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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

March 24, 1994

STATEMENT BY MICHAEL McCURRY, SPOKESMAN

MEXICO: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

We are saddened and appalled by the tragic and senseless assassination yesterday of Luis Donaldo Colosio, presidential candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in Mexico. Secretary Christopher deplores this act of brutality and extends to the family of Mr. Colosio and all his many friends and admirers our deepest sympathy at this difficult moment.

Mr. Colosio was a man who dedicated his public life to the people of Mexico. As a member of the cabinet of President Salinas and later as a presidential candidate, Mr. Colosio worked tirelessly to help bring about a transformation in Mexico's economic, social and political systems. We are confident that his death will not hinder the process of democratic reform now underway and to which Mr. Colosio was firmly committed.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

March 24, 1994

STATEMENT BY MICHAEL MCCURRY, SPOKESMAN

SOMALI: FACTIONAL LEADERS SIGN JOINT COMMUNIQUE

Acting on behalf of other factional leaders, General Aideed and Ali Mahdi signed a joint comunique in Nairobi today, March 24. The factions have agreed to convene a meeting in Mogadishu on April 15 to establish procedures for the conduct of a national reconciliation conference. This gathering will also consider ways of establishing a national legislative assembly.

According to the communique, the national reconciliation conference is to begin on May 15 to elect a president and an undetermined number of vice presidents and to appoint a prime minister.

We welcome this agreement. It represents an encouraging step forward in Somalia's reconciliation process.

We much appreciate the role that UN Special Representative Lansana Kouyate and UNOSOM have played in brokering this agreement. Ambassador Kouyate will have our full support as he works with all the Somali parties to move this process forward in the coming weeks.

We will continue to work with all the Somali parties to promote reconciliation and to support the UN's mission of relief, rehabilitation and peacekeeping.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

March 23, 1994

STATEMENT BY MICHAEL MCCURRY/SPOKESMAN

AZERBAIJAN: BOMBING IN CAPITAL'S METRO STATION

We express our regret over the March 19 bombing incident in a Baku metro station which left 13 people dead and dozens of others wounded. We condemn such acts in the strongest possible terms, and we urge those responsible to desist from any further acts of violence. We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of those innocent victims.

MARCH 24, 1994

SOMALIA

Q: Is there any significance in the time of this agreement and the departure of U.S. forces?

A: -- YES, WE BELIEVE THERE IS.

- WHILE SOMALIS ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR DRAWN OUT DECISIONMAKING, WE AND THE U.N. HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR SOME TIME THAT INTERNATIONAL INTEREST AND WILLINGNESS TO HELP WERE WANING.**
- THE FACT OF THE DEPARTURE OF U.S. FORCES HELPED CONCENTRATE THE ATTENTION OF SOMALI LEADERS ON THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONCRETE STEPS TOWARD POLITICAL RECONCILIATION.**
- PRESIDENT CLINTON'S DELAY IN THE DEPARTURE OF U.S. FORCES UNTIL NOW GAVE THE SOMALI LEADERS AND THE U.N. TIME TO WORK TOGETHER ON SUCH STEPS. WE ARE PLEASED THAT THEY ARE DOING SO.**

Q: How many U.S. troops are in Somalia now?

- A: -- THERE ARE FEWER THAN 100 U.S. TROOPS AWAITING WITHDRAWAL FROM SOMALIA AS OF TODAY, MARCH 24. THEY ARE SCHEDULED TO LEAVE BY MARCH 25.**
- AN ADDITIONAL 1,473 TROOPS FROM THE MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT STATIONED OFFSHORE WILL REMAIN ON SHORE IN SOMALIA TO PROVIDE SECURITY WHILE THE WITHDRAWAL CONTINUES. ALL U.S. TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN AS SCHEDULED BY THE END OF MARCH.**

SOMALIA: UN SPENDING

- Q. What is our reaction to a report indicating that the UN is spending a disproportionate amount of funds on its military mission and ignoring humanitarian needs?
- A. -- BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE IN SOMALIA, THE UN, OF NECESSITY, SPENDS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT ON LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR ITS HEADQUARTERS AND MILITARY CONTINGENTS. REHABILITATION AID TO THE CAPITAL CITY HAS BEEN HINDERED SOMEWHAT BY THE LACK OF A SECURE ENVIRONMENT THERE.
- THIS IS, HOWEVER, CONSISTENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL DONOR COMMUNITY'S STRATEGY OF CHANNELING AID TO REGIONS OF SOMALIA THAT ARE PEACEFUL AND COOPERATIVE, A POLICY WHICH BOTH THE UN AND THE U.S. SUPPORT.
- ELSEWHERE IN SOMALIA, THE UN AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE, HAVE ENGAGED IN REBUILDING SCHOOLS, ROADS, POTABLE WATER SYSTEMS, IRRIGATION CANALS, AND HEALTH CLINICS. OTHER RESOURCES HAVE TARGETED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

- THE UN AND THE INTERNATIONAL DONOR COMMUNITY HAVE SPENT HUNDREDS OF MILLION OF DOLLARS ON HUMANITARIAN AID IN SOMALIA. THE U.S. HAS ENCOURAGED THE UN TO INCREASE STAFFING FOR UNOSOM'S HUMANITARIAN DIVISION IN ORDER TO FACILITATE ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.
- THE U.S. HAS PROVIDED OVER DOLS 300 MILLION IN DIRECT HUMANITARIAN AID FOR SOMALIA.

BACKGROUND

- ALTHOUGH MILITARY-RELATED EXPENSES HAVE BEEN HIGH, UN TROOPS WERE NECESSARY TO CREATE A SECURE ENVIRONMENT SO THAT THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORT COULD SUCCEED. THE COST TO MAINTAIN A MILITARY CONTINGENT IS ALSO MUCH HIGHER THAN THE COST OF A FEEDING PROGRAM.

**USAID/SOMALIA
FUNDING PROJECTIONS FOR FY94**

I. OFDA FUNDS:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Activity/Location</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Amount</u>
LOWER JUBA			
ARC	Community Health, Afmadou	09/30/94 - 09/30/95	\$ 400,000 ?
CWS/JRRS	Agriculture	six months	\$ 200,000 ?
IRC	Community Health, Jamama, Kamsuma, Bulahadji (Kismayo logistical base)	01/01/94 - 12/31/94	\$ 318,094
MIDDLE JUBA			
IRC	Community Health, Bualle	01/01/94 - 12/31/94	\$ 170,580
World Concern	Agric. Support, Gelib	04/01/94 - 09/30/94	\$ 400,000
GEDO			
IRC	Personnel & Program Support Cross-Border Program, Gedo	01/01/94 - 12/31/94	\$ 981,550
IRC	Monetization/Credit Unions	12/01/93-05/31/94	\$ 125,000
SCF/UK	Agriculture	one year	\$ 400,000
LOWER SHABELLE			
SCF/US	Health Care, entire region	02/01/94 - 01/31/95	\$ 850,000
SCF/US	Agriculture, entire region	(FY 95)	
MIDDLE SHABELLE			
ADRA	District Hospital and Community Health, Adale	05/01/94 - 04/30/95	\$ 500,000
ADRA/Saacid	Agriculture, Johar	six months	\$ 200,000 ?
BELEDIR (MOGADISHU)			
AICF	Water/Health, Mogadishu	03/01/94 - 08/31/94	\$ 300,000
CARE	Monetization (country-wide)	04/01/94 - 03/31/94	\$ 1,000,000
CISP	Health, North Mogadishu	02/01/94 - 07/31/94	\$ 270,000
SCF/UK	MCHs in Mogadishu & Afgoi	01/01/94 - 12/31/94	\$ 500,000
BAY			
AICF	Water/Health, Bur Acaba	03/01/94 - 08/31/94	\$ 200,000
CARE	Health in Southwest Bay	04/01/94 - 09/30/94	\$ 500,000 ?
CARE	Food Security	six months	\$ 300,000
IMC	Community Health, Bay	04/01/94 - 09/30/94	\$ 585,000
CRS	Food Security	six months	\$ 300,000 ?
World Vision	Agric. & Health, Bur Acaba	(FY95)	
BAKOOL			
SCF/US	Water, Agric., Employment generation, Hoddur	one year	\$ 500,000
HIRAN			
SCF/UK	Agriculture, Belet Wayne	08/01/94 - 07/31/95	\$ 300,000

