

Restructuring Act of 1998 [112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*], Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999 [64 FR 56014], and Delegation of Authority No. 236 of October 19, 1999 [64 FR 57920], as amended, I hereby determine that the objects to be included in the exhibition, "Max Beckmann," imported from abroad for temporary exhibition within the United States, are of cultural significance. These objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with foreign lenders. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at the Museum of Modern Art, Long Island City, Queens, New York, from on or about June 26, 2003, to on or about September 29, 2003, and at possible additional venues yet to be determined, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information, including a list of exhibit objects, contact Paul W. Manning, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, 202/619-5997, and the address is United States Department of State, SA-44, Room 700, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: March 31, 2003.

**Patricia S. Harrison,**

*Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 03-8392 Filed 4-4-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710-08-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4330]

### **Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Call for Statements of Interest: Democracy, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law in the People's Republic of China**

**SUMMARY:** The Office for the Promotion of Human Rights and Democracy of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) announces a call for statements of interest from organizations interested in being invited to submit proposals for projects on promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law in China. This is an initial solicitation to ascertain organizations that may be interested in doing projects in China and does not constitute a request for proposals. Organizations invited to submit proposals will have an opportunity to expand on their statements at a later date.

### **Statements of Interest**

The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) invites organizations to submit statements of interest of no more than two pages outlining program concepts and capacity to manage projects that will foster democracy, human rights, freedom of information, judicial independence, criminal and civil rule of law, and civil society in the People's Republic of China. Statements should include the following information:

- (1) Brief description of the organization;
- (2) Project objectives, activities and the desired outcomes.

Recipients should not submit a budget at this time, but responses should indicate approximate project totals.

### **Additional Information**

The Bureau's Human Rights and Democracy Fund (HRDF) supports innovative, cutting-edge programs which uphold democratic principles, support and strengthen democratic institutions, promote human rights, and build civil society in countries and regions of the world that are geo-strategically important to the U.S. HRDF funds projects that have an immediate impact but that have potential for continued funding beyond HRDF resources. HRDF projects must not duplicate or simply add to efforts by other entities.

DRL is interested in funding projects to begin no earlier than late summer 2003 and not to exceed two years in duration. Twelve-eighteen months programs will be the preferred award period. The bulk of project activities must take place in-country; U.S.-based activities or exchange projects are not encouraged. Projects that draw on resources from greater China will be considered, but the majority of activities should address the PRC directly. Projects that have a strong academic or research focus will not be highly considered. DRL will not fund health, technology, environmental, or scientific projects unless they have an explicit democracy, human rights, or rule of law component. Projects that focus on commercial law or economic development will not be highly considered.

Pending availability of funds, approximately 8,500,000 is expected to be available under the Economic Support Funds through the Bureau's Human Rights and Democracy Fund (HRDF) for projects that address Bureau objectives in China. The Bureau anticipates making awards in amounts of \$250,000-\$1,000,000 to support

program and administrative costs required to implement these programs.

### **Applicant/Organization Criteria**

Organizations submitting statements should meet the following criteria:

- Be a U.S. public or private non-profit organization. For-profit organizations may submit statements of interest. Foreign organizations may be sub-recipients of U.S. organizations or they may submit statements directly. Direct submissions should indicate the organization's ability to comply with U.S. government accounting and auditing standards.
- Have demonstrated experience administering successful projects in China or in similar challenging program environments.
- Have existing, or the capacity to develop, active partnerships with in-country organization(s).
- Organizations may form consortia and submit a combined statement of interest.

### **Review Process**

The Bureau will acknowledge receipt of all submissions. Following a review of all submissions, organizations may be invited to submit full proposals. Invitations will be based on subjective evaluation of how the project meets the criteria outlined, United States foreign policy objectives, and priority needs of DRL.

### **Deadline and Submission Instructions**

Applicants should submit statements of interest by overnight express courier services such as Federal Express or DHL, or by local courier service to: the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Room 7802, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20520. Proposals delivered by local courier should be delivered to the "Jogger's Entrance" on 21st street between C and D streets. Due to slow mail processing within the Department of State, we do not recommend submitting proposals via the U.S. postal system. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. All submissions must be received at the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on Wednesday, April 23, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Office for the Promotion of Human Rights and Democracy of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, DRL/PHD. Please specify Amy Gadsden, 202-647-2551, on all inquiries and correspondence.

Dated: April 1, 2003.

**Lorne W. Craner,**

*Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 03-8391 Filed 4-4-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-18-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Office of the Secretary

#### Termination of Review Under 49 U.S.C. 41720 of Delta/Northwest/Continental Agreements

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Termination of Review of Joint Venture Agreements.

