

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 09/27/2000 2:34:49 PM

FROM Stockwell, David B. (PRESS)

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT April 19 [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO Stockwell, David B. (PRESS)

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY

NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS GUIDANCE

April 19, 2000

EUROPE

Germany/Charlemagne
Prize (updated)

Italy/D'Alema Resignation (new)

RUSSIA/NIS

Russia,
Ukraine/POTUS Visit

Russia/START II (new)

Russia/SRB Moscow
Visit

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ASIA

China Human
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Taiwan Arms Sales

Taiwan Security Enhancement
Act (TSEA)

MIDDLE EAST

Egypt Air (new)

MEPP/Israeli-Syrian
Track

MEPP/Israeli-Palestinian Track

GERMANY: CHARLEMAGNE
PRIZE
April 19, 2000

When is the President accepting the Charlemagne
Prize?

* The President will travel to Aachen, Germany on Friday,
June 2 to accept the Charlemagne Prize.

German press reports
say that he might also accept the German Media Award. Is that true?

* The
President is honored by the many tokens of recognition he has been
offered around the world during his presidency, and regrets that
he cannot accept them all. The President has declined the German
Media Award. The President's declining the German Media Award in
no way reflects on the value of the prize.

* The White House has informed the organizers of the German Media Prize that the President will not be able to accept the prize.

ITALY: D'ALEMA RESIGNATION

April
19, 2000

Can you comment on press reports that Prime Minister D'Alema has resigned?

* Internal political matter.

* Italy
strong democracy.

* We worked closely and well with PM D'Alema, whom we wish well.

* We look forward to continuing close collaboration with his successor.

CLINTON TRIP TO MOSCOW, KIEV

April 19, 2000

Why
is the President going to Moscow?

* Many important items on agenda for President Clinton's June 4-5 visit to Moscow. President Clinton told President-elect Putin in telephone conversation on Saturday that he wants to use visit to address issues such as support for democratic reform and economic recovery in Russia and ongoing arms control discussions about START III and ABM Treaty.

* Expect President Clinton and President-elect Putin will also discuss joint nonproliferation efforts as well as key regional issues (e.g., situation in Balkans and European security). President Clinton also made clear that he wants to talk about issues where we have important differences such as war in Chechnya.

* President Clinton will also use his visit to Russia to promote deeper ties between American and Russian people and closer connection between our two societies. President hopes to use his visit to speak to broad spectrum of Russia leaders who are building new democratic institutions, civil society, and a market economy.

Why is the President going to Kiev?

* President will also

be making important visit to Ukraine. Visit will underscore our commitment to independence, sovereignty and market-democratic development of Ukraine and other NIS.

* President's visit to Kiev will signal

U.S. support for recent economic reform initiatives launched by President Kuchma and Prime Minister Yushchenko as well as for advancing Ukraine's integration with EuroAtlantic community.

Doesn't President Clinton's

willingness to go to Moscow show that we're not serious about opposing Russia's devastating war in Chechnya?

* Since beginning of fighting

in Chechnya last summer, President has been clear in public and private with Russians about Chechnya. Position has been consistent: military solution not viable, will fuel cycle of violence. Use of indiscriminate force against civilians, humanitarian toll of conflict unacceptable.

* President's

upcoming visit to Moscow important opportunity to engage Russians and urge them to take meaningful steps toward political solution, to ensure accountability for reported human rights violations by Russian forces (e.g., by conducting impartial and transparent investigations), and to increase transparency about situation inside Chechnya.

* President

will use discussions with Russians to highlight damage conflict has done to Russia's international standing and stability throughout Caucasus region.

RUSSIA - START II

April 19, 2000

Are you

going to Moscow because you think you can get an START III/ABM deal?

* Hope

that Russian approval of START II will allow us to intensify our ongoing discussions with Russians on further strategic reductions under START III and adapting ABM Treaty to counter new threats. Expect President Clinton and President-elect Putin to address this issue at length during visit to Moscow.

* We're in detailed discussions

with Russians on these issues. U/S John Holum is meeting with his Russian counterpart in Geneva this week. Next week Strobe Talbott will meet with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mamedov as part of preparations for April 26-27 visit to Washington by Russian Foreign Minister Ivanov.

* Too early to predict outcome of these discussions.

Believe it is in both countries' interest to reach agreement on deeper reductions in strategic nuclear forces under START II and

adapting ABM Treaty to deal with emerging ballistic missile threat posed to both our two countries.
if asked -- What is your reaction to the condition imposed by the Duma tying START II entry into force to U.S. Senate approval of the ABM Succession and Demarcation agreements?

* First,
we are still studying the details of the Duma's conditions of ratification and the associated resolutions.

* We would clearly prefer the earliest possible entry into force of START II, without any linkages to the two ABM protocols or to the START II Protocol.

* Our intent is to proceed in parallel with START III and ABM, as agreed by President Clinton and then-President Yeltsin at Cologne last summer.

if
asked -- What about the other conditions imposed by the Duma relating to withdrawal from START II?

* We are still reviewing these conditions, but our preliminary assessment is that these conditions do not require changes to the START II Treaty, and will not hinder its entry into force.

* While the United States cannot circumscribe the Russian right to withdraw from the START II Treaty if Russia believes its supreme interests are jeopardized, the provisions for withdrawal from the START II Treaty based on supreme national interests clearly envision that such withdrawal could only be justified by extraordinary events that have jeopardized a Party's supreme interests.

if
asked -- Has the debate over missile defenses in Congress hurt the chances for bringing START II into force? Moving forward with START III?

* First, would simply note that the U.S. Senate voted overwhelmingly by a vote of 87-4 to approve START II in January 1996. Strong consensus exists that both START I and START II Treaties are vital to our nation's security, and that a START III would be in our national interest.

* Indeed, in last year's debate in the Senate over the Cochran NMD bill, the Senate voted 99-0 to approve an amendment to that bill making clear that it is the policy of the United States to continue to seek negotiated reductions in Russian nuclear forces.

* Second,
believe many in Congress understand the relationship between START and the ABM Treaty, and would support not only START III, but agreements on ABM that adapt the Treaty to permit a limited NMD and preserve strategic stability.

if asked -- Will the U.S. proceed with formal negotiations on START III without a Russian commitment to negotiations on ABM.

* Our intent is to proceed in parallel with START III and ABM, as agreed to by President Clinton and then-President Yeltsin at Cologne.

if asked -- A START III target of 2,000-2,500 weapons still leaves both countries with a substantial nuclear force. How does this square with recent proposals by Russia to reduce down to a ceiling of 1,500?

* START III talks are proceeding on the basis of the agreements reached in Helsinki in 1997, including reductions to 2,000-2,500 warheads. An agreement would represent a significant step in the direction of reducing the nuclear danger. Would substantially reduce U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals.

if asked -- When will the Administration transmit the 1997 ABM agreements and START II Protocol to the Senate for approval?

* Before making any decisions on this, we will need to review the Russian ratification law and the related Duma resolutions, and consult with the Senate, taking into account the relationship between the September 1997 agreements and our ongoing discussions with Russia on START III and ABM.

DRAFT
BERGER
TRAVEL TO MOSCOW
April 19, 2000

* National Security Adviser
Berger will travel to Moscow in mid-May at invitation of his Russian counterpart, Security Council Secretary Sergey Ivanov. Expect that discussions will focus on preparations for early June visit to Moscow by President Clinton as well important security issues on U.S.-Russian agenda.

RUSSIA/CHECHNYA

April 19, 2000

BACKGROUND:

A group of Russian parliamentarians and public figures announced on April 17 formation of an independent commission to investigate alleged human rights violations in Chechnya. Putin welcomed the commission's formation and promised to render all necessary assistance and facilitate its contact with Prosecutor General's Office and other state agencies. The Russian government has announced agreement with the OSCE to allow the return of the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya by early May.

Core points:

- * Our position has been consistent:
military solution not viable, will fuel cycle of violence. Russia has right to uphold territorial integrity, combat terrorism, but indiscriminate use of force against civilians is unacceptable.
- * Urge
both sides to take meaningful steps toward political solution through dialogue with responsible Chechen leaders, ideally utilizing OSCE good offices.
- * Humanitarian toll of conflict considerable:
loss of civilian lives, more than 200,000 people driven from their homes, thousands still trapped in Chechnya. Russia must provide for their well-being, ensure freedom of movement. International community willing to help via UNHCR/ICRC; U.S. generously supporting their activities.
- * International community has spoken with one voice about opposition to Russian approach to conflict. Must be persistent, highlight that conflict is fostering Russia's isolation from international community.
- * Worried about destabilizing impact of conflict throughout entire Caucasus region. Essential that Russia respect sovereignty, territorial integrity of Georgia and Azerbaijan.

Any
comment on Putin's announcement of an "independent commission" to investigate human rights in Chechnya?

- * Understand that several
Russian Duma deputies have formed an "initiative group" with the idea of launching a commission to review the situation in Chechnya.

* We
note that President-elect Putin welcomed this news yesterday in London
and that Russia government provide "all necessary assistance" to
the commission's activities.

* Looking forward to getting more
details on how commission will operate, what its charter will be,
and what its relationship with the Russian government will be.

* Hope
that this new initiative conforms with the concept advocated by UN
High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson.

Any comment
on reopening of OSCE Assistance Group office in Chechnya?

* Welcome
April 15 announcement that the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya
would return to Chechnya by early May. We believe the OSCE Assistance
Group could help play a vital role in seeking a lasting political
solution to the crisis in Chechnya.

* An essential part of the
Assistance Group's broad mandate is reporting on human rights issues.
We expect that this will be a priority task for the OSCE upon its
return to the troubled North Caucasus region.

Does the US support
the EU resolution on Chechnya at the UNCHR? Why didn't the US co-sponsor
it, as Canada did?

* We have been consulting actively with the
Europeans and others.

* Our priority at the UNCHR and elsewhere
continues to be on finding the most effective ways to bring Russia
into compliance with its obligations.

* We note Russia's recent
steps forward on engagement with the international community; encourage
more progress on meaningful steps to increase transparency and accountability
regarding human rights situation in Chechnya.

If asked -- Why
won't you call these war crimes?

* We have said that reports of Russian and rebel actions in Chechnya raise fundamental questions under international humanitarian law that merit immediate Russian investigation and access to Chechnya by international observers.

* A thorough investigation would of course be necessary to gather sufficient evidence to prosecute any individual for specific criminal acts. It is because of the seriousness of these allegations that we urge the Russian Government to investigate in an open and transparent way and, where warranted, prosecute those responsible for violations.

MBEKI
LETTER
April 19, 2000

Did South African President Mbeki send a letter to the President regarding the AIDS epidemic in his country? What did he say? Do we think that he is espousing a dangerous course of action that has been scientifically discredited? Has the President responded?

