technical authority for grant awards resides with the USIA grants officer.

Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation:

- 1. Institutional Reputation and Ability: Applicant institutions should demonstrate their potential for excellence in program design and implementation and/or provide documentation of successful programs. If an applicant is a previous USIA grant recipient, responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Agency grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts will be considered. Relevant substantive evaluations of previous projects may also be considered in this assessment.
- 2. Project Personnel: The thematic and logistical expertise of project personnel should be relevant to the proposed program. Resumes or C.V.s should be summaries which are relevant to the specific proposal and no longer than two pages each.
- 3. *Program Planning:* A detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive rigor and logistical capacity.
- 4. Thematic Expertise: Proposal should demonstrate the organization's expertise in the subject area which promises an effective sharing of information.
- 5. Support of Diversity: Proposals should demonstrate the recipient's commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity.
- 6. Cross-Cultural Sensitivity and Area Expertise: Evidence should be provided of sensitivity to historical, linguistic, religious, and other cross-cultural factors, as well as relevant knowledge of the target geographic area/country.
- 7. Ability to Achieve Program Objectives: Objectives should be realistic and feasible. The proposal should clearly demonstrate how the grantee institution will meet program objectives.
- 8. Multiplier Effect: Proposed programs should strengthen long-term mutual understanding and contribute to maximum sharing of information and establishment of long-term institutional and individual ties.

- 9. Cost-Effectiveness: Overhead and direct administrative costs to USIA should be kept as low as possible. All other items proposed for USIA funding should be necessary and appropriate to achieve the program's objectives.
- 10. Cost-Sharing: Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as direct funding contributions and/or in-kind support from the prospective grantee institution and its partners.
- 11. Follow-on Activities: Proposals should provide a plan for continued exchange activity (without USIA support) which ensures that USIA-supported programs are not isolated events.
- 12. Project Evaluation: Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the activity's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. USIA recommends that the proposal include a draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives. Grantees will be expected to submit intermediate reports after each project component is concluded or quarterly, whichever is less frequent.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The needs of the program may require the award to be reduced, revised, or increased. Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Notification

All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process on or about July 17, 1995. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: February 14, 1995.

John P. Loiello,

Associate Director, Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 95-4193 Filed 2-22-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP); Initiation of a Review To Consider the Designation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a Beneficiary of the GSP Program; 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 the West Bank and Gaza Strip for the GSP program.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initiation of a review to consider the designation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a beneficiary of the GSP program and solicits public comment relating to the designation criteria.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
GSP Subcommittee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Room 513, Washington, D.C. 20506. The telephone number is

(202) 395 - 6971

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) has initiated a review to determine if the West Bank and Gaza Strip meet the designation criteria of the GSP law and should be designated as a beneficiary for purposes of the GSP program, which is provided for in the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2461-2465). The designation criteria are listed in sections 502(a), 502(b) and 502(c) of the Act. Interested parties are invited to submit comments regarding the eligibility of the West Bank and Gaza Strip for designation as a GSP beneficiary. The designation criteria mandate determinations related to such practices as: participation in commodity cartels, preferential treatment provided to other developed countries, expropriation without compensation, enforcement of arbitral awards, support of international terrorism, and protection of internationally recognized worker rights. Other practices taken into account include: the extent of market access for goods and services, investment practices and protection of intellectual property rights.

Comments must be submitted in 15 copies, in English, to the Chairman of the GSP Subcommittee, Trade Policy Staff Committee, 600 17th Street, N.W., Room 513, Washington, D.C. 20506. Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 1995. Information and comments submitted regarding the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be subject to public