**SUMMARY:** On February 28, Delta Air Lines, Northwest Airlines, and Continental Airlines resubmitted their code-share and frequent-flyer program reciprocity agreements to the Department for review under 49 U.S.C. 41720. The implementation of these two agreements would constitute a key part of the three airlines' proposed alliance. In their resubmission, the airlines accepted three of the six conditions that the Department had stated were necessary to avoid a formal enforcement proceeding, and they proposed alternative language for the other three conditions. The Department has determined that the alternative language proposed by the airlines adequately addresses the competitive concerns relating to those three conditions. The Department is therefore terminating its current review of the agreements. In reaching this conclusion, the Department is relying on the terms of the agreements, the airlines' representations that they will compete independently on capacity and fares, and their formal acceptance of the six conditions as modified.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas Ray, Office of the General Counsel, 400 Seventh St. SW., Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-4731.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On February 28, Delta, Northwest, and Continental ("the Alliance Carriers") resubmitted their code-share and frequent-flyer program reciprocity agreements to us for review under 49 U.S.C. 41720. These agreements form essential elements of the airlines' proposed alliance, which will be a comprehensive marketing arrangement that will also include reciprocal access to airport lounges and some joint marketing. Their alliance agreement has a ten-year term. See 68 FR 3293, 3295, January 23, 2003.

The Alliance Carriers initially submitted the agreements on August 23, 2002. After an extensive investigation and analysis, we concluded that the agreements as presented raised serious competitive concerns. We stated that we would direct our Enforcement Office to begin a formal enforcement proceeding to determine whether the alliance would be unlawful unless the Alliance Carriers accepted six conditions that would address our competitive concerns. 68 FR 3293, January 23, 2003 ("the January Notice"). The Alliance Carriers at first refused to accept our conditions but thereafter consulted with us on possible modifications to the language of three of the conditions. On the basis of those consultations, they resubmitted their agreements on February 28, stated that they would accept three of our original six conditions, proposed alternative language for the other three conditions, and acknowledged our legal authority to impose conditions to prevent unfair methods of competition in the airline industry.

We invited interested persons to submit comments on the proposed alternative language. 68 FR 10770, March 6, 2003. We received public comments from JetBlue Airways; U.S. Airways; Galileo International, a computer reservations system; the Airports Council International-North America ("ACI"), which represents local, regional, and state governing bodies that own and operate the principal U.S. airports used by scheduled service airlines; the Massachusetts Port Authority ("Massport"), which operates Boston-Logan International Airport; the Montana Department of Transportation; the Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority; and M. Michelle Buchecker. JetBlue, USAirways, Galileo, and Ms. Buchecker contend that we should not accept the alternative language. Massport asserts that we should require the Alliance Carriers to surrender different gates at Boston Logan. ACI expresses concern that we may, in the future, take steps that would interfere with the airports' right to manage their own affairs. The Montana state agency and the Memphis airport authority support the alternative language.

A group of airlines ("the Non-aligned Carriers")—AirTran, America West, Frontier, JetBlue, Midwest, Southwest, and Spirit—filed joint comments that oppose the alternative language and requested confidential treatment for their filing.

After considering the Alliance Carriers' resubmission and the comments, we have determined that the

alternative conditions adequately address our competitive concerns at this time. We are therefore ending our review of the agreements. The three airlines have agreed to our conditions with some modifications. We believe that these restrictions on their behavior should adequately reduce the possibility of anti-competitive behavior. Each airline has also represented that it will continue to compete independently on fares and service levels. Finally, the Alliance Carriers have separately agreed to abide by certain additional conditions imposed by the Department of Justice under its authority to enforce the antitrust laws.

We recognize that the implementation of the alliance could ultimately reduce competition in the airline industry, despite the conditions, although we do not expect such a result. We further recognize that the Alliance Carriers' actual implementation of the alliance may differ from their anticipated behavior. In addition, we are fully aware that world events and general economic conditions may lead to major changes in the airline industry, which could change the alliance's impact on airline competition. We will therefore closely monitor the Alliance Carriers' implementation of their agreements to ensure that they abide by their representations to us and comply with the conditions. Furthermore, in our ongoing monitoring of industry conditions, we will be watchful for major changes in the level and type of competitive behavior in the airline industry. We have the statutory authority to undertake a new review of the competitive effects of the alliance at any time that we believe that such a review is warranted. We will not hesitate to initiate such a review if developments indicate that it is necessary.

#### Background

The statute requiring our review of the alliance agreements—49 U.S.C. 41720—requires certain kinds of joint venture agreements among major U.S. passenger airlines to be submitted to us at least 30 days before they are implemented. The statute does not expressly require the parties to obtain our approval before proceeding. We may extend the waiting period by 150 days with respect to a code-sharing agreement and by 60 days for other types of agreements. At the end of the waiting period (either the 30-day period or any extended period established by us), the parties may implement their agreement. To prohibit the parties from implementing an agreement, we would normally institute a formal enforcement proceeding under 49 U.S.C. 41712