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[Press Guidance] - May 26, 1994

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*Haiti***P R E S S G U I D A N C E****TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS****LINE TO TAKE**

The US Government has lodged a proposal with the British and TCI Governments (details in attached earlier press line). The two governments are considering their response.

(If pressed: there was a preliminary discussion of the US proposal at the Executive Council meeting in Grand Turk on 26 May. The decision of the two governments is expected shortly.)

BACKGROUND (NOT TO BE DISCLOSED)

The Executive Council agreed in principle on 26 May to the US proposal, subject to the completion of detailed negotiations and of an agreed Memorandum of Understanding. British Ministers are now being consulted: their views are expected by the weekend. The way will then be open for the US to send a technical survey team to the islands. In any discussion with the media of the US proposal, please avoid specific mention of West Caicos Island until further notice.

British Embassy
Washington

26 May 1994

Following two days of constructive discussions between the Government of the United States and the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Turks and Caicos Islands, in consultation with officials of the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United States has made a proposal concerning Haitian boat people to the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Turks and Caicos Islands which they are considering. The proposal includes:

- o The possibility of the early stationing of a ship in the territorial waters of the Turks and Caicos Islands for migrant processing.
- o The examination of the feasibility of a land-based facility for migrant processing on an uninhabited island, removed from population centers and respecting the requirements of the tourist industry and environmental and security concerns.
- o The objective of alleviating the Haitian immigration problem confronting the Turks and Caicos Islands.
- o A proposed duration of six months.
- o An understanding that any facility would have to take account of the limited capabilities of the Turks and Caicos Islands.
- o An agreement that any arrangement would conform with international and local laws.



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON DC 20420

May 26, 1994

Memorandum To:

Dee Dee Myers

From:

Kathy Jurado

Subject:

Response to Persian Gulf Syndrome Inquires

RECAP YESTERDAY'S HEARING

On May 25, the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs held a hearing on chemical and biological warfare exports to Iraq and their possible connection to the health problems being experienced by Persian Gulf (PG) veterans. Chairman Donald Riegle, Jr. (D-MI) stated that he believes that tens of thousands of PG veterans are suffering from the symptoms associated with what has been referred to as Persian Gulf Syndrome. He released a staff report that asserts that U.S. forces were exposed to some level of chemical and possibly biological warfare agents during their service in the PG war. The report made a series of recommendations including proposals for an epidemiological study involving all PG veterans; a presumption of service-connection for sick PG veterans; the development of appropriate diagnostic and treatment protocols; government financing of health-care for spouses and children determined to have contracted a service-connected illness from a PG veteran; and streamlining of VA's claims and appeals process. Dr. Edwin Dorn, DoD Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, testified about how materials that Iraq used for its chemical and biological warfare (CBW) program were exported to Iraq from the U.S. However, he and other DoD witnesses stated that, based on available evidence, there was little likelihood that PG veterans' health problems are a result of any exposure to CBW agents.

ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE

The Administration has established an interagency board -- the Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board -- to oversee and coordinate working groups from the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs and Health and Human Services focusing on research, clinical treatment and disability compensation.

It is the position of the Board that every effort will be made to diagnosis and treat sick Persian Gulf Veterans. To date thousands of veterans have been examined and treated for a variety of diagnosable illnesses. However, many others have symptoms whose

cause is unknown. The difficulty in diagnosing these cases is not unique to the VA and DOD, as many private facilities, such as the Mayo Clinic, have attempted to diagnosis these symptoms with no success.

VA and DOD urge any Persian Gulf Veterans and military personnel, who are ill, to come in to a VA or military hospital for an examination.

VA, DOD and HHS are engaged in over 20 research activities designed to determine the cause of the unexplained illnesses being experienced by Persian Gulf Veterans. All possible causes of these illnesses, included chemical/biological agents, are being pursued.

SCHEDULED HEARING ON COMPENSATION

On May 11, House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Sonny Montgomery introduced legislation that would temporarily provide VA disability compensation to Persian Gulf veterans who have chronic disabilities that (1) are the result of an undiagnosed illness, and (2) became manifest within one year after the veteran left the Southwest Asia theater of operations. The benefits would terminate three years after the Bill is enacted into law.

