

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 1/27/98 7:20:28 PM
FROM Wozniak, Natalie S.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT DAILY GUIDANCE UPDATE [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Abercrombie-Winstanley, Gina K.
Akers, Dale W.
Albert, Ronda A.
Amiri, Rukhsana N.
Andreasen, Steven P.
Antholis, William J.
Atlas, Edwin L.
Bader, Jeffrey A.
Baker, James E.
Baldwin, Kenneth
Bandler, Donald K.
Barks-Ruggles, Erica
Barnett, Cheryl E.
Battenfield, Pat A.
Beers, Rand R.
Behring, Deanna M.
Bell, Robert G.
Bellamy, Ralph C.
Bemisderfer, Dwight D.
Bendick, Gordon L.
Benjamin, Daniel
Birkland, Andrea L.
Blinken, Antony J.
Bobbitt, Philip C.
Bolinski, Charlene C.
Boone, Sherman G.
Bouchard, Joseph F.
Braden, Susan R.
Branscum, Sean D.
Bresnahan, Gary E.
Broadwick, Bonnie
Brooks, Jennifer M.
Brown, Keirn C.
Bryan, Dave L.
Burrell, Christina L.
Busby, Scott W.
Busick, Paul E.
Butler, Lawrence E.
Campanella, Anthony
Caravelli, John M.

Chastain, George M.
Clark, Bronya H.
Clarke, Richard A.
Collier, Dorothy A.
Cooper, James B.
Cooper, Kathleen H.
Cosgriff, Kevin J.
Countryman, Thomas M.
Courtney, William H.
Covey, James P.
Crowder, Stevan D.
Crowell, Thomas R.
Crowley, Philip J.
Dames, Victoria J.
Davies, Glyn T.
Dean, Susan W.
Dehqanzada, Yahya A.
Dejban, Donna D.
DeLaurentis, Jeffrey J.
DeRosa, Mary B.
DeSouza, Patrick J.
Dimel, Marsha L.
Dobbins, James F.
Dollar, Carolyn J.
Dowling, John N. (Nick)
Dupuy, Shawn L.
Durham, Robert J.
Dymond, John C.
Edwards, Joan K.
Elkon, Nicole L.
Epstein, Gerald L.
Erdahl, Douglas M.
Farrar, Jay C.
Ficklin, John W.
Figueredo, Orlando
Flanagan, Stephen J.
Fooks, Michael D.
Ford, Robert G.
Fort, Jane B.
Friedrich, Mary K.
Fung, Mark T.
Gagnon, James M.
George, Christopher L.
Glick, Bonnie L.
Gray, Wendy E.
Greer, Jason H.
Gregory, Susan J.
Haines, Mary A.
Hale, John E.
Hall, James A.

Harding, Bruce D.
Harris, Elisa D.
Harris, Karen
Harrison, Lyle M.
Hasman, Thomas M.
Hawes, David J.
Hawkins, Ardenia R.
Hawley, Leonard R.
Helweg, M. Diana
Heyl, Phillip J.
Higgins, David B.
Highsmith, Newell L.
Hill, Roseanne M.
Hilliard, Brenda I.
Hillman, Thomas W.
Hofmann, Karl W.
Huggins, Peter
Hunerwadel, Joan S.
Hurwitz, Marc I.
Jansen, Christian P.
Jones, Kerri-Ann D.
Joshi, M. Kay
Kale, Dora A.
Kelly, Sandra L.
Kerrick, Donald L.
Kiernan, Gerald P.
Kinser-Kidane, Brenda J.
Klein, Brian P.
Knepper, Charlotte
Kristoff, Sandra J.
Kyle, Robert D.
LaFleur, Vinca S.
Langley, Janice M.
Lawrence, Cynthia
Leary, William H.
Leavy, David C.
Lee, Malcolm R.
Letts, Kelly J.
Luzzatto, Anne R.
MacDonald, Bruce W.
Malley, Robert
Marsh, Thomas S
Marshall, Betty A.
Marty, Joseph H.
Matera, Michael A.
Maxfield, Nancy H.
McCarthy, Mary O.
McClellan, Christina L.
McEldowney, Nancy E.
McIntyre, Stuart H.

Merchant, Brian T.
Metzl, Jamie F.
Millison, Cathy L.
Mitsler, Elaine M.
Miyaoka, Lester H.
Motherway, Daniel J.
Naplan, Steven J.
Neil, M. Elise
O'Shaughnessy, Patrick
Panerali, Kristen E.
Papadimitriou, Marianna
Pascual, Carlos E.
Payne, Raymond H.
Piccone, Theodore J.
Poole, Jennifer C.
Porter, Pete
Prendergast, John P.
Prise, Edith M.
Pritchard, Charles (Jack) L.
Quinn, Mary E.
Ragan, Richard F.
Rathke, Jeffrey D.
Rice, Edward A.
Rice, Sean P.
Riedel, Bruce O.
Rinaldi, Steven M.
Roach, Darren S.
Rosa, Frederick M.
Rossi, Christopher R.
Roundtree, Beverly
Rubin, Eric S.
Rudman, Mara E.
Ryu, Rexon Y.
Salvetti, Lisa M.
Samore, Gary S.
Sanborn, Daniel R. K.
Sandalow, David B.
Sanders, Robin R.
Sapiro, Miriam E.
Schrader, Joel M.
Schwartz, Eric P.
Scott-Perez, Marilyn L.
Sculimbrene, Thomas A.
Seaton, James B.
Sherman, David J.
Sigler, Ralph H.
Silva, Mary Ann T.
Simon, Steven N.
Simons, James R.
Smith, James A.

Smith, Michael P.
Snyder, Julie A.
Sonenshine, Tara D.
Soubers, Richard R.
Sparks, John E.
Starks, Tali T.
Storey, Sharon V.
Suettinger, Robert L.
Todd, Gwenyth E.
Tucker, Maureen E.
Unrue, Michael
Verville, Elizabeth G.
Wadsworth, Valon J. (Val)
Ward, JoAnn
Wechsler, William F.
Widmer, Edward L.
Williams, Mary C.
Wilson, Joseph C.
Witkowsky, Anne A.
Wozniak, Natalie S.
Wright, Allison M.
Wright, Joseph (Larry)
Yokum, Jeffrey G.

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY

Please review and forward your updates **IN BOLD TO @ PRESS** by
10:00
a.m. Wednesday, January 28. Thank you.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

jan27gui.doc
NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS GUIDANCE

January 27, 1998

SOTU/Foreign Policy

Russia-Iran Missile Cooperation

Iraq

MEPP

Israel

Algeria

UK/Blair

Northern Ireland

Cuba/CARE

Cuba/Flotilla

Cuba/Papal Visit to Cuba

STATE OF THE UNION: FOREIGN POLICY

January 27, 1998

* In the 1997 State of the Union, President Clinton set an ambitious agenda to keep American leadership strong -- and to make sure we enter the 21st century as the world's leading force for security, peace, freedom and prosperity.

* Over the past year, we have made progress on the President's agenda -- building an undivided, peaceful Europe... forging an Asia Pacific community... opening the new economy to American goods and services... remaining an unrelenting force for peace and freedom... moving strongly against new security threats... giving ourselves the tools we need to get the job done (strong military, better funded diplomacy.)

* Now, with a strong foundation in place, we are poised to move forward, seizing the opportunities and meeting the challenges of a new era. To meet these challenges, we are adapting old institutions to new demands... forging strong partnerships to meet common challenges... modernizing the instruments of our influence, military and diplomatic. Through this new security strategy, we are helping to write international rules for the 21st century, protecting those who

join, isolating those who do not.

EUROPEAN SECURITY

* NATO ENLARGEMENT: Europe's stability and America's security closely linked.

President's call for enlarging the NATO alliance strengthen alliance's core

mission of collective defense and helps meet new threats such as regional

instability. Enlargement furthers other US objectives: encouraging states in the

region to settle border and ethnic disputes with neighbors, strengthen civilian

control of their militaries, and increase tolerance for ethnic and religious

minorities. NATO's enlargement, combined the Partnership for Peace program,

NATO-Russia Founding Act, NATO-Ukraine partnership help erase the outdated Cold

War divisions and build, for the first time, an undivided, democratic, and

peaceful Europe.

* SECURING THE PEACE IN BOSNIA: U.S. has abiding interest in peace and stability

in Bosnia and a compelling interest in implementation of the Dayton peace

accords. After 46 months of worst war in Europe since WWII, 24 months of

implementing peace have helped put Bosnia on path to lasting peace and stability.

Progress on implementation possible because of prudent military support. Can

now see point where civil implementation and peace can be self-sustaining -- but

Bosnia's fragile peace still needs support of American and allied troops when

current NATO mission ends in June President still must approve detailed action

plan being prepared by NATO military authorities after full review of all

options. President will insist action plan have achievable mission tied to

clear benchmarks, not a deadline. Force must be able to protect itself. U.S.

must retain command. European allies must shoulder full share of responsibility.

Costs must be manageable. Plan must have substantial support of Congress, U.S.

public.

COMBATING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

* **IRAQ WMD PROGRAM:** President emphasized that Iraq's efforts to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons are unacceptable. UN inspectors have done remarkable job, destroying more of Iraq WMD potential than was destroyed during Gulf War itself. But Saddam now refusing to allow inspectors to complete mission. All options are on the table to make sure Iraq does not pursue WMD program with impunity and threaten international community.

* **BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS:** President announced tonight that the United States would lead the effort to erect stronger international barriers against the proliferation and use of biological weapons. Under the new initiative, the United States will seek to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention by requiring nations that have joined the BWC to submit annual declarations about facilities and activities that could be used for BW purposes and agree to a tough international inspection system including both voluntary and mandatory inspections.

* **COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY:** President's call for Senate ratification of the CTBT will allow America to maintain a safe and reliable nuclear deterrent while constraining the proliferation of nuclear material and technology to rogue states' weapons programs. CTBT will improve America's ability to detect and deter nuclear explosive testing. CTBT's global network of sensors will strengthen America's ability to monitor nuclear explosive testing across the globe, as well as deter any nation from believing it can conduct a nuclear explosive test undetected by the international community.

LEVERAGING OUR POWER AND INFLUENCE

* **US ARREARS TO THE UNITED NATIONS:** The President also

highlighted need for
prompt action on the payment of U.S. arrears to the United Nations.
Failure to
pay undermines US ability to reform UN and hinders our leadership
of that
organization at very time UN is working to prevent Iraq from
threatening
neighbors and world with weapons of mass destruction. Also need to
give the
International Monetary Fund capacity to help prevent global financial
crises
Now, more than ever, our security at home and our interests abroad
demand that
America meet our international obligations, sharpen the tools to
improve the
stability of the world economy, and increase our leverage in
international
organizations.

RUSSIA-IRAN MISSILE COOPERATION

January 27, 1998

Q: Can you comment on the significance of the Russian statement last
week on new
export controls?

A: We have been officially informed by the Russian government that
Prime Minister
Chernomyrdin on January 22 signed a decree substantially tightening
Russia's
export control process, putting into place new authority to stop
transfers of the
full range of goods and services to programs of weapons of mass
destruction and
foreign missile programs. This decree is now in force.

We do not yet have the text and understand it is being processed
administratively in Moscow, and will be published shortly.

For some time U.S. and Russian officials have been discussing such
broad legal
authority, which is widely employed by many other countries and
known as
"catch-all" authority. Vice President Gore and Russian Prime Minister

Chernomyrdin discussed it at length on the phone last Saturday, in the
context of

our shared interest in preventing proliferation.

We will carefully review the text of the decree when it is published.

We

welcome this step by the Russian government to prevent the proliferation of

weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, this is part of our

joint efforts to prevent the transfer of missile technology to Iran.

IRAQ

January 26, 1998

Talking Points on Saturday's Meeting

* Chairman Butler has concluded that under present circumstances, UNSCOM cannot

carry out its mandate. This is a serious matter.

* Over the next several days, we will be in close consultations with other

members of the Security Council and partners in the Gulf region. The President,

Secretary Albright and other senior National Security advisors will be in contact

with allies over the next few days.

* We are determined that Saddam Hussein not be permitted to pursue with impunity

programs of weapons of mass destruction. All options remain on the table.

Q: What is the current situation in Iraq?

