

registration fee of \$50 will be a prerequisite to engaging in trading from off the floor of the Exchange.

All such persons who are registered with the Exchange as of April 1 of each year, beginning April 1, 2001, will be assessed an annual fee of \$250. As stated above, the fees are proposed to be decreased from \$1,000 in recognition of decreased costs of administration that the Exchange has been and will be incurring respecting off-floor trader examinations. The Exchange had previously experienced increased administration costs incurred in conducting background checks on the individuals to whom the fees apply, processing of forms, fingerprint charges, requests for disciplinary history to the Central Registration Depository, as well as in conducting on-site examinations of the home and branch offices of the various member firms with which off-floor traders associate. During the course of 1999, the Exchange experienced an increase in the number of member organizations with off-floor traders who were subject to the previous \$1,000 registration fee, as well as the annual fee. Accordingly, the Exchange undertook increased administrative and regulatory responsibilities associated with such member organizations and their off-floor traders, including scheduling more frequent compliance inspections. Since the previous increase in these fees effective March 1, 2000,³ the Exchange has conducted an evaluation of direct costs associated with the registration of off-floor traders and maintenance of their respective compliance information within the Exchange's Examination and Membership Services Departments. The evaluation disclosed that a reduction in the initial registration and annual fee for off-floor traders was appropriate.

(2) Statutory Basis

The proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)⁴ of the Act in general and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4)⁵ in particular, in that it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members and issuers and other persons using its facilities.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose

any inappropriate burden on competition.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participations or Others

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The foregoing rule change, which establishes or changes a due, fee or other charge imposed by the Exchange, has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁶ and subparagraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.⁷ At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in the furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC.

Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-PHLX-00-73 and should be submitted by October 5, 2000.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁸

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-23615 Filed 9-13-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of Visa Services

[Public Notice 3415]

Proposed Information Collection for U.S. Department of State Immigrant Visa Applicants

AGENCY: Office of Visa Services, Department of State.

ACTION: 30-day notice of proposed information collection; Choice of address and agent for U.S. Department of State Immigrant Visa Applicants.

SUMMARY: The Department of State has submitted the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Comments should be submitted to OMB within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

The following summarizes the information collection proposal submitted to OMB:

Type of Request: New Information Collection.

Originating Office: Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State.

Title of Information Collection: Choice of Address and Agent for U.S. Department of State Immigrant Visa Applicants.

Frequency: Once.

Respondents: All immigrant visa principal applicants.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 350,000.

Average Hours Per Response: 0.5 hours.

Total Estimated Burden: 175,000.

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, including whether the information will have practical utility.

- 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

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 42497 (May 6, 2000), 65 FR 14005 (March 15, 2000); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 41361 (March 3, 1999), 64 FR 25388 (May 11, 1999).

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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]

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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