

auxiliary aid or service because of insufficient time to arrange it.

Who Is the Contact Person for the Meeting?

Please contact Ms. Bonnie LeBold, the Executive Director of the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation, if you have questions about the meeting. You may contact her at the U.S. Department of Education, room 7007, MS 7563, 1990 K St. NW., Washington, DC 20006, telephone: (202) 219-7009, fax: (202) 219-7008, e-mail: Bonnie.LeBold@ed.gov.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

What Are the Functions of the National Committee?

The National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation was established by the Secretary of Education under section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. The Committee's responsibilities are to:

- Evaluate the standards of accreditation applied to applicant foreign medical schools; and
- Determine the comparability of those standards to standards for accreditation applied to United States medical schools.

What Items Will Be on the Agenda for Discussion at the Meeting?

The National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation will review the standards of accreditation applied to medical schools by several foreign countries to determine whether those standards are comparable to the standards of accreditation applied to medical schools in the United States. Discussions of the standards of accreditation will be held in sessions open to the public. Discussions that focus on specific determinations of comparability are closed to the public in order that each country may be properly notified of the decision. The countries tentatively scheduled to be discussed at the meeting include Australia/New Zealand, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, India, Ireland, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saba, and St. Lucia. Beginning February 24, you may call the contact person listed above to obtain the final listing of the countries whose standards will be discussed during this meeting. The listing of countries will also be posted on the Department of Education's Web site at the following address: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/ncfmea/ncfmeetings.html>.

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Dated: January 27, 2003.

Sally L. Stroup,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Arbitration Panel Decision Under the Randolph-Sheppard Act

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of arbitration panel decision under the Randolph-Sheppard Act.

SUMMARY: The Department gives notice that on November 30, 2001, an arbitration panel rendered a decision in the matter of *California Department of Rehabilitation Services v. United States Postal Service (Docket No. R-S/00-4)*. This panel was convened by the U.S. Department of Education under 20 U.S.C. 107d-1(b), after the Department received a complaint filed by petitioner, the California Department of Rehabilitation Services.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under section 6(c) of the Randolph-Sheppard Act (the Act), 20 U.S.C. 107d-2(c), the Secretary publishes in the **Federal Register** a synopsis of each arbitration panel decision affecting the administration of vending facilities on Federal and other property.

Background

This dispute concerns the alleged improper denial by the United States

Postal Service (USPS) of the request of the California Department of Rehabilitation Services, the State licensing agency (SLA), to establish a Randolph-Sheppard vending facility at the Long Beach Processing and Distribution Center in Long Beach, California, in violation of the satisfactory site provisions of the Act (20 U.S.C. 107 *et seq.*) and the implementing regulations in 34 CFR part 395.

A summary of the facts is as follows: In February 1997, the SLA submitted a proposal to USPS to establish a Randolph-Sheppard vending facility by combining the food service facility at the Long Beach Processing and Distribution Center with nine satellite locations. A permit agreement was entered into between the SLA and USPS. In reliance upon the signed permit agreement, the SLA purchased vending machines and other equipment in the amount of \$181,000.

Additionally, a blind vendor was assigned to the vending facility and route. The blind vendor invested in storage space and hired an assistant to help him service the vending route.

In September 1997, the Manager for Corporate Personnel Management at USPS Headquarters in Washington, DC, became aware of the permit agreement with the SLA to provide food service at the Long Beach Processing and Distribution Center and the nine satellite locations. Subsequently, USPS asserted that the permit agreement violated USPS policies concerning the establishment of vending services operated by the blind. According to USPS, the blind vendor had to be physically present at each vending route where food service was being provided. In the absence of having a blind vendor present at each location, USPS required that the SLA pay USPS \$8,400 in service fees. The SLA objected to the payment of service fees and to the directive from USPS Headquarters to terminate the satellite vending routes as a violation of the terms of the permit agreement signed by the SLA and USPS.

As a result of this dispute, the SLA requested the Secretary of Education to convene a Federal arbitration panel to hear this complaint. A panel was convened, and a hearing on this matter was held on May 4, 2001.

Arbitration Panel Decision

After considering the evidence presented, the panel concluded that USPS had entered into a permit agreement with the SLA in February 1997. The panel further determined that the permit agreement at the Long Beach Processing and Distribution Center