

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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001. cable	re: Assessing the Pope's Cuba Trip. (4 pages)	01/30/1998	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997-Dec 1998 ([Jesse Helms or Senator Helms])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/07/1998-02/03/1998]

2006-1363-F

vz5586

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]

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUESPFA1811 0071823-UUUU--RHEHOND.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU

LINE3: R 071823Z JAN 98

LINE4: FM FBIS CHIVA CHIVA PM

OSRI: RUESPF

DTG: 071823Z JAN 98

ORIG: FBIS CHIVA CHIVA PM

TO: AIG 4674

AIG 4673

RUEABND/DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMIN HQ WASHINGTON DC//POL//

RUEABNE/EPIC EL PASO TX

RUEANTX/CJTF SIX FT BLISS TX//J2//

RUEHIA/USIA WASHINGTON DC//R//

RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO

RUEHYM/AMCONSUL MONTERREY

RUWMEGA/CDR 1ST BDE 228TH AVN BN FT KOBBE

RUWMEGA/CDR 1-228 AVN REG FT KOBBE PM//R2//

ACCT FBPA-EWDK

INFO: ////

SUBJ: Prensa Latina on Davidow's Nomination as Envoy to Mexico

TEXT:

UNCLAS 6A

WARNING: TOPIC: POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL

SERIAL: PA0701182398

PASS: ATTN WIRE SELECT

COUNTRY: CUBA, MEXICO

SUBJ: Prensa Latina on Davidow's Nomination as Envoy to Mexico

SOURCE: Havana Prensa Latina in Spanish 0512 GMT 7 Jan 98

TEXT:

[By Hector Igarza: "Jeffrey Davidow: Our Man in Mexico"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Finally, after seven months without an ambassador in the closest Latin American country, the White House seems to have chosen Jeffrey Davidow, assistant secretary for Inter-American affairs, so that he keeps pushing Mexico away from God and closer to the United States.

Despite the fact that Presidential spokesman Michael McCurry tried not to appear as the bearer of the news, the media interpreted his response as a confirmation of the news that appeared on Tuesday in the influential The Washington Post.

However, for McCurry himself, aware of the importance President William Clinton places on the only Latin American country that is its partner in NAFTA, "it seems like a credible story."

Clinton is interested in finding someone who may represent the interests of the US Government at a time that he seeks to build a strong partnership with the Mexican Government, the White House spokesman indicated.

The alleged selection of Davidow by the US executive appeared, according to The Washington Post, in a so-called "memorandum of action" sent to President Clinton for his final approval.

Last December, the US President advanced that he would soon elect a new candidate for the post of envoy to the neighboring country, but he refused to speculate on the person to be selected or already chosen.

Among the names that were mentioned then were Brian Atwood, who for several years has headed the AID; Robert Lanier, mayor of Houston, Texas; and Nevada State Governor Robert Miller.

The US Embassy in Mexico has lacked an ambassador since 1 July 197 when James Jones decided to quit the difficult US diplomacy to become a chief executive officer with a US textile company.

Shortly thereafter, Helms ignored the members of his own Republican Party who favored the nomination of former Massachusetts State Governor William Weld, and vetoed him for the post arguing that Weld approved the use of drugs for medical treatment, a position termed "very liberal."

According to the influential North Carolina senator, Weld does not have the necessary courage to "put his foot down" in order to prevent the arrival of drugs allegedly entering the country through the Mexican border, drugs consumed by 13 million US citizens.

In addition to being an expert on the region after holding since August of 1996, the second highest ranking diplomatic position for Latin America, Davidow is a public official with background as ambassador to Venezuela and Zambia.

Graduated from the Universities of Massachusetts and Minnesota, he also served as a diplomat in Guatemala and Chile and participated in the negotiations on southwestern Africa and on the withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia.

In addition, he has a political profile that is surely well liked by Jesse Helms, chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, entity responsible for approving presidential nominations for the post of ambassador.

The new diplomatic envoy, who has been noted for following in a balanced manner the instructions from the White House and the chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will have a difficult task to work harmoniously with both state branches.

This is precisely because in such issues as the fight against drug trafficking, there were opposing positions when Clinton decided to encourage cooperation and the Senate preferred the sanctions entailed by the so-called certification process.

To the controversial US immigration policy toward its southern neighbor, criticized by all Mexican political parties, one must add the vague US position in the face of the explosive situation in the southern State of Chiapas.

Analysts and observers agree that the new envoy will strive to make the cry of fear of the illustrious Mexican more painful, when he said: "Poor Mexico, so far from God and so close to the United States."

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(endall) 070512 fc/ramirez/ejl DRCU0701.08E 07/1827z jan

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1811

TOR: 980107132936 M3095522

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHCAA9814 0170119-UUUU--RHEHNSC.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O P 170112Z JAN 98
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
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ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 4453
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY 8107
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1636
RUEHGZ/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU IMMEDIATE 4255
RUESLE/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI IMMEDIATE 0289
RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG IMMEDIATE 8658
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RUHBBMA/AMCONSUL NAHA IMMEDIATE 1447
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE IMMEDIATE 4430
RUEHKON/AMCONSUL NAGOYA IMMEDIATE 1271
RUEHKOF/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA IMMEDIATE 7801
RUEHKOS/AMCONSUL SAPPORO IMMEDIATE 6729
INFO: RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 7764
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 7195
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 9216
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USVIENNA PRIORITY
RUEHN/AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY 8580
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 3806
RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY 1850
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0934
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP PRIORITY 1046
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUAGAMS/COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//CC/BJ/CJ/EJ/PAJ/SJS// PRIORITY
RUAGAMS/CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS PRIORITY
RUAGAMS/SACINCUNC KS PRIORITY
RUAGAMS/USCINCUNC SEOUL KS PRIORITY
RHHMBRA/CINCPACELT HI PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY 6401
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC 4417
RUETIAA/DIRNSA MD
RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT WASHDC 4211
SUBJ: JANUARY 16, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP
REGION

ALL POSTS -- ALSO FOR USIS
SECDEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA
TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 09 STATE 009814

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, XE, US
SUBJECT: JANUARY 16, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP
REGION

ALL POSTS -- ALSO FOR USIS
SECDEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA
USCINOPAC FOR FPA TEARE
USVIENNA FOR UNVIE
BEIJING PASS CHENGDU

1. INDEX

-- CHINA: USPACOM ASSISTS EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS IN CHINA
(PAPAS 2 AND 3)
-- CHINA/TAIWAN: JOHN CHANG'S ATTENDANCE AT PPAYER
BREAKFAST (PAPAS 4 AND 5)
-- CHINA: CHINA/IPANIAN MISSILE COOPEPATION(PAPAS 4 AND 6)
-- CAMBODIA: BAN ON OPPOSITION NEWSPAPERS LIFTED (PAPAS 4
AND -)
-- SINGAPORE: EXPANDED NAVAL ACCESS (PAPAS 4 AND 8)
-- INDONESIA: FOOD RIOTS IN EAST JAVA (PAPAS 4 AND 9)
-- INDONESIA AND THE IMF PROGRAM: EFFECT ON STABILITY AND
EMPLOYMENT (PAPAS 4 AND 10)
-- U.S.-JAPAN CIVIL AVIATION TALKS (PAPAS 4 AND 11)
-- BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (PAPAS 4 AND 12)

-- ASIAN FINANCIAL SITUATION (PARAS 13 AND 14)

2. THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE WAS ISSUED ON 1/15/98 BY
USCINCPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS MEDIA OFFICE, CAMP H. M. SMITH,
HAWAII.

3. U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND IS DELIVERING MORE THAN 81,000
POUNDS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES TO CHINESE VICTIMS OF AN
EARTHQUAKE THAT OCCURRED IN NORTHERN HEBEI PROVINCE ON JAN.
10, 1998. AN AIR FORCE C-L7 LOADED THE SUPPLIES AT KADENA
AIR BASE, JAPAN AND DEPARTED FOR THE FOUR HOUR FLIGHT
ARRIVING IN BEIJING AT 1:00 P.M. ON JANUARY 16 (BEIJING
TIME). IN ADDITION TO THE SUPPLIES, THE U.S. IS PROVIDING
\$25,000 THROUGH THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE
OF THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AID)

THE PRECISE NATURE OF THE SUPPLIES THAT ARE NEEDED WAS
WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, THE U.S.
EMBASSY IN BEIJING AND USPACOM. THE RELIEF SUPPLIES
INCLUDE MEDICAL SUPPLIES, BLANKETS AND SLEEPING BAGS,
HUMANITARIAN DAILY RATIONS, AND COLD WEATHER CLOTHING.'

THE HUMANITARIAN MISSION IS IN RESPONSE TO A FORMAL REQUEST
FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE AMERICAN
EMBASSY IN BEIJING.

THE C-L7 WITH ITS THREE MAN CREW IS FROM THE 437TH AIRLIFT
WING AT CHARLESTON AFB, S.C. THE AIRCRAFT WAS IN THE
REGION ON A REGULARLY SCHEDULED PACIFIC EXPRESS AIRLIFT
MISSION DELIVERING HIGH PRIORITY CARGO TO THE PACIFIC
THEATER WHEN THEY WERE TASKED TO DELIVER THE HUMANITARIAN
SUPPLIES TO CHINA. -

THIS IS NOT THE FIRST C-L7 FLIGHT INTO CHINA. IN SEPTEMBER 1996, AS PART OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WWII, THE C-L7 REENACTED FLIGHTS MADE BY C-47 AND C-54 AIRCRAFT DURING UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 09 STATE 009814

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 16, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

WWII. THESE AIRCRAFT WERE THE TWO WORK HORSES WHICH SUPPLIED U.S. MILITARY FIGHTING FORCES IN CHINA DURING WWII. THE C-L7 IS THE NEWEST CARGO AIRCRAFT IN THE AIR FORCE INVENTORY.

4. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCES WERE PREPARED ON 1/16/98 AND WERE NOT USED BY SPOKESMAN JAMES P. RUBIN AT THE DAILY BRIEFING. POSTS MAY DRAW FROM THEM FOR USE ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

5. TAIWAN: JOHN CHANG'S ATTENDANCE AT PRAYER BREAKFAST

CONTEXT: TAIWAN MEDIA REPORTS INDICATE THAT JOHN CHANG, SECRETARY -GENERAL OF THE RULING NATIONALIST (KMT) PARTY IN TAIWAN WILL ATTEND THE NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST. REPORTS SUGGESTING HE WILL MEET WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON SEEM TO BE BASED SIMPLY ON THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL BE AT THE SAME BREAKFAST. EVERY YEAR TAIWAN SENDS A DELEGATION TO THE NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, WHICH IS AN EVENT HOSTED BY CONGRESS AND ATTENDED BY LARGE NUMBERS OF PERSONS. LAST YEAR, THEN-LEGISLATOR VINCENT SLEW LED THE TAIWAN DELEGATION. AS MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS CHINESE AFFAIRS, CHANG LED TAIWAN'S 1996 DELEGATION TO THE PRAYER BREAKFAST, AND HE WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE 1996 DELEGATION, WHICH WAS LED BY THEN-KMT SECRETARY GENERAL HSU SHUL-TER.

AS A PARTY REPRESENTATIVE, CHANG DOES NOT FALL WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF OUR POLICY ON VISITS BY SENIOR TAIWAN LEADERS. BEFORE RECENTLY BECOMING KMT SECRETARY-GENERAL, CHANG SERVED AS FOREIGN MINISTER AND VERY BRIEFLY AS VICE PREMIER.

REQUESTS FOR VISITS BY TAIWAN'S SENIOR LEADERS ARE CONSIDERED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, UNDER THE CRITERIA THAT VISITS WILL BE PRIVATE, UNOFFICIAL, AND RARE. THERE HAS NOT BEEN A VISIT BY A SENIOR-MOST TAIWAN LEADER SINCE LEE TENG-HUL'S VISIT TO CORNELL IN JUNE 1995.

Q: WILL KUOMINTANG PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL JOHN CHANG MEET WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON AT THE NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST?

A: WE HAVE SEEN MEDIA REPORTS THAT JOHN CHANG, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE KMT (NATIONALIST) PARTY IN TAIWAN PLANS TO ATTEND THE CONGRESSIONALLY-HOSTED NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST IN EARLY FEBRUARY.

KMT REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER DIGNITARIES FROM TAIWAN HAVE ATTENDED THE NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST IN THE PAST.

PRESIDENT CLINTON IS EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, BUT THERE IS NO PLAN FOR A MEETING WITH MR. CHANG.

IF ASKED

I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE TAIWAN AUTHORITIES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON MR. CHANG'S PLANS.

IF ASKED

OUR POLICY THAT VISITS WILL BE PRIVATE, UNOFFICIAL, AND RARE APPLIES TO SENIOR LEADERS OF THE TAIWAN EXECUTIVE UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 09 STATE 009814

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 16, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

AUTHORITIES. MR. CHANG IS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE KMT PARTY.

Q: HAS MR. CHANG APPLIED YET FOR A VISA?

A: WE DON'T KNOW. BUT SUCH A REQUEST WOULD BE HANDLED ACCORDING TO NORMAL PROCEDURES.

IF PRESSED:

MR. CHANG IS A KMT PARTY HEAD, NOT A SENIOR LEADER OF TAIWAN EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES.

6. CHINA: CHINA/IRANIAN MISSILE COOPERATION

CONTEXT: IN A NYT ARTICLE TODAY, AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT IRAN ALSO RECEIVES ASSISTANCE FROM CHINA ON ITS MISSILE PROGRAM, IN ADDITION TO HELP FROM RUSSIA. IN THE EARLY 1990'S, CHINA SOLD IRAN CSS-8 SURFACE-TO-SURFACE BALLISTIC MISSILES, WHICH FALL BELOW THE MTCR THRESHOLDS, AND FOR SOME TIME NOW THE U.S. HAS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT REPORTS INDICATING THAT CHINESE ENTITIES ARE INVOLVED IN MISSILE-RELATED COOPERATION WITH IRAN. WE TAKE THESE REPORTS VERY SERIOUSLY AND REPEATEDLY RAISE OUR CONCERNS WITH CHINA AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS. IN OCTOBER 1994, CHINA AGREED TO BAN ALL EXPORTS OF MTCR-CLASS GROUND-TO-GROUND MISSILES. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT CHINA HAS CONDUCTED ACTIVITIES INCONSISTENT WITH THIS COMMITMENT.

Q: WHAT DO WE THINK ABOUT CHINA SHIPPING MISSILE ITEMS TO IRAN. DOESN'T THIS VIOLATE THE MTCR?

A: AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN CONCERNED FOR SOME TIME ABOUT IRANIAN EFFORTS WORLDWIDE TO ACQUIRE MISSILE TECHNOLOGY.

IN THE EARLY 1990'S, CHINA SOLD IRAN CSS-8 SURFACE-TO-SURFACE BALLISTIC MISSILES, WHICH FALL BELOW THE MTCR THRESHOLDS, AND FOR SOME TIME NOW WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT REPORTS THAT CHINESE FIRMS PROVIDED MISSILE-RELATED EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TO IRAN.

WE STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY MISSILE COOPERATION WITH IRAN AND HAVE RAISED THESE ISSUES WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA IN THE PAST, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

IN OCTOBER 1994, CHINA AGREED TO BAN ALL EXPORTS OF MTCR-CLASS GROUND-TO-GROUND MISSILES.

WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT CHINA HAS ACTED IN A MANNER INCONSISTENT WITH THIS COMMITMENT.

(IF ASKED ABOUT US SANCTIONS LAWS)

WE FULLY AND CONSCIENTIOUSLY IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF U.S. LAW AND WOULD TAKE ANY ACTIONS REQUIRED BY THOSE LAWS WERE WE TO DETERMINE THAT ENTITIES IN EITHER CHINA OR IRAN HAD ENGAGED IN SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITIES.

7. CAMBODIA: BAN ON OPPOSITION NEWSPAPERS LIFTED

CONTEXT: NEWS REPORTS INDICATE SECOND PRIME MINISTER HUN UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 09 STATE 009814

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 16, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

SEN ORDERED THE INFORMATION MINISTRY TO LIFTS ITS JANUARY 8 ORDER SUSPENDING PUBLICATION OF SIX OPPOSITION NEWSPAPERS.

Q: WHAT IS THE USG POSITION ON REPORTS THAT THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT HAS LIFTED ITS SUSPENSION OF SIX OPPOSITION NEWSPAPERS?

A: WE HAVE SEEN THESE REPORTS AND, IF THEY ARE CONFIRMED, WE WOULD VIEW THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION AS POSITIVE. A FREE AND OPEN PRESS IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN ESTABLISHING AN ATMOSPHERE FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS NOW SCHEDULED FOR JULY.

WE REMAIN CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT THE INFORMATION MINISTRY, THROUGH ITS NEW REPORTING RULES ALLEGEDLY INTENDED TO PROTECT NATIONAL SECURITY, INTENDS TO MUZZLE CAMBODIA'S OPPOSITION PRESS. WE URGE THE CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES TO ESURE THAT ALL OPPOSITION MEDIA, AS WELL AS THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA, ARE PERMITTED TO OPERATE FREELY

AND THEIR RIGHTS TO FREE EXPRESSION FULLY PROTECTED.

WE HAVE RAISED OUR CONCERNS OVER THE ISSUES OF PRESS FREEDOM AND OPPOSITION ACCESS TO THE MEDIA, IN ADDITION TO THE OVERALL HUMAN RIGHTS CLIMATE, DIRECTLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT--MOST RECENTLY DURING A/S SHATTUCK'S DECEMBER VISIT.

8. SINGAPORE: EXPANDED NAVAL ACCESS

CONTEXT: SINGAPORE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/DEFENSE MINISTER TONY TAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT CAME AS A SURPRISE. SINGAPORE MADE THE OFFER TO BUILD A PIER CAPABLE OF BERTHING U.S. AIRCRAFT

CARRIERS AT THE NEW CHANGI NAVAL BASE MORE THAN A YEAR AGO, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THESE PLANS HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC. WE UNDERSTAND TAN INFORMED COHEN HE WOULD MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT JUST MOMENTS BEFORE MEETING THE PRESS. UNDER THE TERMS OF A 1990 MOU, SINGAPORE ALLOWS THE U.S. MILITARY ACCESS TO SEMBAWANG NAVAL FACILITY AND PAYA LEBAR AIR BASE. ALTHOUGH SINGAPORE HAS MADE CLEAR THAT IT INTENDS TO EXPAND OUR ACCESS TO INCLUDE CHANGI, WE HAVE NOT YET BEGUN TO DISCUSS WITH THE GOV SPECIFIC TERMS OF THE ARRANGEMENT.