This bill is scheduled for a hearing before a House Veterans' Affairs Committee subcommittee on June 9. In the meantime, VA and DOD are considering the desirability of this or other legislation to deal with the compensation issue and VA is preparing testimony for that hearing.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

May 26, 1994

Statement by Michael D. McCurry, Spokesman

U.S. AND VIETNAM SIGN AGREEMENTS TO
OPEN LIAISON OFFICES

The United States and Vietnam have reached agreement on the legal framework for the opening of liaison offices in Hanoi and Washington. The date for opening the offices will depend on implementation of an agreement to return each country's diplomatic properties.

On February 3, 1994, President Clinton announced the end of the U.S. trade embargo against Vietnam. The President also announced his intention to establish a liaison office in Vietnam. This office should facilitate progress on all issues of concern, particularly POW/MIA accounting. The liaison office will also enable us to provide services for an increasing number of Americans in Vietnam, and advance our human rights dialogue.

On May 20, 1994 Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord transmitted a letter to Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister Le Mai, proposing that the two governments establish liaison offices within the framework of the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (VCCR). In his letter, Assistant Secretary Lord stated that "there remain many technical and substantive issues that will have to be resolved between our two governments before full normalization of relations can be realized, particularly progress on American POWs and MIAs."

On May 21, 1994, Vice Foreign Minister Le Mai wrote to Assistant Secretary Lord, accepting the U.S. proposal. The Vice Foreign Minister stated that "with the establishment of the liaison offices and the overall development of relations between the two countries, we will have favorable conditions to pursue resolution of issues of common concern to the two sides, among which is the issue of people missing from the war."

In addition to this exchange of letters, the U.S. and Vietnam have signed an "agreed minute" containing further details regarding the liaison offices, including on consular notification and access.

The U.S. will be notified within 96 hours of the arrest or detention of any U.S. passport holder, irrespective of that person's place of birth. The U.S. will be provided consular access to the detained person within 48 hours after notification. This agreement will enable the U.S. Liaison Office staff to effectively perform its function of providing services to American citizens in distress. Similar notification and access will be provided in the case of Vietnamese citizens arrested in the United States.

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A date for the opening of the liaison offices will be set following implementation of Vietnam's agreement to return U.S. diplomatic property. Both Assistant Secretary Lord and Vice Foreign Minister Le Mai expressed interest in opening the offices soon.

**EAP PRESS GUIDANCE
May 26, 1994**

**AGREEMENT TO OPEN LIAISON OFFICES IN
HANOI AND WASHINGTON**

Q: Can you give us a rough time frame for the opening of the liaison offices?

A: -- NO DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR THE OPENING OF THE OFFICES. NOW THAT THE AGREEMENTS ANNOUNCED TODAY HAVE BEEN SIGNED, THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO OPEN THE OFFICES AS SOON AS HANOI HAS IMPLEMENTED ITS AGREEMENT TO RETURN U.S. DIPLOMATIC PROPERTY IN VIETNAM.

Q: Can you give us some background on the property issue?

A: -- THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM HAS AGREED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS ENTITLED TO RECOVER THE DIPLOMATIC REAL PROPERTY THE U.S. OWNED IN VIETNAM PRIOR TO 1975. THE U.S. HAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE SRV IS ENTITLED TO THE DIPLOMATIC PROPERTY FORMERLY OWNED BY THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

-- THE U.S. AND HANOI HAVE AGREED THAT THESE PROPERTIES WILL BE OCCUPIED ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS. WE ARE NOW DISCUSSING WITH THE VIETNAMESE A PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THIS AGREEMENT.

-- THE U.S. WILL BE PREPARED TO OPEN THE LIAISON OFFICES AS SOON AS THIS PLAN HAS BEEN SATISFACTORILY IMPLEMENTED.

*Background:
US: How many?
More than 30 / Hanoi, rest South.
SRV: 1, here in DC.*

-2-

Q: When will the Vietnamese be able to move into the former South Vietnamese embassy here?

