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**TO:** RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1710  
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**SUBJ:** HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR EL SALVADOR

**TEXT:**  
UNCLAS E F T O SECTION 01 OF 06 SAN SALVADOR 003320

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DEPT FOR DRL/CRT, WHA/CEN, WHA/PPCP, DRL/IL

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SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR EL SALVADOR

REF: STATE 140463

PART 3 OF 3

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - NOFORN - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. FOLLOWING IS THE 1999 COUNTRY HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR EL SALVADOR.
3. BEGIN TEXT:

CHILDREN

THE GOVERNMENT FOCUS ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND WELFARE WAS CONCENTRATED MORE TOWARD REDUCING POVERTY AND PROMOTING FAMILY STABILITY THROUGH ECONOMIC GROWTH THAN IN DIRECT EXPENDITURE ON CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS. CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY AND THE PERSONAL CAMPAIGN OF THE FORMER FIRST LADY FOCUSED ATTENTION ON THIS PROBLEM. THE LAW REQUIRES EDUCATION THROUGH THE NINTH GRADE. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS PROGRESS IN INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY OF SCHOOLING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, RURAL AREAS STILL FELL SHORT OF PROVIDING A NINTH GRADE EDUCATION TO ALL POTENTIAL STUDENTS. A 1997 STUDY BY THE BUSINESS FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INDICATED THAT 17 PERCENT OF URBAN CHILDREN AND

34 PERCENT OF RURAL YOUTH WERE NOT ATTENDING CLASSES.

THE GOVERNMENT WORKED CLOSELY THROUGH STATE INSTITUTIONS AND WITH THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF) TO PROMOTE PROTECTION AND GENERAL AWARENESS OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS. HOWEVER, CHILDREN CONTINUED TO FALL VICTIM TO PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE, ABANDONMENT, EXPLOITATION, AND NEGLECT. THE SALVADORAN INSTITUTE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN (ISPM), AN AUTONOMOUS ENTITY, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING AND PROMOTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS. THE ISPM ESTIMATED THAT IT AVERAGED 2,600 TO 2,700 CHILDREN IN ITS SHELTERS, SOME ABANDONED AND OTHERS VICTIMS OF MISTREATMENT. THROUGH JULY, IT REPORTED A MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 98 CASES OF PHYSICAL MISTREATMENT (109 A MONTH IN 1998), AVERAGE OF 46 CASES OF NEGLIGENCE (21 A MONTH IN 1998), AND AN AVERAGE OF 49 CASES OF ABANDONMENT (10 A MONTH IN 1998). APPROXIMATELY 55 PERCENT OF ALL ITS CASES INVOLVED GIRLS. USING DIFFERENT CRITERIA, THE ISDEMU REPORTED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN CHILD ABUSE. ISDEMU RECORDED 6,688 CASES OF "ABUSE OF A MINOR" FOR JANUARY THROUGH; JULY (A MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 955), COMPARED TO 6,312 CASES (A MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 562) FOR 1998 AND 4,334 CASES (AN AVERAGE OF 361) FOR 1997.

A 1997 STUDY BY THE NGO NETWORK PROCIPOTES ESTIMATED THAT 1,000 CHILDREN (UP TO AGE 16) WERE LIVING ON THEIR OWN IN THE STREETS, 42 PERCENT OF WHOM WERE UNDER THE AGE OF 5. SUBSTANCE ABUSE (GLUE AND PAINT SNIFFING) WAS AN ENDEMIC PROBLEM AMONG URBAN STREET CHILDREN. IN SEPTEMBER THE ASSEMBLY PASSED A LAW REGULATING THE SALE OF GLUE AND OTHER SUBSTANCES USED AS STREET DRUGS, PROHIBITING THEIR SALE TO MINORS. THERE ARE ALLEGATIONS FROM CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ADVOCATES THAT STREET CHILDREN SUFFER FROM POLICE BRUTALITY. THE PNC DENIES THESE CHARGES AND HAS INCORPORATED PDDH HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING FOR POLICE UNITS THAT DEAL WITH JUVENILES. THE PDDH ALSO HAS CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF DRUG TREATMENT CENTERS FOR MINORS.

