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(e) Nothing in this section shall preclude a director from refraining, to the extent consistent with responsibilities imposed upon the directors by the Federal Reserve Act, from participation in a particular matter. The Board hereby gives notice of its intention to undertake a continuing review of the experience of Reserve Bank boards under this regulation with a view to assuring preservation of and adherence to the intent of both the Federal Reserve Act and 18 U.S.C. 208, as amended. In the course of such review, particular attention will be given to the provisions of this section.

PART 264b—RULES REGARDING FOREIGN GIFTS AND DECORATIONS

Sec.

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552, 7342; and 12 U.S.C. 248(i).

SOURCE: 44 FR 64399, Nov. 7, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

§ 264b.1 Purpose and scope.

This regulation implements the 1977 Amendments to the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act, Pub. L. 95–105, which restricts Board Members' and employees' acceptance of foreign gifts and decorations. The restrictions apply to gifts whether they are tangible or intangible. Different rules apply depending on whether the gift has only ''minimal value.'' There are also rules regarding acceptance of decorations from foreign governments.

§ 264b.2 Definitions.

(a) The term *Board Members and employees* means:

(1) Members of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, officers, and other employees of the Board;

(2) Consultants while employed by the Board; and acting on behalf of the Board; and

(3) Spouses and dependents of Board Members, officers, employees, and consultants as defined in this section.

(b) The term *foreign government* means any unit of a foreign governmental authority (or its agent or representative), including any foreign, national, state, local, or municipal government, and any international or multinational organization whose membership is composed of any such units.

(c) The term *decoration* means an order, device, medal, badge, insignia, emblem, or award.

§ 264b.3 Foreign gifts.

Except as provided below, Board Members and employees shall not request, or otherwise encourage the tender of, or accept, or retain, a tangible or intangible gift from a foreign government.

(a) *Gifts of minimal value.* If not otherwise prohibited by Board regulations, Board members and employees may accept and retain a tangible or intangible gift of minimal value, intended as a souvenir or mark of courtesy, from a foreign government. A gift of minimal value is one having a retail value in the United States at the time of acceptance not in excess of $225 (or such higher amount established in 41 CFR part 101–49).

(b) *Educational scholarships or medical treatment.* Board Members and employees may accept and retain a gift of more than minimal value from a foreign government when such gift is in the nature of an educational scholarship or medical treatment.

(c) *Tangible gifts of more than minimal value.* A tangible gift of more than minimal value tendered by a foreign government may be accepted when it appears that to refuse the gift would likely cause offense or embarrassment or otherwise adversely affect the foreign relations of the United States. Such a gift accepted under these circumstances is deemed to have been accepted on behalf of the United States, and, upon acceptance, it shall become the property of the United States. Within 60 days after accepting a gift under these circumstances the member