

RELEASE IN PART
B5UNCLASSIFIED**NOTE FOR THE SECRETARY**

FROM: ECA – Ann Stock

SUBJECT: Summer Work Travel Program

An *Associated Press* article published yesterday suggests a lack of supervision and oversight of the J-1 Summer Work Travel (SWT) program. This year, the program will bring approximately 130,000 foreign university students to do temporary, mostly “seasonal”, work in the United States during their summer recess. The SWT program is operated by 53 Department-designated corporations, non-governmental organizations, and educational institutions that are responsible for the selection, screening, orientation, and monitoring of the students during their stay in the United States. The program operates without appropriated funds.

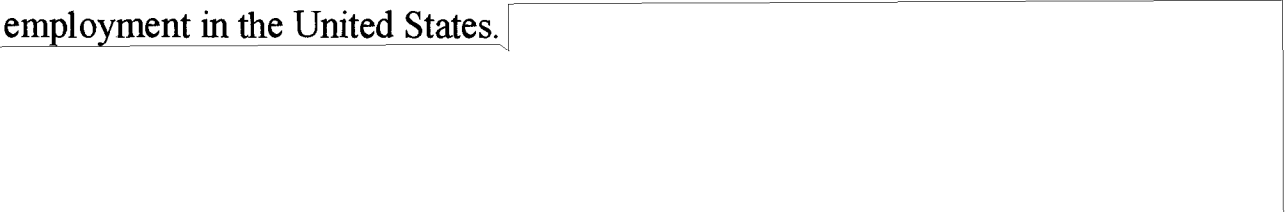
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The AP article misquotes a director at Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) regarding two federal investigations underway into human trafficking involving J-1 visas holders. DHS has confirmed that there are no current trafficking cases involving J-1 exchange participants. The two investigations that the DHS director was making reference to involved J-1 participants allegedly engaged in money laundering and money mule activities. These investigations are now complete and arrests have been made, a fact not presented in the AP article.

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In addition to changes in the regulations, we established a 24-hour, toll-free number that permits SWT participants to directly contact the Department regarding program complaints or issues, as well as an e-mail address to report problems.

The Summer Work Travel program is a highly valued public diplomacy tool. It has provided millions of foreign college and university students the opportunity to visit the United States and experience first-hand its people and culture through travel and temporary work. This program is very popular as young people are able to enjoy a true cultural exchange experience while underwriting its cost through employment in the United States.



ECA, CA, and G/TIP representatives briefed SFRC staff today regarding the pilot program and pending regulatory changes. SFRC staff were well-versed in the underlying issues and supportive of the proposed actions. We anticipate adoption of the regulations and the pilot on an interim basis and will be seeking OMB clearance and approval of the interim rule package this month for Federal Register publication in early January 2011.

Attachment:

Referenced *Associated Press* Article

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DRAFTED: NDeaner, 2-9290

CLEARED:

ECA-SColvin – ok

ECA-SLawrence – ok

ECA-RRuth-ok

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