

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	re Mandarin Maquila (8 pages)	01/02/1998	P1/b(1)
002. cable	re Free Trade Zone standards (4 pages)	02/06/1998	P1/b(1)
003. cable	re better labor conditions (3 pages)	03/27/1998	P1/b(1)
004. cable	re DOL Study on Apparel Industry Working Conditions (2 pages)	05/29/1998	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
 NSC Cables
 Jan 1997-Dec 1998] ([sweatshop ...])
 OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/02/1998-06/05/1998

2018-1072-F

kc2339

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
- PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
- RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHCAA5955 0130521-UUUU--RHEHNSC.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: O P 130517Z JAN 98

LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC

OSRI: RUEHC

DTG: 130517Z JAN 98

ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC

TO: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 4333

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY 7969

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1448

RUATNPP/AMCONSUL PUSAN IMMEDIATE 5678

RUEHGZ/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU IMMEDIATE 4172

RUESLE/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI IMMEDIATE 0228

RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG IMMEDIATE 8609

RUEHJA/AMCONSUL SURABAYA IMMEDIATE 7790

INFO: RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 7526

RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 6981

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 8911

RUEHVEN/USMISSION USVIENNA PRIORITY

RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY 8300

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 3619

RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY 1773

RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0807

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP PRIORITY 0799

RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

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

RUAGAMS/CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS PRIORITY

RUAGAMS/SACINCUNC KS PRIORITY

RUAGAMS/USCINCUNC SEOUL KS PRIORITY

RHHMBRACINCPACFLT HI PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY 6216

SUBJ: JANUARY 12, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP
REGION

ALL POSTS -- ALSO FOR USIS

SEODEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 11 STATE 005955

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 12, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP
REGION

ALL POSTS -- ALSO FOR USIS

SEODEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA

USCINOPAC FOR FPA TEARE
USVIENNA FOR UNVIE
BEIJING PASS CHENGDU

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- TREASURY GUIDANCE ON THE SITUATION IN ASIA PARAS 4 - 5
- INDONESIA: DISCUSSIONS ON IMF PROGRAM PARAS 6 - 7
- SUMMERS/COHEN TRIPS TO ASIA -- ROTH/WOLF WHEREABOUTS
PARAS 6 AND 8
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- CHINA - FORMER OFFICIAL ADVOCATES DEMOCRACY PARAS 6 AND
10
- PRC INVITATION TO TAIWAN LOCAL POLITICIANS TO VISIT
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- CHINA: WEAPONS DEALS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE PAPAS 6 AND
12
- HUMAN RIGHTS: TPAFFICKING IN AMERICAN WOMEN PAPAS 6 AND
13
- HUMAN RIGHTS: TPAFFICKING IN WOMEN PAPAS 6 AND 14

2. THE FOLLOWING Q AND A'S WERE PREPARED ON 1/12/98 AS "IF
ASKED" GUIDANCE BY THE WHITE HOUSE FOR USE IN BACKGROUNDING
THE MEDIA.

3. ASIA FINANCE

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Q: WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE ASIAN
ECONOMIC CRISIS ON AMERICA'S ECONOMY?

A: THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY ARE
EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD. GROWTH IS STRONG, WAGES ARE RISING,
PRIVATE INVESTMENT IS BOOMING, INFLATION IS LOW, THE
FEDERAL DEFICIT IS ON TRACK TO BE ELIMINATED, AND
UNEMPLOYMENT LAST YEAR HIT ITS LOWEST LEVEL IN 24 YEARS.

AND THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THAT U.S. ECONOMIC PROSPECTS
REMAIN STRONG. JUST LAST WEEK, WE LEARNED THAT THE ECONOMY
ADDED ANOTHER 370,000 NEW JOBS, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER
OF JOBS CREATED SINCE I TOOK OFFICE TO 14.3 MILLION.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE WORLD ECONOMY IS INCREASINGLY
INTERCONNECTED AND RESTORING CONFIDENCE AND STABILITY IN
ASIA IS VERY MUCH IN OUR LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AND NATIONAL
SECURITY INTERESTS. THAT IS WHY THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN
AT THE CENTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO REESTABLISH
STABILITY AND CONFIDENCE IN THE REGION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

(IF PRESSED)

Q: BUT EXACTLY HOW MUCH LOWER WILL GROWTH BE BECAUSE OF
THE ASIAN CRISIS?

A: THE WORLD ECONOMY IS INCREASINGLY INTERCONNECTED, AND RESTORING CONFIDENCE AND STABILITY IN ASIA IS VERY MUCH IN OUR LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AND NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS.
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 11 STATE 005955

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 12, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

THAT IS WHY WE ARE WORKING TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION.

INDONESIA

ECONOMIC PRESCRIPTION

Q: IS INDONESIA ON THE BRINK OF ECONOMIC COLLAPSE? WHAT MESSAGE WILL DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS BE DELIVERING TO THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT?

A: INDONESIA IS EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES THAT THE IMF PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO ADDRESS. AS PART OF THAT PROGRAM, THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO IMPLEMENT A SERIES OF MEASURES TO REFORM AND CLEAN UP ITS FINANCIAL SYSTEM, TO ADJUST MONETARY POLICY, TO CONTROL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING, AND TO STEM CORRUPTION.

LET'S REMEMBER THAT INDONESIA IS A COUNTRY WITH UNDERLYING ECONOMIC STRENGTHS THAT CAN PROVIDE A FOUNDATION FOR RENEWED ECONOMIC GROWTH.

WE BELIEVE THAT VIGOROUS AND SUSTAINED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFORMS AGREED BY INDONESIA IN CONJUNCTION WITH THEIR IMF PROGRAM OFFERS THE BEST PROSPECTS FOR RESTORING CONFIDENCE. DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS IS IN INDONESIA TODAY AND WILL BE AFFIRMING THAT MESSAGE.

IMPLEMENTATION OF REFORM COMMITMENTS

Q: HOW DO YOU JUDGE WHETHER INDONESIA IS CARRYING THROUGH ON ITS POLICY COMMITMENTS?

A: THE IMF HAS THE FIRST LINE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVALUATING COMPLIANCE WITH IMF PROGRAMS. THE IMF TEAM IS IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES TO SUGGEST WAYS THAT POLICY IMPLEMENTATION CAN BE STRENGTHENED.

STANLEY FISCHER FROM THE IMF MET WITH PRESIDENT SOEHARTO TODAY, AND MANAGING DIRECTOR CAMDESSUS WILL BE IN JAKARTA THURSDAY.

IN ADDITION, WE ARE IN REGULAR CONTACT BOTH WITH THE IMF TEAM AND THE INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES. DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS IS IN INDONESIA TODAY TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE

OF IMPLEMENTING THE ECONOMIC REFORM MEASURES ADOPTED BY
INDONESIA.

STABILITY OF SOEHARTO GOVERNMENT

Q: IS THE U.S. CONCERNED ABOUT THE STABILITY OF THE
SOEHARTO GOVERNMENT? DO YOU BELIEVE SOEHARTO SHOULD STEP
DOWN?

A: INDONESIA IS EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES THAT
THE IME PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO ADDRESS. VIGOROUS AND
SUSTAINED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFORMS AGREED BY INDONESIA
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THEIR IMF PROGRAM OFFERS THE BEST
PROSPECTS FOR RESTORING CONFIDENCE.

UNDER PRESIDENT SOEHARTO'S LEADERSHIP, INDONESIA HAS
ENJOYED A PERIOD OF REMARKABLE ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENT. AND
PRESIDENT SOEHARTO HAS PROVIDED IMPORTANT LEADERSHIP IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF ASEAN AND IN THE REGION.

A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH. THE
QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT PRESIDENT SOEHARTO SHOULD SEEK
UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 11 STATE 005955

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 12, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP
REGION

RE-ELECTION IS A MATTER FOR HIM TO DECIDE, AND THE CHOICE
OF INDONESIA'S LEADERSHIP IS A MATTER FOR THE INDONESIAN
PEOPLE.

REGIONAL COLLAPSE

Q: WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE FINANCIAL SITUATION IN
ASIA? ARE YOU CONCERNED IT MIGHT SPIRAL OUT OF CONTROL?

A: SEVERAL ECONOMIES IN THE REGION ARE EXPERIENCING
SERIOUS FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. THE ASIA-
PACIFIC REGION IS IMPORTANT TO US; WE HAVE SUBSTANTIAL
ECONOMIC AND SECURITY INTERESTS IN SEEING A RETURN OF
CONFIDENCE AND STABILITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THAT IS WHY
WE SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO HELP THESE ECONOMIES
ADJUST.

THE CENTERPIECE OF THESE EFFORTS IS IMPLEMENTATION OF
REFORM COMMITMENTS ADOPTED BY THE AFFECTED GOVERNMENTS.
VIGOROUS IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE COMMITMENTS OFFERS THE
BEST PROSPECTS FOR RESTORING INVESTOR CONFIDENCE.

FOR THOSE COUNTRIES WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED RESOLVE IN
IMPLEMENTING REFORMS, THE IME AND THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY STAND READY TO EXTEND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO
PROVIDE A BREATHING SPACE WHILE THE REFORMS TAKE EFFECT.

INVESTOR CONFIDENCE IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES IS CLEARLY BASED ON THE SPECIFICS OF THEIR OWN UNIQUE SITUATION AND THE QUALITY OF THEIR COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENT REFORMS.

BAIL OUTS

Q: AREN'T CRITICS AT LEAST PARTIALLY RIGHT WHEN THEY ALLEGE THAT THESE IME PROGRAMS ARE BAILING OUT INVESTORS AND CORRUPT GOVERNMENTS?

A: IF THESE EFFORTS WERE DIRECTED AT BAILING OUT INVESTORS, WE WOULD NOT SPEND A PENNY ON THEM. THE CENTRAL AIM OF THESE PROGRAMS IS TO HELP THESE ECONOMIES RESTORE GROWTH AND MARKET CONFIDENCE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, NOT TO BAIL THEM OR FOREIGN INVESTORS OUT.

THE CENTERPIECE OF THESE EFFORTS IS REFORM COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE AFFECTED GOVERNMENTS THEMSELVES -- TO RESTRUCTURE AND CLEAN UP THE BANKING SYSTEM, IMPROVE GOVERNANCE, FIGHT CORRUPTION, AND OPEN MARKETS.

FOR THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE DEMONSTRATED RESOLVE IN IMPLEMENTING A REFORM PROGRAM, THE IME STANDS READY TO EXTEND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO PROVIDE A BREATHING SPACE WHILE THE REFORMS TAKE EFFECT. BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERScore THAT NO RESOURCES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO COUNTRIES WHO ARE NOT ACTIVELY GRAPPLING WITH THEIR PROBLEMS.

EFFECT ON BUDGET SURPLUS

Q: COULD SLOWER GROWTH ASSOCIATED WITH THE SLOWDOWN IN ASIA THREATEN THE PROJECTED BUDGET SURPLUS?

A: THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY ARE EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD, AND ECONOMIC PROSPECTS REMAIN STRONG. JUST LAST WEEK, WE LEARNED THAT THE ECONOMY ADDED ANOTHER 370,000 NEW JOBS, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED SINCE I TOOK OFFICE TO 14.3 MILLION. GROWTH IS STRONG, WAGES ARE RISING, PRIVATE INVESTMENT IS BOOMING, INFLATION IS LOW, THE FEDERAL BUDGET IS ON TRACK TO BE ELIMINATED,

AND UNEMPLOYMENT LAST YEAR HIT ITS LOWEST LEVEL (4.9 UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 11 STATE 005955

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 12, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

PERCENT) IN 24 YEARS.

NONETHELESS, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT OUR BUDGET PROJECTIONS ARE EXTREMELY CONSERVATIVE -- IN LINE WITH BLUE CHIP FORECASTS. THEY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF BAD TIMES AS WELL AS GOOD TIMES. THAT IS WHY FOR THE PAST

FIVE YEARS, THE DEFICIT HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY LOWER AND GROWTH HIGHER THAN WE PROJECTED.

4. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED ON 1/12/98 AS "IF ASKED" GUIDANCE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY FOR USE IN BACKGROUNDING THE MEDIA.

5. TREASURY GUIDANCE ON THE SITUATION IN ASIA

TODAY'S QUOTES:

U.S. TREASURY SECRETARY ROBERT RUBIN SAID MONDAY IT WAS "VERY HARD TO KNOW" IF ASIA'S FINANCIAL CRISIS HAS BOTTOMED OUT OR COULD WORSEN. "THE KEY TO INDONESIA IS ADHERING TO THE IMP PROGRAM," RUBIN SAID. RUBIN SPOKE WITH DONALDSON JUST AFTER EMERGING FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.

ASKED IF AMERICANS SHOULD BE CONCERNED BY THE FINANCIAL TURMOIL IN ASIA, RUBIN SAID "WE LIVE IN ONE WORLD, ONE ECONOMY AND REALLY ONE-WORLD ECONOMY." HE ALSO SAID THE ASIA FINANCIAL CRISIS HAS THE POTENTIAL TO HAVE AN "ENORMOUS IMPACT" ON ECONOMIES ACROSS THE GLOBE.

DEPUTY SECRETARY LARRY SUMMERS: "IN PREPARATIONS, WE'VE HAD TWO GOOD MEETINGS HERE AT THE FINANCE MINISTRY," SUMMERS SAID. "ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CLINTON WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THE MEASURES TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE WITH PRESIDENT SOEHARTO TOMORROW."

IMP FIRST DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR STANLEY FISCHER MET WITH PRESIDENT SOEHARTO FOR 90 MINUTES AND DESCRIBED THE ENCOUNTER AS "VERY, VERY GOOD." "THE PRESIDENT WAS VERY, VERY CLEAR IN HIS DETERMINATION TO STAY WITH THE (REFORM) PROGRAM AND TO STRENGTHEN IT AND ACCELERATE IT," FISCHER SAID. "THERE WAS NO AMBIGUITY IN WHAT HE SAID."

Q AND A:

Q: HOW WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS' TRIP THUS FAR?

A: DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS TRIP HAS BEEN IN THE REGION TO TAKE STOCK OF THE SITUATION, HEAR THE AUTHORITIES' THOUGHTS AND SHARE THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEWS ON THE BEST WAY TO RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS. THUS FAR HE HAS HAD SEVERAL PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS OFFICIALS.

Q: WHAT WILL BE DISCUSSED IN DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS' MEETING WITH SOEHARTO?

A: DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS WILL CARRY THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE THAT INDONESIAN STABILITY IS IMPORTANT TO THE REGION AND IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES. HE WILL HEAR HIS THOUGHTS AND SHARE THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEWS THAT SOUND POLICIES PROMOTE CONFIDENCE AND STABILITY AND ARE THE BEST WAY TO RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS AND RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN THE MARKETS. THE U.S. IS ENGAGED IN DOING WHAT IT CAN TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE AND SUPPORTIVE TO HELP THE REGION REGAIN

STABILITY.

Q: WILL DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS "HOLD THE INDONESIANS FEET TO THE FIRE?"

UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 11 STATE 005955

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 12, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

A: DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS IS IN INDONESIA TO TAKE STOCK OF THE SITUATION, HEAR THEIR VIEWS AND SHARE THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEWS ON THE BEST WAY TO RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE INDONESIANS HE WILL UNDERSCORE THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT THAT INDONESIA DO WHATEVER APPROPRIATE TO FIND ITS WAY THROUGH THIS.

Q: IS INDONESIA TOO BIG TO FAIL?

A: THE U.S. WANTS INDONESIA TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS THAT WILL PERMIT US TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORT TO SUPPORT THEM THROUGH CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. STABILITY IN INDONESIA AND THE REGION IS CRITICAL TO STABILITY IN THE ENTIRE REGION AND ENSURING STABILITY IS IN OUR ECONOMIC AND NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS.

Q: AFTER MEETING WITH SOEHARTO THE DELEGATION WILL TRAVEL TO MALAYSIA. WHY ISN'T DEPUTY SECRETARY SUMMERS MEETING WITH MAHATHIR?

A: THE DELEGATION WILL BE IN MALAYSIA FOR AN EXTREMELY BRIEF PERIOD OF TIME AT THE INVITATION OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. THIS MEETING WILL SERVE AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH THE REGIONAL PARTNERS WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN REGIONAL STABILITY.

Q: HOW IS THIS GOING TO AFFECT U.S. MARKETS?

A: WE DON'T COMMENT OR MAKE PREDICTIONS ABOUT U.S. MARKETS. WHAT'S IMPORTANT ARE THE SOUND FUNDAMENTALS OF THE U.S. ECONOMY.

IF PRESSED: THE CONTINUING REMARKABLE STRENGTH OF THE U.S. ECONOMY WILL REMAIN THE MAJOR FACTOR FOR U.S. MARKETS. AT THE SAME TIME, AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, WE LIVE IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY AND LARGE DECLINE IN ITS CURRENCIES WOULD OBVIOUSLY NOT BE GOOD FOR U.S. ECONOMIC OR NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS.

Q: HOW IS THIS GOING TO AFFECT U.S. ECONOMIC GROWTH?

A: THESE COUNTRIES ACCOUNT FOR A GROWING SHARE OF WORLD OUTPUT -- AND A GROWING SHARE OF OUR TRADE. EMERGING ASIA

ACCOUNTED FOR ONE-THIRD OF OUR EXPORTS LAST YEAR. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE PRECISELY, GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTIES INVOLVED. AT THE SAME TIME, THE STRENGTH OF THE U.S. ECONOMY REMAINS CONSIDERABLE. BUT THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT TRADE IMPACT ON OUR ECONOMY OF ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND THE LARGE DECLINE IN ITS CURRENCIES, WOULD OBVIOUSLY NOT BE GOOD FOR U.S. ECONOMIC OR NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON STABILITY BEING RESTORED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCES WERE PREPARED ON 1/12/98 AND NOT USED BY THE SPOKESMAN DURING THE DAILY BRIEFING. POSTS MAY DRAW ON THESE GUIDANCES FOR USE ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

7. INDONESIA: DISCUSSIONS ON IMF PROGRAM

CONTEXT: DEPUTY TREASURY SECRETARY LARRY SUMMERS AND HIS DELEGATION ARE IN JAKARTA TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION AND INDONESIA'S ADHERENCE TO THE IMF PROGRAM WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT SOEHARTO. (FYI ONLY, OTHER WORLD LEADERS INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO OF

JAPAN AND PRIME MINISTER KOHL OF GERMANY HAVE SPOKEN TO SOEHARTO REGARDING THE SITUATION AND SINGAPORE P.M. GOH CHOK TONG HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO TRAVEL TO INDONESIA ON UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 11 STATE 005955

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 12, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

TUESDAY.)

Q: WHAT IS THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND IN INDONESIA? HAVE YOU HAD ANY FEEDBACK FROM THE SUMMERS DELEGATION ON ITS DISCUSSIONS IN JAKARTA?

A: WE UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION OVER THE WEEKEND WAS CALMER THAN THAT OF LAST WEEK, THOUGH THE PUBLIC IS STILL LINING UP AT SUPERMARKETS TO OBTAIN RICE AND OTHER FOOD STAPLES.

--- DEPUTY TREASURY SECRETARY LARRY SUMMERS AND HIS DELEGATION MET TODAY WITH INDONESIAN FINANCE MINISTER MAR'IE MOHAMMED, AND WITH DR. WIDJOJO NITISASTRO, SENIOR ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT SOEHARTO, AND OTHER SENIOR INDONESIAN ECONOMIC OFFICIALS. THE SUMMERS PARTY HAS ALSO HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONFER WITH IMF DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR STANLEY FISCHER WHO IS ALSO IN JAKARTA AT THIS TIME.

--- THE DELEGATION HELD CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT INDONESIAN COMMITMENTS TO THE IMF PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC AND

FINANCIAL REFORMS. THE DELEGATION WILL MEET TUESDAY MORNING WITH PRESIDENT SOEHARTO.

8. SUMMERS/COHEN TRIPS TO ASIA -- ROTH/WOLF WHEREABOUTS

CONTEXT: IT WAS DECIDED LATE FRIDAY AT A WHITE HOUSE MEETING THAT EAP A/S ROTH SHOULD TRAVEL WITH TREASURY UNDER SECRETARY SUMMERS TO SINGAPORE AND JAKARTA AND JOIN DEFENSE SECRETARY COHEN'S DELEGATION FOLLOWING SECRETARY COHEN'S ARRIVAL IN JAKARTA, WHICH OCCURRED TODAY. U.S. COORDINATOR FOR APEC JOHN WOLF, WHO WAS SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL WITH U/S SUMMERS, INSTEAD HAS REMAINED IN WASHINGTON AS CO-COORDINATOR OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT WORKING GROUP ON THE ASIAN FINANCIAL SITUATION.

Q: WHO FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS ACCOMPANYING THE TWO DELEGATIONS TRAVELLING TO THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION?

A: AS STATED EARLIER, TREASURY UNDER SECRETARY SUMMERS IS BEING ACCOMPANIED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS ALAN LARSON. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE STANLEY ROTH ALSO ACCOMPANIED U/S SUMMERS TO SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA, WHERE A/S ROTH WILL JOIN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE COHEN'S DELEGATION. A/S ROTH WILL ACCOMPANY SECRETARY COHEN FOR THE REMAINDER OF HIS TRIP.