A: Chairman Butler has concluded that under present circumstances, UNSCOM cannot

carry out its mandate. This is a serious matter.

Q: What are the next steps in US Iraq policy?

A: Over the next several days, we will be in close consultations with other

members of the Security Council and partners in the Gulf region. The President,

Secretary Albright and other senior National Security advisors will be in contact with allies over the next few days.

We are determined that Saddam Hussein not be permitted to pursue with impunity programs of weapons of mass destruction. All options remain on the table.

Q: What about an ultimatum?

A: We are currently undertaking intensive consultations with allies and UNSC members.

After those consultations take place will we decide on the best way to proceed.

Q: Is the USG now prepared to use force against Iraq?

A: As the President made clear last week the situation as it currently stands cannot last forever. No options have been ruled out.

Q: What about the report of planned 3-4 day bombing blitz?

A: I am not going to get drawn into any discussion of military contingencies.

Q: It is very clear how that the use of force is clearly being considered. What are the goals of any possible attack -- punishment, seeking compliance, overthrowing the Iraqi regime?

A: Not going to comment on military operations, however, our objective regarding Iraq continues to be thwart its capacity to develop weapons of mass destruction and missiles.

We seek Iraqi compliance with the will of the international community as expressed through seven years of Security Council resolutions.

Iraq must understand that the international community cannot and will not tolerate its continued flouting of international will and its continued pursuit of programs of WMD.

Q: Will you seek another UNSC resolution?

A: We are currently in consultations with UNSC member states on how best to proceed.

Q: Will you seek "material breach"? Do you need to? What is the British position?

A: We have made clear that we believe that we already have the authority for a military strike should such an option be chosen.

As for the position of other UNSC members, you will have to ask them.

Q: What is your view of the travel by Russian Deputy FM Posuvalyuk to Baghdad to try to resolve the crisis?

A: All diplomatic efforts must be focused on one goal - full compliance with the resolution. The messenger is not the important issue, the message is: Compliance pure and simple.

MEPP: USG TRAVEL; ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN SECURITY COOPERATION;
PLO COVENANT
January 27, 1998

Q: Any news on travel by the Secretary or SMEC Ross to follow up on last week's meetings with PM Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat?

A: (REFER TO STATEMENT)

Q: Can you confirm that the Palestinian Authority provided the information which led to Israel's arrest of two Hamas members reportedly on their way to conduct a terrorist bombing?

A: WE Do not have the facts of the case.

Q: What is your reaction to Chairman Arafat's call for an Arab summit to discuss the peace process?

A: We have no reaction. Holding an Arab summit is an Arab matter.

Q: PM Netanyahu says he would consider a phased second redeployment. Chairman Arafat reportedly rejected that the redeployment come in phases. But you said yesterday both sides agreed with you. Who's right here?

A: Let me correct the premise of your question.

One of the concepts we raised during the meetings with PM Netanyahu and chairman Arafat was a parallel approach of steps the Israelis would take to implement their commitments on further redeployment and the Palestinians would take to implement their commitments on security.

The parties understand that and were prepared to discuss the details of this approach.

Q: What's your reaction to PM Netanyahu's statement yesterday that the Oslo Accords do not negate our rights to construct new settlements or to continue building in Jerusalem?

A: It has been our practice not to get into public interpretations of agreements.

I will offer our own position on the general issue of settlement activity, which has long been clear.

Settlement activity is unhelpful to creating the climate necessary to making progress in the peace process. It undermines the trust and confidence required for such progress.

Q: Is settlement activity part of the time out for which you have called?

A: Yes.

Q: PM Netanyahu said that Arafat's letter to the President did not remove PLO

Covenant language on the armed struggle. What's your view?

A: The Israelis have not explained their thoughts on this to us.

Chairman Arafat's letter appears to address all the issues the government of

Israel had previously identified as being of concern to it.

ISRAEL

January 27, 1998

ISRAEL: IS USG DISCUSSING AID REDUCTION PLAN?

Q: Is Israeli Finance Minister Neeman in Washington to discuss reductions in US

aid to Israel? With whom is he meeting? Whose initiative was it? Do you support such a reduction plan?

A: Finance Minister Neeman is meeting with Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Eizenstat today.

Minister Neeman and US Eizenstat are regular interlocutors on economic relations between our two countries. This is a routine meeting given their respective areas of responsibility.

We welcome Minister Neeman and look forward to hearing what he has to say.

I am not going to discuss meetings before they have occurred.

IF PRESSED ONLY

Q: But are they talking about US foreign aid?

A: I Have nothing to add.

ISRAEL: U.S. - ISRAELI CRIME TREATY

Q: What are the details of the U.S. - Israeli treaty signed yesterday to

fight
international organized crime?

(NOTE TO BRIEFER: Netanyahu signed in his capacity as acting Foreign Minister)

A: On January 26, 1998, U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Edward S. Walker, Jr. and Prime Minister Netanyahu signed a bilateral mutual legal assistance treaty in Jerusalem. Negotiations began in 1994 and concluded a few months ago.

A: The treaty provides a formal governmental mechanism for the provision of evidence and other forms of law enforcement assistance for criminal investigations and proceedings. Amb. Walker noted "this treaty will better enable our governments to cooperate on combating transnational organized crime and provide a clear channel between the U.S. Attorney General and the Israeli ministry of Justice to administer its provisions. The forms of assistance provided for under this treaty include serving documents, executing requests for searches and seizures, transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes, taking testimony of witnesses in both the requested and requesting states, providing documents and records, and assisting in forfeiture of assets. The treaty covers any offense that is criminalized in the country requesting the assistance.

The treaty does not include provisions on extradition, which are governed by the 1963 U.S.-Israeli extradition treaty.

The Treaty will now need to be approved under the constitutional processes of both governments. For the U.S., this will mean transmitting the treaty to the Senate for advice and consent to ratification. For Israel, we understand this means approval by the Israeli Knesset and government.

ALGERIA: REACTION TO EUROPEAN UNION REPORT

January 27, 1998

Q: Have we received a copy of the European Union Mission's findings?

A: The U.S. has received a copy of the EU report regarding its mission to Algeria. The U.S. agrees with, and supports the EU's call for "greater transparency" on behalf of the government of Algeria and unhindered access for international organizations, NGO's, the media, and a visit by representatives of the UN.

The U.S. notes and regrets that the offers of humanitarian assistance from the EU have not been accepted.

The U.S. reaffirms its condemnation of these brutal killings and will continue its consultations with the EU and the Government of Algeria, in the hopes that these massacres will end.

UNITED KINGDOM: BLAIR
January 27, 1998

POTUS Call with Prime Minister Blair

The President spoke this morning with Prime Minister Tony Blair between 10:30 and 10:41 a.m. They touched on the following subjects:

* IRAQ: They agreed the developments are serious, that there is a common determination to see UNSC resolutions respected, and that they need to stay closely coordinated.

* MIDDLE EAST PEACE: The President reviewed his recent meetings with PM Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat.

* NORTHERN IRELAND: The PM reviewed where they are in the

All-Party Talks.

IF ASKED: Did the POTUS personal situation come up?

* It was briefly mentioned. The PM expressed his personal support for the President.

Q: What can you tell us of Tony Blair's visit to Washington?

A: The British Prime Minister has accepted the President's invitation to come for an Official visit February 4-7. The arrival ceremony will take place on February 5, with meetings afterwards. The President and the First Lady will host the official dinner for the Blairs that night. Other details of the visit are being worked out.

We anticipate that the full range of bilateral and global issues will be discussed during the visit, which will be especially valuable for us as London holds the chair of both the G-8 and the Presidency of the European Union. We will certainly look forward to hearing from the Prime Minister how the Northern Ireland peace talks are progressing after yesterday's developments in Belfast.

NORTHERN IRELAND
January 26, 1998

Q: Your reaction to the UDP's withdrawal from the Northern Ireland talks today in London?

A: First and foremost, I want to emphasize our support for the Mitchell Principles of non-violence which govern the Northern Ireland talks. We emphatically condemn the recent attacks on the peace process which have taken the form of killings of random individuals, mostly Catholics. This violence is

unacceptable and the culprits must be brought to justice.

Active renunciation of violence by all the parties is the best course forward for resolving the conflict there. Regarding the UDP decision today, under the rules set up for the conduct of the talks it is up to the parties and the governments to make decisions regarding participation. We have supported an inclusive and democratic process for the talks. Gary McMichael has made important, constructive contributions to this political process. We call on all loyalist paramilitaries to halt the killings and create the conditions that will permit the UDP to be at the table so that all can contribute to the creation of a sustainable peace for the people of Northern Ireland.

Q: What's your reaction to the IRA statement rejecting the "heads of agreement" paper introduced at the Belfast peace talks?

A: This framework document, proposed jointly by the Irish and British Governments is designed to move forward the substantive peace negotiations, and we have welcomed it. Those at the table must now decide how to use the structure provided by that paper to negotiate the content and shape of a full and lasting agreement.

Most importantly, we note that the IRA cease-fire of July 20 is being maintained, and we expect it to continue, along with the Loyalist cease-fire.

There is, and will be, no tolerance for the violence perpetrated by extremists, nor for a return to violence by those abiding by the cease-fires.

Much has been accomplished since the talks began, but much hard work remains.

The people of Northern Ireland deserve nothing less than a lasting peace, justice, equality, prosperity and better future for their children. We continue to encourage all parties to work toward that goal.

January 27, 1998

Background: We understand that Senator Helms may soon announce a bill called the Cuban Assistance and Relief (CARE) Act 1998 which, we believe, would authorize delivery of donated medicine and food as well as Title II of U.S. Public Law 480 "Food for Peace" for needy Cubans. The Cuban American National Foundation (CANF) developed the concept; we have only seen an outline of the proposal and have no further details. We will need to see the draft legislation before developing a position. For now, following the Pope's visit, we want to stress U.S. government interest in reaching out to the Cuban people and strengthening civil society.

This is a separate initiative from the recent announcement by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that it had formed a coalition urging the lifting the embargo on food and medical sales to Cuba. During yesterday's briefing at State, Jamie Rubin responded to a question about the U.S. Chamber of Commerce initiative by using unclear guidance for the Helms initiative. The result is that The Los Angeles Times is reporting today that the Administration will consider supporting legislation to alter the embargo on food and medicine.

Q: Is the U.S. considering easing embargo restrictions on food and medicine?

A: 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.

We have seen press accounts (Boston Globe) that members of Congress and other organizations are discussing the possibility of providing greater humanitarian assistance to the Cuban people. We look forward to consulting with interested

members on these issues when Congress returns.

CUBA/FLOTILLA BY CUBAN EXILES

January 26, 1998

Background (for briefer only): An interagency group monitored flotilla events Friday night (boats departed Marathon around 11:00 p.m.) and Saturday (the protest ceremony was held from 11:15 a.m. to noon). All proceeded without incident with the two participating vessels (some 40 passengers including press) and eight aircraft staying in international waters and airspace. Separately, Democracy Movement (DM) leader Ramon Sanchez managed to elude U.S. authorities and to depart for Cuba via boat sometime late Friday or early Saturday morning. Without revealing his location, Sanchez stayed in contact with the U.S. press, reporting that he was approaching Cuba. The Coast Guard searched the Florida Straits Friday night and all day Saturday. Late Saturday, DM reps revealed that Sanchez' boat had experienced mechanical problems early on. Sanchez wished to return to the U.S. but with assurances that he would not be arrested. A lengthy exchange ensued with U.S. law enforcement authorities in Miami. In the end, DM reps returned a tired and sunburned Sanchez to Miami Sunday afternoon where he held a brief press conference to explain what had happened. It is unclear what, if any, effect Sanchez's failed attempt to enter Cuba will have on future Democracy Movement activities.

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 40 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 early Saturday morning in an attempt to return to Cuba. (Sanchez had not met U.S. requirements for travel in the form of an Treasury/OFAC license or Coast Guard permit nor GOC 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.S. law enforcement authorities take any action against DM leader Ramon Sanchez?

A: U.S. authorities are still gathering all information on weekend events. We are unable to comment further until this review is completed.

CUBA/PAPAL VISIT TO CUBA January 26, 1998

Background: 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 for the fundamental freedoms and human rights of the Cuban people to be respected by the Cuban government.