THE INSTITUTE OF LEGAL MEDICINE RECORDED A SMALL INCREASE IN REPORTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF PRINCIPALLY OF FEMALE CHILDREN UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE. IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THE YEAR, IT RECORDED 309 CASES (A MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 103), COMPARED TO 1,147 CASES IN 1998 (A MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 96) AND 980 CASES IN 1997 (A MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 82). THE ISPM REPORTED THAT IT RECEIVED A MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 7 CASES OF SEXUAL ABUSE THROUGH JULY, COMPARED TO AN AVERAGE OF 8 PER MONTH FOR 1998. ACCORDING TO THE PDDH, OVER 85 PERCENT OF ALL ABUSE OCCURS IN SCHOOLS AND AT HOME, AND ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THESE CASES WERE REPORTED TO THE AUTHORITIES.

THE PDDH ESTIMATED THAT 270,000 MINORS WORK, MOSTLY AS STREET VENDORS (SEE SECTION 6.D.). BESIDES LOSING THEIR OPPORTUNITY FOR AN EDUCATION, THESE CHILDREN OFTEN FELL VICTIM TO SEXUAL ABUSE AND WERE EXPLOITED AS PROSTITUTES. THE PDDH, NGO'S, AND THE MEDIA AN ONGOING PUBLICITY AND INVESTIGATIVE CAMPAIGN TO HIGHLIGHT THE PLIGHT OF CHILDREN. A 1998 STUDY ON CHILD PROSTITUTION BY THE COMMISSION ON THE FAMILY, THE WOMAN AND THE CHILD OF THE U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CONCLUDED THAT CHILD

PROSTITUTION IN THE COUNTRY WAS PROMOTED BY POVERTY, LACK OF A STRONG NUCLEAR FAMILY, DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN, AND ORGANIZED CRIME. A SEPARATE NGO STUDY IN 1998 ON THE SAME ISSUE INDICATED THAT AT LEAST 44 PERCENT OF THE ESTIMATED 1,300 PROSTITUTES IN 3 MAJOR RED LIGHT DISTRICTS OF SAN SALVADOR WERE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 13 AND 18. THE NGO REPORT POINTED TO POVERTY AND FAMILIAL PROBLEMS AS THE TWO MAJOR UNCLAS E F T O SECTION 02 OF 06 SAN SALVADOR 003320

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FACTORS PUSHING CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS INTO PROSTITUTION.

THE GOVERNMENT, THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOR (IPEC), AND LOCAL NGOS AND BUSINESS GROUPS JOINED FORCES TO BEGIN FOUR PROJECTS TO COMBAT CHILD LABOR IN SPECIFIC INDUSTRIES (SEE SECTION 6.D.).

INFANT MALNUTRITION IMPROVED, BUT CONTINUED TO BE A PROBLEM. THE NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH POLL FOUND THAT 1.1 PERCENT OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE SUFFERED FROM GRAVE MALNUTRITION, WITH AN ADDITIONAL 21 PERCENT EXPERIENCING LESS SEVERE MALNUTRITION. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH LISTED MALNUTRITION AS ONE OF THE 10 PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF INFANT MORTALITY IN THE COUNTRY. THE GOVERNMENT HAS A NATIONAL PLAN FOR INFANTS DESIGNED TO INCREASE ACCESS TO POTABLE WATER, IODIZED SALT, AND VITAMINS, AND TO ENCOURAGE BREAST FEEDING, BUT ALL OF THESE REMAIN PROBLEM AREAS, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE RURAL POOR.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