--- AMB. JOHN WOLF, WHO WAS EARLIER SCHEDULED TO ACCOMPANY U/S SUMMERS, INSTEAD WILL REMAIN IN WASHINGTON TO HELP COORDINATE THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S WORK RELATING TO THE ASIAN FINANCIAL SITUATION WITH HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE DEPARTMENT AND ELSEWHERE IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

9. INDONESIA/SINGAPORE: STATUS OF VISIT

Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE SUMMERS DELEGATION TRIP?

A: THIS MISSION WAS INITIATED FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S CONVERSATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT CLINTON AND INDONESIAN PRESIDENT SOEHARTO. THE DELEGATION IS HEADED BY DEPUTY TREASURY SECRETARY LAWRENCE SUMMERS AND INCLUDES, FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS STANLEY ROTH (SEE GUIDANCE ABOVE FOR TRAVEL PLANS IN ASIA) AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS ALAN LARSON.

UNCLAS SECTION 07 OF 11 STATE 005955

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 12, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

--THE DELEGATION HELD TALKS IN SINGAPORE AND ARE NOW IN JAKARTA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THEY WILL MEET WITH PRESIDENT SOEHARTO ON TUESDAY. CURRENT PLANS CALL FOR THE SUMMERS DELEGATION TO MEET WITH OFFICIALS IN THAILAND, MALAYSIA,

CHINA AND SOUTH KOREA LATER IN THE WEEK.

--OUR CENTRAL AIM IS TO AFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE OF RESTORING ECONOMIC CONFIDENCE IN THE REGION, LISTENING TO THE VIEWS OF LEADERS IN THE REGION AND SHARING OUR VIEWS WITH THEM.

10. CHINA - FORMER OFFICIAL ADVOCATES DEMOCRACY

CONTEXT: BUSINESSMAN AND FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE FUZHOU PLANNING COMMISSION, FANG JUE, HAS CO-AUTHORED AN ESSAY ADVOCATING A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS AIMED AT DEMOCRATIZING CHINA. HE CLAIMS HIS VIEWS HAVE A

SUBSTANTIAL, THOUGH STILL ANONYMOUS, FOLLOWING IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

Q: WHAT IS OUR REACTION TO THE ESSAY CO-AUTHORED AND DISTRIBUTED BY FORMER FUZHOU PLANNING COMMISSION DEPUTY DIRECTOR FANG JUE ADVOCATING ELECTIONS, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND RELIGION, RELAXED OVERSIGHT OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS, AN END TO COMMUNIST PARTY CONTROL OF THE MILITARY, A REVERSAL OF THE VERDICT ON TIANANMEN, NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DALAI LARNA, A FURTHER OPENING OF THE ECONOMY, AND A PRO-U.S. FOREIGN POLICY?

A: WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESS ION AND ARE PLEASED TO SEE IT PUT INTO PRACTICE IN CHINA THROUGH EXAMPLES LIKE THIS ESSAY. WE ARE ALSO PLEASED BY REPORTS THAT IN RECENT MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN INCREASING EXPRESSION OF VIEWS ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES, PRIMARILY THROUGH PUBLIC STATEMENTS, LETTERS AND PETITIONS BY SCORES OF OTHERS IN CHINA.

--- I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR A DETAILED ASSESSMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHINA. IN GENERAL WE URGE ALL STATES TO BRING THEIR PRACTICES IN LINE WITH THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

IF ASKED

--- OUR VIEWS ON THESE MATTERS ARE WELL KNOWN, INCLUDING SUPPORT WORLDWIDE FOR DEMOCRACY, ECONOMIC OPENNESS, AND DIALOGUE AS A MEANS OF ADDRESSING ISSUES OF CONCERN.

IF ASKED

--- IN PARTICULAR, WE VIEW DIALOGUE AS A MEANS OF ADDRESSING THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITION IN TIBET.

11. PRC INVITATION TO TAIWAN LOCAL POLITICIANS TO VISIT MAINLAND

CONTEXT: THE OPPOSITION (AND GENERALLY PRO-INDEPENDENCE)

DEMOCRATIC PROGRESSIVE PARTY (DPP) WON A MAJOR VICTORY IN TAIWAN'S MAGISTRATE/MAYOR ELECTIONS 11/29/97, TAKING 12 OF 23 SEATS COMPARED TO 8 FOR THE RULING NATIONALISTS (KMT); THREE INDEPENDENTS ALSO WON. OF TAIWAN'S POPULATION, 71 PERCENT NOW LIVES IN DPP-LED LOCALITIES COMPARED WITH ONLY 22 PERCENT UNDER KMT CONTROL. EVEN UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 11 STATE 005955

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 12, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

BETTER FOR THE DPP, THIS WAS THE FIRST MAJOR ELECTION IN WHICH THE DPP POPULAR VOTE TOTAL WAS HIGHER THAN THAT FOR THE KMT, 43 PERCENT TO 42 PERCENT (WITH INDEPENDENTS TAKING 13 PERCENT).

THE JANUARY ISSUE OF THE PRC'S "CROSS-STRAIT RELATIONS" JOURNAL HAS INVITED "FAR-SIGHTED COUNTY MAGISTRATES AND MAYORS" TO VISIT THE MAINLAND "TO ENHANCE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND TRUST." THIS JOURNAL IS PUBLISHED BY THE PRC'S ASSOCIATION FOR RELATIONS ACROSS THE TAIWAN STRAIT (ARATS), THE "UNOFFICIAL" BODY SET UP BY BEIJING FOR DEALING WITH TAIPEI; ITS COUNTERPART IS TAIWAN'S STRAITS EXCHANGE FOUNDATION (SEP)

THE MEDIA HAS INTERPRETED THE INVITATION AS AN "OLIVE BRANCH" TO TAIWAN'S OPPOSITION PARTY -- WHICH, UNDER ITS CURRENT CHAIRMAN (HSU HSIN-LIANG (PHON: SHOE SHIN-LIANG)), HAS BEEN DOWNPLAYING ITS PRO-INDEPENDENCE STANCE. THE JOURNAL ARTICLE WELCOMES VISITS BY ALL "WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AN EXTREMELY SMALL NUMBER OF STUBBORN 'TAIWAN INDEPENDENCE' ELEMENTS."

THE ARTICLE ENDS WITH A CALL BY ARATS FOR THE MAGISTRATES/MAYORS TO "EXPAND CROSS-STRAIT ECONOMIC EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION;" AND "ACCELERATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECT LINKS IN POSTAL SERVICE, AIR AND SHIPPING SERVICES, AND TRADE." BEIJING MAY HOPE THAT TAIWAN'S LOCAL POLITICIANS WILL JOIN THE TAIWAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN PRESSING THE TAIWAN AUTHORITIES TO AGREE TO OPEN THESE "THREE LINKS" AS A WAY TO LOWER THE COSTS OF UNDERTAKING TRAVEL AND TRADE -- WHICH NOW HAVE TO BE DONE VIA HONG KONG OR OTHER THIRD LOCATION. WHILE THE TAIWAN AUTHORITIES HAVE TAKEN SOME STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION, THEY REMAIN RELUCTANT TO FULLY OPEN THE THREE LINKS UNTIL BEIJING AGREES TO RENOUNCE THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST TAIWAN.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE PRC DECISION TO INVITE NEWLY, LOCALLY-ELECTED DPP POLITICIANS TO VISIT THE MAINLAND?

A. WE BELIEVE CROSS-STRAIT VISITS AND EXCHANGES OF ALL

TYPES HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO IMPROVE CROSS-STRAIT COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING.

WE HOPE THIS PROCESS WILL LEAD TO A RESUMPTION OF THE CROSS-STRAIT DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, A STEP WE ENCOURAGE.

12. CHINA: WEAPONS DEALS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE

CONTEXT: THE TIANANMEN SANCTIONS ACT OF 1990, AMONG OTHER THINGS, BANNED U.S. EXPORTS TO CHINA OF DEFENSE ARTICLES UNTIL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE THERE ON A PROGRAM OF POLITICAL REFORM OR UNLESS THE PRESIDENT DETERMINES THE EXPORT TO BE IN THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST. THE ACT ALSO BANNED PEACEFUL NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH CHINA UNTIL THE PRESIDENT COULD CERTIFY THAT CHINA WAS NOT IMPROPERLY SPREADING NUCLEAR WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY. DURING THE OCTOBER U.S.-CHINA SUMMIT, PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCED THAT, BASED ON ASSURANCES RECEIVED FROM CHINA, HE WOULD SUBMIT TO CONGRESS THE CERTIFICATIONS NECESSARY UNDER U.S. LAW TO IMPLEMENT THE PEACEFUL NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, WHILE SUCH A CERTIFICATION WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR U.S.-CHINA PEACEFUL NUCLEAR UNCLAS SECTION 09 OF 11 STATE 005955

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 12, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

COOPERATION, IT WOULD NOT AFFECT THE BAN ON EXPORTS TO CHINA OF DEFENSE ARTICLES.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON STATEMENTS FROM MR. COHEN ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF FUTURE WEAPONS DEALS WITH BEIJING?

A: THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY REGARDING THE EXPORT OF DEFENSE ARTICLES TO CHINA.

--- AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE SUSPENDED THE EXPORT OF DEFENSE ARTICLES TO CHINA UNLESS THE PRESIDENT CAN CERTIFY THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE THERE ON A PROGRAM OF POLITICAL REFORM OR THAT THE EXPORT IS IN THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST.

--- THOUGH PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD FORWARD CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS TO ALLOW FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1985 U.S.-CHINA AGREEMENT ON PEACEFUL NUCLEAR COOPERATION, THIS CERTIFICATION WOULD HAVE NO CONNECTION TO THE ARMS EMBARGO CURRENTLY IN PLACE AGAINST CHINA.

Q: HOW WOULD YOU ASSESS THE DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CHINA?

A: MILITARY-TO-MILITARY TIES WITH CHINA ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR OVERALL STRATEGY OF ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRC. DOD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH PLA HAS RESULTED IN A NUMBER OF CONCRETE RESULTS, INCLUDING AN AGREEMENT ON CONTINUED U.S. MILITARY PORT CALLS TO HONG KONG, ESTABLISHMENT OF REGULAR DEFENSE CONSULTATIVE TALKS, AND AN AGREEMENT ON MILITARY MARITIME SAFETY.

Q: IF THE ADMINISTRATION IS PREPARED TO ALLOW U.S. COMPANIES TO SELL PEACEFUL NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO CHINA, WHY IS IT NOT PREPARED TO LIFT THE EMBARGO ON DEFENSE ARTICLES?

A: THE TIANANMEN SANCTIONS ACT MANDATES THAT ONE OF TWO SPECIFIC CONDITIONS BE MET BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERS LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO. THE PRESIDENT MUST CERTIFY THAT EITHER PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON A PROGRAM OF POLITICAL REFORM IN CHINA OR THAT A DEFENSE EXPORT TO CHINA IS IN THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST.

IF ASKED/PRESSED:

Q: HAS THE PRESIDENT SUBMITTED THE CERTIFICATION PACKAGE TO CONGRESS?

A: THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE SENDING THE NECESSARY CERTIFICATION PACKAGE TO THE CONGRESS SHORTLY. I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE IN ASCERTAINING EXACTLY WHEN THIS WILL HAPPEN.

13. HUMAN RIGHTS: TRAFFICKING IN AMERICAN WOMEN

CONTEXT: U.S. CITIZEN WOMEN HAVE SOMETIMES BECOME VICTIMS FROM MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN OFFERS OF EMPLOYMENT ABROAD. AMERICANS WHO CONTACT OUR OFFICE OF OVERSEAS CITIZENS SERVICES ARE ENCOURAGED TO ENSURE THEY HAVE THE CORRECT VISA STATUS SO AS NOT TO CREATE ANY DIFFICULTIES WHEREBY THEY BECOME EXPLOITED BY THEIR EMPLOYER. WE ARE AWARE OF SUCH SITUATIONS IN JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA, FOR EXAMPLE AND HAVE INFORMATION IN OUR CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEETS TO UNCLAS SECTION 10 OF 11 STATE 005955

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 12, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

ALERT AMERICANS TO DISCUS THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT PRIOR TO ACCEPTING ANY OFFER.

Q: HAVE AMERICAN CITIZENS BEEN FORCED TO WORK IN THE "SEX TRADE" AS CONDITIONS OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT ABROAD?

A: ON OCCASIONS U.S. CITIZENS WORKING OVERSEAS HAVE REPORTED CONTRACT VIOLATIONS WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS, INCLUDING ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR INTIMIDATION.

---FOR EXAMPLE, OUR CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET FOR JAPAN TALKS OF MISREPRESENTATION BY JAPANESE EMPLOYERS WHO VIOLATE CONTRACTS WITH AMERICAN CITIZENS COME TO WORK AS ENGLISH TEACHERS, CARPENTERS, MODELS, ACTORS, ENTERTAINERS, EXOTIC DANCERS OR BAR HOSTESSES.

---WHEN REPORTED, OUR EMBASSY CAN ASSIST U.S. CITIZENS WHO ARE BEING HARASSED OR EXPLOITED. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TAKES ALLEGATIONS OF HARASSMENT VERY SERIOUSLY.

---WE RECOMMEND THAT U.S. CITIZENS WHO DO PLAN TO WORK OVERSEAS ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE THE CORRECT VISA TO WORK AND SHOULD NEVER ENTER AS TOURISTS.

14. HUMAN RIGHTS: TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN

Q: WHAT IS THE USG DOING TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN?

A: MANY YOUNG WOMEN FROM THE FORMER SOVIET UNION, EAST ASIA, AFRICA AND CENTRAL AMERICA ARE LEAVING THEIR HOMELANDS TO SEEK A BETTER LIFE IN WESTERN EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND JAPAN. ORGANIZED CRIMINAL GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS POSING AS MODELING AGENCIES, DANCE COMPANIES, INTERNATIONAL MATCHMAKING SERVICES AND DOMESTIC SERVICES LURE THESE VULNERABLE WOMEN, OR SOMETIMES THEIR PARENTS, WITH THE PROMISE OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES. ONCE THESE WOMEN ARE SUCCESSFULLY BROUGHT INTO A COUNTRY, THE CRIMINAL GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS THEN CONFISCATE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, USE DEBT BONDAGE, AND PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE TO FORCE THESE WOMEN TO WORK AND LIVE IN UNSAFE CONDITIONS AS PROSTITUTES, SWEATSHOP WORKERS, AND DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

---PRESIDENT CLINTON HAS SAID THE U.S. WILL LEAD THE WORLD'S EFFORTS IN COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN. AS SECRETARY ALBRIGHT SAID: "AND LET ME SAY THAT IF THOSE WHO TRAFFIC IN DRUGS SHOULD BE PUNISHED SEVERELY--AND THEY SHOULD--SO SHOULD THOSE WHO TRAFFIC IN HUMAN BEINGS."

---THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS WORKING PROACTIVELY TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN, SPECIFICALLY:

--CHAIRING AN INTER-AGENCY GROUP LED BY THERESA LOAR WITH SEVERAL FEDERAL AGENCIES TO DEVELOP A SERIES OF INITIATIVES THAT INVOLVE PREVENTION, ENFORCEMENT AND PROTECTION;

--WORKING WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION TO IMPLEMENT AN INFORMATION CAMPAIGN TARGETING VULNERABLE WOMEN IN POLAND AND UKRAINE;

--DEVELOPING A PUBLIC DIPLOMACY CAMPAIGN OVERSEAS

DESCRIBING TACTICS CRIMINAL GROUPS USE TO COERCE AND TRAFFIC WOMEN, THE RISKS OF TRAFFICKING, WHAT WOMEN CAN DO TO PROTECT THEMSELVES, AND WHERE WOMEN CAN GET HELP IN THE UNITED STATES;

--IDENTIFYING WAYS TO IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION; AND

--CO-FUNDING A WORLD-WIDE STUDY OF EXISTING STATUTES ON UNCLAS SECTION 11 OF 11 STATE 005955

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 12, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO DEVELOP MODEL LEGISLATION AS A GUIDE FOR COUNTRIES SEEKING TO IMPROVE THEIR LAWS

--FOR INFORMATION CONTACT THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ISSUES, THERESA LOAR ON (202) 647-6227.
ALBRIGHT

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DIST:

SIT: NSC

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PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O R 262253Z JAN 98
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 262253Z JAN 98
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE 6561
INFO: RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC 4967
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC 1631
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC 8441
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 4746
RUETIAA/DIRNSA FT GEORGE G. MEADE MD
RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT WASHDC 4400
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR LAOS VERSION 2

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 08 STATE 014344

QQQQ
SENSITIVE, NOFORN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, LA
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR LAOS VERSION 2

REF: (A)VIENTIANE 2039, (B)VIENTIANE 1656, (C)VIENTIANE
1563

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - PROTECT ACCORDINGLY

1. (U) THE V-2 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR LAOS FOLLOWS, INCORPORATING AGREED CHANGES AND ADDITIONS FROM REFTELS. PLEASE CONTINUE TO TREAT THE REPORT AS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED/NOFORN UNTIL SUCH TIME AS IT IS OFFICIALLY RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC.

2. (U) THIS IS THE LAST OPPORTUNITY TO CATCH FACTUAL, SPELLING OR OTHER OBVIOUS ERRORS. ALL WASHINGTON CLEARANCES HAVE BEEN OBTAINED. IF YOU INDICATE THAT THE TEXT IS CORRECT, WE WILL CONVERT IT TO THE V-3 VERSION, THAT IS THE TEXT THAT WILL BE DELIVERED TO CONGRESS ON JANUARY 29, 1998. SEPARATE INSTRUCTIONS ON PUBLIC RELEASE OF THE REPORTS AND RELATED MATTERS WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

3. (SBU) BEGIN TEXT. THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (LPDR) IS AN AUTHORITARIAN ONE-PARTY STATE RULED BY THE LAO PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (LPRP) . THE

JUDICIARY IS SUBJECT TO EXECUTIVE INFLUENCE.

THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR (MOL) REMAINS THE MAIN INSTRUMENT OF STATE CONTROL. MOL POLICE MAINTAIN ORDER AND MONITOR LAO SOCIETY AND FOREIGN NATIONALS, INCLUDING FOREIGN OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATS. THE DEGREE OF SURVEILLANCE VARIES BY LOCALITY, BUT OVERALL HAS DIMINISHED CONSIDERABLY IN RECENT YEARS.

LAOS IS AN EXTREMELY POOR COUNTRY. AFTER THE LPRP CAME TO POWER IN 1975, AT LEAST 350,000 PEOPLE FLED THE COUNTRY TO ESCAPE THE GOVERNMENT'S HARSH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES. SINCE 1986 THE GOVERNMENT HAS LARGELY ABANDONED ITS SOCIALIST ECONOMIC AGENDA. ECONOMIC REFORMS HAVE MOVED THE COUNTRY FROM A MORIBUND, CENTRALLY PLANNED SYSTEM TO A GROWING, MARKET-ORIENTED ECONOMY OPEN TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

THERE HAS BEEN A GENERAL TREND AWAY FROM THE HARSH CONDITIONS THAT EXISTED AFTER THE LPRP ASSUMED POWER IN 1975, BUT SERIOUS PROBLEMS REMAIN. CITIZENS DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THEIR GOVERNMENT. EVEN WITH ONGOING ECONOMIC LIBERALIZATION, THE ADOPTION OF A CONSTITUTION IN 1991, AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN 1993 AND 1997, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ONLY SLOWLY EASED RESTRICTIONS ON BASIC FREEDOMS AND BEGUN CODIFICATION OF IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION FOR RIGHTS STIPULATED IN THE CONSTITUTION. MANY OF THE RIGHTS PROVIDED FOR IN THE CONSTITUTION HAVE NOT BEEN CODIFIED WITH IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION. IN PRACTICE, THE GOVERNMENT RESTRICTS THE FREEDOMS OF SPEECH, ASSEMBLY, AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, RELIGION, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE PROVIDED FOR IN THE CONSTITUTION. CITIZENS DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY AND DO NOT ENJOY A FREE PRESS, ALTHOUGH MOST CITIZENS HAVE READY ACCESS TO A VARIETY OF FOREIGN MEDIA. PRISON CONDITIONS REMAIN HARSH, AND SOME SOCIETAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND MINORITIES PERSISTS.

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

4. (SBU) SECTION 1 RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING FREEDOM FROM:

A. POLITICAL AND OTHER EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING

THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF POLITICAL KILLINGS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

IN MAY GOVERNMENT TROOPS SHOT TWO EUROPEAN TOURISTS CAMPED IN A REMOTE AREA, KILLING ONE AND WOUNDING THE OTHER, POSSIBLY PROMPTED BY ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT TROOPS BY ANTIGOVERNMENT ELEMENTS IN THE AREA. THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHOOTING HAD NOT MADE ADEQUATE EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY THE CAMPERS BEFORE FIRING. THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT PUBLICLY CHARGED THE SOLDIERS. THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ORDINARILY PUBLICIZE LETHAL INCIDENTS.

