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TEXT

TAGS: OPRC

SUBJECT: EUR DAILY PRESS GUIDANCES - OCTOBER 18, 1989

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE GUIDANCES OF EUROPEAN INTEREST FROM TODAY'S DEPARTMENT NOON BRIEFING. SPOKESMAN MARGARET TUTWILER WAS THE BRIEFER.

2. EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE (VERBATIM EXCERPTS)

ON THE EARTHQUAKE, I WANTED TO LET YOU ALL KNOW THAT THE DEPARTMENT SENT OUT CABLES LAST NIGHT TO 43 POSTS OVERSEAS ASKING THEM TO REPORT ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CIRCUMSTANCES, INCLUDING DAMAGE SUSTAINED TO THEIR HOST COUNTRY'S CONSULATE OFFICES IN SAN FRANCISCO. WE HAVE

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FOLLOWED UP WITH THEIR EMBASSIES HERE IN WASHINGTON FOR ANY INFORMATION NEEDS THEY MAY HAVE.

OUR ROLE IS TO KEEP IN MIND THE FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY BASED IN SAN FRANCISCO WHO MAY NEED SPECIAL HELP. THE REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED SO FAR HAVE INDICATED NO INJURIES OR MAJOR STRUCTURAL DAMAGE TO THE CONSULATES.

SEVERAL COUNTRIES HAVE OFFERED US ASSISTANCE. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED TO SEND A 25-PERSON TEAM TO HELP IN RESCUE EFFORTS. THE SOVIET UNION OFFERED ASSISTANCE. WE ARE EVALUATING THESE OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE TO SEE IF ANY IS NEEDED.

WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED CONDOLENCE MESSAGES FROM GREECE, THE PHILIPPINES, AND THE SOVIET UNION; AND CONDOLENCE MESSAGES ARE CONTINUING TO POUR IN...

Q: MARGARET, CAN YOU BE ANY MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT THE CONDOLENCE MESSAGES FROM, FOR EXAMPLE, THE SOVIET UNION?

A: THE ONE THAT I READ THAT WAS TO SECRETARY BAKER WAS FROM MINISTER SHEVARDNADZE. IT BASICALLY SAID THEY WISH TO EXTEND THEIR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS -- IT WAS A NORMAL CONDOLENCE MESSAGE -- AND ANY ASSISTANCE THAT THEY COULD NEED. I DON'T KNOW IF THERE HAS BEEN ONE RECEIVED AT THE WHITE HOUSE. I JUST DON'T KNOW. I JUST KNOW ABOUT BAKER'S.

Q: MARGARET, WAS THAT THE OFFER OF ASSISTANCE THAT YOU REFERRED TO EARLIER, OR HAS THERE BEEN A MORE SPECIFIC OFFER OF ASSISTANCE FROM SHEVARDNADZE?

A: I DON'T HAVE A SPECIFIC; NO.

Q: COULD YOU RELEASE THE SHEVARDNADZE MESSAGE?

A: I'LL HAVE TO ASK. I DON'T KNOW.

Q: WHEN YOU SAY YOU SENT CABLES TO 43 POSTS, IF I UNDERSTAND YOU CORRECTLY, YOU WERE ASKING THE HOST GOVERNMENTS IF THEY KNOW THAT THEIR CONSULATES IN THE U.S. WERE DAMAGED?

A: WE WANTED TO IMMEDIATELY GET OUT TO THESE GOVERNMENTS -- I DIDN'T READ THE CABLES; I'M ASSUMING -- WHAT HAPPENED, WHAT'S GOING ON. "WE'RE HERE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE. PLEASE HAVE YOUR CONSULATES BE IN TOUCH WITH US," IS WHAT I'M ASSUMING WE DID. I ASSUME WE DID 43 OF THEM BECAUSE THERE ARE 43 IN SAN FRANCISCO.

Q: THAT WAS MY NEXT QUESTION. YOU ASSUME THERE ARE 43 CONSULATES?

A: I'D HAVE TO ASSUME THERE ARE 43 IN SAN FRANCISCO.

Q: AND YOU HAVE NO REPORT OF INJURY OR MAJOR DAMAGE TO

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ANY OF THOSE CONSULATES THAT YOU KNOW OF AT THIS POINT?

A: NOT AS OF THIS BRIEFING, I DO NOT.