EXCEPT FOR THE WAR WOUNDED, WHO HAVE SECURED BOTH GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL FUNDING FOR REHABILITATION AND RETRAINING PROGRAMS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO PROGRAM TO COMBAT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE DISABLED. THERE ARE NO LAWS MANDATING PROVISION OF ACCESS TO PUBLIC OR PRIVATE BUILDINGS FOR THE DISABLED. THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ENFORCED THE 1984 LAW REQUIRING EMPLOYERS WITH OVER 50 WORKERS (PRIVATE COMPANIES, STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES) TO HAVE "PERSONS WITH PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS" REPRESENT A MINIMUM OF 2 PERCENT OF THEIR WORK FORCE. ACCESS BY THE DISABLED TO BASIC EDUCATION WAS LIMITED DUE TO LACK OF FACILITIES AND APPROPRIATE TRANSPORTATION. THERE WAS NO PROVISION OF STATE SERVICES FOR THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED. ONLY A FEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH PROMOTERS HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO TREAT THE DISABLED, AND THEY RARELY PROVIDED SUCH SERVICE, TENDING RATHER TO FOCUS ON LIFE-THREATENING CONDITIONS AND PREVENTIVE CARE FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH ESTIMATED THAT SOME

FORM OF DISABILITY AFFLICTS 10 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION. IN 1997 THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF DISABLED PEOPLE ESTIMATED THAT THERE WERE 500,000 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, OF WHOM 12,500 HAD DISABILITIES DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE CIVIL WAR. OTHER FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF DISABLED PERSONS WERE LACK OF PRENATAL CARE, MISUSE OF PESTICIDES IN FOOD PRODUCTION, MALNUTRITION, AUTO ACCIDENTS, AND CRIMINAL VIOLENCE.

THERE WERE FEW ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF THE DISABLED. FOREIGN FUNDS FOR BADLY NEEDED REHABILITATION SERVICES CHANNLED THROUGH THE TELETHON FOUNDATION PRO-REHABILITATION, A LOCAL PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION, HELPED ADDRESS NUMEROUS REHABILITATION ISSUES AND PROVIDED ALTERNATIVES FOR THE EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION OF THE DISABLED POPULATION. A SEMIAUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE, THE SALVADORAN REHABILITATION INSTITUTE FOR THE DISABLED (ISRI), ALSO PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO THE DISABLED. THE ISRI OFFERED MEDICAL TREATMENT, COUNSELING, SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COURSES. FOUNDED IN 1957, THE ISRI HAS 10 CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND RECEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.

#### INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

EL SALVADOR IS AN ETHNICALLY HOMOGENEOUS COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH A VERY SMALL SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION STILL CLAIMS INDIGENOUS STATUS. THE CONSTITUTION MAKES NO SPECIFIC PROVISIONS FOR THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.

EARLY IN THE CENTURY, FACING ACTIVE REPRESSION, MOST INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ADOPTED LOCAL CUSTOMS AND SUCCESSFULLY ASSIMILATED INTO THE GENERAL POPULATION, FROM WHICH THEY ARE GENERALLY INDISTINGUISHABLE. THEREARE A FEW VERY SMALL COMMUNITIES WHOSE MEMBERS STLL WEAR TRADITIONAL DRESS AND MAINTAIN TRADITIONL CUSTOMS TO A RECOGNIZABLE DEGREE WITHOUT REPRESION OR INTERFERENCE. THESE SMALL INDIGENOUS ROUPS EXIST IN THE POOREST PARTS OF THE RURAL COUNRYSIDE WHERE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE FEW ANDDOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A PROBLEM. INDIGENOUS PEPE REPORTEDLY EARNED LESS THAN OTHER AGRICULTURL LABORERS, AND INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN PARTICULARHAD LITTLE ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL AND WORK OPPORTNITIES. AS WITH THE POOR RURAL SECTOR IN GENERAL, ACCESS TO LAND WAS A GROWING PROBLEM CONFRONTING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE. FEW POSSESSED TITLES TO LAND, AND BANK LOANS AND OTHER FORMS OF CREDIT WERE EXTREMELY LIMITED.