ON JANUARY 16, UNKNOWN PERSONS REPORTEDLY KILLED EIGHT HMONG VILLAGERS, INCLUDING FIVE CHILDREN, IN A REMOTE

MOUNTAINOUS AREA. VILLAGERS FROM THE AREA SAID THAT THE PERPETRATORS WERE ETHNIC HMONG NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 08 STATE 014344

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SENSITIVE, NOFORN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, LA
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR LAOS VERSION 2

GOVERNMENT. THE GOVERNMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING UNIT SAID THAT IT IS INVESTIGATING THE REPORT.

ATTACKS BY ARMED BANDS ON GOVERNMENT, FOREIGN, AND LAO TRAVELERS AND BUSINESSMEN CONTINUED IN THE CENTRAL AND NORTH CENTRAL REGION. THE ATTACKS APPARENTLY INVOLVE A MIXTURE OF FACTORS INCLUDING INSURGENCY, CLAN RIVALRY, HIGHWAY ROBBERY AND REACTION TO ENCROACHING DEVELOPMENT.

B. DISAPPEARANCE

THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED DISAPPEARANCES.

IN SEPTEMBER 1993, VUE MAI, A HMONG LEADER WHO IN NOVEMBER 1992 RETURNED VOLUNTARILY TO LAOS FROM A REFUGEE CAMP IN THAILAND, DISAPPEARED IN VIENTIANE. NO NEW INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE CASE CAME TO LIGHT DURING THE YEAR.

C. TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

THE PENAL CODE PROHIBITS TORTURE OR MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS, AND THE GOVERNMENT GENERALLY OBSERVED THESE PRINCIPLES IN PRACTICE.

PRISON CONDITIONS ARE HARSH BUT NOT LIFE THREATENING. PRISON AUTHORITIES DENY SOME PRISONERS REGULAR FAMILY VISITS, AND MEDICAL CARE RANGES FROM INADEQUATE TO NONEXISTENT. INMATES SOMETIMES RESORT TO BRIBING GUARDS TO OBTAIN FOOD AND MEDICINES. PRISON CONDITIONS FOR WOMEN ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE FOR MEN. THE EXTENT OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN PRISON IS UNKNOWN, BUT IT IS NOT BELIEVED TO BE A SERIOUS PROBLEM. THERE IS NO INDEPENDENT MONITORING OF PRISON CONDITIONS.

D. ARBITRARY ARREST, DETENTION, OR EXILE

THE CONSTITUTION AND PENAL CODE PROVIDE SOME PROTECTION, INCLUDING A STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR THOSE ACCUSED OF CRIMES, BUT THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT FULLY RESPECT THESE PROVISIONS. THOSE ACCUSED OF HOSTILITY TOWARD THE REGIME ARE SUBJECT TO ARREST AND CONFINEMENT FOR LONG PERIODS.

AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT EIGHT HMONG WERE ARRESTED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE WAS SUBMITTED TO THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING UNIT IN THE

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHICH IS INVESTIGATING THE CHARGE (SEE SECTION 3).

WHILE CITIZENS HAVE THE PROTECTION OF DUE PROCESS, AUTHORITIES HAVE REPORTEDLY ARRESTED SOME PERSONS BASED ON UNSUPPORTED ACCUSATIONS AND WITHOUT INFORMING THEM OF THE CHARGES, THE ACCUSERS IDENTITIES, OR THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS. DUE PROCESS RIGHTS ARE UNEVENLY UPHELD ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT USE FORCED EXILE.

E. DENIAL OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL

THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS AND PROTECTS THEIR DECISIONS FROM OUTSIDE SCRUTINY. IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, THE COURTS, WHICH ARE UNDERSTAFFED AND POORLY TRAINED, APPEAR TO ACCEPT RECOMMENDATIONS OF OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, ESPECIALLY THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, IN MAKING THEIR DECISIONS.

THE JUDICIARY IS COMPOSED OF DISTRICT COURTS, PROVINCIAL COURTS, AND THE SUPREME COURT.

ALTHOUGH REGULATIONS PROVIDE FOR PUBLIC TRIAL, WIDESPREAD IGNORANCE OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AMONG BOTH CITIZENS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES AT TIMES RESULTS IN TRIALS THAT ARE LITTLE MORE THAN PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PREDETERMINED VERDICTS. POLITICALLY SENSITIVE TRIALS HAVE NOT BEEN OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, ALTHOUGH TRIALS OF CIVIL CRIMES APPEARED TO BE OPEN; THESE ARE INCREASINGLY PUBLICIZED IN THE MEDIA. THE GOVERNMENT HELD SEMINARS FOR COURT OFFICIALS DURING THE YEAR TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF LEGAL RIGHTS AND PROCEDURES, AND GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS HAVE PRINTED ARTICLES DESCRIBING CITIZENS' RIGHTS.

THERE IS PROVISION FOR APPEAL TO THE PROVINCIAL COURTS AND THE SUPREME COURT. SENIOR GOVERNMENT AND PARTY OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY MAY ALSO REVIEW POLITICALLY SENSITIVE CASES.

THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES THAT ALL ACCUSED PERSONS HAVE THE UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 08 STATE 014344

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SENSITIVE, NOFORN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, LA
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR LAOS VERSION 2

RIGHT TO DEFEND THEMSELVES IN COURT. A BOARD OF LEGAL ADVISORS FORMED IN 1991 WAS SUSPENDED IN 1992, PENDING ENACTMENT OF A LEGALLY CLARIFIED BODY OF GOVERNING REGULATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT STRENGTHENED THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS TO COUNSEL IN AUGUST BY ESTABLISHING A FORMAL BAR ASSOCIATION. ACCORDING TO THE CRIMINAL CODE, DEFENDANTS IN CRIMINAL CASES ARE ENTITLED, AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE, TO REPRESENTATION BY A RIGHTS PROTECTOR" WHO MAY BE A PRACTICING ATTORNEY. HOWEVER,

BECAUSE CITIZENS ARE LARGELY UNAWARE OF THEIR RIGHTS AND LEGAL AUTHORITIES ARE NOT REQUIRED BY LAW TO ENLIGHTEN THEM, FEW DEFENDANTS SEEK OR HAVE LEGAL REPRESENTATION.

ARRESTS, TRIALS AND CONVICTIONS ARE USUALLY UNANNOUNCED, THEREBY COMPLICATING EFFORTS TO ESTIMATE ACCURATELY THE NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. THREE FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE SERVING 14-YEAR SENTENCES HANDED DOWN IN 1992 FOR ADVOCATING A MULTIPARTY SYSTEM AND CRITICIZING RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL LIBERTIES.

THERE HAS BEEN NO NEW INFORMATION CONCERNING THREE MEN SENTENCED IN 1992 TO LIFE TERMS FOR CRIMES ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED DURING THEIR TENURE AS OFFICIALS OF THE PREVIOUS REGIME.

THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT THREE OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE FORMER GOVERNMENT RELEASED IN 1992 HAVE CHOSEN TO REMAIN IN THE SAME REMOTE PROVINCE WHERE THEY AND THE SIX PRISONERS MENTIONED ABOVE WERE HELD. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE LAST FEW YEARS.

F. ARBITRARY INTERFERENCE WITH PRIVACY, FAMILY, HOME, OR CORRESPONDENCE

AT THE SAME TIME THAT IT SOUGHT TO LIBERALIZE THE ECONOMY, THE GOVERNMENT RELAXED SOME ELEMENTS OF STATE CONTROL, INCLUDING ITS RIGOROUS POLICE MONITORING OF PERSONAL AND BUSINESS ACTIVITIES AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE NIGHTTIME CURFEW. HOWEVER, WHILE THE CONSTITUTION PROHIBITS ARRESTS OR SEARCHES IN HOMES WITHOUT A WARRANT OR AUTHORIZATION, THE SECURITY BUREAUS MAY AUTHORIZE SEARCH AND SEIZURE BY THEMSELVES RATHER THAN BY JUDICIAL AUTHORITY. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PARTY CONTINUE TO MONITOR CITIZENS

SPORADICALLY THROUGH A SYSTEM OF NEIGHBORHOOD AND WORKPLACE COMMITTEES. THE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEES ALSO HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER AND REPORTING "BAD ELEMENTS" TO THE POLICE. THESE COMMITTEES USUALLY CONCERN THEMSELVES MORE WITH STREET CRIME AND INSTANCES OF MORAL TURPITUDE THAN WITH POLITICAL ACTIVISM. THE DEGREE OF SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL VARIES FROM PROVINCE TO PROVINCE, BUT OVERALL HAS DIMINISHED CONSIDERABLY IN RECENT YEARS.

THE PENAL CODE FORBIDS TELEPHONE MONITORING WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORIZATION, BUT THE SECURITY BUREAUS ARE BELIEVED TO AUTHORIZE SUCH MONITORING THEMSELVES. THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO MONITOR INTERNATIONAL MAIL AND TELEPHONE CALLS, PROBABLY INCLUDING SOME FAXES, ALTHOUGH THE INCREASING NUMBER OF SUCH CALLS LIMITED THE SCOPE OF SUCH SURVEILLANCE.

IN MAY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PASSED A NEW LAND LAW THAT REAFFIRMED THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION THAT LAND IS THE PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY. THE LAW SETS STANDARDS FOR THE SIZE OF AND HOLDINGS, BUT PARTIES MAY LEASE ADDITIONAL LAND FROM THE STATE. INDIVIDUALS MAY ACQUIRE

LAND USE RIGHTS THROUGH STATE GRANTS, TRANSFER OR INHERITANCE. WHILE THE LAW DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE LAND CLAIMS OF THOSE WHO FLED ABROAD, CLAIMS FOR HOUSES AND PHYSICAL PROPERTY ARE RECOGNIZED. IN THE PAST, MANY CITIZENS WHO FLED THE COUNTRY HAVE REGAINED CONFISCATED PROPERTY BY DEMONSTRATING THEIR INTENT TO REPATRIATE.

CONTACT BETWEEN ORDINARY CITIZENS AND FOREIGNERS HAS INCREASED IN RECENT YEARS AS RESTRICTIONS SUCH AS THE REQUIREMENT FOR GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OF INVITATIONS TO MOST FOREIGNERS' HOMES ARE NO LONGER ENFORCED. THE GOVERNMENT ALLOWS CITIZENS TO MARRY FOREIGNERS, BUT ONLY WITH ITS PRIOR APPROVAL. MARRIAGES WITHOUT GOVERNMENT APPROVAL MAY BE ANNULLED, WITH BOTH PARTNERS SUBJECT TO FINE AND ARREST.

5. (SBU) SECTION 2 RESPECT FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES, INCLUDING:

A. FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS

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DESPITE THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR FREEDOM OF SPEECH - AND THE PRESS, THE-GOVERNMENT EXERTS BROAD CONTROL OVER THE EXERCISE OF THESE FREEDOMS AND HAS REACTED HARSHLY TO EXPRESSIONS OF POLITICAL DISSENT. THREE PERSONS ARRESTED IN 1990 AFTER PERSISTING IN PUBLIC CRITICISM OF PARTY

POLICIES AND CALLING FOR FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE, EACH RECEIVED 14-YEAR SENTENCES IN 1992 (SEE SECTION I.E.). THE PENAL CODE FORBIDS SLANDERING THE STATE, DISTORTING PARTY OR STATE POLICIES, AND SPREADING FALSE RUMORS CONDUCIVE TO DISORDER. IT ALSO PROHIBITS DISSEMINATING BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS THAT AUTHORITIES DEEM INDECENT OR THAT WOULD ASSAIL THE NATIONAL CULTURE.

ALL DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO AND TELEVISION ARE CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT. LOCAL NEWS IN ALL MEDIA REFLECT GOVERNMENT POLICY; HOWEVER, FOREIGN NEWS REPORTS, INCLUDING THOSE FROM WESTERN SOURCES, ARE USUALLY TRANSLATED WITHOUT BIAS. IN RECENT YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS RELAXED ITS CONTROL OF THE FLOW OF INFORMATION FROM ABROAD, AND THAI AND WESTERN NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES HAVE BEEN SOLD IN THE TOWNS WHERE THERE IS DEMAND FOR THEM. THE GOVERNMENT MAKES NO EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE RECEPTION OF THAI RADIO OR TELEVISION BROADCASTS. THESE ARE WIDELY RECEIVED NATIONWIDE VIA AN INCREASING NUMBER OF SATELLITE DISHES.

THE GOVERNMENT REQUIRES REGISTRATION OF SATELLITE TELEVISION RECEIVING DISHES AND PAYMENT OF A ONE-TIME LICENSING FEE FOR THEIR INSTALLATION, BUT OTHERWISE MAKES

NO EFFORT TO RESTRICT THEIR USE. IN 1997 THE NUMBER OF SUCH DISHES CONTINUED TO INCREASE, BOTH IN MAJOR URBAN AREAS AND IN REMOTE PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT TOWNS. THE CABLE NEWS NETWORK (CNN), THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION (BBC), AND SEVERAL STATIONS IN THAILAND ARE AMONG THE MANY CHANNELS AVAILABLE TO SATELLITE DISH OWNERS.

THE GOVERNMENT PROHIBITS PORNOGRAPHIC OR POLITICALLY INFLAMMATORY VIDEOCASSETTES. IN LATE 1994 THE VIENTIANE MUNICIPALITY IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS GOVERNING THE CONTENT OF MUSIC PLAYED IN NIGHT CLUBS AND OUTLAWED KARAOKE IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN LAO CULTURE AGAINST ITS PERCEIVED EROSION BY FOREIGN INFLUENCES. ENFORCEMENT OF THESE RESTRICTIONS, LAX IN RECENT YEARS, WAS STEPPED UP IN 1997.

THE GOVERNMENT RESTRICTS ACADEMIC FREEDOM; HOWEVER, IT HAS RELAXED ITS RESTRICTIONS IN CERTAIN AREAS. THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION STILL APPROVES ALL GRANTS FOR STUDY AND RESEARCH ABROAD, AND THE GOVERNMENT ALSO MONITORS AND MAY RESTRICT THE ACTIVITIES OF WESTERN SCHOLARS DOING RESEARCH IN LAOS. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH ONCE LIMITED THE FOREIGN TRAVEL OF ACADEMICIANS AND PROFESSIONALS, NOW ACTIVELY SOLICITS SCHOLARSHIPS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS ABROAD FROM DONOR COUNTRIES. GROUPS OF 30 OR MORE PROFESSIONALS HAVE

TRAVELED TO SINGAPORE AND ELSEWHERE IN RECENT YEARS FOR TRAINING RELATED TO MEMBERSHIP IN ASEAN.

B. FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

THE PENAL CODE PROHIBITS DEMONSTRATIONS OR PROTEST MARCHES AIMED AT CAUSING TURMOIL AND SOCIAL INSTABILITY, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES OF FROM 1 TO 5 YEARS IMPRISONMENT. ALTHOUGH THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES CITIZENS WITH THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AND JOIN ASSOCIATIONS, ALL ASSOCIATIONS ARE PARTY-CONTROLLED, AND THEIR PRODUCTS REFLECT OFFICIAL POLICY. FOREIGNERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENGAGE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

C. FREEDOM OF RELIGION

THE CONSTITUTION CONTAINS PROVISIONS FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. IN PRACTICE, THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO RESTRICT FREEDOM OF RELIGION, ESPECIALLY FOR SOME CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS.

LINKS WITH CORELIGIONISTS AND RELIGIOUS ASSOCIATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES REQUIRE GOVERNMENT APPROVAL. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT PERMITS FOREIGN NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS TO WORK IN THE COUNTRY, IT PROHIBITS FOREIGNERS FROM PROSELYTIZING. THE GOVERNMENT ALSO RESTRICTS THE IMPORT OF FOREIGN RELIGIOUS PUBLICATIONS AND ARTIFACTS.

THE ENFORCEMENT OF THESE REGULATIONS VARIES BY PROVINCE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS UNABLE TO OPERATE IN THE HIGHLANDS AND MUCH OF THE NORTH, BUT CATHOLICS CAN OPENLY ATTEND CHURCHES AND CHAPELS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN LAOS. IN NOVEMBER A CATHOLIC BISHOP WAS INSTALLED IN THE

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SOUTHERN PROVINCE OF KHAMOUNE. SEVERAL PROTESTANT DENOMINATIONS OPERATE MORE THAN 100 CHURCHES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE GOVERNMENT GRANTED APPROVAL TO FOUR PROTESTANT CONGREGATIONS FOR THE RENOVATION OR CONSTRUCTION OF CHURCH BUILDINGS IN THE VIENTIANE AREA. THERE CONTINUE TO BE REPORTS THAT SOME LOCAL AUTHORITIES HARASSED PRACTICING CHRISTIANS. THE PERSISTENCE OF SUCH REPORTS UNDERSCORES THE CONTINUING SUSPICION ON THE PART OF AUTHORITIES TOWARD SOME PARTS OF THE LAO CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

BY COMPARISON, THE GOVERNMENT OPENLY ENCOURAGES BUDDHISM AND SUPPORTS BUDDHIST ORGANIZATIONS. HIGH-RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ROUTINELY ATTEND RELIGIOUS FUNDTIONS, AND BUDDHIST CLERGY ARE PROMINENTLY FEATURED AT IMPORTANT

STATE AND PARTY FUNCTIONS. THE GOVERNMENT PERMITS BUDDHIST FESTIVALS WITHOUT HINDRANCE.

TWO MOSQUES AND A BAHA'I CENTER OPERATE OPENLY IN VIENTIANE.

D. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY, FOREIGN TRAVEL, EMIGRATION, AND REPATRIATION

THERE ARE NO DOMESTIC TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FOR CITIZENS AND PRIVATE FOREIGN VISITORS EXCEPT IN AREAS CONSIDERED UNSAFE. MOST CITIZENS CAN EASILY OBTAIN PASSPORTS AND EXIT PERMITS FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR PERSONAL TRAVEL ABROAD. BORDER CROSSING PERMITS TO VISIT THAILAND ARE ROUTINELY AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL VILLAGE COMMITTEES FOR A MODEST ISSUANCE FEE, AND THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT APPEAR TO INTERFERE WITH PERSONS DESIRING TO EMIGRATE. EXCEPT FOR AROUND 30 PERSONS CONVICTED IN ABSENTIA IN 1975 FOR ANTIGOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES, CITIZENS HAVE THE RIGHT OF RETURN.

THE STATED GOVERNMENT POLICY SINCE 1977 IS TO WELCOME BACK THE APPROXIMATELY 10 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION THAT FLED AFTER THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN 1975. IN RECENT YEARS, AN INCREASING NUMBER OF ETHNIC LAO LIVING ABROAD RETURNED TO VISIT; SEVERAL REMAINED TO OPERATE BUSINESSES.

LAOS, THAILAND, AND THE U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) ARE COOPERATING ON THE RETURN OF THE LAO ASYLUM SEEKERS IN CAMPS IN THAILAND WHO VOLUNTEER TO RETURN TO LAOS. THIS PROGRAM INCLUDES PROVISIONS FOR MONITORING RETURNEES TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE GIVEN THE SAME RIGHTS AND TREATMENT AS RESIDENT LAO. ACCORDING TO THE UNHCR AND

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, RETURNEES ARE NOT SUBJECT TO DISCRIMINATION OR PERSECUTION, AND RETURNEES ARE ALLOWED TO RETURN WITH ALL THE BELONGINGS THEY ACCUMULATED WHILE OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. THERE WERE NO FORCIBLE REPATRIATIONS TO LAOS IN 1997. HOWEVER, THE UNHCR ASSISTED THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF 222 LAO FROM CHINA, 33 FROM THAILAND, AND 26 FROM OTHER COUNTRIES DURING THE YEAR. NO NEW LAO ASYLUM SEEKERS ARRIVED IN THAILAND.

6. (SBU) SECTION 3 RESPECT FOR POLITICAL RIGHTS: THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS TO CHANGE THEIR GOVERNMENT

CITIZENS DO NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO CHANGE THEIR GOVERNMENT, DESPITE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR THE PUBLIC ELECTION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS. WHILE THE

CONSTITUTION DOES NOT EXPLICITLY EXCLUDE FORMATION OF MULTIPLE POLITICAL PARTIES, IT ASSIGNS TO THE RULING LPRP THE LEADING ROLE IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM. ALL CANDIDATES NEEDED THE APPROVAL OF THE LPRP BEFORE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS HELD IN DECEMBER. WHILE NO OTHER PARTIES WERE ALLOWED, FOUR OF THE CANDIDATES WERE NOT NOMINATED BY PARTY ORGANIZATIONS. ONE WINNING CANDIDATE WAS NOT AN LPRP MEMBER. WHILE VOTING WAS NOT MANDATED BY LAW, MANY VOTERS BELIEVED THAT IT WAS SO. REPORTED VOTER TURNOUT WAS 98 PERCENT.