Q: MARGARET, I KNOW YOU SAID THAT OTHER NATIONS' MESSAGES ARE POURING IN, BUT --

A: THEY SAID "IT'S POURING IN."

Q: I THOUGHT I HAD READ, OR I GUESS HEARD, THAT JAPAN HAD MADE A VERY SPECIFIC OFFER OF SOME SORT, OF ASSISTANCE. ARE YOU AWARE OF ANYTHING SPECIFIC?

A: IF THEY HAVE, RALPH, I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING SPECIFIC ON IT.

Q: WHAT IS THE NATURE OF SOME OF THESE OFFERS? ARE THEY MONETARY? ARE THEY EQUIPMENT OR PERSONNEL?

A: I DON'T HAVE THE SPECIFICS FOR YOU. I BELIEVE I MENTIONED THE SPECIFIC GREEK ONE, AND I SAID THAT WE ARE LOOKING AT IT. THERE'S A GOVERNMENT-WIDE (EFFORT), AS YOU KNOW FROM MARLIN'S BRIEFING AND FROM EVERYTHING THAT'S ON THE TV, WITH FEMA, WITH ALL OF OUR OWN AGENCIES; SO AS DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE AS WE ARE OF THESE OFFERS OF HELP, WE ALSO HAVE TO SEE IF THERE IS A NEED, IF WE HAVE OUR OWN CAPABILITIES HERE TO HANDLE THE SITUATION IN SAN FRANCISCO.

I JUST WANTED TO MAKE NOTE (1) THAT WE WERE AWARE THERE ARE 43 CONSULATE OFFICES IN SAN FRANCISCO; (2) WE HAD IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED THOSE PEOPLE THAT CONDOLENCE MESSAGES TO OUR PRESIDENT AND OUR COUNTRY AND OUR PEOPLE ARE COMING IN. AND ON SPECIFICS OF WHETHER WE WILL BE ABLE TO PICK UP ANY OF THESE OFFERS, I HONESTLY JUST DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER AT THIS MOMENT IN TIME FOR YOU. (END VERBATIM)

3. SECRETARY'S SAN FRANCISCO ARMS CONTROL SPEECH.
(VERBATIM)

Q: MARGARET, WHAT CHANGES, IF ANY, ARE BEING MADE OF SECRETARY BAKER'S PLANS TO --

A: I MEANT TO MENTION THAT. I'M SORRY.

Q: HE WAS TO HAVE GONE TO SAN FRANCISCO TOMORROW.

A: CORRECT. I FORGOT TO MENTION THAT. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB CALLED ONE OF OUR EMPLOYEES HERE THIS MORNING AT 6:00 A.M. TO SAY THAT THEY WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH US THROUGHOUT THE DAY, THAT THEY WOULD LIKE IF THEY CAN TO GO FORWARD WITH HIS SPEECH TOMORROW. THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE BACK TO THEM IS, HE WANTS TO DEFER TO WHATEVER THEY WISH HIM TO DO. HE WILL STILL KEEP HIS SCHEDULE, IF IT IS LOGISTICALLY FEASIBLE THERE ON THE GROUND IN SAN FRANCISCO AND IF THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB WANTS HIM TO COME. SO THERE IS NO FINAL

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DECISION.

Q: DOES THAT APPLY ALSO TO HIS WEEKEND PLANS?

A: THE TWO ARE INTERTWINED, YES. (END VERBATIM)

4. SOVIET ORGANIZATION PREDICTION OF CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE (NOT USED)

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT A SOVIET FIRM TOLD OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW THAT THERE WOULD BE AN EARTHQUAKE IN CALIFORNIA IN MID-OCTOBER?

A: -- THERE IS A SOVIET ORGANIZATION CALLED POLITON WHICH WE UNDERSTAND SPECIALIZES IN EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION AND ATMOSPHERIC ANOMALIES.

-- THEY DID CONTACT OUR EMBASSY SEEKING TECTONIC CHARTS OF THE UNITED STATES. THE EMBASSY PASSED THIS REQUEST ALONG IN A TELEGRAM WHICH CATALOGED A NUMBER OF SCIENTIFIC -BUSINESS VENTURES OR COOPERATIVES NOW BEING FORMED IN THE SOVIET UNION.

THAT CABLE ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON ON OCTOBER 17, WHEN IT WAS DISTRIBUTED TO OFFICES IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, INTERIOR, DEFENSE, COMMERCE, ENERGY, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, AND OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES.