* South African President Thabo Mbeki has written to the President. The President has not yet responded. This was a private communication between two leaders and I don't want to comment specifically on the contents of the letter.

* There is no question that President Mbeki understands the depth of the health crisis facing much of Africa, including his own country. South Africa is doing a great deal, including appointing a senior government task force, an AIDS council between the public and private sector, and a country-wide education campaign.

* We recognize that the AIDS epidemic in Africa, including South Africa, is manifesting itself in different ways than it has in the United States. They are doing everything within their capacity to deal with this crisis. They don't have the same health care infrastructure that we do, for example, which means that in addition to what the South African government is already doing, they also need to look at additional approaches relevant to specific conditions in Africa. Do we agree with the views of every expert he's consulted? No, we don't and we have communicated that to the South African government. But we do agree with his premise that more has to be done globally, and more needs to be done in Africa.

* We have
to keep in mind the limited resources Africa has to deal with this.
Our estimates are that in some African countries, like Uganda, treating
every infected individual would cost more than ten times the national
budget.

* There is no question that AIDS threatens the economic,
political and social progress that Africa has made. That's the reason
the Vice President and Ambassador Holbrooke put this issue front
and center in the United Nations Security Council in January, and
why we have an interagency working group studying how we can help
Africa confront this major challenge.

Is Mbeki coming to the
US on an official visit?

* We have not yet made an official announcement.

Will
HIV/AIDS be on the agenda?

* Of course, as will a number of other
issues of common concern to the United States and South Africa.

UNHCR

- CUBA RESOLUTION

April 19, 2000

CONTEXT: Yesterday in Geneva,
the United Nations Commission on Human Rights passed a resolution
on the human rights situation in Cuba. Introduced by the Czech Republic
and Poland, the resolution had several co-sponsors including the
United States. The vote was 21 countries in favor, 18 against and
14 abstentions. Last year a similar resolution passed with 20 in
favor, 17 against, and 16 abstentions.

Harold Koh, Assistant
Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, and Ambassador
Nancy Rubin, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Commission on Human Rights,
at the UNHCR in Geneva, issued a statement in response to the decision
of the Commission to pass the resolution. It congratulated those
Commission members who supported this resolution and took a principled
stand for human rights.

Any reaction to the decision of the
United Nations Commission on Human Rights to pass the resolution

chastising Cuba's human rights performance?

* We congratulate those Commission members who supported this resolution. This vote draws attention to the brave human rights defenders who risk their lives and freedom to speak out for a free and democratic Cuba.

* Please direct your inquiries to the Department of State for details on the vote.

[ONLY IF ASKED] Given the UN resolution condemning Cuba's human rights record, how can you send Elian Gonzalez back to Cuba?

* The Elian Gonzalez case is about the bond between a child and his father. This child needs to be reunited with his father because that is what the law - and fundamental principles of family - require.

* We simply cannot take the position that because the government of a country denies its citizens human rights, a parent in the at country must lose his or her right to raise his or her child, and that a family must be broken apart.

CUBAN BOY

April 19, 2000

CONTEXT:

Pediatrician Irwin Redlener, one of three child mental health professionals advising the INS, has written, on his own initiative, a strongly-worded letter to the INS, urging that Elian Gonzalez be removed from the Miami home immediately because the home is psychologically abusive and the child is in imminent danger to his physical and emotional well-being.

Elian Gonzalez's Miami relatives defied INS instructions to deliver the boy to Miami's Opa Locka airport at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, April 13. As a result, INS informed Lazaro Gonzalez by letter that parole care of the child had been transferred from him back to the INS. Also April 13, the relatives' attorneys sought and received from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit a stay, barring the child's removal from the U.S. until such time as the federal appeals court rules on their motion for a temporary restraining order, which would prohibit his return to Cuba and his transfer to any person under the control of the Cuban government. The Justice Department held off on action to remove the boy from the Miami home pending

the stay. In its response to the relatives' motion filed on Friday, April 14, the Justice Department not only asked the court to deny the relatives' request but also asked the court to order Lazaro Gonzalez to hand over the child to INS. The 11th Circuit could rule as soon as today. In other legal action, the Miami-Dade County court threw out Lazaro Gonzalez's custody action, a further blow to the Miami relatives' efforts to prevent Elian's transfer to his father. Separately, attorneys for the Miami relatives filed a suit in federal court in D.C., seeking to bar Elian's return to Cuba based on several international human rights instruments. A hearing in this matter is scheduled for today, and comes one day after the UN Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution critical of human rights conditions in Cuba. The U.S. voted in favor of the resolution.

On Thursday, April 13, the Attorney General reiterated the offer of a meeting between family members contained in the INS letter to Lazaro Gonzalez. The letter acknowledges the family's request for a meeting with Juan Miguel Gonzalez, the boy's father, and invites them to accompany Elian on the flight to Washington to meet with him. If the family members resolve the matter, said Ms. Reno, then the government will step aside. If, however, they cannot reach agreement, the parole custody and care of the boy will be transferred to the boy's father, who has been in Washington since April 6. A family agreement seems particularly unlikely in light of allegations, made late last week by the Miami relatives, that Juan Miguel Gonzalez abused his late wife and Elian. On 60 Minutes on April 16, Juan Miguel Gonzalez denied the allegations, instead insisting that his Miami relatives were abusing the child through actions such as recording a video of him saying he did not want to return to Cuba.

The catalyst for these events was a federal district court decision dismissing a lawsuit filed by Elian's great uncle, Lazaro Gonzalez, in which he challenged the INS decision in this case. The great uncle subsequently appealed this decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, which set an expedited hearing schedule, with arguments to be held on May 11.

What's your reaction to Dr. Redlener's assessment that the home where Elian is staying is "psychologically abusive" and that he should be removed immediately?

* The INS and Justice Department take the advice of Dr. Redlener and the other experts very seriously. As we have said, we believe this child should be reunited with his father as soon as possible.

[IF ASKED]

Do you agree with Dr. Redlener's view that the home is psychologically abusive?

* We defer to the experts on this issue.

Why are

you trying to send Elian back to Cuba while at the same time condemning the deplorable human rights conditions in Cuba?

* The Elian Gonzalez

case is about the bond between a child and his father. This child needs to be reunited with his father because that is what the law - and fundamental principles of family - require.

* We simply

cannot take the position that because the government of a country denies its citizens human rights, parent in that country must lose their right to raise their child.

Cuban television has shown

images of a home and school where Elian would live for several months after his return. Some have called this a reeducation camp. Does this give you cause to reconsider sending Elian back to Cuba?

* As

the Attorney General has said, the focus of this case is on the role of the boy's father in raising him. This father has been very involved in raising his son, and it's time for them to be reunited so that he can continue to do so.

Why did you wait so long to act?

In retrospect, do you think the government should have taken steps earlier to resolve this case? Do you think the Attorney General has been too hesitant?

* The Justice Department has followed a

deliberate and careful process in order to reunite this child with his father safely and with as little disruption as possible. It is in the power of Lazaro Gonzalez and his family to make this process safe and nonconflictual for Elian, and we urge them to do so.

[IF

ASKED] What's your reaction to Richard Cohen's op-ed in yesterday's Washington Post, arguing that if Juan Miguel Gonzalez were Elian's

mother, the boy would have already be returned?

* We have continually maintained that this case is about the bond between a parent and child. The Justice Department is doing all it can to reunite this parent and child in an orderly and prompt way, and is prepared to enforce the law.

If the federal appellate court issues a restraining order preventing the child's return to Cuba, will INS transfer the boy to his father's care? If the court rules he cannot be transferred to anyone under the control of the Cuban government?

* Justice and INS will need to assess any court ruling in detail and make decisions at that time. Beyond that, we cannot comment on pending litigation.

If the family's request for a temporary restraining order is denied by the federal court of appeals, do you think the Miami relatives will turn the boy over voluntarily?

* The relatives have said consistently that they will abide by the law. We hope and expect that they will keep their word and comply with INS instructions.

* We urge the family to cooperate in a peaceful transition so that it causes the least disruption for this boy as possible. We believe the relatives in Miami care for this child, and we're hopeful they will make this transition as smooth as possible for Elian. It's time to bring this situation to an end for the sake of this child.

Lazaro Gonzalez and his family defied INS' instructions to turn over the boy last Thursday. Are you going to give Justice permission to send in the U.S. Marshals if they continue to refuse to hand the boy over?

* As the Attorney General has said, the Justice Department will enforce its order fairly and promptly, and we support her. This is about the rule of law, and we must enforce the law.

Are you concerned that if the family does not turn him over voluntarily, and a court order must be executed to effectuate the transfer, there might be

violence in Miami?

* We understand that for many this is an emotional issue, but we believe that the Miami community will remain peaceful and respect the law and legal decisions made in this case.

What's
your reaction to the Miami relatives' allegations that Juan Miguel Gonzalez physically abused Elian and his late mother?

* The Justice
Department has given the relatives ample opportunity to come forward with any credible information concerning Juan Miguel Gonzalez's fitness as a parent. They have not done so.

Do you think the father
really wants to return to Cuba, or is he unable or unwilling to speak freely?

* Under our law, the father is free to apply for asylum if he wishes. It's our understanding that he has said clearly that he wants to return to his country.

* He has had numerous meetings
alone with his attorney and also met with the Attorney General and INS Commissioner without any Cuban officials present.

Can the
Justice Department prevent Juan Miguel Gonzalez from returning to Cuba immediately after he gets custody of the boy?

* This issue
is before the federal court of appeals right now, so I would not comment on it.

What's your reaction to the dismissal of the
state court custody action?

* We're pleased with the decision.
It upholds the longstanding principle that immigration matters are exclusively reserved to the federal government by the Constitution.

What's
your reaction to the federal suit filed by the Miami relatives yesterday,

alleging that the child's return to Cuba is barred by several international human rights treaties?

* We will not comment on pending litigation.

Does
the White House's role change now that Elian's father is here in Washington?

* The Justice Department and State Department continue to play their respective leading roles in this matter. Of course, we continue to be in close touch with Justice and State on this important issue.

[ONLY IF ASKED] How do you respond to allegations that you are using this case as a tool to improve relations with Cuba?

* Our only objective is to see that the INS decision in this case is carried out in accordance with the law.

CHINA HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION April 18, 2000

BACKGROUND: The 56th annual session of the UN Commission on Human Rights (CHR-56) began in Geneva on March 20, with voting on country-specific resolutions today. (Only the 53 member states of the CHR can vote on resolutions.)

On January 11 The US announced our intention to sponsor a resolution at the CHR on the human rights practices of the PRC given the continued deterioration of human rights in China, specifically citing the PRC's intensified crackdown on the China Democracy Party, the Falun Gong, unregistered church leaders, and in Tibet.