CENTRAL REGIONS (GALGADUD, MUDUG)			
Africare	Rural Water & Rangelands,	02/01/94 - 01/31/95	\$ 865,000
(or ADRA)	Galcayo to Dusa Mareb	(one year)	(\$ 865,000)
	(Boreholes, Galgaduud)		
CISP	Health Care, El Dhere	six months	\$ 250,000 ?
 NORTHEAST REGIONS (MUDUG, NUGAAL, BARI)			
Africare	Road Repair, Bosaso-Galcayo	02/01/94 - 01/31/95	\$ 600,000
			(of \$1,500,000)
AICF/USA	Health, Bari	05/01/94 - 04/30/95	\$ 500,000
CARE	Livestock, Bari, Nugaal	04/01/94 - 12/31/94	\$ 400,000
 NORTHWEST REGIONS (AWDAL, W.GALBEED, TOGDHEER, SANAAG, SOOL)			
SCF/UK	Primary Health Care	04/01/94 - 03/31/95	\$ 350,000
SCF/US	Agriculture, Livestock,	one year	\$ 240,000
	Employment, Northwest		
 COUNTRY-WIDE			
??	Aircraft Support	one year	\$ 1,000,000
	(Maybe ongoing funding for CARE-North		
	and World Concern-South)		
FEWS	Food Security	one year	\$ 200,000
Tufts/PARK	Rinderpest Control	one year	\$ 300,000
Contingency			\$ 1,000,000
TOTAL OFDA:			\$15,005,224

II. DFA FUNDS:

CARE	PVO Umbrella	one year	\$4,500,000
UNICEF	Supply of Drugs/Health Kits	one year	\$ 3,000,000
MISC.			\$4,500,000
TOTAL DFA:			\$12,000,000

Revised: 2/1/94
J.Coffey

AF PRESS GUIDANCE
March 24, 1994

SOUTH AFRICA - KISSINGER AS MEDIATOR

Q: What can you tell us of reports that Henry Kissinger will act as a mediator in South Africa between the ANC and Inkatha?

**A: -- THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN ASKED TO ACT AS A
MEDIATOR IN SOUTH AFRICA. ANY INQUIRIES CONCERNING
REPORTS OF DR. KISSINGER'S INVOLVEMENT SHOULD BE DIRECTED
TO HIS OFFICE.**

AF PRESS GUIDANCE
MARCH 24, 1994

SUDAN

Q. What is the status of the IGADD peace initiative?

A: -- THE MARCH 17 TALKS HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DROUGHT DEVELOPMENT (IGADD) MOVED THE SUDAN PEACE PROCESS CLOSER TO FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS. AFTER THE TALKS, THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN AND FACTIONS OF THE SUDANESE PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY (SPLA) SIGNED AN AGREEMENT TO FACILITATE THE DELIVERY OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. THEY ALSO DISCUSSED AN AGENDA FOR SUBSEQUENT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO RESUME IN ABOUT ONE MONTH.

**:
-- THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS PLEASED WITH THE EFFORTS OF THE IGADD PARTNERS AND WITH THE AGREEMENT SIGNED MARCH 23 BY THE WARRING PARTIES. WE HOPE THAT CONSTRUCTIVE PEACE TALKS WILL CONTINUE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE HOPE THAT THE WARRING PARTIES WILL IMMEDIATELY AGREE TO A CEASEFIRE, THEREBY REDUCING THE OBSTACLES TO DELIVERY OF THE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE NOW BEING SENT TO SOUTHERN SUDAN.**

**Q. Is humanitarian assistance getting through to the needy
in southern Sudan?**

**A: -- DESPITE THE ONGOING OFFENSIVE, LARGE
QUANTITIES OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
CONTINUE TO BE DELIVERED TO NEEDY
POPULATIONS IN SOUTHERN SUDAN.**

**-- IN THE PAST, ALL OF THE WARRING PARTIES HAVE
DISRUPTED RELIEF EFFORTS. SUPPLY POINTS HAVE
BEEN BOMBED, CONVOYS LOOTED AND ROADS HAVE
BEEN MINED TO PREVENT OVERLAND TRANSPORT
OF RELIEF SUPPLIES.**

IO PRESS GUIDANCE

March 24, 1994

SUDAN:

VISIT OF UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR GASPAR BIRO TO WASHINGTON

Q: What can you tell us about the visit of UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in the Sudan Dr. Gaspar Biro to Washington?

A: -- DR. BIRO WILL MEET TODAY AND TOMORROW WITH A SERIES OF GOVERNMENTAL AND NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SUDAN. AMONG DR. BIRO'S APPOINTMENTS IS A MEETING TOMORROW WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM THE BUREAUS THAT DEAL WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT. DR. BIRO IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ON HUNGER AND NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF.

Q: During his visit to the State Department, what will Dr. Biro discuss?

A: -- DR. BIRO WILL DISCUSS HIS MOST RECENT REPORT TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ON THE SUBJECT OF THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SUDAN. DR. BIRO WILL HIGHLIGHT THE OVERALL POOR SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SUDAN, AND REITERATE HIS CONCERN OVER THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT'S TREATMENT ~~OF~~ INDIVIDUALS HE INTERVIEWED DURING HIS VISIT.

Q: Have we seen Dr. Biro's report? If so, what is our reaction?

A: -- THE UNITED STATES FULLY SUPPPORTS THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS IN DR. BIRO'S MOST RECENT REPORT. AT THE JUST CONCLUDED HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SESSION IN GENEVA, THE UNITED STATES INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE SUDAN, RECOGNIZING DR. BIRO FOR HIS WORK IN BRINGING THIS SITUATION TO WORLDWIDE ATTENTION. THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE VOTE OF 35 - 9 - 9. WE APPLAUD DR. BIRO'S CALL FOR ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES PEACEFULLY WITHOUT RECOURSE TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND HIS INSISTENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SUDAN ADHERE TO BASIC PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW.

-- THE UNITED STATES WAS APPALLED, AS WERE MANY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN'S STATEMENT, ISSUED IN KHARTOUM ON FEBRUARY 10, THAT ACCUSED DR. BIRO OF BLASPHEMY AND CALLED FOR DR. BIRO TO BE "INTERROGATED AND CONDEMNED." THE UNITED STATES FULLY SUPPORTED COMMISSION CHAIRMAN PALTHE'S STATEMENT THAT A THREAT DIRECTED AGAINST A RAPPORTEUR OF THE COMMISSION WAS A THREAT DIRECTED AGAINST THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION ITSELF.

BURUNDI

Q. What can you tell us about recent reports of violence in Burundi?

A: -- HEAVY FIGHTING BETWEEN SECURITY FORCES AND ARMED CIVILIAN GROUPS ERUPTED ON THE OUTSKIRTS BUJUMBURA TWO DAYS AGO WHEN THE GOVERNMENT SENT SECURITY FORCES INTO NEIGHBORHOODS IN AN EFFORT TO DISARM CIVILIANS. OUR EMBASSY STAFF HAS CONFIRMED ABOUT 100 DEATHS. THE TOTAL NUMBER KILLED IN THE FIGHTING IS NOT KNOWN.