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: 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 engage in 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.

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 1/28/98 7:03:53 PM
FROM Wozniak, Natalie S.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT JANUARY 28 NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS PRESS
GUIDANCE [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Babcock, Douglas W.
Bolan, Christopher J.
Boulton, Darrien D.
Davidson, Leslie K.
Elkind, Jonathan H.
Evans, Peter O.
Fuerth, Leon S.
Hamel, Michael A.
Harding, Bruce D.
Hilty, Joanne M.
Jordan, Donald L.
Norris, John J.
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NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS GUIDANCE

January 28, 1998

SOTU/Foreign Policy

Russia-Iran Missile Cooperation

Iraq

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Israel

Algeria

UK/Blair

Northern Ireland

Guatemala/Cuba

Cuba/CARE

Cuba/Papal Visit to Cuba

STATE OF THE UNION: FOREIGN POLICY

January 27, 1998

* In the 1997 State of the Union, President Clinton set an ambitious agenda to keep American leadership strong -- and to make sure we enter the 21st century as the world's leading force for security, peace, freedom and prosperity.

* Over the past year, we have made progress on the President's agenda -- building an undivided, peaceful Europe... forging an Asia Pacific community... opening the new economy to American goods and services... remaining an unrelenting force for peace and freedom... moving strongly against new security threats... giving ourselves the tools we need to get the job done (strong military, better funded diplomacy.)

* Now, with a strong foundation in place, we are poised to move forward, seizing the opportunities and meeting the challenges of a new era. To meet these challenges, we are adapting old institutions to new demands... forging strong partnerships to meet common challenges... modernizing the instruments of our influence, military and diplomatic. Through this new security strategy, we are helping to write international rules for the 21st century, protecting those who join, isolating those who do not.

EUROPEAN SECURITY

* NATO ENLARGEMENT: Europe's stability and America's security closely linked.

President's call for enlarging the NATO alliance strengthen alliance's core

mission of collective defense and helps meet new threats such as regional

instability. Enlargement furthers other US objectives: encouraging states in the

region to settle border and ethnic disputes with neighbors, strengthen civilian

control of their militaries, and increase tolerance for ethnic and religious

minorities. NATO's enlargement, combined the Partnership for Peace program,

NATO-Russia Founding Act, NATO-Ukraine partnership help erase the outdated Cold

War divisions and build, for the first time, an undivided, democratic, and

peaceful Europe.

* SECURING THE PEACE IN BOSNIA: U.S. has abiding interest in peace and stability

in Bosnia and a compelling interest in implementation of the Dayton peace

accords. After 46 months of worst war in Europe since WWII, 24 months of

implementing peace have helped put Bosnia on path to lasting peace and stability.

Progress on implementation possible because of prudent military support. Can

now see point where civil implementation and peace can be self-sustaining -- but

Bosnia's fragile peace still needs support of American and allied troops when

current NATO mission ends in June President still must approve detailed action

plan being prepared by NATO military authorities after full review of all

options. President will insist action plan have achievable mission tied to

clear benchmarks, not a deadline. Force must be able to protect itself. U.S.

must retain command. European allies must shoulder full share of responsibility.

Costs must be manageable. Plan must have substantial support of Congress, U.S.

public.

COMBATING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

* **IRAQ WMD PROGRAM:** President emphasized that Iraq's efforts to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons are unacceptable. UN inspectors have done remarkable job, destroying more of Iraq WMD potential than was destroyed during Gulf War itself. But Saddam now refusing to allow inspectors to complete mission. All options are on the table to make sure Iraq does not pursue WMD program with impunity and threaten international community.

* **BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS:** President announced tonight that the United States would lead the effort to erect stronger international barriers against the proliferation and use of biological weapons. Under the new initiative, the United States will seek to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention by requiring nations that have joined the BWC to submit annual declarations about facilities and activities that could be used for BW purposes and agree to a tough international inspection system including both voluntary and mandatory inspections.

* **COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY:** President's call for Senate ratification of the CTBT will allow America to maintain a safe and reliable nuclear deterrent while constraining the proliferation of nuclear material and technology to rogue states' weapons programs. CTBT will improve America's ability to detect and deter nuclear explosive testing. CTBT's global network of sensors will strengthen America's ability to monitor nuclear explosive testing across the globe, as well as deter any nation from believing it can conduct a nuclear explosive test undetected by the international community.

LEVERAGING OUR POWER AND INFLUENCE

* **US ARREARS TO THE UNITED NATIONS:** The President also highlighted need for prompt action on the payment of U.S. arrears to the United Nations.

Failure to
pay undermines US ability to reform UN and hinders our leadership
of that
organization at very time UN is working to prevent Iraq from
threatening
neighbors and world with weapons of mass destruction. Also need to
give the
International Monetary Fund capacity to help prevent global financial
crises
Now, more than ever, our security at home and our interests abroad
demand that
America meet our international obligations, sharpen the tools to
improve the
stability of the world economy, and increase our leverage in
international
organizations.

RUSSIA-IRAN MISSILE COOPERATION January 27, 1998

Q: Can you comment on the significance of the Russian statement last
week on new
export controls?

A: We have been officially informed by the Russian government that
Prime Minister
Chernomyrdin on January 22 signed a decree substantially tightening
Russia's
export control process, putting into place new authority to stop
transfers of the
full range of goods and services to programs of weapons of mass
destruction and
foreign missile programs. This decree is now in force.

We do not yet have the text and understand it is being processed
administratively in Moscow, and will be published shortly.

For some time U.S. and Russian officials have been discussing such
broad legal
authority, which is widely employed by many other countries and
known as
"catch-all" authority. Vice President Gore and Russian Prime Minister

Chernomyrdin discussed it at length on the phone last Saturday, in the
context of
our shared interest in preventing proliferation.

We will carefully review the text of the decree when it is published.
We
welcome this step by the Russian government to prevent the
proliferation of
weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, this is
part of our
joint efforts to prevent the transfer of missile technology to Iran.

IRAQ
January 28, 1998

IRAQ POINTS/HARD Q'S AND A'S
JANUARY 28, 1998

Have you decided to use military force/Is the diplomatic string
running out/Are
there any other options left/What is the purpose of the Albright trip?

* The President has made clear that Saddam cannot be allowed to defy
the will of
the international community and have unfettered opportunity to
develop weapons of
mass destruction.

* No decision has been made concerning the use of force, but it is
clear that the
diplomatic string is running out. Ambassador Butler has made clear
that under the
current circumstances he cannot carry out his mandate. That is
unacceptable.

* Secretary Albright will be meeting with counterparts from the UK,
France and
Russia and with our friends in the region. Ambassador Richardson
will also be
consulting with other members of the Security Council. Secretary
Cohen may also
be traveling to the region next week. They will explain our views of
the
situation and discuss next steps.

* The President is also discussing the situation with key world leaders.
He has
spoken to Blair and Kohl, and expects to talk with Presidents Chirac

in the coming days. PM Blair will be coming to Washington next week on a long-planned state visit.

What diplomatic options are left? Do you plan to introduce/support another resolution in the Council? Would you consider additional sanctions? What are you waiting for?

* The international community has spoken clearly and unanimously that Saddam must respect the Security Council Resolutions and allow the inspectors to do their work unimpeded. We are now focusing on the discussions that Secretary Albright will be conducting in the coming days. We have no plans to introduce a resolution. We believe existing Council resolutions give us all the authority we need to take whatever action we deem necessary.

Are you prepared to go it alone/ with only the UK - does anybody support you/will the countries in the region support the use of force?

* The international community is united in its view that it Saddam must give the inspectors the access they need to do the job. As the President said, we are determined that he not be free to develop weapons of mass destruction unhindered.

What will be purpose of the use of force/what targets/how can you eliminate WMD through a bombing campaign/won't the use of force simply guarantee that the inspectors are thrown out and Saddam will have won?

* Not going to comment on the possibility or nature of military targets. Can say however that whatever actions we take, diplomatic or otherwise will be designed to achieve our goals:

- * thwart Iraq's capacity to develop WMD
- * limit his ability to threaten his neighbors.

- * UNSCOM inspectors have achieved remarkable results; have

always said that the best outcome is for the inspectors to be able to carry out their work. But as a practical matter, Saddam has now put their mission to an end. Our goal is to thwart his capacity to develop WMD, by restoring the inspectors or whatever other steps may be necessary if the inspectors cannot carry out their work.

* Meanwhile, we will insist that sanctions remain so long as he refuses to comply; sanctions are important tool in depriving him of the resources to develop WMD and threaten his neighbors.

Many prominent foreign policy experts have called on you to change your policy from one of containment to one of getting rid of Saddam/can you ever be confident you've gotten rid of WMD while Saddam is still there?

* Our goal is to thwart his capacity to develop WMD and threaten his neighbors; we have said that we look forward to the day when Iraq has new leadership that would allow it join the family of nations. Desert Storm demonstrates that it would take hundreds of thousands of ground troops to remove the current leadership by force; our current policy - preventing Saddam from threatening the region -- serves the objectives and interests of the US, our friends and the international community at an acceptable level of risk.

Will the Gulf States allow you to base/bomb?

* We are in close touch. Believe we have the necessary level of cooperation/not going to get into operational details of how we might use our forces.

Is the Administration in synch/ is the Pentagon out ahead on the use of force?

* The President's advisors - civilian and military - are in firm agreement/meeting daily to guide the work. Meeting regularly with the President and Vice President.

Isn't Netanyahu's position/stalemate in peace process harming your ability to assemble a coalition.

* We pursue peace process because its in the interest of the US, Israel, the Palestinians and Israel's neighbors. Stalemate in peace process something we're trying to overcome/but doesn't diminish danger to region posed by Saddam's pursuit of WMD

Do you support another Primakov mission to negotiate with Saddam?

* Posuvalyuk is already in Baghdad - what is important is that Saddam gets the clear and unequivocal message that he must comply with Security Council Resolutions and allow the inspectors the access they need.

Do you have a deadline?

* No deadline, but it is clear that the diplomatic string is running out. Sec Albright, Amb Richardson, and Secretary Cohen will be discussing next steps with Security Council members and friends in the region in the coming week.

Butler allegations/BW warheads on missiles.

* Not going to comment/leave it to Butler to characterize UNSCOM's findings.

MEPP: USG TRAVEL; ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN SECURITY COOPERATION;
PLO COVENANT
January 27, 1998

Q: Any news on travel by the Secretary or SMEC Ross to follow up on last week's meetings with PM Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat?

A: (REFER TO STATEMENT)

Q: Can you confirm that the Palestinian Authority provided the information which led to Israel's arrest of two Hamas members reportedly on their way to

conduct a
terrorist bombing?

A: WE Do not have the facts of the case.

Q: What is your reaction to Chairman Arafat's call for an Arab summit
to discuss
the peace process?

A: We have no reaction. Holding an Arab summit is an Arab matter.

Q: PM Netanyahu says he would consider a phased second
redeployment. Chairman
Arafat reportedly rejected that the redeployment come in phases. But
you said
yesterday both sides agreed with you. Who's right here?

A: Let me correct the premise of your question.

One of the concepts we raised during the meetings with PM
Netanyahu and chairman
Arafat was a parallel approach of steps the Israelis would take to
implement
their commitments on further redeployment and the Palestinians
would take to
implement their commitments on security.

The parties understand that and were prepared to discuss the details of
this
approach.

Q: What's your reaction to PM Netanyahu's statement yesterday that
the Oslo
Accords do not negate our rights to construct new settlements or to
continue
building in Jerusalem?

A: It has been our practice not to get into public interpretations of
agreements.

I will offer our own position on the general issue of settlement
activity, which
has long been clear.

Settlement activity is unhelpful to creating the climate necessary to
making
progress in the peace process. It undermines the trust and confidence
required
for such progress.

Q: Is settlement activity part of the time out for which you have called?

A: Yes.

Q: PM Netanyahu said that Arafat's letter to the President did not remove PLO Covenant language on the armed struggle. What's your view?

A: The Israelis have not explained their thoughts on this to us.

Chairman Arafat's letter appears to address all the issues the government of Israel had previously identified as being of concern to it.

ISRAEL
January 27, 1998

ISRAEL: IS USG DISCUSSING AID REDUCTION PLAN?