A: -- THE AGREEMENTS ANNOUNCED TODAY CALL FOR SIMULTANEOUS OCCUPANCY OF DIPLOMATIC PROPERTIES.

Q: What issues will the liaison offices pursue?

A: -- THE AGREED MINUTE STATES THAT THE OFFICES WILL DEAL WITH ISSUES OF INTEREST TO BOTH COUNTRIES.

-- WE EXPECT THAT THE OFFICES WILL FACILITATE PROGRESS ON ALL ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO US, PARTICULARLY POW/MIA ACCOUNTING.

Haiti

Background

Comprehensive trade sanctions went into effect May 21, as mandated by UNSC resolution 917. A new Executive Order implementing these sanctions prohibits importation into the US of any goods of Haitian origin, except for informational materials and also prohibits the exportation of any goods to Haiti, except informational materials, medicines and medical supplies and certain foodstuffs.

A multinational coalition was already enforcing the UN Arms and Petroleum embargo and was expanded to include enforcement of these new comprehensive trade sanctions. The force consisting of 8 vessels (6 US, one Argentine and one Canadian) patrols the waters around the major ports of Haiti. The force has boarded 1,005 vessels and diverted 81 for carrying prohibited cargo.

The UN Sanctions Enforcement assessment team completed its work. UNSGY Special Envoy on Haiti Caputto will return to the DR next week to discuss the assessment team recommendations, including technical assistance and perhaps UN monitors for the border.

Mr. Gray's meeting yesterday with DR Pres Balaguer went well. Balaguer told Gray that he and the DR would fully cooperate with the UN and the US and implement the recommendations of the assessment team.

There were no interdictions yesterday.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

26-May-1994 11:27 EDT

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Jonathan H. Spalter

(SPALTER)

FROM:

Steven P. Andreasen
(ANDREASEN)

SUBJECT:

Q/A Chinese Nuclear Test

Jonathan: As we discussed, a Q/A responding to today's story in the NYT. When the Chinese do test, I suggest a short statement be released from the White House saying that the "United States deeply regrets this action, and we urge China to refrain from further nuclear tests and to join the other nuclear powers in a global moratorium as we work to complete a Comprehensive Test Ban (CTB) Treaty at the earliest possible time." [Note: I'm giving you this now because both Bob and I will be out of the office for at least part of next week, and its possible the Chinese will test during this time period.]

Q:

-- Is it true that China is preparing another nuclear test?

A:

-- On March 14, the President submitted a report to Congress on nuclear testing.

-- In that report, the President stated that we "anticipate that China may conduct further tests in 1994."

-- The United States, along with many other states, continues to urge China to refrain from further nuclear tests and to join the other nuclear powers in a global moratorium as we work to complete a Comprehensive Test Ban (CTB) Treaty.

CC: Records
CC: Robert G. Bell

(RECORDS)
(BELL)

Proposed Press Guidance

NUCLEAR SMUGGLING

Q: What's the Administration doing about nuclear smuggling from Russia?

A: -- We take this problem seriously.

-- As Director Freeh testified yesterday, the FBI is establishing a liaison office in Moscow that will enable us to work closely with Russian authorities to prevent thefts of nuclear materials and other criminal activities.

-- The State Department has established an interagency coordinating group to ensure quick exchange of information about nuclear theft or smuggling attempts and to coordinate our efforts to improve security at nuclear facilities in the former Soviet Union.

-- Under the Nunn-Lugar program, we are assisting Russia and other newly-independent states with materials accounting and physical security on nuclear materials and with export control enforcement.

-- So far, as Director Freeh said, most of the reports we have seen involve fraud. We have not seen any instance in which criminals have obtained either actual nuclear weapons or a sufficient quantity of weapons-grade nuclear materials to build one.

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FREEH STATEMENT ON RUSSIAN ORGANIZED CRIME

MESSAGE OF THE DAY: The FBI Director told the Senate Government Affairs Subcommittee on Investigations that organized crime in Russia poses a serious threat to our national security. We are trying to downplay to some extent his remarks about the gravity of the nuclear proliferation angle.

