

United States Trade Representative,
(202) 395-6120 or John Winski, Joint
Executive Secretary, Agricultural Policy
Advisory Committee for Trade, Foreign
Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of
Agriculture, at (202) 720-6829.

Charlene Barshefsky,

Acting United States Trade Representative.

[FR Doc. 96-17428 Filed 7-10-96; 8:45 am]

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**Trade Policy Staff Committee: Request
for Comments Concerning Basic
Telecommunications Services
Negotiations Under World Trade
Organization's General Agreement on
Trade in Services**

ACTION: Notice and request for
comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the U.S. Trade
Representative (USTR) is soliciting a
second round of public comments on
the requests made to U.S. negotiating
partners in the Group of Basic
Telecommunications (GBT) of the
General Agreement on Trade in Services
(GATS). The GATS is one of the
Uruguay Round agreements
administered by the World Trade
Organization. Interested persons are
invited to submit their comments on
market-opening commitments that
should be sought in the basic
telecommunications services sector by
August 1, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
William Corbett, Office of Services,
Investment and Intellectual Property,
Office of the United States Trade
Representative, at (202) 395-4510 or
Laura B. Sherman, Office of the General
Counsel, Office of the United States
Trade Representative, at (202) 395-
3150.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Group
on Basic Telecommunications (GBT)
was created in April 1996 by a Decision
on Commitments on Basic
Telecommunications of the WTO
Council on Trade in Services. It is the
successor to the Negotiating Group on
Basic Telecommunications (NGBT),
which was created in April 1994 by a
Marrakesh Ministerial Decision with a
mandate to conclude talks by April 30,
1996. The New group's charge is to
continue negotiations on liberalization
of trade in telecommunications
transport networks and services within
the framework of the General Agreement
on Trade in Services. The Decision set
the date for entry into force of a
prospective agreement as January 1,
1998 and established the period of

January 15 through February 15, 1997
during which current negotiating offers
could be modified or supplemented and
MFN exceptions could be taken.

These arrangements, sought by the
United States, effectively extended the
life of negotiations to obtain more and
better offers and thereby the critical
mass necessary for the United States to
maintain its offer.

The United States is in the process of
refining requests for market-opening
commitments from other countries
participating in the GBT. These requests
must be submitted by the end of
September 1996. A list of countries
participating in and observing the GBT
is attached.

The United States objective in the
negotiations is to obtain levels of
openness in the telecom markets of
other participants equivalent to the level
in the United States. Interested persons
are invited to submit their comments on
commitments the United States should
seek in wire or wireless
communications, satellite systems,
regulatory schemes, interconnection
issues, foreign ownership restrictions,
and competition safeguards, among
other things.

Comments should be filed no later
than August 1, 1996. Comments must be
in English and provided in twenty
copies to Mr. William Corbett, Office of
Services, Investment and Intellectual
Property, Office of the United States
Trade Representative, Room 301, 600
17th Street, Washington D.C. 20508.
Non-confidential information received
will be available for public inspection
by appointment, in the USTR Reading
Room, Room 101, Monday through
Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For an
appointment call Brenda Webb on 202-
395-6186. Business confidential
information will be subject to the
requirements of 15 CFR § 2003.6. Any
business confidential material must be
clearly marked as such on the cover
letter or page and each succeeding page,
and must be accompanied by a non-
confidential summary thereof.

Frederick L. Montgomery,
Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

**WTO Group on Basic
Telecommunications**

Participants in the NGBT

Argentina
Australia
Barbados*
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Cote d'Ivoire
Cuba*

Cyprus*
Czech Republic
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt*
European Union
Austria
Belgium
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Ireland
Italy
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
United Kingdom
Hong Kong
Hungary
Iceland
India
Israel
Japan
Korea
Mauritius
Mexico
Morocco
New Zealand
Norway
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Singapore
Slovak Republic
Switzerland
Thailand
Tunisia*
Turkey
United States
Venezuela

Observes in the NGBT

Bolivia
Brunei
Bulgaria
China
Chinese Taipei
Costa Rica
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Indonesia
Ivory Coast
Jamaica
Latvia
Madagascar
Malaysia
Myanmar
Nicaragua
Pakistan
Panama
Romania
Russian Federation
Slovenia
South Africa
Trinidad & Tobago
United Arab Emirates
Uruguay

Participants making offers = 48 governments

(*) Participants not making offers = 4
governments
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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Treasury Advisory Committee on
Commercial Operations of the U.S.
Customs Service**

AGENCY: Departmental Offices, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the date of the next meeting and the agenda for consideration by the Treasury Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of the U.S. Customs Service.

DATES: The next meeting of the Treasury Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of the U.S. Customs Service will be held on July 26, 1996 in Washington, D.C. The session will be held from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Due to

the fire that occurred in the Main Treasury Building on June 26, 1996, the usual meeting room will not be available. The meeting will be held at a separate suitable government or private facility, accessible to the public, within 10 or 15 minutes of Treasury by public transportation. The location can be ascertained by calling the information number, a week prior to the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dennis M. O'Connell, Director, Office of Tariff and Trade Affairs, Office of the Under Secretary (Enforcement), Room 4004, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220. Tel. (202) 622-0220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The provisional agenda to be considered at the meeting is as follows:

1. Developments in Line Release on the Southwest border.
2. North American Trade Automation Prototype (NATAP).

3. Compliance and enforcement issues and challenges particular to the courier industry.

4. Update on implementation of the Customs Modernization Act.

The provisional agenda may be amended prior to the meeting. The Committee, in its discretion, may take up other matters, time permitting.

The meeting is open to the public. However, participation in the discussion is limited to Committee members and Treasury and Customs staff. It is necessary for any person other than an Advisory Committee member who wishes to attend the meeting to give notice by contacting Ms. Theresa Manning no later than July 19, 1996 at 202-622-0220.

Dated: July 8, 1996.
John P. Simpson,
Deputy Assistant Secretary (Regulatory, Tariff and Trade Enforcement).

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