Q: Is Israeli Finance Minister Neeman in Washington to discuss reductions in US aid to Israel? With whom is he meeting? Whose initiative was it? Do you support such a reduction plan?

A: Finance Minister Neeman is meeting with Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Eizenstat today.

Minister Neeman and US Eizenstat are regular interlocutors on economic relations between our two countries. This is a routine meeting given their respective areas of responsibility.

We welcome Minister Neeman and look forward to hearing what he has to say.

I am not going to discuss meetings before they have occurred.

IF PRESSED ONLY

Q: But are they talking about US foreign aid?

A: I Have nothing to add.

ISRAEL: U.S. - ISRAELI CRIME TREATY

Q: What are the details of the U.S. - Israeli treaty signed yesterday to fight international organized crime?

(NOTE TO BRIEFER: Netanyahu signed in his capacity as acting Foreign Minister)

A: On January 26, 1998, U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Edward S. Walker, Jr. and Prime Minister Netanyahu signed a bilateral mutual legal assistance treaty in Jerusalem. Negotiations began in 1994 and concluded a few months ago.

A: The treaty provides a formal governmental mechanism for the provision of evidence and other forms of law enforcement assistance for criminal investigations and proceedings. Amb. Walker noted "this treaty will better enable our governments to cooperate on combating transnational organized crime and provide a clear channel between the U.S. Attorney General and the Israeli ministry of Justice to administer its provisions. The forms of assistance provided for under this treaty include serving documents, executing requests for searches and seizures, transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes, taking testimony of witnesses in both the requested and requesting states, providing documents and records, and assisting in forfeiture of assets. The treaty covers any offense that is criminalized in the country requesting the assistance.

The treaty does not include provisions on extradition, which are governed by the 1963 U.S.-Israeli extradition treaty.

The Treaty will now need to be approved under the constitutional processes of both governments. For the U.S., this will mean transmitting the treaty to the Senate for advice and consent to ratification. For Israel, we understand this

means approval by the Israeli Knesset and government.

ALGERIA: REACTION TO EUROPEAN UNION REPORT
January 27, 1998

Q: Have we received a copy of the European Union Mission's findings?

A: The U.S. has received a copy of the EU report regarding its mission to Algeria. The U.S. agrees with, and supports the EU's call for "greater transparency" on behalf of the government of Algeria and unhindered access for international organizations, NGO's, the media, and a visit by representatives of the UN.

The U.S. notes and regrets that the offers of humanitarian assistance from the EU have not been accepted.

The U.S. reaffirms its condemnation of these brutal killings and will continue its consultations with the EU and the Government of Algeria, in the hopes that these massacres will end.

UNITED KINGDOM: BLAIR
January 27, 1998

POTUS Call with Prime Minister Blair

The President spoke this morning with Prime Minister Tony Blair between 10:30 and 10:41 a.m. They touched on the following subjects:

* IRAQ: They agreed the developments are serious, that there is a common determination to see UNSC resolutions respected, and that they need to stay closely coordinated.

* MIDDLE EAST PEACE: The President reviewed his recent

meetings with PM
Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat.

* NORTHERN IRELAND: The PM reviewed where they are in the
All-Party Talks.

IF ASKED: Did the POTUS personal situation come up?

* It was briefly mentioned. The PM expressed his personal support for
the
President.

Q: What can you tell us of Tony Blair's visit to Washington?

A: The British Prime Minister has accepted the President's invitation
to come for
an Official visit February 4-7. The arrival ceremony will take place on
February
5, with meetings afterwards. The President and the First Lady will
host the
official dinner for the Blairs that night. Other details of the visit are
being
worked out.

We anticipate that the full range of bilateral and global issues will be
discussed during the visit, which will be especially valuable for us as
London
holds the chair of both the G-8 and the Presidency of the European
Union. We
will certainly look forward to hearing from the Prime Minister how
the Northern
Ireland peace talks are progressing after yesterday's developments in
Belfast.

NORTHERN IRELAND
January 26, 1998

Q: Your reaction to the UDP's withdrawal from the Northern Ireland
talks today in
London?

A: First and foremost, I want to emphasize our support for the
Mitchell
Principles of non-violence which govern the Northern Ireland talks.
We

emphatically condemn the recent attacks on the peace process which have taken the form of killings of random individuals, mostly Catholics. This violence is unacceptable and the culprits must be brought to justice.

Active renunciation of violence by all the parties is the best course forward for resolving the conflict there. Regarding the UDP decision today, under the rules set up for the conduct of the talks it is up to the parties and the governments to make decisions regarding participation. We have supported an inclusive and democratic process for the talks. Gary McMichael has made important, constructive contributions to this political process. We call on all loyalist paramilitaries to halt the killings and create the conditions that will permit the UDP to be at the table so that all can contribute to the creation of a sustainable peace for the people of Northern Ireland.

Q: What's your reaction to the IRA statement rejecting the "heads of agreement" paper introduced at the Belfast peace talks?

A: This framework document, proposed jointly by the Irish and British Governments is designed to move forward the substantive peace negotiations, and we have welcomed it. Those at the table must now decide how to use the structure provided by that paper to negotiate the content and shape of a full and lasting agreement.

Most importantly, we note that the IRA cease-fire of July 20 is being maintained, and we expect it to continue, along with the Loyalist cease-fire.

There is, and will be, no tolerance for the violence perpetrated by extremists, nor for a return to violence by those abiding by the cease-fires.

Much has been accomplished since the talks began, but much hard work remains.

The people of Northern Ireland deserve nothing less than a lasting peace, justice, equality, prosperity and better future for their children. We continue

to encourage all parties to work toward that goal.

GUATEMALA/CUBA
January 28, 1998

GUATEMALA ESTABLISHES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA

Background (for briefer only): On January 26 Guatemalan Foreign Minister Stein told U.S. Ambassador Planty that Cuban and Guatemala are announcing January 27 the establishment of diplomatic relations. Stein was candid in saying that the Arzu government wanted to seize the opportunity created by the Pope's visit to make this move now. Ambassador Planty gave a tough response, stressing our disappointment. This move is not entirely surprising. The Guatemalans have believed for some time that they owed the Cubans an upgrade for the help they feel the Castro regime provided during peace talks with the URNG. Moreover, as Guatemala has emerged from its international isolation, it has wanted to reposition itself on the Cuba question closer to the rest of Latin America.

Q: What is the Administration's reaction to the announcements that Guatemala and Cuba are establishing diplomatic relations?

A: We are disappointed by Guatemala's decision to establish full diplomatic relations with Cuba. We believe such a step should await fundamental political change in Cuba.

CUBA/CUBA ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF (CARE) ACT OF 1998
January 27, 1998

Background: We understand that Senator Helms may soon announce a bill called the Cuban Assistance and Relief (CARE) Act 1998 which, we believe, would authorize delivery of donated medicine and food as well as Title II of U.S. Public Law 480 "Food for Peace" for needy Cubans. The Cuban American National Foundation (CANF) developed the concept; we have only seen an outline of the proposal and have no further details. We will need to see the draft legislation before developing a position. For now, following the Pope's visit, we want to stress U.S. government interest in reaching out to the Cuban people and strengthening civil society.

This is a separate initiative from the recent announcement by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that it had formed a coalition urging the lifting the embargo on food and medical sales to Cuba. During yesterday's briefing at State, Jamie Rubin responded to a question about the U.S. Chamber of Commerce initiative by using unclear guidance for the Helms initiative. The result is that The Los Angeles Times is reporting today that the Administration will consider supporting legislation to alter the embargo on food and medicine.

Q: Is the U.S. considering easing embargo restrictions on food and medicine?

A: 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.

We have seen press accounts (Boston Globe) that members of Congress and other organizations are discussing the possibility of providing greater humanitarian assistance to the Cuban people. We look forward to consulting with interested members on these issues when Congress returns.

CUBA/PAPAL VISIT TO CUBA

January 26, 1998

Background: 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 for the fundamental freedoms and human rights of the Cuban people to be respected by the Cuban government.

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: 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 engage in 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.

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 1/28/98 7:04:57 PM

FROM Wozniak, Natalie S.

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT DAILY GUIDANCE UPDATE [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO

Abercrombie-Winstanley, Gina K.
Akers, Dale W.
Albert, Ronda A.
Amiri, Rukhsana N.
Andreasen, Steven P.
Antholis, William J.
Atlas, Edwin L.
Bader, Jeffrey A.
Baker, James E.
Baldwin, Kenneth
Bandler, Donald K.
Barks-Ruggles, Erica
Barnett, Cheryl E.
Battenfield, Pat A.
Beers, Rand R.
Behring, Deanna M.
Bell, Robert G.
Bellamy, Ralph C.
Bemisderfer, Dwight D.
Bendick, Gordon L.
Benjamin, Daniel
Birkland, Andrea L.
Blinken, Antony J.
Bobbitt, Philip C.
Bolinski, Charlene C.
Boone, Sherman G.
Bouchard, Joseph F.
Braden, Susan R.
Branscum, Sean D.
Bresnahan, Gary E.
Broadwick, Bonnie
Brooks, Jennifer M.
Brown, Keim C.
Bryan, Dave L.
Burrell, Christina L.
Busby, Scott W.
Busick, Paul E.
Butler, Lawrence E.
Campanella, Anthony
Caravelli, John M.

Chastain, George M.
Clark, Bronya H.
Clarke, Richard A.
Collier, Dorothy A.
Cooper, James B.
Cooper, Kathleen H.
Cosgriff, Kevin J.
Countryman, Thomas M.
Courtney, William H.
Covey, James P.
Crowder, Stevan D.
Crowell, Thomas R.
Crowley, Philip J.
Dames, Victoria J.
Davies, Glyn T.
Dean, Susan W.
Dehqanzada, Yahya A.
Dejban, Donna D.
DeLaurentis, Jeffrey J.
DeRosa, Mary B.
DeSouza, Patrick J.
Dimel, Marsha L.
Dobbins, James F.
Dollar, Carolyn J.
Dowling, John N. (Nick)
Dupuy, Shawn L.
Durham, Robert J.
Dymond, John C.
Edwards, Joan K.
Elkon, Nicole L.
Epstein, Gerald L.
Erdahl, Douglas M.
Farrar, Jay C.
Ficklin, John W.
Figueredo, Orlando
Flanagan, Stephen J.
Fooks, Michael D.
Ford, Robert G.
Fort, Jane B.
Friedrich, Mary K.
Fung, Mark T.
Gagnon, James M.
George, Christopher L.
Glick, Bonnie L.
Gray, Wendy E.
Greer, Jason H.
Gregory, Susan J.
Haines, Mary A.
Hale, John E.
Hall, James A.

Harding, Bruce D.
Harris, Elisa D.
Harris, Karen
Harrison, Lyle M.
Hasman, Thomas M.
Hawes, David J.
Hawkins, Ardenia R.
Hawley, Leonard R.
Helweg, M. Diana
Hendricks, Lori A.
Heyl, Phillip J.
Higgins, David B.
Highsmith, Newell L.
Hill, Roseanne M.
Hilliard, Brenda I.
Hillman, Thomas W.
Hofmann, Karl W.
Huggins, Peter
Hunerwadel, Joan S.
Hurwitz, Marc I.
Jansen, Christian P.
Jones, Kerri-Ann D.
Joshi, M. Kay
Kale, Dora A.
Kelly, Sandra L.
Kerrick, Donald L.
Kiernan, Gerald P.
Kinser-Kidane, Brenda J.
Klein, Brian P.
Knepper, Charlotte
Kristoff, Sandra J.
Kyle, Robert D.
LaFleur, Vinca S.
Langley, Janice M.
Lawrence, Cynthia
Lawson, Chappell H.
Leary, William H.
Leavy, David C.
Lee, Malcolm R.
Letts, Kelly J.
Luzzatto, Anne R.
MacDonald, Bruce W.
Malley, Robert
Marsh, Thomas S
Marshall, Betty A.
Marty, Joseph H.
Matera, Michael A.
Maxfield, Nancy H.
McCarthy, Mary O.
McClellan, Christina L.