- We remain highly concerned by the potential threat posed by organized crime in Russia, and throughout the world. Money laundering, narcotics trafficking, and nuclear terrorism are items of legitimate concern and one we are helping the Russia's government to deal with.
- We are checking through appropriate mechanisms recent reports about the pilferage of nuclear materials in Russia.
- We are developing a government-wide weffort to fight against crime and corruption in the NIS.
 - o We are working to build- up institutions in Russia to fight crime through our \$2.5 billion assistance program.
 - o We are trying to get Russia and the NIS into the world law enforcement system to set up activities with Interpol, and similar organizations.
 - o We want to help them establish legal attache offices.
 - o We are working to enhance our cooperation with these states across the board -- FBI, Customs, DEA are working to establish a liaison office in Moscow.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

26-May-1994 10:08 EDT

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE BELOW

FROM: Donald K. Steinberg
(STEINBERG)

SUBJECT: Press Points on Rwanda

Rwanda

Background

Secretary General Boutros Ghali said yesterday that the slowness and inadequacy of the U.N. and international response to the tragedy in Rwanda was a "scandal". He blamed "donor fatigue" for the difficulty he is having in persuading nations to contribute to the 5500-troop force authorized by the United Nations. Only Ghana, Senegal and Ethiopia have said publicly that they are ready to provide troops. The Secretary General's representative is completing a visit to Rwanda where he has secured support from the RPF and RGF to bring in peacekeepers.

There is an inaccurate public perception that the U.S. has been stalling the reintroduction of U.N. peacekeepers into Rwanda. In fact, we have strongly supported an expanded U.N. role in Rwanda, and have been working with the U.N. to ensure that the force achieves maximum benefit by protecting those Rwandans most at risk. There is a dispute: we believe a force in the South is preferable, the U.N. wants a Kigali-based operation that will then fan out throughout the country. While working with the U.N. to define the role for these troops, we have not delayed the process.

Meanwhile, the fighting continues in Rwanda between the RPF and Rwandan government, with the country roughly divided in half now. The RPF has expanded its control of large areas of Kigali, including the airport. There are no indications that the mass killings are stopping and the humanitarian crisis looms large as famine and disease threaten the large displaced population.

Points

- We share the deep concerns of Secretary General Boutros Ghali over the need to end the killings in Rwanda, to achieve a ceasefire and to prevent further humanitarian disaster.
- We actively support UN efforts to send 5500 troops for Rwanda into seek to ensure the safety of Rwandan people at

risk of brutal massacre and to assist distribution of humanitarian assistance. The Vice President actively pushed this in his meeting two weeks ago in South Africa with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, OAU Secretary General Salim Salim and Tanzanian President Mwinyi. Several African countries have indicated their intention to provide troops for this effort. We hope these troops can be introduced into Rwanda very soon.

- We will provide financial support and will consider logistical and material support as appropriate. We do not intend to provide U.S. troops for this effort.
- We have been working with the U.N. to ensure that the mission for these peacekeepers is well-defined, assists the maximum number of Rwandans at risk and meets the other criteria outlined in the President's directive on peacekeeping. However, these discussions have in no way slowed down the recruitment of peacekeepers for the mission.
- We also supported the U.N. decision to immediately deploy additional peacekeepers to Kigali to bring the mechanized battalion there up to full strength (up from 450 at present to 800) and to reintroduce about 160 U.N. Military Observers into Rwanda to review the situation on the ground.
- In addition, the Security Council approved a U.S.-backed arms embargo on Rwanda.
- In addition to this peacekeeping role, we have actively addressed the tragedy in Rwanda over the past seven weeks through humanitarian and diplomatic efforts.
 - o We've provided a total of about \$35 million in humanitarian aid in this fiscal year.
 - o The President has made several tough statements which have been beamed into Rwanda and read directly to leaders of the RPF and Government forces.
 - o We have supported ceasefire talks in Arusha under Tanzanian President Mwinyi and other regional leaders.
 - o At the recent meeting of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, we supported efforts to identify those responsible for the killings and insist that they be held accountable for their actions.