-- IN DESCRIBING POLITON'S WORK THE EMBASSY TELEGRAM NOTED THAT THE FIRM HAD PREDICTED AN EARTHQUAKE IN CALIFORNIA IN MID-OCTOBER.

-- THE CABLE ALSO NOTED THAT THE DATES WERE INEXACT BECAUSE POLITON LACKED THE NECESSARY TECTONIC CHARTS AND TECTONIC DATE FOR CALIFORNIA.

Q: WHAT DID YOU DO ABOUT THE CABLE? DID YOU TAKE ANY ACTION?

A: -- THE TELEGRAM WAS AN INFORMATION REPORT, CATALOGING A NUMBER OF NEW SCIENTIFIC VENTURES IN THE SOVIET UNION.

-- IT DID NOT CONTAIN A WARNING. THE PURPOSE OF THE CABLE WAS SIMPLY TO DESCRIBE THIS NEW ENTERPRISE AND PASS ALONG THE REQUEST FOR TECTONIC CHARTS.

-- THE CABLE DESCRIBED THE PREDICTION SOLELY AS AN EXAMPLE OF POLITON'S WORK.

5. GDR/HONECKER (VERBATIM EXCERPT)

Q: DO YOU HAVE A REACTION ON THE SITUATION IN EAST GERMANY AND HONECKER?

A: YES. AS SOME OF YOU PROBABLY KNOW, THE PRESIDENT

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SPOKE TO THIS THIS MORNING. AS HE SAID, IT'S TOO EARLY TO KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS. WE HOPE THAT THIS CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP WILL LEAD TO REFORM IN EAST GERMANY AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURES WHICH ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE PEOPLE OF EAST GERMANY. BOTH THE LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE GDR AND THE MASSIVE EXODUS OF EAST GERMANS TO THE WEST ARE INDICATIONS OF THE DISSATISFACTION OF EAST GERMANS.

THE U.S. WILL BE WATCHING TO SEE WHAT STEPS ARE TAKEN BY EGON KRENZ AND THE NEW GDR LEADERSHIP AND TO SEE WHETHER THEY ARE PREPARED TO BRING PERESTROIKA TO EAST GERMANY.

Q: MAY WE HAVE A COPY OF THAT?

A: SURE.

Q: IS THE UNITED STATES PREPARED TO DO ANYTHING TO ENCOURAGE SUCH CHANGES?

A: ENCOURAGE SUCH CHANGES?

Q: UH-HUM.

A: I THINK THAT WE'VE SPOKEN OUT A NUMBER OF TIMES; AND I BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT HAD MORE ELABORATE STATEMENTS THIS MORNING -- I JUST DIDN'T REPEAT THEM ALL -- ON WHAT WE WANT FOR THE PEOPLE OF EAST GERMANY, WHICH IS NO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE WANT FROM PEOPLE ANY PLACE ARUND THE WORLD -- FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, FREEDOM OF SPEECH. BUT IF YOU'RE ASKING ME IF WE HAVE A SPECIFIC THING IN MIND, I CAN'T POINT TO A SPECIFIC.

Q: CAN WE REQUEST A FILING BREAK, PLEASE? FILING BREAK, PLEASE?

A: IT'S FINE WITH ME.

Q: THERE ARE NO PLANS TO REACH OUT TO THE NEW LEADERSHIP IN ANY SPECIFIC WAY BY THE U.S. OTHER THAN --

A: THIS JUST HAPPENED IN THE LAST TWO HOURS.

Q: YES, I KNOW.

A: THE PRESIDENT HAS SPOKEN TO IT, AND I THINK IT WOULD BE REALLY KIND OF INAPPROPRIATE FOR ME TO GO FURTHER THAN WHAT THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF SAID. (END VERBATIM)

6. TURKEY: ARMENIAN RESOLUTION (VERBATIM)

Q: MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION ON ANOTHER SUBJECT? DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE DECISION OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE TO ADOPT THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE COMMEMORATION DAY?

