interconnection of disparate but interoperable networks, these information highways will allow us to communicate as a global community—giving individuals, businesses, and economies greater access to each other and to a wider range of information. Equally important, the GII will offer governments an unprecedented opportunity to equalize global disparity in telecommunications and maximize the economic and social benefits of the Information Age for their citizens.

Harnessing the global potential of information and communications technologies to this end will require collaboration among the industries that will build, operate, provide, and use services and information available over the evolving national networks. It will also require cooperative efforts among countries, working together bilaterally, regionally, and through multilateral organizations, to facilitate the interconnection of their respective networks and the sharing of information among nations.

In our interdependent world, technological and regulatory choices made in one country can affect those made in neighboring countries, creating a multiplier effect for the GII's development. To help guide this development, the Administration proposes five core principles—private investment, competition, open access, a flexible regulatory environment, and universal service. These principles, we believe, along with effective information policies, will provide a foundation upon which the GII can be built.

The overarching goal of the "Agenda for Cooperation" is to foster the cooperation that will be needed to spur the transformation of a thousand discrete networks into a connected, interoperable global information infrastructure. As all nations take steps to develop and upgrade national information infrastructures, we invite you to join with us in ensuring that the benefits of the GII will be available throughout the world.

Larry Irving,

Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information.

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List Addition

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Addition to the Procurement List.

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List tabulating machine paper to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities. EFFECTIVE DATE: March 27, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202–3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 29, 1994, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notice (59 FR 38586) of proposed addition to the Procurement List.

Comments were received from a contractor for this type of paper and two trade associations. One of the trade associations objected to the proposal because it is concerned about the impact of taxpayer-sponsored printing operations, largely in the Federal Prison Industries, on an industry which it claims has very small profit margins. The other trade association reiterated its earlier objections to the Committee's 1991 addition of this paper to the Procurement List, which centered on the action's substantial adverse impact on the entire business forms industry. The association stated, without providing specific details, that the industry's experience since that supported its earlier contentions.

Neither trade association provided any data that would support a contention that the Committee's action in adding a portion of the Government requirement for this particular type of paper to the Procurement List would have a severe adverse impact on the entire business forms industry. The Committee believes that what it is adding to the Procurement List is only a small part of the total demand for this paper, as the Government version is identical to what is widely used in the private sector and the private market is considerably larger than the Government market. Moreover, other types of business forms are purchased in both the Government and commercial

markets. Consequently, the Committee does not believe that its action with respect to one particular type of paper purchased by the Government will have a severe impact on the entire business forms industry.

The contractor submitted information on several firms in the industry which had suffered from declining Government sales, including itself, and claimed that the 1991 addition of this paper to the Procurement List had caused these impacts, as it indicated Government sales had declined but commercial sales had not. The contractor also attempted to incorporate in its comments by reference all materials submitted by all parties to the 1991 addition of the paper to the Procurement List, the Committee's subsequent reconsideration of its addition decision, and resulting litigation, including all court opinions filed by the trial and appellate courts.

The Committee rejected the attempted incorporation by reference as unreasonably burdensome on the Committee's resources, and asked the contractor to provide the documents which it considered relevant to its present arguments. While it provided an extensive collection of documents in response, the contractor indicated that the Committee should not consider the contractor's contentions to be limited to what appeared in those specific documents. The contractor also indicated that all the materials supported its contention that the Committee is required to make four determinations, which the contractor enumerated, before it can decide in accordance with its regulations that a commodity or service may be added to the Procurement List.

Accordingly, the Committee believes that its duty to explain its conclusion that the paper may be properly added to the Procurement List will be met by addressing these four determination requirements and the contractor's industry impact contentions.

These determinations are that: (1) The nonprofit agencies have the capacity to produce the paper; (2) the level of blind employment claimed by the nonprofit agencies will be used in producing the paper; (3) the nonprofit agencies can produce the paper at the fair market price established by the Committee; and (4) there will not be a severe adverse impact on current suppliers. These determinations are the contractor's summation of the Committee's regulatory criteria for adding a commodity or service to the Procurement List.

The Committee's determinations that the nonprofit agencies have the capacity