

persecution of refugee populations eligible for consideration for admission to the United States. The Secretary of State shall include information on religious persecution of refugee populations in the formal testimony presented to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate during the consultation process under section 1157(e) of title 8.

(Pub. L. 105-292, title VI, § 602, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2812; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, § 1000(a)(7) [div. A, title II, § 253], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A-432.)

CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of section 602 of Pub. L. 105-292. Subsec. (a) of section 602 of Pub. L. 105-292 amended section 1157 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality. Subsec. (b) of section 602 of Pub. L. 105-292 amended section 4028 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 106-113, § 1000(a)(7) [div. A, title II, § 253(a)], inserted “and of the Department of State” after “Service”.

Subsec. (c)(3). Pub. L. 106-113, § 1000(a)(7) [div. A, title II, § 253(b)], added par. (3).

ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related references, see note set out under section 1551 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

§ 6473. Reform of asylum policy

(a) Guidelines

The Attorney General and the Secretary of State shall develop guidelines to ensure that persons with potential biases against individuals on the grounds of religion, race, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, including interpreters and personnel of airlines owned by governments known to be involved in practices which would meet the definition of persecution under international refugee law, shall not in any manner be used to interpret conversations between aliens and inspection or asylum officers.

(b) Training for asylum and immigration officers

The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Ambassador at Large, and other relevant officials such as the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center, shall provide training to all officers adjudicating asylum cases, and to immigration officers performing duties under section 1225(b) of title 8, on the nature of religious persecution abroad, including country-specific conditions, instruction on the internationally recognized right to freedom of religion, instruction on methods of religious persecution practiced in foreign countries, and applicable distinctions within a country in the treatment of various religious practices and believers.

(c) Training for immigration judges

The Executive Office of Immigration Review of the Department of Justice shall incorporate into its initial and ongoing training of immigra-

tion judges training on the extent and nature of religious persecution internationally, including country-specific conditions, and including use of the Annual Report. Such training shall include governmental and nongovernmental methods of persecution employed, and differences in the treatment of religious groups by such persecuting entities.

(Pub. L. 105-292, title VI, § 603, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2813; Pub. L. 107-132, § 1(b), Jan. 16, 2002, 115 Stat. 2412.)

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 107-132 substituted “George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center” for “National Foreign Affairs Training Center”.

ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related references, see note set out under section 1551 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

§ 6474. Studies on effect of expedited removal provisions on asylum claims

(a) Studies

(1) Commission request for participation by experts on refugee and asylum issues

If the Commission so requests, the Attorney General shall invite experts designated by the Commission, who are recognized for their expertise and knowledge of refugee and asylum issues, to conduct a study, in cooperation with the Comptroller General of the United States, to determine whether immigration officers described in paragraph (2) are engaging in any of the conduct described in such paragraph.

(2) Duties of Comptroller General

The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study alone or, upon request by the Commission, in cooperation with experts designated by the Commission, to determine whether immigration officers performing duties under section 1225(b) of title 8 with respect to aliens who may be eligible to be granted asylum are engaging in any of the following conduct:

- (A) Improperly encouraging such aliens to withdraw their applications for admission.
- (B) Incorrectly failing to refer such aliens for an interview by an asylum officer for a determination of whether they have a credible fear of persecution (within the meaning of section 1225(b)(1)(B)(v) of title 8).
- (C) Incorrectly removing such aliens to a country where they may be persecuted.
- (D) Detaining such aliens improperly or in inappropriate conditions.

(b) Reports

(1) Participation by experts

In the case of a Commission request under subsection (a) of this section, the experts designated by the Commission under that subsection may submit a report to the committees described in paragraph (2). Such report may be submitted with the Comptroller General's report under subsection (a)(2) of this section or independently.