

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	re: Togo: Gilchrist Olympiovs Call on DAS Huddleston. [USUN New York 002461] (6 pages)	01/06/1999	P1/b(1)
002. cable	re: [Kenya]. [Nairobi 000201] (8 pages)	01/08/1999	P1/b(1)
003. cable	re: Ideas about Sierra Leone. [Lagos 000325] (4 pages)	01/08/1999	P1/b(1)
004. cable	re: Ghana Intends to Hit the Rebels. [Accra 000154] (4 pages)	01/11/1999	P1/b(1)
005. cable	re: The First 100 Days: Eyadema and ECOWAS. [Lome 000475] (6 pages)	02/10/1999	P1/b(1)
006. cable	re: Sierra Leone: Rev. Jackson Talks to President Kabbah and RUF Representative Omrie Golley. [State 026809] (4 pages)	02/12/1999	P1/b(1)
007. cable	re: Briefing Ghana on USG Contacts with the RUF. [State 030277] (4 pages)	02/18/1999	P1/b(1)
008. cable	re: Liberians Hail Reverend Jackson's Remarks about Their Country. [Monrovia 000709] (2 pages)	03/01/1999	P1/b(1)
009. cable	re: Optimistic on Guinea-Bissau, Eyadema Says. [Lome 000709] (4 pages)	03/01/1999	P1/b(1)
010. cable	re: Nigeria: Soderberg, Greenstock Discuss Sierra Leone, Liberia, Recent Elections. [USUN New York 000563] (4 pages)	03/05/1999	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999-Dec 2000 ([Special Envoy])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/06/1999-03/12/1999]

2014-0927-F

vz5263

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHCAA9071 0330230-UUUU--RHEHAAA.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: O 020229Z FEB 99

LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC

OSRI: RUEHC

DTG: 020229Z FEB 99

ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC

TO: RUEHAE/AMEMBASSY ASMARA IMMEDIATE 7106
RUEHJB/AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE 3764
ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
ALL OECD CAPITALS PRIORITY
RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY 2812
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 1123
RUEH DU/AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY 9015
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 7640
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0146
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 1996
RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY 4497
RUEHJO/AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY 9870
RUEHLGB/AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY 6931
RUEHLU/AMEMBASSY LUANDA PRIORITY 2103
RUEHDR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY 5228
RUEH KI/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY 1690
RUEH MV/AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY 3017
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 9030
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 9579
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 7500
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 7787
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC/SITROM PASS TO SMITH PRIORITY 4113
SOMALIA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUFNGOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUCJAAA/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUWSMXI/USCINCTrans INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL PRIORITY
RUEHZK/ECOWAS PRIORITY
XMT AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

INFO: ///

SUBJ: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1999

SUMMARY OF PRESS GUIDANCE ON AFRICA

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 STATE 019071

USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US
SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1999

SUMMARY OF PRESS GUIDANCE ON AFRICA

1. SIERRA LEONE
2. EMBASSY CLOSURE
3. GUINEA-BISSAU

1. SIERRA LEONE

CONTEXT: SIERRA LEONE HAS FACED AN EIGHT-YEAR REBELLION BY RUF (REVOLUTIONARY UNITED FRONT) REBELS THAT PRECEDES THE DEMOCRATIC ELECTION OF PRESIDENT TEJAN KABBAH IN 1996. A MILITARY COUP BY SOLDIERS CALLING THEMSELVES THE AFRC (ARMED FORCES REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL) SEIZED POWER IN MAY 1997 AND FORMED AN ALLIANCE WITH RUF GUERRILLAS. KABBAH WAS RESTORED TO POWER IN MARCH 1998 BY A LARGELY NIGERIAN FORCE (ECOMOG) SPONSORED BY THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS). SINCE THEN RUF AND AFRC HAVE JOINED FORCES IN A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ECOMOG-SUPPORTED

KABBAH GOVERNMENT IN FREETOWN, WITH EXCEPTIONALLY SAVAGE TREATMENT OF CIVILIANS BY THE REBELS.

IN THE LAST MONTH, ECOMOG FORCES HAVE BEEN HARD PRESSED BY THE REBEL OFFENSIVE SUPPORTED BY EXTERNAL FORCES. THE UK, THE U.S., AND THE NETHERLANDS HAVE PROVIDED ECOMOG WITH LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR ITS OPERATIONS IN LIBERIA SINCE JANUARY 1996 AND ITS OPERATION IN SIERRA LEONE SINCE MAY 1997. THE USG HAS ALSO PROVIDED SUBSTANTIAL HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT TO SIERRA LEONE. OUR OBJECTIVES IN SIERRA LEONE ARE TO PROMOTE A REGIONAL PEACE THAT WILL HALT THE SUFFERING OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AND RESULT IN NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

Q: SITUATION UPDATE ON FIGHTING? WHO CONTROLS FREETOWN?

A: ECOMOG FORCES HAVE BEEN REINFORCED AND ARE INCREASING THEIR CONTROL OVER THE CITY. THE WESTERN PART OF FREETOWN IS CALM AND NGO'S AND EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE DAY VISITS. IN THESE AREAS THE DAMAGE WAS RELATIVELY LIGHT. FOOD IS BEING DISTRIBUTED, WATER IS AVAILABLE, AND PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO WALK ABOUT. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT IN THE EASTERN AREAS OF FREETOWN THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DESTRUCTION. WE ARE SEEING THE REPORTS OF MUTILATIONS, KIDNAPPINGS, AND KILLINGS BY THE REBELS. WE CONDEMN THESE ACTIONS IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO THE ARTICLE IN THE SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES AND THE RECENT IN THE WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL ON SIERRA LEONE, WHICH SUGGESTS THE U.S. HAS NOT BEEN DOING ENOUGH TO STOP THE KILLING AND MAIMING TAKING PLACE THERE?

A: ON TUESDAY OUR AMBASSADOR TO SIERRA LEONE, ACCOMPANIED BY AN OFFICER WITH OFDA, RETURNED TO FREETOWN TO ASSESS THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND PROVIDE RELIEF. OUR MEDICAL, HEALTH, FOOD, AGRICULTURAL RECOVERY, AND TECHNICAL UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 04 STATE 019071

USOECDC ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1999

ASSISTANCE TO SIERRA LEONE FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH NOW TOTALS MORE THAN \$55 MILLION SINCE OCTOBER 1997. FOR THIS IMMEDIATE CRISIS OUR AMBASSADOR HAS ARRANGED FOR DELIVERY OF SIX HOSPITAL KITS WITH SIX TONS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES. OFDA WILL PROVIDE MATERIAL FOR SHELTER AND BLANKETS AND IS WORKING WITH SEVEN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) - INCLUDING AFRICARE, WORLD VISION, CARE AND CRS - TO PROVIDE MEDICAL, SANITATION, AND WATER RELIEF. OFDA IS ALSO PROVIDING HELICOPTER SUPPORT TO THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM TO MAKE ASSESSMENTS OF THE SITUATION. NGOS WHICH WERE ALREADY ESTABLISHED IN FREETOWN BEFORE THE DECEMBER

ATTACK BY THE INSURGENTS ARE RETURNING WITH UN AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES. LARGE QUANTITIES OF US-PROVIDED FOOD - ALREADY WAREHOUSED IN THE CAPITAL BY NGOS - ARE ALREADY BEING DISTRIBUTED TO THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE OF FREETOWN WHO HAVE SOUGHT SHELTER IN THE FREETOWN STADIUM.

DURING THAT SAME TRIP, OUR AMBASSADOR MET WITH PRESIDENT KABBAH AND ECOMOG TO ENSURE THAT OUR LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO THE WEST AFRICAN TROOPS WAS FUNCTIONING EFFECTIVELY. OVER THE PAST YEAR, THROUGH TWO COMMERCIAL LOGISTICS CONTRACTS, WE HAVE GIVEN ECOMOG OVER \$5.0 MILLION FOR THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF SPARE PARTS AND EQUIPMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE OF 150 TRUCKS DONATED BY THE US AND DUTCH GOVERNMENT, AND THE OPERATION OF HELICOPTERS TO MOVE TROOPS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. WE INTEND, WITH CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL, TO PROVIDE ANOTHER \$1.7 MILLION FOR THIS PURPOSE. WITHIN THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, WE DEPLOYED A MEDICAL ASSESSMENT TEAM TO NIGERIA WITH FOUR TONS OF SUPPLIES TO TREAT WOUNDED NIGERIAN TROOPS.

OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, WE HAVE WORKED WITH THE WEST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AND WITH THE BRITISH TO ENSURE THAT THE DUAL TRACK STRATEGY - OF DIPLOMACY AND THE USE OF PEACE KEEPING FORCES -- WOULD BRING PEACE AND STABILITY AND STOP THE HORROR. WE HAVE DONE THIS BY WORKING WITH THE BRITISH TO MOBILIZE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED ASSISTANCE. WE HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN WORKING WITH NIGERIA, GHANA, GUINEA, LIBERIA, THE IVORY COAST AND SIERRA LEONE TO PROMOTE AN END TO THE CONFLICT, NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, AND REGIONAL STABILITY.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA,

REVEREND JESSE JACKSON, HAS BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THIS EFFORT, TRAVELLING SEVERAL TIMES TO THE REGION. IN NOVEMBER, THE REVEREND JACKSON HOSTED A MEETING AMONG THE PRESIDENTS OF SIERRA LEONE, GUINEA AND LIBERIA IN WHICH THEY AGREED TO RESPECT EACH OTHER'S SOVEREIGNTY AND BORDERS. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE BEEN A PARTICIPANT IN EVERY MAJOR WEST AFRICAN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THIS TRAGEDY.

IT IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE POLICY OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TO SUPPORT THE WEST AFRICAN COMMUNITY IN ITS FIGHT TO STOP THIS WAR AND RESTORE PEACE TO SIERRA LEONE.

2. GLOSURE OF U.S. EMBASSY ABIDJAN

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 STATE 019071

USOECDC ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1999

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT THE US EMBASSY IN ABIDJAN HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SECURITY REASONS?

A: YES. THE EMBASSY IS CLOSED FOR NORMAL BUSINESS ON FEBRUARY 1.

Q: DID ANY SPECIFIC THREAT OR THREATS PROVOKE THIS ACTION?

A: AS YOU KNOW, WE DO NOT COMMENT ON THE SPECIFIC INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED ABOUT THREATS FOR SECURITY REASONS. HOWEVER, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THIS ACTION WAS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED IN VIEW OF THE INFORMATION AT OUR DISPOSAL.

Q: WHAT SERVICES ARE BEING PROVIDED TO AMERICAN CITIZENS?

A. THE EMBASSY IS PROVIDING EMERGENCY SERVICES ONLY TO AMERICAN CITIZENS THROUGH THE EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER.

3. GUINEA-BISSAU

REPORTED FIGHTING IN GUINEA-BISSAU

CONTEXT: LAST JUNE, GENERAL ANSUMANE MANE LAUNCHED A REBELLION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA-BISSAU, HEADED BY PRESIDENT JOAO BERNARDO VIEIRA. SENEGAL AND GUINEA SENT TROOPS TO SUPPORT THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT VIEIRA. MEDIATORS FROM THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS) AND THE COMMUNITY OF LUSOPHONE-SPEAKING STATES (CPLP) IN OCTOBER BROKERED A PEACE AGREEMENT WHICH HELD UNTIL JANUARY 31, WHEN FIGHTING

REPORTEDLY BROKE OUT IN THE CAPITAL, BISSAU. THE PEACE AGREEMENT CALLED FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF AN INTERPOSITION FORCE AND THE SIMULTANEOUS WITHDRAWAL OF SENEGALESE AND GUINEAN FORCES. THE TWO SIDES IN THE DISPUTE HAD AGREED ON A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN SWORN IN FEBRUARY 7. THE USG HAS COMMITTED \$450,000 TO SUPPORT THE ECOWAS INTERPOSITION FORCE AND THE PEACE PROCESS, INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL ELECTIONS. FRANCE WAS PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR THE ECOWAS FORCE. REUTERS TODAY REPORTED THAT THE FRENCH HAD CALLED-OFF PLANS TO LAND ECOWAS PEACEKEEPING TROOPS FROM

NIGER AND BENIN. THE FRENCH CALLED BACK A SHIP WHICH WAS CARRYING THESE TROOPS TO GUINEA-BISSAU.

OUR EMBASSY HAS BEEN CLOSED SINCE JUNE 14.

Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE FIGHTING IN GUINEA-BISSAU.

A: WE HAVE SEEN PRESS REPORTS THAT FIGHTING BROKE OUT YESTERDAY (JANUARY 31) AND CONTINUED TODAY. WE DO NOT KNOW WHY THE FIGHTING STARTED, BUT WE URGE ALL SIDES TO RESPECT THE PEACE AGREEMENT THAT THEY SIGNED IN ABUJA ON NOVEMBER 1. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS AGREEMENT AND BELIEVE IT MUST BE OBSERVED. GUINEA-BISSAU NEEDS PEACE TO ESTABLISH A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY TO REBUILD THE UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 04 STATE 019071

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1999

ECONOMY AND RELIEVE THE SUFFERING OF ALL GUINEA-BISSAUANS.

4. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED
ALBRIGHT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 04
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 04
<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 04
<^SECT>SECTION: 04 OF 04

SSN: 9071
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<^TOR>990201213645 M3672801

DIST:
SIT: NSC

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006. cable	re: Sierra Leone: Rev. Jackson Talks to President Kabbah and RUF Representative Omrie Golley. [State 026809] (4 pages)	02/12/1999	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999-Dec 2000 ([Special Envoy])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/06/1999-03/12/1999]

2014-0927-F
vz5263

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007. cable	re: Briefing Ghana on USG Contacts with the RUF. [State 030277] (4 pages)	02/18/1999	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999-Dec 2000 ([Special Envoy])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/06/1999-03/12/1999]

2014-0927-F
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Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHCAA2883 0532349-UUUU--RHEHAAA.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: O 222344Z FEB 99

LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC

OSRI: RUEHC

DTG: 222344Z FEB 99

ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC

TO: RUEHAE/AMEMBASSY ASMARA IMMEDIATE 7367
RUEHJB/AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE 4214
ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
ALL OECD CAPITALS PRIORITY
RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY 3566
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 1452
RUEH DU/AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY 9150
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 8183
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1038
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 2410
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RUEHJO/AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY 0033
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RUEH KI/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY 2171
RUEH MV/AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY 3421
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RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 0017
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 8304
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8543
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC/SITRROM PASS TO SMITH PRIORITY 4268
SOMALIA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AEB EL PRIORITY
RUEFGNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUCJAAA/USCINCSOC MACDILL AEB EL PRIORITY
RUWSMXI/USCINCTRANS INTEL CEN SCOTT AEB IL PRIORITY
RUEHZK/ECOWAS PRIORITY
XMT AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

INFO: ////

SUBJ: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1999

SUMMARY OF PRESS GUIDANCE ON AFRICA

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 13 STATE 032883

USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US
SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1999

SUMMARY OF PRESS GUIDANCE ON AFRICA

1. ETHIOPIA-ERITREA
2. GHANA
3. GUINEA-BISSAU
4. NIGERIA
5. SIERRA LEONE
6. SUDAN

END OF SUMMARY

1. ETHIOPIA/ERITREA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 22, 1999
STATEMENT BY JAMES B. FOLEY, DEPUTY SPOKESMAN

ETHIOPIA-ERITREA CONFLICT

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DEEPLY REGRETS THE USE OF AIR POWER BY ETHIOPIA IN THE CURRENT CONFLICT, IN PARTICULAR AGAINST ECONOMIC TARGETS AND NEAR CIVILIAN POPULATION CENTERS. WE URGE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA TO RESUME THE MORATORIUM IMMEDIATELY. WE ALSO URGE THE ERITREAN AUTHORITIES TO CONTINUE TO UPHOLD THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE TERMS OF THE MORATORIUM.

ETHIOPIA/ERITREA

BACKGROUND: RENEWED HOSTILITIES ALONG THE ETHIOPIA/ERITREA BORDER OPENED FEBRUARY 5 WITH HEAVY ARTILLERY EXCHANGES AT THE BADME FRONT, 60 MILES SOUTHWEST OF ASMARA, AND BEGAN IN EARNEST FEBRUARY 6 WITH HEAVY COMBAT AT BADME AND ZELA AMBESA, ON THE BORDER SOUTH OF ASMARA. MAJOR ARTILLERY EXCHANGES AND AIRSTRIKES AT THE BURE FRONT, SOUTH OF ASSAB NEAR DJIBOUTI, BEGAN FEBRUARY 14 AND HAVE CONTINUED INTERMITTENTLY SINCE. ETHIOPIA HAS USED HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS AND FIGHTER-BOMBERS IN TACTICAL SUPPORT MISSIONS AND ATTACKS ON FACILITIES DEEP IN ERITREA NEAR ASSAB, ON THE RED SEA 70 KM NORTH OF THE ERITREAN BORDER. AN ETHIOPIAN HELICOPTER WAS DOWNED AT BURE FEBRUARY 14. NEW ETHIOPIAN AIRSTRIKES AGAINST ASSAB WERE REPORTED FEBRUARY 21, AND FIGHTING CONTINUES ON ALL THREE FRONTS.

SINCE FEBRUARY 6, MANY NATIONS HAVE CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF FIGHTING AND SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OAU FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR RESOLUTION OF THE BORDER DISPUTE. THE UNSC UNANIMOUSLY CALLED FOR AN UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 13 STATE 032883

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1999

IMMEDIATE END TO HOSTILITIES AND AFFIRMED UNSC SUPPORT OF THE OAU FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON FEBRUARY 10. THE EU SENT A TROIKA PEACE FACILITATION MISSION TO THE REGION OVER THE PAST WEEKEND, COMPRISED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM AUSTRIA, GERMANY, AND FINLAND. THE EU MISSION WAS AN IMPORTANT GESTURE OF SUPPORT FOR THE OAU FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT.

IN VIEW OF HOSTILITIES ALONG THE BORDER, OUR EMBASSIES IN ADDIS ABABA AND ASMARA HAVE BEEN PLACED ON ORDERED DEPARTURE STATUS. CONSULAR TRAVEL WARNINGS FOR BOTH ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA ADVISE U.S. CITIZENS AGAINST TRAVEL TO EITHER COUNTRY.

Q: CAN YOU GIVE US AN UPDATE ON THE FIGHTING ALONG THE ETHIOPIA/ERITREAN BORDER?

A: RENEWED ETHIOPIAN AIRSTRIKES AGAINST THE ASSAB AIRPORT WERE REPORTED ON FEBRUARY 21. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMED REPORTS OF CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE. NEW FIGHTING HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED AT BADME AND THE ZELA AMBESSA FRONT. OUR EMBASSIES IN ADDIS ABABA AND ASMARA ARE FOLLOWING THE SITUATION CLOSELY.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO VIGOROUSLY ENCOURAGE BOTH ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND END THE CURRENT FIGHTING IMMEDIATELY. A MISSION FROM THE EU TROIKA, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF AUSTRIA, GERMAN, AND FINLAND WAS RECENTLY IN ADDIS ABABA AND ASMARA TO UNDERSCORE INTERNATIONAL CONCERN THAT ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA END HOSTILITIES NOW AND FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED BY ETHIOPIA'S RECENT USE OF AIR POWER AGAINST ECONOMIC TARGETS NEAR POPULATION CENTERS. WE CALL ON ETHIOPIA TO RESUME THE AIRSTRIKE MORATORIUM IMMEDIATELY. WE ALSO CALL ON ERITREA TO CONTINUE TO UPHOLD THE TERMS OF THE MORATORIUM.

WE, OUR PARTNERS ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND OTHER FRIENDS OF ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA URGENTLY CALL ON BOTH COUNTRIES TO WORK WITH THE OAU AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO QUICKLY FIND AN EQUITABLE AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THIS BORDER DISPUTE.

Q: DOES THE USG SUPPORT A CEASE-FIRE THAT WOULD INCLUDE

INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ON THE ETHIOPIA/ERITREA BORDER?

A: WE AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT THE OAU FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT TO RESOLVE THE BORDER CONFLICT. THE AGREEMENT CALLS FOR AN IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND DEPLOYMENT OF AN OBSERVER FORCE ALONG THE BORDER. THE OAU HAS NOT YET OUTLINED THE NATURE OR SCOPE OF A PROPOSED OBSERVER FORCE.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOING TO PROTECT U.S. CITIZENS?

A: IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT FIGHTING MAY INTENSIFY AND SPREAD WITHOUT WARNING, OUR EMBASSIES IN ADDIS ABABA AND ASMARA HAVE BEEN PLACED ON ORDERED DEPARTURE STATUS.
UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 13 STATE 032883

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1999

ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS AND EMBASSY STAFF NOT REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN CORE EMBASSY FUNCTIONS HAVE LEFT ADDIS ABABA AND ASMARA. WE ARE TAKING GREAT CARE TO ASSURE THE SAFETY OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND OTHER AMERICANS REMAINING IN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA.

Q: WHAT ARE YOU ADVISING AMERICANS?

A: AMERICANS HAVE BEEN WARNED AGAINST TRAVEL TO EITHER ETHIOPIA OR ERITREA AT THIS TIME.

Q: ARE YOU CONSIDERING EVACUATION OF AMERICANS, AS YOU DID IN ERITREA LAST JUNE?

A: WE ARE CAREFULLY FOLLOWING THE SITUATION IN BOTH COUNTRIES. BOTH CAPITALS ARE CALM, AND COMMERCIAL AIRLINES CONTINUE TO SERVICE BOTH CAPITALS. OUR EMBASSIES REMAIN IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY THROUGH THE EMBASSY WARDEN SYSTEM AND FREQUENT INFORMAL TOWN MEETING GATHERINGS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE AN EVACUATION IS NECESSARY AT THIS TIME. WE WILL RE-EVALUATE THE SITUATION AS EVENTS WARRANT.

GHANA

Q'S AND A'S FOR PRESIDENT RAWLINGS'S STATE VISIT

Q: WHY HAS THE PRESIDENT DECIDED TO HOST PRESIDENT RAWLINGS?

A: PRESIDENT RAWLINGS IS A VISIONARY LEADER WHO HAS LED HIS COUNTRY THROUGH AN IMPRESSIVE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION AND ECONOMIC REFORM. PRESIDENT RAWLINGS WAS ELECTED IN A FAIR AND TRANSPARENT ELECTION IN 1996 AND HIS COUNTRY IS ONE OF AFRICA'S TOP ECONOMIC PERFORMERS. WE SUPPORT GHANA'S DEMOCRATIC EVOLUTION AND ENJOY A GROWING BILATERAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP. GHANA UNDER PRESIDENT RAWLINGS IS ALSO A LEADING ADVOCATE OF REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY. THE UNITED STATES VIEWS GHANA AS AN IMPORTANT AFRICAN PARTNER IN ALL THESE IMPORTANT AREAS.

Q: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF PRESIDENT RAWLINGS' TRIP TO THE U.S.?

A: THE VISIT WILL GIVE THE TWO PRESIDENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW OUR GROWING PARTNERSHIP. LEADING TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WILL INCLUDE GHANA'S DEMOCRATIZATION, BILATERAL TRADE, REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, AND REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY.

Q: IS PRESIDENT CLINTON HOSTING PRESIDENT RAWLINGS IN ANTICIPATION OF PRESIDENT RAWLINGS' DEPARTURE IN THE YEAR 2000?

A: IT IS QUITE LIKELY THE TWO PRESIDENTS WILL CHOOSE TO REVIEW THEIR TENURE IN OFFICE AND DISCUSS TASKS THAT REMAIN BEFORE EACH TURNS OVER POWER TO A SUCCESSOR AT THE UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 13 STATE 032883

USOECDC ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1999

DAWN OF A NEW MILLENNIUM.

Q: WHAT DOES THE PRESIDENT HOPE TO ACHIEVE AS A RESULT OF THE RAWLINGS VISIT?

A: THE PRESIDENT EXPECTS TO UNDERScore AND FURTHER STRENGTHEN OUR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH GHANA, ONE OF OUR FOREMOST PARTNERS IN AFRICA. HE WILL LOOK FOR ASSURANCES THAT GHANA INTENDS TO CONTINUE DEMOCRATIC AND ECONOMIC REFORMS. HE WILL ALSO SEEK PRESIDENT RAWLINGS' VIEWS ON

-- HOW THE U.S. AND GHANA CAN INCREASE OUR COMMERCIAL TIES AND ADVANCE PEACE, STABILITY, AND DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA.

Q: IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM, WHAT DOES THE U.S. SEE AS RAWLINGS'S ROLE IN GHANA? WEST AFRICA? ON THE CONTINENT?

A: PRESIDENT RAWLINGS HAS INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO ABIDE BY HIS COUNTRY'S CONSTITUTION AND NOT RUN FOR A

THIRD TERM IN THE YEAR 2000 ELECTIONS. AFTER HE LEAVES OFFICE, WE BELIEVE THAT AFRICANS AND OTHERS WHO RECOGNIZE HIS DIPLOMATIC AND PEACEMAKING SKILLS WILL CALL ON PRESIDENT RAWLINGS TO PLAY AN "ELDER STATESMAN" ROLE ON ISSUES CONCERNING DEMOCRACY, PEACE, AND STABILITY IN AFRICA.

Q: HAS RAWLINGS GIVEN ANY INDICATION OF HIS PLANS ONCE HE LEAVES OFFICE?

A: WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY SPECIFIC PLANS PRESIDENT RAWLINGS MAY HAVE MADE.

Q: DO WE ANTICIPATE A SMOOTH AND DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION OF POWER IN THE YEAR 2000?

A: WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY GHANA'S SUCCESS IN HOLDING A FREE AND TRANSPARENT ELECTION IN 1996. WE URGE GHANA TO SET THE STAGE NOW FOR A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR THE YEAR 2000 ELECTION. A SMOOTH TRANSITION OF POWER IN THE YEAR 2000 WILL BE AN IMPORTANT LEGACY OF PRESIDENT RAWLINGS' LEADERSHIP.

