsible for covering the salary costs of the local Georgian journalism program director.

Logistics

The grantee organization in coordination with the local partner will be responsible for most arrangements associated with this program. The local partner will assist in recruiting students and arranging for language testing of applicants. Final selection of students must be approved by the grantee. The grantee will also be responsible for developing a curriculum based on practical training, locating American journalism teachers (preferably current practitioners of journalism) and economics professors, and coordinating with the local partner to provide international and domestic travel arrangements for U.S. trainers, make lodging and local transportation arrangements for the trainers, and manage the facility where the school will be housed. A site has been located to house the program and rent costs will be covered through a separate budget. Internet access will be available at the site but fees for the service should be incorporated into the grant budget.

Budget Guidelines

The award for this program may not exceed \$540,000 for a period of up to three years. The U.S. grantee organization and the Georgian journalism program director will be expected to work together to locate other donor support. Other donors in Georgia have indicated an interest in this project. Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. Applicants may provide separate sub-budgets for each program component including equipment, phase, location, or activity to provide clarification. Local budget items must reflect operating costs in Georgia accurately; the Georgian program director will assist the applicant organizations in estimating operating costs. A nominal tuition fee, to be worked out with the advice of the program director, may be charged to students. Please refer to the Solicitation

Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

Announcement Title and Number: All correspondence with the Bureau concerning this RFP should reference the above title and number ECA/A/S/U-01-05.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: The Office of Global Educational Programs, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, ECA/A/S/U, Room 349, U.S. Department of State S.A. 44, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, telephone 202-619-6492, fax 202-410-1433, Internet abailey@pd.state.gov to request a Solicitation Package. The Solicitation Package contains detailed award criteria, required application forms, specific budget instructions, and standard guidelines for proposal preparation. Please specify Bureau Program Officer Alanna Bailey on all inquiries and correspondence. Questions regarding budget estimates for local costs in Georgia should be directed to the founder of the Media Development Center and local Georgian journalism program director, Maia Mikazhavidze. She can be reached at +995-99-58-97-04.

Please read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, Bureau staff may not discuss this competition with applicants until the proposal review process has been completed.

TO DOWNLOAD A SOLICITATION PACKAGE VIA INTERNET:

The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from the Bureau's website at <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/rfps>. Please read all information before downloading.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: All proposal copies must be received at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on Friday, November 3, 2000. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. Documents postmarked the due date but received on a later date will not be accepted. Each applicant must ensure that the proposals are received by the above deadline.

APPROXIMATE PROGRAM DATES: Grants should begin on or about December 15, 2000.

Applicants must follow all instructions in the Solicitation Package. The original and 10 copies of the Application should be sent to: U.S. Department of State, SA-44, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Ref.: ECA/A/S/U-01-05, Program Management, ECA/EX/PM, Room 336, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

Applicants must also submit the "Executive Summary" and "Proposal Narrative" sections of the proposal on a 3.5" diskette, formatted for DOS. These documents must be provided in ASCII text (DOS) format with a maximum line length of 65 characters. The Bureau will transmit these files electronically to the Public Affairs section at the US Embassy for its review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to get embassy comments for the Bureau's grants review process.

Diversity, Freedom and Democracy Guidelines

Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including, but not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle both in program administration and in program content. Please refer to the review criteria under the "Support for Diversity" section for specific suggestions on incorporating diversity into the total proposal. Public Law 104-319 provides that "in carrying out programs of educational and cultural exchange in countries whose people do not fully enjoy freedom and democracy," the Bureau "shall take appropriate steps to provide opportunities for participation in such programs to human rights and democracy leaders of such countries." Proposals should reflect advancement of this goal in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

Year 2000 Compliance Requirement (Y2K Requirement)

The Year 2000 (Y2K) issue is a broad operational and accounting problem that could potentially prohibit organizations from processing information in accordance with Federal management and program specific requirements including data exchange with the Bureau. The inability to process information in accordance with Federal requirements could result in grantees' being required to return funds that have not been accounted for properly.

The Bureau therefore requires all organizations use Y2K compliant systems including hardware, software, and firmware. Systems must accurately process data and dates (calculating,

comparing and sequencing) both before and after the beginning of the year 2000 and correctly adjust for leap years.

Additional information addressing the Y2K issue may be found at the General Services Administration's Office of Information Technology website at <http://www.itpolicy.gsa.gov>.

Review Process

Proposals are reviewed for adherence to legal and budgetary requirements by Bureau offices responsible for these functions. For program content, cost-effectiveness, and other criteria spelled out in the RFP, the review is conducted by an advisory, assistance award-review panel composed of Bureau and Department officers. Additional officers, including geographic area personnel, also review proposals for feasibility as well as potential for short- and long-term impact. Final funding decisions are at the discretion of the Department of State's Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards resides with a Bureau Grants Officer.

The submission will be reviewed with the following review criteria in mind:

1. **Quality of the program idea:** Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to the creation of a sound journalism program. Proposals must demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the current situation in Georgia, and describe how the Master's certificate program and student newspaper will help to create a more open and free press in Georgia. Proposals should emphasize the practical nature of the curriculum.