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A: YES, I DO. I BELIEVE IT WAS ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY FROM THE WHITE HOUSE, AS YOU ALREADY KNOW. THE ADMINISTRATION OPPOSES THE RESOLUTION. WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION IS SENSITIVE TO THE TRAGIC SUFFERING OF THE ARMENIAN PEOPLE AND THE NEED TO COMMEMORATE THE VICTIMS OF THE PERIOD 1915-1923, WE ARE EQUALLY MINDFUL OF OUR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP AND STRONG FRIENDSHIP WITH TURKEY AND OF THE DIFFERING VIEWS OF HOW THE TERRIBLE EVENTS OF THAT PERIOD SHOULD PROPERLY BE CHARACTERIZED.

WE HOPE THE CONGRESS CAN RESPOND TO THE CONCERNS OF THE ARMENIAN COMMUNITY IN A MANNER THAT DOES NOT GRAVELY OFFEND OUR VITAL ALLY AND FRIEND, THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY.

Q: I HAVE A QUESTION ON THAT. THERE IS A STATEMENT IN FRONT OF ME THAT WAS MADE BY PRESIDENT BUSH -- ADMITTEDLY BEFORE HE BECAME PRESIDENT -- IN OCTOBER 1988 IN WHICH HE SAID THAT, "THE UNITED STATES MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THE ATTEMPTED GENOCIDE OF THE ARMENIAN PEOPLE." AND HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT, "THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, OUR GOVERNMENT, AND CERTAINLY THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION WILL NEVER ALLOW POLITICAL PRESSURES TO PREVENT OUR DENUNCIATION OF CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, AND I WILL JOIN CONGRESS IN COMMEMORATING THE VICTIMS OF THAT PERIOD."

THAT CAN HARDLY BE RECONCILED WITH THE STATEMENT YOU HAVE JUST MADE.

A: IT CAN IN MY MIND.

Q: COULD YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN?

A: I JUST SAID, "WE HOPE THE CONGRESS CAN RESPOND TO THE CONCERNS OF THE ARMENIAN COMMUNITY IN A MANNER THAT DOES NOT GRAVELY OFFEND OUR VITAL ALLY AND FRIEND, THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY." I ALSO SPOKE TO THE TRAGIC SUFFERING OF THE ARMENIAN PEOPLE. I THINK I FULLY ANSWERED WHAT YOUR QUESTION IS AND YOUR HYPOTHESIS. AT LEAST I HAVE IN MY MIND.

Q: I MEAN, THE PRESIDENT SAID EXPLICITLY THERE WAS AN ATTEMPT AT GENOCIDE AGAINST THE ARMENIAN PEOPLE AND SUGGESTED THAT IT SHOULD BE COMMEMORATED. AND I STILL FIND IT A LITTLE BIT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND HOW YOU CAN RECONCILE TODAY'S STATEMENT WITH THAT STATEMENT MADE BY MR. BUSH.

A: IT ISN'T CAUSING ME ANY TROUBLE. (END VERBATIM)

7. HUNGARY: GOVERNMENT CHANGES (VERBATIM)

Q: CAN WE FINISH UP ON EASTERN EUROPE FIRST? THERE WAS ANOTHER CHANGE ANNOUNCED TODAY, WHICH WAS THAT IN HUNGARY THEY HAVE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CHANGED THE NAME AND

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CHANGED THE FORM OF THEIR GOVERNMENT. IT'S NO LONGER A "PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT." DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

A: UNFORTUNATELY, JIM, IN EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN DOING THIS MORNING, THAT'S SOMETHING THAT HAS NOT BEEN BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD FOR YOU. I'LL BE GLAD TO GET SOMETHING AND POST IT. (END VERBATIM EXCERPT)

8. HUNGARY: GOVERNMENT CHANGES (TAKEN QUESTION)

Q: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

A: -- TODAY THE HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOR OF AN AMENDED CONSTITUTION WHICH LEAVES ONLY ABOUT TEN PERCENT OF THE 1949 STALINIST DOCUMENT IN PLACE.

-- THE AMENDED CONSTITUTION CONTAINS DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND MANY OF THE ELEMENTS OF OUR OWN BILL OF RIGHTS.

-- THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES THAT HUNGARY WILL BE DECLARED A "REPUBLIC", NOT A "PEOPLES'S REPUBLIC". THE WORD "PEOPLE'S" WAS A LEGACY FROM THE STALIN ERA.

-- THE CHANGES ARE POSITIVE SIGNS THAT HUNGARY PLANS TO CONTINUE ITS PROGRAM OF DEMOCRATIC REFORM.