Q. WHAT IS THE USG REACTION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT DURING SECRETARY COHEN'S VISIT THAT U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, SUBMARINES AND OTHER SHIPS WILL USE A PLANNED NEW NAVAL FACILITY IN SINGAPORE FOR PORT VISITS AND MAINTENANCE BEGINNING IN 2000. WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE AGREEMENT?

A: WE ARE VERY PLEASED BY SINGAPORE'S OFFER OF U.S. ACCESS TO THE NEW CHANGI NAVAL BASE WHEN IT IS COMPLETED IN 2000. UNDER THE TERMS OF A 1990 MEMORANDUM OF

UNDERSTANDING, SINGAPORE GRANTED U.S. ACCESS TO ITS SEMBAWANG NAVAL FACILITY FOR LOGISTICAL SUPPORT OF OUR FLEET. THE CHANGI NAVAL BASE WILL BE A DEEP-DRAFT FACILITY CAPABLE OF ACCOMMODATING MUCH LARGER VESSELS INCLUDING AIRCRAFT CARRIERS.

THE U.S. GREATLY APPRECIATES SINGAPORE'S STRONG AND CONSISTENT SUPPORT OF OUR SECURITY PRESENCE IN THE REGION. OUR PARTNERSHIP IS VERY IMPORTANT TO HELPING MAINTAIN THE UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 09 STATE 009814

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 16, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

REGION'S LONG-TERM STABILITY.

9. INDONESIA: FOOD RIOTS IN EAST JAVA

CONTEXT: DOZENS OF PEOPLE ATTACKED SHOPS IN SEVERAL TOWNS IN EAST JAVA TO PROTEST RISING FOOD PRICES TRIGGERED BY THE

COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC CRISIS. THE RECENT SPATE OF DEMONSTRATIONS IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE AS LONG AS THE WORKING POOR CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR ABILITY TO BUY BASIC FOODS AND KEEP THEIR JOBS. IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT JANUARY 15 FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF A NEW IMF REFORM PACKAGE, IMF MANAGING DIRECTOR MICHEL CAMDESSUS- RECOGNIZED THE HARDSHIPS THAT THE WORKING CLASSES MIGHT EXPERIENCE AS THE INDONESIAN ECONOMY ADJUSTS, AND NOTED THAT PRICE INCREASES FOR CERTAIN GOODS, SUCH AS KEROSENE AND DIESEL, HAD BEEN KEPT TO A MINIMUM SO AS TO PROTECT THE POOR.

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE RIOTS THAT TOOK PLACE IN INDONESIA?

A: WE UNDERSTAND THAT SPORADIC RIOTING OCCURRED IN EAST JAVA THROUGH MUCH OF THE WEEK, PRINCIPALLY OVER RISING FOOD PRICES. A NUMBER OF PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS OVER FOOD PRICES HAVE ALSO OCCURRED OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS AS THE INDONESIAN CURRENCY EXPERIENCED RAPID DEPRECIATION. THE SITUATION THROUGHOUT INDONESIA WAS CALMER TODAY (FRIDAY), AND WE HAVE HEARD NO REPORTS OF FURTHER RIOTING OR LOOTING.

Q. WHAT ADVICE ARE YOU GIVING TO AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO TRAVEL OR LIVE IN INDONESIA?

A: ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1998, THE U.S. EMBASSY IN JAKARTA ISSUED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO AMERICANS IN INDONESIA:

"DUE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED TENSION AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY ARISING FROM ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY IN INDONESIA, AMERICAN CITIZENS MAY WISH TO EXERCISE PRUDENCE AND COMMON SENSE, AND TO AVOID DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER SITUATIONS THAT COULD TURN VIOLENT."

THAT ADVICE STILL HOLDS, AND WILL BE REEVALUATED AS THE SITUATION WARRANTS.

IF ASKED

Q: WHAT WAS THE INDONESIAN RESPONSE TO THESE DEMONSTRATIONS?

A. THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT, IN ORDER TO ENSURE SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES OF STAPLES REACH THE MARKET, HAS WARNED MERCHANTS THAT IT WILL TAKE FIRM MEASURES AGAINST TRADERS WHO STOCKPILE FOOD. IT ALSO ANNOUNCED IT WOULD BOOST RICE IMPORTS TO COPE WITH SHORTAGES CAUSED BY THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND A DROUGHT WHICH HIT INDONESIA LAST YEAR.

MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THE POLICE ARE WORKING TO KEEP THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL. THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH LOCAL MERCHANTS TO MAKE SURE SHELVES REMAINED STOCKED WITH SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES. THEY HAVE INCREASED THEIR PUBLIC PRESENCE IN MARKETS TO HELP PREVENT RIOTING, BUT HAVE ALLOWED PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS TO PROCEED.

UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 09 STATE 009814

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 16, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP
REGION

10. INDONESIA AND IMF PROGRAM: EFFECT ON STABILITY AND
EMPLOYMENT

Q: IS IT TRUE MILLIONS OF INDONESIANS WILL LOSE THEIR JOBS
BECAUSE OF THE SEVERITY OF THE IMF MANDATED REFORMS?

A: WE CANNOT SPECULATE ON SUCH QUESTIONS, BUT WE BELIEVE
THAT THE IMF HAS PUT TOGETHER A STRONG PROGRAM FOR
INDONESIA, AND IF THE INDONESIANS ADHERE TO THE PROGRAM AND
CARRY IT FORWARD ON A SUSTAINED BASIS, THEY WILL REGAIN
ECONOMIC STABILITY.

THE PURPOSE OF THE IMF PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL
REFORMS -- AND THE SET OF SPECIFIC STEPS ANNOUNCED ON
JANUARY 15 -- IS TO HELP RESTORE ECONOMIC STABILITY AND
CONFIDENCE IN INDONESIA AND AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH
ECONOMIC GROWTH CAN RESUME.

Q: AREN'T WE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR
INSTABILITY IN INDONESIA DUE TO RISING LEVELS OF
UNEMPLOYMENT?

A: THE GREATEST THREAT TO INDONESIA'S STABILITY WOULD BE
FOR THE CURRENT CRISIS TO CONTINUE WITHOUT AMELIORATING
ACTIONS TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE, STABILITY AND SUSTAINED
ECONOMIC GROWTH. THAT IS WHY WE BELIEVE IT IS CRITICALLY
IMPORTANT THAT INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES CARRY OUT THE
NECESSARY STEPS IT HAS AGREED TO UNDERTAKE WITH THE IMF.

BY HELPING INDONESIA ADDRESS ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, THE
IMF AND WE ARE HELPING IT SUSTAIN CONDITIONS FOR STABILITY
AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.

11. U.S.-JAPAN CIVIL AVIATION TALKS

BACKGROUND: U.S. JAPAN CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONS ARE
GOVERNED BY AN AGREEMENT SIGNED IN 1952. BECAUSE OF
RESTRICTIONS SPECIFIED IN THIS AGREEMENT, AS WELL AS
AMBIGUITIES IN THE TEXT, WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL BITTER
DISPUTES WITH THE GOJ IN THE PAST FEW YEARS OVER THE RIGHTS
OF OUR CARRIERS TO OPERATE TO AND BEYOND JAPAN. NOW, AFTER
SIX ROUNDS OF TALKS WE ARE MOVING TOWARDS A NEW AIR
SERVICES PACT WHICH WILL GREATLY EXPAND AIR SERVICES
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND WILL RESOLVE LONGSTANDING
DISPUTES. OUR INDUSTRY IS SOLIDLY BEHIND THE NEW AGREEMENT
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NORTHWEST AIRLINES, WHICH HAS
OPERATED TO JAPAN WITH A PRIVILEGED POSITION ROOTED IN THE
ORIGINAL 1952 AGREEMENT, AND WHICH NOW SEES ITS POSITION
THREATENED BY THE COMPETITION A NEW AGREEMENT WILL BRING.
NORTHWEST HAS DECIDED TO COMBAT THE DEAL THROUGH A CAMPAIGN
ARGUING THAT THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT IS NOT LIBERAL ENOUGH

(I.E. IS NOT FULLY DEREGULATED "OPEN SKIES") AND HAS ENLISTED ITS SUPPORTERS ON THE HILL AND ELSEWHERE TO QUESTION A NEW AGREEMENT.

Q: WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO SENATOR HELMS' REQUEST THAT THE ADMINISTRATION NOT CONCLUDE A CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN PRIOR TO FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARINGS IN FEBRUARY?

A: DURING THE PAST YEAR WE HAVE CONSULTED CLOSELY WITH UNCLAS SECTION 07 OF 09 STATE 009814

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 16, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

SENATOR HELMS AND HIS STAFF. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN WILL RECONVENE NEXT WEEK. WE ARE CLOSE TO AN AGREEMENT THAT WILL PROVIDE ENORMOUS BENEFITS FOR THE UNITED STATES CONSUMERS, SHIPPERS AND AIRLINES. OUR EFFORTS HAVE BROAD SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE HEARING ANNOUNCED BY SENATOR HELMS AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN THE EXPECTED OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE EXCEPTIONAL MARKET-OPENING POTENTIAL OF THE AGREEMENT WE EXPECT TO ACHIEVE.

Q: HOW WILL THIS NEW AGREEMENT BE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE OLD AGREEMENT?

A: THE AGREEMENT WILL PRESERVE AND SOLIDIFY OUR EXISTING RIGHTS, OPEN THE MARKET TO NEW ENTRANTS AND NEW CITY-PAIR SERVICES, AND SETTLE LONGSTANDING DISPUTES ON OUR CARRIERS' RIGHTS TO FLY BEYOND JAPAN. NONINCUMBENT CARRIERS SUCH AS AMERICAN, CONTINENTAL AND DELTA DO ESPECIALLY WELL UNDER THIS NEW AGREEMENT, RECEIVING 90 WEEKLY FREQUENCIES FOR OPERATIONS TO JAPAN. CURRENTLY THEY FLY 46 FREQUENCIES EACH WEEK. TWA AND US AIRWAYS WILL NOW BE ABLE TO ENTER THE MARKET.

12. BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

CONTEXT: YESTERDAY'S NEW YORK TIMES CARRIES AN ARTICLE IN WHICH A THINK TANK TYPE IS QUOTED AS WRITING THAT THE U.S. IS "AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE WITHOUT A POSITION" AND THAT "SENIOR POLICY MAKERS HAVE APPARENTLY NOT YET MUSTERED ANY GENUINE ENTHUSIASM" FOR THE BWC, "IN SHARP CONTRAST TO A WILLINGNESS TO THREATEN MILITARY ACTION." IN THE SAME ARTICLE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IS CITED AS CONCERNED ABOUT HOW ANY NEW REGULATIONS WOULD AFFECT THE INDUSTRY. ALTHOUGH NOT CLEAR FROM THE ARTICLE, THE REAL ISSUE IS THE U.S. POSITION IN NEGOTIATIONS SEEKING

TO FORMULATE TRANSPARENCY MEASURES FOR THE BWC (WHICH WAS NEGOTIATED AND ENTERED INTO FORCE IN THE L9-0S WITHOUT SUCH PROVISIONS) . AS WAS DEMONSTRATED IN SENATE CONSIDERATION OF THE CWC, VERIFICATION IS A PARTICULARLY COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT ASPECT OF ANY NONPROLIFERATION TREATY -- BALANCING REQUIREMENTS FOR TECHNICAL VALIDITY AGAINST COSTS, INCLUDING RISK TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND BUSINESS PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. IN THE CASE OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AND THE BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY, THESE PROBLEMS ARE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE DIFFICULT THAN THEY ARE FOR THE CHEMICAL OR NUCLEAR CASES, AND THAT IS WHY SUCH NEGOTIATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE MORE THAN 20 YEARS AFTER THE TREATY ENTERED INTO FORCE.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE COMMENTS IN TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES THAT THE U.S. IS NEGOTIATING WITHOUT A POSITION CONCERNING THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION?

A: THE PARTIES TO THE BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION ARE NOW ACTIVELY SEEKING TO NEGOTIATE A PROTOCOL TO STRENGTHEN THE BWC BY INCREASING TRANSPARENCY AND CONFIDENCE IN COMPLIANCE BY ALL STATES PARTIES.

UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 09 STATE 009814

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 16, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

CONTRARY TO THE IMPRESSION LEFT IN THAT ARTICLE, THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE ONE OF OUR HIGHEST NONPROLIFERATION PRIORITIES. WE ARE WORKING INTENSIVELY TO DEVELOP COMPLIANCE AND TRANSPARENCY MEASURES WHICH WILL ENHANCE CONFIDENCE IN COMPLIANCE AND INCREASE COSTS AND RISKS TO CHEATERS, AND DO SO WITHOUT UNDUE RISK TO PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.

13. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY ON 1/16/98. POSTS MAY DRAW FROM IT FOR USE ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

14. TODAY'S QUOTES:

DEPUTY TREASURY SECRETARY LARRY SUMMERS: "SOUND POLICIES IN ONE COUNTRY ARE CONDUCTIVE TO CONFIDENCE, WHICH BENEFITS OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL."

AFTER SPEAKING WITH SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT KIM YOUNG-SAM AND PRESIDENT-ELECT KIM DAE-JUNG:

DEPUTY TREASURY SECRETARY LARRY SUMMERS: SAID BOTH WERE COMMITTED TO REFORMS AGREED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND, "I WAS VERY ENCOURAGED BY THE DETERMINATION WITH WHICH ALL SEEM TO BE COMMITTED TO THE IMF. . THERE IS GENERAL RECOGNITION THAT THE STEPS CALLED FOR AND AGREED

WITH BY THE IMF ARE STEPS THAT ARE VERY MUCH IN KOREA'S
ECONOMIC INTEREST AS IT SEEKS TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE AND
PROSPERITY."

SPEAKING ON THE ROLE OF JAPAN:
DEPUTY TREASURY SECRETARY LARRY SUMMERS: "ALSO CRUCIAL IS
THE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN JAPAN, WHERE A SUCCESSFUL
CARRY-THROUGH OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S COMMITMENT TO
DOMESTIC DEMAND LED GROWTH AND FINANCIAL STABILITY WILL BE
VERY IMPORTANT."

Q&A:

Q: WILL THE CHINESE DEVALUE THEIR CURRENCY?

A: AS DEPUTY PREMIER ZHU RONJI STATED AFTER MEETINGS WITH
DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS, THE CHINESE ARE COMMITTED TO THE
MAINTENANCE OF THEIR EXCHANGE RATE REGIME AND RECOGNIZE
THAT IT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION THAT CHINA
COULD MAKE TO STABILITY IN ASIA.

Q: IMK MANAGING DIRECTOR MICHEL CAMDESSUS AND PRESIDENT
SUHARTO ANNOUNCED A NEW DEAL TO HELP STABILIZE INDONESIA'S
ECONOMY. IS THE PACKAGE ENOUGH?

A: WE BELIEVE THAT THE IMF HAS PUT TOGETHER A STRONG
PROGRAM FOR INDONESIA AND THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS
FOR THE INDONESIANS TO ADHERE TO THE PROGRAM AND CONTINUE
TO CARRY FORWARD ON A SUSTAINED BASIS. IT IS CRITICALLY
IMPORTANT THAT THE INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES TAKE THE STEPS
NECESSARY TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN INDONESIA.

Q: CAN INDONESIA MAKE PROGRESS WHILE SUHARTO IS STILL IN
POWER?

A: PRESIDENT SUHARTO HAS STATED THAT HE IS COMMITTED TO
UNCLAS SECTION 09 OF 09 STATE 009814

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 16, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP
REGION

THE IMK PROGRAM. WE BELIEVE THAT THE IMF HAS PUT TOGETHER
A STRONG PROGRAM FOR INDONESIA. IN ORDER FOR INDONESIA TO
MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD ECONOMIC STABILITY, IT IS MOST
IMPORTANT THAT THEY ADHERE TO THE PROGRAM AND CONTINUE TO
CARRY FORWARD ON A SUSTAINED BASIS.

Q: SOME IN CONGRESS HAVE STATED THAT THEY WILL NOT SUPPORT
ANY LEGISLATION ON IMF FUNDING THAT DOES NOT ADDRESS THE
MORAL HAZARD PROBLEM. SHOULD TAXPAYER DOLLARS BE TURNED
OVER TO THE FUND TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS THAT SIMPLY BAIL OUT
BIG BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS?

A: MANY INVESTMENT INSTITUTIONS HAVE ALREADY EXPERIENCED SERIOUS LOSSES. HOWEVER, THE ECONOMIC AND NATIONAL SECURITY RISKS OF INACTION ARE TOO GREAT TO SIMPLY STAND BY. THE IME ALLOWS US TO SHARE THE BURDEN OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP WITH OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS, AND MUST REMAIN THE WORLD'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST FINANCIAL INSTABILITY AND ECONOMIC STRIFE.

Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE KOREAN BANK NEGOTIATIONS? IS IT TRUE THAT UNLESS THE BANKS AGREE TO KOREAN DEMANDS FOR MORE FLEXIBLE PAYMENT SCHEDULES AND LOWER INTEREST RATES THE KOREANS WILL NOT ACCEPT THE TERMS OF THE DEAL?

A: THIS IS AN ISSUE FOR KOREA TO WORK OUT WITH THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL BANKS. BUT, IT IS IN THEIR INTEREST TO DO SO AND DO SO QUICKLY. WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS THAT THEY HAVE MADE THUS FAR.

Q: THERE ARE STORIES TODAY OF RIOTING IN INDONE-SIA AND MASSIVE SOCIAL UNREST OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF MILLIONS OF LAYOFFS AS A RESULT OF THE IME PACKAGE. IS THE IME PROGRAM TOO AUSTERE?

A: THE PROBLEMS IN INDONESIA WEREN'T CREATED OVERNIGHT AND THEY WON'T BE SOLVED OVERNIGHT. HOWEVER, ECONOMIC STABILITY WILL HELP LEAD TO POLITICAL AND SOCIAL STABILITY. WE BELIEVE THAT THE IME HAS PUT TOGETHER A STRONG PROGRAM FOR INDONESIA AND IF THE INDONESIANS ADHERE TO THE PROGRAM AND CONTINUE TO CARRY FORWARD ON A SUSTAINED BASIS THEY WILL REGAIN ECONOMIC STABILITY. BUT, IT IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT THAT THE INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN INDONESIA.