2. **Program planning:** Proposals should detail curriculum for courses on reporting, writing and editing of print and broadcast journalism, with an emphasis on fact-based and investigative reporting. A plan for personal interaction between the students and faculty, including one-on-one critiques of student work, and a mechanism for continuing support for alumni after they have graduated from the program must be included. Agenda and relevant work plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above. Student recruitment, English testing and selection must be detailed; proposals should include a sample application form with questions that will evaluate applicants' potential as well as abilities.

3. **Ability to achieve program objectives:** Objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible. Proposals should clearly demonstrate

how the institution will meet the program's objectives and plan.

4. **Multiplier effect/impact:** Proposed programs should demonstrate how they would link with and strengthen existing media outlets in Georgia, including establishment of long-term institutional and individual linkages.

5. **Support of Diversity:** Proposals should demonstrate substantive support 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).

6. **Institutional Capacity/Area Expertise:** Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals. American faculty and local administrative staff must demonstrate the qualifications needed to recruit, select, teach and support students in this program.

7. **Institution's Record/Ability:** 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 Bureau Grant Staff. The Bureau will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

8. **Follow-on Activities:** Proposals should provide a plan for continued follow-on activity (without Bureau support) ensuring that Bureau supported programs are not isolated events.

9. **Project Evaluation:** Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the activity's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. Draft student course evaluations, faculty questionnaires or other techniques plus description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives are recommended.

10. **Cost-effectiveness:** 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.

11. **Cost-sharing:** 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 cited above is provided through the Freedom for Russia and Emerging Eurasian Democracies and Open Markets Support Act of 1992 (Freedom Support Act).

Notice

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 Bureau procedures.

Dated: September 4, 2000.

William B. Bader,

Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 00-23386 Filed 9-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice #3388]

Fine Arts Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Fine Arts Committee of the Department of State will meet on Friday, October 20, 2000 at 10:30 a.m. in the John Quincy Adams State Drawing Room. The meeting will last until approximately 12 p.m. and is open to the public.

The agenda for the committee meeting will include a summary of the work of

the Fine Arts Office since its last meeting in April 2000 and the announcement of gifts of furnishings as well as financial contributions from January 1 through September 30, 2000. Public access to the Department of State is strictly controlled. Members of the public wishing to take part in the meeting should telephone the Fine Arts Office by October 13, 2000, telephone (202) 647-1990 to make arrangements to enter the building. The public may take part in the discussion as long as time permits and at the discretion of the chairman.

Dated: September 7, 2000.

Gail F. Serfaty,

Vice Chairman, Fine Arts Committee.

[FR Doc. 00-23635 Filed 9-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-38-M

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3417]

Privacy Act of 1974; Integration of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and the United States Information Agency Systems of Records

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(4)) this notice describes alterations to the systems of records of the former Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, the former United States Information Agency and the Department of State. Revision to this systems of records is required as a result of the consolidation of the agencies as mandated by the Foreign Affairs Agencies Consolidation Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-277). It should also be noted that three systems of records specific to the International Bureau of Broadcasting of the former USIA were transferred to the Broadcasting Board of Governors. All operative systems of records affected by the Consolidation Act are being revised to reflect any changes. The revised system descriptions will be submitted separately. Inactive records from these ACDA and USIA systems of records were either retired or destroyed in accordance with their approved Records Disposition Schedules unless otherwise noted.

Notice is hereby given that the Department of State proposes to delete systems of records or create new Department of State systems of records from systems that were maintained by the former Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) and former United States Information Agency (USIA). These actions are taken pursuant to the provisions of the

Privacy Act of 1974, as amended [5 U.S.C. 522a (r)], and the Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-130, Appendix I.

Pursuant to the Foreign Affairs Agencies Consolidation Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-277) the former ACDA and former USIA were integrated into the Department of State effective April 1, 1999 and October 1, 1999 respectively. As part of the consolidation, the Department assumed custody and control of systems of records maintained by ACDA and USIA. To eliminate duplication and to reflect current organizational and operational conditions, the Department has conducted a comprehensive review of the Privacy Act Systems of Records of both agencies and determined which of the systems of the former ACDA and former USIA will be deleted. Where appropriate, records of the deleted systems will be absorbed by Department of State Privacy Act systems of records which are performing like functions. Unique ACDA or USIA systems that continue to operate will be treated as new systems of records and will be assigned a Department of State system number.

The Department Intends To Take the Following Actions Related to the Privacy Act Systems of Records of the Former ACDA

ACDA-1 Official Personnel Records—This system will be deleted. Each individual's personnel records, including tax records associated with the employee's compensation, were merged into two of the Department's personnel records systems (STATE-31 Personnel Records and STATE-30 Personnel Payroll Records).

ACDA-2 Pending Personnel Records—This system will be deleted. The records of individuals who were under consideration for employment were merged into STATE-31 Personnel Records.

ACDA-3 Security Records—This system will be deleted. All ACDA security files were merged into STATE-36 Security Records.

ACDA-4 Statements by Principals During the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, Mutual Balanced Force Reduction Negotiations, and the Standing Consultative Committee—This system will be deleted. Prior to its planned implementation in the mid-1980's it was learned that the records to be maintained in this system could be obtained from an existing record system. To avoid the creation of duplicate records, the ACDA-4 system of records was never implemented and no records were accumulated.