THERE ARE SOME SMALL, ACTIVE INDIGENOUS ASSOCIATIONS. THE UNCLAS E F T O SECTION 03 OF 06 SAN SALVADOR 003320

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LARGEST AND BEST KNOWN IS THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INDIGENOUS SALVADORANS (ANIS). IN 1998 A LONG-RUNNING INTERNAL POLITICAL FIGHT AND LAND DISPUTE CAUSED A MAJOR SPLIT IN ANIS. ONE FACTION HELD A DIRECT ELECTION THAT REPLACED LONG-TIME LEADER ADRIAN ESQUINO LISCO, WHO WAS ACCUSED OF CORRUPTION AND LYING. ESQUINO REFUSED TO STEP DOWN, CLAIMING THAT HIS LEADERSHIP POSITION WAS PERPETUAL. ESQUINO WAS ARRESTED ON CIVIL CHARGES OF ILLEGALLY OCCUPYING ANIS PROPERTY AFTER HIS REMOVAL AS LEADER AND CRIMINAL CHARGES OF FRAUD IN HIS ADMINISTRATION OF ANIS. ESQUINO WAS EXONERATED OF THE CRIMINAL CHARGE OF FRAUD. IN AUGUST, THE SUPREME COURT FOUND AGAINST ESQUINO'S 1998 PETITION TO STOP EVICTION PROCEDURES AGAINST HIM AND HIS EXTENDED FAMILY, CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF LAND AND SEVERAL HOUSES. IN THE LAST TWO YEARS OF HIS LEADERSHIP OF ANIS, ESQUINO HAD CHARGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS TARGETING THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY, AND ESPECIALLY ITS LEADERS, WITH LEGAL HARASSMENT AND THREATS. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THESE ALLEGATIONS, AND THE NEW ANIS LEADERSHIP DOES NOT ENDORSE THEM.

#### SECTION 6 WORKER RIGHTS

##### A. THE RIGHT OF ASSOCIATION

THE CONSTITUTION PROHIBITS THE GOVERNMENT FROM USING NATIONALITY, RACE, SEX, CREED, OR POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AS A MEANS TO PREVENT WORKERS OR EMPLOYERS FROM ORGANIZING THEMSELVES INTO UNIONS OR ASSOCIATIONS. IN PRACTICE, THE GOVERNMENT GENERALLY HAS RESPECTED THIS RIGHT. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT WAS CITED IN MARCH BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO) COMMITTEE ON THE FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION FOR ITS FAILURE TO PROVIDE PROTECTION OR REMEDY FOR A NUMBER OF LABOR LEADERS FIRED IN THE PROCESS OF PRIVATIZING THE STATE-OWNED TELEPHONE COMPANY. THE DECISION (CASE # 1987) CONCLUDED THAT THE SALVADORAN LABOR CODE IMPOSED A SERIES OF EXCESSIVE FORMALITIES FOR THE RECOGNITION OF A TRADE UNION, AND REGRETTED THAT THE APPLICATION OF THE LAW WAS USED TO REFUSE LEGAL STATUS TO A NUMBER OF EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A TRADE UNION IN THE TELEPHONE COMPANY. THE COMMITTEE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE CHANGING OF OWNERSHIP OF A BUSINESS SHOULD NOT THREATEN UNIONIZED WORKERS, AND QUESTIONED THE PROPRIETY OF THE JANUARY 1998 DISMISSAL OF 72 LABOR LEADERS, BUT NOTED THAT 70 OF THIS GROUP HAD ACCEPTED LEGAL COMPENSATION. THE COMMITTEE CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO COMPLETE THE RECOGNITION PROCESS OF THE TELEPHONE UNION, AMEND ITS LABOR CODE TO REMOVE THE EXCESSIVE FORMALITIES WHICH INFRINGE ON THE RIGHT TO FORM A UNION, SEEK TO HAVE THE TWO UNION LEADERS WHO HAVE NOT YET ACCEPTED SEVERANCE PAY REINSTATED, AND INSURE THAT FUTURE CHANGES OF COMPANY OWNERSHIP DO NOT THREATEN LABOR LEADERS OR LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. DETAILS OF THE CASE ARE IN THE 1998 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR EL SALVADOR.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, POLICE, AND GOVERNMENT WORKERS MAY NOT

FORM UNIONS (BUT ARE ALLOWED PROFESSIONAL AND EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS) AND MAY NOT STRIKE. THE 1994 LABOR CODE STREAMLINED THE PROCESS REQUIRED TO FORM A UNION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, EXTENDING UNION RIGHTS TO AGRICULTURAL, INDEPENDENT, AND SMALL-BUSINESS WORKERS, AND EXTENDING THE RIGHT TO STRIKE TO UNION FEDERATIONS. THE LABOR CODE PROHIBITS PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY UNIONS. THE UNIONS ROUTINELY IGNORED THIS PROHIBITION, BUT THE GOVERNMENT TOOK NO PUNITIVE ACTION AGAINST THEM.