ALBRIGHT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 09

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TO: SECSTATE WASHDC 2755
INFO: /////
SUBJ: APL: PM BLAIR ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES
TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 000717

STATE FOR PM, EUR, ACDA, H

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PARM, PREL, UK
SUBJECT: APL: PM BLAIR ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES

1. ON DECEMBER 3 SENATOR HELMS, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, WROTE BRITISH PM BLAIR OPPOSING BRITISH RATIFICATION OF THE OTTAWA CONVENTION ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DOES INTEND TO RATIFY THE OTTAWA CONVENTION. THE FCO PASSED US A COPY OF PM BLAIR'S DECEMBER 12 RESPONSE TO SEN. HELMS. (NO USG ACTION IS REQUIRED IN DELIVERING THE LETTER, THE BRITISH EMBASSY WILL DELIVER THE LETTER TO SEN. HELMS'S OFFICE.)

2. TEXT OF DECEMBER 3 LETTER FROM SEN. HELMS, CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS TO UK PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR. (EMBASSY HAS ADDED PARAGRAPH NUMBERS)

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

(1) I RESPECTFULLY URGE THAT YOU STRONGLY RESIST ANY AND ALL PRESSURES TO RATIFY THE LAND MINE TREATY RECENTLY NEGOTIATED IN OSLO, NORWAY. THIS TREATY, MR. PRIME MINISTER, CONTAINS SERIOUS DEFICIENCIES DANGEROUS TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS OF BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

(2) YOU AND I, AND ALL OTHERS, ARE GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE GRAVE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS POSED BY THE INDISCRIMINATE USE OF LAND MINES. BUT THE OSLO TREATY WILL DO ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. NEITHER THE COUNTRIES THAT EXPORT THESE MINES, NOR THE RELIGIOUS AND

ETHNIC FACTIONS WHICH UTILIZE THEM, PARTICIPATED IN OSLO; THESE COUNTRIES WILL NOT SIGN THIS TREATY. IN SHORT, THE WORLD WILL NOT BE ONE IOTA SAFER OR BETTER AS A RESULT OF THIS EXERCISE IN ARMS CONTROL UTOPIANISM.

(3) INSTEAD, THIS ENTIRE PROCESS HAS BEEN CONDUCTED AT THE EXPENSE OF THE NATO MILITARY ALLIANCE. THERE ARE NATIONS THAT HAVE USED THE TREATY TO OPEN QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MAINTENANCE OF U.S. STOCKPILES ON THEIR TERRITORY, AND TO DESTROY CONSENSUS REGARDING THE FORMULATION OF RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR NATO MISSIONS (SUCH AS BOSNIA).

(4) I AM ESPECIALLY CONCERNED THAT SOME COUNTRIES INTEND TO DENY THE U.S. THE ABILITY TO USE LAND MINES IN FUTURE NATO OPERATIONS. FURTHER, NATO'S INTEGRATED MILITARY COMMD STRUCTURE WILL BE PLACED IN POTENTIAL PERIL IF NATO'S OFFICERS ARE PRECLUDED FROM AUTHORIZING LAND MINE USE BY VIRTUE OF THEIR NATIONALITY.

(5) TO SUM UP, MR. PRIME MINISTER, DURING THE PAST 48 YEARS, THE UNITED STATES HAS FULFILLED ITS PLEDGE, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE V OF THE WASHINGTON TREATY OF 1949, TO TREAT AN ARMED ATTACK ON ANY NATO MEMBER AS AN ARMED ATTACK AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ITSELF. WITH THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY, THE UNITED STATES UNDERTOOK THE OBLIGATION TO TAKE "INDIVIDUALLY AND IN CONCERT WITH THE OTHER PARTIES, SUCH ACTION AS IT DEEMS NECESSARY, INCLUDING THE USE OF ARMED FORCE, TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN THE SECURITY OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC AREA." IN OTHER WORDS, IN FULFILLING U.S. OBLIGATIONS PURSUANT TO THE WASHINGTON TREATY, THE RESPONSIBILITY FALLS SOLELY TO THE UNITED STATES TO DETERMINE WHAT ACTIONS ARE NECESSARY.

(6) THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES LAND MINES ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE DEFENSE OF NATO. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF HAS ESTIMATED THAT U.S. CASUALTIES MAY INCREASE BY AS MUCH AS 35 PERCENT IN A EUROPEAN THEATER OF CONFLICT IF LAND MINES ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO THE U.S. MILITARY.

(7) THAT IS WHY, MR. PRIME MINISTER, I URGE THE UNITED KINGDOM TO JOIN WITH THE UNITED STATES IN REJECTING THE OSLO TREATY. THE VERY ACT OF SIGNING THIS TREATY LEGITIMIZES THE IRRESPONSIBLE NEGOTIATING POSITIONS OF COUNTRIES (AND ORGANIZATIONS) WHICH HAVE TREATED U.S. AND U.K. VITAL NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS WITH CONTEMPT. INSTEAD, WE SHOULD TOGETHER CONTINUE TO SUPPORT DEMINING PROGRAMS, AND ASSERT LEADERSHIP IN NEGOTIATING A REALISTIC, VERIFIABLE BAN ON NON-SELF-DISARMING LAND MINES WITHIN THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT.

(8) IF YOUR GOVERNMENT FEELS OBLIGATED TO RATIFY THE OSLO TREATY, I URGE THAT YOU CLARIFY -- IN ADVANCE -- YOUR VIEWS ON THE TREATY'S IMPLICATIONS FOR LAND MINE STOCKPILES, NATO RULES OF ENGAGEMENT AND COMMAND STRUCTURES, AND U.S. SECURITY COMMITMENTS TO THE U.K. PURSUANT TO ARTICLE V OF THE WASHINGTON TREATY.

(9) I CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND THE POSITION IN WHICH THE UNITED KINGDOM IS PLACED BY THE OSLO PROCESS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION, AND LOOK FORWARD TO SUPPORTING YOUR GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS REGARDING THIS EXCEEDINGLY IMPORTANT MATTER.

SINCERELY,
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 000717

STATE FOR PM, EUR, ACDA, H

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PARM, PREL, UK
SUBJECT: APL: PM BLAIR ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES

JESSE HELMS

END TEXT.

3. TEXT OF DECEMBER 12 LETTER FROM BRITISH PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR TO SEN. HELMS. (EMBASSY HAS ADDED PARAGRAPH NUMBERS).

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR SENATOR HELMS,

(1) THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF DECEMBER 3 ABOUT THE CONVENTION BANNING ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES, WHICH WAS SIGNED IN OTTAWA LAST WEEK.

(2) THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE ALLIANCE IS ABSOLUTE. I DEEPLY RESPECT THE UNITED STATES' CONTRIBUTION FOR THE PAST 50 YEARS TO THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN EUROPE AND MORE WIDELY, INCLUDING IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA. I KNOW THAT THESE ARE GOALS FOR WHICH YOU HAVE WORKED HARD YOURSELF OVER MANY YEARS.

(3) BEFORE SIGNING THE OTTAWA CONVENTION, WE CONSIDERED VERY CAREFULLY THE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF DOING SO. WE CONCLUDED THAT ANY MARGINAL EFFECT ON NATO'S POTENTIAL WOULD BE OUTWEIGHED BY THE ALLEVIATION OF THE SUFFERING THAT ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES CAUSE. THEY ARE A PLAGUE ON OUR PLANET WHICH WE ARE DETERMINED TO END AND WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE OTTAWA CONVENTION CONTRIBUTES TO THAT OBJECTIVE. PUBLIC OPINION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IS OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOR OF THE OTTAWA CONVENTION.

(4) I RESPECT YOUR VIEW THAT THE OTTAWA CONVENTION WILL NOT MAKE THE WORLD A SAFER PLACE. BUT I CANNOT AGREE WITH YOU. BY SIGNING THE CONVENTION, ALONG WITH MORE THAN 120 OTHER STATES, WE ARE SETTING AN EXAMPLE WHICH WILL, I AM CONVINCED, INCREASE THE PRESSURE ON NON-SIGNATORIES WHO EXPORT THESE WEAPONS. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO URGE AS MANY COUNTRIES AS POSSIBLE TO FOLLOW. BUT WE SHALL ALSO PURSUE A WIDER BAN IN OTHER FORA, INCLUDING THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT. OUR AIM IS A TRULY GLOBAL BAN WHICH I HOPE THE UNITED STATES WILL IN DUE COURSE FEEL ABLE TO JOIN.

(5) WE ARE LOOKING CLOSELY AT THE QUESTION OF HOW OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE OTTAWA CONVENTION WILL AFFECT OUR MILITARY OPERATIONS, INCLUDING WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. WE ARE DISCUSSING THE ISSUE WITH THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND LOOK FORWARD TO WIDER ALLIANCE CONSIDERATION OF HOW TO ADAPT TO THE NEW SITUATION.

YOURS EVER,

TONY BLAIR

END TEXT.

LADER

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

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ORIG: AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO: RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0221
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1034
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEAWJB/DOJ WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0011

INFO: ////

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION-POPE'S VISIT TO CUBA AS SEEN
IN MEXICO CITY JAN. 21

TEXT:

UNCLAS MEXICO 000596

ALL USCONS MEXICO

USIA FOR I/GAR, D, AR, R/MR
STATE FOR ARA, ARA/MEX, ARA/P, PA/PRESS, ARA/PPCP
MONTERREY FOR SHOLGATE
GUADALAJARA FOR TSKIPPER
TIJUANA FOR LEROY

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION-POPE'S VISIT TO CUBA AS SEEN
IN MEXICO CITY JAN. 21

1. POLITICAL COLUMNIST GABRIEL SZEKELY WRITES IN HIS REGULAR COLUMN IN MEXICO CITY'S LEADING DAILY, "EL UNIVERSAL" UNDER THE HEADLINE "THE POPE IN CUBA." COLUMN READS IN PART: "PERHAPS POLITICAL REASONS MOTIVATED FIDEL CASTRO TO ACCEPT THE POPE'S VISIT. THE POPE'S CONSERVATISM DOES NOT PREVENT HIS DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY FROM FINDING POLITICAL SPACE WHERE PREVIOUSLY THERE SEEMED TO BE NONE. FIDEL CASTRO IS NOT HIDING THE FACT THAT HE IS PREPARING FOR HIS OWN EXIT, AND WHAT BETTER INSTITUTION TO PROMOTE GRADUAL POLITICAL CHANGE IN CUBA THAN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. THE VATICAN CAN HELP OPEN MANY DOORS, INCLUDING SOME IN THE ACRIMONIOUS ENEMY TERRITORY TO THE NORTH, WHERE MANY PEOPLE HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY ARE TIRED OF AN... OUT DATED POLICY THAT HELPS NO ONE. AFTER ALL, OTHER PEOPLE DO NOT SEE THE WORLD THROUGH JESSE HELMS'S GLASSES...

2. "HAVING SURVIVED FORTY YEARS OF OPEN (U.S.) OPPOSITION ON AN ISLAND ONLY 145 KILOMETERS FROM THE GREATEST POLITICO-MILITARY POWER OF THE CENTURY INDICATES THAT THERE IS POLITICAL TALENT (IN CUBA) FAR MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN U.S. CONSERVATIVES WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE. WITH HIS LEADERSHIP REVITALIZED AS A RESULT OF POPE JOHN PAUL'S VISIT, FIDEL'S MAIN LEGACY COULD BE AN OPENING OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AT THE END OF HIS LIFE, IN A NATION WHERE THE OVERALL HEALTH AND EDUCATION LEVELS WOULD ALLOW ALMOST EVERYONE TO COMPETE TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS."

3. POLITICAL COLUMNIST JORGE FERNANDEZ MENENDEZ WRITES IN HIS REGULAR COLUMN IN THE BUSINESS-ORIENTED "EL FINANCIERO:" "THE POPE'S VISIT TO CUBA HAS A SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS DIMENSION, BUT ALSO A POLITICAL ONE. JOHN PAUL HAS MANAGED TO COMBINE THE TWO, USING THE POLITICAL DIMENSION AS AN OPENING FOR THE SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS DIMENSION... THE EFFECTS OF THE POPE'S VISIT WILL NOT ONLY BE FELT IN CUBA, BUT THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE HEMISPHERE. ACCORDING TO HIGH CHURCH AUTHORITIES, THE VISIT HAS TWO MAIN OBJECTIVES: THE EVANGELIZATION OF LATIN AMERICAN AND PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO THE NEEDY, PARTICULARLY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE. IT ALSO HAS AS A MAJOR OBJECTIVE THE EVANGELIZATION OF THE UNITED STATES... IF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WERE TO FURTHER A GRADUAL TRANSITION IN CUBA, THAT WOULD BE AN ACHIEVEMENT THAT NONE OF THE LAST NINE U.S. PRESIDENTS HAVE MADE. FURTHERMORE, THE CHURCH COULD PROMOTE THE EVANGELIZATION OF THE POOR AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN LATIN AMERICA WITHOUT FOLLOWING THE LIBERATION THEOLOGY APPROACH IN WHICH THE VATICAN DOES NOT BELIEVE... WITH REGARDS TO THE EVANGELIZATION OF THE UNITED STATES -- WHICH IS A MAJOR GOAL -- THAT PROCESS CAN ONLY COME FROM THE LATIN COMMUNITY LIVING IN THE U.S., IF IT IS TO BE ACHIEVED IN THE MASSIVE PROPORTIONS NECESSARY TO SUCCESS..." WILLIAMS, ACTING

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

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RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0904

RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 8211

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RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCJ2/POLAD//

SUBJ: ANDEAN PARLIAMENT TO MEET IN BOLIVIA IN MARCH; VALDA

- "CONFIRMS" HELMS, RANGEL ATTENDANCE

TEXT:

UNCLAS LA PAZ 000315

DEPARTMENT FOR H AND ARA/AND

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, PREL, BL

SUBJECT: ANDEAN PARLIAMENT TO MEET IN BOLIVIA IN MARCH; VALDA

- "CONFIRMS" HELMS, RANGEL ATTENDANCE

1. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARA. 4 BELOW.

2. ON JANUARY 22 POL/ECON COUNSELOR CALLED ON SEN. GONZALO VALDA (MIR-POTOSI), WHO IS BOTH THE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT/NATIONAL POLICE/ANTI-NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING COMMISSION AND THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ANDEAN PARLIAMENT, TO DISCUSS HIS PLANS FOR AN UPCOMING ANDEAN PARLIAMENT CONFERENCE TO BE HELD THIS MARCH IN SUCRE, BOLIVIA. VALDA SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE TOPIC DURING A VISIT TO WASHINGTON LAST OCTOBER WITH SEVERAL U.S. MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THAT THEY HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO PARTICIPATE. VALDA TOLD US THAT REPRESENTATIVES BENJAMIN GILMAN (R-NY), CHARLES RANGEL (D-NY) AND DANNY BURTON (R-IN), AS WELL AS SENATOR JESSE HELMS (R-NC), HAD ALL SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED THEIR ATTENDANCE. VALDA INDICATED THAT OTHERS MIGHT PARTICIPATE AS WELL.

3. VALDA STATED THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING TOPICS: MONEY LAUNDERING, CERTIFICATION, PRECURSORS AND ERADICATION. VALDA SAID HE WOULD USE THIS GATHERING TO DISCUSS COORDINATION OF LEGISLATION AMONG THE VARIOUS LEGISLATURES IN ORDER TO BETTER ADDRESS THE REGIONAL DRUG PROBLEM. THE SEMINAR/CONFERENCE WOULD INCLUDE THE PARTICIPATION OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS IN EACH OF

THE RELEVANT FIELDS.

ACTION REQUEST

4. FOR H: PLEASE CONFIRM U.S. CONGRESSIONAL ATTENDANCE AND OBTAIN CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE RESPECTIVE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. POST WOULD APPRECIATE AS MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE AS POSSIBLE SO THAT WE MAY PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

COMMENT

5. IN THE PAST, SENATOR VALDA HAS EXAGGERATED THE FACTS. THERE IS NO WAY FOR THE EMBASSY TO CONFIRM INDEPENDENTLY THAT THESE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE IN FACT AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ACTIVITY.

HRINAK

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0315

TOR: 980122151508 M3115557

DIST:

SIT: CLARKER DELAURENTIS DESOUZA DOBBINS HOFMANN ORFINI PICCONE ROSA
RUDMAN VERVILLE
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHCAA3583 0232315-UUUU--RHEHNSC.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: O P 232308Z JAN 98

LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC

OSRI: RUEHC

DTG: 232308Z JAN 98

ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC

TO: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 4676

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY 8371

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1852

RUATNPP/AMCONSUL PUSAN IMMEDIATE 5731

RUEHKOF/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA IMMEDIATE 7814

RUEHKON/AMCONSUL NAGOYA IMMEDIATE 1282

RUHBBMA/AMCONSUL NAHA IMMEDIATE 1462

RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE IMMEDIATE 4445

RUEHGZ/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU IMMEDIATE 4379

RUESLE/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI IMMEDIATE 0337

RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG IMMEDIATE 8698

INFO: RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 8004

RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 7424

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 9498

RUEHVEN/USMISSION USVIENNA PRIORITY

RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY 8794

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 4087

RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY 1914

RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1080

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP PRIORITY 1478

RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

RUAGAMS/COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//CC/BJ/CJ/EJ/PAJ/SJS// PRIORITY

RUAGAMS/CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS PRIORITY

RUAGAMS/SACINCUNC KS PRIORITY

RUAGAMS/USCINCUNC SEOUL KS PRIORITY

RHHMBRA/CINCPACFLT HI PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY 6683

SUBJ: JANUARY 23, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP
REGION

ALL POSTS -- ALSO FOR USIS

SEODEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 STATE 013583

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 23, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP
REGION

ALL POSTS -- ALSO FOR USIS
SEODEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA
USCINCPAC FOR FPA TEARE
USVIENNA FOR UNVIE
BEIJING PASS CHENGDU

1. INDEX

-- NORTH KOREA: FOOD AID PARAS 2 - 3
-- KOREA: FOUR PARTY TALKS PARAS 2 AND 4
-- CAMBODIA: VISIT OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICIAL; RETURN OF
SOME EXILES PARAS 2 AND 5
-- U.S. - JAPAN CIVIL AVIATION TALKS PARAS 2 AND 7
-- HELMS AND CTBT PARAS 2 AND 7
-- PAPUA NEW GUINEA: BOUGAINVILLE CEASEFIRE PARAS 2 AND 8
-- INTERIM REPORT OF THE SECRETARY'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ABROAD PARAS 9 - 10

2. THERE WAS NO BRIEFING BY THE SPOKESMAN TODAY. THE
FOLLOWING GUIDANCES WERE PREPARED ON 1/23/98 AND POSTS MAY
DRAW ON THESE GUIDANCES FOR USE ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

3. NORTH KOREA: FOOD AID

CONTEXT: THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP) APPEALED ON JANUARY 6
FOR APPROXIMATELY 658,000 METRIC TONS OF GRAIN AND OTHER
FOOD AID TO EXPAND ITS EMERGENCY FEEDING PROGRAM IN THE
DPRK.

