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SUBJECT:

PAGES:

3

(EXCLUDES COVER SHEET)

NOTES:

Customs Purchase

FACT SHEET



United States Customs Service, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20229

ASSESSMENT, IMPLEMENTATION and MONITORING (AIM) COMMITTEE (June 28, 2000)

What is the AIM Committee?

The AIM Committee is a permanent Customs working group whose purpose is look at how U.S. Customs can improve its policies and procedures for international air passenger processing.

Why was the committee formed?

Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly formed the committee to evaluate the recommendations in the reports of the Personal Search Review Commission and Independent Advisor Sanford Cloud.

What will the committee do?

The committee will review both reports to:

1. assess each recommendation for feasibility of action
2. determine how to implement the recommendations
3. determine the resources needed to implement the recommendations
4. provide an action plan to implement the recommendations
5. monitor the success of the implemented recommendations

The AIM committee will provide an action plan to Commissioner Kelly. The implementation of the recommendations will depend on the resources needed to implement them. Some may be implemented immediately; some may require additional manpower and funding.

Who are the members of the AIM committee?

Deputy Commissioner of Customs Charles W. Winwood chairs the committee. Members include the Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations; Assistant Commissioner, Office of Training and Development; Assistant Commissioner, Office of Finance; Director of Public Affairs; Director of Passenger Processing; Special Assistant for Equal Employment Office; and the Port Director, Chicago.

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Background and Talking Points

Independent Commission Report on Personal Searched by U.S. Customs

Background

In response to allegations that arose that passengers were being selected for Customs searches based on race or gender, in April 1999 Customs Commissioner Raymond Kelly created a Personal Search Review Commission to review Customs search processes and issue a report on its findings. The Commission is chaired by Constance Newman, Undersecretary of the Smithsonian Institute.

Today, the Independent Commission is releasing their report. They will join Commissioner Kelly in a press conference to announce the findings and recommendations of the Personal Search Review Commission. The Commission did not attempt to determine whether in fact Customs has a problem in this area - they did not do a statistical analysis. Instead, they determined that Customs has a perception problem and thus needs to change it. The Commission commends Customs for the many steps they have taken to deal with this problem to date. The report is not critical of Customs. They do, however, offer recommendations to go further, primarily in the area of improving communication to the traveling public. In addition to the Commission's report, a second report is being released by Sanford Cloud Jr. (President of the National Conference for Community and Justice). Mr. Cloud was hired as an independent consultant to Customs and he reviewed the Commission's report and also issued his own recommendations.

Customs will announce that it is setting up an Assessment, Implementation and Monitoring (AIM) Committee to review both reports and to assess each recommendation for feasibility of action (depending on legal constraints and resource issues). The Justice Department has been notified and they are pleased that the AIM Committee is being established so that there will be an opportunity to assess the recommendations. (The press release and fact sheet are attached.)

Talking Points (if asked):

- Today, Customs Commissioner Kelly will join with the Personal Search Review Commission to announce the release of the Commission's report on the issue of personal searches by the Customs Service.
- We are grateful for the Commission's hard work in helping us deal with this important and difficult issue. I understand that the Commission was very supportive of the work that Customs has done to date and that they offer recommendations to improve on those efforts. We look forward to reviewing those recommendations.
- Customs has established an Implementation Committee to review the reports, assess the recommendations, and to oversee the implementation of the recommendations.
- We would be pleased to arrange for Treasury and Customs to provide you with a briefing on the findings and recommendations in the report as well as on our plans to implement the recommendations.



U.S. Customs Service

1300 Pennsylvania, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20229

NEWS

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INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ISSUES REPORT ON PERSONAL SEARCHES BY U.S. CUSTOMS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Customs Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly today joined Constance Berry Newman (Undersecretary of the Smithsonian Institution), and Sanford Cloud Jr. (President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Conference for Community and Justice), in announcing the findings and recommendations of the Personal Search Review Commission.

Chaired by Undersecretary Newman, the Personal Search Review Commission is an independent body that was created in April 1999 after allegations arose that passengers were being selected for Customs searches based on race or gender. Commissioner Kelly asked the 4-member panel to conduct a thorough review of Customs search processes and issue a report on its findings.

Today's report, entitled "Report on Personal Searches by the United States Customs Service," represents the culmination of the Personal Search Review Commission's work. The report contains 20 findings and makes 20 recommendations to the Customs Service.

"It is our belief that if the Customs Service follows a series of recommendations in this report, the Service will address the real and perceived problems associated with the personal search process," Undersecretary Newman said.

Also released today was a report by Mr. Cloud, who served as Commissioner Kelly's Independent Advisor for the Personal Search Review Commission. His study contains an analysis of the independent commission's report and features his own findings and recommendations to the Customs Service.

According to Mr. Cloud: "The U.S. Customs Service has undertaken bold initiatives to provide fuller opportunities that are more inclusive and just in order to improve human relations within their agency and towards the public. These efforts can be further achieved if the recommendations provided by both the Personal Search Review Commission and myself are evaluated and implemented properly."

Commissioner Kelly thanked the Commission members and Mr. Cloud. "I appreciate the substantial time and effort that the Personal Search Review Commission spent on this controversial issue, which is critical to the Customs Service and the nation," he said.

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Report Drug Smuggling to 1-800-BE-ALERT
<http://www.customs.gov>

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WELCOMING NEW AMERICANS

AWARD \$25.5 MILLION TO STATES FOR THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE/CIVICS

INITIATIVE. The Administration is announcing the availability of \$25.5 million to states for the English Language/Civics Initiative ³³, an innovative program administered by the Department of Education to help states and communities provide limited English proficient (LEP) individuals with expanded access to high-quality English-language instruction linked to civics and life skills instruction. Limited-English proficient adults need access to opportunities to master English literacy to further their education, obtain good jobs, and become fully participants in American society. In addition, this program is a powerful tool in building a stronger American community. However, there is a dearth of these programs. For this reason in FY 2001, the Clinton-Gore Administration is proposing \$75 million for this initiative, a nearly \$50 million increase from FY2000 enacted level to help an additional estimated 250,000 LEP individuals.

ENSURE CONSISTENCY AND EFFICIENCY IN THE CURRENT NATURALIZATION

SYSTEM. Today, the President is directing the INS to submit within 60 days a plan to redesign and standardize the current citizenship testing process that will guarantee consistency in testing for reading and writing of the English language and U.S. history and government. This redesign will ensure that the same test is available and administered nationwide. ^{actual process} No longer will different areas of the country use different tests or testing methods. From 1993 through 1999, 4.37 million individuals became new Americans but there continues to be backlog of applications. The INS is on track to complete its goal of reducing the backlog of naturalization applications by 1.3 million applications this fiscal year while maintaining the highest levels of quality and integrity.

PROVIDE FAIRNESS TO ALL IMMIGRANTS. The Administration urges Congress to pass legislation to correct injustices currently affecting many immigrants already in our country.

The Registry Date and the Central American and Haitian Parity Act proposals would provide good people who have developed ties to this country – families, homes and roots in their communities – the opportunity to adjust their status. The migrants and their families who would benefit from the registry date proposal have been in immigration limbo for up to two decades and are in desperate need of a resolution to their efforts to become full members of American society. In the case of Central Americans and Haitians, the parity provision would not only provide compassion and fairness for the affected immigrants, but also contribute to the stability and development of democracy and peace in these emerging democracies.