9. HUNGARY/POLAND: AID COORDINATOR (VERBATIM EXCERPT)

Q: MARGARET, ALSO ON EASTERN EUROPE, THERE WAS A REPORT THAT LARRY EAGLEBURGER MAY BE GIVEN A ROLE ON AID TO POLAND AND HUNGARY. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN SAY ABOUT THAT?

A: THERE'S NOTHING I CAN SAY ABOUT IT. THAT WOULD BE A WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT, AND THE WHITE HOUSE WILL MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT WHEN THEY'RE PREPARED TO DO SO. (END VERBATIM EXCERPT)

10. WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION READMITS USSR (NOT USED)

Q: HOW DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT VIEW THE VOTE OF THE WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION TO READMIT THE SOVIET UNION TO ITS MEMBERSHIP?

A: -- THE WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION IS A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION OF PROFESSIONALS IN THE FIELD AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS NOT PREPARED TO PASS JUDGMENT ON ITS DECISION.

Q: DOES THE U.S. BELIEVE THERE IS STILL PSYCHIATRIC ABUSE FOR POLITICAL REASONS IN THE USSR?

A: -- WE REFER YOU TO THE RECENT REPORT OF A TEAM OF

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AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIST AND FORENSIC EXPERTS WHO CONDUCTED AN INSPECTION OF SOVIET PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTIONS. THEIR REPORT WAS DELIVERED ON JULY 12, 1989 AND CONTAINS A COMMENTARY BY SOVIET GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

AS INDICATED IN THAT REPORT, CONCERNS ABOUT SOVIET PSYCHIATRIC ABUSE HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETELY RESOLVED. WE ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN A DIALOGUE ON THE ISSUES WITH RELEVANT SOVIET AUTHORITIES.

11. 44TH UNGA: ISRAELI CREDENTIALS CHALLENGE DEFEATED

Q: ANY U.S. REACTION TO YESTERDAY'S UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTE TO TAKE NO ACTION ON THE ARAB CHALLENGE TO ISRAEL'S CREDENTIALS? HOW DO YOU ASSESS THE SWITCH BY THE SOVIET UNION FROM NO (I.E., AGAINST ISRAEL) TO AN ABSTENTION?

A: -- WE ARE PLEASED THAT AGAIN THIS YEAR AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF UN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF ISRAEL ON THIS ISSUE. (VOTE ON THE NORDIC MOTION TO DEFER ACTION ON THE ARAB CHALLENGE WAS 95 (U.S.) FOR AND 37 AGAINST, WITH 15 ABSTENTIONS.)

-- THIS VOTE REPRESENTS A VICTORY FOR THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN SYSTEM.

-- WE HAVE NOTED THE POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE SOVIET POSITION AND HOPE THIS SIGNALS A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE SOVIET APPROACH TO OTHER UN ISSUES. WE ALSO HOPE THAT THE ARAB SPONSORS OF THE CREDENTIALS CHALLENGE WILL RECOGNIZE THE FUTILITY OF THIS ANNUAL EXERCISE AND FOREGO SUCH CHALLENGES IN THE FUTURE.

12. AFGHANISTAN (NOT USED)

Q: IS IT TRUE, AS PRESS REPORTS HAVE CLAIMED THAT THE SOVIETS ARE ENGAGED IN A MASSIVE AIRLIFT OF MILITARY SUPPLIES TO KABUL?

A: -- THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN A MASSIVE AIRLIFT OF MILITARY SUPPLIES SINCE THEY WITHDREW FROM AFGHANISTAN IN FEBRUARY.

-- THIS AIRLIFT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED AT A VALUE OF APPROXIMATELY USDOLS 250 MILLION PER MONTH SINCE THAT TIME.

--- THIS AIRLIFT HAS HAD THE EFFECT OF PROPPING UP THE NAJIB REGIME, WHICH IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE AFGHAN PEOPLE.

-- WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE FAVOR A POLITICAL, NOT A MILITARY SOLUTION.

-- THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS RECENTLY REITERATED OUR POLICY THAT ANY POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN MUST INCLUDE A TRANSFER OF POWER, NOT SHARING OF POWER, FROM

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THE NAJIB GOVERNMENT TO A REPRESENTATIVE ONE ACCEPTABLE TO THE AFGHAN PEOPLE.

