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# PUBLIC NOTICE

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## INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE SERVICES

(IB Docket No. 95-41)

The International Bureau has been advised by the broadcast networks that access to foreign markets might be easier if a one-page official summary of the Commission's DISCO Order (*Amendment to the Commission's Regulatory Policies Governing Domestic Fixed Satellites and Separate International Satellite Systems*, 11 F.C.C. Rcd. 2429 (1996)) were available for review by other governments. One important goal of the DISCO Order was to encourage access to foreign markets. Accordingly, we release this summary of the DISCO Order. It does not, and of course cannot, vary or alter the terms of the Order itself.

In DISCO, the Commission adopted a policy which permits all U.S.-licensed satellites to offer both domestic and international service. In particular, the Commission eliminated the Transborder Policy, which generally prohibited U.S. domestic satellite operators from providing international service to non-U.S. locations within the footprint of their satellites except when specifically authorized by the Commission. The Commission also modified its Separate Systems Policy, which in the past generally prohibited U.S.-licensed satellite systems separate from Intelsat from providing domestic service, and announced that in the future all U.S.-licensed satellite systems would be regulated under the Separate Systems Policy.

As a result of DISCO, U.S. satellite operators and earth station licensees are no longer required to obtain separate transborder authorization from the Commission each time they have a requirement for a transborder transmission to or from the United States. Operators and licensees are still required to complete, on a one-time-only basis, Intelsat Article XIV(d) consultation.

In sum, the FCC will no longer require or issue separate authorizations for transborder transmissions using U.S.-licensed satellites. This change in policy will be particularly helpful to companies such as the U.S. television networks in facilitating on-the-spot coverage of news and special events, because the FCC no longer requires separate authorization for transborder transmissions on a case-by-case basis.