THE PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ROSE FROM A PREVIOUS LEVEL OF 9 PERCENT TO 20 PERCENT AS 20 OF THE 2? FEMALE CANDIDATES WON SEATS. THE NUMBER OF ETHNIC MINORITY MEMBERS ALSO INCREASED TO LEVELS THAT REFLECT NATIONAL ETHNIC DIVERSITY. THREE MEMBERS OF THE 49-MEMBER LPRP CENTRAL COMMITTEE ARE WOMEN. THERE ARE NO WOMEN IN THE POLITBURO OR THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

MEN OF LOWLAND LAO ORIGIN DOMINATE THE UPPER ECHELONS OF THE PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT. NONETHELESS, THE PRIME MINISTER, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, THE MINISTER OF UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 08 STATE 014344

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INTERIOR AND 35 MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ARE BELIEVED TO BE MEMBERS OF ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS. MEMBERS OF THESE MINORITIES OFTEN ADOPT LOWLAND LAO NAMES AS THEY ARE INCREASINGLY ASSIMILATED INTO MAINSTREAM SOCIETY, THUS MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN ACCURATELY THE NUMBER OF ETHNIC MINORITY MEMBERS IN ANY ORGANIZATION.

7. (SBU) SECTION 4 GOVERNMENTAL ATTITUDE REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AND NONGOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

THERE ARE NO DOMESTIC HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS. ANY ORGANIZATION WISHING TO INVESTIGATE AND PUBLICLY CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES WOULD FACE SERIOUS OBSTACLES IF IT WERE PERMITTED TO OPERATE AT ALL. THE GOVERNMENT GENERALLY DOES NOT COOPERATE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS.

THE GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS ONGOING CONTACTS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS PERMITTED U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVERS TO MONITOR THE TREATMENT OF RETURNING REFUGEES WITHOUT INTERFERENCE, IN SEPTEMBER THE GOVERNMENT DESIGNATED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DEPARTMENT OF TREATIES AND INTERNATIONAL LAWS AS THE ORGAN RESPONSIBLE FOR RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES ABOUT SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS.

8. (SBU) SECTION 5 DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE, SEX, RELIGION, DISABILITY, LANGUAGE, OR SOCIAL STATUS

THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR EQUAL TREATMENT UNDER THE LAW FOR ALL CITIZENS WITHOUT REGARD TO SEX, SOCIAL STATUS, EDUCATION, FAITH, OR ETHNICITY. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT TOOK ACTION WHEN CASES OF DISCRIMINATION CAME TO THE ATTENTION OF HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS, THE LEGAL MECHANISM WHEREBY A CITIZEN MAY BRING CHARGES OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION IS NEITHER WIDELY DEVELOPED NOR WIDELY UNDERSTOOD AMONG THE GENERAL POPULATION.

WOMEN

THERE ARE REPORTS THAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OCCURS, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT WIDESPREAD. SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND RAPE ARE REPORTEDLY RARE. IN CASES OF RAPE THAT ARE TRIED IN COURT, DEFENDANTS ARE GENERALLY CONVICTED. THE GOVERNMENT HAS INCREASED MONITORING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY THE WOMEN'S UNION AND THE YOUTH UNION, BOTH PARTY-SANCTIONED ORGANIZATIONS, DESIGNED TO EDUCATE GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN ABOUT THE SCHEMES OF RECRUITERS FOR BROTHELS AND SWEATSHOPS IN THAILAND AND ELSEWHERE. THE WOMEN'S UNION WORKED CLOSELY WITH THAI NGO'S TO BRING JUSTICE IN THE CASE OF THREE LAO WOMEN RAPED WHILE INCARCERATED IN THAILAND.

IN THE PAST, THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROSECUTED SOME PERSONS FOR INVOLVEMENT IN SUCH RECRUITING ACTIVITIES. DURING THE YEAR, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES CONDUCTED SEVERAL RAIDS OF ENTERTAINMENT ESTABLISHMENTS ACCUSED OF FOSTERING PROSTITUTION.

THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN, AND THE LAO WOMEN'S UNION OPERATES NATIONALLY TO PROMOTE THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN LAO SOCIETY. HOWEVER, DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IS NOT GENERALIZED. THERE PERSIST VARYING DEGREES OF TRADITIONAL CULTURALLY BASED DISCRIMINATION, WITH GREATER DISCRIMINATION PRACTICED AMONG SOME HILL TRIBES. MANY WOMEN OCCUPY RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AND PRIVATE BUSINESS, AND IN URBAN AREAS

THEIR INCOMES ARE OFTEN HIGHER THAN THOSE OF MEN. THE FAMILY CODE PROHIBITS LEGAL DISCRIMINATION IN MARRIAGE AND INHERITANCE.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS INCREASED SUPPORT FOR THE WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, WHICH IS DESIGNED IN PART TO INCREASE THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM.

CHILDREN

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES ARE INADEQUATE TO PROVIDE FULLY FOR CHILDREN'S BASIC HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS. EDUCATION IS COMPULSORY THROUGH THE FIFTH GRADE, BUT CHILDREN FROM RURAL AREAS AND POOR URBAN FAMILIES RARELY COMPLY WITH THIS REQUIREMENT. VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPORTS OF THE PHYSICAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN ARE RARE.

THE GOVERNMENT IS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT LAO CHILDREN UNCLAS SECTION 07 OF 08 STATE 014344

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BEING LURED FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SLAVE LABOR IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND HAS ESTABLISHED A NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MOTHERS AND CHILDREN CHAIRED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER. THE COMMISSION, WORKING WITH THE LAO WOMEN'S UNION, YOUTH UNION, JUSTICE MINISTRY AND LABOR MINISTRY, HAS CONDUCTED WORKSHOPS AROUND THE COUNTRY DESIGNED TO MAKE PARENTS AND TEENAGERS AWARE OF THE DANGERS.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

WITH DONOR ASSISTANCE, THE GOVERNMENT IS IMPLEMENTING LIMITED PROGRAMS FOR THE DISABLED, ESPECIALLY AMPUTEES. THE LAW DOES NOT MANDATE ACCESSIBILITY TO BUILDINGS OR GOVERNMENT SERVICES FOR DISABLED PERSONS.

NATIONAL/RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITIES

THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL MINORITIES, AND THERE IS NO LEGAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THEM. HOWEVER, SOCIETAL DISCRIMINATION PERSISTS.

APPROXIMATELY HALF THE POPULATION IS ETHNIC LAO, ALSO CALLED "LOWLAND LAO." MOST OF THE REMAINDER IS A MOSAIC OF DIVERSE UPLAND HILL TRIBES WHOSE MEMBERS, IF BORN IN LAOS, ARE LAO CITIZENS. THERE ARE ALSO ETHNIC VIETNAMESE AND CHINESE MINORITIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE TOWNS. THERE IS A SMALL COMMUNITY OF SOUTH ASIAN ORIGIN. THE IMPLEMENTATION IN 1994 OF THE 1990 LAW ON NATIONALITY PROVIDED A MEANS FOR THESE VIETNAMESE AND CHINESE MINORITIES TO REGULARIZE THEIR LAO CITIZENSHIP. THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGES THE PRESERVATION OF MINORITY CULTURES AND TRADITIONS; HOWEVER,

DUE TO REMOTE LOCATION AND DIFFICULT ACCESS, MINORITY TRIBES HAVE LITTLE VOICE IN GOVERNMENT DECISIONS AFFECTING THEIR LANDS AND THE ALLOCATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES. HILL

TRIBE INTERACTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT IS LIMITED BY POOR TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION LINKS AND A SHORTAGE OF GOVERNMENT RESOURCES.

THE HMONG ARE ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST PROMINENT HIGHLAND MINORITY GROUPS. DURING THE U.S. WAR WITH VIETNAM; MANY WERE STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST WHILE OTHERS SIDED WITH THE LAO AND VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS. IN THE 1970'S AND 1980'S THE GOVERNMENT REPRRESSED MANY WHO HAD FOUGHT AGAINST IT PRIOR TO 1975, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT IT PERCEIVED TO BE RESISTING ITS AUTHORITY. THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO ASSIST CITIZENS, LARGELY MEMBERS OF ETHNIC MINORITIES, WHO RETURNED TO LAOS AFTER HAVING FLED FOLLOWING THE WAR IN INDOCHINA ENDING IN 1975. CENTRAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WORKED WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE LAND AND A SUSTAINABLE LEVEL OF ECONOMIC SECURITY.

IN RECENT YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS INITIATED PROJECTS DESIGNED TO INTEGRATE THE HMONG INTO THE GENERAL SOCIETY, AND AN INCREASING NUMBER OF THOSE WHO FLED THE COUNTRY AFTER 1975 HAVE REPATRIATED TO LAOS WITHOUT SUFFERING PERSECUTION. TWO U.N. OBSERVERS WHO MONITORED REPATRIATION EFFORTS REPORTED NO INCIDENTS OF ABUSE OR DISCRIMINATION DURING THE YEAR.

9. (SBU) SECTION - WORKER RIGHTS

A. THE RIGHT OF ASSOCIATION

ALTHOUGH THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES CITIZENS WITH THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AND JOIN ASSOCIATIONS, THE PARTY CONTROLS ALL ASSOCIATIONS, AND ALL CONFORM TO OFFICIAL PARTY POLICY (SEE SECTION 2.B.).

SUBSISTENCE FARMERS COMPRISE AN ESTIMATED 85 PERCENT OF THE WORK FORCE. THE STATE EMPLOYS THE MAJORITY OF SALARIED WORKERS, ALTHOUGH THIS SITUATION IS CHANGING AS THE GOVERNMENT REDUCES THE NUMBER OF ITS EMPLOYEES AND PRIVATIZES STATE ENTERPRISES, AND AS FOREIGN INVESTORS OPEN NEW FACTORIES AND BUSINESSES. UNDER THE 1990 LABOR CODE, LABOR UNIONS CAN BE FORMED IN PRIVATE ENTERPRISES AS LONG AS THEY OPERATE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED FEDERATION OF LAO TRADE UNIONS (FLTU), WHICH IN TURN IS CONTROLLED BY THE LPRP. MOST OF THE FLTU'S 80,000 MEMBERS WORK IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, OVERWHELMINGLY. AS PUBLIC SERVANTS.

STRIKES ARE NOT PROHIBITED UNDER THE LAW, BUT THE GOVERNMENT'S BAN ON "DESTABILIZING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES" MAKES A STRIKE UNLIKELY, AND NONE WAS REPORTED THIS YEAR (SEE SECTION 2.A.).

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WITH ADVICE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO), INCLUDING A FOREIGN EXPERT PROVIDED BY THE ILO TO WORK WITH THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS REVISED THE LABOR CODE IN AN EFFORT TO CLARIFY RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS.

THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE FLTU IS FREE TO ENGAGE IN CONTACTS AND AFFILIATE WITH FOREIGN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IS UNKNOWN.

B. THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AND BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY

THERE IS NO RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AND BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY. THE LABOR CODE STIPULATES THAT DISPUTES BE RESOLVED THROUGH WORKPLACE COMMITTEES COMPOSED OF EMPLOYERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LOCAL LABOR UNION, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FLTU, WITH FINAL AUTHORITY RESIDING IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE. LABOR DISPUTES ARE INFREQUENT. THE GOVERNMENT SETS WAGES AND SALARIES FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, WHILE MANAGEMENT SETS WAGES AND SALARIES FOR PRIVATE BUSINESS EMPLOYEES.

THE LABOR CODE STIPULATES THAT EMPLOYERS MAY NOT FIRE EMPLOYEES FOR CONDUCTING TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES, FOR LODGING COMPLAINTS AGAINST EMPLOYERS ABOUT LABOR LAW IMPLEMENTATION, OR FOR COOPERATING WITH OFFICIALS ON LABOR LAW IMPLEMENTATION AND LABOR DISPUTES. WORKPLACE COMMITTEES ARE ONE MECHANISM USED FOR RESOLVING COMPLAINTS.

THERE ARE NO EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES.

C. PROHIBITION OF FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOR

THE LABOR CODE PROHIBITS FORCED LABOR EXCEPT IN TIME OF WAR OR NATIONAL DISASTER, WHEN THE STATE MAY CONSCRIPT LABORERS. THE CODE ALSO APPLIES TO CHILDREN UNDER AGE 15, AND THE LAW IS EFFECTIVELY ENFORCED. HOWEVER, AN INCREASING NUMBER OF CHILDREN HAVE BEEN LURED INTO OTHER COUNTRIES FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SLAVE LABOR (SEE SECTION 6.D.).

D. MINIMUM AGE FOR EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN

THE LABOR CODE PROHIBITS FORCED LABOR, INCLUDING LABOR PERFORMED BY CHILDREN UNDER AGE 15, AND THE LAW IS EFFECTIVELY ENFORCED (SEE SECTION 6.C.). UNDER THE CODE, CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 15 MAY NOT BE RECRUITED FOR EMPLOYMENT. HOWEVER, MANY CHILDREN HELP THEIR FAMILIES ON FARMS OR IN SHOPS. THE LABOR CODE ACCORDINGLY PROVIDES THAT CHILDREN MAY WORK FOR THEIR FAMILIES, PROVIDED THAT SUCH CHILDREN ARE NOT ENGAGED IN DANGEROUS OR DIFFICULT WORK. SUCH EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN IS COMMON IN URBAN SHOPS, BUT RARE IN INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES. THE MINISTRIES

OF INTERIOR AND JUSTICE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING THESE PROVISIONS, BUT ENFORCEMENT IS INEFFECTIVE DUE TO A LACK OF INSPECTORS AND OTHER RESOURCES. EDUCATION IS COMPULSORY THROUGH THE FIFTH GRADE, BUT THIS REQUIREMENT IS RARELY ASERVED IN THE RURAL AREAS OR AMONG THE URBAN POOR.

E. ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS OF WORK

THE LABOR CODE PROVIDES FOR A BROAD RANGE OF WORKER ENTITLEMENTS, INCLUDING A WORKWEEK LIMITED TO 48 HOURS (36 IN DANGEROUS ACTIVITIES), SAFE WORKING CONDITIONS, AND HIGHER COMPENSATION FOR DANGEROUS WORK. THE CODE ALSO PROVIDES FOR AT LEAST 1 DAY OF REST PER WEEK. EMPLOYERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL EXPENSES FOR A WORKER INJURED OR KILLED ON THE JOB, A REQUIREMENT GENERALLY FULFILLED BY EMPLOYERS IN THE FORMAL ECONOMIC SECTOR. THE DAILY MINIMUM WAGE IS \$0.75 (1,400 KIP), WHICH IS INSUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING FOR A WORKER AND FAMILY. MOST CIVIL SERVANTS RECEIVE INADEQUATE PAY. HOWEVER, FEW FAMILIES IN THE WAGE ECONOMY DEPEND ON ONLY ONE BREADWINNER. SOME PIECEWORK EMPLOYEES, ESPECIALLY ON CONSTRUCTION SITES, EARN LESS THAN THE MINIMUM WAGE. MANY ARE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, PARTICULARLY FROM VIETNAM, AND ARE MORE VULNERABLE TO EXPLOITATION BY EMPLOYERS. ALTHOUGH WORKPLACE INSPECTIONS HAVE REPORTEDLY INCREASED, THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE LACKS THE PERSONNEL AND BUDGETARY RESOURCES TO ENFORCE THE LABOR CODE EFFECTIVELY. THE LABOR CODE HAS NO SPECIFIC PROVISION ALLOWING WORKERS TO REMOVE THEMSELVES FROM A DANGEROUS SITUATION WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING THEIR EMPLOYMENT.
END TEXT.
ALBRIGHT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 08
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 08
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Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
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- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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PREC: PRIORITY
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LINE3: P 040443Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
OSRI: RUEHML
DTG: 040443Z MAR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6448
INFO: RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHXI/LABOR COLLECTIVE
RUEHXS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0151
SUBJ: WORLD BANK PRESIDENT WOLFENSOHN MEETS PHILIPPINE
LABOR LEADER: A BANK ROLE IN PROMOTING WORKER RIGHTS?

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MANILA 002690

DEPARTMENT PASS TO USAID FOR AFR
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IDB AND WORLD BANK USED
LABOR FOR ILAB
USDOC FOR USFCS/OIO/MDBO

DEPARTMENT FOR DRL/IL, EB/IFD/ODF, EAP/PIMBS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, EFIN, IBRD, IDB, ETRD, KWMN, NG, RP
SUBJ: WORLD BANK PRESIDENT WOLFENSOHN MEETS PHILIPPINE
LABOR LEADER: A BANK ROLE IN PROMOTING WORKER RIGHTS?

REF: STATE 34599

1. SUMMARY: WORLD BANK PRESIDENT JAMES WOLFENSOHN'S MID-FEBRUARY MEETING HERE WITH NGO AND TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES PROVIDES A CONTEXT FOR RESPONDING TO REFTTEL'S REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON WORLD BANK PROGRAMS IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION. (SEPTTEL WILL PROVIDE BROADER EMBASSY RESPONSE ON OTHER BANK DEVELOPMENT GOALS.) IN RESPONSE TO WOLFENSOHN'S QUESTIONS ON THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC DOWNTURN IN THE PHILIPPINES, A LEADER IN THE TRADE UNION SECTOR SAID GROWING UNEMPLOYMENT WOULD CREATE SOCIAL DISLOCATIONS, WHICH GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS APPEAR ILL-PREPARED TO ADDRESS. LABOR LEADERS FEAR NEW ECONOMIC PRESSURES WILL ACCELERATE AN EROSION OF WORKER RIGHTS THEY CLAIM IS ALREADY UNDERWAY AND URGED WORLD BANK PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONALLY

RECOGNIZED LABOR RIGHTS. DURING THE WOLFENSOHN AND OTHER MEETINGS WITH WORLD BANK OFFICIALS, LABOR LEADERS RECOMMENDED THE BANK WORK WITH THE ILO IN ORGANIZING COUNTRY SPECIFIC EMPLOYMENT SUMMITS AS ONE RESPONSE TO WIDESPREAD CONCERN OVER JOB LOSSES. THEY FELT EMERGENCY WORLD BANK LOANS SHOULD BE CHANNELED THROUGH A NEW GOP INSTITUTION, THE PHILIPPINE ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION. END SUMMARY

WOLFENSOHN SEEKS LABOR CONTACTS

2. DURING A BRIEF MID-FEBRUARY VISIT TO MANILA, WOLFENSOHN MET WITH AN OFFICIAL OF THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES, LOUIS CORRAL, AS PART OF AN NGO CONSULTATIVE SESSION HOSTED BY THE GOP'S NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NEDA). WOLFENSOHN'S COLLEAGUES LATER MET WITH OTHER PHILIPPINE LABOR AND NGO LEADERS. CORRAL PROVIDED US A READOUT OF THESE MEETINGS. ACCORDING TO HIM, IT WAS AT WOLFENSOHN'S REQUEST THAT A LABOR REPRESENTATIVE TOOK PART IN THE NEDA EVENT. IN RESPONSE TO WOLFENSOHN'S QUESTION ABOUT THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC DOWNTURN IN A COUNTRY THAT LACKS UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND OTHER SOCIAL SAFETY NETS, CORRAL NOTED THAT GROWING UNEMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRY'S FOCUS ON TRADE COMPETITIVENESS CREATE CONCERN THAT EMPLOYERS WILL USE THE CRISIS "TO ACCELERATE THE EROSION OF WORKER RIGHTS AND LABOR STANDARDS." BOTH MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE INDUSTRIES INCREASINGLY ROTATE BATCHES OF LOW WAGE CONTRACT WORKERS INSTEAD OF HIRING REGULAR STAFF. UNION LEADERS COMPLAIN THERE IS LITTLE MEANS TO HELP ORGANIZE SUCH WORKERS TO PROVIDE THEM SOME VOICE.

3. CORRAL ASKED THAT THE WORLD BANK ADDRESS WORKER RIGHTS AS A LENDING GOAL. (THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO WORLD BANK FUNDED PROJECTS THAT INCLUDE WORKER RIGHTS AS EITHER AN EXPLICIT GOALS OR AS ONE OF THE CONDITIONS FOR PERFORMANCE.) HE POINTED OUT THAT THE BANK'S GOAL OF POVERTY REDUCTION IS WELL SERVED BY SOCIAL STRUCTURES, INCLUDING UNIONS, THAT HELP ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH MINIMUM WAGE AND SAFETY LAWS (NOW OFTEN IGNORED). AS IMMEDIATE STEPS TO ALLEVIATE THE CURRENT CRISIS, CORRAL AND OTHER LABOR LEADERS RECOMMENDED THAT THE WORLD BANK:
-- WORK WITH THE ILO TO ORGANIZE "EMPLOYMENT SUMMITS" IN ASEAN COUNTRIES TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE RIGHTS ISSUES AND STIMULATE JOBS PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT;
-- ESTABLISH AN ASIA PACIFIC INSTITUTE OF EMPLOYMENT;
-- PROVIDE JOB CREATION LOANS IN CONSULTATION WITH A NEWLY CREATED POVERTY PROGRAM AGENCY, THE NATIONAL ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION. (CREATED BY LATE 1997 LEGISLATION, THE COMMISSION WILL BEGIN WORK ON JUNE 30, 1998.)

