

**Response to Question A21**  
**Public Interest Statement**

By obtaining Commission consent to the proposed assignments covered by this application, the WorldSpace business will be able to emerge from bankruptcy and continue to provide service to its customers. AfriSpace provides Broadcasting Satellite Service (Sound) in Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and Europe through the AfriStar-1 satellite, which the FCC authorized in December 1999, and plans to expand that service through AfriStar-2. In licensing AfriStar-1, the Commission recognized that the satellite would provide a means for delivering vitally needed news, information, distance education, health, agricultural, weather and entertainment programming to the underserved audiences in its service region. The assignment for which approval is sought here will serve the public interest by allowing WorldSpace to continue to offer its service to the underserved audiences in its service region.