Every year since 1990 when China resolutions were first introduced at the CHR (excluding 1991 and 1998 when no resolutions were introduced), the Chinese have always attempted to preempt a vote through their introduction of a procedural maneuver known as a "no-action" motion. A vote on no-action

is not a vote on human rights conditions in China, rather it is a vote on whether or not the UN Commission on Human Rights is merely an appropriate venue to debate human rights conditions in China.

It has always been the position of the US that the UN Commission on Human Rights is the right venue for such a debate to occur and we have always opposed Chinese efforts to cut off debate of their human rights practices by opposing their no-action motions.

With the exception of 1995 when we defeated the PRC's no-action motion, the Chinese have always won on these motions, including last year when the PRC won on no-action 22(PRC)-17(US) with 14 abstentions.

CHR

2000: Earlier today as expected, the PRC introduced a no-action motion in a successful attempt to cut-off debate and prohibit a vote on our resolution on human rights practices in China. The PRC's no-action motion was adopted 22(PRC)-18(US)-12(abstain).

Some of the states voting with the PRC to prevent a vote on human rights conditions in China were India, Indonesia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, and Venezuela. Additionally, several states voted to abstain (a stance not in opposition to the US resolution, but not helpful to our position either) including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, the Philippines, South Korea, Senegal and Tunisia.

[Note for briefer:
still to come, votes on Cuba, Sudan, the former Yugoslavia and Iran.]

What is the White House's reaction to the defeat of your resolution on human rights conditions in China?

* As you know despite our strong efforts to focus the international spotlight on China's human rights situation, the Chinese prevented the UN Commission on Human Rights from voting on the question of human rights in China. We are disappointed, as we believe that the UN Commission on Human Rights is the right venue for a discussion of these very matters.

* Today's developments are particularly troubling in light of very serious human rights abuses that have occurred in China over the last year, including the PRC's intensified crackdown on the China Democracy Party, the Falun Gong, unregistered church leaders, and in Tibet.

* We would

like to thank those countries that voted against the no action motion, despite considerable pressure to vote otherwise. They clearly share our commitment to the principle that no country should be immune from having its actions considered by the UN Commission on Human Rights.

* We will continue to speak out on human rights abuses

in China through our annual country reports on Human Rights and Religious Freedom and other venues (including the UN) as appropriate. As we have clearly stated in the past, our relationship with China will never reach its full potential until there is significant progress in the areas of human rights conditions in China.

Did you do

enough to promote victory on this vote? What did the President and Vice President do to promote this resolution? How did the President's efforts on behalf of this vote compare to his efforts on the PNTR vote?

* Senior U.S. officials, both here and in capitals abroad,

engaged in an sustained effort on behalf of a China resolution in Geneva.

* The White House was seriously engaged in efforts to

encourage other governments to vote with us on this resolution regarding China and on other resolutions at Geneva.

But was the President

and/or the Vice President involved?

* I do not want to get into

the details of confidential diplomatic efforts; but the Administration, including the White House, was deeply engaged.

Were the resolution's

chances of success hurt by the fact that the EU chose not to co-sponsor the resolution?

* We welcome the support of other countries for

any resolution we sponsor in Geneva, but co-sponsorship is not necessary for a vote to take place. A large number of countries joined us in voting against the no-action motion and we thank them for their support.

What impact will the non-passage of the China resolution have on US-China relations?

* We see no reason for the non-passage of the China resolution to have any impact on our bilateral relationship with China. We have a broad range of concerns with China and will continue our principled, purposeful policy of engagement to advance those concerns, including our human rights concerns.

What impact will this loss have on PNTR?

* PNTR is a key part of our engagement with China. Congress should vote for PNTR because it is in America's economic and national security interests. It will create jobs in America and open markets in China. At the same time, it will accelerate the creation of a rules-based society in China.

* PNTR is good for the US, and, in the long run, will encourage greater openness and rule of law in China.

* We will continue to engage with China and work for improvement in its human rights situation.

TAIWAN
ARMS SALES
April 18, 2000

Can you give us any more on the Taiwan arms sales package? It appears that you have declined to provide the Taiwanese the Aegis destroyers they were looking for. Jesse Helms and others have called this inadequate.

* I'm not going to provide specific details from the podium, but let me make a few general points.

* This is a very robust package that provides several new systems to Taiwan. It also provides upgrades of existing systems. It provides more training. It will help Taiwan more effectively use equipment they already have.

* There was a strong interagency consensus behind the package put forward by the Pentagon. The President and his national security team accepted the Pentagon's recommendations.

* The package contains new equipment that had been discussed with Taiwan in previous years and was included now based on our assessment of Taiwan's capabilities and needs.

* These decisions are underpinned by a variety of detailed studies that have been undertaken by the Pentagon. Some are finished. Others are still on-going and will take time to complete.

* This is an on-going process by which we meet the responsibility to assist Taiwan with its self-defense under the Taiwan Relations Act.

Can you clarify whether the Aegis destroyers were denied or deferred. And, if deferred, when will they come up again for consideration?

* Without getting into specifics, the Pentagon has a detailed study underway to assess Taiwan's naval defense requirements, including anti-air, anti-surface and anti-submarine capabilities. This would include an evaluation of Taiwan's comprehensive naval defense needs.

* Decisions regarding additional maritime capabilities were deferred pending completion of this study.

What about radar? Is the PAVE PAWS included or not?

* First of all, last year, we decided that we would help Taiwan upgrade its early warning radar. Since then, we have been working with Taiwan on what form those upgrades should take.

* Without commenting on specific systems, there are some things we will do in the near term to increase the range and capability of Taiwan's radar. We will continue to discuss details regarding long-term improvements. Regarding long-term options, we have not ruled any specific system in or out. This is an area that requires more work in terms of how to best improve Taiwan's capabilities.

Has the United States briefed Taiwan on this package? Does that include both the incoming and outgoing governments? What about the Hill?

- * We have begun discussions through AIT with a range of Taiwan representatives, both here in Washington and in Taiwan.

- * We have had Hill consultations and are in the process of briefing members and staff on the details.

TAIWAN
SECURITY ENHANCEMENT ACT
April 14, 2000

Any comment on Lott's effort to get TSEA moving in the Senate?

- * Administration strongly opposes Taiwan Security Enhancement Act.

- * Taiwan's security a top priority for this Administration, but the Act would decrease Taiwan's security and put at risk the stability of the region.

- * Unofficial relationship with Taiwan very strong under the Taiwan Relations Act, which is an effective mechanism for ensuring robust unofficial ties with Taiwan.

- * Now is time to encourage both Taiwan and PRC to take advantage of fresh start with new leadership in Taiwan. Have been urging both sides to resume dialogue and avoid actions that risk conflict or increase tension.

- * TSEA threatens these efforts by formalizing a military-to-military relationship, and would significantly increase risk of confrontation in the Taiwan Strait. Its passage would be unnecessary and provocative.

- * Therefore, the Departments of Defense and State and the National Security Council have indicated they would recommend to the President that he veto this bill.

EGYPT: PAYMENT FOR EGYPTAIR FLT. 990 INVESTIGATION
April

18, 2000

CONTEXT: Rep. John Duncan (R-Tenn) the chairman of the House Aviation Subcommittee, introduced a bill last week that would deduct funds from Egypt's FMF assistance unless it pays for half the investigation of the crash of Egyptair 990, projected to cost \$18.5 million. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va) who chairs the subcommittee that oversees aviation agency budgets, wrote to President Clinton on Monday to ask that he seek money from the Egyptians. Wolf's letter said that the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) could face a significant financial shortfall without Egypt's financial help. The Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority responded with a letter saying it had offered financial support for the investigation two months ago. "We were informed that we would be contacted when this need arose," he said. Egyptair asked the NTSB to take the lead in the investigation, which still has not been concluded.

What is our position on legislation pending in Congress that would deduct funds from Egypt's foreign military assistance unless it pays for half of the Egyptair 990 investigation?

* It is our understanding that the Egyptian government had previously offered to share the costs associated with the investigation, but U.S. officials declined the offer. While we have not approached the Egyptian government with an official request to share the cost of the investigation, we understand that financial considerations may have changed significantly and that we may need to revisit this issue with the government of Egypt.

* In light of our close ties with the government of Egypt, it is our view that this matter can be resolved through regular diplomatic channels and that there is currently no need for legislation to address this matter.

MEPP/ISRAELI-SYRIAN TRACK
April 17, 2000

Comment on PM Barak's decision to lift the freeze on settlement construction in the Golan Heights? The Syrians have said that this move is aimed at blocking the peace process. Do you agree?

* We do not believe that settlement activity contributes to peace. It only complicated this process.

Does this mean that Barak has given up on a deal with Syria? Can you realistically expect negotiations to resume in the wake of this decision? Are you suggesting that Barak should reimpose the freeze?

* Obviously, the differences between the two sides remain, but Israel and Syria have not shut the door to negotiations, and neither shall we.

MEPP/ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN
TRACK
April 17, 2000

Are the negotiators wrapping up their talks at Bolling? What have they produced? When will they break up and when will they resume?

* The Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have engaged in intensive, serious and substantive discussions throughout the week. These discussions have focused primarily on trying to work out a skeleton for a framework agreement on permanent status.

* During the course of these discussions, the two sides exchanged papers on this subject.

* Clearly, there are tough issues and gaps remain, but the parties are working to overcome them.

* The two sides continued to discuss the issue of the third phase of further redeployments.

* The Israelis and Palestinians will conclude their discussions at Bolling this weekend and will return home for consultations. They have agreed to continue their negotiations in the region at the end of the month.

Will you be traveling to the region to participate in the next round?

* The parties have agreed that we should participate in their discussions. Obviously, we'll be involved, but I'm not going to get into the

details of travel at this point.

Is this it for Bolling? Will
they ever return?

* They've agreed to resume talks in the region.
At some point, they may want to return here for discussions.

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 10/27/2000 7:49:02 AM
FROM Black, Steven K. (VP)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT FW: OK. Here's some bad news [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Saunders, Richard M. (VP)

CARBON_COPY**TEXT_BODY**

If I have to do press guidance for this, I intend to say the following:

* The
State Department is the custodian for the documents associated with
the aide memoire. The White House has expressed its desire to again
fully share the information with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee,
as was done in July 1995. Refer you to the State Department.

-----Original
Message-----
From: Black, Steven K. (VP)
Sent: Friday, October
27, 2000 7:46 AM
To: Saunders, Richard M. (VP)
Subject: OK. Here's
some bad news [UNCLASSIFIED]

a6121
^BC-ARMS-RUSSIA-USA
^US
senators threaten subpoena on Gore's Russia deal
By John Whitesides

WASHINGTON, Oct 26 (Reuters) - A group of 10 Republican senators
threatened on Thursday to subpoena documents related to Vice President

Al Gore's 1995 pact with Moscow on arms sales to Iran unless the
White
House turns them over by Monday.
Administration officials
declined to provide the documents
to the Senate Foreign Relations
Committee at a Wednesday hearing in
which they defended the deal

against Republican accusations that it skirted U.S. law and Congress had been kept in the dark on the details.