13. BRITISH REPORT ON WALDHEIM (NOT USED)

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE BRITISH DEFENSE MINISTRY'S REPORT ON AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM'S** ACTIVITIES DURING WORLD WAR II?

A: -- WE HAVE NOT AS YET SEEN THE REPORT. IT IS A BRITISH REPORT, HOWEVER, SO I MUST REFER YOU TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FOR DETAILS.

Q: WILL THE REPORT AFFECT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO PLACE WALDHEIM ON THE "WATCHLIST?"

A: -- THE REPORT WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE U.S. POSITION.

-- THE U.S. WATCHLIST DECISION ON PRESIDENT WALDHEIM IS AN INDEPENDENT DECISION WHICH STANDS ON ITS OWN AND WAS TAKEN IN CONFORMITY WITH U.S. LAW.

Q: (IF ASKED) WHAT ABOUT THE COMMENT BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S NEIL SHER, AS REPORTED IN TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES, THAT "UNDER NUREMBERG STANDARDS, A PROSECUTOR COULD HOLD WALDHEIM RESPONSIBLE ON MANY SCORES."

A: --- THE HOLZMAN AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION ACT, UPON WHICH THE U.S. WATCHLIST DECISION IS BASED, PROHIBITS ENTRY INTO THE U.S. OF ANY FOREIGN NATIONAL WHO ASSISTED OR OTHERWISE PARTICIPATED IN ACTIVITIES AMOUNTING TO PERSECUTION DURING WORLD WAR II. QUESTIONS ABOUT THE QUOTE FROM MR. SHER SHOULD GO TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

14. REMOVAL OF U.S. CHEMICAL WEAPONS FROM WEST GERMANY (NOT USED)

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PLANNING TO WITHDRAW ALL ITS CHEMICAL WEAPONS FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

A: -- WE ARE PLANNING TO REMOVE ALL U.S. CHEMICAL WEAPONS TO U.S. TERRITORY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT THE PLAN FOR WITHDRAWING THE STOCKS FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY CARRIES "SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL RISK?"

A: -- OUR CURRENT PLANS PROJECT WITHDRAWAL AT THE EARLIEST FEASIBLE DATE, CONSISTENT WITH MEETING OUR REQUIREMENT FOR UNDIMINISHED SAFETY. AS WITH ANY PLAN THAT AIMS FOR THE EARLIEST ACHIEVEMENT POSSIBLE, THERE ARE THINGS THAT COULD DELAY THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF WITHDRAWAL.

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WE WILL NOT COMPROMISE SAFETY AND SECURITY IN ORDER TO ACCELERATE WITHDRAWAL. THAT IS WHY THERE IS ALWAYS QUESTIONS ABOUT WHEN THE PLAN MAY BE COMPLETED -- SAFETY MUST OVERRIDE SCHEDULING PREFERENCES.

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT CHANCELLOR KOHL PREEMPTED THE U.S. DECISION ON WHEN TO WITHDRAW THESE WEAPONS?

A: -- NO. WE INTEND, AS WE TOLD CHANCELLOR KOHL, TO WITHDRAW ALL CHEMICAL WEAPONS TO U.S. TERRITORY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS IS PRESIDENT BUSH'S PROGRAM AND OBJECTIVE. AS I INDICATED ABOVE, THE PRECISE TIMING WILL BE DEPENDENT ON THE ABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH ANY MOVEMENT SAFELY. THE OBJECTIVE AND THE CONDITIONS ARE A U.S. PROGRAM, BUT HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

Q: HOW DO YOU PLAN TO REMOVE THE WEAPONS TO JOHNSTON ISLAND?

A: -- I WILL NOT COMMENT ON DETAILS OF OUR PLANNING.

Q: WILL THE UNITED STATES HAVE AN ADEQUATE BINARY CHEMICAL WEAPONS DETERRENT PRODUCED BY THE TIME THE STOCKS ARE REMOVED FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY?

A: -- THE UNITED STATES IS REVIEWING ITS CHEMICAL WEAPONS MODERNIZATION PROGRAM IN LIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT'S RECENTLY ANNOUNCED CHEMICAL WEAPONS INITIATIVE. BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL NOT ENDANGER OUR SECURITY BY THIS MOVE.

Q: WILL THE UNITED STATES BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THE WITHDRAWAL BY THE END OF 1990?

