

requirement, certain competent authorities have agreed that their passports will be recognized as valid for the return of the bearer for a period of six months beyond the expiration date specified in the passport, thereby effectively extending the validity period of the foreign passport an additional six months beyond its expiration date, see 22 CFR 41.104(b).

This public notice adds Zimbabwe to the list of competent authorities that have provided the necessary assurances to the Government of the United States. The updated list of competent authorities which have made the necessary assurances is shown below:

Table of Foreign Passports Recognized for Extended Validity

Algeria
Antigua & Barbuda
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Bahamas, The
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cote D'Ivoire
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Grenada
Guinea
Hong Kong (Certificates of identity & passports)
Hungary
Iceland
India
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Korea
Kuwait
Laos
Lebanon
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Madagascar

Malaysia
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Monaco
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua (Diplomatic & official only)
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Russia
Senegal
Singapore
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
St. Kitts & Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Vincent & The Grenadines
Sudan
Suriname
Sweden
Switzerland
Syria
Taiwan
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
Uruguay
Venezuela
Zimbabwe

Public Notice 2920 of October 24, 1998 published at 63 FR 60436 is hereby superseded.

Dated: March 15, 1999.

Mary A. Ryan,

Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs.

[FR Doc. 99-7208 Filed 3-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Secretary

[Public Notice 3014]

Designation Under Section 5(d)(2) of the International Anti-Bribery and Fair Competition Act of 1998

Pursuant to section 5(d)(2) of the International Anti-Bribery and Fair Competition Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-

366, and by virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of State by the Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State of November 16, 1998, I hereby designate the following agreements as international agreements for purposes of section 5 of the International Anti-Bribery and Fair Competition Act of 1998:

- (i) Agreement Relating to the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT), with annexes. Done at Washington August 20, 1971; entered into force February 12, 1973 (23 UST 3813; TIAS 7532);
- (ii) Headquarters Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization. Signed at Washington November 22 and 24, 1976; entered into force November 24, 1976 (28 UST 2248; TIAS 8542); and
- (iii) Convention on the International Mobile Satellite Organization (Inmarsat), with annex. Done at London September 3, 1976; entered into force July 16, 1979 (31 UST 135; TIAS 9605).

This designation is not intended to abridge in any respect privileges, exemptions or immunities that the International Satellite Telecommunications Organization (INTELSAT) or the International Mobile Satellite Organization (Inmarsat) may have acquired by virtue of any other international agreement to which the United States is a party. Any such agreements may be designated as international agreements for purposes of section 5 of the Act by further designation under section 5(d)(2).

Dated: January 27, 1999.

Strobe Talbott,

Acting Secretary of State.

[FR Doc. 99-7207 Filed 3-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Secretary

[Public Notice—3004]

Extension of the Restriction on the Use of United States Passports for Travel To, In or Through Iraq

On February 1, 1991, pursuant to the authority of 22 U.S.C. 211a and Executive Order 11295 (31 FR 10603), and in accordance with 22 CFR 51.73 (a)(2) and (a)(3), all United States passports, with certain exceptions, were declared invalid for travel to, in, or

through Iraq unless specifically validated for such travel. The restriction was originally imposed because armed hostilities then were taking place in Iraq and Kuwait, and because there was an imminent danger to the safety of United States travelers to Iraq. American citizens then residing in Iraq and American professional reporters and journalists on assignment there were exempted from the restriction on the ground that such exemptions were in the national interest. The restriction has been extended for additional one-year periods since then, and was last extended on March 20, 1998.

Conditions in Iraq remain unsettled and hazardous, and tensions remain high. Iraq continues to refuse to comply with UN Security Council resolutions to fully declare and destroy its weapons of mass destruction and missiles while mounting a virulent public campaign in which the United States is blamed for maintenance of U.N. sanctions. Between December 14–18, 1998, this refusal resulted in extensive coalition air strikes against Iraqi military targets. Since December 1998, the Iraqi Airforce has violated the northern and southern no-fly zones on more than 100 occasions, and coalition aircraft have been fired upon in more than 60 incidents.