Q: DIDN'T PRESIDENT RAWLINGS FORCIBLY TAKE POWER IN A COUP? WHY SHOULD WE EXPECT HIM PEACEFULLY TO HAND OVER POWER IN 2000?

A: PRESIDENT RAWLINGS CAME TO POWER DURING A COUP IN 1979 AND, AGAIN, IN 1981. HIS POLICIES AND POLITICS EVOLVED IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS AND, BEGINNING IN THE EARLY 1990'S, PRESIDENT RAWLINGS DEMONSTRATED A COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC REFORM. REFORMS IN THIS DECADE HAVE INCLUDED THE RESTORATION OF MULTI-PARTY POLITICS AND THE RATIFICATION OF A CONSTITUTION IN 1993 THAT GUARANTEES FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL RIGHTS. ALTHOUGH GHANA MULTI-PARTY ELECTIONS IN 1992 WERE CONTROVERSIAL, ELECTIONS IN 1996 WERE JUDGED FREE AND TRANSPARENT BY DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS. THE "CULTURE OF DEMOCRACY" HAS DEVELOPED DEEP ROOTS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, AND WE HOPE THE MOMENTUM IS IRREVERSIBLE. WE WILL URGE PRESIDENT RAWLINGS

UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 13 STATE 032883

USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1999

TO ABIDE BY HIS PUBLIC COMMITMENT NOT TO RUN FOR OFFICE IN THE YEAR 2000.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. ROLE IN THIS TRANSITION?

A: THE U.S. PROVIDED EXTENSIVE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP TRAIN ELECTION MONITORS AND UPDATE VOTER REGISTRATION LISTS PRIOR TO THE 1996 ELECTION. WE FUND, ON AN ONGOING BASIS, PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES TO HELP STRENGTHEN CIVIL SOCIETY AS WELL AS INCREASE THE

EFFECTIVENESS OF PARLIAMENT AND OTHER GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS TO DEEPEN THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS. THE U.S. AND GHANA IS ENGAGED IN A CONTINUOUS DIALOGUE ON THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF A SMOOTH, PEACEFUL, AND DEMOCRATIC POST-RAWLINGS TRANSITION.

Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GHANA?

A: OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IS EXCELLENT; IT HAS NEVER BEEN BETTER. WE HAVE STRONG POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TIES, AND OUR MUTUAL GOALS INCLUDE DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA, INCREASED BILATERAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT, AND PEACE AND STABILITY IN WEST AFRICA.

Q: HOW DOES THE U.S. INTEND TO ADDRESS THE CONTINUING PROBLEM OF EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE BY THE GHANAIAAN POLICE?

A: WHEN PRESIDENT CLINTON VISITED GHANA IN MARCH 1999, HE AGREED TO PROVIDE, AT GHANA'S REQUEST, ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF GHANA'S POLICE FORCE. IN 1999, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WILL CONDUCT A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR THE GHANAIAAN POLICE FORCE, EMPHASIZING HUMAN RIGHTS, BASIC POLICE SKILLS, AND NON-LETHAL CIVIL DISORDER MANAGEMENT.

Q: DOES THE PRESIDENT INTEND TO ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES?

A: GHANA HAS MADE TREMENDOUS STRIDES IN THE ELABORATION AND PROTECTION OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS. NEVERTHELESS, WE REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT THE OCCASIONAL USE OF A CRIMINAL LIBEL LAW TO INTIMIDATE JOURNALISTS, THE EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE BY THE POLICE, AND SOCIETAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN, INCLUDING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AND TROKOSI (INVOLUNTARY FEMALE SERVITUDE). THE PRESIDENT MAY RAISE SOME OF THESE CONCERNS.

Q: HOW PERVASIVE IS CORRUPTION IN GHANA?

A: UNFORTUNATELY, CORRUPTION IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM THAT PERVADES MANY SECTORS OF GHANAIAAN LIFE. WHILE THE PHENOMENON IS PARTICULARLY PERVASIVE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, IT ALSO PERMEATES THE PRIVATE AND INFORMAL SECTORS. PRESIDENT RAWLINGS HAS SPOKEN OUT FORCEFULLY AGAINST CORRUPTION. NEVERTHELESS, THE PROBLEM PERSISTS AND MANY GHANAIAANS BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA HAS NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY PROACTIVE IN STRENGTHENING JUDICIAL AND LEGAL MECHANISMS TO CHECK THE PROBLEM.

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT GHANA'S DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION?

UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 13 STATE 032883

USOECDC ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1999

A: AFTER A LONG AND DIFFICULT PERIOD AS A UNITARY ONE-PARTY STATE, GHANA EMERGED AS A NASCENT DEMOCRATIC STATE WITH CONTROVERSIAL MULTI-PARTY ELECTIONS IN 1992. ELECTIONS IN 1996 WERE DEEMED FREE AND TRANSPARENT BY DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS. GHANA'S 1993 CONSTITUTION ENSHRINED INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL AND CIVIC RIGHTS AND CREATED A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT THAT INCLUDES CHECKS AND BALANCES. SUPPORT FOR GHANA'S CONSTITUTION AND DEMOCRATIC EVOLUTION PERMEATES ALL SECTOR'S OF GHANAIAN SOCIETY.

Q: DOES GHANA PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE REGION?

A: YES. GHANA IS A LEADING MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS) AND ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN ITS MILITARY ARM, THE ECOWAS MONITORING GROUP (ECOMOG). AS AN INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF ECOWAS, GHANA CONTRIBUTES TO EFFORTS TO PROMOTE REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY. GHANA IS THE SECOND LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN WEST AFRICA. UNDER ECOMOG AUSPICES, GHANAIAN PEACEKEEPERS HAVE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY IN LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE.

Q: WHAT HAS BEEN GHANA'S PEACEKEEPING ROLE?

A: GHANA IS A WORLD LEADER IN PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITY. SINCE THE 1960'S GHANAIAN FORCES HAVE PARTICIPATED IN 16 SEPARATE UN-SPONSORED PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES IN TROUBLED REGIONS AROUND THE GLOBE, INCLUDING BOSNIA, CAMBODIA, AND LEBANON. GHANA HAS ALSO PLAYED A VALUABLE PEACEKEEPING ROLE IN AFRICA. GHANA PRESENTLY HAS PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE.

Q: IS THERE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN GHANA?

A: GHANAIS ARE A NOTABLY TOLERANT PEOPLE, AND A WIDE RANGE OF CHRISTIAN, MUSLIM, AND ANIMIST FAITHS ARE FREELY PRACTICED. GHANA'S CONSTITUTION PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RELIGION AND THIS RIGHT IS RESPECTED IN PRACTICE. INTER-FAITH DISPUTES OCCASIONALLY OCCUR, BUT THERE IS NO INDICATION THE GOVERNMENT FAVORS ONE GROUP OVER ANOTHER. THE GOVERNMENT STRIVES TO RESOLVE INTER-FAITH DISPUTES WHEN THEY OCCUR.

Q: WHAT ARE THE LEADING U.S. INTERESTS IN GHANA?

A: U.S. INTERESTS ARE MANY. THE U.S. IS PLEASED TO HAVE A RELIABLE PARTNER IN AN OFTEN VOLATILE REGION WHOSE EVOLUTION AS A DEMOCRATIC, MARKET-ORIENTED REFORM STATE SERVES AS AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS. THE U.S. HAS SIGNIFICANT COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN GHANA; GHANA IS OUR THIRD LARGEST EXPORT MARKET IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. GHANA IS ALSO A VALUED INTERLOCUTOR ON REGIONAL STABILITY, REFUGEES, AND OTHER TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES. U.S. ENERGY FIRMS, AMONG OTHERS, HAVE BEGUN TO EXPLORE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN

GHANA.

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE USAID PROGRAM IN GHANA?

A: THE FOCUS OF THE USAID PROGRAM IS TO SUPPORT
UNCLAS SECTION 07 OF 13 STATE 032883

USOECF ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1999

ACCELERATED ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH INCREASED TRADE WITH THE U.S., ENCOURAGE MACROECONOMIC AND TRADE POLICY REFORM, AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCTIVE ENTERPRISES. USAID IS WORKING TO IMPROVE PRIMARY EDUCATION THROUGH AN INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS PROGRAM. USAID ALSO IMPLEMENTS HEALTH SECTOR PROGRAMS AIMED AT IMPROVING FAMILY PLANNING, PREVENTING THE TRANSMISSION OF HIV/AIDS AND STDs, AND INCREASING CHILD SURVIVAL. FINALLY, USAID HAS A RANGE OF PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE. THESE DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS INCLUDE SUPPORT FOR INCREASED PARTICIPATION BY WOMEN IN PUBLIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT.

Q: HOW WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE GHANA'S RELATIONS WITH LIBYA?

A: GHANA'S RELATIONS WITH LIBYA ARE COMPLEX. LIBYA PROVIDED GHANA WITH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN THE 1980'S, AND TODAY A NUMBER OF LIBYAN-OWNED BUSINESSES OPERATE IN GHANA. GHANA HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO CRITICIZE LIBYA OPENLY OR PURSUE SANCTIONS AGAINST IT. GHANA HAS NOT, HOWEVER, DEMONSTRATED ANY SUPPORT FOR LIBYA'S TERRORIST POLICIES OR FOR ITS INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF NUMEROUS AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

Q: WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND GHANAIAN MILITARIES?

A: COOPERATION IS EXTENSIVE. THE U.S. HAS FUNDED TRAINING (IMET) FOR MANY PROMISING YOUNG GHANAIAN OFFICERS TO STUDY AT U.S. ARMED FORCES SCHOOLS, INCLUDING THE WAR COLLEGES AND STAFF COLLEGES. THE U.S. AND GHANAIAN ARMED FORCES HAVE ALSO COOPERATED ON A NUMBER OF JOINT COMBINED EXCHANGE TRAINING (JCET) EXERCISES. THESE EXERCISES

PROVIDE U.S. MILITARY FORCES THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP AN ORIENTATION TO THEIR ASSIGNED AREAS OF OPERATION. THE U.S. HAS ALSO HELPED TRAIN GHANAIAN PEACEKEEPING FORCES UNDER THE AFRICAN CRISIS RESPONSE INITIATIVE (ACRI). THIS TRAINING WILL ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF GHANAIAN FORCES TO SHOULDER PEACEKEEPING CHALLENGES IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE. U.S. FORCES HAVE ALSO CONDUCTED A NUMBER OF PRO-DEMOCRACY AND HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES IN GHANA, INCLUDING SEMINARS ON PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT OF THE MILITARY, MEDICAL TRAINING, AND IMMUNIZATIONS.

Q: WHAT IS THE FOCUS OF U.S. TRADE WITH GHANA?

A: U.S. FIRMS ARE ACTIVE IN MINING, OIL SERVICES AND ENERGY, MACHINERY, FOOD PROCESSING, VEHICLES, BUILDING MATERIALS, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS. GHANA IS THE THIRD LARGEST MARKET FOR U.S. GOODS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, WITH OVER \$330 MILLION IN SALES IN 1998. GHANA EXPORTS COCOA, METALS (INCLUDING GOLD), WOOD PRODUCTS, DIAMONDS, AND HANDICRAFTS. GHANA'S EXPORTS TO THE U.S. TOTALED \$161 IN 1998.

Q: WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT GHANA'S ENERGY CRISIS?

A: GHANA APPEARS TO BE RECOVERING RAPIDLY FROM A 1998 DROUGHT-INDUCED REGIONAL ENERGY CRISIS. THE CRISIS WAS UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 13 STATE 032883

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1999

PRECIPITATED WHEN WATER LEVELS AT GHANA'S PRINCIPAL HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY, AKOSOMBO DAM, DROPPED PRECIPITOUSLY, SHUTTING DOWN MUCH OF THE FACILITY'S GENERATING CAPACITY. IN THE INTERIM, GHANA HAS ADJUSTED ELECTRICITY PRICES, ADOPTED A LOAD-SHEDDING PROGRAM, AND ARRANGED FOR A VARIETY OF NON-HYDRO ENERGY PLANTS. THE U.S. PROVIDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP GHANA DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES AND WILL PROVIDE FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO HELP GHANA DEVELOP A RATIONAL TARIFF STRUCTURE FOR ENERGY USE. SEVERAL U.S. FIRMS ARE EXPLORING ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES IN GHANA.

3. GUINEA-BISSAU

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 22, 1999

STATEMENT BY JAMES B. FOLEY, DEPUTY SPOKESMAN

GUINEA-BISSAU - INAUGURATION OF GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY

THE UNITED STATES COMMENDS ALL PARTIES, PARTICULARLY PRESIDENT VIEIRA AND GENERAL MANE, WHO HELPED ENSURE THE SUCCESSFUL INAUGURATION OF GUINEA-BISSAU'S GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY. WE APPRECIATE THE VITAL ROLE PLAYED BY THE WEST AFRICAN ECOWAS COMMUNITY AND THE CPLP ORGANIZATION OF PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES IN BRINGING

ABOUT A PEACEFUL CONCLUSION TO THIS CONFLICT. THE INAUGURATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY WAS THE DECISIVE STEP NEEDED TO ENSURE PEACE AND THE RETURN OF NORMALCY TO GUINEA-BISSAU. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL QUICKLY BEGIN TO WORK EFFECTIVELY TOWARD NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, ECONOMIC RECOVERY, AND THE SAFE RETURN OF CITIZENS DISPLACED BY THE WAR.

