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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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TEXT
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SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON BARBIE TRIAL

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FOR COORDINATION WITH State

THE BARBIE TRIAL CONTINUES TO BE FRONT-PAGE NEWS HERE IN ALL OF THE NATIONAL DAILIES, WITH SOME NEWSPAPERS GIVING IT A 2 - 3 PAGE SPREAD EVERY DAY. IN A RECENT TRIP TO THE PROVINCES, LOCAL JOURNALISTS BOMBARDED THE AMBASSADOR WITH QUESTIONS ON THE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARDS THIS TRIAL. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY OFFICIALLY-APPROVED GUIDANCE, WE ARE USING THE FOLLOWING ON AN "IF-ASKED" BASIS, AND WOULD APPRECIATE EITHER APPROVAL OR SUGGESTED MODIFICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT:

Q: WHAT IS THE USG POSITION ON THE TRIAL OF KLAUS BARBIE?

A: THIS TRIAL IS A MATTER FOR THE FRENCH COURTS. WE WILL HAVE NO COMMENT ON IT.

Q: WHAT ABOUT ALLEGATIONS THAT THE USG PLAYED A ROLE IN HELPING BARBIE FLEE? OR EVEN THAT THE USG EMPLOYED

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BARBIE AFTER THE WAR?

A: THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CONDUCTED A THOROUGH STUDY AND PUBLISHED A REPORT IN 1983 ON CONTACTS BETWEEN THE US ARMY AND **KLAUS BARBIE** AFTER THE WAR. THIS REPORT IS AVAILABLE PUBLICLY.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE GENERAL USEFULNESS OR LACK THEREOF OF STIRRING UP THESE MEMORIES? HAS THE TIME COME TO FORGET ABOUT NAZI WAR CRIMES?

A: NO; WE MUST NEVER FORGET THE HORRORS OF NAZISM. YOUNG PEOPLE, IN PARTICULAR, NEED TO STUDY HISTORY AND LEARN FROM IT SO THAT NO ONE WILL EVER AGAIN MAKE THE SAME TERRIBLE MISTAKES. BARRACLOUGH##

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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