McEldowney, Nancy E.
McIntyre, Stuart H.
Merchant, Brian T.
Metzl, Jamie F.
Millison, Cathy L.
Mitsler, Elaine M.
Miyaoaka, Lester H.
Motherway, Daniel J.
Naplan, Steven J.
Neil, M. Elise
O'Shaughnessy, Patrick
Panerali, Kristen E.
Papadimitriou, Marianna
Pascual, Carlos E.
Payne, Raymond H.
Piccone, Theodore J.
Poole, Jennifer C.
Porter, Pete
Prendergast, John P.
Prise, Edith M.
Pritchard, Charles (Jack) L.
Quinn, Mary E.
Ragan, Richard F.
Rathke, Jeffrey D.
Rice, Edward A.
Rice, Sean P.
Riedel, Bruce O.
Rinaldi, Steven M.
Roach, Darren S.
Rosa, Frederick M.
Rossi, Christopher R.
Roundtree, Beverly
Rubin, Eric S.
Rudman, Mara E.
Ryu, Rexion Y.
Salvetti, Lisa M.
Samore, Gary S.
Sanborn, Daniel R. K.
Sandalow, David B.
Sanders, Robin R.
Sapiro, Miriam E.
Schrader, Joel M.
Schwartz, Eric P.
Scott-Perez, Marilyn L.
Sculimbrene, Thomas A.
Seaton, James B.
Sherman, David J.
Sigler, Ralph H.
Silva, Mary Ann T.
Simon, Steven N.

Simons, James R.
Smith, James A.
Smith, Michael P.
Snyder, Julie A.
Sonenshine, Tara D.
Soubers, Richard R.
Sparks, John E.
Starks, Tali T.
Storey, Sharon V.
Suettinger, Robert L.
Todd, Gwennyth E.
Tucker, Maureen E.
Unrue, Michael
Verville, Elizabeth G.
Wadsworth, Valon J. (Val)
Ward, JoAnn
Wechsler, William F.
Widmer, Edward L.
Williams, Mary C.
Wilson, Joseph C.
Witkowsky, Anne A.
Wozniak, Natalie S.
Wright, Allison M.
Wright, Joseph (Larry)
Yokum, Jeffrey G.

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY

Please review and forward your updates IN BOLD TO @ PRESS by
10:00
a.m. Thursday, January 29. Thanks.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

jan28gui.doc
NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS GUIDANCE

January 28, 1998

SOTU/Foreign Policy

Russia-Iran Missile Cooperation

Iraq

MEPP

Israel

Algeria

UK/Blair

Northern Ireland

Guatemala/Cuba

Cuba/CARE

Cuba/Papal Visit to Cuba

STATE OF THE UNION: FOREIGN POLICY
January 27, 1998

* In the 1997 State of the Union, President Clinton set an ambitious agenda to keep American leadership strong -- and to make sure we enter the 21st century as the world's leading force for security, peace, freedom and prosperity.

* Over the past year, we have made progress on the President's agenda -- building an undivided, peaceful Europe... forging an Asia Pacific community... opening the new economy to American goods and services... remaining an unrelenting force for peace and freedom... moving strongly against new security threats... giving ourselves the tools we need to get the job done (strong military, better funded diplomacy.)

* Now, with a strong foundation in place, we are poised to move forward, seizing the opportunities and meeting the challenges of a new era. To meet these challenges, we are adapting old institutions to new demands... forging strong partnerships to meet common challenges... modernizing the instruments of our influence, military and diplomatic. Through this new security strategy, we are helping to write international rules for the 21st century, protecting

those who
join, isolating those who do not.

EUROPEAN SECURITY

* NATO ENLARGEMENT: Europe's stability and America's security closely linked.

President's call for enlarging the NATO alliance strengthen alliance's core

mission of collective defense and helps meet new threats such as regional

instability. Enlargement furthers other US objectives: encouraging states in the

region to settle border and ethnic disputes with neighbors, strengthen civilian

control of their militaries, and increase tolerance for ethnic and religious

minorities. NATO's enlargement, combined the Partnership for Peace program,

NATO-Russia Founding Act, NATO-Ukraine partnership help erase the outdated Cold

War divisions and build, for the first time, an undivided, democratic, and peaceful Europe.

* SECURING THE PEACE IN BOSNIA: U.S. has abiding interest in peace and stability

in Bosnia and a compelling interest in implementation of the Dayton peace

accords. After 46 months of worst war in Europe since WWII, 24 months of

implementing peace have helped put Bosnia on path to lasting peace and stability.

Progress on implementation possible because of prudent military support. Can

now see point where civil implementation and peace can be self-sustaining -- but

Bosnia's fragile peace still needs support of American and allied troops when

current NATO mission ends in June President still must approve detailed action

plan being prepared by NATO military authorities after full review of all

options. President will insist action plan have achievable mission tied to

clear benchmarks, not a deadline. Force must be able to protect itself. U.S.

must retain command. European allies must shoulder full share of responsibility.

Costs must be manageable. Plan must have substantial support of

Congress, U.S.
public.

COMBATING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

* **IRAQ WMD PROGRAM:** President emphasized that Iraq's efforts to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons are unacceptable. UN inspectors have done remarkable job, destroying more of Iraq WMD potential than was destroyed during Gulf War itself. But Saddam now refusing to allow inspectors to complete mission. All options are on the table to make sure Iraq does not pursue WMD program with impunity and threaten international community.

* **BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS:** President announced tonight that the United States would lead the effort to erect stronger international barriers against the proliferation and use of biological weapons. Under the new initiative, the United States will seek to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention by requiring nations that have joined the BWC to submit annual declarations about facilities and activities that could be used for BW purposes and agree to a tough international inspection system including both voluntary and mandatory inspections.

* **COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY:** President's call for Senate ratification of the CTBT will allow America to maintain a safe and reliable nuclear deterrent while constraining the proliferation of nuclear material and technology to rogue states' weapons programs. CTBT will improve America's ability to detect and deter nuclear explosive testing. CTBT's global network of sensors will strengthen America's ability to monitor nuclear explosive testing across the globe, as well as deter any nation from believing it can conduct a nuclear explosive test undetected by the international community.

LEVERAGING OUR POWER AND INFLUENCE

* US ARREARS TO THE UNITED NATIONS: The President also highlighted need for prompt action on the payment of U.S. arrears to the United Nations. Failure to pay undermines US ability to reform UN and hinders our leadership of that organization at very time UN is working to prevent Iraq from threatening neighbors and world with weapons of mass destruction. Also need to give the International Monetary Fund capacity to help prevent global financial crises. Now, more than ever, our security at home and our interests abroad demand that America meet our international obligations, sharpen the tools to improve the stability of the world economy, and increase our leverage in international organizations.

RUSSIA-IRAN MISSILE COOPERATION January 27, 1998

Q: Can you comment on the significance of the Russian statement last week on new export controls?

A: We have been officially informed by the Russian government that Prime Minister Chernomyrdin on January 22 signed a decree substantially tightening Russia's export control process, putting into place new authority to stop transfers of the full range of goods and services to programs of weapons of mass destruction and foreign missile programs. This decree is now in force.

We do not yet have the text and understand it is being processed administratively in Moscow, and will be published shortly.

For some time U.S. and Russian officials have been discussing such broad legal authority, which is widely employed by many other countries and known as "catch-all" authority. Vice President Gore and Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin discussed it at length on the phone last Saturday, in the

context of
our shared interest in preventing proliferation.

We will carefully review the text of the decree when it is published.
We
welcome this step by the Russian government to prevent the
proliferation of
weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, this is
part of our
joint efforts to prevent the transfer of missile technology to Iran.

IRAQ
January 28, 1998

IRAQ POINTS/HARD Q'S AND A'S
JANUARY 28, 1998

Have you decided to use military force/Is the diplomatic string
running out/Are
there any other options left/What is the purpose of the Albright trip?

* The President has made clear that Saddam cannot be allowed to defy
the will of
the international community and have unfettered opportunity to
develop weapons of
mass destruction.

* No decision has been made concerning the use of force, but it is
clear that the
diplomatic string is running out. Ambassador Butler has made clear
that under the
current circumstances he cannot carry out his mandate. That is
unacceptable.

* Secretary Albright will be meeting with counterparts from the UK,
France and
Russia and with our friends in the region. Ambassador Richardson
will also be
consulting with other members of the Security Council. Secretary
Cohen may also
be traveling to the region next week. They will explain our views of
the
situation and discuss next steps.

* The President is also discussing the situation with key world leaders. He has spoken to Blair and Kohl, and expects to talk with Presidents Chirac in the coming days. PM Blair will be coming to Washington next week on a long-planned state visit.

What diplomatic options are left? Do you plan to introduce/support another resolution in the Council? Would you consider additional sanctions? What are you waiting for?

* The international community has spoken clearly and unanimously that Saddam must respect the Security Council Resolutions and allow the inspectors to do their work unimpeded. We are now focusing on the discussions that Secretary Albright will be conducting in the coming days. We have no plans to introduce a resolution. We believe existing Council resolutions give us all the authority we need to take whatever action we deem necessary.

Are you prepared to go it alone/ with only the UK - does anybody support you/will the countries in the region support the use of force?

* The international community is united in its view that it Saddam must give the inspectors the access they need to do the job. As the President said, we are determined that he not be free to develop weapons of mass destruction unhindered.

What will be purpose of the use of force/what targets/how can you eliminate WMD through a bombing campaign/won't the use of force simply guarantee that the inspectors are thrown out and Saddam will have won?

* Not going to comment on the possibility or nature of military targets. Can say however that whatever actions we take, diplomatic or otherwise will be designed to achieve our goals:

* thwart Iraq's capacity to develop WMD

- * limit his ability to threaten his neighbors.

- * UNSCOM inspectors have achieved remarkable results; have always said that the best outcome is for the inspectors to be able to carry out their work. But as a practical matter, Saddam has now put their mission to an end. Our goal is to thwart his capacity to develop WMD, by restoring the inspectors or whatever other steps may be necessary if the inspectors cannot carry out their work.

- * Meanwhile, we will insist that sanctions remain so long as he refuses to comply; sanctions are important tool in depriving him of the resources to develop WMD and threaten his neighbors.

Many prominent foreign policy experts have called on you to change your policy from one of containment to one of getting rid of Saddam/can you ever be confident you've gotten rid of WMD while Saddam is still there?

- * Our goal is to thwart his capacity to develop WMD and threaten his neighbors; we have said that we look forward to the day when Iraq has new leadership that would allow it join the family of nations. Desert Storm demonstrates that it would take hundreds of thousands of ground troops to remove the current leadership by force; our current policy - preventing Saddam from threatening the region -- serves the objectives and interests of the US, our friends and the international community at an acceptable level of risk.

Will the Gulf States allow you to base/bomb?

- * We are in close touch. Believe we have the necessary level of cooperation/not going to get into operational details of how we might use our forces.

Is the Administration in synch/ is the Pentagon out ahead on the use of force?

- * The President's advisors - civilian and military - are in firm agreement/meeting

daily to guide the work. Meeting regularly with the President and Vice President.

Isn't Netanyahu's position/stalemate in peace process harming your ability to assemble a coalition.

* We pursue peace process because its in the interest of the US, Israel, the Palestinians and Israel's neighbors. Stalemate in peace process something we're trying to overcome/but doesn't diminish danger to region posed by Saddam's pursuit of WMD

Do you support another Primakov mission to negotiate with Saddam?

* Posuvalyuk is already in Baghdad - what is important is that Saddam gets the clear and unequivocal message that he must comply with Security Council Resolutions and allow the inspectors the access they need.

Do you have a deadline?

* No deadline, but it is clear that the diplomatic string is running out. Sec Albright, Amb Richardson, and Secretary Cohen will be discussing next steps with Security Council members and friends in the region in the coming week.

Butler allegations/BW warheads on missiles.

* Not going to comment/leave it to Butler to characterize UNSCOM's findings.

MEPP: USG TRAVEL; ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN SECURITY COOPERATION;
PLO COVENANT
January 27, 1998

Q: Any news on travel by the Secretary or SMEC Ross to follow up on last week's meetings with PM Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat?

A: (REFER TO STATEMENT)

Q: Can you confirm that the Palestinian Authority provided the information which led to Israel's arrest of two Hamas members reportedly on their way to conduct a terrorist bombing?

A: WE Do not have the facts of the case.

Q: What is you reaction to Chairman Arafat's call for an Arab summit to discuss the peace process?