"In essence, you are saying to the Congress and the American people: 'Trust us,'" the senators said in a letter to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

"Considering the fact that almost everything we have learned

about this secret deal has come from the news media and not the administration

, we respectfully decline," the letter said, setting a deadline for turning over the documents that would be just one week before the presidential election.

Democrats and Gore campaign officials say Republicans are trying to score political points off the issue ahead of the election.

Among those signing the letter were Senate Republican Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi, Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms of North Carolina, Armed Services Committee Chairman John Warner of Virginia and Arizona Sen. John McCain.

The pact was negotiated by Democratic presidential candidate

Gore and former Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in 1995.

Under the agreement, Russia was allowed to sell conventional weapons

to Iran under existing contracts through 1999 but pledged not to enter into any new contracts.

In return, the United States agreed to take no action against Russia for the sales under a 1992 nonproliferation law co-sponsored by Gore and Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain that bars arms deals with Iran and other states viewed as sponsors of terrorism. Administration officials defended the deal at Wednesday's hearing, saying it was consistent with

U.S. law and achieved its main purpose of stopping new Russian weapons sales to Iran while not providing new weapons capabilities or altering the regional military balance. The letter gave the administration until Monday to turn over the documents outlining the pact, and threatened subpoenas if the Foreign Relations Committee does not receive them. "Congress has a right and responsibility to review all the relevant documents, and to judge for itself whether the transfers the vice president signed off on were covered by U.S. non-proliferation laws," the letter said. It said the administration's refusal to turn over the documents was "unacceptable."

RB--
10/26/2000 21:38:16

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 11/01/2000 5:30:18 PM
FROM Pierce, Eric A. (TNT)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT RE: package 6697 - Drug Majors [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY Dan,

Do you want the package as delivered or will the attached suffice? I have my package, but I don't have it as delivered so will have to request.

Eric

-----Original Message-----

From: Shapiro,
Daniel B. (LEGIS)
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 3:59 PM
To: Pierce,
Eric A. (TNT); Gray, Wendy E. (NSA)
Subject: RE: package 6697 -
Drug Majors [UNCLASSIFIED]

Will do my best. Can I get a faxable
copy of this package?

-----Original Message-----

From: Pierce,
Eric A. (TNT)
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 3:36 PM
To: Gray,
Wendy E. (NSA)
Cc: Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)
Subject: RE: package
6697 - Drug Majors [UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks again, Wendy.

Dan,
if you hear that the letters have been delivered will you email me?

I have a Taiwan desk guy at State who is beside himself with anticipation.

Eric

-----Original Message-----

From: Gray, Wendy E. (NSA)

Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 3:34 PM

To: Pierce, Eric A.

(TNT)

Cc: Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)

Subject: RE: package 6697

- Drug Majors [UNCLASSIFIED]

Eric -- just spoke with Ed. He says the best we can tell you on delivery is that they will go between 4:00 and 5:00. Perhaps, Dan Shapiro knows someone he can check with, after 5:00, to see if the letters have been delivered.

-----Original
Message-----

From: Pierce, Eric A. (TNT)

Sent: Wednesday, November
01, 2000 3:29 PM

To: Gray, Wendy E. (NSA)

Subject: RE: package
6697 - Drug Majors [UNCLASSIFIED]

Wendy,

I thought I closed
the loop with State, but...

Can you tell me, when you see Ed, when the letters were actually dropped off. It's that little piece of information that the Taiwan desk at State is waiting on. Thank you so much. I won't bother you after this. I promise.

Eric

-----Original
Message-----

From: Gray, Wendy E. (NSA)

Sent: Wednesday, November
01, 2000 2:48 PM

To: @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs; @EXECSEC -
Executive Secretary; Pierce, Eric A. (TNT)

Cc: @WWD - West Wing
Desk
Subject: package 6697 - Drug Majors [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hello!

The
Clerk's Office called to notify us that the President approved the
subject package and they would hold the letters until an OK was
received
from us. I spoke with Dan Shapiro who said the letters should be
released and delivered. This info was passed to Bob and Brooks who
agreed. Ed in the Clerk's Office has been told to deliver the letters.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT 6697 Final Letters.doc

Dear Senator Biden:

In accordance with the provisions of section 490(h) of the Foreign
Assistance Act
of 1961, as amended (the "Foreign Assistance Act"), I have
determined that the
following are major illicit drug producing or major drug-transit
countries:
Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, China,
Colombia,
Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica,
Laos, Mexico,
Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Venezuela, and
Vietnam.

This year I have removed Hong Kong and Taiwan from the list of
major illicit drug
producing or major drug-transit countries (the "Majors List").

The Majors List, as required by section 490(h) of the Foreign
Assistance Act,
applies to "countries." The term "countries" is interpreted broadly to

include
certain entities that exercise autonomy over actions or omissions that
would lead
to a decision to place them on the list and subsequently to determine
eligibility
or certification. Therefore, in the past, the Majors List has included
certain
entities that are not sovereign states.

I wish to make clear that a country's presence on the list of major
drug-transit
countries is not necessarily an adverse reflection on its counterdrug
efforts or
on the level of its cooperation with the United States. Among the
reasons that
major drug-transit countries are placed on the list is the combination
of
geographical, commercial, and economic factors that allow drugs to
transit
through a country, in many cases despite the most assiduous
enforcement measures.

I also wish to note my concern over the rising imports of foreign-
origin, illegal
synthetic drugs into the United States, especially MDMA ("Ecstasy")
from Europe.
We are still collecting information on this problem, and it is a trend
that bears
watching closely in future years.

CHANGES TO THE LIST

Removal of Hong Kong. Hong Kong has been considered a major
drug-transit
country since 1987, when the first Majors List was prepared. Its
proximity to
the Golden Triangle opium cultivation countries of Thailand, Laos,
and Burma,
along with its highly developed air and sea transport infrastructure,
made it a
logical transit point for trafficking organizations moving Southeast
Asian heroin
to the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Over the past few years, however, Hong Kong's role as a transit point
for
U.S.-bound drugs has declined markedly, due to several factors.
Stringent
enforcement measures and extradition agreements with various

countries, including the United States, and the risk of having narcotics shipments seized, have become effective deterrents to shipping drugs through Hong Kong. At the same time, drug flows from China through Hong Kong have diminished significantly. As China continues to develop its coastal cargo-handling facilities and expands port operations in the south, there is less incentive for drug traffickers to re-export and transship cargo through Hong Kong.

Seizure rates in both the United States and Hong Kong suggest that trafficking organizations are no longer using Hong Kong as a transit point for U.S.-destined heroin. Since 1996, there have been no significant seizures in the United States of heroin linked with Hong Kong. Similarly, the Hong Kong authorities report that in the past two years they have made no large seizures locally of heroin destined for the United States. Consequently, I am removing Hong Kong from the Majors List and downgrading it to a country of concern. If in the future there is evidence of drug flows through Hong Kong that significantly affect the United States, Hong Kong will again be placed on the Majors List.

Removal of Taiwan. In the early 1990s, Taiwan became a transit point for Asian drug trafficking organizations moving heroin to the Western Hemisphere. The largest U.S. heroin seizure on record is the nearly half-ton of heroin that U.S. authorities discovered in Hayward, California in 1991. The drugs, which originated in China, had transited Taiwan en route to the United States. Given Taiwan's role in that transshipment and evidence of Taiwan-related drug flows to the United States at that time, I added Taiwan to the Majors List in 1995.

Taiwan's role as transit point for drugs destined for the United States, however, has changed radically in the past few years. More stringent law enforcement procedures, together with improved customs inspection and

surveillance methods, have all but cut off serious flows of heroin from Taiwan to the United States. At the same time, the opening of major container ports in southern China has diminished Taiwan's importance for the drug trade.

Since Taiwan was designated a major drug-transit country, there have been no seizures in the United States of heroin that transited Taiwan, nor have Taiwan authorities identified any important drug shipments destined for the United States. Therefore, I am removing Taiwan from the Majors List and downgrading it to a country of concern. If in the future we detect any drug flows through Taiwan that significantly affect the United States, Taiwan will again be placed on the Majors List.

COUNTRIES/ENTITIES AND REGIONS OF CONCERN

In addition to Hong Kong and Taiwan, the following are countries or regions of concern:

Belize. Belize was removed from the list of major drug-transit countries in 1999 because there was clear evidence that the drug trade was not currently using it as a transit point for drugs moving to the United States. If, at a future date, there is reliable information that U.S.-bound drugs are again moving through Belize in significant quantities, it will again be placed on the Majors List.

Central America. Central America's position as a land bridge between South America and Mexico, together with its thousands of miles of coastline, several container-handling ports, the Pan-American Highway, and limited law enforcement capability make the entire region a natural conduit and transshipment area for illicit drugs bound for Mexico and the United States. Currently, only Guatemala and Panama have been designated major drug-transit countries, since

there is clear evidence that drug trafficking organizations use their territory to move significant quantities of illegal drugs to the United States. The same is not yet true of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, or Nicaragua.

Although there is no question that varying quantities of drugs do flow through these countries en route to the United States, the bulk of the traffic has shifted away from land routes. Stringent law enforcement and interdiction measures on land have forced trafficking organizations to move drugs along sea routes. In the event that there is evidence that drugs transiting these countries are having a significant effect on the United States, they will be added to the Majors List.

Iran. While Iran was once a traditional opium-producing country, the Government of Iran appears to have been successful in eradicating significant illicit opium poppy cultivation. The latest U.S. survey of the country revealed no detectable poppy cultivation in the traditional growing areas. Although one cannot rule out some cultivation in remote parts of the country, it is unlikely that it would be sufficient to meet the threshold definition of a major illicit drug producing country under section 481(e)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act.

Important quantities of opiates reportedly continue to transit Iran en route to Europe, but I have no evidence that these drugs significantly affect the United States, a requirement for designation as a major drug-transit country under section 481(e)(5) of the Foreign Assistance Act. Moreover, Iran has taken extensive measures to thwart the use of its territory by drug traffickers, seizing well above 200 metric tons of drugs annually in recent years.

Malaysia. Malaysia was removed from the Majors List two years ago because there was no evidence that drugs transiting the country were reaching the United States

in significant quantities. That situation has not changed since that time.