INAUGURATION OF GUINEA-BISSAU GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY

CONTEXT: LAST JUNE, GENERAL ANSUMANE MANE LAUNCHED A REBELLION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA-BISSAU, HEADED BY PRESIDENT JOAO BERNARDO VIEIRA. SENEGAL AND GUINEA SENT TROOPS TO SUPPORT THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT VIEIRA. MEDIATORS FROM THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WESTAFRICAN STATES (ECOWA) SPEAKING STATES (CPLP) BROKERED A PEACE AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS SIGNED ON NOVEMBER 1 AND HELD UNTIL JANUARY 31, WHEN FIGHTING BROKE OUT IN THE CAPITAL, BISSAU. ECOWAS HELPED BROKER ANOTHER CEASEFIRE ON FEBRUARY 3. THE ORIGINAL PEACE AGREEMENT HAD CALLED FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF AN INTERPOSITION FORCE AND THE SIMULTANEOUS WITHDRAWAL OF SENEGALESE AND GUINEAN FORCES. THE TWO SIDES IN THE DISPUTE HAD AGREED ON A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY, WHICH WAS FINALLY SWORN IN ON FEBRUARY 20. OUR AMBASSADOR TO SENEGAL, DANE SMITH, REPRESENTED THE USG AT THE CEREMONY. THE USG HAS COMMITTED \$450,000 TO SUPPORT THE PEACE PROCESS, INCLUDING NATIONAL ELECTIONS, WHICH HAD UNCLAS SECTION 09 OF 13 STATE 032883

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1999

BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MARCH. FRANCE IS PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR THE ECOWAS INTERPOSITION FORCE.

OUR EMBASSY HAS BEEN CLOSED SINCE JUNE 14.

Q: DID ANYONE REPRESENT THE USG AT THE INAUGURATION?

A: OUR AMBASSADOR TO SENEGAL, DANE SMITH, REPRESENTED THE UNITED STATES AT THE INAUGURATION IN BISSAU.

Q: WILL OUR EMBASSY IN BISSAU NOW REOPEN?

A: WE HAVE NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO REOPEN THE EMBASSY, HOWEVER, WE WILL CONTINUE TO ASSESS THE SECURITY SITUATION TO DETERMINE WHEN USG REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT RETURN TO BISSAU.

4. NIGERIA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - FEBRUARY 22, 1999

STATEMENT BY JAMES B. FOLEY, DEPUTY SPOKESMAN

INITIAL REPORTS INDICATE SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA

WE CONGRATULATE THE NIGERIAN PEOPLE ON THE PEACEFUL
CONDUCT OF SATURDAY'S NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, THE
THIRD OF FOUR POLLS SCHEDULED IN THE TRANSITION TO
CIVILIAN RULE. PRELIMINARY TOTALS MAKE IT CLEAR THAT ALL
THREE PARTIES WILL BE REPRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WHEN IT IS CONVENED AFTER INAUGURATION OF A CIVILIAN
PRESIDENT ON MAY 29.

EMBASSY OBSERVERS NOTED VERY LOW TURNOUTS IN MANY AREAS,
AS WELL AS INSTANCES OF VOTING AND COUNTING IRREGULARITIES
IN SOME PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. WE HOPE THESE INCIDENTS
WILL NOT BE REPEATED IN NEXT WEEK'S PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTIONS.

NIGERIA

(BACKGROUND FOR BRIEFER: ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20,
NIGERIA HELD ELECTIONS FOR ITS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. THIS WAS
THE THIRD ELECTION IN A TRANSITION PROGRAM ANNOUNCED BY
HEAD OF STATE GENERAL ABDULSALAM ABUBAKAR SHORTLY AFTER HE

CAME TO POWER IN JUNE OF 1998. LOCAL ELECTIONS WERE HELD
IN DECEMBER, STATE ASSEMBLY AND GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS
FOR JANUARY 9, AND A NEW CIVILIAN PRESIDENT WILL BE
ELECTED FEBRUARY 27. THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE OFFICE
ON MAY 29.)

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA ON
UNCLAS SECTION 10 OF 13 STATE 032883

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1999

SATURDAY? WERE THEY SUCCESSFUL?

A: ALTHOUGH FINAL RESULTS ARE NOT YET IN, PRELIMINARY
RESULTS IN ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE JURISDICTIONS INDICATE
THAT THE PDP (OBASANJO'S PARTY) WON AT LEAST 43 OF THE 109
SEATS IN THE SENATE AND 154 OF THE 360 SEATS IN THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE APP AND THE AD COLLECTIVELY APPEAR TO HAVE WON AT

LEAST 31 SEATS IN THE SENATE (APP 13 AND AD 18) AND 119 SEATS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (APP 47 AND AD 72).

WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE ELECTIONS WERE HELD IN A CALM AND QUIET ATMOSPHERE, BUT THAT VOTER TURNOUT WAS LOWER THAN EXPECTED.

ELECTIONS IN SOME STATES WERE POSTPONED DUE TO FEARS ABOUT CONTINUING UNREST IN THE NIGER DELTA REGION. THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC) HAS NOT YET ANNOUNCED WHEN THOSE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD.

Q: ARE YOU CHARACTERIZING THESE ELECTIONS AS "FREE AND FAIR"?

A: THE FEBRUARY 20 ELECTIONS WERE NOT PERFECT BY ANYONE'S MEASURE. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, AN IMPORTANT STEP IN NIGERIA'S RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE, A PROCESS THAT HAS, FOR THE MOST PART, BEEN A POSITIVE ONE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND TO MOST INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC OBSERVERS. WE VIEW THE LEGISLATIVE POLLING OVER THE WEEKEND AS A FURTHER STEP ALONG THE ROAD TO CIVILIAN RULE AND TO THE REALIZATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE NIGERIAN PEOPLE.

5. SIERRA LEONE

CONTEXT: SIERRA LEONE HAS FACED AN EIGHT-YEAR REBELLION BY RUF (REVOLUTIONARY UNITED FRONT) REBELS THAT PRECEDES THE DEMOCRATIC ELECTION OF PRESIDENT TEJAN KABBAH IN 1996. A MILITARY COUP BY SOLDIERS CALLING THEMSELVES THE AFRC (ARMED FORCES REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL) SEIZED POWER IN MAY 1997 AND FORMED AN ALLIANCE WITH RUF GUERRILLAS. KABBAH WAS RESTORED TO POWER IN MARCH 1998 BY A LARGELY NIGERIAN FORCE (ECOMOG) SPONSORED BY THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS). SINCE THEN RUF/AFRC HAVE LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ECOMOG-SUPPORTED KABBAH GOVERNMENT IN FREETOWN, WITH EXCEPTIONALLY BRUTAL TREATMENT OF CIVILIANS BY THE REBELS.

IN JANUARY, ECOMOG FORCES WERE HARD PRESSED BY A REBEL OFFENSIVE SUPPORTED BY EXTERNAL FORCES. THE UK, THE U.S., AND THE NETHERLANDS HAVE PROVIDED ECOMOG WITH LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR ITS OPERATIONS IN LIBERIA SINCE JANUARY 1996 AND ITS OPERATION IN SIERRA LEONE SINCE MAY 1997. THE USG HAS ALSO PROVIDED SUBSTANTIAL HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT TO SIERRA LEONE. OUR OBJECTIVES IN SIERRA LEONE ARE TO PROMOTE A REGIONAL PEACE THAT WILL HALT THE SUFFERING OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AND RESULT IN NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

UNCLAS SECTION 11 OF 13 STATE 032883

USOECF ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1999

Q: CAN YOU CONFIRM REPORTS THAT TROOPS FROM MALI HAVE ARRIVED TO REINFORCE ECOMOG IN SIERRA LEONE?

A: MORE THAN ONE-HALF (250) OF A BATTALION OF TROOPS FROM MALI ARRIVED IN SIERRA LEONE OVER THE WEEKEND. WHEN THE MOVE IS COMPLETE, THIS WILL ADD OVER FOUR HUNDRED TROOPS AND ONE MORE CONTRIBUTING NATION TO THE WEST AFRICAN STATES PEACEKEEPING FORCE. THE ECOMOG PEACEKEEPING FORCE CONSISTS OF OVER 12,000 SOLDIERS FROM NIGERIA, GUINEA, GHANA, AND NOW MALI.

Q: COULD YOU GIVE US A SITUATION UPDATE ON THE FIGHTING?

A: ECOMOG FORCES ARE CONSOLIDATING THEIR CONTROL OF THE CAPITAL OF FREETOWN AND ITS EASTERN SUBURBS. THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PARTS OF FREETOWN ARE CALM, AND EMBASSY PERSONNEL ARE MAKING DAY TRIPS INTO THE CITY. HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES ARE MAKING ASSESSMENTS AND HAVE RESUMED RELIEF OPERATIONS IN AREAS WHERE THE SECURITY SITUATION PERMITS. FOOD IS BEING DISTRIBUTED, WATER IS AVAILABLE, AND MEDICAL CARE IS AVAILABLE AT FIFTEEN POINTS IN THE CITY, INCLUDING THREE HOSPITALS.

ON FEB. 18 THE USG (OFDA AND NGO'S) BROUGHT IN A SHIPLOAD OF MATERIAL FOR SHELTER, INCLUDING PLASTIC SHEETINGS AND BLANKETS.

THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DESTRUCTION IN THE EASTERN AREAS OF FREETOWN. REBELS MUTILATED, KIDNAPPED, AND KILLED MANY PEOPLE, INCLUDING CHILDREN AND DESTROYED TWO-THIRDS OF THE HOUSES. WE CONDEMN THESE ACTIONS.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE ABUBAKAR'S RENEWED ANNOUNCEMENT THAT NIGERIAN TROOPS WILL LEAVE SIERRA LEONE BY MAY?

A: THE NIGERIANS HAVE PAID A HEAVY PRICE FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN SIERRA LEONE. WE APPLAUD THIS COMMITMENT AND RECOGNIZE THE SACRIFICES MADE. WE HOPE NIGERIA WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE BOTH AS A SOURCE OF PEACEKEEPING TROOPS AND FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION.

Q: WHAT IS THE US DOING TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION IN SIERRA LEONE?

A: OUR AMBASSADOR TO SIERRA LEONE, JOSEPH MELROSE, MAKES REGULAR TRIPS TO FREETOWN TO MEET WITH GOSL AND ECOMOG LEADERS AND TO ASSIST WITH HUMANITARIAN RELIEF. HE MADE TWO TRIPS TO FREETOWN LAST WEEK AND WAS ABLE TO SUPERVISE THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE TONS OF USG-PROVIDED HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES DELIVERED BY SHIP. MET WITH PRESIDENT KABBAH.

THE PREVIOUS WEEK, HE ACCOMPANIED OUR AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR WAR CRIMES ISSUES DAVID SCHEFFER TO FREETOWN FOR A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KABBAH AND A VISIT TO A LOCAL HOSPITAL TO MEET SOME OF THE VICTIMS OF THE WAR.

UNCLAS SECTION 12 OF 13 STATE 032883

USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1999

WE HAVE PROVIDED MORE THAN \$28 MILLION IN FOOD, MEDICAL, HEALTH, AGRICULTURAL RECOVERY, REFUGEE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SIERRA LEONE SINCE OCTOBER 1998.

OUR TOTAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH TOTALED MORE THAN \$55 MILLION IN THE 1998 FISCAL YEAR. OFDA IS PROVIDING MATERIAL FOR SHELTER AND BLANKETS AND IS WORKING WITH SEVEN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) - INCLUDING AFRICARE, WORLD VISION, CARE AND CRS - TO PROVIDE MEDICAL, SANITATION, AND WATER RELIEF. OFDA IS ALSO FUNDING A HELICOPTER TO ENABLE HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES

TO MAKE ASSESSMENT TRIPS. NGOS WHICH WERE ALREADY ESTABLISHED IN FREETOWN BEFORE THE DECEMBER ATTACK BY THE INSURGENTS ARE RETURNING WITH UN AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES. LARGE QUANTITIES OF US-PROVIDED FOOD - ALREADY WAREHOUSED IN THE CAPITAL BY NGOS - ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED TO THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE OF FREETOWN WHO HAVE SOUGHT SHELTER IN THE FREETOWN STADIUM.

WE ARE PROVIDING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO ECOMOG THROUGH A COMMERCIAL LOGISTICS CONTRACT. IN FY 1998, WE PROVIDED ECOMOG \$3.9 MILLION IN LOGISTICAL SUPPORT THROUGH THIS CONTRACT. IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, WE EXTENDED THAT CONTRACT WITH ANOTHER \$1.3 MILLION. THE CONTRACTOR (PACIFIC ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS) PROVIDES: 1) HELICOPTERS TO MOVE TROOPS AROUND THE COUNTRY, 2) SPARE PARTS AND EQUIPMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE OF 150 TRUCKS DONATED BY THE U.S. AND DUTCH GOVERNMENTS, 3) COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, AND 4) MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.