OVERSEAS WORKERS' RETURN

4. CORRAL ALSO ADVISED WOLFENSOHN OF THE RIPPLE EFFECT CREATED WHEN HOST COUNTRIES SEND FILIPINO OVERSEAS WORKERS HOME. EACH OVERSEAS JOB HELPS SUPPORT WHOLE FAMILIES HERE. AN END TO CASH REMITTANCES OFTEN PUSHES

FAMILIES BELOW THE POVERTY LINE INCOME, FORCING WITHDRAWALS FROM SCHOOL AND MUCH TIGHTER HOUSEHOLD BUDGETS. CORRAL SAID KOREAN AND MALAYSIAN LABOR FEDERATIONS INDICATED A LARGER NUMBER OF POTENTIAL OFW RETURNES THAN GOP'S FIGURES SUGGEST. ACCORDING TO THESE LABOR CONTACTS, OVER 45,000 FILIPINOS ARE TO UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 MANILA 002690
EPARTMENT PASS TO USAID FOR AFR
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IDB AND WORLD BANK USED
LABOR FOR ILAB
USDOC FOR USFCS/OIO/MDBO

DEPARTMENT FOR DRL/IL, EB/IFD/ODE, EAP/PIMBS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EFIN, IBRD, 1DB, ETRD, KWMN, NG, RP
SUBJ: WORLD BANK PRESIDENT WOLFENSOHN MEETS PHILIPPINE LABOR LEADER: A BANK ROLE IN PROMOTING WORKER RIGHTS?

REF: STATE 34599

RETURN FROM KOREA IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS AND 10,000 FROM MALAYSIA. IF THESE NUMBERS AND THEIR MULTIPLIER EFFECTS GROW, CORRAL FELT PHILIPPINE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS AIDED BY THE WORLD BANK WILL BECOME ESSENTIAL.

5. HOWEVER, THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT POLICY APPEARS RELUCTANT TO ADDRESS A MAJOR INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBERS. ACCORDING TO CORRAL, BOTH THE GOP'S EARLY FEBRUARY "EMPLOYMENT SUMMIT" AND ITS SUBSEQUENT "ECONOMIC SUMMIT" PROPOSED NO ADDITIONAL SAFETY NET OR TRAINING PROGRAMS BEYOND THOSE FEW NOW AVAILABLE. THE MEETINGS FOCUSED ON WAYS OF REDUCING INTEREST RATES AND INCREASING COMPETITIVENESS. THE GOP'S PRESCRIPTION FOR JOBS DEPENDED ON SIMPLY CONTINUING CURRENT TRADE AND INVESTMENT LIBERALIZATION POLICIES TO ATTRACT MORE FOREIGN CAPITAL FOR MANUFACTURING PLANTS. (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SUCCESSFUL IN ATTRACTING MANY LARGE EMPLOYERS TO EXPORT ZONES IN 1996-97, THE SIGNIFICANT RECENT DROP IN REGIONAL MARKET DEMAND WILL LIKELY RESULT IN A DECLINING NUMBER OF INVESTORS LOCATING PLANTS HERE IN 1998-99. END COMMENT)

ECONOMIC ZONES: SNAPSHOT OF A WIDER PROBLEM

--
6. THE DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR EVALUATION OF WORLD BANK PROGRAMS' IMPACT ON THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS HERE PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT WHAT EFFECT THE PHILIPPINES' ECONOMIC GROWTH HAS HAD ON POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH NEW JOBS THAT LIFT WORKERS ABOVE THE POVERTY LINE. THE PHILIPPINES HAS SUCCEEDED IN ATTRACTING SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND JOBS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, PARTICULARLY IN THE EXPORT ZONES. HOWEVER, BOTH GOP AND NGO CONTACTS DESCRIBE FREQUENT NON-COMPLIANCE WITH MINIMUM WAGE LAWS IN THE ZONES (AS WELL AS THROUGHOUT THE ECONOMY), INCLUDING THE IMPROPER USE OF AN APPRENTICE RATE FOR NEW HIRES AT 75 PERCENT OF THE

MINIMUM. MANY OF THE PREDOMINANTLY FEMALE ZONE WORKERS ARE SUBJECT TO "ROTATION" AS CONTRACT WORKERS FOR SIX MONTH STINTS, EFFECTIVELY KEEPING THEIR WAGES AT NEW HIRE LEVELS. ALTHOUGH TRADE UNIONS EXIST IN THE PHILIPPINES' LEADING EXPORT INDUSTRIES (ELECTRONICS AND GARMENTS) IN PLANTS THAT ARE OUTSIDE THE EXPORT ZONES, SUCH WORKER ORGANIZATION IS ALMOST NON-EXISTENT IN THESE INDUSTRIES WITHIN THE ZONES. AS A RESULT, UNION LEADERS COMPLAIN THESE WORKERS HAVE LITTLE MEANS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF EMPLOYERS' FAILING TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES AND NORMAL SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS.

7. COMMENT: LABOR AND NGO LEADERS HERE CONTEND THAT AN IMPROVEMENT IN PHILIPPINE ADHERENCE TO WORKER RIGHTS WOULD HELP RAISE REAL INCOME LEVELS, MORE WIDELY DISTRIBUTING THE BENEFITS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. THE SITUATION IN THE MORE THAN 40 EXPORT ZONES PROVIDES A MICROCOSM OF THE WIDER SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEM. UNDER THE CURRENT FOCUS ON INVESTMENT AND JOB CREATION, THE GOP ECONOMIC PLANNERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES HAVE APPEARED TO OVERLOOK MANY LABOR STANDARD VIOLATIONS. A NOVEMBER 1997 WORLD BANK ANALYSIS OF THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY POINTS OUT THAT "SUSPENSION OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED WORKER RIGHTS" IN THE EXPORT ZONES HAS HELPED CREATE SWEATSHOP CONDITIONS. THE SAME ANALYSIS NOTES A "RANGE OF SOCIAL ILLS" IN EXPORT ZONE COMMUNITIES, ARISING FROM CONCENTRATING LARGE POOLS OF LABOR (MOSTLY FEMALE) IN SINGLE LOCATIONS WITHOUT ADEQUATE FACILITIES. THE COST CUTTING PRESSURES ON MANY FIRMS ARISING FROM THE CURRENT ECONOMIC DOWNTURN WILL LIKELY AGGRAVATE THESE WORKSITE VIOLATIONS -- BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE EXPORT ZONES.

HUBBARD

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02

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SSN: 2690

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RAGAN ROSSI TARULLO

SIT: NSC

Cable

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LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 200145Z MAR 98
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
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RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY 0559
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 4478
RUATNPP/AMCONSUL PUSAN IMMEDIATE 6012
RUESLE/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI IMMEDIATE 0914
RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG IMMEDIATE 9161
RUEHJA/AMCONSUL SURABAYA IMMEDIATE 8129
RUEHKOF/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA IMMEDIATE 7993
RUEHKON/AMCONSUL NAGOYA IMMEDIATE 1440
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RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY 1018
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 6665
RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY 2555
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 2453
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 2536
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP PRIORITY 5390
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUAGAMS/COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//CC/BJ/CJ/EJ/PAJ/SJS// PRIORITY
RUACAMS/CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS PRIORITY
RUAGAMS/SACINCUNC KS PRIORITY
RUAGAMS/USCINCUNC SEOUL KS PRIORITY
RHHMHAH/CINCPACFLT HI PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY 9195
SUBJ: MARCH 19, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

ALL POSTS -- ALSO FOR USIS
SECDEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA
USCINOPAC FOR FPA TEARE
TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 08 STATE 049952

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, XE, US
SUBJECT: MARCH 19, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

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

1. INDEX

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-- CUBA DEBT AGREEMENT WITH JAPANESE BUSINESSES PARAS 2 AND
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-- CHINA: REPORT ON SWEATSHOPS PARAS 2 AND 6
-- CAMBODIA: KING SIHANOUK SAYS PARDON FOR PRINCE RANARIDDH
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-- INDONESIA: DEMONSTRATIONS PARAS 2 AND 8
-- TRAINING OF INDONESIAN FORCES PARAS 9 AND 10

2. THERE WAS NO BRIEFING BY THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY.
POSTS MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCES, PREPARED ON
3/19/98, FOR USE ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

3. KOREA: UPDATE ON FOUR PARTY TALKS IN GENEVA

CONTEXT: ON THE MORNING OF THE FOURTH DAY OF THE SECOND
SESSION OF FOUR PARTY TALKS, THE DEPUTY HEADS OF DELEGATION
OF THE FOUR PARTIES MET. THE AFTERNOON WAS DEVOTED TO AN
OUTING HOSTED BY THE SWISS GOVERNMENT. THE FOUR PARTIES
ARE EXPECTED TO MEET AGAIN ON FRIDAY FOR WHAT WILL, IN ALL
PROBABILITY, BE THE LAST DAY OF THE CURRENT SESSION.

Q: WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE GENEVA TALKS?

A: WHILE THE MEETINGS ARE GOING ON IN GENEVA, WE WOULD
WISH TO REFRAIN FROM EXTENDED COMMENTS HERE.

-- TODAY, DEPUTY HEADS OF DELEGATION MET. WE DON'T HAVE
DETAILS ON THE SCHEDULE FOR FRIDAY, BUT UNDERSTAND THAT THE
PARTIES WILL MEET AGAIN THEN.

-- AS FAR AS OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE TALKS, WE HOPE TO
MOVE THE PROCESS FORWARD BUT DO NOT NECESSARILY EXPECT
BREAKTHROUGHS.

IF ASKED:

-- WE ARE REFERRING QUESTIONS ABOUT SCHEDULING TO THE
CHINESE DELEGATION, AS CHAIR OF THIS SESSION.

4. CUBA DEBT AGREEMENT WITH JAPANESE BUSINESSES

CONTEXT: ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, ABOUT 180 JAPANESE BUSINESSES HAVE AGREED TO RESCHEDULE \$-69 MILLION IN DEBT OWED TO THEM BY THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT. JAPANESE BUSINESSES TRADED WITH CUBA IN THE 1960'S AND 1970'S, BUT TRADE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 08 STATE 049952

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DECLINED QUICKLY IN THE LATE 1980'S DUE TO A DECLINE IN

SUGAR PRICES. CUBA SUSPENDED PAYMENT ON ITS DEBT IN 1987. THE AGREEMENT DOES NOT INVOLVE THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN. SENATOR HELMS' SPOKESMAN IS QUOTED IN TODAY'S WASHINGTON TIMES AS CRITICAL OF THE DEAL. OUR VIEW IS THAT IT IS A PRIVATE ARRANGEMENT THAT HAS NO IMPACT ON CUBA POLICY OR OUR RELATIONS WITH JAPAN.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE NEW DEBT RESCHEDULING AGREEMENT BETWEEN JAPANESE COMPANIES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA? IS THIS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT OTHER COUNTRIES ARE WARMING TOWARD CUBA? IS THIS A REBUFF OF U.S. CUBA POLICY?

A: ACCORDING TO THE PRESS REPORTS WE HAVE SEEN, THIS IS A PRIVATE AGREEMENT BETWEEN JAPANESE BUSINESSES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA. IT WAS MADE NECESSARY BECAUSE THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT STOPPED PAYING ITS DEBT TO THE JAPANESE BUSINESSES IN 1987.

-- WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A PRIVATE AGREEMENT, IN VIEW OF THE POOR HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CUBA, WE WOULD HOPE THAT JAPANESE COMPANIES STILL DOING BUSINESS IN CUBA WOULD IMPLEMENT BEST BUSINESS PRACTICES THAT RECOGNIZE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND WORKERS RIGHTS.

IF ASKED:

Q: ARE YOU CONCERNED THAT A TREND IS DEVELOPING TOWARD INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT OF CUBA?

A: THE TREND WE SEE IS GROWING SUPPORT FOR A PEACEFUL DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA.

-- ALL THE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT CUBA CONTINUES TO BE A VERY RISKY PLACE TO DO BUSINESS.

5. CHINA: RELIGIOUS LEADERS REPORT ON THEIR VISIT

CONTEXT: YESTERDAY, MARCH 18, THE THREE RELIGIOUS LEADERS WHO TRAVELED TO CHINA RELEASED THEIR REPORT AT A WIDELY-ATTENDED PRESS CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK. THE THREE LEADERS ARE RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER, PRESIDENT OF THE APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION, THE MOST REVEREND THEODORE MCCARRICK, ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF NEWARK, AND THE REVEREND DR. DON ARGUE, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL

ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS.

Q: WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT REACTION TO THE REPORT ISSUED BY THE THREE RELIGIOUS LEADERS WHO RECENTLY TRAVELED TO CHINA TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM? IS THE USG ABDICATING ITS HUMAN RIGHTS WORK TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR?

A: WE WELCOME THE REPORT BY THE THREE RELIGIOUS LEADERS WHO TRAVELED TO CHINA AT THE INVITATION OF PRESIDENT JIANG, FOLLOWING THE SUMMIT WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON IN OCTOBER 1998. WE APPRECIATE THE DELEGATIONS'S CANDID ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN CHINA AND THEIR EFFORTS TO INITIATE DIALOGUE WITH THE CHINESE.

-- THEIR VISIT TO CHINA, INCLUDING TIBET, SERVED TO FURTHER EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE URGENCY THAT THIS ISSUE HAS ON THE UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 08 STATE 049952

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 19, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

AGENDA OF U.S.-SINO RELATIONS.

-- THEIR MISSION ALSO UNDERScoreD PREVIOUS MESSAGES CONVEYED BY PRESIDENT CLINTON ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE CLIMATE OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN CHINA.

-- IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY PRESSED HARD FOR THE RELEASE OF RELIGIOUS PRISONERS, FOR A REDUCTION IN CHINESE CONTROLS OVER RELIGIOUS SITES AND PRACTICES, AND FOR AN END TO THE REPRESSION OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL FREEDOM IN TIBET.

-- THE DELEGATION HAS ALSO STRESSED THAT: "THE KIND OF DIALOGUE WE BEGAN BE CONTINUED AND EXPANDED. DIALOGUE IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR, NOR AN ALTERNATIVE TO, BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL INCENTIVES FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, DOMESTIC CHANGES IN CHINA ITSELF WILL BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF EXPANDING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM."

-- THE DELEGATION'S REPORT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. IT PROVIDES A CONCISE SUMMARY OF THEIR PURPOSE, THE ISSUES THEY RAISED, THE BREADTH OF MEETINGS THEY HELD, AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

-- THE DELEGATION MET NOT ONLY WITH PRESIDENT JIANG AND WITH NATIONAL AND LOCAL CHINESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, BUT ALSO WITH RELIGIOUS LEADERS FROM REGISTERED, UNREGISTERED,

AND UNDERGROUND CHURCHES.

-- THEY SPOKE WITH PROTESTANTS, INCLUDING EVANGELICALS, CATHOLICS, MUSLIMS, JEWS, BUDDHISTS, AND TAOISTS, AND TRAVELED TO BEIJING, NANJING, SHANGHAI, LHASA, AND HONG KONG.

-- WE WILL CAREFULLY CONSIDER ALL THE DELEGATION'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT FOLLOW-UP TO THEIR TRIP.

6. CHINA: REPORT ON SWEATSHOPS

CONTEXT: YESTERDAY, AS REPORTED IN TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST, THE NATIONAL LABOR COMMITTEE (NLC), A PRIVATE NGO, ANNOUNCED THAT AN INVESTIGATION INTO 21 GARMENT FACTORIES IN CHINA "FOUND WORKERS BEING PAID PENNIES AN HOUR, FORCED TO WORK EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF OVERTIME, CONFINED TO CROWDED DORMITORIES, FED A THIN RICE GRUEL AND DENIED ANY BENEFITS." THE NLC ALSO CALLED ON THE WHITE HOUSE TASK FORCE ON SWEATSHOPS TO "TAKE A GREATER ROLE IN PROMOTING LABOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINESE FACTORIES THAT PRODUCE GOODS FOR THE US MARKET."

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO PRESS REPORTS THAT CHINESE SWEATSHOP LABOR IS PRODUCING GOODS FOR EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES?

A: WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT ANY REPORT OF SWEATSHOP LABOR. IT IS PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THESE TYPES OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS THAT THE PRESIDENT ESTABLISHED THE APPAREL INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP, WHICH IS ONGOING AND WHICH WILL MAKE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT.
UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 08 STATE 049952

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 19, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

-- THE APPAREL INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP SEEKS TO BRING AN END TO SWEATSHOP LABOR THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF AN INDUSTRY-WIDE CODE OF CONDUCT THAT ADDRESSES, AMONG OTHER THINGS,

INDUSTRY CONDITIONS, CHILD LABOR, AND HOURS OF WORK. IT ALSO WOULD ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT MONITORING MECHANISM THAT INCLUDES INPUT FROM LOCAL NGOS TO HELP INSURE COMPANY COMPLIANCE. WE ARE VERY PLEASED WITH THE STRONG COMMITMENT THAT HAS BEEN MADE TO THE ALP BY PARTICIPATING COMPANIES.

-- THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN WORKING IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND LABOR TO PROMOTE THE PRESIDENT'S MODEL BUSINESS PRINCIPLES, WHICH ARE A VOLUNTARY CODE OF CONDUCT THAT SERVES AS A SPRINGBOARD FOR U.S. COMPANIES OPERATING ABROAD. IT ADDRESSES HUMAN RIGHTS, WORKER RIGHTS, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ETHICAL

BUSINESS PRACTICES.

-- WE ALSO HAVE ESTABLISHED A BEST PRACTICES AWARD TO RECOGNIZE BUSINESSES THAT INCORPORATE HUMAN AND WORKER RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS INTO THEIR POLICIES. THE FIRST BEST PRACTICES AWARD WENT TO ASIA PACIFIC RESOURCES, WHICH IS HEADED BY JOHN KAMM, FOR ITS DISTINGUISHED WORK ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA.

-- WE ENCOURAGE U.S. COMPANIES TO ADOPT THE MODEL BUSINESS PRINCIPLES, AND IF RELEVANT, JOIN THE APPAREL INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP.

7. CAMBODIA: KING SIHANOUK SAYS PARDON FOR PRINCE RANARIDDH WOULD BE USELESS

CONTEXT: CAMBODIA'S KING SIHANOUK REPORTEDLY SAID THAT GRANTING A ROYAL PARDON FOR PRINCE RANARIDDH WOULD BE USELESS. RANARIDDH AND THREE OF HIS AIDES WERE CONVICTED IN ABSENTIA OF COLLUDING WITH THE KHMER ROUGE. ON MARCH 18, A CAMBODIAN MILITARY COURT ANNOUNCED THE VERDICT AND SENTENCED RANARIDDH TO 30 YEARS IN JAIL AND \$50 MILLION DOLLARS IN DAMAGES. HIS AIDES (ONE OF WHOM WAS BRUTALLY EXECUTED LAST JULY) EACH RECEIVED 20-YEAR PRISON TERMS. THIS IS RANARIDDH'S SECOND TRIAL; ON MARCH 4, RANARIDDH WAS FOUND GUILTY ON WEAPONS SMUGGLING CHARGES AND SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON ON THAT CHARGE.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. REACTION TO KING SIHANOUK'S REPORTED STATEMENT THAT GRANTING A ROYAL PARDON TO PRINCE RANARIDDH WOULD BE USELESS?

A: WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSED AMNESTY ARRANGEMENT, ACCEPTED BY BOTH PRINCE RANARIDDH AND SECOND PRIME MINISTER HUN SEN, REMAINS THE BEST SOLUTION TO CAMBODIA'S CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS. WITH THE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST PRINCE RANARIDDH NOW CONCLUDED, A ROYAL AMNESTY SHOULD BE ISSUED PROMPTLY SO THAT HE CAN RETURN IN TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JULY 26 ELECTIONS.

-- ANY AMNESTY SHOULD ALSO BE APPLIED TO THE HEAVY FINE IMPOSED BY THE CAMBODIAN COURT.

-- CREATION OF CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION BY ALL EXILED POLITICAL FIGURES, INCLUDING PRINCE RANARIDDH, IS UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 08 STATE 049952

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, XE, US
SUBJECT: MARCH 19, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

A KEY ISSUE FOR THE CREDIBILITY OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.

8. INDONESIA: DEMONSTRATIONS

CONTEXT: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUED MARCH 18-19. FOLLOWING THE END OF A 25 DAY BAN ON STREET DEMONSTRATIONS BEFORE AND DURING THE (NOW-CONCLUDED) PEOPLE'S CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY WHICH SELECTED PRESIDENT SOEHARTO FOR A SEVENTH TERM, STUDENTS AT ONE UNIVERSITY IN JAKARTA MOVED THEIR DEMONSTRATION OFF CAMPUS AND MARCHED PEACEFULLY THROUGH LOCAL NEIGHBORHOODS. THE THEMES AT THESE DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE TO INCLUDE THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO INDONESIA'S ECONOMIC CRISIS, HIGH PRICES AND CORRUPTION.

Q: IS THERE ANY COMMENT ON STUDENT PROTESTS CONCERNING THE FINANCIAL CRISIS IN INDONESIA?

A: IN RECENT DAYS, STUDENTS HAVE DEMONSTRATED AT CAMPUSES THROUGHOUT INDONESIA, INCLUDING JAKARTA, YOGYAKARTA, MEDAN, SURABAYA, BANDA ACEH AND BANDUNG. MANY OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE RELATED TO THE MARCH 1-11 SESSION OF THE PEOPLE'S CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY. HOWEVER, DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE CONTINUED FOLLOWING THE END OF THE ASSEMBLY SESSION AS STUDENTS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR FRUSTRATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE ECONOMIC CRISIS.

