Extradition Treaties Interpretation Act of 1998 (Title II of Public Law 105–323). That Act authorizes the interpretation of the word ''kidnapping'' in international extradition treaties of the United States to include parental kidnapping. An earlier **Federal Register** notice issued by the State Department's Legal Adviser reflected a more limited interpretation of the word kidnapping in extradition treaties. This Notice explains the change in U.S. policy in this area, including the context of Public Law 105–323.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 31, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Samuel M. Witten, Office of the Legal Adviser, Department of State (202–647–7324).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title II of Public Law 105–323, the ''Extradition Treaties Interpretation Act of 1998,'' addresses a unique issue that has arisen in the last twenty years of U.S. extradition practice. The U.S. Government's international extradition treaties negotiated prior to the late 1970's typically limit extradition to specific listed offenses and include the word ''kidnapping'' in the negotiated lists of those offenses. About 75 of the U.S. Government's approximately 110 extradition treaty relationships fall in this category of ''list'' treaties that include the word ''kidnapping''.

At the time these list extradition treaties were negotiated, the term ''kidnapping'' was generally understood in U.S. criminal law to exclude abductions or wrongful retentions of minors by their parents. In keeping with this narrow interpretation, on November 24, 1976 the State Department Legal Adviser issued a **Federal Register** Notice with a model ''Bilateral Treaty on Mutual Extradition of Fugitives'' which included the offense of ''kidnapping'' in the list of extraditable offenses while simultaneously noting that the model treaty would not reach ''domestic relations problems such as custody disputes.'' *See* **Federal Register**, Vol. 141, No. 228, page 51897. Subsequently, the State Department has not interpreted such ''list'' treaties to permit extradition requests that would have construed the word ''kidnapping'' to include parental kidnapping.

U.S. law on this subject has evolved dramatically since most of these list treaties were negotiated. Parental kidnappings are now crimes at the federal level (*see* United States Code, Title 18, Section 1204), in all of the 50 states, and in the District of Columbia. Both in the context of abductions and wrongful retention of children from the United States in violation of these laws and, more generally, in the interest of enhanced international law enforcement cooperation under our extradition treaties, this narrow interpretation became the subject of concern on the part of the U.S. Departments of Justice and State, state and local prosecutors, and parents who would like the greatest possible flexibility in dealing with parental kidnapping situations.

In addition, as U.S. extradition practice evolved, the practice of including lists of extraditable offenses in extradition treaties was gradually abandoned in favor of generally permitting extradition for any crime that is punishable in both the requesting and requested States by more than one year's imprisonment. This advance in treaty practice made the list treaty situation particularly anomalous because parental kidnapping was typically an extraditable offense under the modern extradition treaties that rely on ''dual criminality'' rather than lists of offenses, so long as the relevant treaty partner has also criminalized the offense and all other conditions of the treaties are met.

Normally, the interpretation of ''list'' treaty offenses would simply evolve to reflect the evolution of new aspects of crimes that are identified in the list treaties. In this instance, however, the U.S. view had been widely disseminated, including by publication in the **Federal Register** in 1976, as a fixed policy of the U.S. Government. Therefore, in 1997 the State and Justice Departments brought this issue to the attention of the Congress. These consultations led to Public law 105–323, which addresses the matter by clarifying that ''kidnapping'' in extradition list treaties may include parental kidnapping, thus reflecting the major changes that have occurred in this area of criminal law in the last 20 years. With this clarification, the Executive Branch is now in a stronger position to make and act upon the full range of possible extradition requests dealing with parental kidnapping under list treaties that include the word ''kidnapping'' on such lists. This will help achieve the goal of enhancing international law enforcement cooperation in this area. The United States would, however, adopt this broader interpretation only once it has confirmed with respect to a given treaty that this would be a shared understanding of the parties regarding the interpretation of the treaty in question.

This change in the interpretation of ''kidnapping'' for purposes of extradition treaties is entirely unrelated to and would have no effect whatsoever on the use of civil means for the return of children, in particular under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Parental Child Abduction. It addresses only countries with which we have ''list'' extradition treaties and would have no effect with respect to countries with which the United States has no extradition relationship or countries where we have a dual criminality treaty.

The adoption of this expanded interpretation with respect to each specific treaty, however, will depend of course on the views of the other country in question, as the interpretation of terms in a bilateral treaty must depend on a shared understanding between the two parties. The United States recognizes that not all countries have criminalized parental kidnapping, and many continue to treaty custody of children as a civil or family law matter that is not an appropriate subject for criminal action. We also recognize that this is an evolving area of criminal law and that some countries which do not currently criminalize this conduct may decide to do so in future years. For this reason, we will consult with our list treaty partners and will adopt the expanded interpretation only where there is a shared understanding to this effect between the parties.

Dated: January 11, 1999.

