

Dated: October 26, 2003.

Jeffrey D. Pierson,

Associate Administrator for Investment.

[FR Doc. 03-27418 Filed 10-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4522]

Determination Pursuant to Section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224 Relating to the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)

Acting under the authority of section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, as amended by Executive Order 13286 of July 2, 2002, and Executive Order 13284 of January 23, 2003, and in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, I hereby determine that the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), also known as the United Revolutionary People's Council, also known as the People's Liberation Army of Nepal, also known as CPN(M), has committed, or poses a significant risk of committing, acts of terrorism that threaten the security of U.S. nationals or the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States.

Consistent with the determination in section 10 of Executive Order 13224 that "prior notice to persons determined to be subject to the Order who might have a constitutional presence in the United States would render ineffectual the blocking and other measures authorized in the Order because of the ability to transfer funds instantaneously," I determine that no prior notice need be provided to any person subject to this determination who might have a constitutional presence in the United States, because to do so would render ineffectual the measures authorized in the Order.

This notice shall be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: October 23, 2003.

Richard L. Armitage,

Deputy Secretary of State, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 03-27373 Filed 10-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4490]

Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy; Notice of Open Meeting

The Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy (ACIEP)

will meet from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Monday, November 17, 2003 in Room 1107, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20520. The meeting will be hosted by Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs E. Anthony Wayne and Committee Chairman R. Michael Gadbaw.

The ACIEP serves the U.S. Government in a solely advisory capacity concerning issues and problems in international economic policy. Proposed topics for the meeting are status of trade negotiations, economic strategic planning, and subcommittee updates.

The public may attend this meeting as seating capacity allows. The media are welcome but discussions are off the record. Admittance to the Department of State building is by means of a pre-arranged clearance list. In order to be placed on this list, please provide your name, title, company or other affiliation if appropriate, social security number, date of birth, and citizenship to the Advisory Committee Executive Secretariat by fax (202) 647-5936 (Attention: Gwendolyn Jackson); telephone (202) 647-0847; or email (jacksongl@state.gov) by Nov. 13, 2003.

For further information about the meeting, please contact Eliza Koch, ACIEP Secretariat, Office of Economic Policy and Public Diplomacy, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Room 3526, 2201 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20520, by email (kocheck@state.gov) or telephone (202) 647-1310.

Dated: October 27, 2003.

Eliza Koch,

ACIEP Secretariat, Office of Economic Policy and, Public Diplomacy, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 03-27421 Filed 10-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4489]

Notice of Meeting; United States International Telecommunication Advisory Committee, Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITAC-T)

The Department of State announces an electronic meeting of the U.S. International Telecommunication Advisory Committee (ITAC). The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Department on matters related to telecommunication and information policy matters in preparation for

international meetings pertaining to telecommunication and information issues.

An electronic meeting of the U.S. Study Group B will be held from November 21-26, 2003 to comment on and approve normal contributions to the ITU-T Study Group 13 meeting, which will be held February 3-13, 2004. Contributors to this U.S. Study Group B (USSG B) electronic meeting should obtain USSG B numbers from Marcie Geissinger, the USSG B secretary at (303) 499-2145 or at marciegeissinger@msn.com. Any contributions to this electronic meeting should be forwarded to Ms. Geissinger at the above e-mail address no later than November 21. Comments to the contributions may be made through close of business, Monday, November 24; contributors must respond to the comments by 12 noon EST, Tuesday, November 25. If there are no comments or if the response comments are not challenged by 5 pm EST, Tuesday, November 25, then the USSG B Chair or the Secretary will close the meeting on November 26 and indicate to each contributor that the contributions may be forwarded to the ITU-T not later than December 3, 2003.

If you are not currently on the USSG B's Study Group 13 reflector, you will not be able to receive the contributions and comments. If you wish to be added to the reflector, please contact Ms. Geissinger at the e-mail address above. If you wish to confirm that you are on the USSG B's Study Group 13 reflector, please send a message to listserv@almsntsa@state.gov leaving the subject blank and showing "review sgb-13" as the body of the message. The response to your email will be a list of persons on the SG B reflector with interest in Study Group 13. If you are not on the "sgb-13" reflector, you will not be able to review the list of persons on the reflector.

Dated: October 24, 2003.