Local conflicts within Iraq also pose hazards to travellers. Military repression of Shia communities continues in southern Iraq with reports that hundreds of persons were summarily killed in security sweeps during 1998. In the north, tens of thousands of Iraqi soldiers remain poised for possible military operations against Kurd, Turkomen, and Assyria Iraqis.

Iraq's economy was severely damaged during the Gulf War and continues to be affected by the government of Iraq's refusal to implement fully the UN's Oil for Food program. Basic modern medical care and medicines may not be available to our citizens in case of emergency.

U.S. citizens and other foreigners working inside Kuwait near the Iraqi borders have been detained by Iraqi authorities in the past and sentenced to lengthy jail terms for alleged illegal entry into the country. Although our interests are represented by the Embassy of Poland in Baghdad, its ability to obtain consular access to detained U.S. citizens and to perform emergency services is constrained by Iraqi unwillingness to cooperate. In light of these circumstances, I have determined that Iraq continues to be a country "where there is imminent danger to the public health or physical safety of United States travellers".

Accordingly, United States passports shall continue to be invalid for use in travel to, in, or through Iraq unless specifically validated for such travel under the authority of the Secretary of State. The restriction shall not apply to American citizens residing in Iraq on February 1, 1991, who continue to reside there, or to American professional reporters or journalists on assignment there.

The Public Notice shall be effective upon publication in the **Federal Register** and shall expire March 20, 2000, unless sooner extended or revoked by Public Notice.

Dated: March 18, 1999.

Madeleine K. Albright,

Secretary of State.

[FR Doc. 99-7324 Filed 3-22-99; 2:36 pm]

BILLING CODE 4710-06-U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Application of Wrangell Mountain Air, Inc.; For Certificate Authority

AGENCY: Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of Order to Show Cause (Order 99-3-13); Docket OST-1999-5010.

SUMMARY: The Department of Transportation is directing all interested persons to show cause why it should not issue an order finding Wrangell Mountain Air, Inc., fit, willing, and able, and awarding it a certificate of public convenience and necessity to engage in interstate scheduled air transportation of persons, property, and mail.

DATES: Persons wishing to file objections should do so no later than April 2, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Objections and answers to objections should be filed in Docket OST-1999-5010 and addressed to Department of Transportation Dockets, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Rm. PL-401, Washington, DC 20590, and should be served upon the parties listed in Attachment A to the order.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Carol Woods, Air Carrier Fitness Division (X-56, Room 6401), U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-2340.

Dated: March 18, 1999.

Charles A. Hunnicutt,

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs.

[FR Doc. 99-7173 Filed 3-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Major Investment Study and Environmental Impact Statement: Stark, Columbiana, and Carroll Counties, Ohio

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that a major investment study and environmental impact statement will be prepared concurrently for transportation improvements proposed in Stark, Columbiana, and Carroll Counties, Ohio.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael B. Armstrong, Field Operations Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, 200 N. High Street, Room 328, Columbus, Ohio 43215, Telephone: (614) 280-6855.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), will concurrently prepare a major investment study (MIS) and an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal that will consider transportation improvements to the U.S. 30 corridor from Trump Road in Stark County to State Route 11 in Columbiana County, Ohio.

A transportation investment is considered necessary to improve the regional transportation network by providing an improved east-west travel corridor; to reduce anticipated congestion on existing U.S. Route 30 from projected traffic volumes; to improve safety on the existing highway system by removing trips from the network; and to support existing industry and future development through improved access to the region.

Actions under consideration include:

- (1) Taking no action;
- (2) upgrading and/or enhancing elements of the existing U.S. Route 30 transportation network;
- (3) constructing a roadway on new alignment in the U.S. Route 30 corridor.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. A series of public meetings will be held in the project area. On April 14, 1999, the Draft MIS will be presented to the public and, in early 2000, the preliminary draft EIS will be presented. In addition, a public hearing will be held in conjunction with