Distribution:

FOR: Natalie S. Wozniak
FOR: Calvin A. Mitchell

(WOZNIAK)
(MITCHELLC)

BOSNIA

MESSAGE OF THE DAY: We are trying to downplay potential results that may come from the negotiations in France. The meeting is a long and tedious process, and this but one stop along that road.

Alternatively, the message of the day should be to reiterate the President's statement yesterday at Anapolis stressing the imprudence of a unilateral lifting of the embargo, and the notion that in this complex world, quick fixes are simply not possible, no matter how much we wish them to be.

- Contact Group meeting in Tallories, France. Not much being said from the parties. The talks are scheduled to continue through today. Little information has been issued.
- We hope and expect that both sides will engage in good faith efforts to work with the contact group.
- The Contact group is holding spearate meetings with the Bosnian Serbs and the Muslim/Croat delegation.
- President reiterated in Annapolis how quick fixes do not work in this complex issue, and unilateral embargo lifting is counter-productive.

RUSSIA/Partnership for Peace

MESSAGE OF THE DAY: As the Russians move closer to final agreement on the PFP, we should stress that this is another successful example of Presidential leadership in international affairs.

- We are very happy to hear the Russians say that they are willing to join unconditionally. Yeltsin said in January that they would do so, and the statements made in Brussels by Defense Minister Grachev underscore that commitment.
- Defense Grachev has told Dr. Perry in Brussels that the Russians would embrace the PFP without condition, and we encourage them to move quickly to sign-on.
- We would expect the Russian to sign the Framework Document this summer, based on what they said recently.
- We have often spoke of developing a pragmatic partnership with the Russians, and the statements made by the Russians in Brussels are a step in the right direction.
- So far, 18 nations have signed the PFP framwework document. 4 joint peacekeeping exercises are now being planned.

w/who?

GULF WAR SYNDROME

MESSAGE OF THE DAY. The President continues to be deeply concerned about the illnesses afflicting some of our gulf war veterans. He has directed the Secretary of Defense to aggressively look into the matter.

We have made it clear to veterans that if they have a problem, they should come in to the VA hospital system for help. In the meantime, all the resources available to this government are working at full steam to come to the bottom of this problem.

- Senator Riegle's charges that the Administration is dragging its feet on this issue are just plain wrong.
- The President has directed the Secretary of Defense ~~are~~ committed to getting to the bottom of this problem. There is an interdepartmental working group including Defense and HHS that is up and running. 20 research projects are underway to discover what is causing the illnesses.
- The medical community has not been able to come up with what is causing these problems so far.
- The President has asked ~~by~~ Nobel-Laureate scientist Joshua Lederberg to lead an independent group of experts to look into illnesses that are surfacing and their causes. Thus far there are veriable reports confirming that chemical agents have been used.
- Their report is due in mid-June.
- The Pentagon held a press conference on the issue last week. Check with DoD for more details about the extensive work that is underway.

What is DoD's position?

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

26-May-1994 12:40pm

TO: David Leavy
TO: Margaret J. Myers

FROM: Bruce N. Reed
 Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: Welfare briefing

Dee Dee:

You may well get asked about the NYT and LAT stories. Here's some guidance:

1. FINANCING: OMB is still fine tuning the particulars of the financing, and you're better off referring questions to Leon's office. We're still planning a package paid for out of existing programs, in the neighborhood of \$9-10 billion. There's an outside chance that some sharpy might ask you whether the Superfund provision is a new tax (since the President promised not to raise taxes to pay for WR). It isn't a new tax; it simply extends a provision in current law that is set to expire in 1995.
2. TIMING: We're still saying sometime next month, after the President comes back from Europe. (You might as well keep saying that until next month, when they'll probably tell us we have to say next month again.)
3. FAMILY CAP: The Brownstein article in particular focuses on the Pres's decision to give states the option to limit additional benefits for additional children conceived on welfare. Many states want to do this as a way to send a signal that the welfare system shouldn't give people who have children they can't support more money for having more children they can't support. This is controversial with many on the left who say no woman is going to have a baby for an extra \$60 a month. The safest territory for you is probably to say that the President believes this is an issue that is best decided at the state level, and he believes that any state that wants to use this tool to send a clear signal about not having additional children on welfare should be able to use it.
4. SHOULD THERE BE A LIMIT ON THE WORK PROGRAM: This issue is much tougher, and it's not clear how we'll end up. Your best answer for now is probably that we're still working on it and it's not resolved. (But as always, it's not as big a deal as the NYT