Eastern Caribbean. The Leeward and Windward Islands, together with Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, constitute a broad geographical area through which U.S.-bound drugs pass en route from Latin America. In the right circumstances, any country in the region could become a major drug-transit country. There is no evidence at this time, however, that any of these Eastern Caribbean nations is a major drug-transit country under the definition in section 481(e)(5) of the Foreign Assistance Act. The information available, however, indicates that drugs moving through the area are overwhelmingly destined for Europe. We are, therefore, keeping the region under observation. Relevant countries will be added to the Majors List, should conditions warrant.

Turkey and Other Balkan Route Countries. I am concerned by the large volume of Southwest Asian heroin that moves through Turkey and neighboring countries to Western Europe along the Balkan Route. There is no clear evidence, however, that this heroin significantly affects the United States, as required for a country to be designated a major drug-transit country. In the event that it is determined that heroin transiting Turkey, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, or other European countries on the Balkan Route significantly affects the United States, the relevant countries will be added to the Majors List.

Syria and Lebanon. I removed Syria and Lebanon from the list of major illicit drug producers two years ago after we determined that there was no significant opium poppy cultivation in Lebanon's Biqa Valley. Recent surveys have confirmed that there has been no detectable replanting of opium poppy, and we have no evidence that drugs transiting these countries significantly affect the United

States. We continue, however, to keep the area under observation.

North Korea. We have been unable to confirm reports that significant quantities of opium poppy may be under cultivation in North Korea or that heroin originating in the country may be entering the international drug trade. We continue, however, to monitor the situation. If there is evidence that there is indeed poppy cultivation of 1,000 hectares or more in North Korea or that North Korea is a transit point for drugs significantly affecting the United States, it will be added to the Majors List.

Cuba. Cuba's geographical position, straddling one of the principal Caribbean trafficking routes to the United States, makes it a logical candidate for consideration for the Majors List. While there have been some reports that trafficking syndicates use Cuban land territory for moving drugs, we have yet to receive any confirmation that this traffic carries significant quantities of cocaine or heroin to the United States. Moreover, in 2000, much of the suspect air traffic that previously crossed Cuban airspace has now shifted away to Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic).

I will continue to keep Cuba under careful observation for any changes in current transit patterns. If there is evidence of significant quantities of drugs transiting Cuba to the United States, Cuba will be added to the Majors List.

Central Asia. Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are traditional opium poppy growing areas of the former Soviet Union. However, we have not found evidence of significant opium poppy cultivation. If ongoing analysis reveals cultivation of 1,000 hectares or more of poppy, the relevant countries will be added to the Majors List.

Major Cannabis Producers. While Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, the

Philippines, and South Africa are important cannabis producers, I have not included them on this list since in all cases the illicit cannabis is either consumed locally or exported to countries other than the United States. I have determined that such illicit cannabis production does not significantly affect the United States.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-0802

Dear Senator Byrd:

In accordance with the provisions of section 490(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the "Foreign Assistance Act"), I have determined that the following are major illicit drug producing or major drug-transit countries:

Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

This year I have removed Hong Kong and Taiwan from the list of

major illicit drug
producing or major drug-transit countries (the "Majors List").

The Majors List, as required by section 490(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act, applies to "countries." The term "countries" is interpreted broadly to include certain entities that exercise autonomy over actions or omissions that would lead to a decision to place them on the list and subsequently to determine eligibility or certification. Therefore, in the past, the Majors List has included certain entities that are not sovereign states.

I wish to make clear that a country's presence on the list of major drug-transit countries is not necessarily an adverse reflection on its counterdrug efforts or on the level of its cooperation with the United States. Among the reasons that major drug-transit countries are placed on the list is the combination of geographical, commercial, and economic factors that allow drugs to transit through a country, in many cases despite the most assiduous enforcement measures.

I also wish to note my concern over the rising imports of foreign-origin, illegal synthetic drugs into the United States, especially MDMA ("Ecstasy") from Europe. We are still collecting information on this problem, and it is a trend that bears watching closely in future years.

CHANGES TO THE LIST

Removal of Hong Kong. Hong Kong has been considered a major drug-transit country since 1987, when the first Majors List was prepared. Its proximity to the Golden Triangle opium cultivation countries of Thailand, Laos, and Burma, along with its highly developed air and sea transport infrastructure, made it a logical transit point for trafficking organizations moving Southeast Asian heroin to the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Over the past few years, however, Hong Kong's role as a transit point for U.S.-bound drugs has declined markedly, due to several factors. Stringent enforcement measures and extradition agreements with various countries, including the United States, and the risk of having narcotics shipments seized, have become effective deterrents to shipping drugs through Hong Kong. At the same time, drug flows from China through Hong Kong have diminished significantly. As China continues to develop its coastal cargo-handling facilities and expands port operations in the south, there is less incentive for drug traffickers to re-export and transship cargo through Hong Kong.

Seizure rates in both the United States and Hong Kong suggest that trafficking organizations are no longer using Hong Kong as a transit point for U.S.-destined heroin. Since 1996, there have been no significant seizures in the United States of heroin linked with Hong Kong. Similarly, the Hong Kong authorities report that in the past two years they have made no large seizures locally of heroin destined for the United States. Consequently, I am removing Hong Kong from the Majors List and downgrading it to a country of concern. If in the future there is evidence of drug flows through Hong Kong that significantly affect the United States, Hong Kong will again be placed on the Majors List.

Removal of Taiwan. In the early 1990s, Taiwan became a transit point for Asian drug trafficking organizations moving heroin to the Western Hemisphere. The largest U.S. heroin seizure on record is the nearly half-ton of heroin that U.S. authorities discovered in Hayward, California in 1991. The drugs, which originated in China, had transited Taiwan en route to the United States. Given Taiwan's role in that transshipment and evidence of Taiwan-related drug flows to the United States at that time, I added Taiwan to the Majors List in 1995.

Taiwan's role as transit point for drugs destined for the United States, however, has changed radically in the past few years. More stringent law enforcement procedures, together with improved customs inspection and surveillance methods, have all but cut off serious flows of heroin from Taiwan to the United States. At the same time, the opening of major container ports in southern China has diminished Taiwan's importance for the drug trade.

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Central America. Central America's position as a land bridge between South America and Mexico, together with its thousands of miles of coastline, several container-handling ports, the Pan-American Highway, and limited law

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capability make the entire region a natural conduit and transshipment
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opium poppy cultivation in Lebanon's Biqa Valley. Recent surveys have confirmed that there has been no detectable replanting of opium poppy, and we have no evidence that drugs transiting these countries significantly affect the United States. We continue, however, to keep the area under observation.

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Sincerely,

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-4801

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Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

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Over the past few years, however, Hong Kong's role as a transit point
for
U.S.-bound drugs has declined markedly, due to several factors.
Stringent
enforcement measures and extradition agreements with various
countries, including
the United States, and the risk of having narcotics shipments seized,
have become
effective deterrents to shipping drugs through Hong Kong. At the
same time, drug
flows from China through Hong Kong have diminished significantly.
As China
continues to develop its coastal cargo-handling facilities and expands
port
operations in the south, there is less incentive for drug traffickers to
re-export and transship cargo through Hong Kong.

Seizure rates in both the United States and Hong Kong suggest that
trafficking
organizations are no longer using Hong Kong as a transit point for
U.S.-destined
heroin. Since 1996, there have been no significant seizures in the
United States
of heroin linked with Hong Kong. Similarly, the Hong Kong
authorities report
that in the past two years they have made no large seizures locally of
heroin
destined for the United States. Consequently, I am removing Hong
Kong from the
Majors List and downgrading it to a country of concern. If in the
future there
is evidence of drug flows through Hong Kong that significantly affect
the United
States, Hong Kong will again be placed on the Majors List.

Removal of Taiwan. In the early 1990s, Taiwan became a transit point
for Asian
drug trafficking organizations moving heroin to the Western
Hemisphere. The
largest U.S. heroin seizure on record is the nearly half-ton of heroin
that U.S.
authorities discovered in Hayward, California in 1991. The drugs,
which

originated in China, had transited Taiwan en route to the United States. Given Taiwan's role in that transshipment and evidence of Taiwan-related drug flows to the United States at that time, I added Taiwan to the Majors List in 1995.

Taiwan's role as transit point for drugs destined for the United States, however, has changed radically in the past few years. More stringent law enforcement procedures, together with improved customs inspection and surveillance methods, have all but cut off serious flows of heroin from Taiwan to the United States. At the same time, the opening of major container ports in southern China has diminished Taiwan's importance for the drug trade.

Since Taiwan was designated a major drug-transit country, there have been no seizures in the United States of heroin that transited Taiwan, nor have Taiwan authorities identified any important drug shipments destined for the United States. Therefore, I am removing Taiwan from the Majors List and downgrading it to a country of concern. If in the future we detect any drug flows through Taiwan that significantly affect the United States, Taiwan will again be placed on the Majors List.

COUNTRIES/ENTITIES AND REGIONS OF CONCERN

In addition to Hong Kong and Taiwan, the following are countries or regions of concern:

Belize. Belize was removed from the list of major drug-transit countries in 1999 because there was clear evidence that the drug trade was not currently using it as a transit point for drugs moving to the United States. If, at a future date, there is reliable information that U.S.-bound drugs are again moving through Belize in significant quantities, it will again be placed on the Majors List.

Central America. Central America's position as a land bridge between South America and Mexico, together with its thousands of miles of coastline, several container-handling ports, the Pan-American Highway, and limited law enforcement capability make the entire region a natural conduit and transshipment area for illicit drugs bound for Mexico and the United States. Currently, only Guatemala and Panama have been designated major drug-transit countries, since there is clear evidence that drug trafficking organizations use their territory to move significant quantities of illegal drugs to the United States. The same is not yet true of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, or Nicaragua.

Although there is no question that varying quantities of drugs do flow through these countries en route to the United States, the bulk of the traffic has shifted away from land routes. Stringent law enforcement and interdiction measures on land have forced trafficking organizations to move drugs along sea routes. In the event that there is evidence that drugs transiting these countries are having a significant effect on the United States, they will be added to the Majors List.

Iran. While Iran was once a traditional opium-producing country, the Government of Iran appears to have been successful in eradicating significant illicit opium poppy cultivation. The latest U.S. survey of the country revealed no detectable poppy cultivation in the traditional growing areas. Although one cannot rule out some cultivation in remote parts of the country, it is unlikely that it would be sufficient to meet the threshold definition of a major illicit drug producing country under section 481(e)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act.

Important quantities of opiates reportedly continue to transit Iran en route to Europe, but I have no evidence that these drugs significantly affect the United

States, a requirement for designation as a major drug-transit country under section 481(e)(5) of the Foreign Assistance Act. Moreover, Iran has taken extensive measures to thwart the use of its territory by drug traffickers, seizing well above 200 metric tons of drugs annually in recent years.

