paced development of electronic payment systems. While combinations such as this may have efficiency driven, pro-competitive effects. I remain concerned about increased concentration in the merchant acquirer services industry. This market is growing dramatically, and is increasingly central to back-end processing of credit card purchases. I expect that we will soon see additional acquisitions in the merchant acquirer services industry and, in that light, I have asked the Staff of the Commission to continue to monitor the competitive situation in this evolving market.

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[File No. 951-0015]

## Reuters America Inc.; Consent Agreement With Analysis To Aid **Public Comment**

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission. **ACTION:** Consent agreement.

**SUMMARY:** In settlement of alleged violations of federal law prohibiting unfair acts and practices and unfair methods of competition, this consent agreement, accepted subject to final Commission approval, would, among other things, prohibit a New York-based distributor of fast-turnaround verbatim news transcripts from agreeing to or attempting to agree to allocate customers or divide markets with any provider of news transcripts.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before December 4, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be directed to: FTC/Office of the Secretary, Room 159, 6th St. and Pa. Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael E. Antalics, Bureau of Competition, Federal Trade Commission, S-2627, 6th Street & Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20580. (202) 326-2821.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant** to Section 6(f) of the Federal Trade Commission Act. 38 Stat. 721, 15 U.S.C. 46, and § 2.34 of the Commission's Rules of Practice (16 CFR 2.34), notice is hereby given that the following consent agreement containing a consent order to cease and desist, having been filed with and accepted, subject to final approval, by the Commission, has been placed on the public record for a period of sixty (60) days. Public comment is invited. Such comments or views will be considered by the Commission and will be available for inspection and copying at its principal office in accordance with Section 4.9(b)(6)(ii) of the Commission's Rules of Practice (16 CFR 4.9(b)(6)(ii)).

The Federal Trade Commission having initiated an investigation of certain acts and practices of Reuters America Inc., hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Proposed Respondent", and it now appearing that Proposed Respondent is willing to enter into an Agreement containing an Order to Cease and Desist from engaging in the acts and practices being investigated,

It Is Hereby Agreed by and between the Proposed Respondent, their attorney, and counsel for the Federal

Trade Commission that:

1. Proposed Respondent Reuters America Inc. ("Reuters") is a corporation organized, existing and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Delaware, with its offices and principal place of business located at 1700 Broadway, New York, New York 10019.

2. Proposed Respondent admits all the jurisdictional facts set forth in the draft of complaint.

3. Proposed Respondent waives: (a) Any further procedural steps;

(b) The requirement that the Commission's decision contain a statement of findings of fact and conclusions of law:

(c) All rights to seek judicial review or otherwise to challenge or contest the validity of the Order entered pursuant to this agreement; and

(d) Any claim under the Equal Access to Justice Act.

- 4. This agreement shall not become a part of the public record of the proceeding unless and until it is accepted by the Commission. If this agreement is accepted by the Commission, it, together with the draft of complaint contemplated thereby, will be placed on the public record for a period of sixty (60) days and information in respect thereto publicly released. The Commission thereafter may either withdraw its acceptance of this agreement and so notify the Proposed Respondent, in which event it will take such action as it may consider appropriate, or issue and serve its complaint (in such form as the circumstances may require) and decision in disposition of the proceeding.
- 5. This agreement is for settlement purposes only and does not constitute an admission by Proposed Respondent that the law has been violated as alleged in the draft of complaint, or that the facts as alleged in the draft complaint, other than jurisdictional facts, are true.
- 6. This agreement contemplates that, if it is accepted by the Commission, and if such acceptance is not subsequently withdrawn by the Commission pursuant to the provisions of § 2.34 of the

Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission may, without further notice to the Proposed Respondent, (1) issue its complaint corresponding in form and substance with the draft of the complaint and its decision containing the following Order to cease and desist in disposition of the proceeding, and (2) make information public in respect thereto. When so entered, the Order to cease and desist shall have the same force and effect as other orders. The Order may be altered, modified, or set aside in the same manner and within the same time provided by statute for other orders. The Order shall become final upon service. Delivery by the U.S. Postal Service of the complaint and decision containing the agreed-to Order to the attention of the Office of the General Counsel at the Proposed Respondent's addresses as stated in this agreement shall constitute service. Proposed Respondent waives any right it may have to any other manner of service. The complaint may be used in construing the terms of the Order, and no agreement, understanding, representation, or interpretation not contained in the Order or agreement may be used to vary or contradict the terms of the Order.

7. Proposed Respondent has read the draft complaint and Order contemplated hereby. It understands that once the Order has been issued, it will be required to file one or more compliance reports showing that it has fully complied with the Order. Proposed Respondent further understands that it may be liable for civil penalties in the amount provided by law for each violation of the Order after it becomes final.

Order

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For the purposes of this Order: A. Respondent means Reuters America Inc., its subsidiaries, divisions, and groups and affiliates controlled by Reuters America Inc., its successors and assigns, and its directors, officers, employees, agents, and representatives.

B. *FNS* means Federal News Service Group, Inc/, its directors, officers, representatives, delegates, agents, employees, successors, assigns and its subsidiaries and their successors and assigns; and Federal News Service, its directors, officers, representatives, delegates, agents, employees, successors, assigns and its subsidiaries and their successors and assigns.

C. News transcripts mean full-text fast turnaround verbatim transcripts of government-related events that are usually but not always produced within