makes it sound.)

5. HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY PASS WELFARE THIS YEAR: That will be up to Congress. Last year, there was plenty of speculation that we were trying to do too much -- and Congress rewarded us with the most productive first year of any Administration since Eisenhower.

TALKING POINTS FOR WHPO

- * There are 36 governors races, 34 Senate Races and 435 House races in 1994. 24 states have both a Senate and Governor's race this year (25 with OK) (Oklahoma will probably have a special election for Boren's seat, upping the Senate tally to 35).
- * In an off year, the party in the White House traditionally loses an average of about 22 House seats and 3-5 Senate Seats. We are saying that the year will be tough for Dems, with a possible loss of 25 house seats.
- * This year the DNC is totally committed to electing Democrats at all levels of government:
- * In 1994, the DNC will give \$2 million to the DCCC and an unprecedented \$7 million directly to coordinated campaigns and state parties across the country.
- * Fundraising for the Party is at record levels -- the Party raised \$10.5 million in the first quarter of 1994. Events scheduled with the POTUS, VPOTUS, Mrs. Clinton, Mrs. Gore and Cabinet officials will make the rest of the year tremendously successful, enabling the Party to run a strong and successful campaign for Democrats in 1994.
- * Chairman Wilhelm brought in new seasoned political staff to help the DNC campaign for Democrats across the country (Don Sweitzer, Debra Delee, Ed Lazarus)
- * The DNC's Department of Voter participation is working on an aggressive GOTV program and on state-by-state implementation of the Motor Voter law to bring millions of Americans into the political process.
- * While many are predicting gloom and doom for the midterm elections (and while Dems realize it will be a difficult season) we are confident that come November the American people will compare the records of Democrats -- who in the past 16 months have cut the deficit in half, restored fairness to the tax system, created nearly 3 million jobs, and begun a debate to move us toward real, comprehensive health reform -- with that of Republicans who have done little more than champion the status quo and long for a return to the trickle-down economics of the Reagan-Bush years.
- * We believe people will vote for the party with a proven record of achievement in the things that matter in the lives of hard-working American families, and for the President who has had the leadership and courage to get this country moving forward again.

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

26-May-1994 10:38am

TO: David Leavy

FROM: Richard L. Siewert
 Office of Communications

SUBJECT: GATT TIMING

Dave

GATT -- TIMING AND PAYING FOR IT.

Q: Gephardt said yesterday that we might not do GATT this year.
Is that a set-back?

A: Absolutely not. First of all, Congressman Gephardt made that comment at a press conference where he and several other Democrats who had opposed NAFTA voiced their support for GATT. THAT'S A BIG STEP FORWARD. The GATT agreement has broad bipartisan support. The business community and consumer groups are beginning to crank up their campaign for passage. USTR Kantor told the Heritage Foundation yesterday that we can pass GATT this year. That's still our position.

Q: Is the financing package worked out yet?

A: No. As Ambassador Kantor said yesterday, we are working with members of both parties in Congress to come up with a package of cuts and revenue increases that will offset the projected revenue loss from decreased tariffs.

SEE THE TALKING POINTS FROM BARRY TOIV ON FINANCING. THEY ARE MORE COMPREHENSIVE. GRINBERG IS SENDING AN UPDATED COPY.

