

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and has the honor to refer to discussions between officials of the Governments of both countries concerning the requirements for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, an agency of the United States of America, to assist in encouraging economic activities in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia that promote the development of its economic resources and productive capacities. These discussions have led to the development of a cooperation program on the bases and the terms and conditions set forth in the Investment Incentive Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the text of which is a part of this note.

The parties further undertake to work toward reaching bilateral arrangements for the promotion and protection of investments by investors from either party to this agreement in the territory of the other party, as well as to avoid double taxation of income and capital.

The Embassy of the United States of America has the further honor to propose that, as the text of the Agreement, in the English and Macedonian languages, attached to this note has been signed by the representatives of the two respective Governments indicating their agreement, that both Governments consider the Agreement to have entered into force upon signature, pending the necessary legal requirements of the respective States. By the exchange of diplomatic notes, the Governments of both States have acknowledged this understanding.

The Embassy of the United States of America takes this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

Embassy of the United States of America,

Skopje, April 5, 1996



INVESTMENT INCENTIVE AGREEMENT

THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE STATES PARTICIPANTS BY EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES TO WHICH THIS AGREEMENT IS ATTACHED

AFFIRM their common desire to encourage economic activities in the territory of Second Party that promote the development of the economic resources and productive capacities of Second Party; and

RECOGNIZE that this objective can be promoted through investment support provided by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation ("OPIC"), a development institution and an agency of the United States of America, in the form of investment insurance and reinsurance, debt and equity investments and investment guaranties,

AGREE as follows:

ARTICLE 1

As used in this Agreement, following terms have the meanings herein provided. The term "Investment Support" refers to any debt or equity investment, any investment guaranty and any investment insurance or reinsurance which is provided by the Issuer in connection with a project in the territory of Second Party. The term "Issuer" refers to OPIC and any successor agency of the United States of America, and any agent of either. The term "Taxes" means all present and future taxes, levies, imposts, stamps, duties and charges imposed by the Government of Second Party and all liabilities with respect thereto.

ARTICLE 2

(a) The Issuer shall not be subject to regulation under the laws of Second Party applicable to insurance of financial organizations.

(b) All operations and activities undertaken by the Issuer in connection with any Investment Support, and all

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payments, whether of interest, principal, fees, dividends, premiums or the proceeds from the liquidation of assets or of any other nature, that are made, received or guaranteed by the Issuer in connection with any Investment Support shall be exempt from Taxes. The Issuer shall not be subject to any Taxes in connection with any transfer, succession or other acquisition which occurs pursuant to paragraph (c) of this Article or Article 3(a) hereof. Any project in connection with which Investment Support has been provided shall be accorded tax treatment no less favorable than that accorded to projects benefiting from the investment support programs of any other national or multilateral development institution which operates in the territory of Second Party.

(c) If the Issuer makes a payment to any person or entity, or exercises its rights as a creditor or subrogee, in connection with any Investment Support, the Government of Second Party shall recognize the transfer to, or acquisition by, the Issuer of any cash, accounts, credits, instruments or other assets in connection with such payment or the exercise of such rights, as well as the succession of the Issuer to any right, title, claim, privilege or cause of action existing, or which may arise, in connection therewith.

(d) With respect to any interests transferred to the Issuer or any interests to which the Issuer succeeds under this Article, the Issuer shall assert no greater rights than those of the person or entity from whom such interests were received, provided that nothing in this agreement shall limit the right of the Government of First Party to assert a claim under international law in its sovereign capacity, as distinct from any rights it may have as the Issuer pursuant to paragraph (c) of this Article.

ARTICLE 3

(a) Amounts in the currency of Second Party, including cash, accounts, credits, instruments or otherwise, acquired by the Issuer upon making a payment, or upon the exercise of its rights as a creditor, in connection with any Investment Support provided by the Issuer for a project in the territory of Second Party, shall be accorded treatment in the territory of Second Party no less favorable as to use and conversion than the treatment to which such funds would have been entitled in the hands of the person or entity from which the Issuer acquired such amounts.

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(b) Such currency and credits may be transferred by the Issuer to any person or entity and upon such transfer shall be freely available for use by such person or entity in the territory of Second Party in accordance with its laws.

ARTICLE 4

(a) Any dispute between the Government of First Party and the Government of Second Party regarding the interpretation of this Agreement or which, in the opinion of either party hereto, presents a question of international law arising out of any project or activity for which Investment Support has been provided shall be resolved, insofar as possible, through negotiations between the two Governments. If, six months following a request for negotiations hereunder, the two Governments have not resolved the dispute, the dispute, including the question of whether such dispute presents a question of international law, shall be submitted, at the initiative of either Government, to an arbitral tribunal for resolution in accordance with paragraph (b) of this Article.

(b) The arbitral tribunal referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article shall be established and shall function as follows:

(i) Each Government shall appoint one arbitrator. These two arbitrators shall by agreement designate a president of the tribunal who shall be a citizen of a third state and whose appointment shall be subject to acceptance by the two Governments. The arbitrators shall be appointed within three months, and the president within six months, of the date of receipt of either Government's request for arbitration. If the appointments are not made within the foregoing time limits, either Government may, in the absence of any other agreement, request the Secretary-General of the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes to make the necessary appointment or appointments. Both Governments hereby agree to accept such appointment or appointments.

(ii) Decisions of the arbitral tribunal shall be made by majority vote and shall be based on the applicable principles and rules of international law. Its decision shall be final and binding.

(iii) During the proceedings, each Government shall bear the expense of its arbitrator and of its representation in

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the proceedings before the tribunal, whereas the expenses of the president and other costs of the arbitration shall be paid in equal parts by the two Governments. In its award, the arbitral tribunal may reallocate expenses and costs between the two Governments.

(iv) In all other matters, the arbitral tribunal shall regulate its own procedures.

ARTICLE 5

(a) This Agreement shall enter into force on the date on which the Government of Second Party notifies the Government of First Party that all legal requirements for entry into force of this Agreement have been fulfilled.

(b) This Agreement shall continue in force until six months from the date of a receipt of a note by which one Government informs the other of an intent to terminate this Agreement. In such event, the provisions of this Agreement shall, with respect to Investment Support provided while this Agreement was in force, remain in force so long as such Investment Support remains outstanding, but in no case longer than twenty years after the termination of this Agreement.

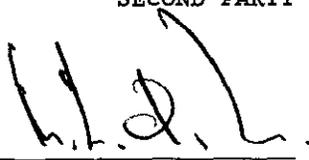
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in Skopje on the 5 day of April, 1996, in duplicate in the English and Macedonian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
FIRST PARTY


Victor D. Comras
Chief of Mission

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
SECOND PARTY


Ljubomir Frckoski
Minister for Foreign Affairs