-- THE PRESS REPORTS THAT MORE THAN 500 STUDENTS MARCHED OFF CAMPUS TODAY TO MARK THE END OF A 25-DAY BAN ON STREET DEMONSTRATIONS.

-- WE EXPECT THAT THE INDONESIAN-GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ALLOW PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS, AND THAT THE MILITARY WILL SHOW RESTRAINT IN THE FACE OF DEMONSTRATIONS AND UNREST. WE UNDERSTAND THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO PROTECT THE WELFARE OF ITS CITIZENS BY MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION.

9. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED ON 3/19/98 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OFFICE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS. POSTS MAY DRAW ON THIS GUIDANCE FOR USE ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

10. TRAINING OF INDONESIAN FORCES

U.S. TRAINING OF INDONESIA TROOPS GOES ON DESPITE BAN, NEW YORK TIMES, TIM WEINER, 1- MARCH 98.

ADMINISTRATION DEFENDS MILITARY TRAINING IN INDONESIA, WASHINGTON TIMES, TONI MARSHALL, 18, 98.

MESSAGES

-- ARTICLES ARE MISLEADING:

-- THERE IS NO BAN ON THE TRAINING OF INDONESIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL OR UNITS.

-- CONGRESS PROHIBITED INDONESIA FROM RECEIVING IMET (INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EXCHANGE TRAINING) FUNDS IN 1992-NOT A BLANKET BAN ON TRAINING. NO FUNDS WERE ALLOCATED TO INDONESIA UNTIL CONGRESS PARTIALLY LIFTED THIS BAN IN FY 96, WHEN IT AUTHORIZED IMET FUNDING FOR UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 08 STATE 049952

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 19, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

INDONESIA PROVIDED THE FUNDS WERE EXPENDED ONLY ON "E-IMET" COURSES.

-- INDONESIA IS NOT PROHIBITED FROM PURCHASING U.S. TRAINING WITH ITS NATIONAL FUNDS, AND HAS PURCHASED A NUMBER OF COURSES SINCE FY93. THIS FACT HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION IN A VARIETY OF BRIEFING AND HEARING OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

-- WE ARE AWARE THERE HAS BEEN INTEREST IN, AND SOME DISCUSSION IN, CONGRESS OF EXTENDING THE BAN TO COVER

TRAINING PURCHASED BY INDONESIA, BUT NO SUCH LEGISLATION HAS BEEN PASSED.

-- OUR PURSUIT OF STRONG AND BILATERAL DEFENSE TIES WITH THE FRIENDLY COUNTRIES OF S.E. ASIA, INCLUDING INDONESIA, HAS BEEN A LONG-STANDING AND WELL-ARTICULATED COMPONENT OF OUR EAST ASIAN SECURITY STRATEGY.

-- AS IS THE CASE THROUGHOUT S.E. ASIA, OUR DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH INDONESIA IS MULTIFACETED: WE HAVE SENIOR-LEVEL POLICY DISCUSSIONS, AS WITH SECRETARY COHEN'S JANUARY VISIT TO INDONESIA, WE CONDUCT MILITARY STAFF TALKS, WE HOLD A VARIETY OF EXERCISES AND TRAINING EVENTS, SHIP VISITS, AND PARTICIPATE WITH INDONESIA IN VARIOUS MULTILATERAL MILITARY FORA.

-- THE JCET PROGRAM, WHICH IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO TRAIN U.S. SOF IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES, IS ONLY ONE TYPE OF TRAINING WE ENGAGE IN WITH INDONESIA.

-- THE INFORMATION ON JCET ACTIVITIES REFERRED TO IN THE ARTICLES WAS PROVIDED TO CONGRESSMAN EVANS IN RESPONSE TO HIS 16 SEPTEMBER LETTER TO SECRETARY COHEN REQUESTING WIDE-RANGING INFORMATION ON THE TRAINING OF INDONESIAN MILITARY, PARTICULARLY THE INDONESIAN SPECIAL FORCES. CONGRESSMAN EVANS WAS ALSO PROVIDED DETAILED HISTORICAL INFORMATION ON TRAINING CONDUCTED UNDER THE IMET PROGRAM AND THROUGH FOREIGN MILITARY SALES.

-- THERE HAS BEEN NO EFFORT TO CIRCUMVENT THE LAW OR TO HIDE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH INDONESIA. SECRETARY COHEN

HAS TESTIFIED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF INDONESIA TO OUR SECURITY INTERESTS, AS WELL AS HOW MAINTAINING A HEALTHY DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP HELPS US ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES.

- JCET IS NOT UNIQUE TO INDONESIA - IN FY 1996, FOR EXAMPLE, JCET ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED IN 95 COUNTRIES. SOME 5,800 U.S. AND 15,000 HOST NATION PERSONNEL PARTICIPATED WORLDWIDE, AND TOTAL U.S. EXPENSES TO SUPPORT THE MISSIONS WERE \$18.5 MILLION. SOF JCET ACTIVITIES, UNDER TITLE 10, SECTION 2011 AUTHORITY, ARE FUNDED BY THE USSOCOM OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE BUDGET AND ARE COORDINATED AND PRIORITIZED THROUGH THE THEATER CINC.
- CONGRESS RECEIVES AN ANNUAL REPORT "REPORT ON TRAINING OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES" FROM THE DOD ON JCET EVENTS CONDUCTED UNDER SECTION 2011 OF TITLE 10. THIS INCLUDES A COUNTRY BREAKDOWN OF ACTIVITIES, COSTS, AND NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL TRAINED. JCET ACTIVITIES IN UNCLAS SECTION 07 OF 08 STATE 049952

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 19, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

INDONESIA HAVE THUS BEEN REPORTED TO CONGRESS ANNUALLY SINCE FY93. THERE HAS BEEN NO EFFORT TO CIRCUMVENT THE LAW OR TO HIDE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH INDONESIA. SECRETARY COHEN HAS TESTIFIED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF INDONESIA TO OUR SECURITY INTERESTS, AS WELL AS HOW MAINTAINING A HEALTHY DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP HELPS US ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES.

- THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT BECAUSE IT IS THE ONE ISSUE WHICH PREVENTS US FROM DEVELOPING THE DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP TO ITS MAXIMUM POTENTIAL. WE HAVE MADE THIS POINT REPEATEDLY TO OUR DEFENSE COUNTERPARTS IN INDONESIA. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HUMAN RIGHTS IS NOT, AND SHOULD NOT, BE THE DEFINING ISSUE IN OUR DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP, ANY MORE THAN IT SHOULD BE IN OUR OVERALL BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.
- IT IS UNREALISTIC TO ASSUME THAT ANY U.S. POLICIES OR ACTIONS TAKEN TOWARD THE INDONESIAN MILITARY WILL PRODUCE QUANTIFIABLE CHANGES IN THE MILITARY'S BEHAVIOR. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT OVER TIME, WE HAVE INFLUENCED AND WILL CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS THROUGH DIALOGUE, ACCESS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, TRAINING.
- ALL FORMS OF TRAINING THAT WE CAN PROVIDE TO MEMBERS OF THE INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES EXPOSE INDONESIAN SERVICE MEMBERS TO THE WORLD'S MODEL OF MILITARY PROFESSIONALISM AND RESPECT FOR CIVILIAN CONTROL AND

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

- WE BELIEVE PROFESSIONALIZING THE INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES WILL HELP REDUCE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY THE MILITARY, A VIEW THAT IS SHARED BY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS.

BACKGROUND

IMET

- IMET INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EXCHANGE AND TRAINING IS AN INSTRUMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY-A KEY COMPONENT OF U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNDED BY THE DOS THAT PROVIDES U.S. TRAINING ON A GRANT BASIS TO STUDENTS FROM ALLIED AND FRIENDLY NATIONS.
- EXPANDED IMET (E-IMET) COURSES FOCUS ON TOPICS SUCH AS MILITARY JUSTICE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT; IT ALSO MAY INCLUDE PARTICIPATION BY CIVILIANS.

JCET

- JOINT COMBINED EXCHANGE TRAINING IS DESIGNED TO TRAIN U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES MILITARY PERSONNEL. JCET TRAINS U.S. SOF OVERSEAS BY HAVING THEM TRAIN WITH FOREIGN MILITARIES.
- FUNDING COMES FROM THE COMBATANT CINC'S OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE BUDGET AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 2011 OF TITLE 10.
- THE DOD REPORTS TO CONGRESS ANNUALLY THE EXPENSES RELATED TO THE TRAINING OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES WITH FRIENDLY FOREIGN FORCES PER SECTION 2011 OF TITLE UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 08 STATE 049952

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 19, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

10, UNITED STATES CODE CALLED "REPORT ON TRAINING OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES."

- THE REPORT IS PUBLISHED THE FIRST OF EVERY APRIL SINCE FY 1993. THE LAST REPORT, FY 96, WAS THE FIRST UNCLASSIFIED REPORT.

TOTAL U.S. EXPENSES FOR JCETS WORLDWIDE:	\$18,544,000
TOTAL U.S. EXPENDITURES IN INDONESIA:	\$111,000
TOTAL WORLDWIDE EXERCISES:	279
TOTAL INDONESIAN EXERCISES:	10
TOTAL WORLDWIDE HOST NATION PERSONNEL TRAINED:	15,029
TOTAL INDONESIAN PERSONNEL TRAINED:	838

INDONESIAN UNITS TRAINED AND TYPE OF TRAINING:

KOPASSUS-HEADQUARTERS, SPECIAL FORCES COMMAND
 SNIPER (AUG. 93)
 DEMOLITION'S AND AIR OPERATIONS (SEP. 93)
 CLOSE QUARTERS COMBAT/MEDICAL LIFESAVER AND
 MARKSMANSHIP (JAN. 94)
 PATHFINDER/AVIATION OPERATIONS (MAY 94)
 AIR OPERATIONS/AIRDROP OPS (MAY 94)
 PARACHUTE OPS/ADVANCED SNIPER TECHNIQUES (FEB. 95)
 PARACHUTE/EOD SUPPORT FOR VIP PROTECTION (AUG. 95)
 MARITIME OPS (JUN. 95) (AUG. 96)
 PEACEKEEPING OPS SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT EXCHANGE (SEP.
 95)

PEACEKEEPING OPS (OCT. 95)
 AIR ASSAULT LEADERS COURSE (MAY 96)
 SPECIAL RECONNAISSANCE TRAINING (AUG. 96) (NOV. 97)
 PSYOPS TRAINING (DEC. 96)
 PARACHUTE TRAINING (FEB. 97)
 MORTAR TRAINING (MAR. 97)
 DEMOLITIONS/EOD/NBC/SAPPER (AUG. 97)
 RECONNAISSANCE PATROLLING/PARACHUTE JUMPMaster TRAINING
 (JUNE 97)

KOSTRAD-THE ARMY STRATEGIC COMMAND
 CLOSE QUARTERS COMBAT (AUG. 92)
 SNIPER (AUG. 93)
 RECONNAISSANCE PATROLLING/PARACHUTE JUMPMaster TRAINING
 (JUNE 97)

KODAM JAYA-JAKARTA AREA MILITARY COMMAND
 PSYOPS TRAINING (DEC. 96)
 MILITARY OPERATIONS IN URBAN TERRAIN (NOV. 97)

KOPASKASAU-AIR FORCE SPECIAL FORCES
 MARITIME OPS (AUG. 96)
 PARACHUTE/JUMP CLEARING TEAM TRAINING (SEP. 97)

PUSDIKIF-INFANTRY TRAINING CENTER
 SNIPER (AUG. 93)

PASPAMPRES-PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY GUARDS
 CLOSE QUARTERS COMBAT/MEDICAL LIFESAVER AND
 MARKSMANSHIP (JAN. 94)
 PARACHUTE/EOD SUPPORT FOR VIP PROTECTION (AUG. 95)

PENERBAD-ARMY AVIATION SQUAD
 PATHFINDER/AVIATION OPERATIONS (MAY 94)
 AIR ASSAULT LEADERS COURSE (MAY 96)

SOURCE: DASD ASIA PACIFIC (INDONESIA COUNTRY DIRECTOR),
 DASD SOLIC (SPECIAL OPERATIONS)
 ALBRIGHT

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LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
OSRI: RUEHJA
DTG: 270958Z MAR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO: SECSTATE WASHDC 0726
INFO: ////
SUBJ: LABOR DIPLOMACY AWARD NOMINATION

TEXT:

UNCLAS JAKARTA 001821

FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, DRL ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHATTUCK, AND
EAP/PIMBS

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: APER, ELAB, PHUM, ID
 SUBJECT: LABOR DIPLOMACY AWARD NOMINATION

REF: A) STATE 46130; B) STATE 19116; C) 97 JAKARTA 4984; D) JAKARTA
0018; E) JAKARTA 1513

1. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE CONVEYS EMBASSY NOMINATION OF LABOR
ATTACHE AND DEPUTY POLITICAL COUNSELOR GREGORY FERGIN FOR THE
DEPUTY SECRETARY'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN LABOR DIPLOMACY (REF B).

2. EMBASSY IS NOMINATING MR. FERGIN BECAUSE OF HIS CENTRAL ROLE IN
ADVANCING U.S. INTERNATIONAL LABOR POLICY TO INCLUDE OUTSTANDING
REPORTING AND DIRECT ROLE IN POLICY FORMULATION OVER A VERY
CHALLENGING PERIOD.

A. INITIATIVE IN ADVANCING FOREIGN POLICY

-- IN 1997, MR. FERGIN DRAFTED THE ACTION PLAN AND LIST OF
BENCHMARKS TO EVALUATE THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT'S OBSERVANCE OF
WORKER RIGHTS AND ASSESS ITS ELIGIBILITY FOR GSP BENEFITS. HE THEN
WORKED LONG-DISTANCE WITH THE U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE'S OFFICE TO
OBTAIN ITS CLEARANCE AND SET UP A USTR DIRECTOR'S VISIT HERE TO
PRESENT THE PLAN TO THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT. HE HAS SINCE
FOLLOWED UP ON A MONTHLY BASIS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER TO
ENCOURAGE A GOI RESPONSE TO THE PACKAGE.

-- ONE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM (IVP) PARTICIPANT WHOSE TRIP
MR. FERGIN ORGANIZED RETURNED AND HELPED DRAFT IMPROVED LANGUAGE IN
THE LABOR BILL'S SECTION ON ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.
ANOTHER GROUP OF THREE IVP PARTICIPANTS WHOM HE IDENTIFIED AND
NOMINATED RETURNED AND SET UP A LABOR SOLIDARITY FORUM TO BRING

TOGETHER A NETWORK OF UNIONS AND NGOS, BASED ON MODELS THEY WITNESSED DURING THEIR MONTH IN THE U.S. MOREOVER, MR. FERGIN HAS WORKED WITH AID AND THE AFL-CIO SOLIDARITY CENTER TO DEVELOP A NEW GRANT PROGRAM WHICH EXPANDS THE SOLIDARITY CENTER'S WORK WITH UNRECOGNIZED LABOR GROUPS AND LABOR-ORIENTED NGOS. THIS UNDERTAKING HAS REQUIRED CAREFUL CRAFTING AND VETTING SO AS NOT TO ANTAGONIZE THE GOI WHICH IS NOT FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO SOME OF THESE NGOS. MR. FERGIN'S TACT AND SENSITIVITY TO THE LOCAL POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT HAS ENABLED THE U.S. TO ADVANCE ITS INTERESTS IN SUPPORTING REFORM-ORIENTED NGOS DESPITE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS OFTEN HOSTILE TO SUCH REFORM.

B. ANALYZING, INTERPRETING, AND ACTING UPON DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS

-- MR. FERGIN FOLLOWED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW BASIC LABOR LAW FROM INITIAL DRAFT TO ITS ENACTMENT (FOR EXAMPLE, REF C), KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS HANDLING THE BILL, UNION LOBBYISTS, AND NGOS SEEKING TO INFLUENCE THE BILL'S PROVISIONS. HE GAINED ACCESS TO THE PARLIAMENTARY WORKING GROUP'S PRIVATE DELIBERATIONS ON THE BILL, PROVIDED INFORMATION ON RELEVANT U.S. LAW AND ILO CONVENTIONS. DURING THE FINAL STAGE OF DELIBERATIONS, WHEN KEY PROVISIONS HUNG IN THE BALANCE, HE RECOMMENDED AND DRAFTED A DEMARCHE, WHICH WASHINGTON ACCEPTED LARGELY AS WRITTEN, AND THEN DELIVERED IT TO GOVERNMENT REPS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS WORKING ON THE BILL. THE DEMARCHE PUSHED SOME KEY POINTS (E.G., THE RIGHT TO STRIKE, RECOGNITION OF MULTIPLE UNIONS) IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. MR. FERGIN'S PERSISTENCE AND SUPERB DIPLOMATIC SKILLS THUS ENABLED THE UNITED STATES TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE DRAFTING PROCESS ON KEY LEGISLATION. GIVEN THE EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO OUTSIDE "INTERFERENCE," THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS TRULY REMARKABLE.

C. ACCESSIBLE AND REPRESENTATIVE CONTACTS

-- MR. FERGIN REINSTITUTED THE TRADITION OF A LABOR DAY RECEPTION AT THE POLCOUNS RESIDENCE, INVITING PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE DIVIDED LABOR SPECTRUM, AND GOT PEOPLE TO COME AND TALK TO OTHERS THEY NORMALLY WOULD NOT APPEAR IN THE SAME ROOM WITH. LATER, HE FOLLOWED UP ON THIS COUP BY INVITING A SMALLER BUT EQUALLY DIVERSE AND DIVIDED GROUP TO HIS HOME, AND OVER A MEAL GOT THEM TO TALK TOGETHER ABOUT ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN AND POSSIBLE AVENUES OF COMMON ACTION.

-- MR. FERGIN HAS DEVELOPED SUPERB CONTACT WITH OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS, SHARING GREATLY VARYING PERSPECTIVES. HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO PICK UP THE PHONE AND GET THROUGH IMMEDIATELY TO SENIOR MANPOWER OFFICIALS, UP TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL (SECOND-RANKING OFFICIAL IN THE DEPARTMENT). HE HAS ALSO BEEN IN EVERY MANNER OF UNION HALL AND NGO OFFICE, A VARIETY OF FACTORIES, AND IN WORKERS' HOMES IN THE INDUSTRIAL SUBURBS. HE HAS BEEN SOUGHT OUT BY VISITING U.S. MANUFACTURERS/BUYERS, U.S. ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS ON LABOR AND INDONESIA, THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE (TO WHOM HE MADE A PRESENTATION ON THE NEW LABOR LAW), AS WELL AS UNIONS AND NGOS FOR PARTICIPATION IN SEMINARS AND INFORMAL DIALOGUES. HE HAS REACHED OUT TO INDONESIAN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS (E.G., THE FOOTWEAR MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION) TO GET INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVES, AS WELL AS THE INDONESIAN EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION.

D. MAKING APPROPRIATE USE OF INFORMATION

-- HE HAS KEPT THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT, UNIONS, SOLIDARITY CENTER, NGOS, AND COMPANIES APPRISED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE APPAREL INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP, U.S. POLICY STATEMENTS AND POLICY-MAKERS' SPEECHES, LABOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE U.S., AND U.S. VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL LABOR ISSUES. WHEN THE RESIDENT WORLD BANK MISSION

REF: A) STATE 46130; B) STATE 19116; C) 97 JAKARTA 4984; D) JAKARTA WAS PREPARING FOR PRESIDENT WOLFENSOHN'S VISIT, HE PROVIDED BRIEFING MATERIALS ON THE INDONESIAN LABOR SITUATION AND SUGGESTED LABOR INVITEES TO A RECEPTION FOR WOLFENSOHN.

-- HE GAVE AN IN-DEPTH BRIEFING ON THE NEW LABOR LAW TO THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, USING A MATRIX HE DEVELOPED TO COMPARE THE NEW LAW TO EXISTING LAW. HE HAS DISTRIBUTED THAT MATRIX TO BUSINESS, LABOR, AND GOVERNMENT CONTACTS HERE AS A LIVING DOCUMENT, I.E., INVITING COMMENT TO IMPROVE HIS DATA BASE AND MAKE IT MORE USEFUL FOR OTHERS.

E. RESPONSIVENESS TO REPORTING PRIORITIES.

-- IN ADDITION TO EXTENSIVE REPORTING ON THE NEW LABOR LAW, HE HAS CHARTED THE IMPACT ON WORKERS OF INDONESIA'S ECONOMIC CRISIS AS IT AS DEVELOPED (SEE IN PARTICULAR, REFS D AND E). THIS HAS INCLUDED INTERPRETING GOVERNMENT, UNION, AND NGO STATISTICS/PROJECTIONS ON LAYOFFS, ANALYZING THE GOVERNMENT'S CRASH PROGRAM OF PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMS FOR UNEMPLOYED WORKERS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, GOING INTO THE FIELD TO HEAR WORKERS THEMSELVES TALK ABOUT THEIR LIVES, THE PRESSURES ON THEM, THEIR HOPES AND FEARS.