A: We have no reaction. Holding an Arab summit is an Arab matter.

Q: PM Netanyahu says he would consider a phased second redeployment. Chairman Arafat reportedly rejected that the redeployment come in phases. But you said yesterday both sides agreed with you. Who's right here?

A: Let me correct the premise of your question.

One of the concepts we raised during the meetings with PM Netanyahu and chairman Arafat was a parallel approach of steps the Israelis would take to implement their commitments on further redeployment and the Palestinians would take to implement their commitments on security.

The parties understand that and were prepared to discuss the details of this approach.

Q: What's your reaction to PM Netanyahu's statement yesterday that the Oslo Accords do not negate our rights to construct new settlements or to continue building in Jerusalem?

A: It has been our practice not to get into public interpretations of agreements.

I will offer our own position on the general issue of settlement activity, which has long been clear.

Settlement activity is unhelpful to creating the climate necessary to making progress in the peace process. It undermines the trust and confidence

required
for such progress.

Q: Is settlement activity part of the time out for which you have called?

A: Yes.

Q: PM Netanyahu said that Arafat's letter to the President did not remove PLO Covenant language on the armed struggle. What's your view?

A: The Israelis have not explained their thoughts on this to us.

Chairman Arafat's letter appears to address all the issues the government of Israel had previously identified as being of concern to it.

ISRAEL
January 27, 1998

ISRAEL: IS USG DISCUSSING AID REDUCTION PLAN?

Q: Is Israeli Finance Minister Neeman in Washington to discuss reductions in US aid to Israel? With whom is he meeting? Whose initiative was it? Do you support such a reduction plan?

A: Finance Minister Neeman is meeting with Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Eizenstat today.

Minister Neeman and US Eizenstat are regular interlocutors on economic relations between our two countries. This is a routine meeting given their respective areas of responsibility.

We welcome Minister Neeman and look forward to hearing what he has to say.

I am not going to discuss meetings before they have occurred.

IF PRESSED ONLY

Q: But are they talking about US foreign aid?

A: I Have nothing to add.

ISRAEL: U.S. - ISRAELI CRIME TREATY

Q: What are the details of the U.S. - Israeli treaty signed yesterday to fight international organized crime?

(NOTE TO BRIEFER: Netanyahu signed in his capacity as acting Foreign Minister)

A: On January 26, 1998, U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Edward S. Walker, Jr. and Prime Minister Netanyahu signed a bilateral mutual legal assistance treaty in Jerusalem. Negotiations began in 1994 and concluded a few months ago.

A: The treaty provides a formal governmental mechanism for the provision of evidence and other forms of law enforcement assistance for criminal investigations and proceedings. Amb. Walker noted "this treaty will better enable our governments to cooperate on combating transnational organized crime and provide a clear channel between the U.S. Attorney General and the Israeli ministry of Justice to administer its provisions. The forms of assistance provided for under this treaty include serving documents, executing requests for searches and seizures, transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes, taking testimony of witnesses in both the requested and requesting states, providing documents and records, and assisting in forfeiture of assets. The treaty covers any offense that is criminalized in the country requesting the assistance.

The treaty does not include provisions on extradition, which are governed by the 1963 U.S.-Israeli extradition treaty.

The Treaty will now need to be approved under the constitutional processes of both governments. For the U.S., this will mean transmitting the treaty

to the
Senate for advice and consent to ratification. For Israel, we understand
this
means approval by the Israeli Knesset and government.

ALGERIA: REACTION TO EUROPEAN UNION REPORT
January 27, 1998

Q: Have we received a copy of the European Union Mission's findings?

A: The U.S. has received a copy of the EU report regarding its mission to
Algeria. The U.S. agrees with, and supports the EU's call for "greater transparency" on behalf of the government of Algeria and unhindered access for
international organizations, NGO's, the media, and a visit by
representatives of
the UN.

The U.S. notes and regrets that the offers of humanitarian assistance from the
EU have not been accepted.

The U.S. reaffirms its condemnation of these brutal killings and will continue
its consultations with the EU and the Government of Algeria, in the hopes that
these massacres will end.

UNITED KINGDOM: BLAIR
January 27, 1998

POTUS Call with Prime Minister Blair

The President spoke this morning with Prime Minister Tony Blair between 10:30 and
10:41 a.m. They touched on the following subjects:

* **IRAQ:** They agreed the developments are serious, that there is a common
determination to see UNSC resolutions respected, and that they need to stay

closely coordinated.

* MIDDLE EAST PEACE: The President reviewed his recent meetings with PM Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat.

* NORTHERN IRELAND: The PM reviewed where they are in the All-Party Talks.

IF ASKED: Did the POTUS personal situation come up?

* It was briefly mentioned. The PM expressed his personal support for the President.

Q: What can you tell us of Tony Blair's visit to Washington?

A: The British Prime Minister has accepted the President's invitation to come for an Official visit February 4-7. The arrival ceremony will take place on February 5, with meetings afterwards. The President and the First Lady will host the official dinner for the Blairs that night. Other details of the visit are being worked out.

We anticipate that the full range of bilateral and global issues will be discussed during the visit, which will be especially valuable for us as London holds the chair of both the G-8 and the Presidency of the European Union. We will certainly look forward to hearing from the Prime Minister how the Northern Ireland peace talks are progressing after yesterday's developments in Belfast.

NORTHERN IRELAND
January 26, 1998

Q: Your reaction to the UDP's withdrawal from the Northern Ireland talks today in London?

A: First and foremost, I want to emphasize our support for the

Mitchell

Principles of non-violence which govern the Northern Ireland talks.

We

emphatically condemn the recent attacks on the peace process which have taken the

form of killings of random individuals, mostly Catholics. This violence is

unacceptable and the culprits must be brought to justice.

Active renunciation of violence by all the parties is the best course forward

for resolving the conflict there. Regarding the UDP decision today, under the

rules set up for the conduct of the talks it is up to the parties and the governments to make decisions regarding participation. We have supported an

inclusive and democratic process for the talks. Gary McMichael has made

important, constructive contributions to this political process. We call on all

loyalist paramilitaries to halt the killings and create the conditions that will

permit the UDP to be at the table so that all can contribute to the creation of a

sustainable peace for the people of Northern Ireland.

Q: What's your reaction to the IRA statement rejecting the "heads of agreement"

paper introduced at the Belfast peace talks?

A: This framework document, proposed jointly by the Irish and British Governments

is designed to move forward the substantive peace negotiations, and we have

welcomed it. Those at the table must now decide how to use the structure

provided by that paper to negotiate the content and shape of a full and lasting

agreement.

Most importantly, we note that the IRA cease-fire of July 20 is being maintained, and we expect it to continue, along with the Loyalist cease-fire.

There is, and will be, no tolerance for the violence perpetrated by extremists,

nor for a return to violence by those abiding by the cease-fires.

Much has been accomplished since the talks began, but much hard work remains.

The people of Northern Ireland deserve nothing less than a lasting

peace,
justice, equality, prosperity and better future for their children. We
continue
to encourage all parties to work toward that goal.

GUATEMALA/CUBA
January 28, 1998

GUATEMALA ESTABLISHES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA

Background (for briefer only): On January 26 Guatemalan Foreign
Minister Stein
told U.S. Ambassador Planty that Cuban and Guatemala are
announcing January 27
the establishment of diplomatic relations. Stein was candid in saying
that the
Arzu government wanted to seize the opportunity created by the
Pope's visit to
make this move now. Ambassador Planty gave a tough response,
stressing our
disappointment. This move is not entirely surprising. The
Guatemalans have
believed for some time that they owed the Cubans an upgrade for the
help they
feel the Castro regime provided during peace talks with the URNG.
Moreover, as
Guatemala has emerged from its international isolation, it has wanted
to
reposition itself on the Cuba question closer to the rest of Latin
America.

Q: What is the Administration's reaction to the announcements that
Guatemala and
Cuba are establishing diplomatic relations?

A: We are disappointed by Guatemala's decision to establish full
diplomatic
relations with Cuba. We believe such a step should await fundamental
political
change in Cuba.

CUBA/CUBA ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF (CARE) ACT OF 1998
January 27, 1998

Background: We understand that Senator Helms may soon announce a bill called the Cuban Assistance and Relief (CARE) Act 1998 which, we believe, would authorize delivery of donated medicine and food as well as Title II of U.S. Public Law 480 "Food for Peace" for needy Cubans. The Cuban American National Foundation (CANF) developed the concept; we have only seen an outline of the proposal and have no further details. We will need to see the draft legislation before developing a position. For now, following the Pope's visit, we want to stress U.S. government interest in reaching out to the Cuban people and strengthening civil society.

This is a separate initiative from the recent announcement by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that it had formed a coalition urging the lifting the embargo on food and medical sales to Cuba. During yesterday's briefing at State, Jamie Rubin responded to a question about the U.S. Chamber of Commerce initiative by using unclear guidance for the Helms initiative. The result is that The Los Angeles Times is reporting today that the Administration will consider supporting legislation to alter the embargo on food and medicine.

Q: Is the U.S. considering easing embargo restrictions on food and medicine?

A: 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.

We have seen press accounts (Boston Globe) that members of Congress and other organizations are discussing the possibility of providing greater humanitarian assistance to the Cuban people. We look forward to consulting with

interested
members on these issues when Congress returns.

CUBA/PAPAL VISIT TO CUBA January 26, 1998

Background: 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 for the fundamental freedoms and human rights of the Cuban people to be respected by the Cuban government.

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: 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 engage in 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.

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 1/29/98 9:06:42 AM

FROM DeLaurentis, Jeffrey J.

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT Cuba: generic State guidance on initiatives regarding food and medicine
[UNCLASSIFIED]

TO Wozniak, Natalie S.
Rubin, Eric S.

CARBON_COPY DeLaurentis, Jeffrey J.
DeSouza, Patrick J.
Dobbins, James F.
Hofmann, Karl W.
Kinser-Kidane, Brenda J.
Lawson, Chappell H.
Piccone, Theodore J.
Crowley, Philip J.
Dehqanzada, Yahya A.
Luzzatto, Anne R.
Rubin, Eric S.
Wozniak, Natalie S.

TEXT_BODY Eric, Natalie -- this should replace the guidance you have on "CARE" initiative. We understand that the Cuban American National Foundation will launch its food aid initiative later today and we will update the attached as appropriate. More likely questions will pop up tomorrow.
CANF and Cuban-American members of Congress are feuding over this.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT cuba guidance jan 28.doc
CUBA
January 28, 1998

LEGISLATION ON LIFTING RESTRICTIONS ON FOOD AND MEDICINE IN CUBA

There are two bills pending before Congress providing embargo exemptions for the sale and transport of food and medical exports to Cuba. Press reports indicate that Senator Helms or the Cuban American National Foundation (CANF) may soon announce a bill called the Cuban Assistance and Relief (CARE) Act 1998 which, we believe, would authorize delivery of donated medicine and food as well as PL-480 food aid. CANF developed the concept; we have only seen an outline of the proposal and have no further details. We will need to see the draft legislation before developing a position. In addition to Hill initiatives, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has formed a coalition urging the lifting of the embargo on food and medical sales to Cuba. Following the Pope's visit, we want to stress U.S. government interest in reaching out to the Cuban people and strengthening civil society

What is the Administration's view of various proposals by Congress and the private sector to ease embargo restrictions on food and medicine going to Cuba?
Is the U.S. considering easing these restrictions?

* We are aware of two bill 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, Miami Herald of 1/28/98) about other possible congressional initiatives that would provide greater humanitarian assistance to the Cuban people.

* The Administration has taken no position on any of these 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 any draft legislation.

* The U.S. continues to believe that maintaining pressure on the Cuban government through our embargo is fundamental to encouraging fundamental, systemic 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.

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 1/29/98 7:34:26 PM
FROM Wozniak, Natalie S.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT JANUARY 29 NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS PRESS GUIDANCE [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Babcock, Douglas W.
Bolan, Christopher J.
Boulton, Darrien D.
Davidson, Leslie K.
Elkind, Jonathan H.
Evans, Peter O.
Fuerth, Leon S.
Hamel, Michael A.
Harding, Bruce D.
Hilty, Joanne M.
Jordan, Donald L.
Norris, John J.
Orfini, Michael H.
Roberts, Michael W.
Saunders, Richard M.
Woolston, Ann E.