-- THE GOVERNMENT HAS ORDERED THE SECURITY FORCES TO WITHDRAW FROM THE AREAS. TROOPS HAVE REPORTEDLY WITHDRAWN FROM THE KAMENGE NEIGHBORHOOD, WHERE FIGHTING HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY HEAVY, BUT HAVE REMAINED IN OTHER QUARTERS. THE AIRPORT AND BUSINESSES DOWNTOWN ARE OPEN AND FUNCTIONING.

-- THE EMBASSY IS IN TOUCH WITH THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND REPORTS THAT ALL AMERICANS ARE SAFE.

Q. What about the recent report that the government has been toppled and that ministers have fled or gone into hiding?

A: -- THESE REPORTS ARE ERRONEOUS. MINISTERS ARE WORKING AND HAVE NOT FLED OR GONE INTO HIDING.

-- PRUDENCE BUSHNELL, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, IS IN THE REGION ON A PRE-SCHEDULED TRIP AND MET WITH THE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER TODAY, MARCH 24, AND DISCUSSED THE SECURITY SITUATION. FOLLOWING THE MEETINGS, SHE WAS INTERVIEWED BY LOCAL PRESS AND STRONGLY URGED A HALT TO THE VIOLENCE AND AN IMMEDIATE RETURN TO PEACE.

MEXICO: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Q: What impact will the assassination of PRI candidate Colosio have on our bilateral relations with Mexico? How will this impact on the North American Free Trade Agreement?

A. -- THE ASSASSINATION OF PRI PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE COLOSIO HAS SHOCKED BOTH OUR NATIONS. THIS BRUTAL AND SENSELESS ACT WILL NOT AFFECT THE STRONG, POSITIVE RELATIONS WE HAVE WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF MEXICO. THIS IS A TIME TO BE ESPECIALLY SUPPORTIVE OF OUR NEIGHBORS AS THEY COPE WITH A TREMENDOUSLY SAD AND DIFFICULT MOMENT.

-- THE UNITED STATES ALSO KNOWS THE PAIN AND INTROSPECTION THAT COMES FROM TRAGEDY LIKE THIS. WE HAVE SUFFERED FROM POLITICAL VIOLENCE OF THIS NATURE AS WELL.

IF PRESSED

-- THE MURDER OF CANDIDATE COLOSIO WILL NOT IMPACT ON THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT. NAFTA ENTERED INTO EFFECT IN THE U.S., MEXICO AND CANADA ON JANUARY 1 OF THIS YEAR AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION IS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY. THE TRAGIC EVENT OF YESTERDAY WILL NOT DETER OUR STRONG AND GROWING TRADE RELATIONSHIP WITH MEXICO AND OUR JOINT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THROUGH INCREASED TRADE THE PROSPERITY AND WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTH AMERICA.

Q: What does the assassination of PRI candidate Colosio say about the stability of the Mexican government?

A. -- THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT REMAINS FULLY STABLE. AS PRESIDENT CLINTON SAID, "FUNDAMENTALLY, THEY ARE IN SOUND SHAPE."

Q: How will the assassination of PRI candidate Colosio affect the efforts at reforming, opening up the political system in Mexico?

A. -- IT IS IRONIC THAT THE BRUTAL ASSASSINATION OF MR. COLOSIO OCCURRED AS THE MEXICAN CONGRESS WAS MEETING IN SPECIAL SESSION TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL REFORMS TO THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM TO GUARANTEE FAIR AND TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS IN AUGUST. MR. COLOSIO HIMSELF HAD MADE FIRM COMMITMENTS TO REFORM THE MEXICAN ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS TO ENSURE A FULLY REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY FOR ALL CITIZENS OF MEXICO.

-- WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT, IN SPITE OF YESTERDAY'S TRAGEDY, THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIC REFORM IN MEXICO WILL CONTINUE.

(MORE)

Q: Do we have any information on the assassins and their motive? Is the United States assisting the Mexican authorities in the investigation in the murder of Mr. Colosio?

A. -- AS OF THIS POINT, WE HAVE NO INFORMATION REGARDING THE PERPETRATORS OF THE ASSASSINATION BEYOND WHAT HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE MEDIA. WE DO NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THEIR MOTIVATION OR POLITICAL AFFILIATION.

-- WE HAVE NOT BEEN ASKED BY MEXICAN AUTHORITIES TO ASSIST IN THE INVESTIGATION, BUT CERTAINLY WOULD REACT FAVORABLY TO SUCH A REQUEST, AS ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO HAS ALREADY INDICATED.

Q: What are the next steps for the Government of Mexico? For the PRI? Who will replace Colosio as the PRI candidate?

A. -- THE GOM HAS INITIATED A FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION. THE PRI WILL NEED TO SELECT A NEW PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR US TO SPECULATE ON WHO MIGHT EMERGE AS THE CANDIDATE. THAT IS AN INTERNAL MATTER FOR THE MEXICAN PEOPLE AND THEIR INSTITUTIONS.

(MORE)

Q: Who from the U.S. will attend the funeral?

A: -- THERE HAS AS YET BEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MEXICO ABOUT THE TIMING, VENUE OR OTHER DETAILS CONCERNING THE FUNERAL. WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED,

ARA PRESS GUIDANCE
March 24, 1994

MEXICO: IMPACT ^(IN OAS) OF COLOSIO ASSASSINATION

Q: In light of events in Mexico, will the OAS postpone its Special General Assembly to elect a new Secretary General, scheduled for this Sunday?

A: -- THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE OF PLANS BY
THE OAS. THERE IS AN OAS SPECIAL MEETING
TODAY CALLED BY AMB. BABBIT.

Q: Will Secretary Christopher still hold his scheduled lunch on Saturday for heads of delegations coming to Washington for the OAS Special General Assembly?

A: -- THE LUNCH WILL BE HELD AS SCHEDULED.

Q: Is the OAS planning to hold a special Permanent Council meeting today, because of events in Mexico?

A: -- YES. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT A PERMANENT COUNCIL
MEETING WILL BE HELD THIS AFTERNOON. IT IS
TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR 3 PM.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 24, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am profoundly saddened to learn of the brutal assassination of Luis Donaldo Colosio, the Presidential candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in Mexico. I deeply deplore this senseless act of violence and have conveyed my deepest sympathies to the Mexican people and to the family of Mr. Colosio, his wife and two young children.

Mr. Colosio dedicated his life to public service and to the betterment of his nation. It is particularly tragic when an assassin's bullet slays a man who still had so much to contribute to history. It is a great loss not only for Mexico but for all of North America.

I telephoned President Carlos Salinas de Gotari shortly after midnight last night to express my sorrow and that of the American people and to offer my condolences to the Colosio family. I told President Salinas that the United States stands ready to assist Mexico in the coming days in any way we can.

-30-30-30-

ARA PRESS GUIDANCE
March 24, 1994

HAITI: BLACK CAUCUS CRITICISM OF U.S. POLICY

Q: What is your reaction to the Black Caucus' call for the resignation of Ambassador Pezzullo?

A: WE CONTINUE TO PURSUE OUR POLICY OF SEEKING THE RETURN OF DEMOCRACY AND PRESIDENT ARISTIDE TO HAITI.

Q: The Black Caucus' letter to the President proposes eleven actions. What is your reaction to each of those points?

A: HAITI IS REELING UNDER THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE SANCTIONS EVER IMPOSED ON A COUNTRY IN THIS HEMISPHERE. THE U.S. TOOK THE LEAD IN CALLING FOR INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS AND HAS MADE MAJOR EFFORTS BY THE DEPLOYMENT OF SHIPS AND PERSONNEL TO ENFORCE THE SANCTIONS. NO OTHER COUNTRY HAS OR ENFORCES TOUGHER SANCTIONS ON HAITI THAN THE U.S.