THERE IS A SMALL ORGANIZED LABOR SECTOR WITH APPROXIMATELY 150 ACTIVE UNIONS, PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS, AND PEASANT ORGANIZATIONS, REPRESENTING OVER 300,000 CITIZENS, APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL WORK FORCE. BY LAW, ONLY PRIVATE SECTOR WORKERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO FORM UNIONS AND STRIKE; SOME EMPLOYEES OF AUTONOMOUS PUBLIC AGENCIES MAY FORM UNIONS IF THEY DO NOT DEAL WITH ESSENTIAL SERVICES. PUBLIC EMPLOYEES MAY FORM EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS, BUT ARE PROHIBITED FROM STRIKING. IN FACT, SOME OF THE MOST POWERFUL LABOR GROUPS ARE PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS. THESE PUBLIC SECTOR LABOR GROUPS TAKE ON THE SAME RESPONSIBILITIES AS UNIONS--INCLUDING CALLING TECHNICALLY ILLEGAL STRIKES AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING. THE GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATED WITH PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS AND GENERALLY TREATED STRIKES AS LEGITIMATE, ALTHOUGH THE LABOR CODE PROVIDES FOR MANDATORY ARBITRATION OF PUBLIC SECTOR DISPUTES.

THE LAW PROHIBITS ANTIUNION ACTIONS BEFORE A UNION IS LEGALLY REGISTERED AND PROVIDES SPECIFIC JOB PROTECTION TO WORKERS WHOSE NAMES APPEAR ON A UNION APPLICATION. THE LABOR CODE FORBIDS FOREIGNERS FROM HOLDING POSITIONS IN UNIONS.

UNIONS AND OTHER LABOR ORGANIZATIONS FREELY AFFILIATED WITH  
UNCLAS E F T O SECTION 04 OF 06 SAN SALVADOR 003320

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INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS.

B. THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AND BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY

THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LABOR CODE PROVIDE FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS, BUT ONLY TO EMPLOYEES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND TO CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF WORKERS IN AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, SUCH AS UTILITIES (WHICH WERE UNDERGOING PRIVATIZATION) AND THE PORT AUTHORITY. HOWEVER, BOTH PRIVATE SECTOR UNIONS (BY LAW) AND PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS (IN PRACTICE) USED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

THE MINISTRY OF LABOR OVERSEES IMPLEMENTATION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS AND ACTS AS A CONCILIATOR IN LABOR DISPUTES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND IN AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS. IN PRACTICE, MINISTERS AND THE HEADS OF AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS OFTEN NEGOTIATE WITH LABOR ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTLY, RELYING ON THE LABOR MINISTRY ONLY FOR SUCH FUNCTIONS AS OFFICIALLY CERTIFYING UNIONS. THE MINISTRY OFTEN SEEKS TO CONCILIATE LABOR DISPUTES THROUGH INFORMAL CHANNELS RATHER THAN ATTEMPT TO ENFORCE REGULATIONS STRICTLY, WHICH HAS LED TO CHARGES THAT THE MINISTRY IS BIASED AGAINST LABOR. CORRUPTION CONTINUED TO AFFECT LABOR INSPECTORS AND COURTS, BUT IMPROVEMENTS IN TRAINING AND AN INCREASE IN PAY IN 1997 FOR MINISTRY OF LABOR EMPLOYEES HAVE BEGUN TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM.