HE HAVE NOTIFIED CONGRESS THAT WE INTEND TO RELEASE ANOTHER \$2.- MILLION IN LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO ECOMOG BY THE END OF THIS MONTH. WITH THIS ALLOCATION, THE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE DEVOTED ALL OF ITS FUNDS FOR PEACE-KEEPING IN AFRICA FROM THE BUDGET APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS FOR FY 1999.

WITHIN THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, WE DEPLOYED A MEDICAL ASSESSMENT TEAM TO NIGERIA WITH FOUR TONS OF SUPPLIES TO TREAT WOUNDED NIGERIAN TROOPS. AMBASSADOR MELROSE ALSO ARRANGED FOR THE DELIVERY TO ECOMOG CONTINGENTS OF SIX HOSPITAL KITS EACH CONTAINING A TON OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES.

OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, WE HAVE WORKED WITH THE WEST

AFRICAN COMMUNITY AND WITH THE BRITISH TO ENSURE THAT THE DUAL TRACK STRATEGY - OF DIPLOMACY AND THE USE OF PEACE KEEPING FORCES -- WOULD BRING PEACE AND STABILITY AND STOP THE HORROR. WE HAVE DONE THIS BY WORKING WITH THE BRITISH TO MOBILIZE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED ASSISTANCE. WE HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN WORKING WITH NIGERIA, GHANA, GUINEA, LIBERIA, THE IVORY COAST AND SIERRA LEONE TO PROMOTE AN END TO THE CONFLICT, NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, AND REGIONAL STABILITY.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA, REVEREND JESSE JACKSON, HAS BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THIS EFFORT, TRAVELLING SEVERAL TIMES TO THE REGION. IN NOVEMBER, THE REVEREND JACKSON HOSTED A MEETING AMONG THE PRESIDENTS OF SIERRA LEONE, GUINEA AND LIBERIA IN WHICH

THEY AGREED TO RESPECT EACH OTHER'S SOVEREIGNTY AND
UNCLAS SECTION 13 OF 13 STATE 032883

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1999

BORDERS. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE BEEN A PARTICIPANT IN EVERY MAJOR WEST AFRICAN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THIS TRAGEDY.

IT IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE POLICY OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TO SUPPORT THE WEST AFRICAN COMMUNITY IN ITS FIGHT TO STOP THIS WAR AND RESTORE PEACE TO SIERRA LEONE.

6. SUDAN

Q. CAN YOU COMMENT ON PRESIDENT BASHIR'S STATEMENT THAT HE IS READY TO ALLOW THE SOUTH TO SECEDE?

A. THE ULTIMATE DECISION OF THE FUTURE OF SUDAN RESTS WITH THE SUDANESE PEOPLE. ANY PROPOSAL FOR SECESSION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN MUST BE RAISED WITH THE OPPOSITION NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE, WHICH IS COMPOSED OF VARIOUS GROUPS REPRESENTING PEOPLE IN THE SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN PART OF SUDAN. THE INTER GOVERNMENT AGENCY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD), WHICH DISCUSSES SUDAN, WILL MOST LIKELY NEED TO REVIEW THIS PROPOSAL, AS WELL.

7. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
PICKERING

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 13.

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
008. cable	re: Liberians Hail Reverend Jackson's Remarks about Their Country. [Monrovia 000709] (2 pages)	03/01/1999	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999-Dec 2000 ([Special Envoy])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/06/1999-03/12/1999]

2014-0927-F
vz5263

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
009. cable	re: Optimistic on Guinea-Bissau, Eyadema Says. [Lome 000709] (4 pages)	03/01/1999	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999-Dec 2000 ([Special Envoy])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/06/1999-03/12/1999]

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Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHCAA1097 0640352-UUUU--RHEHAAA.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: O 050349Z MAR 99

LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC

OSRI: RUEHC

DTG: 050349Z MAR 99

ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC

TO: RUEHAE/AMEMBASSY ASMARA IMMEDIATE 7465
RUEHJB/AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE 4451
ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
ALL OECD CAPITALS PRIORITY
RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY 4077
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 1641
RUEH DU/AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY 9240
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 8445
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1504
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 2722
RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY 4677
RUEHJO/AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY 0128
RUEHLGB/AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY 7426
RUEHLU/AMEMBASSY LUANDA PRIORITY 2389
RUEHDR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY 6089
RUEH KI/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY 2437
RUEH MV/AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY 3614
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 9455
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 0232
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 8746
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 9059
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC/SITRROM PASS TO SMITH PRIORITY 4390
SOMALIA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUFGNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUCJAAA/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUWSMXI/USCINCTRANS INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL PRIORITY
RUEHZK/ECOWAS PRIORITY
XMT AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CIA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
RUETIAA/NSA FT GEORGE G MEADE
NSC WASHDC
TREASURY DEPT WASHDC
USIA WASHDC

INFO: ////

SUBJ: AF PRESS GUIDANCE THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1999

SUMMARY OF PRESS GUIDANCE ON AFRICA

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 10 STATE 041097

USOECF ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1999

SUMMARY OF PRESS GUIDANCE ON AFRICA

1. SIERRA LEONE
 2. NIGER
 3. ENVOY JACKSON TRIP
 4. DROC STATEMENT
 5. UGANDA
 6. ETHIOPIA
 - . SUDAN
- END OF SUMMARY

1. SIERRA LEONE

AF PRESS GUIDANCE

MARCH 4, 1999

SIERRA LEONE

CONTEXT: SIERRA LEONE HAS FACED AN EIGHT-YEAR REBELLION BY THE RUF (REVOLUTIONARY UNITED FRONT) THAT PRECEDES THE DEMOCRATIC ELECTION OF PRESIDENT TEJAN KABBAH IN 1996. REBEL SOLDIERS CALLING THEMSELVES THE AFRC (ARMED FORCES REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL) SEIZED POWER IN MAY 1997 AND FORMED AN JUNTA WITH THE RUF. KABBAH WAS RESTORED TO POWER IN MARCH 1998 BY A NIGERIAN-LED PEACEKEEPING FORCE (ECOMOG) SPONSORED BY THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS). SINCE THEN RUF/AFRC HAVE LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ECOMOG-SUPPORTED KABBAH GOVERNMENT, MARKED BY EXCEPTIONALLY BRUTAL TREATMENT OF CIVILIANS BY THE REBELS.

IN JANUARY, ECOMOG FORCES WERE HARD PRESSED BY A REBEL OFFENSIVE SUPPORTED BY EXTERNAL FORCES. THE UK, THE U.S., AND THE NETHERLANDS HAVE PROVIDED ECOMOG WITH LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR ITS OPERATIONS IN LIBERIA SINCE JANUARY 1996 AND ITS OPERATION IN SIERRA LEONE SINCE MAY 1997. THE USG HAS ALSO PROVIDED SUBSTANTIAL HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT TO SIERRA LEONE. OUR OBJECTIVES IN SIERRA LEONE ARE TO PROMOTE A REGIONAL PEACE THAT WILL HALT THE SUFFERING OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AND RESULT IN NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

Q: CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE OP-ED IN THE WASHINGTON POST BY FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SIERRA LEONE JOHN HIRSCH RECOMMENDING THAT THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL CONVENE AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SIERRA LEONE?

A: AMB. HIRSCH PRESENTS AN EXCELLENT ANALYSIS OF THE CONFLICT OF SIERRA LEONE. HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE ISSUE AND

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS IS EXTREMELY VALUABLE IN THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS. WE CONCUR WITH AMBASSADOR HIRSCH THAT THE FOUNDATION FOR AN INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENT TO THE CONFLICT IS EMBODIED IN THE ABIDJAN ACCORD BETWEEN THE KABBAH UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 10 STATE 041097

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1999

GOVERNMENT AND THE REBELS.

SIERRA LEONE'S NEIGHBORS WERE KEY IN BRINGING ABOUT THIS AGREEMENT, AND, WE BELIEVE, ARE ESSENTIAL TO ANY LASTING

SOLUTION. THEREFORE THE CURRENT EFFORT OF THE WEST AFRICAN STATES AND THE US TO INITIATE A DIALOGUE IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE THROUGH ITS OBSERVER MISSION. WE SUPPORT CONTINUED EFFORTS BY THE UN AND BY SYG KOFFI ANNAN TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR HIRSCH'S PROPOSAL OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

Q: COULD YOU GIVE US A SITUATION UPDATE ON THE FIGHTING?

A: ECOMOG FORCES HAVE CONSOLIDATED THEIR CONTROL OF THE CAPITAL OF FREETOWN AND ITS EASTERN SUBURBS, BUT REBEL FORCES HAVE BEGUN ATTACKING MAJOR TOWNS IN THE INTERIOR. AMBASSADOR MELROSE AND HIS STAFF ARE MAKING FREQUENT DAY TRIPS INTO FREETOWN. MANY HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES HAVE RESUMED RELIEF OPERATIONS IN FREETOWN AND SUBURBAN AREAS WHERE THE SECURITY SITUATION PERMITS. FOOD IS BEING DISTRIBUTED, WATER IS AVAILABLE, AND MEDICAL CARE IS AVAILABLE AT MANY POINTS IN THE CITY, INCLUDING THREE HOSPITALS.

THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DESTRUCTION IN THE EASTERN AREAS OF FREETOWN. REBELS MUTILATED, KIDNAPPED, AND KILLED MANY PEOPLE, INCLUDING CHILDREN AND DESTROYED TWO-THIRDS OF THE HOUSES. WE CONDEMN THESE ACTIONS.

Q: WHAT IS THE US DOING TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION IN SIERRA LEONE?

A:

-- OUR AMBASSADOR TO SIERRA LEONE, JOSEPH MELROSE, MAKES REGULAR TRIPS TO FREETOWN TO MEET WITH GOSL AND ECOMOG LEADERS AND TO ASSIST WITH HUMANITARIAN RELIEF.

-- THE UNITED STATES HAS PROVIDED MORE THAN \$28 MILLION IN FOOD, MEDICAL, HEALTH, AGRICULTURAL RECOVERY, REFUGEE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SIERRA LEONE SINCE OCTOBER 1998. OUR TOTAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH TOTALED MORE THAN \$55 MILLION IN THE 1998 FISCAL YEAR.

-- OFDA IS WORKING WITH SEVEN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) TO PROVIDE MEDICAL, SANITATION, SHELTER, AND WATER RELIEF. OFDA ALSO FUNDS A HELICOPTER BEING USED BY THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM TO SUPPORT HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS BY NGOS AND MULTILATERAL RELIEF AGENCIES.

-- NGOS WHICH WERE ALREADY ESTABLISHED IN FREETOWN BEFORE THE DECEMBER ATTACK BY THE INSURGENTS ARE RETURNING WITH UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 10 STATE 041097

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1999

UN AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES. LARGE QUANTITIES OF US-PROVIDED FOOD - ALREADY WAREHOUSED IN THE CAPITAL BY NGOS - ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED TO THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE OF FREETOWN.

-- WE ARE PROVIDING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO ECOMOG THROUGH A COMMERCIAL LOGISTICS CONTRACT. IN FY 1998, WE PROVIDED ECOMOG \$3.9 MILLION IN LOGISTICAL SUPPORT THROUGH THIS CONTRACT. IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, WE EXTENDED THAT CONTRACT WITH ANOTHER \$1.3 MILLION. THE CONTRACTOR (PACIFIC ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS) PROVIDES: 1) HELICOPTERS TO MOVE TROOPS AROUND THE COUNTRY, 2) SPARE PARTS AND EQUIPMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE OF 150 TRUCKS DONATED BY THE U.S. AND DUTCH GOVERNMENTS, 3) COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, AND 4) MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.

-- HE HAVE NOTIFIED CONGRESS THAT WE INTEND TO RELEASE ANOTHER \$2.V MILLION IN LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO ECOMOG AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. A CONTINUE TO SEEK ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO USE TO SUPPORT ECOMOG'S OPERATION IN SIERRA LEONE.

-- OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, WE HAVE WORKED WITH THE WEST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AND WITH THE BRITISH TO ENSURE THAT THE DUAL TRACK STRATEGY - OF DIPLOMACY AND THE USE OF PEACE KEEPING FORCES -- WOULD BRING PEACE AND STABILITY AND STOP THE HORROR. WE HAVE DONE THIS BY WORKING WITH THE BRITISH TO MOBILIZE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED ASSISTANCE. WE HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN WORKING WITH NIGERIA, GHANA, GUINEA, LIBERIA, THE IVORY COAST AND SIERRA LEONE TO PROMOTE AN END TO THE CONFLICT, NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, AND REGIONAL STABILITY.

-- THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA, REVEREND JESSE JACKSON, HAS BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THIS EFFORT, TRAVELLING SEVERAL TIMES TO THE REGION. IN NOVEMBER, THE REVEREND JACKSON HOSTED A MEETING AMONG THE PRESIDENTS OF SIERRA LEONE, GUINEA AND LIBERIA IN WHICH THEY AGREED TO RESPECT EACH OTHER'S SOVEREIGNTY AND BORDERS. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE BEEN A PARTICIPANT IN EVERY MAJOR WEST AFRICAN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THIS TRAGEDY.