WE BELIEVE SEVERING ALL AIR LINKS WOULD NOT SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS AND DEPENDENTS LIVING IN HAITI.

WE HAVE ALREADY PROHIBITED TRAVEL TO THE U.S. FOR HAITIAN MILITARY OFFICERS AND THEIR "ALLIES" AND HAVE FROZEN THEIR ASSETS.

WE HAVE ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVILIAN MONITORS TO HAITI.

-- ON THE REPATRIATION OF HAITIAN MIGRANTS, WE BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO DISCOURAGE HAITIANS FROM TAKING THE RISK OF DEPARTING HAITI IN UNSEAWORTHY VESSELS.

-- OUR THREE IN-COUNTRY REFUGEE PROCESSING CENTERS HAVE INTERVIEWED OVER 14,000 PERSONS FOR REFUGEE STATUS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM IN FEBRUARY 1992. ALMOST 2,500 OF THESE HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR ADMISSION TO THE U.S. AS REFUGEES.

-- IN ADDITION, OVER THE LAST 14 YEARS SOME 185,000 HAITIANS HAVE BEEN GRANTED LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN THE U.S., A HIGH NUMBER CONSIDERING HAITI'S RELATIVELY SMALL POPULATION.

-- WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT RETURNED BOAT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TARGETED FOR REPRISAL UPON THEIR RETURN TO HAITI.

WE HAVE A MAJOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM READY FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN HAITI AS SOON AS THERE IS A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

THE U.S. HAS TAKEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE A LEADERSHIP
ROLE AT THE UN IN CALLING FOR SANCTIONS AND IN IMPLEMENTING
THEM.

WE BELIEVE THE OTHER SUGGESTIONS ARE EITHER UNREASONABLE OR
ARE NOT PRACTICAL.

Q: The Black Caucus characterizes the Haitian
parliamentarians' plan as a "unacceptable and humiliating
agreement." What is your reaction to that?

A: WE BELIEVE THAT IS AN UNFAIR CHARACTERIZATION. THE
PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO DEVELOPED THE PLAN REPRESENT A
CROSS-SECTION OF THE PARLIAMENT AND WERE LEGITIMATELY
ELECTED IN THE SAME ELECTION AS PRESIDENT ARISTIDE. THEIR
PLAN IS TOTALLY COMPATIBLE WITH THE HAITIAN CONSTITUTION
AND THE GOVERNORS ISLAND AGREEMENT.

Q: Is the USG trying to "derail the democratic program so
painfully and movingly embraces by our hemisphere's poorest
people"?

A: THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE AN UNPRECEDENTED EFFORT TO
ACHIEVE THE RETURN OF DEMOCRACY AND OF PRESIDENT ARISTIDE
TO HAITI BY WORKING WITH PRESIDENT ARISTIDE, OTHER
LEGITIMATE HAITIAN PARTIES, AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
TO FACILITATE A PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED SOLUTION.

WE HAVE URGED BOTH HAITIAN PARTIES TO FULFILL THEIR
COMMITMENTS UNDER THE GOVERNORS ISLAND AGREEMENT AND TO
PERFORM THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AS CALLED FOR IN THE HAITIAN
CONSTITUTION.

El Salvador "Joint Group"

Q: Who is the group of El Salvadorans that the Secretary will receive for a photo opportunity. Why is he seeing them?

-- THE SECRETARY IS MEETING WITH FOUR SALVADORAN WHO CONSTITUTE THE MECHANISM SET UP BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO INVESTIGATE VIOLENCE IN EL SALVADOR SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE PEACE ACCORDS. THIS "JOINT GROUP" INCLUDES TWO LAWYERS APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT CRISTIANI, THE SALVADORAN HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSMAN, AND THE HEAD OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION OF THE UN MISSION. THE GROUP, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED ON DECEMBER 8, HAS A SIX-MONTH MANDATE TO PRODUCE A PUBLIC REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS WITH NON-BINDING RECOMMENDATIONS ON WAYS TO COUNTER IT.

-- THE SECRETARY IS RECEIVING THE GROUP TO EMPHASIZE OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR THEIR INVESTIGATION. WE CONSIDER A THOROUGH AND CREDIBLE INVESTIGATION AS ESSENTIAL TO THE HEALTH OF THE PEACE PROCESS. WE HAVE PROVIDED \$300,000 TO HELP THE GROUP MEET ITS EXPENSES, INCLUDING THE COSTS OF PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS AND ANALYSTS. WE HAVE PROVIDED THE GROUP WITH EXTENSIVE DECLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION TO ASSIST ITS INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS.

Background: Renewed, possibly politically motivated violence in El Salvador last fall led to the creation of a so-called Joint Group on December 8 at the initiative of the UN. The Group has a six-month mandate to determine what is behind the violence which has occurred since the signing of the Peace Accords, and what can be done to prevent it. The U.S. played an active role in the negotiations, under UN auspices, that led to its establishment and has given it firm support. Assistant Secretary Watson has met with two of its members on separate occasions, Ambassador Flanigan has met with it twice, and AID Administrator Atwood called on the Group in El Salvador February 15. We have donated \$300,000 and provided it several thousand recently declassified documents of possible relevance.

The members of the Joint Group are: Diego Garcia Sayan, the Peruvian Chief of the Human Rights Division, UN Observer Mission to El Salvador; Carlos Molina Fonseca, Salvadoran Human Rights Ombudsman, respected by the FMLN and other parties; Jose Leandro Echeverria, appointed by President Cristiani, past president of the Salvadoran Lawyers Association and President of the National Assembly in the 1970's; Juan Jeronimo Castillo Guevarra, appointed by President Cristiani, served in the Attorney General's office for over 20 years.

COLOMBIA: EVIDENCE SHARING

Q. Is it true we have ended evidence sharing with Colombia?

A. THE UNITED STATES HAS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED THE SHARING OF EVIDENCE IN NEW CASES PROPOSED BY THE COLOMBIAN PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE UNTIL CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES RELATING TO THE USE AND VALUE OF THE EVIDENCE TO BE SHARED, THE MEANS AND METHODS OF ENSURING FULL CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION IN THE PROCESS, THE SECURITY OF U.S. WITNESSES AND THEIR LOVED ONES, THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR PLEA BARGAINING, AND THE INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF THE NEW COLOMBIAN CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE, CAN BE ADDRESSED IN A MANNER MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY TO THE UNITED STATES AND COLOMBIA.

ARA PRESS GUIDANCE
March 24, 1994

OAS: SECRETARY GENERAL RACE

Q: What is the status of the campaign for the position of Secretary General of the OAS?

A: -- THE ELECTION FOR OAS SECRETARY GENERAL IS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 27, HERE IN WASHINGTON AT OAS HEADQUARTERS. THE ELECTION WILL BE THE ONLY AGENDA ITEM FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS. THE VOTE WILL BE BY SECRET BALLOT. THE TERM OF OFFICE IS FIVE YEARS.

Q: Who are the candidates?

A: -- THERE ARE NOW TWO REMAINING CANDIDATES: CESAR GAVIRIA, PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA, AND BERND NIEHAUS, FOREIGN MINISTER OF COSTA RICA. THE THIRD CANDIDATE, VENEZUELA'S FOREIGN MINISTER, MIGUEL ANGEL BURELLI-RIVAS, WITHDREW FROM THE RACE ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 23.

Q: Is the United States supporting one of these candidates?

A: -- YES, THE UNITED STATES STRONGLY SUPPORTS CESAR GAVIRIA, PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA FOR THE OAS SECRETARY GENERAL POSITION AND WILL VOTE FOR HIM.