A: -- WE BELIEVE WE ARE ON SCHEDULE WITH OUR PLANNING DEADLINES. AS I STATED EARLIER, WE WILL WITHDRAW THE WEAPONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE CONSISTENT WITH SAFETY AND SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.

Q: DOES THE UNITED STATES IN FACT HAVE NEARLY 500 TONS OF GB AND VX NERVE AGENTS STORED AT FISHBACH IN WEST GERMANY?

A: -- WE HAVE ALREADY PROVIDED INFORMATION ON THE LOCATION OF OUR CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILE IN THE UNITED STATES TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT AT GENEVA. AS A MATTER OF SECURITY, WE WILL NOT COMMENT ON THE LOCATION, SIZE, AND TYPE OF OUR CHEMICAL WEAPON STOCKPILE OUTSIDE OF THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.

15. CONCLUSION OF CPA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IN GENEVA (NOT USED)

Q: WHAT COMMENTS DOES THE U.S. DELEGATION HAVE ON THE JUST-CONCLUDED STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING?

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A: -- THE U.S. DELEGATION WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) REPORT ON THE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MANY IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION (CPA) SINCE ITS ADOPTION IN JUNE AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES.

-- HOWEVER, THE U.S. DELEGATION REGRETS THAT CONSENSUS WAS NOT REACHED ON HOW TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF REPATRIATION TO VIETNAM OF THOSE ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO ARE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES UNDER THE SCREENING PROGRAM.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. POLICY ON REPATRIATION?

A: -- DURING THE STEERING COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS THE U.S. DELEGATION REITERATED THAT REPATRIATION SHOULD BE VOLUNTARY AND UNDER UNHCR MONITORING.

Q: WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED AT THE MEETING?

A: -- THE UNHCR, IN ITS ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION, REPORTED THAT:

- THE ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAM HAS EXPANDED TO A POINT WHERE THERE MAY BE 80,000 SAFE, LEGAL AND ORDERLY DEPARTURES FROM VIETNAM NEXT YEAR.

- FIRST ASYLUM IS RESPECTED IN ALMOST ALL CASES THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

- REFUGEE DETERMINATION (SCREENING) PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN DEvised AND ARE IN PLACE IN EVERY LOCATION PARTICIPATING IN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION.

- RESETTLEMENT OF THOSE PERSONS IN CAMPS BEFORE CERTAIN CUT-OFF DATES IS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

- VOLUNTEERS FOR REPATRIATION IN HONG KONG HAVE RISEN FROM AN AVERAGE OF 40 PER MONTH TO AN AVERAGE OF 300 PER MONTH AND SHOW EVERY SIGN OF INCREASING FURTHER.

- THE LAO PROGRAM HAS MADE STEADY PROGRESS AND ALL ASPECTS FROM SAFE ARRIVAL TO SCREENING TO RESETTLEMENT AND RETURN ARE FUNCTIONING SMOOTHLY.

Q: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

A: -- PROPOSALS ON THE ISSUE OF REPATRIATION HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO CAPITALS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION. THE STEERING COMMITTEE AGREED TO RESUME ITS DELIBERATIONS, PROBABLY WITHIN 6 OR 7 WEEKS.

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Q: WHAT ELSE REMAINS TO BE DONE?

A: -- INCREASED ODP INTERVIEW RATES MUST BE MAINTAINED AND THE LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH HIGHER OFFTAKE MUST BE MANAGED.

-- ALL PUSH-OFFS OF BOAT ARRIVALS MUST BE ENDED AND PROMPT UNHCR ACCESS ASSURED.

-- AGREEMENT WAS NOT REACHED ON HOW TO TREAT CASES RESCUED AT SEA.

-- SPECIAL COMMITTEES NEED TO BE ESTABLISHED IN ALL FIRST ASYLUM LOCATIONS TO REVIEW CASES OF UNACCOMPANIED MINORS.

-- MEASURES SHOULD BE URGENTLY TAKEN TO STRENGTHEN, SPEED UP AND IMPROVE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION.

Q: WHAT IS THE STEERING COMMITTEE?

A: -- THE STEERING COMMITTEE IS A GROUP OF INTERESTED COUNTRIES ESTABLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES TO OVERSEE THE BALANCED IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL ELEMENTS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION.

16. LENINGRAD MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
BAKER

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

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