

or educational loans awarded on the basis of merit and/or need;

(v) Acceptance of awards for meritorious public contribution or achievement given by a charitable, religious, professional, social, fraternal, non-profit educational and recreational, public service, or civic organization.

(3) Regular or special employees need not return unsolicited advertising or promotional material, such as pens, pencils, note pads, calendars, and other things of nominal intrinsic value.

(b) *From other Peace Corps employees.* No employees in superior official positions may accept any gifts presented as contributions from employees in lower grades. No employees shall solicit contributions from other employees for a gift to an employee in a superior official position, nor shall any employees make a donation as a gift to an employee in a superior official position. However, this paragraph does not prohibit a voluntary gift of nominal value or donation in a nominal amount made on a special occasion such as marriage, illness, or retirement.

(c) *From foreign governments.* No regular employee may solicit or, without the consent of the Congress, receive any present, decoration, emolument, pecuniary favor, office, title, or any other gift from any foreign government. See 5 U.S.C. 7342; Executive Order 11320; and 22 CFR part 3.

(d) *Gifts to Peace Corps.* Gifts to the United States or to Peace Corps may be accepted in accordance with section 10(a)(4) of the Peace Corps Act and Peace Corps Manual section 721.

(e) *Reimbursement for expenses.* Neither this section nor § 307.735-310(a) precludes an employee from receipt of bona fide reimbursement, unless prohibited by law, for expenses of travel and such other necessary subsistence as is compatible with this part and for which no Government payment or reimbursement is made. An employee may personally accept reimbursement from organizations that qualify for tax-deductible contributions under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. However, this paragraph does not allow an employee to be reimbursed, or payment to be made on his or her behalf, for excessive personal living expenses, gifts, entertainment, or other

personal benefits. Nor does it allow an employee to receive non-Government reimbursement of travel expenses for travel on official business under Peace Corps orders; but rather, such reimbursement, if any, should be made to Peace Corps and amounts received should be credited to its appropriation. If an employee receives accommodations, goods, or services in kind from a non-Government source, this item or items will be treated as a donation to Peace Corps and an appropriate reduction will be made in per diem or other travel expenses payable.

§ 307.735-308 Economic and financial activities of employees abroad.

(a) *Prohibitions in any foreign country.* A U.S. citizen employee abroad is specifically prohibited from engaging in the activities listed below in any foreign country:

(1) Speculation in currency exchange;

(2) Transactions at exchange rates differing from local legally available rates, unless such transactions are duly authorized in advance by the agency;

(3) Sales to unauthorized persons whether at cost or for a profit of currency acquired at preferential rates through diplomatic or other restricted arrangements;

(4) Transactions which entail the use, without official sanction, of the diplomatic pouch;

(5) Transfers of funds on behalf of blocked nationals, or otherwise in violation of U.S. foreign funds and assets control;

(6) Independent and unsanctioned private transactions which involve an employee as an individual in violation of applicable control regulations of foreign governments;

(7) Acting as an intermediary in the transfer of private funds for persons in one country to persons in another country, including the United States;

(8) Permitting use of one's official title in any private business transactions or in advertisements for business purposes.

(b) *Prohibitions in country of assignment.* (1) A U.S. citizen employee shall not transact or be interested in any business or engage for profit in any profession or undertake other gainful

employment in any country or countries to which he or she is assigned or detailed in his or her own name or through the agency of any other person.

(2) A U.S. citizen employee shall not invest in real estate or mortgages on properties located in his or her country of assignment. The purchase of a house and land for personal occupancy is not considered a violation of this subparagraph.

(3) A U.S. citizen employee shall not invest money in bonds, shares, or stocks of commercial concerns headquartered in his or her country of assignment or conducting a substantial portion of business in such country. Such investments, if made prior to knowledge of assignment or detail to such country or countries, may be retained during such assignment or detail.

(4) A U.S. citizen employee shall not sell or dispose of personal property, including automobiles, at prices producing profits which result primarily from import privileges derived from his or her official status as an employee for the U.S. Government.

§ 307.735-309 Information.

(a) *Release of information to the press.*

(1) Regular or special employees shall not withhold information from the press or public unless that information is classified or administratively controlled (limited official use). All responses to requests for information from the press should be referred to the Director of Public Affairs who will be responsible for all releases. Regular and special employees should be certain that information given to the press and public is accurate and complete.

(2) Any questions as to the classification or administrative control of information should be referred to the DAEO.

(3) No regular or special employee may record by electronic or other device any telephone or other conversation, or listen in on any telephone conversation without the consent of all parties thereto.

(b) *Disclosure and misuse of inside information.* No employee may, directly or indirectly, disclose or use for his or

her own benefit, or for the private benefit of another, inside information as described in paragraph (c) of this section. The use of such information by an employee is restricted to the proper performance of his or her official duties. The disclosure of such information is restricted to official Peace Corps channels unless disclosure is authorized by the Director, the Deputy Director, the General Counsel, or an Associate Director of Peace Corps. In particular, no employee may:

(1) Engage in, directly or indirectly, a financial transaction as a result of or primarily relying on such information; or

(2) Publish any book or article, or deliver any speech or lecture, based on or using such information.

(c) *Definition.* The term *inside information* as used in this section means, generally, information obtained under Government authority which has not been made available to the general public and which could affect the rights or interests of the Government or of a non Government organization or person. Such information includes information about Peace Corps operations or administration, and personnel which could influence someone's dealing with Peace Corps.

(d) This section is not intended to discourage the disclosure through proper channels of information which has been or should be made public, or which is by law to be made available to the public. Also, employees are encouraged to teach, lecture, and write, provided they do so in accordance with the provisions of this section and §§ 307.735-301 and 307.735.306.

§ 307.735-310 Speeches and participation in conferences.

(a) *Fees and expenses.* (1) Although an employee may not accept a fee for his or her own use or benefit for making a speech, delivering a lecture, or participating in a discussion if the subject is Peace Corps or Peace Corps programs or if such services are part of the employee's official Peace Corps duties, the employee may suggest that the amount otherwise payable as a fee or honorarium be contributed to Peace Corps under the authority of section 10(a)(4) of the Peace Corps Act.