Malaysia. Malaysia was removed from the Majors List two years ago because there was no evidence that drugs transiting the country were reaching the United States in significant quantities. That situation has not changed since that time.

Eastern Caribbean. The Leeward and Windward Islands, together with Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, constitute a broad geographical area through which U.S.-bound drugs pass en route from Latin America. In the right circumstances, any country in the region could become a major drug-transit country. There is no evidence at this time, however, that any of these Eastern Caribbean nations is a major drug-transit country under the definition in section 481(e)(5) of the Foreign Assistance Act. The information available, however, indicates that drugs moving through the area are overwhelmingly destined for Europe. We are, therefore, keeping the region under observation. Relevant countries will be added to the Majors List, should conditions warrant.

Turkey and Other Balkan Route Countries. I am concerned by the large volume of Southwest Asian heroin that moves through Turkey and neighboring countries to Western Europe along the Balkan Route. There is no clear evidence, however, that this heroin significantly affects the United States, as required for a country to be designated a major drug-transit country. In the event that it is determined that heroin transiting Turkey, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, or other European countries on the Balkan Route significantly affects the United States,

the relevant countries will be added to the Majors List.

Syria and Lebanon. I removed Syria and Lebanon from the list of major illicit drug producers two years ago after we determined that there was no significant opium poppy cultivation in Lebanon's Biqa Valley. Recent surveys have confirmed that there has been no detectable replanting of opium poppy, and we have no evidence that drugs transiting these countries significantly affect the United States. We continue, however, to keep the area under observation.

North Korea. We have been unable to confirm reports that significant quantities of opium poppy may be under cultivation in North Korea or that heroin originating in the country may be entering the international drug trade. We continue, however, to monitor the situation. If there is evidence that there is indeed poppy cultivation of 1,000 hectares or more in North Korea or that North Korea is a transit point for drugs significantly affecting the United States, it will be added to the Majors List.

Cuba. Cuba's geographical position, straddling one of the principal Caribbean trafficking routes to the United States, makes it a logical candidate for consideration for the Majors List. While there have been some reports that trafficking syndicates use Cuban land territory for moving drugs, we have yet to receive any confirmation that this traffic carries significant quantities of cocaine or heroin to the United States. Moreover, in 2000, much of the suspect air traffic that previously crossed Cuban airspace has now shifted away to Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic).

I will continue to keep Cuba under careful observation for any changes in current transit patterns. If there is evidence of significant quantities of drugs transiting Cuba to the United States, Cuba will be added to the Majors List.

Central Asia. Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are traditional opium poppy growing areas of the former Soviet Union. However, we have not found evidence of significant opium poppy cultivation. If ongoing analysis reveals cultivation of 1,000 hectares or more of poppy, the relevant countries will be added to the Majors List.

Major Cannabis Producers. While Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, the Philippines, and South Africa are important cannabis producers, I have not included them on this list since in all cases the illicit cannabis is either consumed locally or exported to countries other than the United States. I have determined that such illicit cannabis production does not significantly affect the United States.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Sam Gejdenson
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0702

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the provisions of section 490(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act

of 1961, as amended (the "Foreign Assistance Act"), I have determined that the following are major illicit drug producing or major drug-transit countries:

Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

This year I have removed Hong Kong and Taiwan from the list of major illicit drug producing or major drug-transit countries (the "Majors List").

The Majors List, as required by section 490(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act, applies to "countries." The term "countries" is interpreted broadly to include certain entities that exercise autonomy over actions or omissions that would lead to a decision to place them on the list and subsequently to determine eligibility or certification. Therefore, in the past, the Majors List has included certain entities that are not sovereign states.

I wish to make clear that a country's presence on the list of major drug-transit countries is not necessarily an adverse reflection on its counterdrug efforts or on the level of its cooperation with the United States. Among the reasons that major drug-transit countries are placed on the list is the combination of geographical, commercial, and economic factors that allow drugs to transit through a country, in many cases despite the most assiduous enforcement measures.

I also wish to note my concern over the rising imports of foreign-origin, illegal synthetic drugs into the United States, especially MDMA ("Ecstasy") from Europe.

We are still collecting information on this problem, and it is a trend that bears watching closely in future years.

CHANGES TO THE LIST

Removal of Hong Kong. Hong Kong has been considered a major drug-transit country since 1987, when the first Majors List was prepared. Its proximity to the Golden Triangle opium cultivation countries of Thailand, Laos, and Burma, along with its highly developed air and sea transport infrastructure, made it a logical transit point for trafficking organizations moving Southeast Asian heroin to the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Over the past few years, however, Hong Kong's role as a transit point for U.S.-bound drugs has declined markedly, due to several factors. Stringent enforcement measures and extradition agreements with various countries, including the United States, and the risk of having narcotics shipments seized, have become effective deterrents to shipping drugs through Hong Kong. At the same time, drug flows from China through Hong Kong have diminished significantly. As China continues to develop its coastal cargo-handling facilities and expands port operations in the south, there is less incentive for drug traffickers to re-export and transship cargo through Hong Kong.

Seizure rates in both the United States and Hong Kong suggest that trafficking organizations are no longer using Hong Kong as a transit point for U.S.-destined heroin. Since 1996, there have been no significant seizures in the United States of heroin linked with Hong Kong. Similarly, the Hong Kong authorities report that in the past two years they have made no large seizures locally of heroin destined for the United States. Consequently, I am removing Hong Kong from the Majors List and downgrading it to a country of concern. If in the future there is evidence of drug flows through Hong Kong that significantly affect the United States, Hong Kong will again be placed on the Majors List.

Removal of Taiwan. In the early 1990s, Taiwan became a transit point for Asian

drug trafficking organizations moving heroin to the Western Hemisphere. The largest U.S. heroin seizure on record is the nearly half-ton of heroin that U.S. authorities discovered in Hayward, California in 1991. The drugs, which originated in China, had transited Taiwan en route to the United States. Given Taiwan's role in that transshipment and evidence of Taiwan-related drug flows to the United States at that time, I added Taiwan to the Majors List in 1995.

Taiwan's role as transit point for drugs destined for the United States, however, has changed radically in the past few years. More stringent law enforcement procedures, together with improved customs inspection and surveillance methods, have all but cut off serious flows of heroin from Taiwan to the United States. At the same time, the opening of major container ports in southern China has diminished Taiwan's importance for the drug trade.

Since Taiwan was designated a major drug-transit country, there have been no seizures in the United States of heroin that transited Taiwan, nor have Taiwan authorities identified any important drug shipments destined for the United States. Therefore, I am removing Taiwan from the Majors List and downgrading it to a country of concern. If in the future we detect any drug flows through Taiwan that significantly affect the United States, Taiwan will again be placed on the Majors List.

COUNTRIES/ENTITIES AND REGIONS OF CONCERN

In addition to Hong Kong and Taiwan, the following are countries or regions of concern:

Belize. Belize was removed from the list of major drug-transit countries in 1999 because there was clear evidence that the drug trade was not currently using it as a transit point for drugs moving to the United States. If, at a

future
date, there is reliable information that U.S.-bound drugs are again
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Central America. Central America's position as a land bridge between
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Although there is no question that varying quantities of drugs do flow
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Important quantities of opiates reportedly continue to transit Iran en route to Europe, but I have no evidence that these drugs significantly affect the United States, a requirement for designation as a major drug-transit country under section 481(e)(5) of the Foreign Assistance Act. Moreover, Iran has taken extensive measures to thwart the use of its territory by drug traffickers, seizing well above 200 metric tons of drugs annually in recent years.

Malaysia. Malaysia was removed from the Majors List two years ago because there was no evidence that drugs transiting the country were reaching the United States in significant quantities. That situation has not changed since that time.

Eastern Caribbean. The Leeward and Windward Islands, together with Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, constitute a broad geographical area through which U.S.-bound drugs pass en route from Latin America. In the right circumstances, any country in the region could become a major drug-transit country. There is no evidence at this time, however, that any of these Eastern Caribbean nations is a major drug-transit country under the definition in section 481(e)(5) of the Foreign Assistance Act. The information available, however, indicates that drugs moving through the area are overwhelmingly destined for Europe. We are, therefore, keeping the region under observation. Relevant countries will be added to the Majors List, should conditions warrant.

Turkey and Other Balkan Route Countries. I am concerned by the large volume of Southwest Asian heroin that moves through Turkey and neighboring countries to Western Europe along the Balkan Route. There is no clear evidence, however, that this heroin significantly affects the United States, as required for a country to be designated a major drug-transit country. In the event that it is

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that heroin transiting Turkey, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, or other European countries on the Balkan Route significantly affects the United States,
the relevant countries will be added to the Majors List.

Syria and Lebanon. I removed Syria and Lebanon from the list of major illicit drug producers two years ago after we determined that there was no significant opium poppy cultivation in Lebanon's Biqa Valley. Recent surveys have confirmed that there has been no detectable replanting of opium poppy, and we have no evidence that drugs transiting these countries significantly affect the United States. We continue, however, to keep the area under observation.

North Korea. We have been unable to confirm reports that significant quantities of opium poppy may be under cultivation in North Korea or that heroin originating in the country may be entering the international drug trade. We continue, however, to monitor the situation. If there is evidence that there is indeed poppy cultivation of 1,000 hectares or more in North Korea or that North Korea is a transit point for drugs significantly affecting the United States, it will be added to the Majors List.

Cuba. Cuba's geographical position, straddling one of the principal Caribbean trafficking routes to the United States, makes it a logical candidate for consideration for the Majors List. While there have been some reports that trafficking syndicates use Cuban land territory for moving drugs, we have yet to receive any confirmation that this traffic carries significant quantities of cocaine or heroin to the United States. Moreover, in 2000, much of the suspect air traffic that previously crossed Cuban airspace has now shifted away to Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic).

I will continue to keep Cuba under careful observation for any

changes in current transit patterns. If there is evidence of significant quantities of drugs transiting Cuba to the United States, Cuba will be added to the Majors List.

Central Asia. Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are traditional opium poppy growing areas of the former Soviet Union. However, we have not found evidence of significant opium poppy cultivation. If ongoing analysis reveals cultivation of 1,000 hectares or more of poppy, the relevant countries will be added to the Majors List.

Major Cannabis Producers. While Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, the Philippines, and South Africa are important cannabis producers, I have not included them on this list since in all cases the illicit cannabis is either consumed locally or exported to countries other than the United States. I have determined that such illicit cannabis production does not significantly affect the United States.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Benjamin A. Gilman
Chairman
Committee on International Relations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3220

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the provisions of section 490(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act

of 1961, as amended (the "Foreign Assistance Act"), I have determined that the

following are major illicit drug producing or major drug-transit countries:

Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, China, Colombia,

Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico,

Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

This year I have removed Hong Kong and Taiwan from the list of major illicit drug

producing or major drug-transit countries (the "Majors List").