Q: WHEN WILL THE U.S. DECIDE ON THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM
APPEAL FOR NORTH KOREA?

A. THERE HAS BEEN NO DECISION YET. WE ARE CAREFULLY
EXAMINING THIS APPEAL AND CONSULTING WITH OTHER DONOR
COUNTRIES. THE U.S. HAS ALWAYS RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO
PREVIOUS WFP APPEALS FOR THE DPRK.

-- THIS APPEAL DOES DIFFER FROM EARLIER ONES IN SIZE AND
NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES. THE AMOUNT REQUESTED IS NEARLY
DOUBLE THE TOTAL 1997 APPEAL; THE WFP HOPES TO ASSIST
APPROXIMATELY 5.5 MILLION PEOPLE (VERSUS LAST YEAR'S 4.5
MILLION); AND THE APPEAL IS FOR A TWELVE MONTH PERIOD
(BEGINNING APRIL 1, 1998) RATHER THAN FOR IMMEDIATE NEEDS
AS IN THE PAST. WE NEED TO DISCUSS THESE NEW ELEMENTS WITH
OTHER DONOR COUNTRIES.

4. KOREA: FOUR PARTY TALKS

CONTEXT: THE FIRST FOUR PARTY PLENARY (U.S., ROK, PRC, AND
DPRK) WAS HELD DECEMBER 9-10 IN GENEVA. THE FOUR PARTIES
AGREED TO BEGIN THE NEXT PLENARY ON MARCH 16. PER THE
AGREEMENT REACHED DURING PREPARATORY MEETINGS IN NEW YORK,
FULL PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE FOUR PARTIES WILL BE HELD IN
GENEVA.

Q: CAN YOU GIVE US AN UPDATE ON THE FOUR PARTY PROCESS?

A: AS ANNOUNCED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST PLENARY, CHAIRED BY THE U.S. AND HELD DECEMBER 9-10, 1997, THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION WILL CONVENE ON MARCH 16 IN GENEVA. THE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 05 STATE 013583

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 23, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

AGENDA OF THE FOUR PARTY TALKS IS THE "ESTABLISHMENT OF A

PEACE REGIME ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, AND ISSUES CONCERNING TENSION REDUCTION THERE."

-- AS A RESULT OF A RANDOM DRAW CONDUCTED BY THE CHAIR DURING THE FIRST PLENARY, THE SECOND PLENARY WILL BE CHAIRED BY THE PRC. THE ROK, DPRK AND THE U.S. WILL CHAIR SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS.

-- THE FOUR PARTIES ARE CONSIDERING LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE FOR INTERSESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS BEFORE MARCH 16. THE INTERSESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS WILL EXAMINE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ORGANIZING THE WORK OF THE SECOND PLENARY SESSION, AND WILL PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THAT SESSION.

-- THE FOUR PARTIES CONTINUE NORMAL COMMUNICATION AND CONTACT AMONG THEMSELVES. THE UNITED STATES AND THE ROK HELD CONSULTATIONS IN SEOUL EARLIER THIS WEEK. THE AMERICAN DELEGATION WAS LED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS STANLEY O. ROTH.

5. CAMBODIA: VISIT OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICIAL; RETURN OF SOME EXILES

CONTEXT: UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS MARY ROBINSON ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND TO DEFUSE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE UN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. SHE MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER/DE FACTO FIRST PRIME MINISTER UNG HUOT YESTERDAY. THE SAME DAY, 39 CAMBODIANS (INCLUDING FAMILIES OF OPPOSITION POLITICIANS) WHO FLED THE COUNTRY AFTER RANARIDDH'S OUSTER LAST JULY RETURNED TO CAMBODIA UNDER UN ESCORT.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. REACTION TO THE VISIT TO CAMBODIA BY THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS? WHAT IS THE U.S. REACTION TO THE RETURN OF 39 EXILES, AND HOW DOES THIS AFFECT THE PROSPECTS FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS?

A: THE U.S. WELCOMES THE VISIT TO CAMBODIA BY THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, MARY ROBINSON. WE URGE THE CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES TO COOPERATE AND ASSIST THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN HER INVESTIGATIONS OF ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THAT COUNTRY. WE NOTE THE REPORTS THAT UNG HUOT ASSURED MS. ROBINSON THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT CONSIDERING CLOSING THE UN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA WHEN ITS MANDATE EXPIRES IN MARCH. WE STRONGLY URGE THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT TO RESPECT AND WORK CLOSELY WITH THE UN CENTER TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND TO ENSURE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED IN THE FUTURE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THIS CLOSELY.

-- WE HAVE ALSO WORKED WITH THE UN, ASEAN AND THE FRIENDS OF CAMBODIA TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR THE SAFE RETURN OF CAMBODIANS WHO FLED THE COUNTRY DURING THE VIOLENCE LAST JULY. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, A GROUP OF 39 CAMBODIAN S INCLUDING FAMILY MEMBERS OF OPPOSITION POLITICIANS, RETURNED TO PHNOM PENH DURING MS. UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 05 STATE 013583

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 23, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

ROBINSON'S VISIT. WE LOOK FOR FURTHER PROGRESS IN THIS AREA.

-- THE U.S. BELIEVES IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE IN CAMBODIA THIS YEAR. THE U.S., JOINED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, HAS CALLED ON THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT TO FULFILL ITS COMMITMENTS TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS. THOSE INCLUDE TAKING ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO ASSURE A SUITABLE PROCEDURAL FRAMEWORK IS LAID DOWN QUICKLY AND CREATING A POLITICAL CLIMATE FREE OF INTIMIDATION CONDUCIVE TO THE RETURN OF ALL OPPOSITION POLITICIANS. AT THIS POINT, MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE TO CREATE SUCH AN ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING CONDITIONS THAT WOULD ALLOW FOR FULL PARTICIPATION BY ALL PARTIES AND CANDIDATES.

6. U.S. - JAPAN CIVIL AVIATION TALKS

CONTEXT: U.S. JAPAN CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONS ARE GOVERNED BY AN AGREEMENT SIGNED IN 1952. BECAUSE OF RESTRICTIONS SPECIFIED IN THIS AGREEMENT, AS WELL AS AMBIGUITIES IN THE TEXT, WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL BITTER DISPUTES WITH THE GOJ IN THE PAST FEW YEARS OVER THE RIGHTS OF OUR CARRIERS TO OPERATE TO AND BEYOND JAPAN. WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE

SEVENTH ROUND OF TALKS, AND AT LAST IT APPEARS WE ARE MOVING TOWARDS A NEW AIR SERVICES PACT WHICH WILL GREATLY

EXPAND AIR SERVICES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND WILL RESOLVE LONGSTANDING DISPUTES. OUR INDUSTRY IS SOLIDLY BEHIND THE NEW AGREEMENT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NORTHWEST AIRLINES, WHICH HAS OPERATED TO JAPAN WITH A PRIVILEGED POSITION ROOTED IN THE ORIGINAL 1952 AGREEMENT, AND WHICH NOW SEES ITS POSITION THREATENED BY THE COMPETITION A NEW AGREEMENT WILL BRING.

TALKS WILL CONTINUE TODAY AND INTO THE WEEKEND IF NECESSARY. THE ATMOSPHERE HAS BEEN GOOD, WITH BOTH SIDES MAKING THEIR BEST EFFORTS TO CONCLUDE THIS AGREEMENT.

7. HELMS AND CTBT

CONTEXT: SENATOR JESSE HELMS SENT A LETTER TO PRESIDENT CLINTON YESTERDAY STATING THAT HE WILL NOT ALLOW A VOTE TO RATIFY THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY (CTBT) UNTIL THE WHITE HOUSE FIRST SUBMITS THE KYOTO PROTOCOL ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE AMENDMENTS TO THE ABM TREATY FOR RATIFICATION.

Q: DO WE HAVE ANY REACTION TO HELMS' ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WILL DELAY CTBT UNTIL AFTER THE ABM AND KYOTO PROTOCOL ARE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS FOR RATIFICATION?

A: THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES THAT THE CTBT WILL ENHANCE THE SECURITY OF THE U.S. AND OF OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES AROUND THE WORLD. SIMILARLY, THE KYOTO PROTOCOL IS AN HISTORIC AGREEMENT WHICH WILL REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY HARNESSING THE FORCES OF THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT.

-- EACH TREATY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ON ITS OWN MERITS. THE DEPARTMENT LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING WITH SENATORS HELMS AND BIDEN, AND WITH SENATE LEADERSHIP, TO SET TREATY PRIORITIES FOR 1998.
UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 05 STATE 013583

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 23, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

8. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: BOUGAINVILLE CEASEFIRE

CONTEXT: THOUSANDS HAVE DIED IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND PROVINCE SINCE A 1988 LANDOWNERS' REVOLT OVER DAMAGES CAUSED BY THE HUGE AUSTRALIAN-OWNED PANGUNA COPPER MINE ON THE ISLAND. THE INSURRECTION

SPREAD. THE MINE CLOSED IN MAY 1989; A BLOCKADE BY THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA MILITARY CRIPPLED THE ISLAND'S ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE AND DISPLACED MANY RESIDENTS. VARIOUS REBEL FACTIONS (SOME PRO-GOVERNMENT, SOME ADVOCATING SECESSION

FROM PNG) - FOUGHT THE PNG DEFENSE FORCE AND EACH OTHER MOST OF THE TIME SINCE. SPORADIC NEGOTIATING EFFORTS HAD PROVEN FUTILE UNTIL NEW ZEALAND OFFERED IN MID-199V TO TRY TO PUT THE PEACE PROCESS BACK ON TRACK BY HOSTING NEW TALKS. SINCE OCTOBER AN INTERIM CEASEFIRE HAS PREVAILED, WITH A TRUCE MONITORING GROUP COMPRISED OF NEW ZEALANDERS, AUSTRALIANS, AND OBSERVERS FROM FIJI, TONGA AND VANUATU ON THE GROUND SINCE EARLY DECEMBER.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. VIEW ON THE AGREEMENT ON A CEASEFIRE IN BOUGAINVILLE?

A. THE U.S. WELCOMES THE "LINCOLN AGREEMENT ON PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT ON BOUGAINVILLE." WE CONGRATULATE THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT ON HAVING RESOLVED THEIR DIFFERENCES THROUGH DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATION. WE ALSO EXTEND TO THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND OUR APPRECIATION FOR FACILITATING THESE TALKS.

Q: WHAT ARE THE TERMS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT?

A. THE AGREEMENT BINDS ALL THE INTERESTED PARTIES -- THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOVERNMENT, THE BOUGAINVILLE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT, AND THE BOUGAINVILLE INTERIM GOVERNMENT/BOUGAINVILLE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY -- TO A "PERMANENT AND IRREVOCABLE CEASEFIRE" AT 2400 HOURS ON 30 APRIL 1998. IN THE INTERIM, THEY PLEDGE TO EXTEND THE TRUCE CURRENTLY IN FORCE.

9. THE FOLLOWING REPORT WAS ISSUED ON 1/23/98 BY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN.

10. INTERIM REPORT OF THE SECRETARY'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ABROAD

THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ABROAD WAS ESTABLISHED IN NOVEMBER 1996, WITH THE STRONG SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT CLINTON. THE COMMITTEE'S MANDATE IS "TO SERVE THE SECRETARY OF

STATE AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR THE BUREAU OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND LABOR, IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT ISSUES OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, INTOLERANCE, AND RECONCILIATION ABROAD..." THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS COMPOSED OF TWENTY DISTINGUISHED RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND ACADEMICS AND REFLECTS THE DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES WITHIN THE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY. ITS TWO BROAD TASKS ARE:

-- TO CALL ATTENTION TO AND ADVISE ON HOW TO END PROBLEMS OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION, VIOLATIONS UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 05 STATE 013583

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, XE, US
SUBJECT: JANUARY 23, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP
REGION

OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE
ABROAD.

-- TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON BRINGING
ABOUT RECONCILIATION IN CONFLICT AREAS, ESPECIALLY
WHERE RELIGION IS A FACTOR.

THE COMMITTEE IS CHARGED WITH FACILITATING
EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT
AND A BROAD RANGE OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS, ACADEMIC
INSTITUTIONS AND ADVOCACY GROUPS TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM AND TO PROVIDE A VENUE FOR THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT TO MEET WITH SUCH ORGANIZATIONS. IT MET
TWICE IN 1997, IN ADDITION TO MEETINGS OF ITS TWO
SUB-GROUPS. IT HAS CONFERRED WITH MORE THAN FORTY
EXPERTS, INCLUDING HIS HOLINESS, THE DALAI LAMA OF
TIBET, CARDINAL CAHAL DALY OF NORTHERN IRELAND, AND
PASTOR ROBERT FU OF CHINA.

FIVE TASKS FORCES HAVE BEEN FORMED FOR 1998 TO
DISCUSS SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS; ASYLUM, ASSISTANCE AND
TRAINING, FOREIGN POLICY TOOLS, TRADE AND THE
BUSINESS COMMUNITY, AND THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

THE COMMITTEE EXAMINED THE FOUNDATIONS OF RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE INTERNATIONAL
LEGAL BASIS FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. IT ALSO ANALYZED
THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM AND OF RELIGION AS A FACTOR IN CONFLICT.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS CONSTITUTE THE FRAMEWORK FOR
RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS WORLDWIDE. THE UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL
COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS DETAILED THE
MOST BASIC GUARANTEES OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION.

THE COMMITTEE HAS MADE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
DEPARTMENT AND TO OTHER PARTS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT
ON PRESIDENT INITIATIVES, STATE DEPARTMENT POLICIES
AND PRACTICES, REFUGEE AND ASYLUM ASSISTANCE,
INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE TRIBUNALS, THE PEACE PROCESSES,
MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS,
U.S. INFORMATION EFFORTS, TRADE, AND THE BUSINESS AND
RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES. THE SECRETARY HAS PROMISED TO
STUDY THE REPORT CLOSELY.

THE SECRETARY WILL DESIGNATE A NEW, SENIOR-LEVEL
COORDINATOR IN THE BUREAU OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS
AND LABOR TO ENSURE THAT OUR EFFORTS TO ADVANCE
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ARE INTEGRATED SUCCESSFULLY INTO
OUR BROADER FOREIGN POLICY.

SHE HAS ASSURED THE COMMITTEE THAT SHE CONSIDERS THE
PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART
OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY.
ALBRIGHT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 05

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 05

<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 05

<^SECT>SECTION: 04 OF 05

<^SECT>SECTION: 05 OF 05

SSN: 3583

<^SSN>3583

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TOR: 980123181651 M3118064

<^TOR>980123181824 M3118066

<^TOR>980123181907 M3118067

<^TOR>980123181923 M3118069

<^TOR>980123182043 M3118070

DIST:

SIT: BADER CROWLEY GAGNON KRISTOFF LUZZATTO NORRIS PRITCHARD RUBIN

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHCAA5478 0280344-UUUU--RHEHNSC.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: O P 280339Z JAN 98

LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC

OSRI: RUEHC

DTG: 280339Z JAN 98

ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC

TO: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 4811

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY 8491

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 2008

RUATNPP/AMCONSUL PUSAN IMMEDIATE 5747

RUESLE/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI IMMEDIATE 0369

RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG IMMEDIATE 8726

RfHKOF/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA IMMEDIATE 7825

RUHBBMA/AMCONSUL NAHA IMMEDIATE 1472

RUEHKON/AMCONSUL NAGOYA IMMEDIATE 1293

RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE IMMEDIATE 4458

RUEHJA/AMCONSUL SURABAYA IMMEDIATE 7835

INFO: RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 8210

RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 7605

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 9693

RUEHVEN/USMISSION USVIENNA PRIORITY

RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY 8926

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 4246

RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY 1977

RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 0736

RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1168

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP PRIORITY 1753

RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

RUAGAMS/COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//CC/BJ/CJ/EJ/PAJ/SJS// PRIORITY

RUAGAMS/CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS PRIORITY

RUAGAMS/SACINCUNC KS PRIORITY

RUAGAMS/USCINCUNC SEOUL KS PRIORITY

RHHMBRA/CINCPACFLT HI PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY 6855

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC 5053

RUETIAA/DIRNSA MD

SUBJ: JANUARY 2?, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP
REGION

ALL POSTS -- ALSO FOR USIS

SEODEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 STATE 015478

USIA EOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US
 SUBJECT: JANUARY 2?, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP
 REGION

ALL POSTS -- ALSO FOR USIS
 SEODEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA
 USCINCPAC FOR FPA TEARE
 USVIENNA FOR UNVIE
 ROME FOR STORELLA
 BEIJING PASS OHENGDU

1. INDEX

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- NORTH KOREA: VICE FOREIGN MINISTER PARAS 2 AND 4
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- STATEMENT ON INDONESIA PARAS 7 - 8
- TREASURY GUIDANCE ON THE SITUATION IN ASIA PARAS 9 - 10

2. THERE WAS NO BRIEFING TODAY BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT
 SPOKESMAN. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCES WERE PREPARED ON
 1/27/98 AND POSTS MAY DRAW ON THEM FOR USE ON AN IF ASKED
 BASIS.

3. TAIWAN: RESUMING THE CROSS-STRAIT DIALOGUE

CONTEXT: THE WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORTS THAT THE PRC HAS
 "SOFTENED" ITS CONDITIONS FOR RESUMING TALKS WITH TAIWAN.

ALTHOUGH PRC FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHEN RESTATED
 BEIJING'S CROSS-STRAIT DIALOGUE POLICY IN MOSTLY FAMILIAR
 TERMS ON THE EVE OF CHINESE NEW YEAR ("THE KEY TO THE
 DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES IS THE
 PROCESS OF POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS."), COMMENTS BY TANG
 SHUBEI, BEIJING'S CHIEF NEGOTIATOR WITH TAIPEI, IN A
 SEPARATE PRESS CONFERENCE SUGGEST THAT THE PRC IS SOFTENING
 ITS POSITION IN AN EFFORT TO RESTART THE DIALOGUE.
 ACCORDING TO TANG, WHO IS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRC'S SEMI-
 OFFICIAL ASSOCIATION FOR RELATIONS ACROSS THE TAIWAN STRAIT
 (ARATS), TAIWAN DID NOT HAVE TO RECOGNIZE "AS A
 PRECONDITION FOR NEGOTIATIONS ... THAT THE PEOPLE'S
 REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF CHINA...
 HE CONTINUED, "SO LONG AS THE TAIWAN AUTHORITIES
 ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE CHINA ... WE DO NOT
 IMMEDIATELY NEED TO TALK ABOUT THE POLITICAL MEANING OF THE
 ONE CHINA POLICY."