(more)

-- THE UNITED STATES, AS WELL AS MANY OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES, HAS CONSISTENTLY SOUGHT A CANDIDATE WITH HEMISPHERIC STATURE FOR THE POSITION OF OAS SECRETARY GENERAL, SOMEONE WHO HAS DEMONSTRATED A COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND SOUND ECONOMIC POLICIES AND EXHIBITED STRONG LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT SKILLS. CESAR GAVIRIA IS THAT CANDIDATE.

Q: Why is the U.S. running President Gaviria's campaign?

A: -- WE ARE NOT. THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT IS RUNNING ITS OWN CAMPAIGN. (E.G., TRIPS TO THE REGION BY FOREIGN MINISTER NOEMI SANIN, HER PRESS CONFERENCE ON MARCH 22 IN WASHINGTON, ACTIVE LOBBYING BY THEIR DIPLOMATIC CORPS THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE).

-- THIS HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE CAMPAIGN BY BOTH CANDIDATES. THE FACT THAT ALL OAS MEMBER STATES HAVE TAKEN SUCH AN INTEREST IN THE SECRETARY GENERAL RACE CLEARLY UNDERSCORES THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE.

-- FOR THE USG TO STAND ON THE SIDELINES DURING THIS CAMPAIGN WOULD HAVE MEANT ABDICATING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A MEMBER OF THE OAS. WE WON'T DO THAT. WE ARE INTERESTED IN THE RACE BECAUSE OF THE IMPACT IT WILL HAVE ON THIS VITAL HEMISPHERIC ORGANIZATION.

(more)

-- WE HAVE TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT GAVIRIA AND TO DISCUSS WITH FELLOW MEMBER STATES HIS SUPERB QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY GENERAL.

Q: Is the U.S. "arm twisting" other countries to vote for President Gaviria?

A: -- ALL MEMBER STATES ARE EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS ON THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CANDIDATES AND ENCOURAGING A VOTE FOR A PARTICULAR CANDIDATE.

Q. Why is the USG opposed to the candidacy of Foreign Minister Niehaus?

A. -- IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF BEING AGAINST THE OTHER CANDIDATE. WE BELIEVE THE OAS NEEDS AND DESERVES THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE SECRETARY GENERAL. ON THE MERITS, PRESIDENT GAVIRIA WOULD BE THAT KIND OF SECRETARY GENERAL.

-- PRESIDENT GAVIRIA IS A STRONG, COURAGEOUS LEADER WITH PROVEN MANAGEMENT SKILLS. HE HAS DEMONSTRATED DECISIVENESS UNDER VERY DIFFICULT, EVEN DANGEROUS, CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT HIS PRESIDENCY. IN ADDITION TO AN UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY, HE HAS DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP IN:

(more)

- CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM, WITH THE INPUT OF POLITICAL PARTIES, FORMER GUERRILLA GROUPS, AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, WHICH PROFOUNDLY CHANGED COLOMBIA'S LEGISLATURE AND BUILT A MORE INCLUSIVE AND RESPONSIVE POLITICAL SYSTEM.
- COMBATTING DRUG TRAFFICKING, BRINGING PERSONAL COURAGE TO THE HEMISPHERIC BATTLE AGAINST NARCOTRAFFICKERS.
- ECONOMIC PROGRESS, THE COLOMBIAN ECONOMY HAS SHOWN GREAT PROGRESS UNDER HIS STEWARDSHIP.

Q: Is this a "big versus small" country issue? And is the USG concerned with being seen as supporting the "big countries" against the little guys?

A: -- THE USG DOES NOT SEE THE OAS SECRETARY GENERAL'S RACE AS A "BIG VERSUS SMALL COUNTRY" ISSUE. IT IS A QUESTION OF ELECTING THE MOST QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL TO THIS KEY POSITION.

- THE OAS IS THE ONLY POLITICAL ORGANIZATION IN THIS HEMISPHERE WHICH ENCOMPASSES THE ENTIRE HEMISPHERE. IT DESERVES AND NEEDS THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE SECRETARY GENERAL, BASED ON MERIT AND PROVEN ABILITY -- NOT ON COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

(more)

-- PRESIDENT GAVIRIA RECOGNIZES THE OAS'S HEMISPHERIC NATURE, AND HAS STATED HIS INTENT TO STRENGTHEN THE ORGANIZATION AND TO WORK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF ALL MEMBER STATES AND FOR THE HEMISPHERE AS A WHOLE.

-- THAT HEMISPHERIC VIEW IS ONE THING THAT ATTRACTED US TO CESAR GAVIRIA'S CANDIDACY.

IF PRESSED: THE USG SUPPORTED THE ELECTION OF A "SMALL COUNTRY" CANDIDATE IN THE MOST RECENT "INTER-AMERICAN" ELECTION TO HEAD THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA). WE ARE ALSO COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING A "SMALL COUNTRY" CANDIDATE TO HEAD THE PAN-AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION (PAHO) IN ITS ELECTION LATER THIS YEAR. THE USG ALWAYS LOOKS FOR THE BEST AND MOST QUALIFIED CANDIDATES TO SUPPORT.

Q: How can the USG support a candidate from a country with a questionable human rights record?

A: -- THE USG BELIEVES THAT A STRONG HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE FOR THE OAS AS A RENEWED VOICE FOR DEMOCRACY.

(more)

-- FAR FROM IGNORING THIS PROBLEM, THE GAVIRIA
ADMINISTRATION HAS CONSIDERABLY STRENGTHENED
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WHICH INVESTIGATE AND PURSUE
ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES
-- INCLUDING CREATING CIVILIAN POSITIONS WITHIN BOTH
THE POLICE AND MILITARY TO ENSURE GREATER IMPARTIALITY.

-- WE SEE THESE ACTIONS AS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT
PRESIDENT GAVIRIA IS TAKING MEASURES TO IMPROVE A
HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WHICH COLOMBIA ITSELF
RECOGNIZES AS VERY SERIOUS.

-- THE INTERAMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ALSO
RECOGNIZES THE EFFORTS OF HIS GOVERNMENT. IN A FEB 11
PRESS STATEMENT, THE COMMISSION ANNOUNCED IT WAS
SATISFIED WITH THE INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES THE
COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAS IN PLACE AND URGED THEM TO
CONSOLIDATE THESE MEASURES.

Q: The Costa Ricans say that the U.S. double-crossed them in
the OAS race -- any truth to the assertion that the U.S.
originally indicated it would back Niehaus?

A: -- THIS IS NOT TRUE.

(more)

- PRESIDENT CESAR GAVIRIA IS THE ONLY CANDIDATE THE UNITED STATES HAS SUPPORTED IN THIS RACE. BOTH THE BUSH AND CLINTON ADMINISTRATIONS DECLINED TO TAKE A POSITION ON THE SECGEN RACE UNTIL RECENTLY, WHEN WE ANNOUNCED OUR SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT GAVIRIA OF COLOMBIA.

- WE SUPPORT GAVIRIA BECAUSE HE IS THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB AT THIS TIME IN THE OAS'S HISTORY.

- OUR ONLY COMMITMENT HAS BEEN TO STRENGTHENING THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM.

- WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT SOME PEOPLE HAVE CHOSEN TO SPREAD DISINFORMATION ABOUT THE U.S. POSITION.

NORTH KOREA: STATE OF PLAY

Q: Given recent North Korean threats, have the U.S. and ROK reconsidered their decision to deploy Patriot missiles to South Korea and whether to hold Team Spirit?

A: -- THE U.S. AND ROK AGREEMENT TO DEPLOY PATRIOT MISSILES TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA STANDS.

-- THE PATRIOT IS A DEFENSIVE SYSTEM. ITS DEPLOYMENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IS A PRUDENT RESPONSE TO NORTH KOREA'S DEPLOYMENT OF SCUD MISSILES.