THE CONSTITUTION PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST UNIONS. IT PROVIDES THAT UNION OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF THEIR ELECTION, THROUGHOUT THEIR TERM, AND FOR 1 YEAR FOLLOWING THEIR TERM MAY NOT BE FIRED, SUSPENDED FOR DISCIPLINARY REASONS, REMOVED, OR DEMOTED EXCEPT FOR LEGAL CAUSE. EMPLOYERS GENERALLY OBSERVED THIS PROVISION IN PRACTICE, BUT CREDIBLE REPORTS CONTINUED OF EMPLOYERS USING ILLEGAL PRESSURE, INCLUDING DISMISSAL OF LABOR ACTIVISTS, TO DISCOURAGE ORGANIZING. THE LAW REQUIRES EMPLOYERS TO REHIRE EMPLOYEES FIRED FOR ANY TYPE OF UNION ACTIVITY, AND THE LABOR MINISTRY HAS INCREASED EFFORTS TO ENFORCE THIS REQUIREMENT. IN MANY CASES, EMPLOYEES CHOSE TO TAKE A CASH PAYMENT IN LIEU OF RETURNING TO WORK.

THERE ARE SIX EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES (EPZ'S) AND SEVERAL IN-BOND PLANTS OPERATING OUTSIDE OF THESE ZONES. THE LABOR CODE APPLIES IN THE EPZ'S; THERE ARE NO SPECIAL EPZ LABOR REGULATIONS. DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS, MOST EPZ COMPANIES AND A LARGE PORTION OF THE IN-BOND PLANTS HAVE ACCEPTED THE PROVISIONS OF VOLUNTARY CODES OF CONDUCT FROM THEIR PARENT CORPORATIONS OR FOREIGN PURCHASERS. IN ADDITION, TWO OF THE EPZ'S HAVE INSTITUTED THEIR OWN CODES OF CONDUCTS FOR ALL OF THEIR TENANTS. THESE CODES INCLUDED WORKER RIGHTS PROTECTION CLAUSES. IN 1997 THE APPAREL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCED IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INDUSTRY-WIDE CODE OF CONDUCT WITH WORKER RIGHTS PROTECTION. THE GREAT MAJORITY OF COMPANIES IN THE EPZ'S PROVIDED MUCH BETTER SALARIES AND WORKING CONDITIONS THAN THOSE OFFERED ELSEWHERE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR (SEE SECTION 6.E.). HOWEVER, THERE WERE CREDIBLE REPORTS THAT SOME FACTORIES DISMISSED UNION ORGANIZERS, AND ONLY ONE EPZ COMPANY WAS UNIONIZED, WITH TWO ACTIVE PLANT UNIONS. IN 1998 THE PDDH RELEASED A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE MAQUILA SECTOR (COVERING BOTH EPZ AND NON-EPZ IN-BOND PLANTS) THAT INDICATED THAT 20.8 PERCENT OF THE SECTOR'S WORKERS "TRUSTED" UNIONS WHILE 55.3 PERCENT "DID NOT TRUST" UNIONS. CREDIBLE ACCUSATIONS PERSISTED THAT SOME FACTORIES ABUSED THEIR WORKERS AND THAT SOME WOMEN WERE NOT HIRED BECAUSE THEY WERE PREGNANT. ACCORDING TO THE PDDH REPORT ON MAQUILAS, 37.7 PERCENT OF THE WORKERS SURVEYED STATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN MISTREATED, 37.7 PERCENT HAD BEEN THREATENED, 3.2 PERCENT HAD BEEN HIT IN SOME FASHION, 3.5 PERCENT HAD BEEN SEXUALLY HARASSED BY BOSSES, AND 3 PERCENT

HAD BEEN SEXUALLY HARASSED BY OTHER WORKERS. ALTHOUGH THE LABOR MINISTRY IMPROVED ITS EFFORTS TO INCREASE INSPECTION AND FOLLOW UP ON SUCH COMPLAINTS, IT STILL HAD INSUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO COVER ALL THE EPZ'S, MUCH LESS THE MUCH LARGER NATIONAL PRIVATE SECTOR.

ALTHOUGH UNDER 1996 LEGISLATION, THE GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZED THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY TO WITHDRAW FREE ZONE PRIVILEGES FROM COMPANIES THAT VIOLATED LABOR REGULATIONS, THERE HAVE BEEN NO INSTANCES IN WHICH THIS HAS BEEN THREATENED PUBLICLY. THERE IS ALSO A TRIPARTITE (GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, AND LABOR) COMMISSION, ESTABLISHED IN 1996, TO HELP RESOLVE CONFLICTS IN EPZ AND OTHER BONDED COMPANIES.