TAIPEI HAS OBJECTED TO ANY PRECONDITION FOR RESTARTING THE
 DIALOGUE, ESPECIALLY ANY INTERPRETATION THAT "ONE CHINA"
 EQUALS THE PRC; THE TWO SIDES HELD THEIR 1993-95 DIALOGUE
 ON THE BASIS OF EACH SIDE DEFINING "ONE CHINA" IN ITS OWN
 WAY. TAIPEI ALSO HAS BEEN CAUTIOUS ABOUT ACCEPTING
 "POLITICAL TALKS" RATHER THAN A RESUMPTION OF TH
 ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL TALKS SUSPENDED BY BEIJING IN
 1995.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. REACTION TO THE LATEST CHINESE STATEMENTS ABOUT CROSS-STRAIT TALKS, THAT TAIPEI DOES NOT HAVE FIRST HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THE PRC'S SOVEREIGNTY AND A UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 05 STATE 015478

USIA EOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 2?, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

SUGGESTION THAT BEIJING MIGHT DROP ITS INSISTENCE ON FORMAL POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS?

A: WE HAVE ENCOURAGED BOTH TAIWAN AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO RESUME CROSS-STRAIT TALKS AND WELCOME EFFORTS BY BOTH SIDES AIMED AT RESTORING DIALOGUE.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT CROSS-STRAIT DIALOGUE AND EXCHANGES HELP PROMOTE PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION.

-- WE BELIEVE THE DECISION ON WHEN AND HOW TO RESUME THE DIALOGUE IS A MATTER TO BE SETTLED BY THE TWO SIDES.

IF ASKED:

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. POSITION ON TAIWAN'S FUTURE?

A: WE BELIEVE THE QUESTION OF TAIWAN'S FUTURE IS A MATTER TO BE SETTLED BY THE PEOPLE ON THE TWO SIDES OF THE TAIWAN STRAIT THEMSELVES.

-- OUR ABIDING INTEREST IS THAT THE ISSUE BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY.

4. NORTH KOREA: VICE FOREIGN MINISTER

CONTEXT: REP. TONY HALL ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAS INVITED DPRK VICE FOREIGN MINISTER KIM GYE GWAN TO THE NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST IN FEBRUARY. KIM WOULD DRMALLY SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A VISA IN BEIJING.

Q: HAVE YOU GRANTED A VISA TO DPRK VICE FOREIGN MINISTER KIM GYE GWAN TO ATTEND THE FEBRUARY NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST?

A: WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED A VISA REQUEST. IF WE DO, WE WILL CONSIDER IT.

Q: DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PLAN TO CONSULT WITH HIM IN WASHINGTON?

A: THE QUESTION IS A HYPOTHETICAL ONE.

5. EU-CHINA SUMMIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Q: WHAT DOES THE U.S. THINK ABOUT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FIRST EVER EU-CHINA SUMMIT?

A: THE U.S. HAS LONG WANTED CHINA TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE. WE WELCOME A CHINESE SUMMIT WITH THE EU AS A FORUM TO DISCUSS A RANGE OF ISSUES INVOLVING CHINA'S FURTHER INTEGRATION INTO GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS.

6. U.S.-JAPAN CIVIL AVIATION TALKS

CONTEXT: U.S. JAPAN CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONS ARE GOVERNED BY AN AGREEMENT SIGNED IN 1952. BECAUSE OF RESTRICTIONS SPECIFIED IN THIS AGREEMENT, AS WELL AS AMBIGUITIES IN THE TEXT, WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL BITTER DISPUTES WITH THE GOJ IN THE PAST FEW YEARS OVER THE RIGHTS OF OUR CARRIERS TO OPERATE TO AND BEYOND JAPAN. WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEVENTH ROUND OF TALKS, AND AT LAST IT APPEARS WE ARE UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 05 STATE 015478

USIA EOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 2?, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

MOVING TOWARDS A NEW AIR SERVICES PACT WHICH WILL GREATLY EXPAND AIR SERVICES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND WILL RESOLVE LONGSTANDING DISPUTES.

NOTE: NORTHWEST, HITHERTO A VOCAL OPPONENT OF THE TALKS BECAUSE OF ITS PRIVILEGED POSITION ROOTED IN THE ORIGINAL 1952 AGREEMENT, CHANGED ITS TUNE THIS WEEK AFTER ANNOUNCING AN ALLIANCE WITH CONTINENTAL. NORTHWEST WILL PROBABLY JOIN OTHER INDUSTRY MEMBERS IN SUPPORTING THE LIBERALIZATION THIS NEW AGREEMENT WILL BRING.

Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE CIVIL AVIATION TALKS WITH JAPAN?

A: TALKS CONTINUE, WITH MEETINGS BY BOTH WORKING AND DRAFTING GROUPS. ATMOSPHERE IS GOOD, WITH BOTH SIDES WORKING HARD TO CONCLUDE THIS AGREEMENT.

Q: WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT REACTION TO SENATOR HELMS REQUEST THAT THE ADMINISTRATION CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT ONLY AFTER HEARINGS BY THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE?

A: DURING THE PAST YEAR WE HAVE CONSULTED CLOSELY WITH SENATOR HELMS AND HIS STAFF -- AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE HEARING ANNOUNCED BY SENATOR HELMS

AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN THE EXCEPTIONAL MARKET-OPENING AGREEMENT WE EXPECT TO ACHIEVE.

Q: HOW WILL THIS AGREEMENT BE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE OLD AGREEMENT?

A: THE AGREEMENT WILL PRESERVE AND SOLIDIFY OUR EXISTING RIGHTS, OPEN THE MARKET TO NEW ENTRANTS AND NEW CITY-PAIR SERVICES, AND SETTLE LONGSTANDING DISPUTES ON OUR CARRIERS' RIGHTS TO FLY BEYOND JAPAN. NON-INCUMBENT CARRIERS SUCH AS AMERICAN, CONTINENTAL AND DELTA DO ESPECIALLY WELL UNDER THIS NEW AGREEMENT, RECEIVING 90 ADDITIONAL WEEKLY FREQUENCIES FOR OPERATIONS TO JAPAN. (CURRENTLY THEY FLY 46 FREQUENCIES EACH WEEK.) TWA AND U.S. AIRWAYS WILL NOW BE ABLE TO ENTER THE MARKET.

--WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS WILL PROVIDE A DETAILED BACKGROUND BRIEFING FOR THE MEDIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE AGREEMENT.

7. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS PREPARED BY THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT ON L/27/98.

8. STATEMENT ON INDONESIA

WE WELCOME THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT OVER THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS TO PUT IN PLACE THE REINFORCED REFORM PROGRAM AGREED BY THE IMF ON JANUARY 15, 1998.

EARLIER TODAY THE GOVERNMENT OUTLINED IMPORTANT STEPS TO STRENGTHEN AND RESTRUCTURE THE BANKING SYSTEM AND TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR A VOLUNTARY PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVE TO HELP ADDRESS THE DEBT BURDEN OF THE CORPORATE SECTOR.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE HAS A STRONG INTEREST IN SEEING INDONESIA SUCCEED IN UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 05 STATE 015478

USIA EOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 2?, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

RESTORING FINANCIAL STABILITY.

9. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED BY THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT ON L/27/98. POSTS MAY DRAW ON THIS GUIDANCE FOR USE ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

10. TREASURY GUIDANCE ON THE SITUATION IN ASIA

Q: HOW DO YOU REACT TO TODAY'S DEVELOPMENTS IN INDONESIA?

A: FROM THE RELEASED STATEMENT: WE WELCOME THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT OVER THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS TO PUT IN PLACE THE REINFORCED REFORM PROGRAM AGREED BY THE IMF ON JANUARY 15, 1998.

EARLIER TODAY THE GOVERNMENT OUTLINED IMPORTANT STEPS TO STRENGTHEN AND RESTRUCTURE THE BANKING SYSTEM AND TO

ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR A VOLUNTARY PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVE TO HELP ADDRESS THE DEBT BURDEN OF THE CORPORATE SECTOR.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE HAS A STRONG INTEREST IN SEEING INDONESIA SUCCEED IN RESTORING FINANCIAL STABILITY.

OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS, INDONESIA HAS AGREED WITH THE IMF ON A STRENGTHENING OF ITS REFORM PROGRAM AND POLICIES TO STABILIZE ITS BANKING SYSTEM. IT IS ALSO ENCOURAGING A RESOLUTION OF THE DEBT PROBLEMS IN THE CORPORATE SECTOR.

THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRENGTHENED INDONESIAN REFORM PROGRAM IS CRITICAL FOR HELPING INDONESIA TO RESTORE FINANCIAL STABILITY.

Q: IS INDONESIA IMPLEMENTING THE JANUARY 15 MEASURES AGREED WITH THE IMF?

A: INDONESIA HAS MOVED QUICKLY TO PUT IN PLACE THE FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREED MEASURES BY ISSUING AHEAD OF SCHEDULE DECREES FOR ALL THE STRUCTURAL REFORM MEASURES FORESEEN FOR FEBRUARY 1, 1998.

(NOTE: IN PARTICULAR, INDONESIA HAS REVISED ITS BUDGET ACCORDING TO GUIDELINES AGREED WITH THE IMF; ENDED SPECIAL TAX AND TARIFF CONCESSIONS FOR THE NATIONAL CAR PROJECT AND ENDED BUDGETARY AND EXTRA-BUDGETARY SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT PROJECT; ISSUED DECREES TO STRIP THE NATIONAL LOGISTICS AGENCY (BULOG) OF ALL ITS MONOLY POWERS EXCEPT RICE; AND ORDERED THE REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIVE MARKETING AND PRICING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CEMENT, PAPER, AND PLYWOOD.)

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE EFFORT TO ADDRESS THE BANKING SYSTEM AND CORPORATE DEBT?

A: BANKING SECTOR STABILIZATION AND RESTRUCTURING ARE CRUCIAL ELEMENTS OF THE REFORM PROCESS, WHICH IS NEEDED TO SHORE UP CONFIDENCE. INDONESIA, THE IMF, AND OTHERS IN THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING PRIVATE MARKET PARTICIPANTS, ALSO HAVE RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF ADDRESSING THE CORPORATE DEBT PROBLEM AS PART OF AN OVERALL SOLUTION TO RESTORING STABILITY AND GROWTH IN INDONESIA. THIS EFFORT WILL BE VOLUNTARY AND STRUCTURED SO THAT IT

UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 05 STATE 015478

USIA EOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 2?, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

DOES NOT INVOLVE GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES. INDONESIA MUST ALSO INTENSIFY ITS EFFORTS TO PUT INTO PLACE BANKRUPTCY LEGISLATION FOR THESE EFFORTS TO HAVE THEIR FULL IMPACT.

Q: DO YOU SEE THIS AS A MODEL FOR KOREA, THAILAND AND OTHERS TO FOLLOW?

A: THE CORPORATE DEBT ARRANGEMENTS IN INDONESIA ARE A VOLUNTARY EFFORT, AIMED AT ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK IN WHICH DEBTORS AND CREDITORS CAN ADDRESS THEIR MUTUAL PROBLEMS. THROUGHOUT ASIA, THERE ARE SERIOUS FINANCIAL ISSUES THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, ZOWEVER, THAT THERE CAN BE A UNIFORM APPROACH TO ADDRESSING THESE ISSUES, NOR SHOULD THERE BE. EACH COUNTRY WILL WISH TO TAILOR ITS FINANCIAL PROPOSALS TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH IT FACES.
ALBRIGHT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 05
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Cable

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RHLBAAF/CDR470THMIGP COROZAL PM//IAPP-O-AS//
RHLBAK/CDRUSARSO MAXI FT CLAYTON PM//SOIN-IDI//
RUANJTF/DIRJIATF EAST//J2//
RUCBACM/USCINCCOM NORFOLK VA//J5//
RUCBAIC/AIC NORFOLK VA
RUCKMEZ/SJTFHQ MFL//J2//
RUCMACC/CDR PSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//
RUCMACC/CDR 4THPSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//AOCF-POG-SB//
RUCOGCG/NAVCRIMINVSERVRA GUANTANAMO BAY CU
RUCOGDA/NAVINTELOFC GUANTANAMO BAY CU//N2//
RUCXGRD/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
RUCXONI/ONI WASHINGTON DC//2140//
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RUDHSIC/CDRUSASOIC WASH DC//DIS//
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RUEADWD/HQ DA WASHINGTON DC//DAMO-SSM//
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RUEALGX/DEFINTAGENCY WASHINGTON DC
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RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUESDM/JTLO MIAMI FL
RUETIAV/MPC FORT GEORGE G MEADE MD
RULGPRW/NAVCRIMINVSERVRA ROOSEVELT ROADS PR
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCPA/SCJ2-IW//
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCJ3-PSY//
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INFO: ////

SUBJ: Alarcon Meets With US Congressional Aides

TEXT:

UNCLAS 6A

WARNING: TOPIC: LEADER, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL

SERIAL: PA2801174498

PASS: ATTN WIRE SELECT

COUNTRY: CUBA, UNITED STATES

SUBJ: Alarcon Meets With US Congressional Aides

REF: pa2801174398 havana radio havana cuba spanish 271300 --
alarcon: change in us policy would require 'miracle'

SOURCE: Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Jan 98
TEXT:

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban Parliament President Ricardo Alarcon has met in Havana with aides to US Senator Jesse Helms and to the chairman of the US House International Relations Committee. Alarcon explained to the media that the visitors gave the impression that they are considering the possibility of making some changes to the anti-Cuban Helms-Burton law or to the implementation of its aspects on medicines and foodstuffs.

The aides to one of the sponsors of the US law that reinforces the blockade against Cuba traveled to the Cuban capital to observe the visit by Pope John Paul II and later asked to stay for a few more days in Havana. They are Roger Noriega, chief of the team of advisers of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee [title as heard], which Helms chairs; Mark Thiessen, Helms' spokesman; and (Carl McCurry), aide to the chairman of the House International Relations Committee.

The US officials visited the National Assembly of the People's Government and also met with Carlos Fernandez de Cossio, director of the Cuban Foreign Ministry's North American Office.

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	re: Assessing the Pope's Cuba Trip. (4 pages)	01/30/1998	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997-Dec 1998 ([Jesse Helms or Senator Helms])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/07/1998-02/03/1998]

2006-1363-F

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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]
- 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]
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- 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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RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL
SUBJ: ARA GUIDANCES, JANUARY 26-27, 1998

TEXT:
UNCLAS STATE 017101

ALL POSTS PLEASE PASS PAO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC
SUBJECT: ARA GUIDANCES, JANUARY 26-27, 1998

1. ARA PRESS GUIDANCES, JANUARY 26, 1998:

CUBA: PAPAL VISIT
CUBA: OPERATION "PETER PAN"
CUBA: FLOTILLA BY CUBAN EXILES

CUBA: CUBAN ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF (CARE) ACT 1998

-- CUBA: PAPAL VISIT --

CONTEXT: POPE JOHN PAUL II CONCLUDED HIS FIVE-DAY VISIT TO CUBA WITH A MASS IN HAVANA'S REVOLUTION SQUARE ATTENDED BY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS AND FIDEL CASTRO. THE POPE'S HOMILY, WHICH WAS INTERRUPTED REPEATEDLY BY APPLAUSE AND CHEERS FROM THE CROWD, WAS A FORCEFUL AND DIRECT CALL FOR FREEDOM, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND RECONCILIATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF CUBA. HE STRESSED CUBANS' RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN DECIDING THEIR FATE AND THEIR RIGHT TO FREE ASSOCIATION. HE WARNED AGAINST ALLOWING ATHEISM TO BECOME A RELIGION AND REITERATED HIS CONCERN OVER UNBRIDLED CAPITALISM AND NEO LIBERALISM. SUNDAY'S HOMILY WAS THE CULMINATION OF THE

POPE'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND HOPE TO THE CUBAN PEOPLE. HE HAD BEEN BUILDING UP TO IT THROUGH EACH OF HIS THREE SERMONS, BEGINNING WITH A CALL FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ON THURSDAY IN SANTA CLARA AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA, WHERE HE ALSO ASKED FOR THE RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS.

Q: WHAT IS THE ADMINISTRATION'S ASSESSMENT OF THE POPE'S VISIT TO CUBA? DID IT MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

A: POPE JOHN PAUL II'S VISIT TO CUBA WAS AN INSPIRING AND JOYFUL EVENT FOR THE CUBAN PEOPLE. HE SPOKE TO AND FOR THE CATHOLIC FAITHFUL WHO HAVE SUFFERED UNDER A SYSTEM THAT DENIED THEIR RIGHT TO WORSHIP FREELY. HE ALSO ADDRESSED HIS MESSAGE OF HOPE AND FREEDOM TO MILLIONS OF CUBAN CITIZENS WHO DO NOT PRACTICE CATHOLICISM BUT SHARE IN THE DESIRE FOR A BETTER LIFE AND CHANGE IN THE POLICIES THAT DENY THEIR FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS.

THE POPE SPECIFICALLY CALLED FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION, OF ASSOCIATION, AND OF EXPRESSION. HE STRESSED THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF CUBA TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN SHAPING THEIR GOVERNMENT. HE FOCUSED ON THE PLIGHT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS -- "THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED, PERSECUTED, IMPRISONED FOR VARIOUS OFFENSES OR FOR REASONS OF CONSCIENCE.." THE POPE'S MESSAGE CLEARLY CALLED ON THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT TO RESPECT THE FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE.

WE HOPE THAT THE CASTRO GOVERNMENT WILL HEED THE POPE'S CALL FOR FREEDOM FOR THE CUBAN PEOPLE AND FOR CUBA TO OPEN UP TO THE WORLD.

Q: CASTRO HAS ALREADY SAID HE WON'T MAKE ANY CHANGES. WHAT'S YOUR REACTION?

A: WE SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE POPE AND HIS MESSAGE. REMEMBER THE IMPACT HE HAS HAD IN COUNTRIES HE HAS VISITED SINCE BECOMING POPE IN 1978.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE POPE'S CONDEMNATION OF THE U.S. EMBARGO ON CUBA?