-- THE U.S. AND ROK ARE REVIEWING THE STATUS OF THEIR JOINT EXERCISE, TEAM SPIRIT '94, BUT NO DECISIONS HAVE YET BEEN MADE ON THE SCHEDULING OF THE JOINT EXERCISE.

Q: Do you have anything further on the alert status of forces on the Korean Peninsula?

A: -- WE HAVE NOTHING NEW ON THE SITUATION.

-- NORTH KOREA'S REFUSAL TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE IAEA INSPECTIONS AND TO RESUME HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH KOREA HAVE RESULTED IN A DIPLOMATIC IMPASSE AND INCREASED TENSIONS.

-- IT IS USUAL FOR NORTH KOREA TO ENGAGE IN MILITARY EXERCISES AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.

-- ROK AND U.S. FORCES REMAIN IN THEIR NORMAL STATE OF FULL PREPAREDNESS TO DEFEND SOUTH KOREA.

(MORE)

Q: What do you make of reports that Kim Jong-il might succeed his father next month?

A: -- WE ARE AWARE OF THESE REPORTS, BUT HAVE NOTHING THAT WOULD CONFIRM THEM.

-- AS YOU KNOW, NORTH KOREAN PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG SOME YEARS AGO DESIGNATED HIS SON KIM JONG-IL AS HIS SUCCESSOR.

-- THE GRADUAL TRANSFER OF POWER FROM FATHER TO SON HAS BEEN EVIDENT FOR SOME TIME NOW, BUT WE HAVE NO IDEA WHEN IT MAY BE COMPLETED.

NORTH KOREA

Q: What happened yesterday at the United Nations Security Council meeting on North Korea? Is there a draft resolution on the table? When do we expect action to be taken?

A: -- THE US DELEGATION MET AGAIN WITH MEMBERS OF THE PERM-5 (FRANCE, THE UNITED KINGDOM, RUSSIA, CHINA) LATE YESTERDAY TO DISCUSS NORTH KOREA AND UNSC EFFORTS TO HELP SOLVE THE NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR PROBLEM.

-- HANS BLIX, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) WILL BRIEF SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS TODAY AT 3:30. SOMETIME AFTER THAT MEETING WE HOPE TO CIRCULATE OUR DRAFT RESOLUTION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

-- WE DO NOT EXPECT A VOTE THIS WEEK ON THE RESOLUTION.

Q: When do we expect a vote?

A: -- WE HOPE THERE WILL BE A VOTE SOON, BUT DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE AT THIS TIME.

CHINA: NEW POLICY ON MFN?

Q: Is the U.S. sending signals to China--as the New York Times suggests this morning--that meeting minimum human rights demands this year might result in the end of the annual threat of trade sanctions? Is the Administration engaged in an internal debate over policy options concerning China including the use in the future of "other tools" to pressure human rights change in China?

A: -- LAST YEAR, THE ADMINISTRATION CONSULTED CLOSELY WITH CONGRESS ON HOW TO ADVANCE BOTH OUR HUMAN RIGHTS GOALS AND SHAPE A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA. THE RESULT WAS THE PRESIDENT'S MAY 28 EXECUTIVE ORDER, WHICH LINKED EXTENSION OF MFN IN 1994 TO CERTAIN REALISTIC AND ATTAINABLE HUMAN RIGHTS CRITERIA.

-- CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY HAS REMAINED STEADY AND STRONG. LAST MONTH, ALMOST TWO THIRDS OF THE SENATE VOTED TO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA. ON THE EVE OF HIS VISIT TO CHINA, THE SECRETARY RECEIVED A LETTER SIGNED BY 275 MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE BACKING THE PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

-- PRESIDENT CLINTON'S POLICY KEEPS FAITH WITH AMERICAN IDEALS AND KEEPS FOCUSED ON AMERICAN INTERESTS. IN THE FUTURE, WE HOPE THAT THE ANNUAL DEBATE ON MFN WOULD BE LESS CENTRAL TO OUR CHINA POLICY. BUT OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE NOW MUST BE TO OBTAIN PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER AREAS THAT WILL ENABLE US TO BUILD A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP THAT WILL BENEFIT BOTH THE U.S. AND CHINA.

CHINA:

TAIWAN -- TRANSITS BY TAIWAN'S TOP OFFICIALS

Q: Would the U.S. permit Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui, or other senior officials to transit the U.S. en route to other destinations?

A: -- WE WILL ACCOMMODATE WHEN POSSIBLE AND ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS REQUESTS BY TAIWAN'S LEADERSHIP SOLELY FOR DIRECT CONTINUOUS TRANSIT THROUGH THE U.S. TO THIRD COUNTRY DESTINATIONS.

-- AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY STATED, A VISIT TO THE U.S. BY TAIWAN AUTHORITIES HOLDING SENIOR LEADERSHIP POSITIONS SUCH AS PRESIDENT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH OUR ONE-CHINA POLICY AND THE UNOFFICIAL NATURE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN.

BOSNIA

Q: What is the current military situation in Bosnia? Is there fighting? Is aid getting through?

**A: -- THE BOSNIAN GOVERNMENT REPORTS THAT
SCATTERED FIGHTING WITH BOSNIAN SERB FORCES
OCCURRED IN BIHAC (BEE-hahtch), BRCKO (BIRCH-ko),
OLOVO (OH-low-vo) AND RUJNICA (RUE-ee-neet-sah)
[SOUTH-EAST OF MAGLAJ].**

**-- YESTERDAY BOSNIAN SERBS SOLDIERS HIJACKED A
CONVOY BOUND FOR MAGLAJ (MAHG-lye). OTHER
CONVOYS BOUND FOR ZEPA (ZHEH-pa) AND GORAZDE
(GORE-ahzh-doh) DEPARTED BELGRADE AS SCHEDULED.**

**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

Q. The media reports the hijacking of a Maglaj-bound convoy by Bosnian Serbs. What do we know about this incident and what is our reaction?

A. -- UNHCR REPORTED THAT YESTERDAY AFTERNOON A TEN-TRUCK CONVOY WITH DANISH DRIVERS WAS STOPPED BY BOSNIAN SERB FORCES AT A CHECKPOINT BETWEEN TESLIC AND NOVI SEHER, TO THE NORTH-WEST OF MAGLAJ. THE CONVOY HAD ALL CLEARANCES FROM BOSNIAN SERB AUTHORITIES TO PROCEED ON TO MAGLAJ. THE CONTENTS (FLOUR AND MEDICINES) OF ALL VEHICLES WAS LOOTED AND OFF-LOADED ONTO BOSNIAN SERB MILITARY TRUCKS.

-- THE UNHCR TRUCKS WERE DRIVEN OFF BY BOSNIAN SERB MILITARY AND CIVILIAN DRIVERS. ONE TRUCK WAS RECOVERED BY UNHCR STAFF WHEN THEY STOPPED IT IN THE TOWN OF TESLIC AND THE DRIVER RAN OFF. NEGOTIATIONS ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN TESLIC TO RECOVER THE NINE OTHER TRUCKS. ALL UNHCR DRIVERS ARE SAFE IN ZENICA.

-- WE UNDERSTAND THAT MR. KARADZIC (KAH-rah-jich) SAID HE WOULD INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT.

-- THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT STRONGLY CONDEMNS THIS ACT AND CALLS UPON THE BOSNIAN SERB FORCES TO IMMEDIATELY RETURN THE TRUCKS AND THEIR CONTENTS TO UNHCR.

IO PRESS GUIDANCE
MARCH 24, 1994

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SARAJEVO

Q. Has the Brotherhood and Unity Bridge opened? Are there conditions governing its use? Are overland routes into and out of Sarajevo open? If so, what, if any, are the conditions surrounding their use?

A. -- THE BROTHERHOOD AND UNITY BRIDGE AND THREE OVERLAND ROUTES INTO AND OUT OF SARAJEVO ARE OPEN BUT SOME CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON THEIR USE.