Anne D. Jillson,

International Telecommunications and Information Policy, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 03-27422 Filed 10-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-07-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Determinations Under the African Growth and Opportunity Act

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Trade Representative (USTR), as of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, designates the Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC) as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country eligible to receive the trade benefits provided for in the African Growth and Opportunity Act for articles other than textiles and apparel.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 31, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Constance Hamilton, Senior Director for African Affairs, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-9514.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The African Growth and Opportunity Act (Title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-200) (AGOA) provides trade benefits to the countries of sub-Saharan Africa to promote increased trade and investment between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa and economic development in the region.

In Proclamation 7657 (March 28, 2003), the President designated the Democratic Republic of Congo as an "eligible sub-Saharan African country" pursuant to section 104 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3703), and authorized the USTR to exercise the authority provided to the President under section 506A(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(1)) to designate DROC as a "beneficiary sub-Saharan African country" eligible to receive the trade benefits of the AGOA for articles other than textiles and apparel. The President directed the USTR to announce any such exercise of authority in the **Federal Register**.

The President also proclaimed that, if it is designated as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country, DROC would be a lesser developed beneficiary country for purposes of section 112(b)(3)(B) of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)(3)(B)). Lastly, the President decided to authorize the USTR, with respect to any designation of DROC as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country, to exercise the authority provided to the President under section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) to embody modifications and technical or conforming changes in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

Based on progress DROC has made in stabilizing its political situation, I have determined that DROC meets the eligibility criteria set forth in section 506A(a)(1) of the 1974 Act and have decided, as of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, to

designate DROC as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country for purposes of receiving the trade benefits of the AGOA for articles other than textiles and apparel. In order to reflect this designation in the HTS, general note 16(a) to the HTS is modified by inserting in alphabetical sequence in the list of beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries "Democratic Republic of Congo." This modification to the HTS is effective with respect to respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. DROC is also a lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country for purposes of section 112(b)(3) of the AGOA. DROC may now begin the process to become eligible for the trade benefits of the AGOA for textile and apparel articles.

Robert B. Zoellick,

United States Trade Representative.

[FR Doc. 03-27398 Filed 10-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-W3-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Request for Public Comment With Respect to the Annual National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 303 of the Trade and Tariff Act of 1984, as amended, USTR is required to publish annually the National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers (NTE). With this notice, the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is requesting interested parties to assist it in identifying significant barriers to U.S. exports of goods, services and overseas direct investment for inclusion in the NTE. Particularly important are impediments materially affecting the actual and potential financial performance of an industry sector. The TPSC invites written comments that provide views relevant to the issues to be examined in preparing the NTE. In order to ensure the most timely processing of submissions, the Department of Commerce will receive comments in response to this Notice.

DATES: Public comments are due not later than Friday, December 12, 2003. This deadline is firm. No submissions will be accepted after December 12.

ADDRESSES: *Paper submissions:* NTE Comments, Office of Trade and

Economic Analysis, Room H-2815, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC, 20230.

Submissions by electronic mail:
ntecomments@ita.doc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Procedural questions about transmitting comments or viewing public submissions should be directed to Ms. Marva Thompson, (202) 482-2185, or Mr. Howard Schreier, (202) 482-4180, U.S. Department of Commerce. Questions regarding the report or its subject matter should be directed to Ms. Gloria Blue, Office of Policy Coordination, Office of the United States Trade Representative (202) 395-3475.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Last year's report may be found on USTR's Internet Home Page (<http://www.ustr.gov>) under the section on Reports. In order to ensure compliance with the statutory mandate for reporting foreign trade barriers that are significant, we will focus particularly on those restrictions where there has been active private sector interest.

The information submitted should relate to one or more of the following ten categories of foreign trade barriers:

(1) import policies (*e.g.*, tariffs and other import charges, quantitative restrictions, import licensing, and customs barriers);

(2) standards, testing, labeling, and certification (including unnecessarily restrictive application of phytosanitary standards, refusal to accept U.S. manufacturers' self-certification of conformance to foreign product standards, and environmental restrictions);

(3) government procurement (*e.g.*, "buy national" policies and closed bidding);

(4) export subsidies (*e.g.*, export financing on preferential terms and agricultural export subsidies that displace U.S. exports in third country markets);

(5) lack of intellectual property protection (*e.g.*, inadequate patent, copyright, and trademark regimes);

(6) services barriers (*e.g.*, limits on the range of financial services offered by foreign financial institutions, regulation of international data flows, restrictions on the use of data processing, quotas on imports of foreign films, and barriers to the provision of services by professionals (*e.g.*, lawyers, doctors, accountants, engineers, nurses, etc.);

(7) investment barriers (*e.g.*, limitations on foreign equity participation and on access to foreign government-funded R&D consortia, local content, technology transfer and export