CARBON_COPY**TEXT_BODY****TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT**

jan29gui.doc
NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS GUIDANCE

January 29, 1998

SOTU/Foreign Policy

Russia-Iran Missile Cooperation

Iran/Id al-Fitr

Iraq

MEPP

Israel

Algeria

UK/Blair

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Guatemala/Cuba

Cuba/Food and Medicine

Cuba/Papal Visit to Cuba

STATE OF THE UNION: FOREIGN POLICY

January 27, 1998

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EUROPEAN SECURITY

* **NATO ENLARGEMENT:** Europe's stability and America's security closely linked. President's call for enlarging the NATO alliance strengthen alliance's core mission of collective defense and helps meet new threats such as regional instability. Enlargement furthers other US objectives: encouraging states in the region to settle border and ethnic disputes with neighbors, strengthen civilian control of their militaries, and increase tolerance for ethnic and religious minorities. NATO's enlargement, combined the Partnership for Peace program, NATO-Russia Founding Act, NATO-Ukraine partnership help erase the outdated Cold War divisions and build, for the first time, an undivided, democratic, and peaceful Europe.

* **SECURING THE PEACE IN BOSNIA:** U.S. has abiding interest in peace and stability in Bosnia and a compelling interest in implementation of the Dayton peace accords. After 46 months of worst war in Europe since WWII, 24 months of implementing peace have helped put Bosnia on path to lasting peace and stability. Progress on implementation possible because of prudent military support. Can now see point where civil implementation and peace can be self-sustaining -- but Bosnia's fragile peace still needs support of American and allied troops when current NATO mission ends in June President still must approve detailed action plan being prepared by NATO military authorities after full review of all

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* **IRAQ WMD PROGRAM:** President emphasized that Iraq's efforts to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons are unacceptable. UN inspectors have done remarkable job, destroying more of Iraq WMD potential than was destroyed during Gulf War itself. But Saddam now refusing to allow inspectors to complete mission. All options are on the table to make sure Iraq does not pursue WMD program with impunity and threaten international community.

* **BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS:** President announced tonight that the United States would lead the effort to erect stronger international barriers against the proliferation and use of biological weapons. Under the new initiative, the United States will seek to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention by requiring nations that have joined the BWC to submit annual declarations about facilities and activities that could be used for BW purposes and agree to a tough international inspection system including both voluntary and mandatory inspections.

* **COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY:** President's call for Senate ratification of the CTBT will allow America to maintain a safe and reliable nuclear deterrent while constraining the proliferation of nuclear material and technology to rogue states' weapons programs. CTBT will improve America's ability to detect and deter nuclear explosive testing. CTBT's global network of sensors will strengthen America's ability to monitor nuclear explosive testing across the globe, as well as deter any nation from believing it can conduct a nuclear explosive test undetected by the international community.

LEVERAGING OUR POWER AND INFLUENCE

* **US ARREARS TO THE UNITED NATIONS:** The President also highlighted need for prompt action on the payment of U.S. arrears to the United Nations. Failure to

pay undermines US ability to reform UN and hinders our leadership of that organization at very time UN is working to prevent Iraq from threatening neighbors and world with weapons of mass destruction. Also need to give the International Monetary Fund capacity to help prevent global financial crises. Now, more than ever, our security at home and our interests abroad demand that America meet our international obligations, sharpen the tools to improve the stability of the world economy, and increase our leverage in international organizations.

RUSSIA-IRAN MISSILE COOPERATION

January 27, 1998

Q: Can you comment on the significance of the Russian statement last week on new export controls?

A: We have been officially informed by the Russian government that Prime Minister Chernomyrdin on January 22 signed a decree substantially tightening Russia's export control process, putting into place new authority to stop transfers of the full range of goods and services to programs of weapons of mass destruction and foreign missile programs. This decree is now in force.

We do not yet have the text and understand it is being processed administratively in Moscow, and will be published shortly.

For some time U.S. and Russian officials have been discussing such broad legal authority, which is widely employed by many other countries and known as "catch-all" authority. Vice President Gore and Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin discussed it at length on the phone last Saturday, in the context of our shared interest in preventing proliferation.

We will carefully review the text of the decree when it is published. We welcome this step by the Russian government to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, this is part of our joint efforts to prevent the transfer of missile technology to Iran.

IRAN/ID AL-FITR MESSAGE

January 29, 1998

* Yes, the message has more to say regarding Iran than in past years' Id messages.

* That message is in keeping with our response to Khatami's press conference and the January interview with CNN:

-- The President recognizes and appreciates the new tone of Khatami's public comments, and has repeatedly noted that the USG and American people do not have differences with the Iranian people;

-- We of course need to see changes in the GOI's deeds, not just words;

* Our message is meant, during the important time of the Id, to convey our views to the people of Iran.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release January 29, 1998VIDEOTAPED REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON THE OCCASION OF ID AL-FITR

THE PRESIDENT: On behalf of all Americans, I want to extend my personal greetings to the entire Muslim community in the United States and around the

world as you celebrate the Id al-Fitr.

This week marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan. It's a time for rejoicing and celebration, a time of family and community. It is also a time for reflection and for recommitting ourselves to the values of tolerance, mutual respect, and understanding. In a world where many Muslims suffer the terrible consequences of war, poverty, and unrest, we must renew our efforts to resolve conflicts and remove the causes of strife.

The United States is determined to do all it can to bring a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace to the Middle East. As I told Chairman Arafat, Palestinians should be allowed to realize their aspirations to live as a free people and Israelis should be able to live in security, recognized by all their neighbors. Our goal is to help the people of the region end this age-old conflict and to give their children the future of hope and promise they deserve.

Today, our sympathies are with the people of Algeria and Afghanistan, who have endured too much suffering. And we pray that a time of healing will soon come for them. We are also deeply concerned by the hardships that afflict the people of Iraq, and we will continue working within the United Nations so that they receive the food and medicine they need.

To the people of Iran, I would like to say that the United States regrets the estrangement of our two nations. Iran is an important country with a rich and ancient cultural heritage of which Iranians are justifiably proud. We have real differences with some Iranian policies, but I believe these are not insurmountable. I hope that we have more exchanges between our peoples and that the day will soon come when we can enjoy once again good relations with Iran.

Let me say to the Muslims of South Asia, I look forward to visiting your region later this year and to deepening the bonds between the United States and the peoples of the Subcontinent.

On this occasion, let us rekindle our commitment to the cause of peace among all the peoples of the earth. If we are dedicated in our belief and constant in our labor, we can build a better future -- one of cooperation, understanding, and compassion -- for ourselves and for generations to come.

As the new moon ushers in this holy celebration, let me say to all who follow the faith of Islam: As-Salaamu alaykum. May peace be with you and may God grant you health and prosperity, now and in the years ahead.

END

IRAQ

January 29, 1998

DAILY IRAQ GUIDANCE

TODAY'S PRESS COVERAGE/MESSAGE POINTS/HARD Q'S AND A'S

JANUARY 29, 1998

I. TODAY'S PRESS COVERAGE:

Albright says U.S. is ready to strike Iraq alone if necessary. Possible U.S. moves after military strike are unclear; allies and Gulf states want to know strategy. Vedrine says use of force is not desirable and won't solve problems; Russia also urges diplomacy after Primakov meets with Chirac. Arab leaders publicly oppose U.S. attack. Baghdad says it may ask the International Court of Justice to intervene. (NYT1,6;WP1,23)

II. TODAY'S PRESS AVAILABILITIES

(committed or tentative)

POTUS

Speech w/CINCs, NDU (2:20 p.m. EST)

NSA

Nothing Scheduled

SecState

Press Conference w/FM Vedrine, Paris (5:30 p.m. EST)
Nightline from Paris (Tape 6 p.m. EST)

SecDef
U.S. Conference of Mayors Speech, D.C. (XX p.m. EST)

USUN
Nothing Scheduled

III. GENERAL MESSAGE POINTS

* Saddam cannot be allowed to defy the will of the international community and have unfettered opportunity to develop weapons of mass destruction.

* No decision has been made concerning the use of force, but it is clear that the diplomatic string is running out.

* Whatever actions we take, diplomatic or otherwise will be designed to achieve our goals:

thwart Iraq's capacity to develop and use WMD

limit his ability to threaten his neighbors.

IV. HARD Q'S AND A'S

What will be purpose of the use of force/what targets/how can you eliminate WMD through a bombing campaign/won't the use of force simply guarantee that the inspectors are thrown out and Saddam will have won?

* No decision has been made with respect to the use of force, but the President has made clear that Saddam Hussein cannot be allowed to develop and use WMD.

* Not going to comment on the possibility or nature of military targets. Can say however that whatever actions we take, diplomatic or otherwise will be designed to achieve our goals:

- * thwart Iraq's capacity to develop and use WMD
- * limit his ability to threaten his neighbors.

* UNSCOM inspectors have achieved remarkable results; have always said that the best outcome is for the inspectors to be able to carry out their work. But as a practical matter, Saddam has now put their mission to an end. Our goal is to thwart his capacity to develop WMD, by restoring the inspectors or whatever other steps may be necessary if the inspectors cannot carry out their work.

* Meanwhile, we will insist that sanctions remain so long as he refuses to comply; sanctions are important tool in depriving him of the resources to develop and use WMD and threaten his neighbors.

* Should the use of force be necessary, our objective would be to diminish substantially Iraq's WMD capability and its ability to project force and threaten its neighbors.

What are you planning to do after a military strike has taken place, assuming one does?

* We don't discuss the specifics of our military operations and planning, but let me be clear on our objective - Saddam Hussein cannot be allowed to develop WMD

* Whatever actions we take, diplomatic or otherwise, will be designed to achieve our goals:

- * thwart Iraq's capacity to develop and use WMD
- * limit his ability to threaten his neighbors.

Isn't the diplomatic string running out/Are there any other options left/What is the purpose of the Albright trip?

* The President has made clear that Saddam cannot be allowed to defy the will of the international community and have unfettered opportunity to develop weapons of mass destruction.

* No decision has been made concerning the use of force, but it is clear that the

diplomatic string is running out. Ambassador Butler has made clear that under the current circumstances he cannot carry out his mandate. That is unacceptable.

* Secretary Albright will be meeting with counterparts from the UK, France and Russia and with our friends in the region. Ambassador Richardson will also be consulting with other members of the Security Council. Secretary Cohen may also be traveling to the region next week. They will explain our views of the situation and discuss next steps.

* The President is also discussing the situation with key world leaders. He has spoken to Blair and Kohl, and expects to talk with Presidents Chirac in the coming days. PM Blair will be coming to Washington next week on a long-planned state visit.

What diplomatic options are left? Do you plan to introduce/support another resolution in the Council? Would you consider additional sanctions? What are you waiting for?

* The international community has spoken clearly and unanimously that Saddam must respect the Security Council Resolutions and allow the inspectors to do their work unimpeded. We are now focusing on the discussions that Secretary Albright will be conducting in the coming days. We have no plans to introduce a resolution. We believe existing Council resolutions give us all the authority we need to take whatever action we deem necessary.

Vedrine and Primakov are publicly stating their opposition to force/Are you prepared to go it alone/ with only the UK - does anybody support you/will the countries in the region support the use of force?

* We all share the same objective: to thwart Iraq's efforts to develop WMD or threaten its neighbors. The international community is united in its view that it Saddam must give the inspectors the access they need to do the job. As the President said, we are determined that he not be free to develop weapons of mass destruction unhindered.

Many prominent foreign policy experts have called on you to change your policy from one of containment to one of getting rid of Saddam/can you ever be

confident you've gotten rid of WMD while Saddam is still there?

* Our goal is to thwart his capacity to develop WMD and threaten his neighbors; we have said that we look forward to the day when Iraq has new leadership that would allow it join the family of nations. Desert Storm demonstrates that it would take hundreds of thousands of ground troops to remove the current leadership by force; our current policy - preventing Saddam from threatening the region -- serves the objectives and interests of the US, our friends and the international community at an acceptable level of risk.

Will the Gulf States allow you to base/bomb?

* We are in close touch. Believe we have the necessary level of cooperation/not going to get into operational details of how we might use our forces.