3. THIS NOMINATION HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE POST'S AWARD COMMITTEE.

ROY

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1821

TOR: 980327055211 M3217633

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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHROA3247 1181231-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 281231Z APR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 281231Z APR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2999
INFO: RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 0423
 RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 0940
 RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES 0648
 RUCNCLC/CHILD LABOR COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: CHILD LABOR: LABELING INITIATIVE MOVES FORWARD

TEXT:
 UNCLAS ROME 003247

DEPT PASS DEPT OF LABOR FOR ILAB - BRUMFIELD AND ROSEN

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: ELAB, SOCI, PHUM, IT
 SUBJECT: CHILD LABOR: LABELING INITIATIVE MOVES FORWARD

REF: 97 ROME 2420

SUMMARY AND COMMENT

1. LABOR AND MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATIONS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT IN MARCH OF 1997 TO SET UP A LABELING PROGRAM TO GUARANTEE THAT THE OUTPUT OF CERTAIN FIRMS WAS PRODUCED WITHOUT CHILD LABOR AND IN ACCORD WITH BASIC WORKER RIGHTS. THIS WAS A FIRST FOR ITALIAN INDUSTRY, AND THE SIGNATORIES FOUND THAT TURNING THEIR IDEA INTO A SYSTEM WHICH WOULD PROVIDE MEANINGFUL ASSURANCE AT REASONABLE ADMINISTRATIVE COST WAS A COMPLEX TASK. AFTER ALMOST A YEAR OF EXPLORATION, THE PARTIES TO THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT CAME UP WITH A BASIC PLAN FOR A MONITORING MECHANISM. THE SIGNATORIES RECOGNIZE THAT THEY ARE IN UNCHARTED TERRITORY, AND THEY PLAN TO MEET AGAIN IN THE COURSE OF THIS YEAR TO FINE TUNE THEIR AGREEMENT. PROGRESS IN GETTING THIS LABELING PROGRAM UP AND RUNNING HAS BEEN SLOW, AND THERE IS STILL A WAY TO GO BEFORE IT BECOMES FULLY FUNCTIONAL. THE DELIBERATE PACE SEEMS TO CONFIRM THE DETERMINATION OF THE SIGNATORIES TO MAKE THE SYSTEM AS EFFECTIVE AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

A GROUND BREAKING AGREEMENT

2. IN MARCH OF 1997 THE TEXTILE AND LEATHER WORKING FEDERATIONS OF

THE THREE MAJOR LABOR CONFEDERATIONS (CGIL, CISL AND UIL) SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ITALIAN ASSOCIATION OF LEATHER MANUFACTURERS, (AIMPES) TO CREATE A LABEL FOR LEATHER PRODUCTS MADE WITHOUT CHILD LABOR AND IN ACCORD WITH BASIC LABOR STANDARDS. THE PROJECT IS DESIGNED TO UNDERMINE CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE OF GOODS MADE IN SWEATSHOPS, LARGELY IN THE UNDERGROUND ECONOMY. IT ALSO AIMS AT ASSURING CONSUMERS THAT LEATHER PRODUCTS IMPORTED BY SIGNATORY FIRMS ARE MADE IN CONFORMANCE WITH INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED LABOR STANDARDS. THIS WAS A FIRST IN ITALY, AND CREATING A MECHANISM FOR PUTTING IT INTO EFFECT WAS MORE DIFFICULT THAN THE SIGNATORIES EXPECTED. THE MAJOR PROBLEMS WERE ESTABLISHING AN IMPARTIAL AND PERVERSIVE MONITORING SYSTEM WHICH WOULD ASSURE THAT THE LABEL WAS MEANINGFUL WHILE KEEPING COSTS OF THE SYSTEM WITHIN REASON.

IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT

3. AFTER ALMOST A YEAR OF STUDY AND CONSULTATION, THE SIGNATORIES PREPARED A SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT TO GET THE MONITORING UNDERWAY. THIS WAS SIGNED FEBRUARY 17, 1998. IT ESTABLISHES A NATIONAL BILATERAL COMMISSION CONSISTING OF THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EMPLOYERS AND THREE FROM THE UNIONS. THE COMMISSION IS CHARGED WITH SELECTING INSPECTORS DIRECTLY OR IN COLLABORATION WITH APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO MONITOR STANDARDS IN WORK PLACES OF SIGNATORIES OF THE AGREEMENT AND THEIR SUBCONTRACTORS. THESE "AUTHORIZED INSPECTORS" MUST BE TOTALLY INDEPENDENT OF THE FIRMS. THEY MAY BE DRAWN FROM CONSUMER ASSOCIATIONS, CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS, AND RELIGIOUS OR PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATIONS. THE COMMISSION WILL PROMOTE THE "SOCIAL LABEL" TO BE AWARDED TO FIRMS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCTS AND LIST COMPANIES ENTITLED TO USE IT. THE COMMISSION WILL ALSO ESTABLISH A FOUNDATION TO RECEIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM AND COMBAT CHILD LABOR.

4. A FIRM PARTICIPATES IN THE LABELING PROGRAM BY SUBSCRIBING TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN ITS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONTRACT. ITS RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- A) APPOINTING A MANAGER IN EACH PLANT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT;
- B) ESTABLISHING AEGULAR REVIEW OF THE FIRM'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE AT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD LEVEL;
- C) ENSURING THAT THE FIRM'S PARTNERS, CONTRACTORS, SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS COMPLY WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT;
- D) ENSURING AUTHORIZED INSPECTORS UNLIMITED ACCESS TO ALL PREMISES OF THE COMPANY WITHOUT ADVANCE NOTICE AND PERMITTING THEM TO HAVE CONFIDENTIAL MEETINGS WITH THE WORKERS;
- E) KEEPING A LIST OF ALL WORKERS, INCLUDING NAME, AGE, WORKING HOURS AND SALARY.

5. THE SIGNATORIES TO THE ACCORD PLAN TO MEET REGULARLY TO REVIEW THE MONITORING SYSTEM AND TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION WHEN NECESSARY. THE QUESTION OF HOW TO MONITOR OVERSEAS PRODUCTION HAS STILL NOT BEEN SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. HOWEVER, THE CAREFUL AND DELIBERATE APPROACH TO THE PROJECT BY BOTH LABOR AND MANAGEMENT IS A SIGN OF THEIR DETERMINATION TO MAKE THE SYSTEM AS EFFECTIVE AS POSSIBLE.
FOGLIETTA

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3247

TOR: 980428083201 M3263058

DIST:

SIT: BROWN BUSBY JORDAN NAPLAN RAGAN SAPIRO SCHWARTZ
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHCAA7336 1342303-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
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OSRI: RUEHC
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ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS
SPECIAL EMBASSY PROGRAM
INFO: ////
SUBJ: EXECUTIVE ORDER: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND
TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS

TEXT:

UNCLAS STATE 087336

FROM THERESA LOAR FOR AMBASSADORS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KWMN, PHUM, SCWL, PREL, ELAB, SMIG, KFRD, PREF, CVIS,
CASC

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE ORDER: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND
TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS

1. THIS CABLE PROVIDES BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, INCLUDING TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS.

2. ON MARCH 11, 1998, PRESIDENT CLINTON ISSUED AN EXECUTIVE MEMORANDUM ON STEPS TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS. THE MEMORANDUM WAS ISSUED AT A MARCH 11, 1998 WHITE HOUSE EVENT IN HONOR OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY. AT THIS EVENT THE PRESIDENT, THE FIRST LADY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS KOFI ANNAN, DR. SAISUREE CHUTIKUL, A THAI GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, AND I SPOKE ABOUT USG LEADERSHIP ON WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD.

3. THE AUDIENCE INCLUDED U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.

4. THE EVENT HIGHLIGHTED THE FOLLOWING:

-- A REAFFIRMATION OF USG SUPPORT FOR A VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN FOR SENATE RATIFICATION OF THE WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY, THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN.

-- AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW PROGRAMS TO ASSIST AFGHAN WOMEN AND GIRLS SUFFERING AT THE HANDS OF THE TALIBAN, A REGIME THE USG AND THE UNITED NATIONS HAVE DENOUNCED FOR THEIR ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

-- AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL -IO MILLION TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND USAID.

-- AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF A SERIES OF INITIATIVES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS, ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING CRIMINAL ENTERPRISES IN THE WORLD. THESE INITIATIVES IN THE U.S. AND AROUND THE WORLD WILL:

- EDUCATE YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS ABOUT TRAFFICKING SO THAT THEY WILL NOT FALL PRAY TO TRAFFICKERS TACTICS OF COERCION, FRAUD, AND DECEIT,
- PROVIDE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS, AND
- ENHANCE THE CAPABILITIES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING.

TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S MEMORANDUM TO FOLLOW.

5. BEGIN TEXT. AS WE CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY TODAY, WE HIGHLIGHT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD. WE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE IS MUCH WORK YET TO BE DONE TO ENSURE THAT WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED AND RESPECTED. THE MOMENTUM GENERATED BY THE UNITED NATIONS FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN BEIJING IN 1995 CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE OUR GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS NATIONS AROUND THE WORLD, TO FULFILL OUR COMMITMENTS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS.

I HAVE, ONCE AGAIN, CALLED UPON THE SENATE TO GIVE ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT TO RATIFICATION TO THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN, THUS ENABLING THE UNITED STATES TO JOIN L7L OTHER COUNTRIES IN SUPPORT OF THE CONVENTION. THIS CONVENTION IS AN

EFFECTIVE TOOL THAT CAN BE USED TO COMBT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, REFORM UNFAIR INHERITANCE AND PROPERTY RIGHTS, AND STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S ACCESS TO FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY. RATIFICATION OF THIS CONVENTION WILL ENHANCE OUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE STATUS OF WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD. AS WE LOOK AT AFGHANISTAN AND THE EGREGIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COMMITTED AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS AT THE HANDS OF THE TALIBAN, WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS AN ISSUE OF GLOBAL IMPORTANCE.

MY ADMINISTRATION IS WORKING HARD TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN ALL ITS FORMS. OUR EFFORTS HELP COMBAT THIS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION AROUND THE WORLD AND HERE IN THE UNITED STATES. AS PART OF MY 1994 CRIME BILL, I SIGNED INTO LAW THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT. THIS LEGISLATION DECLARES CERTAIN FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN TO BE FEDERAL CRIMES AND PROVIDES FOR CRITICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES, TRIBES, AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO RESPOND TO THIS PROBLEM. THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IS

IMPLEMENTING THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT AND WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO PROMOTE CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AND PROVIDE SERVICES TO VICTIMS. THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, WE HAVE ESTABLISHED FOR THE FIRST TIME A NATIONWIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE, SO THAT WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY CAN CALL ONE TOLL-FREE NUMBER AND BE CONNECTED TO A LOCAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT CENTER. WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY SINCE 1994, AND I AM PROUD OF OUR EFFORTS.

EACH DAY RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF? THIS ISSUE GROWS AROUND THE WORLD. IN RECENT YEARS, MANY COUNTRIES HAVE BEGUN TO RESPOND TO CALLS FOR LEGISLATION AND GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY INCREASINGLY REGARDS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION, AN IMPEDIMENT TO A NATION'S DEVELOPMENT, AND AN OBSTACLE TO WOMEN'S FULL PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY.

TODAY I AM DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF STATE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND THEIR WORK TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN HERE IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD. WE HAVE MADE GREAT PROGRESS SINCE THE ENACTMENT OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT IN 1994, BUT THERE REMAINS MUCH TO BE DONE. WE MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TO IMPLEMENT THE

ACT FULLY AND TO RESTORE THE ACT'S PROTECTION FOR IMMIGRANT VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HERE IN THE UNITED STATES SO THAT THEY WILL NOT BE FORCED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN DEPORTATION AND ABUSE.

THE PROBLEM OF TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS, AN INSIDIOUS FORM OF VIOLENCE, HAS RECEIVED A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION FROM THE WORLD COMMUNITY. THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM WITH NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS. HERE IN THE UNITED STATES, WE HAVE SEEN CASES OF TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSES OF FORCED PROSTITUTION, SWEATSHOP LABOR, AND EXPLOITATIVE DOMESTIC SERVITUDE. THE VICTIMS IN THESE CASES OFTEN BELIEVE THEY WILL BE ENTERING OUR COUNTRY TO SECURE A DECENT JOB. INSTEAD, THEY ARE VIRTUAL PRISONERS, WITH NO RESOURCES, LITTLE RECOURSE, AND NO PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLATIONS OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS. MY ADMINISTRATION IS COMMITTED TO COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH A FOCUS ON THE AREAS OF PREVENTION, VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION, AND ENFORCEMENT. OUR WORK ON THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN ENHANCED BY A STRONG PARTNERSHIP WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS AND THE U.S. CONGRESS.

I AM ALSO DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF STATE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN TO INCREASE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS ABOUT TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS. I WANT TO ENSURE THAT YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE EDUCATED ABOUT THIS PROBLEM SO THAT THEY WILL NOT FALL PREY TO TRAFFICKERS' TACTICS OF COERCION, FRAUD, AND DECEIT.

I ALSO WANT TO PROVIDE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO

VICTIMS. AND FINALLY, I WANT TO ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT WORLDWIDE TO PREVENT WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM BEING TRAFFICKED AND ENSURE THAT TRAFFICKERS ARE PUNISHED.

THEREFORE, I DIRECT:

I. THE SECRETARY OF STATE, IN COORDINATION WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND OUR EFFORTS TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN ALL ITS FORMS AROUND THE WORLD. THESE EFFORTS WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT REQUESTS FOR PARTNERSHIPS, EXPERT GUIDANCE, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS THIS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION.

II. THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN TO COORDINATE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT RESPONSE ON TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS, IN CONSULTATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS.

III. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO EXAMINE CURRENT TREATMENT OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING INCLUDING TO DETERMINE WAYS TO INSURE: THE PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR VICTIMS AND WITNESSES IN SETTINGS THAT SECURE THEIR SAFETY; PRECAUTIONS FOR THE SAFE RETURN OF VICTIMS AND WITNESSES TO THEIR ORIGINATING COUNTRIES; WITNESS COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL TRIALS AGAINST TRAFFICKERS; AND CONSIDERATION OF TEMPORARY AND/OR PERMANENT LEGAL STATUS FOR VICTIMS AND WITNESSES OF TRAFFICKING WHO LACK LEGAL STATUS.

IV. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO REVIEW EXISTING UNITED STATES CRIMINAL LAWS AND THEIR CURRENT USE TO DETERMINE IF THEY ARE ADEQUATE TO PREVENT AND DETER TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS, TO RECOMMEND ANY APPROPRIATE LEGAL CHANGES TO ENSURE THAT TRAFFICKING IS CRIMINALIZED AND THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF TRAFFICKING ARE SIGNIFICANT, AND TO REVIEW CURRENT PROSECUTION EFFORTS AGAINST TRAFFICKERS IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, EVIDENTIARY NEEDS, AND RESOURCE CAPABILITIES.

V. THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO USE OUR DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE AROUND THE WORLD TO WORK WITH SOURCE, TRANSIT, AND DESTINATION COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR PROTECTING AND ASSISTING VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND TO EXPAND AND ENHANCE ANTI-FRAUD TRAINING TO STOP THE INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS.

VI. THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO COORDINATE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE'S REQUEST TO JOINTLY DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM AND TO THE UKRAINE. THE U.S.-UKRAINE COOPERATION WILL SERVE AS A MODEL FOR A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING THAT CAN BE EXPANDED TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

VII. THE SECRETARY OF STATE, IN COORDINATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, TO EXPAND AND STRENGTHEN ASSISTANCE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN DEVELOPING AND ENACTING LEGISLATION TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS, TO

PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING, AND TO
CONTINUE TO EXPAND EFFORTS TO TRAIN LEGAL AND LAW
ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL WORLDWIDE.

VIII. THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE
UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY TO EXPAND PUBLIC AWARENESS
CAMPAIGNS TARGETED TO POTENTIAL VICTIMS TO WARN THEM OF THE
METHODS USED BY TRAFFICKERS.

IX. THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN TO
CONVENE A GATHERING OF GOVERNMENT AND NONGOVERNMENT
REPRESENTATIVES FROM SOURCE, TRANSIT, AND DESTINATION
COUNTRIES AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE OF TRAFFICKING
IN WOMEN AND GIRLS AND TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR COMBATING
THIS FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION. END TEXT.
ALBRIGHT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01
SSN: 7336
TOR: 980514190527 M3288504
DIST: SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 0000
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 0000
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0000
RUEHDG/AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO 0000
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0000
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 0000
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 0000
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 0000
RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 0000
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 0000
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0000
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 0000
RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 0000
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RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 0000
RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 0000
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 0000
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 0000
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0000
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RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 0000
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INFO: RUEHGZ/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU 0000
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RUSBAY/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 0000
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 0000
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 0000
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 0000
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE 0000
RUEHMC/AMCONSUL MONTERREY 0000
RUEHTM/AMCONSUL TIJUANA 0000
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RUEHRS/AMCONSUL MATAMOROS 0000
RUEHNL/AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO 0000
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 0000
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0000
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
SUBJ: DEPT OF LABOR STUDY ON WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE
APPAREL INDUSTRY

TEXT:

UNCLAS STATE 093338

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EIND, ETRD, PHUM, SOCI

SUBJECT: DEPT OF LABOR STUDY ON WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE APPAREL INDUSTRY

1. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARAS 6 AND 7.

SUMMARY

2. CONGRESS HAS TASKED THE DEPT OF LABOR TO ESTABLISH "A METHODOLOGY AND FORMAT FOR REPORTING REGULARLY ON THE USE OF SWEATSHOPS IN THE PRODUCTION OF APPAREL FOR IMPORT INTO THE UNITED STATES." TO COMPLY WITH THIS REQUIREMENT, THE LABOR DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS (DOL/ILAB) SEEKS INPUT FROM ACTION ADDRESSEE POSTS, ALL OF WHICH ARE IN COUNTRIES THAT ARE MAJOR APPAREL EXPORTERS TO THE U.S. POSTS ARE ASKED (A) TO PROVIDE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS IS AT HAND, RESPONDING TO DOL/ILAB'S SPECIFIC QUERIES AND (B), WHERE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DO SO, TO INDICATE THE NATURE OF THE DIFFICULTIES FACED AND (C) THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES NEEDED, IF ANY, TO COMPLY WITH THESE AND POSSIBLE FURTHER SUCH INFORMATION REQUESTS. END SUMMARY.

3. THE 1998 LABOR DEPT APPROPRIATIONS BILL (P.L. 105-78) REQUIRES DOL/ILAB TO "DEVELOP A METHODOLOGY AND FORMAT FOR REPORTING REGULARLY ON THE USE OF SWEATSHOPS IN THE PRODUCTION OF APPAREL FOR IMPORT INTO THE UNITED STATES." THIS MANDATE IS SET IN THE CONTEXT OF APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERN OVER "THE LARGE AND GROWING PROBLEM OF ABUSIVE TREATMENT OF WORKERS AROUND THE WORLD WHO PRODUCE APPAREL FOR EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE IMPACT OF THAT TREATMENT ON COMPANIES AND WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES." NOTING THAT THE LABOR DEPT REPORTS REGULARLY ON WORKER RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AT GARMENT PRODUCTION SITES INSIDE THE U.S., THE COMMITTEE IS CONCERNED THAT THIS EXISTING REPORTING IMBALANCE NOT LEAVE "THE MISLEADING IMPRESSION THAT VIOLATIONS OF LAW AND SUBSTANDARD CONDITIONS IN THE INDUSTRY ARE FAR MORE EXTENSIVE WITHIN THE UNITED STATES THAN ELSEWHERE."

4. CURRENT LABOR DEPT REPORTING ON "SWEATSHOP" CONDITIONS WITHIN THE US. GARMENT INDUSTRY CONSISTS OF REPORTS, ISSUED QUARTERLY, THAT TALLY THE:

- # NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS ITS INSPECTORS CONDUCT;
- # NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS WITH VIOLATIONS FOUND;
- # AMOUNT OF WORKER BACK WAGES RECOVERED;
- # NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES RECEIVING BACK WAGES; AND
- # CIVIL FINES IMPOSED.

5. TO THE EXTENT CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOW, DOL/ILAB HOPES TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL REPORTING METHODOLOGY AND FORMAT THAT, WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT LOCAL DIFFERENCES,

NONETHELESS INTRODUCES STANDARDIZED NORMS THAT COULD PERMIT VALID COMPARISONS TO BE MADE. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO ELICIT FIELD INPUT THAT WILL ALLOW DOL/ILAB TO ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY OF SUCH AN APPROACH AND, AT THE SAME TIME, TO ASSESS THE EXTENT TO WHICH CURRENT REPORTING RESOURCES AT ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE ADEQUATE TO THE TASK. THE POTENTIAL SOURCES FROM WHICH NEEDED INFORMATION COULD BE GATHERED INCLUDE APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS; LOCAL ILO OFFICES, AS WELL AS INDEPENDENT WORKER AND EMPLOYER GROUPS; AND NGO'S CONCERNED WITH THE TREATMENT OF WORKERS IN THE APPAREL INDUSTRY.