The Majors List, as required by section 490(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act,

applies to "countries." The term "countries" is interpreted broadly to include

certain entities that exercise autonomy over actions or omissions that would lead

to a decision to place them on the list and subsequently to determine eligibility

or certification. Therefore, in the past, the Majors List has included certain

entities that are not sovereign states.

I wish to make clear that a country's presence on the list of major drug-transit

countries is not necessarily an adverse reflection on its counterdrug efforts or

on the level of its cooperation with the United States. Among the reasons that

major drug-transit countries are placed on the list is the combination of

geographical, commercial, and economic factors that allow drugs to transit

through a country, in many cases despite the most assiduous enforcement measures.

I also wish to note my concern over the rising imports of foreign-

origin, illegal
synthetic drugs into the United States, especially MDMA ("Ecstasy")
from Europe.
We are still collecting information on this problem, and it is a trend
that bears
watching closely in future years.

CHANGES TO THE LIST

Removal of Hong Kong. Hong Kong has been considered a major
drug-transit
country since 1987, when the first Majors List was prepared. Its
proximity to
the Golden Triangle opium cultivation countries of Thailand, Laos,
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Over the past few years, however, Hong Kong's role as a transit point
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Taiwan's role as transit point for drugs destined for the United States, however, has changed radically in the past few years. More stringent law enforcement procedures, together with improved customs inspection and surveillance methods, have all but cut off serious flows of heroin from Taiwan to the United States. At the same time, the opening of major container ports in southern China has diminished Taiwan's importance for the drug trade.

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large volume of Southwest Asian heroin that moves through Turkey and neighboring countries to Western Europe along the Balkan Route. There is no clear evidence, however, that this heroin significantly affects the United States, as required for a country to be designated a major drug-transit country. In the event that it is determined that heroin transiting Turkey, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, or other European countries on the Balkan Route significantly affects the United States, the relevant countries will be added to the Majors List.

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Sincerely,

The Honorable Jesse Helms
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-3301

Dear Representative Obey:

In accordance with the provisions of section 490(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the "Foreign Assistance Act"), I have determined that the following are major illicit drug producing or major drug-transit countries:

Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

This year I have removed Hong Kong and Taiwan from the list of major illicit drug producing or major drug-transit countries (the "Majors List").

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organizations are no longer using Hong Kong as a transit point for
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heroin. Since 1996, there have been no significant seizures in the United States of heroin linked with Hong Kong. Similarly, the Hong Kong authorities report that in the past two years they have made no large seizures locally of heroin destined for the United States. Consequently, I am removing Hong Kong from the Majors List and downgrading it to a country of concern. If in the future there is evidence of drug flows through Hong Kong that significantly affect the United States, Hong Kong will again be placed on the Majors List.

Removal of Taiwan. In the early 1990s, Taiwan became a transit point for Asian drug trafficking organizations moving heroin to the Western Hemisphere. The largest U.S. heroin seizure on record is the nearly half-ton of heroin that U.S. authorities discovered in Hayward, California in 1991. The drugs, which originated in China, had transited Taiwan en route to the United States. Given Taiwan's role in that transshipment and evidence of Taiwan-related drug flows to the United States at that time, I added Taiwan to the Majors List in 1995.

Taiwan's role as transit point for drugs destined for the United States, however, has changed radically in the past few years. More stringent law enforcement procedures, together with improved customs inspection and surveillance methods, have all but cut off serious flows of heroin from Taiwan to the United States. At the same time, the opening of major container ports in southern China has diminished Taiwan's importance for the drug trade.

Since Taiwan was designated a major drug-transit country, there have been no seizures in the United States of heroin that transited Taiwan, nor have Taiwan authorities identified any important drug shipments destined for the United States. Therefore, I am removing Taiwan from the Majors List and downgrading it to a country of concern. If in the future we detect any drug flows

through
Taiwan that significantly affect the United States, Taiwan will again
be placed
on the Majors List.

COUNTRIES/ENTITIES AND REGIONS OF CONCERN

In addition to Hong Kong and Taiwan, the following are countries or
regions of
concern:

Belize. Belize was removed from the list of major drug-transit
countries in
1999 because there was clear evidence that the drug trade was not
currently using
it as a transit point for drugs moving to the United States. If, at a
future
date, there is reliable information that U.S.-bound drugs are again
moving
through Belize in significant quantities, it will again be placed on the
Majors
List.

Central America. Central America's position as a land bridge between
South
America and Mexico, together with its thousands of miles of
coastline, several
container-handling ports, the Pan-American Highway, and limited law
enforcement
capability make the entire region a natural conduit and transshipment
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illicit drugs bound for Mexico and the United States. Currently, only
Guatemala
and Panama have been designated major drug-transit countries, since
there is
clear evidence that drug trafficking organizations use their territory to
move
significant quantities of illegal drugs to the United States. The same is
not
yet true of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, or Nicaragua.

Although there is no question that varying quantities of drugs do flow
through
these countries en route to the United States, the bulk of the traffic has
shifted away from land routes. Stringent law enforcement and
interdiction
measures on land have forced trafficking organizations to move drugs
along sea
routes. In the event that there is evidence that drugs transiting these

countries are having a significant effect on the United States, they will be added to the Majors List.

Iran. While Iran was once a traditional opium-producing country, the Government of Iran appears to have been successful in eradicating significant illicit opium poppy cultivation. The latest U.S. survey of the country revealed no detectable poppy cultivation in the traditional growing areas. Although one cannot rule out some cultivation in remote parts of the country, it is unlikely that it would be sufficient to meet the threshold definition of a major illicit drug producing country under section 481(e)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act.

Important quantities of opiates reportedly continue to transit Iran en route to Europe, but I have no evidence that these drugs significantly affect the United States, a requirement for designation as a major drug-transit country under section 481(e)(5) of the Foreign Assistance Act. Moreover, Iran has taken extensive measures to thwart the use of its territory by drug traffickers, seizing well above 200 metric tons of drugs annually in recent years.

Malaysia. Malaysia was removed from the Majors List two years ago because there was no evidence that drugs transiting the country were reaching the United States in significant quantities. That situation has not changed since that time.

Eastern Caribbean. The Leeward and Windward Islands, together with Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, constitute a broad geographical area through which U.S.-bound drugs pass en route from Latin America. In the right circumstances, any country in the region could become a major drug-transit country. There is no evidence at this time, however, that any of these Eastern Caribbean nations is a major drug-transit country under the definition in section 481(e)(5) of the Foreign Assistance Act. The information available, however, indicates

that drugs moving through the area are overwhelmingly destined for Europe. We are, therefore, keeping the region under observation. Relevant countries will be added to the Majors List, should conditions warrant.

Turkey and Other Balkan Route Countries. I am concerned by the large volume of Southwest Asian heroin that moves through Turkey and neighboring countries to Western Europe along the Balkan Route. There is no clear evidence, however, that this heroin significantly affects the United States, as required for a country to be designated a major drug-transit country. In the event that it is determined that heroin transiting Turkey, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, or other European countries on the Balkan Route significantly affects the United States, the relevant countries will be added to the Majors List.

Syria and Lebanon. I removed Syria and Lebanon from the list of major illicit drug producers two years ago after we determined that there was no significant opium poppy cultivation in Lebanon's Biqa Valley. Recent surveys have confirmed that there has been no detectable replanting of opium poppy, and we have no evidence that drugs transiting these countries significantly affect the United States. We continue, however, to keep the area under observation.

North Korea. We have been unable to confirm reports that significant quantities of opium poppy may be under cultivation in North Korea or that heroin originating in the country may be entering the international drug trade. We continue, however, to monitor the situation. If there is evidence that there is indeed poppy cultivation of 1,000 hectares or more in North Korea or that North Korea is a transit point for drugs significantly affecting the United States, it will be added to the Majors List.

Cuba. Cuba's geographical position, straddling one of the principal Caribbean trafficking routes to the United States, makes it a logical candidate for consideration for the Majors List. While there have been some reports that trafficking syndicates use Cuban land territory for moving drugs, we have yet to receive any confirmation that this traffic carries significant quantities of cocaine or heroin to the United States. Moreover, in 2000, much of the suspect air traffic that previously crossed Cuban airspace has now shifted away to Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic).

I will continue to keep Cuba under careful observation for any changes in current transit patterns. If there is evidence of significant quantities of drugs transiting Cuba to the United States, Cuba will be added to the Majors List.

Central Asia. Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are traditional opium poppy growing areas of the former Soviet Union. However, we have not found evidence of significant opium poppy cultivation. If ongoing analysis reveals cultivation of 1,000 hectares or more of poppy, the relevant countries will be added to the Majors List.

Major Cannabis Producers. While Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, the Philippines, and South Africa are important cannabis producers, I have not included them on this list since in all cases the illicit cannabis is either consumed locally or exported to countries other than the United States. I have determined that such illicit cannabis production does not significantly affect the United States.

Sincerely,

The Honorable David R. Obey
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-4907

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the provisions of section 490(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the "Foreign Assistance Act"), I have determined that the following are major illicit drug producing or major drug-transit countries:

Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

This year I have removed Hong Kong and Taiwan from the list of major illicit drug producing or major drug-transit countries (the "Majors List").

The Majors List, as required by section 490(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act, applies to "countries." The term "countries" is interpreted broadly to include certain entities that exercise autonomy over actions or omissions that would lead to a decision to place them on the list and subsequently to determine eligibility or certification. Therefore, in the past, the Majors List has included certain entities that are not sovereign states.

I wish to make clear that a country's presence on the list of major

drug-transit countries is not necessarily an adverse reflection on its counterdrug efforts or on the level of its cooperation with the United States. Among the reasons that major drug-transit countries are placed on the list is the combination of geographical, commercial, and economic factors that allow drugs to transit through a country, in many cases despite the most assiduous enforcement measures.

I also wish to note my concern over the rising imports of foreign-origin, illegal synthetic drugs into the United States, especially MDMA ("Ecstasy") from Europe. We are still collecting information on this problem, and it is a trend that bears watching closely in future years.

CHANGES TO THE LIST

Removal of Hong Kong. Hong Kong has been considered a major drug-transit country since 1987, when the first Majors List was prepared. Its proximity to the Golden Triangle opium cultivation countries of Thailand, Laos, and Burma, along with its highly developed air and sea transport infrastructure, made it a logical transit point for trafficking organizations moving Southeast Asian heroin to the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Over the past few years, however, Hong Kong's role as a transit point for U.S.-bound drugs has declined markedly, due to several factors. Stringent enforcement measures and extradition agreements with various countries, including the United States, and the risk of having narcotics shipments seized, have become effective deterrents to shipping drugs through Hong Kong. At the same time, drug flows from China through Hong Kong have diminished significantly. As China continues to develop its coastal cargo-handling facilities and expands port operations in the south, there is less incentive for drug traffickers to

re-export and transship cargo through Hong Kong.