Is the Administration in synch/ is the Pentagon out ahead on the use of force?

* The President's advisors - civilian and military - are in firm agreement/meeting daily to guide the work. Meeting regularly with the President and Vice President.

Isn't Saddam tying the hands of military planners by placing women and children in or near likely targets and forcing you to choose between key targets and inflicting heavy "collateral damage" that world community would not accept?

* Not going to comment on any possible targets. We don't telegraph our punches.

* But Saddam's use of "human shields" is further proof of his utter contempt and disregard for his own people.

Isn't Netanyahu's position/stalemate in peace process harming your ability to assemble a coalition.

* We pursue peace process because its in the interest of the US, Israel, the Palestinians and Israel's neighbors. Stalemate in peace process something we're trying to overcome/but doesn't diminish danger to region posed by Saddam's pursuit of WMD

Do you support another Primakov mission to negotiate with Saddam?

* Posuvalyuk is already in Baghdad - what is important is that Saddam gets the clear and unequivocal message that he must comply with Security Council Resolutions and allow the inspectors the access they need.

Do you have a deadline?

* No deadline, but it is clear that the diplomatic string is running out. Sec Albright, Amb Richardson, and Secretary Cohen will be discussing next steps with Security Council members and friends in the region in the coming week.

Butler allegations/BW warheads on missiles.

* Not going to comment/leave it to Butler to characterize UNSCOM's findings.

Phyllis Oakley and others say that we really don't know the nature of Iraq's WMD capability - how can we draw up military options without this information?

That's why it is so important for UNSCOM to be able to do its job unfettered.

What do you make of Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Said El-Sahaf's statement that Iraq is considering asking the International Court of Justice to complain about U.S. military threats?

* The International Court of Justice only has jurisdiction to hear a suit by one government against another where both sides have in some manner consented to have the court hear a case. The United States has not consented to ICJ jurisdiction here.

* This is just another attempt to divert attention from the real issue, with is Iraq's duty to get rid of its weapons of mass destruction and to comply immediately with all relevant Security Council resolutions.

* The United States has a lot of respect for the International Court of Justice, but this is not an appropriate case to go to the Court.

MEPP: USG TRAVEL; ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN SECURITY COOPERATION;
PLO COVENANT
January 27, 1998

Q: Any news on travel by the Secretary or SMEC Ross to follow up on last week's meetings with PM Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat?

A: (REFER TO STATEMENT)

Q: Can you confirm that the Palestinian Authority provided the information which led to Israel's arrest of two Hamas members reportedly on their way to conduct a terrorist bombing?

A: WE Do not have the facts of the case.

Q: What is your reaction to Chairman Arafat's call for an Arab summit to discuss the peace process?

A: We have no reaction. Holding an Arab summit is an Arab matter.

Q: PM Netanyahu says he would consider a phased second redeployment. Chairman Arafat reportedly rejected that the redeployment come in phases. But you said yesterday both sides agreed with you. Who's right here?

A: Let me correct the premise of your question.

One of the concepts we raised during the meetings with PM Netanyahu and chairman Arafat was a parallel approach of steps the Israelis would take to implement their commitments on further redeployment and the Palestinians would take to implement their commitments on security.

The parties understand that and were prepared to discuss the details of this approach.

Q: What's your reaction to PM Netanyahu's statement yesterday that the Oslo Accords do not negate our rights to construct new settlements or to continue building in Jerusalem?

A: It has been our practice not to get into public interpretations of agreements.

I will offer our own position on the general issue of settlement activity, which has long been clear.

Settlement activity is unhelpful to creating the climate necessary to making progress in the peace process. It undermines the trust and confidence required for such progress.

Q: Is settlement activity part of the time out for which you have called?

A: Yes.

Q: PM Netanyahu said that Arafat's letter to the President did not remove PLO Covenant language on the armed struggle. What's your view?

A: The Israelis have not explained their thoughts on this to us.

Chairman Arafat's letter appears to address all the issues the government of Israel had previously identified as being of concern to it.

ISRAEL

January 27, 1998

ISRAEL: IS USG DISCUSSING AID REDUCTION PLAN?

Q: Is Israeli Finance Minister Neeman in Washington to discuss reductions in US

aid to Israel? With whom is he meeting? Whose initiative was it? Do you support such a reduction plan?

A: Finance Minister Neeman is meeting with Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Eizenstat today.

Minister Neeman and US Eizenstat are regular interlocutors on economic relations between our two countries. This is a routine meeting given their respective areas of responsibility.

We welcome Minister Neeman and look forward to hearing what he has to say.

I am not going to discuss meetings before they have occurred.

IF PRESSED ONLY

Q: But are they talking about US foreign aid?

A: I Have nothing to add.

ISRAEL: U.S. - ISRAELI CRIME TREATY

Q: What are the details of the U.S. - Israeli treaty signed yesterday to fight international organized crime?

(NOTE TO BRIEFER: Netanyahu signed in his capacity as acting Foreign Minister)

A: On January 26, 1998, U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Edward S. Walker, Jr. and Prime Minister Netanyahu signed a bilateral mutual legal assistance treaty in Jerusalem. Negotiations began in 1994 and concluded a few months ago.

A: The treaty provides a formal governmental mechanism for the provision of evidence and other forms of law enforcement assistance for criminal investigations and proceedings. Amb. Walker noted "this treaty will better enable our governments to cooperate on combating transnational organized crime and provide a clear channel between the U.S. Attorney General and the Israeli

ministry of Justice to administer its provisions. The forms of assistance provided for under this treaty include serving documents, executing requests for searches and seizures, transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes, taking testimony of witnesses in both the requested and requesting states, providing documents and records, and assisting in forfeiture of assets. The treaty covers any offense that is criminalized in the country requesting the assistance.

The treaty does not include provisions on extradition, which are governed by the 1963 U.S.-Israeli extradition treaty.

The Treaty will now need to be approved under the constitutional processes of both governments. For the U.S., this will mean transmitting the treaty to the Senate for advice and consent to ratification. For Israel, we understand this means approval by the Israeli Knesset and government.

ALGERIA: REACTION TO EUROPEAN UNION REPORT January 27, 1998

Q: Have we received a copy of the European Union Mission's findings?

A: The U.S. has received a copy of the EU report regarding its mission to Algeria. The U.S. agrees with, and supports the EU's call for "greater transparency" on behalf of the government of Algeria and unhindered access for international organizations, NGO's, the media, and a visit by representatives of the UN.

The U.S. notes and regrets that the offers of humanitarian assistance from the EU have not been accepted.

The U.S. reaffirms its condemnation of these brutal killings and will continue its consultations with the EU and the Government of Algeria, in the hopes that these massacres will end.

UNITED KINGDOM: BLAIR

January 27, 1998

POTUS Call with Prime Minister Blair

The President spoke this morning with Prime Minister Tony Blair between 10:30 and 10:41 a.m. They touched on the following subjects:

* IRAQ: They agreed the developments are serious, that there is a common determination to see UNSC resolutions respected, and that they need to stay closely coordinated.

* MIDDLE EAST PEACE: The President reviewed his recent meetings with PM Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat.

* NORTHERN IRELAND: The PM reviewed where they are in the All-Party Talks.

IF ASKED: Did the POTUS personal situation come up?

* It was briefly mentioned. The PM expressed his personal support for the President.

Q: What can you tell us of Tony Blair's visit to Washington?

A: The British Prime Minister has accepted the President's invitation to come for an Official visit February 4-7. The arrival ceremony will take place on February 5, with meetings afterwards. The President and the First Lady will host the official dinner for the Blairs that night. Other details of the visit are being worked out.

We anticipate that the full range of bilateral and global issues will be discussed during the visit, which will be especially valuable for us as London

holds the chair of both the G-8 and the Presidency of the European Union. We will certainly look forward to hearing from the Prime Minister how the Northern Ireland peace talks are progressing after yesterday's developments in Belfast.

NORTHERN IRELAND

January 26, 1998

Q: Your reaction to the UDP's withdrawal from the Northern Ireland talks today in London?

A: First and foremost, I want to emphasize our support for the Mitchell Principles of non-violence which govern the Northern Ireland talks. We emphatically condemn the recent attacks on the peace process which have taken the form of killings of random individuals, mostly Catholics. This violence is unacceptable and the culprits must be brought to justice.

Active renunciation of violence by all the parties is the best course forward for resolving the conflict there. Regarding the UDP decision today, under the rules set up for the conduct of the talks it is up to the parties and the governments to make decisions regarding participation. We have supported an inclusive and democratic process for the talks. Gary McMichael has made important, constructive contributions to this political process. We call on all loyalist paramilitaries to halt the killings and create the conditions that will permit the UDP to be at the table so that all can contribute to the creation of a sustainable peace for the people of Northern Ireland.

Q: What's your reaction to the IRA statement rejecting the "heads of agreement" paper introduced at the Belfast peace talks?

A: This framework document, proposed jointly by the Irish and British Governments is designed to move forward the substantive peace negotiations, and we have welcomed it. Those at the table must now decide how to use the structure provided by that paper to negotiate the content and shape of a full and lasting

agreement.

Most importantly, we note that the IRA cease-fire of July 20 is being maintained, and we expect it to continue, along with the Loyalist cease-fire. There is, and will be, no tolerance for the violence perpetrated by extremists, nor for a return to violence by those abiding by the cease-fires.

Much has been accomplished since the talks began, but much hard work remains. The people of Northern Ireland deserve nothing less than a lasting peace, justice, equality, prosperity and better future for their children. We continue to encourage all parties to work toward that goal.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release
January 29, 1998

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

Bloody Sunday Inquiry

We welcome the British Government's announcement today establishing an official commission to make an independent inquiry into the circumstances of Bloody Sunday, the terrible tragedy that took place 26 years ago. This is an important, and timely, initiative to come to terms with the past and help the people of Northern Ireland look to the future and reconciliation as they negotiate the terms of an agreement for a lasting peace in that troubled land.

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GUATEMALA/CUBA

January 28, 1998

GUATEMALA ESTABLISHES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA

Background (for briefer only): On January 26 Guatemalan Foreign Minister Stein told U.S. Ambassador Planty that Cuban and Guatemala are announcing January 27 the establishment of diplomatic relations. Stein was candid in saying that the Arzu government wanted to seize the opportunity created by the Pope's visit to make this move now. Ambassador Planty gave a tough response, stressing our disappointment. This move is not entirely surprising. The Guatemalans have believed for some time that they owed the Cubans an upgrade for the help they feel the Castro regime provided during peace talks with the URNG. Moreover, as Guatemala has emerged from its international isolation, it has wanted to reposition itself on the Cuba question closer to the rest of Latin America.

Q: What is the Administration's reaction to the announcements that Guatemala and Cuba are establishing diplomatic relations?

A: We are disappointed by Guatemala's decision to establish full diplomatic relations with Cuba. We believe such a step should await fundamental political change in Cuba.

CUBA/FOOD AND MEDICINE

January 29, 1998

Legislation on Lifting Restrictions on Food and Medicine in Cuba

Context: There are two bills pending before Congress providing embargo exemptions for the sale and transport of food and medical exports to Cuba. Press reports indicate that Senator Helms or the Cuban American National Foundation (CANF) may soon announce a bill called the Cuban Assistance and Relief (CARE) Act 1998 which, we believe, would authorize delivery of donated medicine and food as well as PL-480 food aid. CANF developed the concept; we have only seen an outline of the proposal and have no further details. We will need to see the draft legislation before developing a position. In addition to Hill initiatives, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has formed a coalition urging the lifting of the embargo on food and medical sales to Cuba. Following the Pope's visit, we want to stress U.S. government interest in reaching out to the Cuban people and strengthening civil society

Q: What is the Administration's view of various proposals by 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 bill 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, Miami Herald of 1/28/98) about other possible congressional initiatives that would provide greater humanitarian assistance to the Cuban people.

The Administration has taken no position on any of these 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 any draft legislation.

The U.S. continues to believe that maintaining pressure on the Cuban government through our embargo is fundamental to encouraging fundamental, systemic 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.

CUBA/PAPAL VISIT TO CUBA

January 26, 1998

Background: 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 for the fundamental

freedoms and human rights of the Cuban people to be respected by the Cuban government.

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: 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 engage in 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.