IT IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE POLICY OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TO SUPPORT THE WEST AFRICAN COMMUNITY IN ITS FIGHT TO STOP THIS WAR AND RESTORE PEACE TO SIERRA LEONE.

2. NIGER

REPORT OF REFUGEE MASSACRE IN SOUTH-EASTERN NIGER

BACKGROUND:

IN A PRESS CONFERENCE ON FEBRUARY 25TFF, ISSA LAMINE, LEADER OF NIGER'S DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY FRONT (FDR) CHARGED UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 10 STATE 041097

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1999

THAT 152 REFUGEES RECENTLY RETURNED FROM NIGERIA HAD BEEN KILLED IN SOUTH-EASTERN NIGER. THE MASSACRE IS REPORTED TO HAVE OCCURRED IN THE VILLAGE OF BULATUNGA NEAR BOSSO IN DIFFA STATE. THE REBEL LEADER CLAIMED THAT HE HAD SEEN THE DEAD BODIES OF 59 CIVILIANS LYING IN THE BUSHY AREA OF THE VILLAGE. THERE HAS BEEN NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF THE CLAIMS AND THE GON HAS DENIED THE CHARGES.

Q: ANY COMMENT ON REPORTS OF A MASS GRAVE AND MASSACRE IN SOUTH-EASTERN NIGER?

A: WE VIEW WITH CONCERN THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY FORMER REBEL LEADER ISSA LAMINE. WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF THIS INCIDENT, HOWEVER, AND HAVE ASKED OUR EMBASSY TO PROVIDE US WITH THEIR VIEWS. WE NOTE THAT THERE IS A PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FORMER REBELS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGER. THIS CLAIM BY THE FDR MIGHT REFLECT RENEWED TENSIONS IN THE REGION.

3. ENVOY JACKSON TRIP STATEMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 4, 1999

STATEMENT BY JAMES B. FOLEY, DEPUTY SPOKESMAN

SPECIAL ENVOY JESSE JACKSON TO TRAVEL TO NIGERIA

THE PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ENVOY FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA, REVEREND JESSE JACKSON, WILL TRAVEL TO NIGERIA MARCH 6-12. SPECIAL ENVOY JACKSON WILL BE THE FIRST HIGH-LEVEL U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL TO VISIT NIGERIA

SINCE THE NIGERIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ON FEBRUARY 2-. THIS WILL ALSO BE THE FIRST HIGH-LEVEL VISIT SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COUNTER-NARCOTICS VITAL NATIONAL INTEREST CERTIFICATION OF NIGERIA.

REVEREND JACKSON PLANS TO MEET WITH NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE ABUBAKAR IN ABUJA, AS WELL AS PRESIDENT-ELECT OBASANJO AND OPPOSITION LEADER OLU FALAE IN LAGOS. HE ALSO PLANS TO MEET WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES IN THE VOLATILE NIGER DELTA REGION. HE WILL STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF RECONCILIATION, NATIONAL UNITY, AND COMPLETION OF THE TRANSITION TO DEMOCRATIC CIVILIAN RULE.

4. DROC

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 4, 1999

STATEMENT BY JAMES B. FOLEY, DEPUTY SPOKESMAN
UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 10 STATE 041097

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1999

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

THE ALREADY POOR HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO WORSENER FOLLOWING THE OUTBREAK OF WAR LAST AUGUST. THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S RECENTLY RELEASED HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT CITES SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY BOTH SIDES IN THE WAR.

GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NUMEROUS EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS, DISAPPEARANCES, TORTURE, BEATINGS, RAPES AND OTHER ABUSES. MANY OF THE ABUSES HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AT ETHNIC TUTSIS.

REBEL FORCES HAVE ALSO COMMITTED EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS. THERE ARE CREDIBLE REPORTS THAT THEY MASSACRED HUNDREDS OF CIVILIANS IN THE TOWN OF KASIKA IN AUGUST AND THE TOWN OF MAKABOLA OVER THE NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND. THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISAPPEARANCES AND THEY REPORTEDLY TORTURED, RAPED AND DETAINED MANY CIVILIANS.

OTHER INDEPENDENT GROUPS SUCH AS HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH HAVE ALSO DOCUMENTED THE NUMEROUS AND SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONFLICT.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WELCOMES THE RECENT VISIT TO THE CONGO OF UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ROBERTO GARRETON AND SUPPORTS HIS EFFORTS TO REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONDEMNS ALL HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, REGARDLESS OF WHO COMMITS THEM. WE REITERATE OUR CALL ON ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL NON-COMBATANTS, RESPECT THE GENEVA CONVENTION REGARDING PRISONERS OF WAR, AND TO HOLD ACCOUNTABLE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR ABUSES.

5. UGANDA

PRESS GUIDANCE
MARCH 4, 1999

UGANDA KIDNAPPINGS

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT KIDNAPPING AND MURDER OF TOURISTS IN UGANDA?

A: ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 1, FOURTEEN TOURISTS VISITING BWINDI NATIONAL PARK WERE TAKEN HOSTAGE BY AN ARMED GROUP IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES AS RWANDAN HUTUS. THERE WERE THREE AMERICANS AMONG THE HOSTAGES. THE KIDNAPPERS APPARENTLY MURDERED EIGHT OF THE HOSTAGES AS THEY MOVED TOWARDS THE CONGO BORDER. AMONG THE MURDER VICTIMS WERE TWO AMERICAN CITIZENS. THE REMAINING SIX HOSTAGES, INCLUDING ONE U.S. UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 10 STATE 041097

USOECF ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US
SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1999

CITIZEN, WERE EVENTUALLY ABLE TO CONVINCE THEIR CAPTORS TO LET THEM GO. THEY HAVE ALL BEEN FLOWN TO KAMPALA. THIS WAS A PURELY CRIMINAL ACT AND HAD NOTHING WHATEVER TO DO WITH LEGITIMATE POLITICAL EXPRESSION.

Q: WHAT DID THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DO TO HELP RESOLVE THIS CRISIS?

A: WE HAVE NO MORE IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY OVERSEAS THAN TO ASSIST AMERICAN CITIZENS IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. THE EMBASSY WORKED QUICKLY TO TRANSFER THE HOSTAGES WHO ESCAPED OR WERE RELEASED TO A SAFE LOCATION. OUR AMBASSADOR MET WITH THEM IN KAMPALA. ON MARCH 2, WE FLEW A TEAM OF U.S., BRITISH AND UGANDAN OFFICIALS ON A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO THE AREA OF THE KIDNAPPING TO INVESTIGATE THE SITE. THROUGHOUT THE CRISIS, OUR EMBASSY WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT, THE BRITISH EMBASSY, AND THE TOUR OPERATORS TO ENSURE THAT ALL RESOURCES WERE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE RESCUE EFFORT. IN WASHINGTON, OUR BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS CONTACTED THE FAMILIES OF THOSE INVOLVED AND STAYED IN TOUCH WITH THE FAMILIES AS THE SITUATION DEVELOPED.

IN ADDITION, OUR EMBASSIES THROUGHOUT THE REGION CONTACTED THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS TO REQUEST THEIR ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING AND SECURING THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES. THE RESPONSE WAS UNIFORMLY SUPPORTIVE AND WE THANK OUR FRIENDS FOR THEIR EFFORTS ON OUR BEHALF.

Q: HOW WERE THE EIGHT HOSTAGES KILLED? WAS THERE AN EXCHANGE OF GUNFIRE?

A: ACCORDING TO THE HOSTAGES WHO WERE RELEASED, THERE WAS NO DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN THE KIDNAPPERS AND THE UGANDAN MILITARY PURSUING THE GROUP. THE VICTIMS WERE BRUTALLY MURDERED BY THEIR CAPTORS AS THEY MARCHED THROUGH THE FOREST.

Q: CAN YOU COMMENT ON WIRE SERVICE REPORTS THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN PRIOR WARNING OF AN ATTACK ON TOURISTS?

A: WE HAVE SEEN THE WIRE SERVICE REPORT BASED ON STORIES IN BRITISH NEWSPAPERS THAT UGANDAN AUTHORITIES HAD SOME FOREWARNING OF THE ATTACK ON THE TOURISTS IN BWINDI NATIONAL PARK. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THERE WAS NO WARNING OF ANY IMPENDING ATTACKS ON AMERICAN OR BRITISH TOURISTS IN UGANDA.
(IF PRESSED)

WE DO RECEIVE NUMEROUS THREAT WARNINGS OF VARIOUS KINDS IN COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD. AS YOU KNOW WE DO NOT COMMENT ON THE NATURE OF THESE WARNINGS. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, HOWEVER, THIS SPECIFIC ATTACK DOES NOT MATCH ANY PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED THREAT WARNINGS.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. REACTION TO UGANDAN STATEMENTS THAT UNCLAS SECTION 07 OF 10 STATE 041097

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US
SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1999

THE PARK WARDENS SHOULD HAVE CALLED FOR ASSISTANCE SINCE THEY KNEW OF AN EARLIER ATTACK?

A: WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY ATTACK HAVING TAKEN PLACE AGAINST TOURISTS IN BWINDI NATIONAL PARK IN RECENT YEARS. WE ARE CONFIDENT THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO SECURE THE AREA AND TO PREVENT FUTURE ATTACKS.

Q: DO WE KNOW WHICH GUERRILLA GROUP CARRIED OUT THE ATTACK? WHY DID THEY ATTACK TOURISTS?

A: THE ATTACKERS IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS MEMBERS OF THE ARMY FOR THE LIBERATION OF RWANDA, OR ALIR, A RWANDAN HUTU MILITANT GROUP. WE SUSPECT ALIR IS CONNECTED TO GROUPS THAT CARRIED OUT THE 1994 RWANDAN GENOCIDE. THE KIDNAPPERS EXPRESSED ANGER AT U.S. AND "ANGLO-SAXON" SUPPORT FOR ETHNIC TUTSIS.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. DOING TO FIND AND APPREHEND THE KIDNAPPERS?

A: FIRST, LET ME REPEAT THAT THIS WAS A CRIMINAL ACT, NOT A POLITICAL ONE. THE PERPETRATORS SHOULD BE PROSECUTED FOR MURDER. WE ARE REQUESTING THE ASSISTANCE OF GOVERNMENTS THROUGHOUT THE REGION TO HELP US IDENTIFY AND ARREST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS HEINOUS ACT. THEY SHOULD FACE JUSTICE IN A COURT OF LAW. SECOND, WE ARE CALLING UPON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO REDOUBLE ITS EFFORTS TO BRING TO JUSTICE THOSE SUSPECTED OF HAVING PARTICIPATED IN THE 1994 RWANDAN GENOCIDE.

Q: WHAT WILL THE U.S. DO TO HELP TRACK DOWN THE KILLERS? WILL THE FBI HELP?

A: FBI OFFICIALS ARE IN UGANDA NOW, AT THE REQUEST OF OUR EMBASSY, TO ASSIST IN THE INVESTIGATION. THE EMBASSY IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH UGANDAN OFFICIALS AND WILL WORK WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN THE REGION AS APPROPRIATE.

Q: CAN YOU CONFIRM REPORTS THAT THE UGANDAN ARMY HAS KILLED 15 OF THE ATTACKERS?

A: WE HAVE SEEN THESE REPORTS, BUT CANNOT CONFIRM THAT UGANDAN FORCES HAVE ENGAGED THE KIDNAPPERS. I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

6. ETHIOPIA/ERITREA

AF PRESS GUIDANCE
MARCH 4, 1999

ETHIOPIA/ERITREA

BACKGROUND: SINCE HEAVY FIGHTING BEGAN FEBRUARY 6, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS URGENTLY AND CONSISTENTLY UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 10 STATE 041097

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US
SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1999

CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF FIGHTING AND SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OAU FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR RESOLUTION OF THE BORDER DISPUTE. ON FEBRUARY 27, ERITREA ACCEPTED THE OAU FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT WHICH ETHIOPIA HAD

ACCEPTED EARLIER. PRESIDENT CLINTON AND THE UNSC HAVE ISSUED NEW STATEMENTS CALLING FOR AN END TO HOSTILITIES AND AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE OAU FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT.

THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF HEAVY FIGHTING ALONG THE ETHIOPIA/ERITREA BORDER TODAY. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO

IMMEDIATE INDICATION THAT ETHIOPIA'S TACTICAL VICTORY AT BADME LAST WEEK WILL LEAD TO REDUCED HOSTILITIES AT BADME OR ELSEWHERE ON THE ETHIOPIA/ERITREA BORDER. ETHIOPIAN INTENTIONS FOR FURTHER PURSUIT OF THE CONFLICT ARE NOT YET CLEAR, ALTHOUGH SOME OFFICIAL AND MEDIA STATEMENTS INDICATE THAT ETHIOPIA WILL CONTINUE HOSTILITIES UNTIL ERITREA WITHDRAWS OR IS PUSHED OUT FROM REMAINING AREAS IT HAS OCCUPIED SINCE MAY 1998. THE LARGEST SUCH AREA IS AT ZELA AMBESSA, SOUTH OF ASMARA ON THE ETHIOPIA/ERITREA BORDER.