A: WE UNDERSTAND AND RESPECT THE POPE'S VIEWS OPPOSING THE USE OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS IN CUBA AND ELSEWHERE. HOWEVER, THE CUBAN EMBARGO IS A MATTER OF U.S. LAW AND ENJOYS STRONG BIPARTISAN SUPPORT.

Q: AS A RESULT OF THE POPE'S VISIT WILL THE U.S. CHANGE ITS POLICY TOWARD CUBA?

A: THE OBJECTIVE OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA IS TO PROMOTE A PEACEFUL DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION ON THE ISLAND. THIS POLICY HAS HAD CONSISTENT, BIPARTISAN SUPPORT SINCE INCEPTION.

AS THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS HAVE MADE CLEAR, THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO RESPOND RECIPROCALLY IF THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKES FUNDAMENTAL, SYSTEMIC CHANGE TOWARD DEMOCRACY AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

WE HOPE THAT THE POPE'S VISIT WILL SERVE AS THE CATALYST FOR THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT TO EMBARK ON A PROCESS OF CHANGE AND DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION.

Q: WILL THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS? HOW MANY?

A: ON JANUARY 22, VATICAN SPOKESMAN JOAQUIN NAVARRO VALLS SAID THAT A LIST CONTAINING THE NAMES OF AN UNDISCLOSED NUMBER OF PRISONERS WAS TRANSMITTED TO CUBAN VICE PRESIDENT CARLOS LAGE, IN THE POPE'S NAME BY CARDINAL SODANO. THE POPE ALSO CALLED FOR THE RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS ON SATURDAY IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA AND AGAIN IN HAVANA YESTERDAY.

WE HAVE NO INFORMATION REGARDING THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE. WE HOPE THAT THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT WILL HEED THE POPE'S CALL AND RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS.

-- OPERATION "PETER PAN11

CONTEXT: FROM DECEMBER 1960 UNTIL OCTOBER 1962 THE USG CARRIED OUT AN OPERATION TO AIRLIFT OVER 14,000 CUBAN CHILDREN, AGES 6-18, TO THE UNITED STATES. THEIR PARENTS WERE TO FOLLOW LATER. WHILE IN MOST CASES THE PARENTS WERE ABLE TO LEAVE CUBA AND JOIN THEIR CHILDREN, SOME WERE FORCED TO REMAIN IN CUBA. MOST OF THE "PETER PAN" CHILDREN WENT ON TO HAVE SUCCESSFUL LIVES IN THE U.S. AND ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE AIRLIFT. IN RECENT WEEKS, A VERY SMALL NUMBER, HOWEVER, HAS BEGUN TO RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF THE SEPARATION FROM THEIR PARENTS ON THE CHILDREN. PRESS COVERAGE OF THIS HAS RESULTED IN QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S INVOLVEMENT IN

"PETER PAN." THE OFFICE OF THE HISTORIAN HAS BEEN ASKED TO RESEARCH THE ISSUE.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S ROLE IN OPERATION "PETER PAN?"

A: WE HAVE ASKED THE OFFICE OF THE HISTORIAN TO RESEARCH WHAT, IF ANY ROLE, WAS PLAYED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN OPERATION "PETER PAN." ONCE I HAVE A RESPONSE, I'LL BE HAPPY TO SHARE IT WITH YOU.

-- CUBA: FLOTILLA BY CUBAN EXILES --

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT SATURDAY'S FLOTILLA? DID DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT MEMBERS CARRY THROUGH WITH PLANS TO ENTER CUBA WITHOUT PERMISSION?

A: SATURDAY'S FLOTILLA PROCEEDED WITHOUT INCIDENT WITH TWO VESSELS CARRYING SOME FORTY PASSENGERS (INCLUDING PRESS) AND EIGHT AIRCRAFT PARTICIPATING IN THE EVENT. THE BOATS AND PLANES REMAINED IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND AIRSPACE AT ALL TIMES.

SEPARATELY, DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT LEADER RAMON SANCHEZ DEPARTED THE U.S. BY BOAT SOMETIME LATE FRIDAY OR EARLY SATURDAY MORNING IN AN ATTEMPT TO RETURN TO CUBA. (SANCHEZ HAD NOT MET USG REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVEL TO CUBA IN THE FORM OF AN OFAC LICENSE, OR A COAST GUARD PERMIT, AND EVIDENCE OF PERMISSION TO ENTER CUBA.) HIS BOAT APPARENTLY HAD MECHANICAL PROBLEMS SHORTLY AFTER HIS DEPARTURE, FORCING SANCHEZ TO RETURN TO THE U.S. SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

Q: WILL THE U.. GOVERNMENT LAW ENFORCMENT AUTHORITIES TAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST DM LEADER RAMON SANCHEZ?

A: U.S. GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES ARE STILL GATHERING ALL INFORMATION ON WEEKEND EVENTS. WE ARE UNABLE TO COMMENT FURTHER UNTIL THIS REVIEW IS COMPLETED.

-- CUBA: CUBAN ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF (CARE) ACT 1998 --

Q: WHAT IS THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW OF REPORTS THAT SENATOR HELMS MAY SOON PROPOSE LEGISLATION ENHANCING U.S. SUPPORT OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE INCLUDING THE CREATION OF A USG FOOD AID PROGRAM FOR CUBA?

A: WE ARE AWARE OF DISCUSSION BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING GREATER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CUBAN PEOPLE. THIS SOUNDS LIKE AN INITIATIVE THAT MERITS CONSIDERATION AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO SPONSORS AND REVIEW ANY PROPOSED LEGISLATION.

STRENGTHENING CUBAN CIVIL SOCIETY THROUGH INCREASED INFORMATION FLOWS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CUBAN PEOPLE IS A KEY FACTOR IN THE USG'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY IN CUBA.

2. INL PRESS GUIDANCE, JANUARY 26, 1998:

-- COLOMBIA: DC-3 AIRCRAFT SEIZED BY JUSTICE DEPARTMENT --

Q: WHAT ARE THE FACTS RE STATE DEPARTMENTS REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF 2 DC-3 AIRCRAFT TO BE USED IN COUNTER-DRUG OPERATIONS IN COLOMBIA?

A: THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SEIZED TWO DC-3 AIRCRAFT FROM NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS IN 1995 WE BELIEVE THAT THESE AIRCRAFT CAN BE PUT TO GOOD USE IN COLOMBIA, WHERE THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE USE SIMILAR AIRCRAFT TO PROVIDE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO POLICE UNITS IN THE FIELD ENGAGED IN CRITICAL ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION MISSIONS. THE DC-3, ALTHOUGH AN AGING AIRCRAFT, IS VERY DEPENDABLE AND EASY TO MAINTAIN AND OPERATE. THE PROVISIONS OF THESE AIRCRAFT TO COLOMBIA WOULD BE A COST-EFFECTIVE WAY TO ADVANCE OUR COUNTERNARCOTICS GOALS IN COLOMBIA, IN OUR OPINION.

THE FACTS AS REPORTED IN THE WASHINGTON TIMES EDITORIAL WRITTEN BY REPRESENTATIVES BURTON, GILMAN AND HASTER ARE ESSENTIALLY CORRECT. WE ARE CONTINUING OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH DOJ OFFICIALS TO AGREE TO A NO-COST TRANSFER OF THESE AIRCRAFT TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR USE IN COUNTERNARCOTICS OPERATIONS IN COLOMBIA.

Q: WHAT IS THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AUCTIONING OFF THE PLANES?

A: I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION. IN THEIR PREVIOUS RESPONSES TO STATE DEPARTMENT REQUESTS, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INDICATED ITS CONTINUING PLANS TO SELL THE AIRCRAFT AND DISTRIBUTE

THE PROCEEDS UNDER THEIR SHARED FORFEITED PROPERTY AUTHORITY.

3. ARA PRESS GUIDANCE, JANUARY 27, 1998:

-- CUBA: LEGISLATION ON LIFTING RESTRICTIONS ON FOOD AND MEDICINE TO CUBA --

Q: WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW OF VARIOUS PROPOSALS BEFORE CONGRESS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO EASE EMBARGO RESTRICTIONS ON FOOD AND MEDICINE GOING TO CUBA? IS THE U.S. CONSIDERING EASING THESE RESTRICTIONS.

A: WE ARE AWARE OF TWO BILLS PENDING BEFORE CONGRESS AND INITIATIVES BY OTHER GROUPS TO EASE EMBARGO RESTRICTIONS ON THE EXPORT OF FOOD AND MEDICINE TO CUBA.

WE HAVE SEEN PRESS ACCOUNTS (BOSTON GLOBE OF 1/25/98) ABOUT OTHER POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVES THAT WOULD PROVIDE GREATER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CUBAN PEOPLE.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN NO OFFICIAL POSITION ON ANY OF THESE PROPOSED MEASURES.

WE ARE, HOWEVER, ALWAYS INTERESTED IN REVIEWING AND DISCUSSING WITH SPONSORS INITIATIVES WITH FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO REVIEWING THESE DIFFERENT CUBA-RELATED MEASURES WITH INTERESTED SPONSORS AND TO ANALYZING AN DRAFT LEGISLATION.

THE U.S. CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT MAINTAINING PRESSURE ON THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH OUR EMBARGO IS FUNDAMENTAL TO ENCOURAGING SYSTEMIC, DEMOCRATIC CHANGE.

AT THE SAME TIME, STRENGTHENING CUBAN CIVIL SOCIETY THROUGH INCREASED INFORMATION FLOWS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CUBAN PEOPLE IS A KEY FACTOR IN OUR ONGOING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY IN CUBA.
TALBOTT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 7101

TOR: 980129203604 M3126371

DIST:

SIT: VP

SIT: NSC

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PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHCAA8097 0310314-UUUU--RHEHNSC.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O P 310307Z JAN 98
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 310307Z JAN 98
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 5033
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY 8750
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 2174
RUATNPP/AMCONSUL PUSAN IMMEDIATE 5779
RUESLE/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI IMMEDIATE 0425
RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG IMMEDIATE 8780
RUEHKOF/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA IMMEDIATE 7857
RUHBBMA/AMCONSUL NAHA IMMEDIATE 1507
RUEHKON/AMCONSUL NAGOYA IMMEDIATE 1324
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE IMMEDIATE 4495
RUEHKOS/AMCONSUL SAPPORO IMMEDIATE 6744
INFO: RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 8411
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 7790
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 9960
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USVIENNA PRIORITY
RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY 9081
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 4383
RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY 2025
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 0860
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1277
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP PRIORITY 2128
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUAGAMS/COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//CC/BJ/CJ/EJ/PAJ/SJS// PRIORITY
RUAGAMS/CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS PRIORITY
RUAGAMS/SACINCUNC KS PRIORITY
RUAGAMS/USCINCUNC SEOUL KS PRIORITY
RHHMBRA/CINCPACFLT HI PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY 7024
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC 5389
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SUBJ: JANUARY 30, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP
REGION

ALL POSTS -- ALSO FOR USIS
SEODEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA
TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06 STATE 018097

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US
 SUBJECT: JANUARY 30, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP
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ALL POSTS -- ALSO FOR USIS
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 BEIJING PASS CHENGDU

1. INDEX

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 8)
 -- SENATOR HELMS' STATEMENT OF JANUARY 29, 1998 CONCERNING
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOREIGN SERVICE GRIEVANCE PROCESS
 (PARAS 4 AND 9)

2. THE FOLLOWING FACT SHEET ON THE U.S.-JAPAN CIVIL
 AVIATION AGREEMENT WAS RELEASED BY THE WHITE HOUSE ON
 1/30/98.

3. JAPAN IS A MARKET OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED
 STATES.

THE U.S.-JAPAN CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONSHIP IS ONE OF THE
 WORLD'S LARGEST, ACCOUNTING ANNUALLY FOR 12 BILLION
 PASSENGERS, OVER 1 BILLION TONS OF CARGO AND \$10 BILLION IN
 REVENUE IN 1996.

JAPAN OCCUPIES A STRATEGIC GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, SERVING
 AS A GATEWAY TO ASIA. GREATER ACCESS TO THIS MARKET UNLOCKS
 MANY OF THE BEST GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES OF THE FUTURE.

THE AGREEMENT SUBSTANTIALLY EXPANDS MARKET ACCESS
 OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. CARRIERS.

MORE ACCESS TO JAPAN: ESTABLISHED CARRIERS (UNITED,
 NORTHWEST, FEDERAL EXPRESS) GAIN ESSENTIALLY UNLIMITED
 ACCESS TO JAPAN'S MARKET. THEY GAIN FULL RIGHTS TO OFFER
 SERVICE BETWEEN ANY POINTS IN THE U.S. TO ANY POINTS IN
 JAPAN, WITHOUT ANY RESTRICTION ON FREQUENCY OR CAPACITY.
 OTHER PASSENGER AIRLINES (DELTA, CONTINENTAL AND AMERICAN,
 WITH TWO OTHERS TO FOLLOW) WILL BE PERMITTED TO TRIPLE
 THEIR ACCESS TO THIS MARKET. WEEKLY FLIGHTS CAN INCREASE
 FROM 46 TO 136, A TOTAL OF 4,600 ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS PER
 YEAR. UNTIL NOW, THIS TYPE OF AIRLINE HAD VERY LIMITED OR

NO ACCESS TO THIS VITAL MARKET. CHARTER FLIGHTS WILL INCREASE IN TWO YEARS FROM 400 FLIGHTS PER YEAR TO 600, RISING EVENTUALLY TO 800. PASSENGERS WILL HAVE MORE CHOICES IN AIR TRAVEL.

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 06 STATE 018097

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 30, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

MORE ACCESS TO ASIA: THE AGREEMENT EXPANDS FLIGHTS THROUGH JAPAN TO OTHER ASIAN MARKETS. ESTABLISHED CARRIERS WILL BE ENTITLED TO FLY BEYOND JAPAN WITH ANY LIMITATION ON FREQUENCIES, RESOLVING A LONGSTANDING DISPUTE IN FAVOR OF LIBERALIZATION. NON-INCUMBENT ALL-CARGO CARRIERS (UPS, POLAR AIR CARGO) GAIN VALUABLE NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO TRANSPORT CARGO BEYOND JAPAN, HELPING U.S. BUSINESS SHIP

MORE GOODS TO ASIA. ONE ADDITIONAL ALL-CARGO CARRIER WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER THE MARKET IN FOUR YEARS.

GLOBAL NETWORKS: FOR THE FIRST TIME, U.S. CARRIERS SERVING JAPAN WILL BE ABLE TO CODESHARE (E.G., TWO CARRIERS OFFER DIFFERENT LEGS OF THE TRIP UNDER ONE TICKET) WITH JAPANESE, AMERICAN OR THIRD COUNTRY CARRIERS. THE U.S. HAS BEEN A PIONEER IN CODESHARING, WHICH PERMITS IT TO USE COOPERATIVE MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS TO EXPAND THEIR INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS. CODESHARING ALSO WILL PERMIT U.S. NON-INCUMBENT CARRIERS TO DEVELOP SERVICE BEYOND JAPAN, TO OTHER ASIAN DESTINATIONS.

FUTURE MARKET OPENING: TALKS BEGIN IN THREE YEARS TOWARD FULL LIBERALIZATION. "SAFETY NET" PROVISIONS ENSURE LIBERALIZATION CONTINUES, EVEN IF NO NEW AGREEMENT IS REACHED. FOR EXAMPLE, NON-INCUMBENT COMBINATION CARRIERS GAIN THE RIGHT TO OPERATE UP TO 35 ADDITIONAL WEEKLY ROUND-TRIP FLIGHTS, EVEN IF NO LATER AGREEMENT IS REACHED.

THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS ARE SUBSTANTIAL

BASED ON CALCULATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS, WE ESTIMATE THE AGREEMENT WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING CUMULATIVE BENEFITS OVER FOUR YEARS:

U.S. PASSENGERS WILL ENJOY GAINS OF ABOUT \$1.2 BILLION;

U.S. CARRIERS WILL ENJOY ADDITIONAL REVENUE OF ABOUT \$4 BILLION;

U.S. EXPORTS OF AVIATION SERVICES WILL ENJOY A NET INCREASE OF ALMOST \$4 BILLION (IN EACH YEAR, THE U.S. TRADE SURPLUS IN THIS SECTOR WILL BE ALMOST \$1 BILLION HIGHER THAN IT OTHERWISE WOULD BE).

OTHER BENEFITS ARE IMPORTANT. ENHANCED SERVICE STIMULATES

BUSINESS AND TOURISM. RESTAURANTS, HOTELS, CONVENTION INDUSTRIES AND OTHERS ALL STAND TO GAIN. AMERICAN WORKERS AND AMERICA'S CITIES WILL SHARE IN THE BENEFITS AS LOCAL ECONOMIES GROW.

4. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCES WERE PREPARED ON 1/30/98. THERE WAS NO REGULAR PRESS BRIEFING ON THAT DAY. POSTS MAY DRAW FROM THESE GUIDANCES FOR USE ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

5. JAPAN: STABILITY OF THE HASHIMOTO GOVERNMENT

BACKGROUND:

JAPAN HAS BEEN ROCKED BY ANOTHER SCANDAL INVOLVING CORRUPT RELATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRATS AND THE BUSINESSES THEY REGULATE. THE CURRENT SCANDAL INVOLVES ALLEGATIONS THAT FINANCE MINISTRY BUREAUCRATS IN CHARGE OF REGULATING UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 06 STATE 018097

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 30, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

AND INSPECTING BANKS ACCEPTED LAVISH ENTERTAINMENT, GIFTS, AND OTHER FAVORS FROM BANKS. ON JANUARY 28 FINANCE MINISTER HIROSHI MITSUZUKA RESIGNED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SCANDAL. TWO SENIOR FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO RESIGNED; TWO ADDITIONAL OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, AND A THIRD HAS COMMITTED SUICIDE. ON JANUARY 30 PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO APPOINTED HIKARU MATSUNAGA, A FORMER PUBLIC PROSECUTOR AND VETERAN MEMBER OF THE RULING LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, TO THE POST OF FINANCE MINISTER. MATSUNAGA HAS PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION. AT THE TIME OF HIS APPOINTMENT, MATSUNAGA WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE LOWER HOUSE OF THE JAPANESE PARLIAMENT.

Q: IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONCERNED ABOUT THE STABILITY OF THE HASHIMOTO CABINET?

A: JAPAN IS A STABLE PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY, AND CABINET CHANGES ARE AN INTERNAL MATTER. WE WELCOME THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. MATSUNAGA, WHO BRINGS CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICY EXPERIENCE TO HIS NEW JOB AS FINANCE MINISTER AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HIM ON A WIDE RANGE OF IMPORTANT BILATERAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES.

