

organizing activities prior to and after BiH general elections. Throughout BiH.

9/28/00. \$5,000,000. 180-0004. Municipal Infrastructure and Services. Fund contract extension with Parsons Delaware Inc. to implement the MIS program. Throughout BiH.

9/28/00. \$1,500,000. 180-0005. Privatization & Enterprise Restructuring. Develop comprehensive accounting and auditing regime for BiH.

USAID: Serbia

8/1/00. \$1,500,000. 180-0021. Political and Social Process. Political party development. Economic program development; for use in opposition election campaigns and to guide polices once the political opposition is elected to office.

8/10/00. \$999,775. 180-0019. Democratic Governance. TA to improve local government capabilities.

8/16/00. \$604,319. 180-0019. Democratic Governance. TA to improve delivery of constituent services.

8/25/00. \$529,792. 180-0032. NGO Development. TA to improve civil society advocacy capabilities.

9/18/00. \$1,499,351. 180-0019. Democratic Governance. Targeted municipalities: humanitarian assistance.

9/15/00. \$127,684. 180-0021. Political and Social Process. Trade Union get-out-the-vote activities.

9/18/00. \$327,984. 180-0032. NGO Development. Improve capabilities of women's groups and other civil society advocates.

9/29/00. \$100,009. 180-0021. Political and Social Process. Political party development.

9/29/00. \$135,635. 180-0021. Political and Social Process. Election monitoring.

9/29/00. \$192,887. 180-0032. NGO Development. Improve capabilities of civil society advocates.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Office of the SEED Coordinator, Department of State, 2101 C St NW., Washington, DC 20521, 202-647-0853.

Dated: January 10, 2001.

Larry C. Napper,

Coordinator for East European Assistance, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 01-4668 Filed 2-23-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-23-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 3544]

Proposed Protocol on Rail Equipment to the Draft Convention Sponsored by UNIDROIT on International Mobile Equipment Finance; Meeting Notice

ACTION: International rail finance—the International Finance Study Group of the State Department's Advisory Committee on Private International Law will meet to review a proposed protocol on rail equipment to the draft UNIDROIT convention on equipment finance, and its effect on cross-border financing and trade involving the railway industry. The meeting will be held in Washington, D.C. on Friday, March 2, 2001.

AGENDA: The meeting will cover developments relating to cross-border financing of rail equipment; the purpose of the proposed UNIDROIT Convention on international interests in mobile equipment; recent revisions to the proposed rail equipment protocol to that convention; and positions that may be adopted for the forthcoming UNIDROIT meeting on the rail protocol in March 2001.

Issues relevant to various organizations will be considered, including international transportation policies of DOT, the Surface Transportation Board (STB), and the Association of American Railroads (AAR).

Comments will be requested on draft provisions of the proposed Railway rolling stock protocol, including the intersection with revisions to Uniform Commercial Code Art.9 in the United States, relevant provisions of Title 49 of the U.S. Code, commercial finance laws of Canada, Mexico and other countries, and related international projects on secured financing, including work underway at UNCITRAL (the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) on receivables financing and the OAS (Organization of American States) on a model Inter-American national law on secured financing.

Background: The United States is a member state of UNIDROIT, headquartered in Rome, Italy, which seeks to unify private law, often in the economic and commercial law area. The U.S. has been an active participant in negotiations on a multilateral convention (UNIDROIT Convention) to provide for enforceability of international secured finance interests in mobile equipment, together with a protocol on aircraft finance, with provisions for rail equipment and space

and satellite equipment to be subsequently considered. The basic convention and aircraft protocol are expected to be finalized in 2001.

A Rail Working Group (RWG) authorized by UNIDROIT has undertaken work on the current draft protocol on provisions specific to rail equipment financing, which will be considered at an international meeting in March 2001 sponsored by UNIDROIT and the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF).

The proposed Convention and rail equipment protocol is intended to benefit rail industry exports and increase the capacity of many countries to finance such equipment through private sector capital markets. Key features of the draft Convention as it would be amended by the rail protocol are expected to include: rules on secured financing priorities recognized by the convention; assignments; recognition of existing regional rail registries and possible cross-links between them, and provision for new registry systems or for states to utilize existing systems in other countries for implementation of the convention. Certain key provisions are likely to be optional, such as enhanced and expedited remedies upon default and treatment of insolvency rights.

Attendance: The meeting will be held on Friday, March 2, 2001, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Association of American Railroads (AAR), 50 "F" Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, in the 4th floor conference center. The meeting is open to the public, up to the capacity of the meeting room and subject to rulings of the chair. Persons wishing to attend should contact Peter Bloch, Department of Transportation, Office of General Counsel, (202) 366-9183, fax 366-9188, or Louis P. Warchot at AAR at 202-639-2500, fax 639-2868, not later than Thursday, March 1, 2001.