-- THE OPENING OF THE BRIDGE AND THE LAND ROUTES CAME AS PART OF AN AGREEMENT REACHED LAST WEEK BETWEEN THE BOSNIAN GOVERNMENT AND BOSNIAN SERBS.

-- THE BRIDGE IS OPEN TO TRANSIT BY PEDESTRIANS AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC, SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT BY BOTH PARTIES AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF UNPROFOR. LISTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO UNPROFOR PERSONNEL 24 HOURS PRIOR TO TRANSIT. TRANSIT TIMES HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO THE HOURS BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND 2 P.M. ALL UN VEHICLES AND PERSONNEL ARE ALLOWED UNRESTRICTED MOVEMENT ACROSS THE BRIDGE.

-- THE THREE OVERLAND ROUTES NOW OPEN ARE:

- o SARAJEVO TO VISOKO (VEE-soh-koh) 8-10 A.M.; 2-4 P.M.
- o SARAJEVO TO ILIDZA (IL-EED-tsah) 8-10 A.M.; 2-4 P.M.
- o SARAJEVO TO BUTMIR (BOOT-milhr) 10-12 A.M.; 4-6 P.M.

-- TRAVEL ON ALL THREE ROUTES WILL BE PERMITTED ONLY FOR ORGANIZED GROUPS, CONVOYS, BUSES, AND OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS AND NOT FOR INDIVIDUAL CARS OR PERSONS.

-- WE SUPPORT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN AND AROUND SARAJEVO AND WE HOPE THE OPENING OF THESE ROUTES ARE INDICATIVE OF A RENEWED COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF ALL PARTIES TO BRING PEACE TO BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA.

CROATIA

Q: What is the current military situation in Croatia?

**A: -- THERE WERE SEVERAL CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN
SECTOR EAST AROUND NUSTAR (NOOSE-tar), NEAR
VUKOVAR (VOO-ko-var).**

**-- ARTILLERY AND SMALL ARMS FIRE EXCHANGES
OCCURRED BETWEEN CROATIAN AND KRAJINA SERB
FORCES IN SECTOR SOUTH.**

EUR PRESS GUIDANCE
MARCH 24, 1994

(CROATIA:
/X

BOSNIA/AMBASSADOR REDMAN'S ACTIVITIES

Q: Where is Ambassador Redman? What is he doing?

A: -- AMBASSADOR REDMAN IS CURRENTLY IN WASHINGTON.

EUR PRESS GUIDANCE

March 24, 1994

GERMANY:

SECRETARY AND DEPUTY SECRETARY MEETING WITH WOLFGANG SCHAEUBLE

Q: What did the Secretary and Deputy Secretary discuss at their meeting with German CDU Parliamentary Leader Wolfgang Schaeuble?

A: -- THE SECRETARY HAD A MEETING AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITY WITH MR. SCHAEUBLE AT 3:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY MARCH 23. THEY DISCUSSED ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL PROLIFERATION AND GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

-- THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND MR. SCHAEUBLE EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THE TRANS-ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA AND THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE. THEY ALSO DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN THE REPUBLICS OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA.

-- MR. SCHAEUBLE ALSO HAS APPOINTMENTS WITH VICE PRESIDENT GORE, LEADERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS AND WITH OTHER FIGURES.

MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS UPDATE

Q: Where is the U.S. peace team and what are they doing?

A: YESTERDAY, THE TEAM MET WITH PRESIDENT WEIZMAN, PRIME MINISTER RABIN, AND FOREIGN MINISTER PERES. THEY HAD GOOD DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE ONGOING EFFORTS TO ADDRESS PALESTINIAN SECURITY ISSUES AND TO MOVE PROMPTLY TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. THEY ALSO REVIEWED WAYS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN THE OTHER TRACKS.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY PELLETREAU IS IN JERUSALEM TODAY TO MEET WITH ISRAELI OFFICIALS AND PALESTINIANS.

SPECIAL MIDDLE EAST COORDINATOR ROSS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PEACE TEAM WERE IN CAIRO TODAY FOR A MEETING OF DONORS REGARDING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN POLICE FORCE.

THAT MEETING WAS A FOLLOW-UP TO A COORDINATION MEETING HELD IN LATE DECEMBER ^(IN OSLO.) THE FOCUS OF THE SESSION WAS ON THE TYPES OF MATERIAL AND TRAINING SUPPORT TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PALESTINIAN POLICE FORCE. QUITE A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE INVOLVED.

If asked only, who is hosting the Cairo meeting:

THE NORWEGIANS ARE CHAIRING THE MEETING; IT'S A FOLLOW-ON TO THE COORDINATION SESSION THEY HOSTED IN OSLO IN DECEMBER ON SUPPORT FOR A PALESTINIAN POLICE FORCE.

Q: What is the United States doing to support the Palestinian police force?

A: FOLLOWING UP ON A REQUEST TO THE SECRETARY FROM CHAIRMAN ARAFAT IN DECEMBER, THE UNITED STATES HAS DETERMINED THAT WE CAN BE MOST HELPFUL IN PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT. WE ARE IN THE FINAL STAGES OF PREPARING A PACKAGE OF 200 VEHICLES -- MOSTLY PICK-UP TRUCKS AND UTILITY VEHICLES. THIS NON-LETHAL AID WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD SATISFYING THE MOBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE POLICE FORCE.

I WOULD NOTE THAT THE SIZE, COMPOSITION, AND JURISDICTION OF THE FORCE IS STILL BEING NEGOTIATED BY THE PARTIES. IN THE MEANTIME, EGYPT AND JORDAN ARE PROVIDING TRAINING FOR THE PALESTINIAN POLICE. (IF ASKED: THE TRAINING INCLUDES HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING CARRIED OUT BY THE ICRC.)

Q: How is this meeting in Cairo related to the negotiations between the PLO and the Israelis on an "international presence"?

A: THEY ARE NOT DIRECTLY RELATED. THE DONOR SUPPORT FOR AND COORDINATION ON A PALESTINIAN POLICE FORCE HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR SOME TIME. THE ORIGINS OF THE FORCE ARE IN THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, WHICH CALLS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A THE POLICE FORCE.

A "TEMPORARY FOREIGN OR INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE" IS A DIFFERENT ELEMENT CONTAINED IN THE DOP. BOTH OF COURSE ARE SUBJECT TO DIRECT NEGOTIATION BY THE ISRAELIS AND THE PALESTINIANS.

Q: Do you have anything new on the "international presence"?

A: THE ISSUE OF A "TEMPORARY FOREIGN OR INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE" IS SOMETHING THAT THE PARTIES SHOULD ADDRESS. AS FAR AS I KNOW, THAT IS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION IN CAIRO. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FROM HERE.

Q: What about U.S. participation in a force?

A: DON'T HAVE ANYTHING SPECIFIC ON THAT. WE'D HAVE TO SEE FIRST WHAT THE PARTIES THEMSELVES AGREE TO. AS THE SECRETARY HAS INDICATED, WE'LL BE HELPFUL WHERE WE CAN, BUT I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE ABOUT THAT AT THIS STAGE.

Q: Yesterday you said the State Department was concerned about the situation in Hebron and was looking into it? What did you find out?

A: WELL YOU'VE SEEN THE VARIOUS STATEMENTS FROM THE AREA. I'M JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO ANALYZE THOSE FOR YOU. IT'S VERY CLEAR FROM SITUATIONS LIKE THIS THAT THE PARTIES NEED TO MOVE PROMPTLY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES -- THAT'S THE KEY TO CHANGING THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND FOR THE PALESTINIANS.