Health Care -- May 26

Rostenkowski:

Again, we are not speculating on the the legal process surrounding Chairman Rostenkowski. The process on the hill is moving forward and we are confident that members of Congress are committed to achieving comprehensive reform this year. (If we are not going to speculate on Rostenkowski, it will then be difficult to discuss the role of Gibbons. Therefore, we should refrain from comment.)

Mrs. Clinton's Comments on the Chairman:

Mrs. Clinton was not commenting on what may or may not happen in the legal process, but was simply pointing out that members of Congress are committed to achieving health care reform this year and that the issue of health care reform is bigger than one person.

Pat Williams and Education and Labor subcommittee vote:

We are pleased with the progress made yesterday in the Education and Labor subcommittee. Yesterday's vote indicates another step forward on the road toward guaranteeing private insurance for every American that can never be taken away.

Read out on Yesterday's Meetings:

President Clinton was pleased with the progress report he heard from the hill yesterday. He emphasized his commitment to universal coverage, getting a bill done this year and the desire for bi-partisan support.

Breaux and Triggers/Vice President's comments:

As we continue through the committee process, we are not commenting on specific proposals. And, certainly, it is difficult to comment on one part without seeing the entire package.

ON VPOTUS: The Administration believes that health benefits guaranteed at work is the best way to achieve universal coverage. The Vice President did not indicate otherwise.

Breaux/McLarty/Mandate

The Administration firmly believes that health benefits guaranteed at work is the best way to achieve universal coverage. Right now, Congress is going through the same process we went through last year and they are grappling with this particular issue.

TALKING POINTS ON GATT FINANCING**BARRY TOIV, OMB****57254**

- The Administration is considering a wide range of options for offsetting the direct costs of tariff reduction under the GATT agreement.
- Absolutely no decision has been made on any of these proposals. They are on a long list of options for financing welfare reform and GATT.
- The reason we need to consider such proposals is the budget discipline we have in place to prevent actions that increase the Federal budget deficit. If you increase spending or reduce taxes or tariffs, you need to cut spending or raise taxes to pay for it.
- We understand that there is some support for waiving the budget enforcement rules for GATT. While we might consider doing so for the second five years, which would only mean waiving a Senate rule, we are concerned about the possibility of setting a precedent for waivers if we were to waive the requirement for the first five years, which is required under law.
- We intend to continue moving forward seeking the needed offsets, at least for the first five years.

TAB_____**GULF WAR ILLNESSES -- MAY 26, 1994****MESSAGE**

- Like Senator Riegle, we are extremely concerned about the health of the Gulf War veterans. There are lots of theories about the causes of these veterans' illnesses. Rather than focus on one theory, we are trying to maintain a program that explores all the possibilities. We are committed to providing the best possible care, to providing appropriate disability compensation, and to identifying the causes of health problems among our servicemembers. We have ruled nothing out.
- DoD has concluded that Iraq did not use chemical or biological weapons during the war. This conclusion is based on analysis of large amounts of data gathered during and after the war.
 - The effects of chemical and biological weapons are immediate, acute, deadly, and readily identifiable. Our personnel had been trained to look for the symptoms. None of these things were seen or reported during the war.
 - Our detectors were strategically located, and although many detectors alarmed, there were no confirmed detections of any chemical or biological agents at any time during the entire conflict.
 - No chemical or biological weapons were found in the Kuwait Theater of Operation among the tons of live and spent munitions recovered following the war. The international community agrees with these conclusions.
- DoD has initiated an outreach program to reach all servicemembers who participated in the Persian Gulf War (approximately 650,000) and make them aware of Persian Gulf health issues. The letter from Secretary Perry and General Shalikashvili is only the most recent attempt to get servicemembers to come forward if they are ill. The letter restates important point that Gulf War veterans should know:
 - If you are experiencing problems, please come in for a medical evaluation. Active duty personnel and their eligible family members should report to any military hospital and ask to be included in the

Department's Persian Gulf War Veterans Health Surveillance System. You will receive a full medical examination.

- There is no information, classified or unclassified, that indicates that chemical or biological weapons were used in the Persian Gulf.
- There have been reports that some veterans believe there are restrictions on what they can say about potential exposure. Please be assured that you should not feel constrained in any way from discussing these issues.