#### C. PROHIBITION OF FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOR

THE CONSTITUTION PROHIBITS FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOR, EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF CALAMITY AND OTHER INSTANCES SPECIFIED BY LAW, AND THE GOVERNMENT GENERALLY ENFORCES THIS PROVISION. THERE WERE CREDIBLE COMPLAINTS OF FORCED  
UNCLAS E F T O SECTION 05 OF 06 SAN SALVADOR 003320

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OVERTIME IN THE MAQUILA SECTOR. WHILE NOT DEALING DIRECTLY WITH THE ISSUE, THE PDDH REPORT ON THE MAQUILA SECTOR INDICATED THAT 7.8 PERCENT OF WORKERS IN IQ SURVEY SAMPLE WERE NOT PAID LEGALLY REQUIRED EXTRA PAY FOR WORKING BEYOND THE NORMAL 44 HOUR WORK WEEK, A STRONG INDICATION OF FORCED OVERTIME. THE SURVEY ALSO FOUND THAT 50.2 PERCENT OF MAQUILA WORKERS DID NOT WORK ANY OVERTIME AND 28.7 PERCENT AVERAGED 5 HOURS OR LESS OVERTIME A WEEK (ROUGHLY 10 PERCENT OF REGULAR TIME). ALTHOUGH NOT SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED BY LAW, FORCED AND BQDED LABOR BY CHILDREN ARE COVERED BY THE GENERAL PROHIBITION, AND THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF ITS USE IN THE FORMAL SECTOR. HOWEVER, THERE WAS STRONG EVIDENCE THAT MINORS HAVE BEEN FORCED INTO PROSTITUTION (SEE SECTION 5).

#### D. STATUS OF CHILD LABOR PRACTICES AND MINIMUM AGE FOR EMPLOYMENT

THE CONSTITUTION PROHIBITS THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 14. MINORS, AGE 14 OR OLDER, MAY RECEIVE SPECIAL LABOR MINISTRY PERMISSION TO WORK, BUT ONLY WHERE SUCH EMPLOYMENT IS ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSABLE TO THE SUSTENANCE OF THE MINOR AND HIS OR HER FAMILY. THIS IS MOST OFTEN THE CASE WITH CHILDREN OF PEASANT FAMILIES WHO TRADITIONALLY WORK DURING PLANTING AND HARVESTING SEASONS. THOSE LEGAL WORKERS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 HAVE SPECIAL ADDITIONAL RULES GOVERNING CONDITIONS OF WORK (SEE SECTION 6.E.).

ORPHANS AND CHILDREN FROM POOR FAMILIES FREQUENTLY WORK FOR THEIR OWN OR FAMILY SURVIVAL AS STREET VENDORS AND GENERAL LABORERS IN SMALL BUSINESSES, MOSTLY IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR. CHILDREN IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES OFTEN DO NOT COMPLETE COMPULSORY SCHOOLING THROUGH THE NINTH GRADE (UP TO THE AGE OF 14) AS THE LAW REQUIRES. A 1998 JOINT REPORT OF THE ISPM AND UNICEF, BASED ON NATIONWIDE DATA COLLECTED IN 1996, INDICATED THAT OF THE 1.8 MILLION CHILDREN BETWEEN 5 AND 17 YEARS OF AGE, ROUGHLY 6.6 PERCENT, OR 118,800, WORKED WITHOUT ATTENDING SCHOOL, AND 36,200 OF THESE WERE UNDER THE AGE OF 14. AN ADDITIONAL 5.8 PERCENT, OR 104,400, WORKED BUT ALSO ATTENDED SCHOOL. OF THESE, 55,300 WERE UNDER THE AGE OF 14. THE PRIMARY REASON FOR WORKING FOR OVER 45 PERCENT OF EACH GROUP WAS FAMILIAL ECONOMIC SURVIVAL. HOWEVER, THE AVERAGE INCOME FOR CHILD WORKERS WAS LESS THAN HALF OF THE MINIMUM WAGE AND REPRESENTED 18.7 PERCENT OF AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME. THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT REASON FOR WORKING FOR 10 PERCENT OF THE NON-STUDENT CHILD WORKERS AND NEARLY 34 PERCENT OF THE CHILD WORKERS ATTENDING SCHOOL WAS TO LEARN A TRADE. CHILD LABOR IS NOT FOUND IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR AND HAS DISAPPEARED IN THE EPZ'S. THE PDDH REPORT ON THE MAQUILA INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE (BOTH EPZ AND NON-EPZ COMPANIES) FOUND NO WORKERS UNDER THE AGE OF 17 AND ONLY ONE-HALF OF ONE PERCENT WHO WERE 17 (A LEGAL WORKING AGE, WITH SOME RESTRICTIONS).