Q: DO YOU AGREE WITH USTR BARSHEFSKY THAT JAPAN IS NOT DOING ENOUGH TO HELP ADDRESS THE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS IN THE REGION?

A: THE JAPANESE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO HELP RESTORE FINANCIAL STABILITY IN THE REGION. JAPAN HAS COMMITTED FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF THE IMF

PROGRAMS FORTHAILAND, SOUTH KOREA, AND INDONESIA. WE BELIEVE JAPAN ALSO CAN RESTORE PROSPERITY TO THE REGION THROUGH STRENGTHENING ITS OWN DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE.

WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD WITH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, INCLUDING JAPAN AS THE SITUATION EVOLVES

6. NORTH KOREA: REPORTED UNDERGROUND COMPLEX

Q: PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S ASSESSMENT OF THE HAGAP UNDERGROUND COMPLEX PRESENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN NORTH KOREA. HAS CONSTRUCTION BEEN COMPLETED ON THE FACILITY? WHAT IS THE FACILITY'S PURPOSE? EARLIER INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS SAID THE FACILITY CONTAINED THREE FUNCTIONAL AREAS. WHAT ARE THESE FUNCTIONAL AREAS FOR? IN MAY 1997, THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WARNED THAT THE FACILITY MAY BE INTENDED AS A NUCLEAR PRODUCTION OR STORAGE SITE. IS THIS STATE'S VIEW? IS SUCH A FACILITY ALLOWED UNDER THE AGREED FRAMEWORK? WHEN DID STATE FIRST LEARN OF THE HAGAP FACILITY?

A: AS A MATTER OF LONG-ESTABLISHED POLICY, WE DO NOT COMMENT ON MATTERS RELATING TO INTELLIGENCE OR ALLEGED INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION.

-. CHINA/IRAQ: SECRETARY ALBRIGHT AND ACTING SECRETARY TALBOTT'S DISCUSSION WITH CHINESE AMBASSADOR LI DAOYU

CONTEXT: DURING DEPARTING CHINESE AMBASSADOR LI DAOYU'S UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 06 STATE 018097

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 30, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

FAREWELL CALL ON JANUARY 28, SECRETARY ALBRIGHT STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEMONSTRATING ITS UNITY TO SADDAM HUSSEIN AND NOT PERMITTING IRAQ TO POSSESS THE CAPACITY TO USE WMD. THE SECRETARY ALSO ASKED LI TO TRY TO ARRANGE A TELEPHONE CALL WITH VICE PREMIER AND FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHEN IN THE COMING WEEK TO DISCUSS IRAQ. ACTING SECRETARY TALBOTT REITERATED THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE DURING LI'S FAREWELL CALL ON MR. TALBOTT A DAY LATER. LI UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE TO VICE PREMIER QIAN, AND TO TRY TO ARRANGE A TELEPHONE CALL BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND QIAN. CHINA REPEATEDLY HAS STATED THAT IT IS OPPOSED TO THE USE OF FORCE AND WANTS IRAQ TO IMPLEMENT ALL RESOLUTIONS.

(AMBASSADOR LI DEPARTS WASHINGTON ON JANUARY 31. HE WILL BE REPLACED BY VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LI ZHAOXING WHOSE AGREEMENT IS IN PROCESS.)

Q. DID SECRETARY ALBRIGHT OR ACTING SECRETARY TALBOTT

DISCUSS IRAQ WITH CHINESE AMBASSADOR LI DAOYU DURING LI'S FAREWELL CALLS?

A. YES. DURING A MEETING WITH DEPARTING CHINESE AMBASSADOR LI DAOYU ON JANUARY 28, SECRETARY ALBRIGHT STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT PERMITTING IRAQ TO POSSESS THE CAPACITY TO USE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (WMD).

ACTING SECRETARY TALBOTT TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF AMBASSADOR LI'S FAREWELL CALL ON JANUARY 29 TO REITERATE THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE.

AMBASSADOR LI UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE TO BEIJING.

8. MONGOLIA: UPDATE ON ARRESTED U.S. CITIZEN

CONTEXT: GEORGE RISLEY WAS ARRESTED ON DECEMBER 10 IN CONNECTION WITH THE SHOOTING OF A MONGOLIAN CITIZEN. HE HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH THE EQUIVALENT OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER AND HIS CASE IS CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED BY THE STATE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE FOR REFERRAL TO TRIAL. MR. RISLEY REPORTEDLY HAD AN ARGUMENT ON DECEMBER 9 WITH ONE OF THE MONGOLIAN EMPLOYEES AT THE US-OWNED TIMBER MILL IN MONGOLIA WHERE RISLEY WORKED. A SHORT WHILE LATER, THE MONGOLIAN APPROACHED/ATTACKED RISLEY WITH A KNIFE; RISLEY THEN SHOT THE MAN, KILLING HIM IN SELF-DEFENSE.

NEWS ACCOUNTS IN THE SEATTLE TIMES CLAIM THAT MR. RISLEY HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED STEMMING FROM HARSH PRISON CONDITIONS. IN FACT, MR. RISLEY'S HEALTH PROBLEMS RESULT FROM A PRE-EXISTING CONDITION. HE IS NO LONGER HOSPITALIZED AND HAS RECEIVED TREATMENT FOR HIS MEDICAL PROBLEMS. PRISON AUTHORITIES HAVE PERMITTED HIM TO RECEIVE MEALS ARRANGED BY HIS EMPLOYER BECAUSE OF THE POOR FOOD IN THE PRISON. MR. RISLEY HAS NOT SIGNED A PRIVACY ACT WAIVER FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION ABOUT HIM TO THE MEDIA.

Q WHAT HAS THE EMBASSY IN ULAANBAATAR BEEN DOING ABOUT THE RISLEY CASE?

A: AS WE DO WHENEVER AMERICANS ARE ARRESTED ABROAD, THE EMBASSY HAS VISITED MR. RISLEY SEVERAL TIMES SINCE HIS ARREST AND IS CLOSELY MONITORING HIS SITUATION, INCLUDING HIS TREATMENT BY MONGOLIAN AUTHORITIES AND THE PROGRESS OF UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 06 STATE 018097

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 30, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

THE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST HIM. THE EMBASSY HAS HAD COOPERATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS WITH THE APPROPRIATE MONGOLIAN AUTHORITIES REGARDING HIS CASE.

MR. RISLEY HAS NOT WAIVED HIS RIGHTS UNDER THE PRIVACY ACT

FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION ABOUT HIS CASE.

Q: HAS THE RISLEY CASE AFFECTED THE SECURITY OF OTHER AMERICANS LIVING IN MONGOLIA?

A: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ON 17 DECEMBER ISSUED A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT URGED U.S. CITIZENS IN MONGOLIA TO INCREASE PERSONAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE PROTESTS AGAINST AMERICANS AND AMERICAN FACILITIES. THAT ANNOUNCEMENT IS IN EFFECT UNTIL FEBRUARY 14, 1998. THE EMBASSY IN ULAANBAATAR IS NOT AWARE OF ANY RECENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING US CITIZENS OR ENTITIES IN MONGOLIA IN CONNECTION WITH THE RISLEY CASE.

Q: CAN YOU COMMENT ON MR. RISLEY'S MENTAL AND/OR PHYSICAL CONDITION?

A: THE EMBASSY IN ULAANBAATAR CONTINUES TO MONITOR MR. RISLEY'S HEALTH AND WELFARE AS WE DO FOR ANY AMERICAN INCARCERATED ABROAD.

WHILE CONDITIONS IN MONGOLIAN PRISONS ARE HARSH, WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE HE HAS BEEN MISTREATED.

Q: CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE PROBABLE OUTCOME OF MR. RISLEY'S TRIAL?

A: THE MATTER IS BEFORE THE MONGOLIAN JUSTICE SYSTEM. MR. RISLEY HAS LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN MONGOLIA AND HIS ATTORNEY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING MR. RISLEY'S LEGAL DEFENSE. THE EMBASSY WILL MONITOR THE TRIAL CLOSELY.

Q: WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR MR. RISLEY BEING RELEASED TO A U.S. PRISON OR TRANSFERRED TO THE U.S. TO SERVE HIS SENTENCE?

A: MR. RISLEY'S CASE HAS NOT YET BEEN HEARD WITHIN THE MONGOLIAN JUSTICE SYSTEM. HE HAS NOT BEEN CONVICTED OF ANY CRIME. ANY DISCUSSION OF WHERE HE MIGHT BE INCARCERATED IS PREMATURE AT THIS TIME.

IF ASKED ONLY:

AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO LEGAL MECHANISM FOR THE TRANSFER OF PRISONERS BETWEEN MONGOLIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

Q: WHAT IS THE USG VIEW OF CONDITIONS INSIDE MONGOLIAN PRISONS?

A: PRISON CONDITIONS IN MONGOLIA ARE GENERALLY BELOW U.S. STANDARDS.

WHILE CONDITIONS IN MONGOLIAN PRISONS ARE HARSH, WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE MR. RISLEY HAS BEEN MISTREATED.

9. SENATOR HELMS' STATEMENT OF JANUARY 29, 1998 CONCERNING DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOREIGN SERVICE GRIEVANCE PROCESS

UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 06 STATE 018097

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 30, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP
REGION

CONTEXT: SENATOR HELMS STATED ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE
YESTERDAY THAT HE WAS DISTURBED ABOUT THE FOREIGN SERVICE
DISCIPLINE AND GRIEVANCE PROCESSES THAT DO NOT ADEQUATELY
PENALIZE THOSE INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH MISCONDUCT.

Q. HOW DO YOU REACT TO SENATOR HELMS' STATEMENT ABOUT THE
FOREIGN SERVICE DISCIPLINE AND GRIEVANCE PROCESSES?

A. FIRST OF ALL, SECRETARY ALBRIGHT HAS ASKED ME TO REITERATE
HER VERY STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE 7,000 DEDICATED MEN AND WOMEN
THAT MAKE UP THE PROFESSIONAL CORPS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF
THE UNITED STATES. THEY SERVE AT 260 POSTS THROUGHOUT THE
WORLD, OFTEN IN DIFFICULT, HARDSHIP SITUATIONS, AND ALL TOO M
HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY.

LIKE ANY LARGE ORGANIZATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS ITS
SHARE OF DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS. THERE ARE LEGAL MECHANISMS IN
PLACE TO DEAL WITH THESE MATTERS AND THEY WORK. WE AGGRESSIVELY
USE THESE PROCESSES TO ENSURE THAT JUSTICE IS DONE AND ABUSES
CORRECTED.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE CAN ALWAYS BE IMPROVEMENTS. IN FACT,
LAST YEAR THE STATE DEPARTMENT PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO
STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE THE GRIEVANCE PROCESS.

WE ARE READY TO WORK WITH CONGRESS AND THE SFRC ON THIS PROPOSED
LEGISLATION AND OTHER WAYS WE MIGHT FURTHER IMPROVE THE
DISCIPLINE AND GRIEVANCE PROCESSES.

Q: HOW MANY DISCIPLINARY CASES DOES THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
HANDLE EVERY YEAR?

A. ANNUALLY APPROXIMATELY 70 FOREIGN SERVICE CASES REACH THE
POINT WHERE WE PROPOSE DISCIPLINARY ACTION. ACCORDING TO THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL, THE PERCENTAGE OF DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES
SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS IS APPROXIMATELY THE SAME AS

GOVERNMENT-WIDE AVERAGE. USAID AND USIA HAVE THEIR OWN SEPARATE
DISCIPLINARY PROCESSES.

Q.: WHAT ABOUT THE CASES SENATOR HELMS RAISES? THEY DETAIL
SOME OUTRAGEOUS AND SERIOUS ACTIONS. IS IT TRUE THAT THE
INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED HAVE GOTTEN OFF SCOT-FREE?

A. IT IS INAPPROPRIATE TO COMMENT ON ANY ONE OF THE INDIVIDUAL
CASES IN THIS FORUM, BUT, AS I SAID, WE HAVE IN PLACE PROCESSES
THAT DEAL APPROPRIATELY WITH SUCH SITUATIONS.

TALBOTT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 06

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LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC

OSRI: RUEHC

DTG: 310741Z JAN 98

ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC

TO: ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

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RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0000

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RUEHPU/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY 0000

RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 0000

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RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 0000

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RHFJJXP/NAVSTA PANAMA CANAL RODMAN PN/PAO

RUWSMXI/USCINCTrans INTEL CEN SCOTT AFE IL

RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL

SUBJ: ARA GUIDANCES, JANUARY 30, 1998

ARA PRESS GUIDANCES, JANUARY 30, 1998:

TEXT:

UNCLAS STATE 018279

ALL POSTS PLEASE PASS PAO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC

SUBJECT: ARA GUIDANCES, JANUARY 30, 1998

ARA PRESS GUIDANCES, JANUARY 30, 1998:

STATEMENT: ECUADORIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES ASSURANCES

OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR ECUADOR-PERU TALKS
CUBA: HUMANITARIAN RELIEF INITIATIVE ANNOUNCED BY THE CUBAN
AMERICAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION
PANAMA: MCC - US IRRITATED?

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
STATEMENT BY JAMES B. FOLEY, DEPUTY SPOKESMAN

-- ECUADORIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES ASSURANCES OF U.S.
SUPPORT FOR ECUADOR-PERU TALKS --

TODAY, ON A VISIT TO WASHINGTON, ECUADORIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER JOSE AYALA LASSO THANKED THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS
ROLE IN ADVANCING THE BORDER TALKS BETWEEN ECUADOR AND
PERU. IN MEETINGS WITH ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE STROBE
TALBOTT AND UNDER SECRETARY THOMAS PICKERING, FOREIGN

MINISTER AYALA PRAISED THE UNITED STATES AND THE OTHER
GUARANTORS OF THE RIO PROTOCOL OF 1942 -- ARGENTINA, BRAZIL
AND CHILE -- FOR PROVIDING INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE IN HELPING
ECUADOR AND PERU CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING
COMMISSIONS TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES. THIS AGREEMENT
WAS SIGNED IN RIO DE JANEIRO ON JANUARY 19TH OF THIS YEAR.

FOREIGN MINISTER AYALA REAFFIRMED ECUADOR'S COMMITMENT TO
WORK WITHIN THE AGREEMENT TO REACH A COMPREHENSIVE AND
DEFINITIVE SOLUTION TO ITS BORDER PROBLEM WITH PERU.
UNITED STATES OFFICIALS GAVE ASSURANCES THE UNITED STATES
WOULD REMAIN ENGAGED WITH ECUADOR AND PERU IN THE PEACE
PROCESS AND DO ALL IT COULD TO FACILITATE A FINAL
SETTLEMENT.

SINCE A BORDER CONFLICT BETWEEN ECUADOR AND PERU FLARED UP
IN JANUARY 1995, THE UNITED STATES, ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, AND
CHILE HAVE WORKED IN THEIR ROLES AS GUARANTORS OF THE RIO
PROTOCOL OF 1942 TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES. FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS LUIGI ELNAUDI
WAS DESIGNATED BY PRESIDENT CLINTON IN 1995 TO BE HIS
SPECIAL ENVOY ON THE ISSUE. DURING HIS VISIT, FOREIGN
MINISTER AYALA ALSO MET WITH SPECIAL ENVOY ELNAUDI AS WELL
AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY JEFFREY DAVIDOW AND NATIONAL
SECURITY COUNCIL SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JAMES DOBBINS.

-- CUBA: HUMANITARIAN RELIEF INITIATIVE ANNOUNCED BY THE
CUBAN AMERICAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION --

Q: WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW OF THE CUBAN HUMANITARIAN
RELIEF INITIATIVE ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY BY THE CUBAN AMERICAN
FOUNDATION AND ENDORSED BY SENATOR HELMS?

A: WE HAVE SEEN THE STATEMENT BY THE CUBAN AMERICAN
FOUNDATION OUTLINING AN INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE GREATER
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE DIRECTLY TO THE CUBAN PEOPLE.

WE HAVE ALSO SEEN A STATEMENT FROM SENATOR HELMS ENDORSING

THIS PROPOSAL.

WE HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD TO WHAT THE SPOKESMAN SAID LAST MONDAY.

THE U.S. CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT MAINTAINING PRESSURE ON THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH OUR EMBARGO IS FUNDAMENTAL TO ENCOURAGING SYSTEMIC, DEMOCRATIC CHANGE.

AT THE SAME TIME, STRENGTHENING CUBAN CIVIL SOCIETY THROUGH INCREASED INFORMATION FLOWS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CUBAN PEOPLE IS A KEY FACTOR IN OUR ONGOING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY IN CUBA

IF ASKED:

Q: DOES THE ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT THE CANF PROPOSAL?

A: THE DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN NO OFFICIAL POSITION ON THIS INITIATIVE OR ON ANY OF THE OTHER PROPOSED MEASURES TO FACILITATE THE EXPORT AND DELIVERY OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CUBA.

IF ASKED:

Q: CAN YOU COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT CUBAN-AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES (ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN AND LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART F-FL AND BOB MENENDEZ D-NJ) DO NOT SUPPORT CANF'S HUMANITARIAN RELIEF PROPOSAL?

A: WE HAVE SEEN THESE PRESS REPORTS. I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE OFFICES OF THE INDIVIDUAL LAWMAKERS FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION.

-- PANAMA: MCC - US IRRITATED? --

CONTEXT: PANAMA PAPERS ARE PRINTING A VARIETY OF STORIES SUGGESTING PROBLEMS IN THE MULTINATIONAL COUNTERNARCOTICS CENTER (MCC) TALKS. AN EARLY DRAFT COPY OF AN MCC AGREEMENT WAS LEAKED AND PRINTED IN A MEXICAN PAPER AND REPORTED UPON IN PANAMA. THIS HAS INSPIRED OTHER STORIES. ONE STORY SAYS THAT WE ARE IRRITATED THAT PANAMA DID NOT SIGN THE AGREEMENT TWO WEEKS AGO. OTHER REPORTS SUGGEST THAT THE US IS ONLY INTERESTED IN A BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR WHAT WOULD BE A DISGUISED US BASE. BETTY BRANAN, A CORRESPONDENT FOR THE PANAMANIAN PAPER "LA PRENSA" IS BASED IN WASHINGTON AND OCCASIONALLY ATTENDS THE STATE PRESS BRIEFINGS. SHE KEENLY FOLLOWS THE MCC TALKS.