CURRENT NEWS

UNDIAGNOSED CASES

- Physicians have not been able to diagnose about 2000 of the more than 20,000 veterans who have registered with DoD and VA.
- Of those 2000, approximately 300 are on active duty and being treated by the Services.
- None of these cases have identified a single, all-encompassing diagnosis for the symptoms being experienced.
- No possible cause for the illnesses has been ruled out.

DR. JOSEPH'S NEW PROGRAM

- On May 12, 1994, Dr. Joseph announced the latest program which will include:
 - A standardized, aggressive, comprehensive clinical diagnostic effort to determine, as far as possible, the causes of the symptoms in our Persian Gulf veterans. This will involve the active duty and reservists with unexplained illnesses.
 - Dr. Joseph has asked Dr. Harrison Spencer, Dean of Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, to review existing and currently proposed plans to determine if additional epidemiological approaches may be useful.
 - DoD is creating a forum of national medical and public health experts to advise us as we proceed in this direction, and also offer a channel for broader public comment and suggestions.

TASK FORCE REVIEW

- **The Defense Science Board's Task Force on Gulf War Health Effects, led by Dr. Joshua Lederberg plans to complete its review and have a report available by themid June.**
- **The Task Force was directed to examine specific areas.**
 - **All available intelligence and reports of chemical or biological agent detection or exposure during the Persian Gulf War.**
 - **Scientific and medical evidence relating to exposure to nerve agents at low levels and possible long term effects.**
 - **Other potential health consequences resulting from low level chemical exposure, environmental pollutants, Kuwaiti oil fires, endemic biologics or other health hazards.**

BACKGROUND

- **The final report to Congress on the Conduct of the Persian Gulf War states: Iraq had the capability and the experience to use CW, and capability to BW, but did not during the Persian Gulf conflict.**
- **While there were several reports of detection of chemical agents prior to, during and after the ground war, none of the reports were confirmed. This is not unusual since the detection equipment is very sensitive and sometimes gives "false positives." Following the war, soil samples were taken of suspected chemical warfare contaminated areas detected by mobile detectors. No samples were found to contain CW agents. No chemical warfare munitions were discovered in the territory of southern Iraq or Kuwait while occupied by coalition forces.**
 - **We do not discount the Czech report, but we have not been able to independently confirm it.**

Source: ASD/P&R, Joint Chiefs
A/O: Lt. Col. Doug Hart



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE LAUNCHES NEW MEDICAL PROGRAM FOR GULF WAR VETERANS

The Department of Defense, in coordination with the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Health and Human Services, is launching a new three point plan to better understand the medical nature of the Persian Gulf Syndrome. This program will allow these agencies to better care for Gulf War veterans who are ill with no clearly defined diagnoses.

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Stephen Joseph, MD, designed this program based on the findings of the National Institute of Health's Technology Workshop. The workshop, held April 27-29, 1994, found that the Persian Gulf Syndrome is not a single disease or syndrome, but rather a range of illnesses with overlapping symptoms and causes.

The plans three points are:

- Conduct a coordinated, aggressive, comprehensive diagnostic effort to determine as far as possible, the causes of the symptoms described by the NIH consensus conference on Persian Gulf veterans. All those Persian Gulf veterans who are in the DoD's Persian Gulf Veterans Health Surveillance System and who do not have clearly defined diagnoses will be offered an intensive examination. The content and phasing of these examinations will be developed by a Tri-Service Flag Officer Work Group.
- Dr. Harrison C. Spencer, Dean of Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, has been asked to review existing and currently proposed plans to determine if additional epidemiological approaches may be helpful.
- Create a forum of national medical and public health experts to advise DoD, VA and HHS as they proceed in these directions and to offer a channel for broader public comment and suggestions.

Dr. Joseph stated, "I am confident that this three point plan will bring us closer to understanding the medical nature of the Persian Gulf Syndrome. These additional actions underscore the Department's continued commitment to aid our Persian Gulf veterans. I am taking steps to work with the Services to immediately implement these activities.

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