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FROM: GREEN, R

DOC DATE: 13 APR 99
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HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

IMMIGRATION
LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: STATE OVERSIGHT TESTIMONY ON TESTIMONY FOR JULIA TAFT HEARING BEFORE
SENATE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION KOSOVO REFUGEE CRISIS

ACTION: ACTION COMPLETED BY PHONE

DUE DATE: 13 APR 99 STATUS: C

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LRM ID: CRD26

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
Washington, D.C. 20503-0001

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Liaison Officer - See Distribution below
FROM: *Richard E. Green*
Richard E. Green (for) Assistant Director for Legislative Reference
OMB CONTACT: Carol R. Dennis
PHONE: (202)395-4724 FAX: (202)395-3109
SUBJECT: **STATE Oversight Testimony on Testimony for Julia Taft hearing before Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration-Kosovo Refugee Crisis**

DEADLINE: 3:30PM Tuesday, April 13, 1999

In accordance with OMB Circular A-19, OMB requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President. **Please advise us if this item will affect direct spending or receipts for purposes of the "Pay-As-You-Go" provisions of Title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990.**

COMMENTS: IF NO RESPONSE IS RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE, IT WILL BE ASSUMED THAT YOU HAVE NO OBJECTIONS

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**LRM ID: CRD26 SUBJECT: STATE Oversight Testimony on Testimony for Julia Taft hearing
before Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration-Kosovo Refugee Crisis**

**RESPONSE TO
LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL
MEMORANDUM**

If your response to this request for views is short (e.g., concur/no comment), we prefer that you respond by e-mail or by faxing us this response sheet. If the response is short and you prefer to call, please call the branch-wide line shown below (NOT the analyst's line) to leave a message with a legislative assistant.

You may also respond by:

(1) calling the analyst/attorney's direct line (you will be connected to voice mail if the analyst does not answer); or

(2) sending us a memo or letter

Please include the LRM number shown above, and the subject shown below.

**TO: Carol R. Dennis Phone: 395-4724 Fax: 395-3109
Office of Management and Budget
Branch-Wide Line (to reach legislative assistant): 395-3454**

FROM: _____ (Date)

_____ (Telephone)

The following is the response of our agency to your request for views on the above-captioned subject:

_____ Concur

_____ No Objection

_____ No Comment

_____ See proposed edits on pages _____

_____ Other: _____

_____ FAX RETURN of _____ pages, attached to this response sheet

DRAFT**TESTIMONY FOR JULIA TAFT HEARING
BEFORE THE SENATE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION****APRIL 14, 1999**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the past three weeks the world has witnessed one of the most sustained and cruel crimes against humanity during this century. The calculated dislocation of hundreds of thousands of Kosovars during this past year by Serb forces reached devastating proportions in recent weeks. Since March 24 more than _____ refugees have been forced from Kosovo and many thousands more may yet flee.

I am honored to have the opportunity of testifying before you today on the US government's efforts to assist and care for the refugees. I would like to give you an update on the situation of the refugees in Macedonia and Albania, our efforts and those of other countries to provide protection and assistance, and what we see ahead. I will then be happy to answer any questions you might have.

The U.S. and its NATO allies are working with humanitarian organizations to alleviate the humanitarian crisis. We will do whatever is necessary to ensure that Milosevic's current campaign of ethnic cleansing does not stand and that refugees can return to their homes, villages and towns and rebuild their lives in Kosovo.

What we have watched ever since the Rambouillet process is the systematic expulsion of Kosovo Albanians. I want to emphasize here that this had begun before the NATO bombing commenced. While over 670,000 Kosovo Albanians have been forced to flee Kosovo in the past year, the majority during the last three weeks, hundreds of thousands more are believed to be displaced within Kosovo. After a short lull, when borders with Albania and Macedonia were closed by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and after a large number of refugees on the FRY side disappeared, we saw this weekend the resumption of small movements of refugees out of Kosovo.

The refugees tell of extreme violence: people forced to leave their homes at gunpoint, women and children forcibly separated from their husbands, fathers and sons, homes and villages torched, passports and other identity documents confiscated. Even more serious are the reports of arbitrary and summary executions, of mass graves, and most recently of the mass rape of young women and girls.

We are extremely concerned about the fate of between 700-800,000 ethnic Albanians who remain in Kosovo, many of whom are displaced. We have reviewed the possibility of airdropping food and other supplies into the area. However, without firm knowledge of where the internally displaced are and what their ability to reach the goods is such action may not be beneficial. It would also be extremely dangerous and difficult for NATO pilots. Other options we are exploring are the development of access corridors

? { with deliveries by Greek NGOs and/or ICRC. We are discussing cross border operations as well.

