



EMAIL BULLETIN

## **CONSULATE WARNS OF ADDITIONAL DELAYS IN NONIMMIGRANT VISA PROCESSING**

*5 July 02*

Tindall & Foster, P.C. has recently been informed by the U.S. Consulate General in Paris that they can no longer specify a time frame in which nonimmigrant visa applications requiring "additional administrative processing" will be completed. Any applicants initially informed that the processing of their application would take an additional 30 days should no longer view that estimate as correct. The Embassy cannot give current estimations as to when these applications will be processed. The Embassy indicates that it will contact applicants when a final decision in their case has been made.

On a practical level, this policy suggests that nonimmigrant visa applicants who are in any way suspect or who are from countries which appear on last fall's "list of 26" countries subject to additional scrutiny should expect delays of at least several weeks when applying at any foreign post. The "list of 26" countries includes Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, U.A.E. and Yemen. We note that this list was not formally released by the Department of State but was obtained by media; the State Department does not give its approval to this list, and has advised that at least one other country not on this public listing is covered by the Security Advisory Opinion requirements imposed at that time.

Clients may wish to adopt a conservative approach and assume that this type of visa adjudication unpredictability will not be limited to the U.S. Consulate General in Paris and that delays should be anticipated at all U.S. Consular Posts as these security Procedures are refined.