If pressed for comment on the methods of the operation:

I'M JUST NOT GOING TO GET INTO THAT. I WOULD JUST REPEAT THAT REAL CHANGE FOR THE PALESTINIANS WILL COME WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DOP AND CONTINUATION OF THE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS. THAT'S WHERE THE FOCUS NEEDS TO BE.

POLLARD CASE/RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

Q: Will this decision adversely affect US/Israeli relations?

A: AS THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT SAID, THE PRESIDENT MADE THE DECISION TO DENY THE APPLICATION FOR EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE UNANIMOUS VIEWS OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCIES.

THE UNITED STATES HAS VERY STRONG, MULTIFACETED RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. THIS ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY AND WELL BEING IS CLEAR. THERE IS NO REASON THE DECISION SHOULD HARM OUR CLOSE TIES WITH ISRAEL.

Q: Have you consulted with the Israelis about the impact of the decision?

A: WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS CASE, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO GET INTO A DESCRIPTION OF OUR CONTACTS WITH THE ISRAELIS.

Drafter: NEA/P - R. LeBaron
SEPDIR 143, 7-5150, 3/23/94
Cleared:

NEA: M. Parris
PA: M. McCurry

NSC: D. Satterfield

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 23, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

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After personally reviewing the Jonathan Pollard matter, I have decided to deny his application for executive clemency. I make this decision taking into account the recommendation of the Attorney General and the unanimous views of the law enforcement and national security agencies. My decision is based upon the grave nature of his offense and the considerable damage that his actions caused our nation.

Mr. Pollard's crime is one of the most serious crimes against our country -- placing national security secrets of the United States in the hands of another country. I have considered Mr. Pollard's argument that he is deserving of a shorter prison sentence because he spied for a friendly nation. I nevertheless believe that the enormity of Mr. Pollard's crime, the harm his actions caused to our country, and the need to deter every person who might even consider such actions, warrant his continued incarceration.

ARMS CONTROL: FISSILE MATERIAL INITIATIVES

Q. What is the U.S. proposal on International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections of its excess fissile material?

A. -- PART OF THE NONPROLIFERATION POLICY PRESIDENT

**CLINTON ANNOUNCED AT THE UNITED NATIONS LAST
SEPTEMBER WAS PLACING ALL U.S. FISSILE MATERIAL NO
LONGER NEEDED FOR DEFENSE PURPOSES UNDER IAEA
SAFEGUARDS.**

**-- AS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROBERT EINHORN
SAID IN HIS HOUSE TESTIMONY YESTERDAY, WE ARE
MOVING TO PLACE IN STORAGE SEVERAL METRIC TONS OF
PLUTONIUM AND HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM (HEU). WE
ARE REVIEWING OUR SECURITY AND CLASSIFICATION
PROCEDURES FOR THIS MATERIAL. WE WILL BE WORKING
WITH THE IAEA TO DEVISE CREDIBLE INSPECTION
PROCEDURES THAT WILL ALSO SAFEGUARD SENSITIVE
NUCLEAR WEAPONS DESIGN INFORMATION.**

**-- WE HOPE IAEA INSPECTIONS OF THIS MATERIAL CAN BEGIN
BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, AFTER THESE PROCEDURES
ARE WORKED OUT AND CONGRESS IS NOTIFIED.**

Q. Is the U.S. urging Russia to take similar steps?

A. -- WE HOPE RUSSIA WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN US IN PLACING FISSILE MATERIALS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR DEFENSE UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS. STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION WOULD MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO ARMS CONTROL, NONPROLIFERATION AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.

-- PRESIDENTS CLINTON AND YELTSIN AGREED ON JANUARY 14 TO CONSIDER INCLUDING ALL FISSIONABLE MATERIALS, EXCEPT THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH NATIONAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES, IN THEIR VOLUNTARY SAFEGUARDS OFFERS TO THE IAEA.

-- EARLIER THIS MONTH, ENERGY SECRETARY O'LEARY AND RUSSIAN ATOMIC ENERGY MINISTER MIKHAILOV ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO HOST RECIPROCAL INSPECTIONS, BY THE END OF THE YEAR, OF FACILITIES CONTAINING PLUTONIUM REMOVED FROM NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

-- MORE --

-- WE ALSO HAVE AGREEMENTS WITH RUSSIA, UKRAINE AND KAZAKHSTAN TO STRENGTHEN MATERIAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTANCY AND PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS MATERIALS.

Q. Does the U.S. hope other countries will take similar steps?

A. -- WE HAVE SHOWN THAT WE ARE WILLING TO TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE AND EVENTUALLY PLACE ALL FISSILE MATERIAL NOT NEEDED FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS.

-- LAST OCTOBER, IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT CLINTON'S SEPTEMBER 27 ADDRESS, THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A TREATY TO PROHIBIT PRODUCTION OF FISSILE MATERIAL FOR NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE PURPOSES.

-- CAPPING STOCKS OF MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAMS WILL MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION.

Note: The U.S. no longer produces plutonium or HEU for nuclear power or nuclear explosives purposes.

Our 1980 agreement with the IAEA makes all fissile materials except those in facilities "associated with activities of direct national security significance" eligible for IAEA safeguards.

L PRESS GUIDANCE
MARCH 23, 1994

LEGAL:

U.S. CIVIL & POLITICAL RIGHTS REPORT

Q: When does the State Department expect to submit to the United Nations the report on U.S. compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was due in 1993?

A: -- The U.S. hopes to have its report completed by late summer.

Q: What's taking you so long?

A: -- Our goal is to have the best, most complete report possible rather than to submit earlier a more hastily-prepared report.

ON BACKGROUND: Our task is made more difficult because each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia has its own criminal justice system, all of which must be addressed in the report.

PA/PRS:JMReside/L:JKovar

ENVIRONMENT!

HAZARDOUS WASTE EXPORTS TREATY
NEGOTIATIONS AT BASEL

Q. What is the US position at this week's Basel Convention of parties?

A.

- **THE US HAS GONE TO BASEL RECEPTIVE TO THE VIEWS OF ALL PARTICIPANTS AND SEEKING A CONSENSUS COMPATIBLE WITH THE PRINCIPLES RECENTLY ANNOUNCED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.**
- **THESE PRINCIPLES PROPOSE A BAN ON HAZARDOUS WASTE SHIPMENTS TO ANY DEVELOPING COUNTRY.**
- **THESE PRINCIPLES WOULD PERMIT THE SHIPMENT OF WASTES TO CANADA AND MEXICO FOR RECYCLING PURSUANT TO BILATERAL AGREEMENTS THAT INSURE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT.**
- **A BAN ON SHIPMENTS TO OTHER OECD COUNTRIES WOULD BE PHASED IN DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.**
- **EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE WOULD BE STRICTLY LIMITED AND WOULD REQUIRE A DETERMINATION BY THE PRESIDENT.**

Q. What is the US attitude toward the Danish proposal for a total ban on shipments from OECD to non-OECD countries?

- **THE US HAS NOT ENDORSED THE DANISH PROPOSAL BECAUSE, ON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUNDS, IT BELIEVES THAT THE CAREFUL ALLOWANCE OF SOME EXCEPTIONS TO A TOTAL BAN WILL BE IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH OECD AND NON-OECD COUNTRIES.**
- **WE ARE SEEKING AN APPROACH WHICH GUARANTEES A STRICT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF ANY SUCH EXCEPTION, AS IS ALREADY THE CASE WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL EXCEPTIONS LANGUAGE IN OUR OWN PRINCIPLES.**

Background

The US principles in some respects actually go beyond the Danish proposal in that they restrict transboundary shipments to Canada and Mexico, instead of permitting general inter-OECD trade). (It is expected that Mexico will shortly join the OECD.) US shipments to Mexico are small and go to a single facility for recycling.

Attachment:

US statement and principles. Circumstances under which the President could grant an exception to the new rules are listed on the last page of the principles.