Seizure rates in both the United States and Hong Kong suggest that trafficking organizations are no longer using Hong Kong as a transit point for U.S.-destined heroin. Since 1996, there have been no significant seizures in the United States of heroin linked with Hong Kong. Similarly, the Hong Kong authorities report that in the past two years they have made no large seizures locally of heroin destined for the United States. Consequently, I am removing Hong Kong from the Majors List and downgrading it to a country of concern. If in the future there is evidence of drug flows through Hong Kong that significantly affect the United States, Hong Kong will again be placed on the Majors List.

Removal of Taiwan. In the early 1990s, Taiwan became a transit point for Asian drug trafficking organizations moving heroin to the Western Hemisphere. The largest U.S. heroin seizure on record is the nearly half-ton of heroin that U.S. authorities discovered in Hayward, California in 1991. The drugs, which originated in China, had transited Taiwan en route to the United States. Given Taiwan's role in that transshipment and evidence of Taiwan-related drug flows to the United States at that time, I added Taiwan to the Majors List in 1995.

Taiwan's role as transit point for drugs destined for the United States, however, has changed radically in the past few years. More stringent law enforcement procedures, together with improved customs inspection and surveillance methods, have all but cut off serious flows of heroin from Taiwan to the United States. At the same time, the opening of major container ports in southern China has diminished Taiwan's importance for the drug trade.

Since Taiwan was designated a major drug-transit country, there have been no seizures in the United States of heroin that transited Taiwan, nor have

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authorities identified any important drug shipments destined for the
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COUNTRIES/ENTITIES AND REGIONS OF CONCERN

In addition to Hong Kong and Taiwan, the following are countries or
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Belize. Belize was removed from the list of major drug-transit
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through Belize in significant quantities, it will again be placed on the
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Central America. Central America's position as a land bridge between
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America and Mexico, together with its thousands of miles of
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container-handling ports, the Pan-American Highway, and limited law
enforcement
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Although there is no question that varying quantities of drugs do flow
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these countries en route to the United States, the bulk of the traffic has

shifted away from land routes. Stringent law enforcement and interdiction measures on land have forced trafficking organizations to move drugs along sea routes. In the event that there is evidence that drugs transiting these countries are having a significant effect on the United States, they will be added to the Majors List.

Iran. While Iran was once a traditional opium-producing country, the Government of Iran appears to have been successful in eradicating significant illicit opium poppy cultivation. The latest U.S. survey of the country revealed no detectable poppy cultivation in the traditional growing areas. Although one cannot rule out some cultivation in remote parts of the country, it is unlikely that it would be sufficient to meet the threshold definition of a major illicit drug producing country under section 481(e)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act.

Important quantities of opiates reportedly continue to transit Iran en route to Europe, but I have no evidence that these drugs significantly affect the United States, a requirement for designation as a major drug-transit country under section 481(e)(5) of the Foreign Assistance Act. Moreover, Iran has taken extensive measures to thwart the use of its territory by drug traffickers, seizing well above 200 metric tons of drugs annually in recent years.

Malaysia. Malaysia was removed from the Majors List two years ago because there was no evidence that drugs transiting the country were reaching the United States in significant quantities. That situation has not changed since that time.

Eastern Caribbean. The Leeward and Windward Islands, together with Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, constitute a broad geographical area through which U.S.-bound drugs pass en route from Latin America. In the right circumstances, any country in the region could become a major drug-transit country.

There is no evidence at this time, however, that any of these Eastern Caribbean nations is a major drug-transit country under the definition in section 481(e)(5) of the Foreign Assistance Act. The information available, however, indicates that drugs moving through the area are overwhelmingly destined for Europe. We are, therefore, keeping the region under observation. Relevant countries will be added to the Majors List, should conditions warrant.

Turkey and Other Balkan Route Countries. I am concerned by the large volume of Southwest Asian heroin that moves through Turkey and neighboring countries to Western Europe along the Balkan Route. There is no clear evidence, however, that this heroin significantly affects the United States, as required for a country to be designated a major drug-transit country. In the event that it is determined that heroin transiting Turkey, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, or other European countries on the Balkan Route significantly affects the United States, the relevant countries will be added to the Majors List.

Syria and Lebanon. I removed Syria and Lebanon from the list of major illicit drug producers two years ago after we determined that there was no significant opium poppy cultivation in Lebanon's Biqa Valley. Recent surveys have confirmed that there has been no detectable replanting of opium poppy, and we have no evidence that drugs transiting these countries significantly affect the United States. We continue, however, to keep the area under observation.

North Korea. We have been unable to confirm reports that significant quantities of opium poppy may be under cultivation in North Korea or that heroin originating in the country may be entering the international drug trade. We continue, however, to monitor the situation. If there is evidence that there is indeed

poppy cultivation of 1,000 hectares or more in North Korea or that North Korea is a transit point for drugs significantly affecting the United States, it will be added to the Majors List.

Cuba. Cuba's geographical position, straddling one of the principal Caribbean trafficking routes to the United States, makes it a logical candidate for consideration for the Majors List. While there have been some reports that trafficking syndicates use Cuban land territory for moving drugs, we have yet to receive any confirmation that this traffic carries significant quantities of cocaine or heroin to the United States. Moreover, in 2000, much of the suspect air traffic that previously crossed Cuban airspace has now shifted away to Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic).

I will continue to keep Cuba under careful observation for any changes in current transit patterns. If there is evidence of significant quantities of drugs transiting Cuba to the United States, Cuba will be added to the Majors List.

Central Asia. Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are traditional opium poppy growing areas of the former Soviet Union. However, we have not found evidence of significant opium poppy cultivation. If ongoing analysis reveals cultivation of 1,000 hectares or more of poppy, the relevant countries will be added to the Majors List.

Major Cannabis Producers. While Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, the Philippines, and South Africa are important cannabis producers, I have not included them on this list since in all cases the illicit cannabis is either consumed locally or exported to countries other than the United States. I have determined that such illicit cannabis production does not significantly affect the United States.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-0201

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the provisions of section 490(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act

of 1961, as amended (the "Foreign Assistance Act"), I have determined that the

following are major illicit drug producing or major drug-transit countries:

Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

This year I have removed Hong Kong and Taiwan from the list of major illicit drug producing or major drug-transit countries (the "Majors List").

The Majors List, as required by section 490(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act,

applies to "countries." The term "countries" is interpreted broadly to include

certain entities that exercise autonomy over actions or omissions that

would lead to a decision to place them on the list and subsequently to determine eligibility or certification. Therefore, in the past, the Majors List has included certain entities that are not sovereign states.

I wish to make clear that a country's presence on the list of major drug-transit countries is not necessarily an adverse reflection on its counterdrug efforts or on the level of its cooperation with the United States. Among the reasons that major drug-transit countries are placed on the list is the combination of geographical, commercial, and economic factors that allow drugs to transit through a country, in many cases despite the most assiduous enforcement measures.

I also wish to note my concern over the rising imports of foreign-origin, illegal synthetic drugs into the United States, especially MDMA ("Ecstasy") from Europe. We are still collecting information on this problem, and it is a trend that bears watching closely in future years.

CHANGES TO THE LIST

Removal of Hong Kong. Hong Kong has been considered a major drug-transit country since 1987, when the first Majors List was prepared. Its proximity to the Golden Triangle opium cultivation countries of Thailand, Laos, and Burma, along with its highly developed air and sea transport infrastructure, made it a logical transit point for trafficking organizations moving Southeast Asian heroin to the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Over the past few years, however, Hong Kong's role as a transit point for U.S.-bound drugs has declined markedly, due to several factors. Stringent enforcement measures and extradition agreements with various countries, including the United States, and the risk of having narcotics shipments seized,

have become effective deterrents to shipping drugs through Hong Kong. At the same time, drug flows from China through Hong Kong have diminished significantly. As China continues to develop its coastal cargo-handling facilities and expands port operations in the south, there is less incentive for drug traffickers to re-export and transship cargo through Hong Kong.

Seizure rates in both the United States and Hong Kong suggest that trafficking organizations are no longer using Hong Kong as a transit point for U.S.-destined heroin. Since 1996, there have been no significant seizures in the United States of heroin linked with Hong Kong. Similarly, the Hong Kong authorities report that in the past two years they have made no large seizures locally of heroin destined for the United States. Consequently, I am removing Hong Kong from the Majors List and downgrading it to a country of concern. If in the future there is evidence of drug flows through Hong Kong that significantly affect the United States, Hong Kong will again be placed on the Majors List.

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COUNTRIES/ENTITIES AND REGIONS OF CONCERN

In addition to Hong Kong and Taiwan, the following are countries or regions of concern:

Belize. Belize was removed from the list of major drug-transit countries in 1999 because there was clear evidence that the drug trade was not currently using it as a transit point for drugs moving to the United States. If, at a future date, there is reliable information that U.S.-bound drugs are again moving through Belize in significant quantities, it will again be placed on the Majors List.

Central America. Central America's position as a land bridge between South America and Mexico, together with its thousands of miles of coastline, several container-handling ports, the Pan-American Highway, and limited law enforcement capability make the entire region a natural conduit and transshipment area for illicit drugs bound for Mexico and the United States. Currently, only Guatemala and Panama have been designated major drug-transit countries, since there is clear evidence that drug trafficking organizations use their territory to

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included them on this list since in all cases the illicit cannabis is either consumed locally or exported to countries other than the United States. I have determined that such illicit cannabis production does not significantly affect the United States.

Sincerely,

The Honorable C.W. "Bill" Young
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0910

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Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 11/09/2000 9:53:45 AM
FROM Edwards, Joan K. (NONPRO)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT Letters you get the letters [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Burrell, Christina L. (LEGIS)

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY

Here they R!

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

6688ltrs.doc

Dear Russ:

Thank you for your letter to the President regarding his recent decision to adjust controls on the export of high performance computers. As you know, the President made his decision based on the consensus recommendation of the Department of Defense, State, Energy and Commerce.

We appreciate your effort to assist in keeping U.S. industry informed about problems end-users and programs of proliferation concern. The list of firms that you provided has been sent to Secretary of Commerce Mineta. The Commerce Department oversees the interagency process that evaluates information regarding

suspected end-users and programs of concern for possible publication in the Export Administration Regulations. The Departments of Defense, State, Energy, and the Intelligence Community participate actively in this process. We have asked Secretary Mineta to respond to you directly regarding the results of his Department's review of the list you provided.

Sincerely,

Miles Lackey
Special Assistant to the President
and Senior Director for
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Russell Feingold
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-4904

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

Miles Lackey
Special Assistant to the President
and Senior Director for
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Jesse Helms
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-3301

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