IN VIEW OF THE BORDER CONFLICT, OUR EMBASSIES IN ADDIS ABABA AND ASMARA HAVE BEEN PLACED ON ORDERED DEPARTURE STATUS. CONSULAR TRAVEL WARNINGS FOR BOTH ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA ADVISE U.S. CITIZENS AGAINST TRAVEL TO EITHER COUNTRY.

Q: CAN YOU GIVE US AN UPDATE ON THE FIGHTING ALONG THE ETHIOPIA/ERITREAN BORDER?

A: ERITREA HAS NOW AGREED TO THE OAU FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL. PRESIDENT CLINTON AND THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL HAVE ENCOURAGED AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE CURRENT FIGHTING AND A RETURN TO THE PEACE PROCESS. THERE HAS BEEN A LULL IN FIGHTING ALONG THE BORDER SINCE MARCH 1. WE BELIEVE THERE IS NOW A SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITY TO DEFINITELY END THE FIGHTING, AND WE ENCOURAGE THE GOVERNMENTS OF ETHIOPIAN AND ERITREA TO SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO FORGE A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THIS DISPUTE.

ETHIOPIA ACHIEVED A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH AT THE BADME FRONT LAST WEEK. FIGHTING HAS REMAINED SLOW AT ALL POINTS ALONG THE ETHIOPIA/ERITREA BORDER SINCE MARCH 1. PLANS FOR FURTHER MILITARY ACTION BY EITHER COUNTRY REMAIN UNCLEAR AT THIS POINT. OUR EMBASSIES IN ADDIS ABABA AND ASMARA ARE FOLLOWING THE SITUATION CLOSELY.

WE, OUR PARTNERS ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND OTHER FRIENDS OF ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA CONTINUE TO VIGOROUSLY URGE BOTH COUNTRIES TO WORK WITH THE OAU AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO QUICKLY FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THIS BORDER DISPUTE.

Q: HAS ETHIOPIA RESPONDED TO INTERNATIONAL CALLS FOR A CEASE-FIRE AND A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THIS CONFLICT?
UNCLAS SECTION 09 OF 10 STATE 041097

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1999

A: WE ARE CONCERNED THAT SEVERAL DAYS AFTER ERITREA ACCEPTED THE OAU FRAMEWORK AND THE UNSC ISSUED A STRONG STATEMENT CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE, THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA HAS NOT YET AGREED TO SUSPEND HOSTILITIES. ETHIOPIA HAS MADE PLAIN ON NUMEROUS

OCCASIONS THAT IT SEEKS A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE BORDER CONFLICT WITH ERITREA AND WOULD HALT FIGHTING IF ERITREA ACCEPTED THE OAU FRAMEWORK. WE EXPECT ETHIOPIA TO HONOR THIS COMMITMENT.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOING TO PROTECT U.S. CITIZENS?

A: ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS AND EMBASSY STAFF NOT REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN CORE EMBASSY FUNCTIONS HAVE LEFT ADDIS ABABA AND ASMARA. AMERICANS HAVE BEEN WARNED AGAINST TRAVEL TO EITHER ETHIOPIA OR ERITREA AT THIS TIME. WE ARE TAKING FULL PRECAUTIONS TO ASSURE THE SAFETY OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND OTHER AMERICANS REMAINING IN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA.

Q: ARE YOU CONSIDERING EVACUATION OF AMERICANS, AS YOU DID IN ERITREA LAST JUNE?

A: WE ARE CAREFULLY FOLLOWING THE SITUATION IN BOTH COUNTRIES. BOTH CAPITALS REMAIN CALM, AND INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES CONTINUE SERVICE TO BOTH CITIES. OUR EMBASSIES REMAIN IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY THROUGH THE EMBASSY WARDEN SYSTEM AND FREQUENT INFORMAL TOWN MEETING GATHERINGS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE AN EVACUATION IS NECESSARY AT THIS TIME. WE WILL RE-EVALUATE THE SITUATION AS EVENTS WARRANT.

7. SUDAN

AF;-RESS GUT DANCE

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SU-AN

BACKGROUND: AT 4:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME TODAY, GUNMEN IN A CAR MOVING AT HIGH SPEED FIRED APPROXIMATELY 14 SHOTS AT THE U.S. EMBASSY CHANCERY IN KHARTOUM. THE TWO FSN'S IN THE CHANCERY AT THE TIME WERE NOT HURT AND THERE WAS ONLY MINOR DAMAGE TO THE BUILDING. NO AMERICAN DIPLOMATS HAVE TRAVELLED TO KHARTOUM SINCE THE EAST AFRICAN EMBASSY BOMBINGS IN AUGUST 1998. IF ASKED, WE SHOULD CONDEMN THE INCIDENT AND EMPHASIZE THAT WE EXPECT THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN TO INVESTIGATE FULLY AND TO BRING TO JUSTICE THOSE RESPONSIBLE. WE SHOULD ALSO UNDERSCORE THAT ANY SPECULATION ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK IS PREMATURE.

Q: WE UNDERSTAND THAT SHOTS WERE FIRED AT THE U.S.
UNCLAS SECTION 10 OF 10 STATE 041097

USOECF ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1999

EMBASSY IN KHARTOUM TODAY. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT AND PROVIDE DETAILS?

A: YES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GUNMEN IN A CAR DRIVING AT HIGH SPEED FIRED APPROXIMATELY 14 SHOTS AT THE U.S. EMBASSY BUILDING IN KHARTOUM AT 4:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME TODAY. THE TWO LOCAL EMPLOYEES IN THE CHANCERY AT THE TIME WERE NOT INJURED, AND THERE WAS ONLY MINOR DAMAGE TO THE BUILDING ITSELF--A FEW DIVOTS IN THE MASONRY. NO AMERICAN DIPLOMATS ARE CURRENTLY IN KHARTOUM.

WE STRONGLY CONDEMN THIS ACT OF VIOLENCE. WE EXPECT THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN TO LIVE UP TO ITS OBLIGATIONS TO PROTECT DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS BY INVESTIGATING THOROUGHLY AND BRINGING TO JUSTICE THOSE RESPONSIBLE.

Q: YOU SAID NO U.S. DIPLOMATS ARE IN KHARTOUM. WHY NOT?

A: U.S. DIPLOMATS WERE WITHDRAWN TO NAIROBI AND CAIRO IN EARLY 1996, DUE TO SECURITY CONCERNS. AT THE TIME OF THE EMBASSY BOMBINGS LAST AUGUST, OUR DIPLOMATS WERE TRAVELLING INTO KHARTOUM FOR 2-3 WEEKS AT A TIME. AFTER THE U.S. STRIKE ON THE EL-SHIFA FACILITY, THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN TOLD US U.S. DIPLOMATS WOULD NOT BE WELCOME IN KHARTOUM. NO AMERICAN OFFICERS, THEREFORE, HAVE BEEN IN KHARTOUM SINCE AUGUST 1998. EMBASSY OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN THE MEANTIME BY LOCAL EMPLOYEES.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INDICATIONS AS TO WHO MIGHT BE BEHIND THE ATTACK?

A: IT IS PREMATURE TO SPECULATE ON WHO MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE.
PICKERING

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 10
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 10
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DIST:

SIT: NSC

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
010. cable	re: Nigeria: Soderberg, Greenstock Discuss Sierra Leone, Liberia, Recent Elections. [USUN New York 000563] (4 pages)	03/05/1999	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999-Dec 2000 ([Special Envoy])
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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHOSA2913 0700830-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
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LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
OSRI: RUEHOS
DTG: 110830Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6569
INFO: RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: S/E JACKSON'S MEETING WITH TRANSITION
MONITORING GROUP

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LAGOS 002913

CORRECTED COPY (TEXT)

SENSITIVE

LONDON FOR PFLAUMER, PARIS FOR WILLIAMS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, KDEM, PGOV, NI

SUBJECT: S/E JACKSON'S MEETING WITH TRANSITION
MONITORING GROUP

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY

1. (U) SUMMARY: IN A MARCH 8 MEETING WITH SPECIAL ENVOY REV. JESSE JACKSON, MEMBERS OF THE TRANSITION MONITORING GROUP (TMG) EXPRESSED THEIR OPINIONS ABOUT THE LEVEL OF RIGGING OBSERVED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, AND THEIR PREDICTIONS FOR THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO PRESIDENT-ELECT OBANSANJO'S INAUGURATION MAY 29. WHILE THE LEADERSHIP OF THE TMG FELT THAT DEFEATED CANDIDATE OLU FALAE WOULD PURSUE A COURT CHALLENGE, THEY DID NOT FORESEE ANY SERIOUS EFFORT TO BRING THE OUTCOME INTO QUESTION OR JEOPARDIZE THE TRANSITION FROM MILITARY RULE. S/E JACKSON ENCOURAGED THEM TO KEEP THEIR COALITION OF NGO'S TOGETHER TO ACT AS A WATCHDOG GROUP ABLE TO APPLY PRESSURE TO FURTHER DEVELOP DEMOCRACY IN NIGERIA. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) JACKSON BEGAN THE MEETING BY EXPLAINING TO THE TMG LEADERSHIP THAT HE HAD MET EARLIER THAT DAY WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT OBASANJO AND THEN WITH FAILED AD/APP CANDIDATE OLU FALAE. ACCOMPANYING JACKSON IN THE

MEETING WERE VISITING AF/W DIRECTOR JETER, AMBASSADOR TWADDELL, JACKSON STAFFERS YURI TADESSE AND MARIE NELSON, HIS DAUGHTER JACKIE, IN ADDITION TO POLOFF (NOTETAKER). COORDINATORS OF TMG'S AND OTHER NGO OBSERVATION EFFORTS PRESENT WERE CLEMENT NWANKWO (TMG CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTOR OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS PROJECT), AYO OBE (WRITER OF THE TMG REPORT AND PRESIDENT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES ORGANIZATION), EDETAE OJO (MEDIA RIGHTS AGENDA), EMEKA IHENE (TG COORDINATOR), AND FATHER JOHN PATRICK NGOYI (JUSTICE, PEACE, AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION).

3. (U) AFTER BEING PRESENTED THE REPOR BY NWANKWO, JACKSON ACKNOWLEDGED OBE'S DESCRIPTION OF "WHOLESALE" (AT THE COLLATION LEVL) AND "RETAIL" (AT THE POLLING STATION) RIGGING WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF OTHER "LESS THAN PERFECT" ELECTIONS THROUGHOUT U.S. HISTORY, INCLUDING THOSE OF HIS NATIVE CHICAGO. HE THEN EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR THE LOSER OF AN ELECTION TO DEMONSTRATE CHARACTER IN ACCEPTING THE RESULTS, AND FOR ALL INVOLVED TO "PUSH THE ENVELOPE" IN SUCCESSIVE ELECTIONS. JACKSON ENCOURAGED THOSE PRESENT TO CONTINUE THEIR ROLE AS WATCHDOGS THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS, AND DESCRIBED THE LARGE CHALLENGES FACING THE INCOMING GOVERNMENT, IN PARTICULAR THE HIV/AIDS CRISIS.

4. (SBU) ASKED BY TWADDELL WHAT THEY WOULD FEEL TO BE THE PROPER BALANCE BETWEEN STRENGTHENING THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND GETTING TO MAY 29, OBE DESCRIBED HER IMPRESSIONS OF THE DILEMMA FACING FALAE. ON ONE HAND, SHE SAID, THOSE ON THE AD SIDE DON'T WANT THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION TO SEEM TO ENJOY IMPUNITY FOR ALLOWING SUCH WIDESPREAD FRAUD AND ARE CONCERNED ABOUT SETTING A PRECEDENT WITH A LEGAL CHALLENGE. ON THE OTHER, AS AMBASSADOR TWADDELL DIVULGED, FALAE FEELS THE NEED TO APPEAR STATESMANLIKE AND NOT SEEM BITTER ABOUT HIS DEFEAT, WHICH MOST OBSERVERS, INCLUDING OBE AND NWANKWO, FELT WOULD HAVE RESULTED EVEN WITHOUT RIGGING.

5. (U) IN NWANKWO'S OPINION, FALAE WOULD NOT ACTIVELY PURSUE A LEGAL CHALLENGE, DESPITE THE FACT HE HAS BEEN "THREATENED" WITH A SUBPOENA IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEAD OF TMG. OBE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT LOGISTICALLY TO PROVE A CASE BASED ON RIGGING AT THE "RETAIL LEVEL" AND THAT AD SUPPORTERS TO DO THE INTENSIVE LEGWORK ARE "MELTING INTO THE WOODWORK." SHE ADDED THAT PROMINENT AD POLITICIANS WOULD NOT WANT TO RISK THEIR GOVERNORSHIPS BY QUESTIONING THE ELECTIONS. (NOTE: MARCH 10 PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT FALAE WILL FILE A PETITION WITH THE ELECTION TRIBUNAL BEFORE THE MARCH 13 DEADLINE. THE TRIBUNAL MUST THEN REACH THEIR DETERMINATION BY APRIL 3, AFTER WHICH FALAE WOULD HAVE UNTIL APRIL 10 TO TAKE THE CASE TO THE SUPREME COURT. THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD BETWEEN ELECTIONS AND INAUGURATION WAS ENVISAGED TO ALLOW SUCH LEGAL CHALLENGES. END NOTE.)