Deputy Secretary Strobe Talbott and I visited Albania and Macedonia and other countries in the region from April 3 to 5 to thank them for supporting NATO operations and for receiving the refugees and to underscore our commitment to providing the assistance needed to address the impact of the unfolding humanitarian, economic and security crises. Witnessing the masses of people who have been stripped of their dignity, identity cards and worldly possessions was a profoundly moving experience. In spite of their forced expulsion by the Serbs, many herded into box cars and transported to borders, all the refugees expressed support for NATO and the effort of the Allies to stop Milosevic's aggression. On my way back, I joined with my counterparts from other major donors and countries in the region at a conference hosted by UNHCR to map a coordinated multilateral strategy for the humanitarian response.

Operation "Sustain Hope" was announced by the President on April 5 to coordinate our own humanitarian response to the refugee crisis in the region. The U.S. has committed over \$150 million in financial and material assistance since the crisis began just over a year ago. This includes the \$50 million recently authorized by the President to help address the urgent needs of the refugees. We are sending over 1 million humanitarian daily rations to the region, as well as tents and other relief supplies. Other countries are also mobilizing large relief efforts.

The limited capacity of Albania and Macedonia to cope with these enormous numbers of refugees was completely overwhelmed. I would, however, like to pay tribute to the enormous generosity of the people of these two countries who have so generously opened their countries and their homes to the refugees. In Albania, approximately 80,000 refugees are being housed in private homes. Macedonian families are hosting about 60,000. I would also like to commend Turkey for stepping forward immediately to take 20,000 refugees and help alleviate the pressure on Macedonia - a gesture which the USG has volunteered to help finance.

Because of the enormity of the effort required and despite the best efforts of UNHCR and the other relief organizations on the ground, NATO was asked to take a role in undergirding the humanitarian assistance infrastructure.

NATO, with its logistical and operational expertise, is working closely with UNHCR and other aid agencies to build refugee camps, distribute aid and assist with transportation and the organization of relief efforts. In Albania, thirty camps are being built throughout the country. While UNHCR remains the lead humanitarian organization this cooperation is an example of the excellent coordination between NATO and UNHCR.

The President has also directed that additional U.S. forces be deployed in Albania and Macedonia to support the relief effort. We anticipate the deployment of at least 1,000 airlift, medical, engineering, logistics and security personnel. U.S. marines have begun constructing 2 camp sites for up to 10,000 people near Korca in Albania.

ICRC has begun efforts to trace and locate missing persons to help reunite families. It has established a hot line in Geneva to receive calls from around the world and has sent tracing personnel to Macedonia and Albania. Many other relief organizations from around the world are assisting in this mammoth effort. We are supporting our U.S. NGOs with funding and supplies.

As part of a multi-nation effort to relieve the strain on Albania and particularly Macedonia, we have stated that we are prepared to accept up to 20,000 refugees and preparations are underway to make that possible. We are prepared to implement this commitment and DOD is ready right now to accept 500 refugees in Guantanamo tomorrow and that number can be quickly augmented. We are discussing with UNHCR and others the modalities of such an operation should large numbers of new refugees flood into Macedonia and Albania.

Our preference, however, has always been and remains to ensure a safe and humane refuge in the region, as close to Kosovo as possible so that people can return home when it is safe to do. The nature of our effort will be determined by the requirements on the ground. Given that the situation remains fluid, we believe that we - as well as other governments - must remain prepared to take refugees if the situation requires that kind of assistance to the frontline states. First groups of refugees - some 4,000 have left Macedonia for Turkey, Germany and Norway.

I know that many of your constituents, particularly those with relatives among the refugees, are asking why we do not bring refugees to the United States. Our first priority is to ensure the safety and the care of over half a million people. This is an emergency situation and, we hope, a temporary one. Therefore, we do not anticipate a general U.S. refugee resettlement program at this time. The aim of our military and political action is to enable the Kosovo Albanians to return to their homes when conditions permit. In the meantime, we are committed to doing everything possible to work with other countries to ensure that the refugees are provided with temporary asylum and with care and assistance. I must underscore that everything we are doing and planning for is geared to the return of the refugees to Kosovo.

APR-13-1999 12:38 TO:83 - NSC

FROM: JULIA YUILLE

P. 9/9

Drafted by PRM/MCE:HMReitz
4/11/99 MVCE/Multilateral/Kosovo

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