6. DOL/ILAB'S INQUIRIES INVOLVE THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

A. SPECIFIC HOST COUNTRY LAWS, POLICIES, INITIATIVES, AND ENFORCEMENT STRATEGIES TO REGULATE WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE APPAREL EXPORT SECTOR. ARE EFFORTS BEING MADE TO STRENGTHEN ENFORCEMENT OF HOST COUNTRY LABOR LAWS, TO FOCUS ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES ON THE APPAREL INDUSTRY, OR TO CHANGE LABOR LAWS? ARE THERE EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL NGO'S, OR WHICH INVOLVE INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS AND THE TREATMENT OF WORKERS IN THE APPAREL INDUSTRY OR TO ELIMINATE SWEATSHOP CONDITIONS?

B. WHAT INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE THAT QUANTIFIES THE RESULTS OF THE LAWS, POLICIES, INITIATIVES, ETC. REFERRED TO ABOVE? TO WHAT EXTENT DOES SUCH INFORMATION CORRESPOND TO THE REPORTING CATEGORIES REFERRED TO IN PARA 4?

C. ARE SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS BEING UNDERTAKEN IN THE NON GOVERNMENTAL SECTOR (SUCH AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF CODES OF CONDUCT) THAT COULD LEAD TO IMPROVED CONDITIONS FOR APPAREL WORKERS? IF SO, ARE MEASUREABLE RESULTS AVAILABLE THUS FAR?

D. TO WHAT EXTENT DO CONDITIONS IN THE EXPORT APPAREL SECTOR CONFORM TO, OR DEPART FROM, THE WORKING CONDITIONS DESCRIBED IN PART 6 OF THE "COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES FOR 1997" (REGARDING YOUR HOST COUNTRY)?

7. TO MOVE ITS STUDY FORWARD, DOL/ILAB ASKS ADDRESSEE POSTS TO RESPOND, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION PERMITS, BY JUNE 12. WHERE INFORMATION IS NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE, ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE ASKED TO INDICATE THE NATURE OF THE DIFFICULTIES FACED IN OBTAINING IT, AS WELL AS AN ESTIMATE OF THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES NEEDED, IF ANY, TO COMPLY WITH THESE REQUESTS. PLEASE SLUG YOUR RESPONSES FOR DRL/IL AND DOL/ILAB FOR JORGE PEREZ-LOPEZ.

S. FYI: DEPT NOTES THAT THIS CONGRESSIONALLY-IMPOSED REPORTING REQUIREMENT, ALTHOUGH LEVIED ON THE DEPT OF LABOR, NECESSARILY INVOLVES "LABOR DIPLOMACY" REPORTING THROUGH FOREIGN SERVICE CHANNELS. IN THIS RESPECT, IT CONTINUES A TREND OF SUCH CONGRESSIONALLY-IMPOSED REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ON FOREIGN LABOR CONDITIONS, THE MOST PROMINENT RECENT EXAMPLE OF WHICH IS THE SERIES (NOW FIVE) OF REPORTS ON CHILD LABOR. DEPT ACCORDINGLY SUGGESTS THAT ADDRESSEE POSTS KEEP THIS CONTEXT IN MIND, WHEN RESPONDING

TO QUESTIONS POSED IN PARA 7.
ALBRIGHT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3338

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- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
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PREC: PRIORITY
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SUBJ: *** NO SUBJECT FOUND ***
TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 002242

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ELAB EIND ETRD PHUM SOCI HO
SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE MAQUILA INDUSTRY IN HONDURAS
REF A) STATE 93338; B) TEGUC 748
C) TEGUC2859; D) TEGUC 5156
E) TEGUC 1824

1. RF A REQUESTED A REPORT ON THE REGULATION OF WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE PRODUCTION OF APPAREL FOR EXPORT TO THE

UNITED STATES. WE HAVE OBTAINED THE INFORMATION IN PARA TWO BELOW FROM REFTELS AND SOURCES WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND THE HONDURAN MAQUILA ASSOCIATION (AHM).

2. THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS PERTAINING TO THE MAQUILA INDUSTRY IN HONDURAS CORRESPOND TO PARA SIX OF REF A:

Q: WHAT ARE THE SPECIFIC HONDURAN LAWS, POLICIES, INITIATIVES, AND ENFORCEMENT STRATEGIES TO REGULATE WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE APPAREL EXPORT SECTOR?

A: WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE APPAREL EXPORT SECTOR ARE REGULATED BY THE LABOR CODE. HOWEVER, THE LABOR CODE HAS BEEN UNDER REVIEW SINCE 192.

THE TRIPARTITE COMMISSION, WHICH CONSISTS OF GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR, AND LABOR UNION REPRESENTATION, IS IN AGREEMENT ON ABOUT NINETY PERCENT OF THE CODE, BUT SEEMS UNABLE TO REACH AN ACCORD ON THE REMAINING TEN PERCENT. THIS CONTROVERSIA TEN PERCENT OF THE LABOR CODE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

LEGAL CONDITIONS FOR UNIONS
ADDITIONAL MONTH BONUSES FOR EMPLOYEES
SEVERANCE PAY
INSTANTING A SEPARATE SUBSECTION FOR MAQUILDORES

WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY WHEN THE REFORMED LABOR CODE WILL BE FINISHED.

Q: ARE EFFORTS BEING MADE TO STRENGTHEN ENFORCEMENT OF HONDURAN LABOR LAWS, TO FOCUS ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES IN THE APPAREL INDUSTRY, OR TO CHANGE LABOR LAWS?

A: THE NEW HONDURAN ADMINISTRATION, WHICH ENTERED OFFICE IN JANUARY 1998, HAS PLEDGED TO MODERNIZE THE INSPECTION AND LABOR MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS OF THE LABOR MINISTRY. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE STRAPPED RESOURCES OF THE GOH AND PARTICULARLY THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE GOH WILL BE ABLE TO ADEQUATELY ENFORCE THE LABOR CODE. ALSO, EFFORTS BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOR TO ENFORCE SOME LABOR LAWS ARE HAMPERED BY AN INSUFFICIENCY OF HUMAN AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES (SEE REF B).

AS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED, THE TRIPARTITE COMMISSION HAS MADE EFFORTS TO CHANGE THE LABOR CODE, BUT THIS EFFORT HAS NOT YET BORN FRUIT. ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN THE AHM, PART OF THE REASON FOR THIS IMPASSE IN LABOR CODE TALKS IS THE FACT THAT THE GOH IS TAKING A "LAISSEZ FAIRE" ATTITUDE AND IS ALLOWING THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND LABOR UNIONS TO BATTLE IT OUT ON THEIR OWN. THE PROCESS OF LABOR CODE REFORM WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE MUCH LONGER WITHOUT GOH MEDIATION.

Q: ARE THERE EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL NGO'S, OR WHICH INVOLVE INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS AND THE TREATMENT OF WORKERS IN THE APPAREL INDUSTRY OR TO ELIMINATE SWEATSHOP CONDITIONS?

A: WITH RESPECT TO LOCAL NGO'S, THE AHM HAS DONE MUCH TO IMPROVE THE MAQUILA INDUSTRY (SEE BELOW). AND THOUGH THE GOH ADHERES TO MAJOR ILO CONVENTIONS, IT IS NOT ESPECIALLY ACTIVE IN INTERNATIONAL LABOR ACTIVITIES OR WITH NGO'S INVOLVED IN LABOR ISSUES.

Q: WHAT INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE THAT QUANTIFIES THE RESULTS OF THE LAWS, POLICIES, INITIATIVES, ETC. REFERRED TO ABOVE? TO WHAT EXTENT DOES SUCH INFORMATION CORRESPOND TO THE REPORTING CATEGORIES REFERRED TO IN REF A, PARA 4?

A: THE MINISTRY OF LABOR HAS AN INSPECTOR GENERAL IN EACH OF THE MAJOR CITIES OF HONDURAS. THESE INSPECTOR GENERALS OVERSEE THE INSPECTION OF THE MAQUILA INDUSTRY AND POSSESS DOCUMENTATION ON THE RESULTS THEREOF. BECAUSE THE MAJORITY OF THE MAQUILA INDUSTRY IS LOCATED IN SAN PEDRO SULA, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IN THAT CITY HAS MOST OF THE DOCUMENTATION REGARDING THE MAQUILA INDUSTRY. SUCH DOCUMENTATION CORRESPONDS CLOSELY TO THE REPORTING CATEGORIES REFERRED TO IN REF A, PARA 4, AND IS AVAILABLE TO US ON REQUEST. THE AHM ALSO CONDUCTS FREQUENT INSPECTIONS OF MAQUILAS, AND

KEEPS DuUAILED ACCOUNTS OF THEIR FINDINGS.

Q: ARE SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS BEING UNDERTAKEN IN THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL SECTOR (SUCH AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF CODES OF CONDUCT) THAT COULD LEAD TO IMPROVED CONDITIONS FOR APPAREL WORKERS? IF SO, ARE MEASURABLE RESULTS AVAILABLE THUS FAR?

A: LAST JULY, THE AHM ENACTED A CODE OF CONDUCT. THOUGH THIS WAS A VOLUNTARY ACT ON THE PART OF THE AHM, THE CODE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 002242

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ELAB EIND ETRD PHUM SOCI HO

SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE MAQUILA INDUSTRY IN HONDURAS

WAS SURROUNDED BY MUCH CONTROVERSY, AS LABOR UNIONS WERE NOT PERMITTED TO TAKE PART IN THE PROCEEDINGS. THE CODE NONETHELESS REPRESENTS A NEW, PUBLIC COMMITMENT BY APPAREL MANUFACTURERS IN HONDURAS TO ABIDE BY LOCAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THEIR INDUSTRIES. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE CODE OF CONDUCT PROVIDES A STARTING POINT FOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE AHM, ORGANIZED LABOR, AND THE GOH (SEE REF D).

SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE CODE INCLUDE CHILD LABOR, TREATMENT OF PREGNANT WOMEN, HEALTH AND SAFETY, SECURITY ON CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, AND EMPLOYEE FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION. THE CODE, HOWEVER, DOES NOT STIPULATE CONSEQUENCES FOR MEMBERS OF THE AHM THAT VIOLATE THE CODE. A SOURCE IN THE AHM DIVULGED THAT THOUGH NO SYSTEM OF SANCTIONS EXISTS FOR VIOLATORS OF THE CODE, THE AHM REGULARLY AIDS THE GOH IN IMPOSING FINES ON VIOLATORS; AS A LAST RESORT, FLAGRANT TRANSGRESSORS WOULD BE DISMISSED FROM THE AHM, INDIRECTLY PUTTING THEM OUT OF BUSINESS.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE CODE OF CONDUCT HAS GREATLY IMPROVED THE AHM'S COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL LABOR LAWS AND REGULATIONS AS WELL AS THEIR RELATIONS WITH ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE GOH. THE AHM IS AWAITING THE RELEASE OF THE REVISED LABOR CODE BEFORE MAKING ANY CHANGES TO THEIR CODE OF CONDUCT.

ANOTHER EVENT INVOLVING NGO'S WAS THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT BY THE KIMI MAQUILA PLANT FOR INDEPENDENT MONITORING IN JUNE 1997. THIS AGREEMENT ALLOWED AN INDEPENDENT MONITORING COMMISSION COMPOSED OF RELIGIOUS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS TO MAKE REGULAR AND UNANNOUNCED VISITS TO OBSERVE THE WORKING CONDITIONS OF KIMI'S EMPLOYEES. THIS EVENT WAS ALSO SURROUNDED BY CONTROVERSY AS NEITHER THE AHM, LABOR UNIONS NOR THE MINISTRY OF LABOR WAS CONSULTED OR INCLUDED IN THE AGREEMENT. IN ADDITION, SEVERAL OF THE MAQUILA BOARD MEMBERS, WHILE NOT OPPOSED TO THE CONCEPT OF INDEPENDENT MONITORING, FELT THAT THE MAKE UP OF THIS SPECIFIC COMMISSION LACKED THE RELEVANT EXPERTISE TO EVALUATE THE PLANT (SEE REF C).

THE REASON FOR THE AGREEMENT WAS THE FACT THAT KIMI WAS UNDER HEAVY FIRE BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNITY AND HAD

ALREADY LOST SEVERAL OF ITS LARGEST BUYERS. BECAUSE OF THIS, THE PLANT WAS ON THE VERGE OF BANKRUPTCY. THE AGREEMENT WAS MADE IN HOPES THAT THE REGULAR AND UNANNOUNCED INSPECTIONS BY THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION WOULD LEND CREDIBILITY AND REBUILD THE REPUTATION OF THE PLANT. SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AGREEMENT, THE PLANT HAS ONCE AGAIN BECOME FULLY OPERATIONAL AND IS FLOURISHING WITHIN THE MAQUILA INDUSTRY.

Q: TO WHAT EXTENT DO CONDITIONS IN THE EXPORT APPAREL SECTOR CONFORM TO, OR DEPART FROM, THE WORKING CONDITIONS DESCRIBED IN PART 6 OF THE "COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES FOR 1997" REGARDING HONDURAS?

A: AS STATED IN PARA 6 OF THE "COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES FOR 1997," THE CODE OF CONDUCT HAS BEEN ENACTED BY THE AHM AND MOST OF THE MAQUILAS HAVE RAISED THEIR HIRING AGE TO 18. SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT IN EARLY 1998, NOTHING HAS CHANGED FROM WITHIN THE MAQUILA INDUSTRY AS THEY CONTINUE TO COMPLY WITH LABOR LAWS SURPRISINGLY WELL.

3. COMMENT: THE CODE OF CONDUCT, WHICH WAS VOLUNTARILY DEVELOPED BY THE AHM, IS EVIDENCE THAT THE MAQUILA INDUSTRY SEEKS TO ESTABLISH ITSELF AS ONE THAT IS IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN EVERY ASPECT, PARTICULARLY IN THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL LABOR LAWS AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL NORMS.

CREAGAN

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

SSN: 2242
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TOR: 980529132854 M3310826
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RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0129
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 0028
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RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 0115
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 0005
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0008
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RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 0232
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0003
RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 0156
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 0003
RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 0021
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 0624
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 0006
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0023
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0107
RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 0033
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 0122
RUEHXC/ALL USCONS MEXICO
SUBJ: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR STUDY ON WORKING
CONDITIONS IN THE APPAREL INDUSTRY
TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 005530

STATE FOR DRL/IL, ARA/MEX, ARA/PPCP-BOOTH
LABOR FOR ILAB FOR PEREZ-LOPEZ

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, EIND, ETRD, PHUM, SOCI, MX
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR STUDY ON WORKING
CONDITIONS IN THE APPAREL INDUSTRY

REF: A) MEXICO 005275 (NOTAL)
B) STATE 093338 (NOTAL)

C) 97 MEXICO 001558 (NOTAL)

1. PER REQUEST (PARAS 6 AND 7 OF REFTEL), EMBASSY PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS POSED AS THEY RELATE TO LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND PRACTICES IN MEXICO:

A. NO MEXICAN LAWS, POLICI, INITIATIVES OR STRATEGIES ARE SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AT REGULATING THE APPAREL EXPORT SECTOR. EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE BY THE GOM TO STRENGTHEN ENFORCEMENT OF ITS LABOR LAWS AND REGULATIONS, AS WELL AS TO CHANGE LABOR LAWS, BUT THESE EFFORTS ARE NOT DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY AT THE APPAREL EXPORT SECTOR.

LABOR LAW REFORM

THE SECRETARY OF LABOR RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A GOM INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE CONSENSUS SUPPOR FOR LABOR LAW REFORM LEGISLATION THIS FALL (REFTEL A). THE FINAL CONTENT OF THIS DRAFT BILL WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST.

LABOR REGULATIONS

THE GOM PUBLISHED DRAMATICALLY STREAMLINED AND UPDATED REGULATIONS AFFECTING WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY IN EARLY 1997. IN ADDITION, THE LABOR SECRETARIAT SIGNED AGREEMENTS WITH STATE LABOR AUTHORITIES (COMPLETED IN SPRING OF 1998) TO BETTER COORDINATE FEDERAL AND STATE LABOR INSPECTIONS. FOLLOWING UP ON THOSE AGREEMENTS, THE FEDERAL LABOR SECRETARIAT DRAFTED REVISED REGULATIONS ON INSPECTIONS (EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED BY THE END OF JUNE), WHICH ARE AIMED AT ENSURING REGULAR EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION, UNIFORMITY BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE INSPECTIONS, AND FEDERAL TRAINING OF STATE LABOR INSPECTORS.

ENFORCEMENT STRATEGIES

THE LABOR SECRETARY ALSO ANNOUNCED (REFTEL A) THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE SECRETARIAT TO SHIFT MORE PERSONNEL TO THE FEDERAL LABOR BOARDS (REDUCE AND ELIMINATE BACKLOGS), EXPAND THE NUMBER OF REPRESENTATION OFFICES IN THE STATES TO GIVE WORKERS EASIER AND QUICKER ACCESS IN REGISTERING COMPLAINTS, AND CREATE A SEPARATE SUB SECRETARIAT TO PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS ON ISSUES SUCH AS WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE, CHILD LABOR , AGRICULTURAL LABOR, AND PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED WORKERS.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR IMPROVED WORKING CONDITIONS

EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF PARTNERSHIPS INVOLVING
NGO'S. HOWEVER, THERE IS A PILOT PROJECT IN THE
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 005530

STATE FOR DRL/IL, ARA/MEX, ARA/PPCP-BOOTH
LABOR FOR ILAB FOR PEREZ-LOPEZ

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EIND, ETRD, PHUM, SOCI, MX

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR STUDY ON WORKING
CONDITIONS IN THE APPAREL INDUSTRY

REF: A) MEXICO 005275 (NOTAL)
STATE OF MORELOS, "CIUDAD DE LA CONFECCION" (CITY
OF GARMENT MAKING), WHICH IS A PARTNERSHIP AMONG
INVESTORS (FOUR OF FIVE ARE MAJOR U.S.
CORPORATIONS), STATE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES,
GARMENT MANUFACTURERS (MOSTLY OF U.S. ORIGIN),
AND A GARMENT WORKERS UNION ("FRANCISCO VILLA" OF
THE CONFEDERATION OF MEXICAN WORKERS--CTM)
WHICH IS BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF A "NO SWEATSHOP"
OPERATION (REFTEL C). FACILITIES WERE DESIGNED AND
BUILT ON AN INTEGRATED BASIS, BUILDINGS ARE
MODERN, WELL LIGHTED AND AIR CONDITIONED. THE
MOSTLY FEMALE WORKFORCE IS PROVIDED WITH TWO
STAGES OF TRAINING, WHICH INCLUDES AN EXTENSION OF
BASIC EDUCATION, TECHNICAL TRAINING, AND
INFORMING THEM OF THEIR RIGHTS UNDER THE FEDERAL
LABOR LAW. SINCE MOST OF THESE WORKERS ARE
SINGLE MOTHERS, DAY CARE CENTERS ARE MADE
AVAILABLE FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

B. THE FEDERAL LABOR SECRETARIAT DOES PUBLISH
ANNUALLY DATA RELATED TO INSPECTIONS, BUT THAT
DATA IS NOT BROKEN DOWN BY INDUSTRY OR ECONOMIC
SECTOR. DATA WILL BE BROKEN DOWN BY GEOGRAPHIC
REGION AND TYPES OF INSPECTIONS (POSSIBLY IN THE
STATISTICAL ANNEX TO THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL
REPORT TO THE NATION IN SEPTEMBER). NO DATA,
HOWEVER, ARE PUBLISHED INDICATING VIOLATIONS
FOUND, BACK WAGES RECOVERED, OR FINES IMPOSED.
MOREOVER, THE INSPECTION DATA ARE LIMITED TO
FEDERAL INSPECTIONS, ALTHOUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF NEW REGULATIONS ON LABOR INSPECTIONS MAY
PRODUCE USEFUL DATA ON STATE INSPECTIONS AS WELL
IN THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO.

C. EMBASSY AND VISITING USG OFFICIALS HAVE
INTRODUCED AND PROMOTED THE ADOPTION OF
INDUSTRY CODES OF CONDUCT IN MEETINGS WITH GOM
OFFICIALS, LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, AND BUSINESS
ASSOCIATIONS. THE MOST POSITIVE REACTION WAS THE
SUGGESTION THAT THIS TOPIC COULD BE PURSUED
THROUGH DISCUSSIONS IN THE TRIPARTITE "NEW LABOR
CULTURE" MECHANISM. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO
EVIDENCE TO DATE THAT THE APPAREL EXPORT SECTOR,

OR ANY OTHER SECTOR OF MEXICAN INDUSTRY, HAS
ADOPTED A CODE OF CONDUCT.

D. CONDITIONS IN THE APPAREL EXPORT SECTOR DO NOT
VARY APPRECIABLY FROM ANY OTHER SECTOR OF
MEXICAN INDUSTRY. THE PRINCIPAL DISTINCTION IS THAT
THE SECTOR EMPLOYS A MUCH HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF
FIRST-TIME WORKER FEMALES. AS A RESULT, THEY
FREQUENTLY ARE EMPLOYED AT OR NEAR THE MINIMUM
WAGE AND HAVE A HIGHER TURNOVER RATE.

BRAYSHAW

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 5530
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