6. (SBU) COMMENT: IN THE CONTEXT OF POSSIBLE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OBASANJO AND FALAE, OBE SAID THAT IN HER OPINION, FALAE WOULD BE HESITANT TO ACCEPT A JOB, DUE TO THE APPEARANCE OF BEING "SETTLED" IN THE NIGERIAN POLITICAL TRADITION. HOWEVER, NWANKWO INDICATED THAT MANY NIGERIANS WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN APPROACH SIMILAR TO A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY. OBE ALSO CAUTIONED THAT MANY OF OBASANJO'S SUPPORTERS WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED IF UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LAGOS 002913

CORRECTED COPY (TEXT)

SENSITIVE

LONDON FOR PFLAUMER, PARIS FOR WILLIAMS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, KDEM, PGOV, NI

SUBJECT: S/E JACKSON'S MEETING WITH TRANSITION MONITORING GROUP

IT APPEARED HE HAD BECOME THE PRISONER OF POLITICAL DEALS THAT REWARDED ONLY HIS PARTY FAITHFUL WITH GOVERNMENT POSITIONS.

THIS CABLE HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED BY S/E JACKSON. TWADDELL

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

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STROMSETH VACCARO WIPPMAN
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: O 120100Z MAR 99

LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC

OSRI: RUEHC

DTG: 120100Z MAR 99

ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC

TO: RUEHAE/AMEMBASSY ASMARA IMMEDIATE 7527
RUEHJB/AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE 4604
ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
ALL OECD CAPITALS PRIORITY
RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY 4329
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 1731
RUEH DU/AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY 9278
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 8646
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RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY 4717
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RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 0332
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 9029
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 9221
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC/SITRROM PASS TO SMITH PRIORITY 4440
SOMALIA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUFGNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUCJAAA/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUWSMXI/USCINCTRANS INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL PRIORITY
RUEHZK/ECOWAS PRIORITY
XMT AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

INFO: ////

SUBJ: AF PRESS GUIDANCE THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1999

SUMMARY OF PRESS GUIDANCE ON AFRICA

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 STATE 045358

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US
SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1999

SUMMARY OF PRESS GUIDANCE ON AFRICA

1. U.S. AFRICA MINISTERIAL
2. UGANDA
3. NIGERIA
4. DEMORATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

END OF SUMMARY

1. U.S. - AFRICA MINISTERIAL

Q: WHEN WILL THE U.S. - AFRICA MINISTERIAL: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY TAKE PLACE?

A: THE U.S. - AFRICA MINISTERIAL: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY IS SCHEDULED TO PLACE FROM MARCH 16-18, 1999.

Q: WHAT IS THE VENUE FOR THE MINISTERIAL? WHAT AFRICAN NATIONS ARE ATTENDING?

A: THE MINISTERIAL WILL BE HELD IN THE LOY HENDERSON CONFERENCE CENTER OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THREE MINISTERS (CABINET LEVEL OFFICIALS) FROM EACH OF 46 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND. NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THEIR AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON.

NOTE TO BRIEFER: TWO AF COUNTRIES ARE NOT INVITED: SOMALIA (NO GOVERNMENT) AND SUDAN (STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM).

Q: IS THIS CONFERENCE THE SAME AS THE U.S. - AFRICA ECONOMIC COOPERATION FORUM, WHICH WAS CANCELLED LAST YEAR?

A: THE U.S. - AFRICA ECONOMIC COOPERATION FORUM WAS POSTPONED BECAUSE THE TIMING WAS NOT CONVENIENT FOR MANY OF THE AFRICAN AND U.S. PRINCIPALS. WHILE THE FORUM IS GEARED TOWARD ISSUES OF PRIMARY RELEVANCE TO NATIONS WHICH HAVE DEMONSTRATED STRONG PROGRESS TOWARD ECONOMIC REFORM, THE PARTNERSHIP MINISTERIAL PROVIDES A SIGNIFICANTLY WIDER SCOPE FOR DISCUSSION OF A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR RELATIONS ACROSS THE CONTINENT. (ONLY IF ASKED: THE ECF IS TENTATIVELY SLATED FOR THE LAST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR).

Q: WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE MINISTERIAL?

A: THE OBJECTIVE OF THE MINISTERIAL IS TO FURTHER THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND AFRICAN NATIONS BY IDENTIFYING SHARED INTERESTS IN THE AREAS OF TRADE, INVESTMENT, ECONOMIC REFORM AND POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. TO THIS END, THE PARTNERS WILL ADDRESS A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES THROUGH PANEL DISCUSSIONS,

WORKSHOPS, ROUNDTABLES AND NETWORKING ACTIVITIES. THESE

ISSUES INCLUDE: TRADE AND INVESTMENT; ECONOMIC REFORM;
FINANCING AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT, HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT;
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 04 STATE 045358

USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1999

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE; HUMAN RIGHTS; AND CONFLICT
RESOLUTION.

THE SPECIFIC GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE ARE TO:

-- SHARE A JOINT DISCUSSION ON HOW THE UNITED STATES AND
AFRICAN COUNTRIES CAN BEST COLLABORATE TO ACCELERATE
AFRICA'S FULL INTEGRATION INTO THE GLOBAL ECONOMY.

-- DISCUSS U.S. AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES' VIEWS ON ECONOMIC
AND FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, AND SEEK CONSENSUS ON HOW TO
ADVANCE OUR SHARED GOALS.

-- DEVELOP A SHARED CONCEPT OF ECONOMIC REFORM AND A CLEAR
APPRECIATION OF THE OBSTACLES FACED BY AFRICAN NATIONS AS
THEY SEEK TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE.

-- DEVELOP OUR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE ISSUES OF
DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONFLICT
RESOLUTION RELATE TO U.S. AND AFRICAN EFFORTS TO FOSTER
SUSTAINABLE GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT.

-- ENHANCE THE PUBLIC PROFILE OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA'S
IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL AS AN ECONOMIC PARTNER FOR THE
UNITED STATES IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD.

-- CONSOLIDATE THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND AFRICA DEVELOPED DURING THE PRESIDENT'S AFRICA TRIP IN
MARCH 1998.

Q: WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE
CONFERENCE?

A: THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS OPENING THE
CONFERENCE, AND THE U.S. IS HOSTING THIS EVENT AT THE
CABINET LEVEL. THE CABINET SECRETARIES OF THE DEPARTMENTS
OF STATE, COMMERCE, TREASURY, TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY,
LABOR, AND AGRICULTURE, THE U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE AND
THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC ADVISER ARE PARTICIPATING, AS ARE
THE HEADS OF THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

(USAID), THE U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (USTDA),
THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES (EXIM), AND
THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION (OPIC)

Q: WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF THE CONFERENCE?

A: THE FORMAT OF THE CONFERENCE COMBINES OPENING AND CLOSING PLENARY SESSIONS, PANELS, ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS, AND WORKSHOPS.

THE DIALOGUE WILL BEGIN WITH A PLENARY SESSION TO ASSESS WHERE THE U.S. - AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP STANDS. DISCUSSIONS WILL CONTINUE IN A SERIES OF ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS BETWEEN AFRICAN MINISTERS AND INDIVIDUAL U.S. CABINET MEMBERS. THE PURPOSE OF THESE SESSIONS IS TO IDENTIFY AND DELIBERATE POSSIBLE DIRECTIONS AND GOALS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP OVER THE NEXT DECADE.

A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS ON MORE NARROWLY DEFINED ISSUES WILL CREATE A VENUE FOR CONCENTRATED ATTENTION ON HOW TO MOVE THE PARTNERSHIP FORWARD IN THE DIRECTIONS JOINTLY

B

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UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 STATE 045358

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1999

DETERMINED DURING THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

THE MEDIA IS INVITED TO THE OPENING AND CLOSING PLENARY SESSIONS, AND WE WILL PROVIDE A READ-OUT OF OUR PROGRESS AT THE END OF EACH DAY.

2. UGANDA: TOURIST KILLINGS AND U.S. POLICY ON DROC

Q: DID THE U.S. GIVE TACIT APPROVAL TO UGANDA TO SUSPEND ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE HUTUS?

A: NO. SINCE THE DAY OF THE ATTACK, WE HAVE CALLED UPON GOVERNMENTS IN THE REGION TO APPREHEND THE SUSPECTED MURDERERS AND TRY THEM IN A COURT OF LAW. WE HAVE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT ANY SUSPECTS BE TREATED ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS GOVERNING THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS. I MUST ALSO POINT OUT THAT WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF HUTUS AND ALL OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS

SUFFERING VIOLENCE AS A RESULT OF THE TURMOIL IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION. THE ATTACKERS WERE EXTREMISTS, NOT THE

LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVES OF RWANDAN HUTUS.

Q: IS THE U.S. ASSISTING RWANDA AND UGANDA'S CAMPAIGN TO OVERTHROW KABILA?

A: NO. WE REITERATE OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE CONGO'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ANY VIOLATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES. WE URGE ALL THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT TO REACH A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT THAT ADDRESSES ITS UNDERLYING CAUSES: THE SECURITY CONCERNS OF CONGO'S NEIGHBORS, THE LACK OF BROAD-BASED PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS, AND THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF ALL ETHNIC GROUPS. WE ALSO CALL ON ALL PARTIES TO RESPECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL NON-COMBATANTS.

Q: PLEASE RESTATE THE U.S. POSITION ON A MULTINATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN THE REGION.

A: WE SUPPORT THE MEDIATION PROCESS LED BY PRESIDENT CHILUBA AND STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THE WARRING PARTIES TO SEEK A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO THE CONFLICT. WE WOULD CONSIDER SUPPORTING A PEACEKEEPING OPERATION WITH A CLEAR MANDATE IF THERE WERE AN APPROPRIATE AGREEMENT AMONG THE BELLIGERENTS TO END THE CONFLICT.

3. NIGERIA/REV. JACKSON VISIT

Q: ANY DETAILS/READOUT OF JESSE JACKSON'S VISIT?

A: REVEREND JESSE JACKSON, PRESIDENT CLINTON'S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA, FLEW TO NIGERIA MARCH 7.

IN LAGOS MONDAY, REV. JACKSON MET WITH THE WINNER AND LOSER OF NIGERIA'S FEBRUARY 27 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. IN UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 04 STATE 045358

USOED ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1999

MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT OLUSEGUN OBASANJO AND HIS OPPONENT OLU FALAE, REV. JACKSON STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE

OF A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO AN ELECTED CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT AND URGED BOTH LEADERS TO WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE THE TRANSITION A SUCCESS. HE DELIVERED A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON TO OBASANJO.

REVEREND JACKSON SPENT TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9 AND 10, IN THE NIGER DELTA MEETING WITH LOCAL LEADERS, VI SITING Ogoniland, AND DISCUSSING THE SITUATION WITH OIL COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES. HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF

RESOLVING GRIEVANCES IN A NON-VIOLENT FASHION.

REV. JACKSON FLEW TO ABUJA LATE WEDNESDAY. TODAY, HE DELIVERED ANOTHER LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON TO HEAD OF STATE ABDULSALAM ABUBAKAR. HE ALSO MET WITH NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER OLISEMEKA.

Q: IS ABUBAKAR ATIKU, PRESIDENT-ELECT OBASANJO'S RUNNING MATE, IN TOWN?

A: WE UNDERSTAND THAT ABUBAKAR ATIKU, THE VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF NIGERIA, IS IN WASHINGTON ON A PRIVATE VISIT. WE ARE TRYING TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY PICKERING.

4. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

NOTE TO BRIEFER: OUR EMBASSY IN KINSHASA REPORTS THAT THE GDROC PLANS TO EXPEL THE GROUP TODAY, PUTTING THEM ON A CAMEROON AIRLINES FLIGHT SCHEDULED TO LEAVE KINSHASA FOR HARARE AT APPROXIMATELY 11 A.M. WASHINGTON TIME.

Q: UPDATE ON DETAINED AMERICAN DIPLOMAT? HAS HE BEEN CHARGED? HAVE WE HAD CONSULAR ACCESS TO HIM? WHAT ARE WE DOING DIPLOMATICALLY?

A: --THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE EMPLOYEE AND FOUR BRITISH OFFICIALS WHO WERE DETAINED BY CONGOLESE AUTHORITIES ON MARCH ? ARE STILL BEING HELD; AS FAR AS WE KNOW, NO CHARGES HAVE BEEN FILED. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICIAL IS SECONDED TO THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE IN LONDON.

--U.S. AMBASSADOR SWING HAS EXPRESSED OUR SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE DETENTION TO PRESIDENT KABILA. BOTH THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH EMBASSIES IN KINSHASA HAVE ACTIVELY SOUGHT THE RELEASE OF THE OFFICIALS AND BOTH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE HAVE RAISED THE ISSUE WITH THE CONGOLESE EMBASSIES IN OUR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS.

-- THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH AMBASSADORS IN KINSHASA HAVE VISITED THE DETAINEES AND FOUND THEM TO BE IN GOOD SPIRITS. THEIR ACCOMODATIONS ARE REASONABLE AND THEY ARE RECEIVING REGULAR MEALS. WE CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR THEIR RELEASE.
PICKERING

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