Documents: The Preliminary Draft Protocol on railway rolling stock, UNIDROIT Doc.4, Study LXXIIIH, December 2000 (also available as OTIF Doc. JGR/2, December 2000) is available prior to the meeting by express mail or fax from the Office of Legal Adviser at the above numbers. The position of the AAR concerning the rail protocol can be obtained from the AAR at the above number. The draft UNIDROIT convention as well as the draft aircraft protocol are available at

www.UNIDROIT.org/ "International interests in mobile equipment".

Harold S. Burman,

Executive Director, Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law, United States Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 3545]

Advisory Committee Meeting on Law Applicable to Securities Intermediaries; Meeting Notice

The Study Group on Securities Transactions of the State Department's Advisory Committee on Private International Law will hold a meeting on Monday, March 5, 2001, at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York on proposed treaty rules on law applicable to securities intermediaries, and in particular the law applicable to dispositions of securities held through an indirect holding system.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for public comment and will facilitate preparation of United States positions in connection with draft rules in preparation at the Hague Conference on Private International Law on law applicable to intermediaries.

Agenda: The meeting will review initial draft rules considered by states, organizations and industry representatives invited by the Hague Conference at its first meeting on this subject, that took place January 2001 together with proposed amendments thereto and additional provisions that may be suggested by study group participants.

Subject to availability of time, the meeting will review developments involving direct and indirect holders of securities, transfers of interest, dematerialization and immobilization of securities, the systemic role of multiple indirect holding systems, and whether harmonization by international treaty is feasible. Among other issues, an applicable law regime might address what law governs transfers of securities held through custodial accounts and financial intermediaries; the rights to securities in custodial accounts; the rights of owners of securities as well as entities secured thereby; the relation to third party creditors; and the legal nature of interests in securities held by such intermediaries or through central clearing systems.

Time permitting, the desirability of additional efforts to prepare substantive rules on securities intermediaries by

other international bodies, such as the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), UNIDROIT and the OAS will be discussed.

Documentation: The basic study by the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference, "Law applicable to disposition of securities held through indirect holding systems", is obtainable at www.hcch.net. Draft articles and proposed revisions thereto are set out in Doc. WP-16 dated February 6 and annexes A-C on the same site. Commentators unable to retrieve these documents may request them from the Office of the Legal Adviser (L/PIL) by contacting Rosie Gonzales at 202-776-8420, by fax 202-776-8482, or by email at pilddb@his.com.

Attendance: The public is invited to attend up to the capacity of the meeting room and may participate subject to the rulings of the chair. The meeting will take place at 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the New York Federal Reserve Bank, 33 Liberty Street, NYC in the 10th Floor Board Room. Since access to the building is controlled, persons wishing to attend should, prior to c.o.b. Wednesday, March 2, notify Joyce Hansen, Sr. Vice President, New York Federal Reserve, at 212-720-5024, fax 212-720-1756 or contact Harold Burman, Office of the Legal Adviser, 202-776-8421; fax: 202-776-8482.

Harold S. Burman,

Executive Director, Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 01-4666 Filed 2-23-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 3546]

Proposed Convention Sponsored by UNIDROIT on International Equipment Finance and Draft Protocol on Space Equipment; Meeting Notice

ACTION: The Space Finance Study Group of the State Department's Advisory Committee on Private International Law will meet in Washington, DC on Thursday, March 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Study Group will review and comment on a draft protocol on space equipment which would amend provisions of a proposed UNIDROIT convention on international secured financing for high-value mobile equipment, with a particular focus on the space equipment industry and implications for the provision of space-based services.

Agenda

The meeting will cover the status and purposes of the proposed (UNIDROIT) Convention on international interests in mobile equipment; the application of asset-based financing to space equipment; the revised draft protocol on space equipment; the revised draft protocol on aircraft; the upcoming meeting on the space protocol and the relationship to the outer space treaty system at the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS); and related developments in the space industry.

The intersection with the Uniform Commercial Code in the United States and secured finance laws in other countries will be considered, as well as related developments on international secured financing at UNCITRAL (the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) and the OAS (Organization of American States).

The relationship between the proposed Space Equipment Protocol and the outer space treaty system will be reviewed, with particular attention to provisions on control and liability. In addition, options for establishment of an international computer-based registry of financial interests as contemplated by the new treaty system, and its relationship, if any, to the existing registration of space objects at UNCOPUOS, will be examined.

Background

The United States is a member of UNIDROIT (The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law) and has been an active participant in negotiations on a proposed multilateral convention (UNIDROIT Convention) to provide for the creation and enforceability of international secured finance interests in mobile equipment, specifically including at this stage aircraft, to be followed by space and satellite equipment, and railway rolling stock. A Space Working Group (SWG) authorized by UNIDROIT has prepared the current draft protocol on provisions specific to space equipment financing. Completion of the basic Convention and Aircraft Protocol is expected by the fall of 2001.

Completion of protocols on space and rail equipment is expected to follow. The proposed Convention and equipment specific protocols can enhance the development of equipment industries, as well as the capacity of many countries to finance such equipment and related services, through private sector capital markets.

Key features of the draft Convention include the creation of internationally