David R. Andrews,

The Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 99–1585 Filed 1–22–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–25–U

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP); Initiation of a Review To Consider the Designation of Mongolia as a Beneficiary Developing Country Under the GSP; Solicitation of Public Comments Relating to the Designation Criteria

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and solicitation of public comment with respect to the eligibility of Mongolia for the GSP program.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initiation of a review to consider the designation of Mongolia as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP program and solicits public comment relating to the designation criteria by April 2, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: GSP Subcommittee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Room 518, Washington, D.C. 20508. The telephone number is (202) 395–6971.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The government of Mongolia has requested that it be granted eligibility for beneficiary status under the GSP program. The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) has initiated a review to determine if Mongolia should be designated as a beneficiary developing country. A country may not be designated a GSP beneficiary developing country, absent a finding that such designation would be in the economic interests of the United States, if any one of several elements are found, including: the participation by the country in a commodity cartel that causes serious disruption to the world economy; the provision by the country of preferential treatment to products of other developed countries which has a significant adverse effect on U.S. commerce; the expropriation by the country of U.S.-owned property without compensation; a failure by the country to enforce arbitral awards in favor of U.S. persons; the support by the country of international terrorism; or a failure by the country to take steps to protect internationally recognized worker rights. Other factors taken into account in determining whether a country will be designated a beneficiary developing country include: the extent to which the country has assured the United States that it will provide market access for U.S. goods; the extent to which the country has taken action to reduce trade-distorting investment practices and policies; and the extent to which the country is providing adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights. The criteria for designation are set forth in full in section 502 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2462).

Interested parties are invited to submit comments regarding the eligibility of Mongolia for designation as a GSP beneficiary developing country. Submission of comments must be made in English in 14 copies to the Chairman of the GSP Subcommittee, Trade Policy Staff Committee, and be received in Room 518 at 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20508, no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, April 2, 1999. Except for submissions granted ''business confidential'' status pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.6 information and comments submitted regarding Mongolia will be subject to public inspection by appointment with the staff of the USTR Public Reading Room. For an appointment, please call Ms. Brenda Webb at 202/395–6186. If the document contains business confidential information, 14 copies of a nonconfidential version of the submission along with 14 copies of the confidential version must be submitted. In addition, the submission should be clearly marked ''confidential'' at the top and bottom of each page of the document. The version which does not contain business confidential information (the public version) should also be clearly marked at the top and bottom of each page (either ''public version'' or 'non-confidential'').

Frederick L. Montgomery,

Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

[FR Doc. 99–1551 Filed 1–22–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Foreign Air Carrier Permits Filed Under Subpart Q During the Week Ending January 15, 1999

The following Applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Foreign Air Carrier Permits were filed under Subpart Q of the Department of Transportation's Procedural Regulations (See 14 CFR 302.1701 et seq.). The due date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motions to Modify Scope are set forth below for each application. Following the Answer period DOT may process the application by expedited procedures. Such procedures may consist of the adoption of a show-cause order, a tentative order, or in appropriate cases a final order without further proceedings.

Docket Number: OST–99–5002.

Date Filed: January 13, 1999.

Due Date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motions to Modify Scope: February 10, 1999.

Description: Application of Continental Micronesia, Inc., pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 41102 and Subpart Q, applies for renewal of its Guam/Saipan-Osaka authority for a five year period.

Docket Number: OST–99–5008.

Date Filed: January 15, 1999.

Due Date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motions to Modify Scope: February 12, 1999.

Description: Application of Community Air, Inc., pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 41102 and Subpart Q, applies for a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing scheduled air transportation of persons, property, and mail within the states of California and Nevada.

Docket Number: OST–99–5010.

Date Filed: January 15, 1999.

Due Date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motions to Modify Scope: February 12, 1999.

Description: Application of Wrangell Mountain Air, Inc., pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 41102 and Subpart Q, applies for a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing interstate scheduled passenger, cargo, and mail air transportation between any point in any state in the United States or District of Columbia, or any territory or possession of the United States, and any other point in any state of the United States or the District of Columbia, or any territory or possession of the United States.

Dorothy W. Walker,

Federal Register Liaison.

[FR Doc. 99–1563 Filed 1–22–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–62–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Executive Committee of the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee; Meeting

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The FAA is issuing this notice to advise the public of a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Federal Aviation Administration Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee.

DATES: The meeting will be held on February 10, 1999, at 10 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 3200–3204, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Miss Jean Casciano, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, telephone (202) 267–9683; fax (202) 267–5075; e-mail Jean Cascianofaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463; 5 U.S.C. App. II), notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Executive Committee to be held on February 10, 1999, at the U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 3200–3204, Washington, DC. 10 a.m. The agenda will include:

- ''Voting'' members on working groups.
- Assessment of working group support.