Q: IS THE US IRRITATED WITH PANAMA BECAUSE THE GOP REFUSED TO SIGN THE MCC AGREEMENT TWO AND A HALF WEEKS AGO?

A: WE LOOK FORWARD TO SIGNING AN MCC AGREEMENT AS A WAY OF CONFIRMING ALL THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED TOGETHER AFTER A LONG HARD NEGOTIATION. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE MOMENT WHEN WE CAN MAKE THE DEFINITIVE TEXT OF THE

AGREEMENT PUBLIC, AN EVENTUALITY THAT WILL BE POSSIBLE ONCE A FINAL TEXT HAS BEEN FORMALLY AGREED TO.

Q: IS THE TEXT OF THE MCC AGREEMENT AS PUBLISHED IN MEXICAN AND PANAMANIAN PAPERS GENUINE?

A: THE MEDIA IN PANAMA AND MEXICO HAVE PUBLISHED WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN EARLIER DRAFT OF THE AGREEMENT. THAT DRAFT HAS ALREADY BEEN SUPERSEDED BY SUBSEQUENT WORK. WE ARE AT PRESENT WAITING FOR THE CLARIFYING LANGUAGE WHICH PANAMA PROMISED TO PROVIDE AND WHICH MAY CHANGE THE LANGUAGE OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT YET FURTHER.

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT, AS SOME CRITICS HAVE INSISTED, THAT THE US IS REALLY ONLY INTERESTED IN A BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR WHAT WILL REALLY BE A DISGUISED BASE?

A: ABSOLUTELY NOT. WE HAVE ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT TO BE SUCCESSFUL THE MCC HAD TO HAVE MULTINATIONAL PARTICIPATION. MOREOVER, AS THE HEADS OF THE US AND PANAMANIAN DELEGATIONS, AMBASSADOR TED MC NAMARA AND DR JORGE RITTER, HAVE SAID PUBLICLY, WE ENTERED INTO THIS PROCESS IN RESPONSE TO A PROPOSAL FROM PANAMA TO NEGOTIATE OUR PARTICIPATION IN WHAT WE EXPECT WILL BE A UNIQUE INSTITUTION, ONE THAT WILL FEATURE CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP, MULTINATIONAL PARTICIPATION, AND A US MILITARY SUPPORT ELEMENT. THE THREAT THE MCC WILL BE CONSTITUTED TO MEET IS A COMMON ONE - THE SCOURGE OF INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING.

Q: THE PANAMA PRESS IS REPORTING THAT PANAMANIAN PRESIDENT PEREZ BALLARDES HAS SAID THAT THE US AND PANAMA HAVE A CONCEPTUAL AGREEMENT ON THE MCC BUT NO AGREED TO TEXT. IS THAT CORRECT?

A: AS WE HAVE SAID IN THE PAST, WE HAVE AN ESSENTIAL AGREEMENT. WE HAVE NOT INITIALED A TEXT, BUT, AS PRESIDENT PEREZ BALLARDES ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 24, 1997, WE HAVE AN ESSENTIAL AGREEMENT. AS HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED, PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RICARDO ARIAS AND SENIOR PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS MET WITH HIGH LEVEL US OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE MCC PROJECT AND THEIR INTEREST IN CLARIFYING A NUMBER OF POINTS IN THE DRAFT TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT WITH WHICH BOTH SIDES WERE THEN WORKING. AT THE MEETING, THE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS AGREED TO PROVIDE IN WRITING THE TEXTUAL CLARIFICATION WITH WHICH THEY WERE STILL CONCERNED.

TALBOTT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

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RUEABND/DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMIN HQ WASHINGTON DC//POL//
RUEABNE/EPIC EL PASO TX
RUEAIIS/STORAGE CENTER FBIS RESTON VA
RUEALGX/DEFINTAGENCY WASHINGTON DC
RUEDADA/AFISA AMHS BOLLING AFB DC
RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA//DEA/TAT/NAS//

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RUESFB/FBIS ASUNCION PA
RUETIAV/MPC FORT GEORGE G MEADE MD
RULGPPA/USCOMSOLANT
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RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCJ3-PSY//
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SUBJ: Take 2 of 2--Semana on US Policy

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UNCLAS 60

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SERIAL: PA0302023998

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COUNTRY: COLOMBIA

SUBJ: Take 2 of 2--Semana on US Policy

REF: pa0302023798 santa fe de bogota semana spanish 2-9 feb
///in this area."

TEXT:

[FBIS Translated Text] What is in store for the country?
[subhead]

As usual, the assessment on Colombia's performance regarding counternarcotics matters is not easy. Often, conscientious and courageous efforts prosecutors and policemen make for months fail due to the sudden approval of a rider in Congress or to the release of a drug trafficker. This is why there has been no consensus on the certification of Colombia. The final decision is still far away, and it continues to be in the hands of President Clinton. However, if we make a conscientious analysis of the correlation of forces involved and the opinions heard in various offices, all seems to indicate that unless something unusual happens, this year the balance will favor a certification conditioned by national

interests, or what Americans call a "national interest waiver" [previous three words published in English]. In plain words, this means that the US president decides not to implement the decertification sanctions because doing so is counterproductive for the interests of his own country.

The change in Washington's political atmosphere is a significant event this year. Last year, Republican congressmen wanted to decertify Colombia. Jesse Helms in the Senate and Dan Burton, Ben Gilman, and Dennis Hastert in the House of Representatives requested Colombia's decertification. This year, the situation is very different. Two of Helms' top aides in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who knew a great deal about Colombia retired, and that office is pointing a finger at Mexico, a country they want to see decertified this year. Colombia is no longer in the forefront. The situation is even better in the House of Representatives. Gilman, Burton, Hastert, and Cass Ballenger, leaders of the House International Relations Committee, signed the following petition, to which Semana had access: "The president must grant a certification conditioned by national interests in order for us to be able to further and better assist the National Police of Colombia, which is fighting the war against drugs in the world's largest drug producer." Even though the government is listening to the congressmen's opinion, it is not making any decision.

There are other factors that seem to be hammering out a consensus among the various players in the Clinton administration. The primary factor is that this year there does not seem to be good reasons to fully decertify Colombia for the third time, because, first, a third decertification constitutes a counterproductive erosion of the mechanism itself. One cannot punish too many times without the punishment losing strength and credibility. Second, because by decertifying Colombia, Samper's successor would be more punished than Samper himself, as the next president would have to bear his predecessor's grade for a year.

North American officials seem to have reached the conclusion that against their will Horacio Serpa will be the Colombia's next president. In one of those strange cultural gaps that divide people, it seems that every time a Colombian tells an American official that this is not necessarily the prevailing situation, the former is more convinced that it is inevitable for Serpa to assume power.

From this standpoint, the analysis on the political effects of the decertification changes completely. Instead of the effects being whether to elect Serpa or not, they would be whether to motivate him or not to help as president. Therefore, the US government is reportedly thinking that it is better to motivate Serpa to help during his likely presidential term: Decertify him right away or give him an opportunity? Obviously, they seem to be leaning toward thinking that it is better, strategically speaking, to do the latter.

Despite what was mentioned above, it would be a mistake if the Samper Government declares victory at this time. A decision has not been made until Clinton makes it public, and this year the process is programmed in such a way that the government's high-ranking leaders -- the president and the secretary of state -- will have much more time to analyze in detail. Never before has the decision made by the special team making the recommendation been changed, but it could happen. A premature, boastful reaction by Colombia could do away with the fragile balance of consensus favoring the

conditional certification that mid-ranking levels seem to be forging, and it could even trigger a reaction at the highest levels. One must not forget that the US hard-liners are precisely the ones who have made the country "motivate itself" and obtain the results of the last four years.

The last word regarding this issue has not yet been said. In fact, the mid-ranking levels have not even reached a consensus favoring Colombia. However, as a former Department of State official told Semana, "if the decision had to be made today, I would say there was an 80 percent chance of a conditional certification."

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(endall) 2-9 Feb bc/campos/alberro/ejl gaco0202.07e 03/0242z feb

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RUEALGX/DEFINTAGENCY WASHINGTON DC
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RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//ARA/CCA//
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUERFCF/CDR470THMIGP COROZAL PM//IAPP-O-AS//
RUESDM/JTLO MIAMI FL
RUETIAV/MPC FORT GEORGE G MEADE MD
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RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCJ3-PSY//
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RUWMEGA/USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM//IN//
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INFO: ////

SUBJ: Castro Hopes Clinton Can Overcome Current Difficulties

TEXT:

UNCLAS 6A

WARNING: TOPIC: POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL

SERIAL: PA0302135898

PASS: ATTN WIRE SELECT

COUNTRY: CUBA

SUBJ: Castro Hopes Clinton Can Overcome Current Difficulties

REF: 1. pa0302133998 fyi -- loss of coverage of havana, rebelde
2. pa0302031198 fyi -- castro's 'special appearance'
unmonitorable

SOURCE: Havana Prensa Latina in Spanish 0652 GMT 3 Feb 98

TEXT:

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 3 Feb (PL) -- President Fidel Castro today expressed hope that US President William Clinton will be able to overcome the current difficulties caused by the scandal in which he is charged with sexual harassment.

The Cuban leader said that ultrarightist sectors, such as those led by ultraconservative Senator Jesse Helms, have truly initiated a conspiracy against President Clinton; he thus answered a question during his television appearance, which began at 2130 on Monday and concluded at dawn on Tuesday.

The actions taken against Clinton by his adversaries seem very dirty to me, they are a true example of the things that happen in that country, the lack of ethics, he said.

Clinton is facing personal difficulties and I sincerely hope he can overcome them, he said.

During his speech Fidel Castro strongly denounced the economic blockade Washington has imposed on the island for almost 40 years and demanded an end to this policy which, he complained, is an attempt to make the Cuban people succumb to hunger and disease.

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 2763

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RHEHOND/DIR ONDCP//OR//
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RHFJJXP/CINCLANTFLT DET SO NZ FT RODMAN PM
RHLBAAK/CDRUSARSO MAXI FT CLAYTON PM//SOIN-IDI//
RUANJTF/DIRJIATF EAST//J2//
RUCBACM/USCINCCOM NORFOLK VA//J5//
RUCBAIC/AIC NORFOLK VA
RUCJAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCPA/SCJ2-IW//
RUCKMEZ/SJTTFHQ MFL//J2//
RUCMACC/CDR PSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//
RUCMACC/CDR 4THPSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//AOCF-POG-SB//
RUCOGCG/NAVCRIMINVSERVRA GUANTANAMO BAY CU
RUCOGDA/NAVINTELOFC GUANTANAMO BAY CU//N2//
RUCXGRD/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
RUCXONI/ONI WASHINGTON DC//2140//
RUDHNIS/DIRNAVCRIMINVSERV WASHINGTON DC
RUDHSIC/CDRUSASOIC WASH DC//DIS//
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RUDPWDC/DA AMHS WASHINGTON DC
RUEABND/DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMIN HQ WASHINGTON DC//POL//
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RUEAIIS/STORAGE CENTER FBIS RESTON VA
RUEALGX/DEFINTAGENCY WASHINGTON DC
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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
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RUESDM/JTLO MIAMI FL

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RULGPRW/NAVCRIMINVSERVRA ROOSEVELT ROADS PR
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SUBJ: Castro Says Cuba Wants Blockade to End, Not Charity

TEXT:

UNCLAS 6A

WARNING: ATTN MILAN POL
ATTN MILAN ST
ATTN ROME POL

WARNING: ROME FOR VATICAN

WARNING: TOPIC: LEADER, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, DOMESTIC,
INTERNATIONAL

SERIAL: PA0302150098
PASS: ATTN WIRE SELECT

COUNTRY: CUBA, VATICAN CITY
SUBJ: Castro Says Cuba Wants Blockade to End, Not Charity

REF: 1. pa0302144898 havana prensa latina spanish 030412 --
castro underscores cuban response to pope's visit
2. pa0302135898 havana prensa latina spanish 030652 --
castro hopes clinton can overcome current difficulties
3. pa0302133998 fyi -- loss of coverage of havana, rebelde
4. pa0302031198 fyi -- castro's 'special appearance'
unmonitorable

SOURCE: Havana Prensa Latina in Spanish 0622 GMT 3 Feb 98
TEXT:

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 3 Feb (PL) -- President Fidel Castro has characterized as a dirty maneuver the alleged humanitarian aid plan for Cuba prepared by Senator Jesse Helms, originator of the law that recommends the blockade on Cuba, and the ultraconservative National Cuban-American Foundation.

During a televised appearance, the president said the plan is an attempt to stem a growing movement against the blockade in the United States, which is supported by congressmen, the National Council of Churches, the North American Chamber of Commerce, and many national figures.

Castro recalled that the Pope dealt a harsh blow to the promoters of the blockade's intensification with his condemnation of US harassment during his visit to the island.

In their desperation, the same groups that financed terrorist attempts against our country made an offer based on humiliating

conditions, "that would require the country to lick the hands of those who are stabbing them in the back," he said.

Cuba is not demanding humanitarian aid from the United States, it is not asking for charity, it is demanding an end to the economic war against our people and respect for their right to develop economically and trade freely with all the peoples of the world, he said.

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RUCBAIC/AIC NORFOLK VA
RUCJAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCPA/SCJ2-IW//
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RUDKMBK/FBIS LONDON UK//BBC RUCWAAA//
RUDKMKE/FBIS LONDON UK
RUDKOM/ROMEALPHA
RUDMQAN/MARCORINTACT QUANTICO VA
RUDPHMS/COLMGTOFC82DABNDIV
RUDPMAX/FAISA FT BRAGG NC
RUDPTUT/COLMGTOFCXVIIIABNCORPS
RUDPWDC/DA AMHS WASHINGTON DC
RUEABND/DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMIN HQ WASHINGTON DC//POL//
RUEADWD/HQ DA WASHINGTON DC//DAMO-SSM//
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RUEADADA/AFISA AMHS BOLLING AFB DC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//EUR/WE//
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//ARA/CCA//
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME//ROME FOR VATICAN//
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUERFCF/CDR470THMIGP COROZAL PM//IAPP-O-AS//
RUESDM/JTLO MIAMI FL

RUETIAV/MPC FORT GEORGE G MEADE MD
RUFDFNEU/CDR USASSETAF VICENZA IT//AESE-CMO//
RUFPSA/4190 ABS(P) SAN VITO DEI NORMANNI AS IT//CC//
RULGPRW/NAVCRIMINVSERVRA ROOSEVELT ROADS PR
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCJ3-PSY//
RUWGTCG/COMPACAREA COGARD ALAMEDA CA//PI//
RUWMBKA/612 AINS DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB AZ//INTA//
RUWMEGA/USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM//IN//
RUWMEGA/AFOSI DET 214 HOWARD AFB PM//CC//
RUWTAEA/NAIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH
ACCT FBPA-EWDK

INFO: ////

SUBJ: Fidel Rejects US Humanitarian Aid if Blockade Continues

TEXT:

UNCLAS 6A

WARNING: ATTN MILAN POL
ATTN MILAN ST
ATTN ROME POL

WARNING: ROME FOR VATICAN

WARNING: TOPIC: LEADER, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, DOMESTIC,
INTERNATIONAL

SERIAL: PA0302173898
PASS: ATTN WIRE SELECT

COUNTRY: CUBA, VATICAN CITY
SUBJ: Fidel Rejects US Humanitarian Aid if Blockade Continues

REF: 1. pa0302153498 havana prensa latina spanish 030508 --
castro on globalization of solidarity
2. pa0302150098 havana prensa latina spanish 030622 --
castro says cuba wants blockade to end, not charity
3. pa0302144898 havana prensa latina spanish 030412 --
castro underscores cuban response to pope's visit
4. pa0302135898 havana prensa latina spanish 030652 --
castro hopes clinton can overcome current difficulties

SOURCE: Havana Prensa Latina in Spanish 0703 GMT 3 Feb 98
TEXT:

[Quotation marks as received]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 3 Feb (PL) -- President Fidel Castro described as "repugnantly cynical" the project by Senator Jesse Helms and the Cuban-American National Foundation (FNCA) to provide humanitarian aid to Cuba while maintaining the blockade against the island.

He underscored that it is a repugnant and immoral maneuver, a rude response to John Paul II's address, an insult to Cuban religious institutions, and a challenge to the revolutionary people who are resisting -- and will continue to resist -- with honor.

However, he warned, we do not have to wait too long for a reply. He said: "The Cuban Government says no with the world's greatest dignity and on behalf of the people, who constitute a symbol of

dignity to the world."

During his presentation before Cuban television and radio networks to praise the great success of John Paul II's visit to Cuba, Fidel Castro condemned the blockade against the island and the attempts to neutralize those who oppose to this policy in the United States.

These plans, Fidel warned, include offering humanitarian aid under humiliating conditions while maintaining the most merciless and rigorous blockade. It is charity in exchange for the country's honor and for the right to continue executing their plan to suffocate the economy and to conquer Cuba through hunger and disease.

In this regard, he asked himself how the country could accept humanitarian aid "from those who, as murderers, are gradually stabbing us to hinder our economic and social development."

"Cuba does not demand humanitarian aid from the United States, but demands an end to the genocidal economic war against our people and respect for our right to economic development and to freely trade with all of the people worldwide," he said.

The Cuban leader recalled that the movement against the US blockade has intensified over the past few months after two congressmen had submitted a bill before the House [of Representatives] to suspend the embargo on food, medications, and medical equipment.

Even though this project does not solve the problem, he said, it goes in the right direction and is a noble and well meaning effort, which deserves admiration and respect and constitutes a step forward under the current circumstances.

He pointed out that in addition to the United Nations' nearly unanimous rejection of the blockade and to the US growing difficulties worldwide due to the Helms-Burton law, this initiative rapidly won the support of important institutions and of many prominent individuals in the United States.

Among them, the Cuban president mentioned the Council of Churches of Christ, which gathers the main Protestant churches in the United States with 52 million members, and the Chamber of Commerce, which also urged last 13 January to bring an end to the anti-Cuban blockade on medications and food.

Since the Pope's visit was drawing closer and it was likely that the Pontiff would address the issue of the blockade, the movement became stronger and nearly all of the main newspapers and journals published articles and editorials containing various arguments against the blockade.

The Pope's rejection of the economic measures, which have been imposed on Cuba, as unfair and ethically unacceptable constituted a hard blow against the promoters of this policy, Fidel Castro said.

Desperate, he added, the author of the Helms-Burton law and the FNCA, which organized and financed the attacks against Havana hotels to undermine tourism, conceived a perfidious idea to dismantle the antiblockade movement and to hinder the approval of Charles Rangel's bill.

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