THE MINISTRY OF LABOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING CHILD LABOR LAWS AND MADE AN EFFORT TO DO SO. HOWEVER, SCARCE RESOURCES AND THE DIFFICULTY OF MONITORING THE LARGE INFORMAL SECTOR LIMITED ITS EFFECTIVENESS OUTSIDE THE URBAN FORMAL SECTOR. IN 1997 THE GOVERNMENT HELPED ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ERADICATION OF CHILD LABOR (CNETI). THE CNETI WAS DESIGNED TO BE A COORDINATING BODY OF THE GOVERNMENT, NGOS, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR (LABOR AND BUSINESS) TO COMBAT CHILD LABOR. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE CNETI ACTIVITY. THE LABOR CODE DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY PROHIBIT FORCED AND BONDED LABOR OF CHILDREN, BUT THEY ARE COVERED BY ITS GENERAL PROHIBITION; THERE WERE REPORTS THAT MINORS WERE FORCED INTO PROSTITUTION.

THE GOVERNMENT COLLABORATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM TO END CHILD LABOR (IPEC - UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UN INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION - ILO) AND BEGAN TWO COUNTRY PROJECTS AND TWO CENTRAL AMERICAN REGIONAL PROJECTS AIMED AT DIRECTLY COMBATING CHILD LABOR. THESE PROJECTS ARE DESIGNED TO DISCOURAGE CHILDREN FROM WORKING, PROMOTE SCHOOLING AND RECREATION, HELP DEVELOP NEW ECONOMIC OPTIONS FOR BOTH CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND EVENTUALLY BE SELF-SUSTAINING AND PERMANENT. IN AUGUST, IT INAUGURATED A PROJECT IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SHORE TO REMOVE CHILDREN FROM THE UNHEALTHFUL HARVESTING OF MANGROVE CLAMS. IN SEPTEMBER, THE GOVERNMENT, ISPM, LOCAL NGOS, THE COFFEE GROWERS ASSOCIATION, THE SUGAR FOUNDATION (REPRESENTING THE SUGAR INDUSTRY), AND IPEC JOINED FORCES AND RESOURCES TO BEGIN TWO SIMILAR PROJECTS, ONE IN THE COFFEE SECTOR AND ONE IN THE SUGAR INDUSTRY, TO HELP MOVE CHILDREN FROM THE FIELDS INTO THE SCHOOLROOMS AND PLAYGROUNDS. ALSO IN SEPTEMBER, THE GOVERNMENT, IPEC, AND A NGO BEGAN IMPLEMENTING A PROJECT

FOCUSING ON REMOVING CHILDREN FROM THE COTTAGE PRODUCTION OF FIREWORKS.

E. ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS OF WORK

UNCLAS E F T O SECTION 06 OF 06 SAN SALVADOR 003320

QQQQ

DEPT FOR DRL/CRT, WHA/CEN, WHA/PPCP, DRL/IL

NOFORN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, ELAB, KPRP, EAID, ES

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR EL SALVADOR

THE MINIMUM WAGE IS SET BY A TRIPARTITE (GOVERNMENT, LABOR, BUSINESS) COMMITTEE. EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 1998, THE MINIMUM DAILY WAGE WAS SET AT \$4.81 (42.00 COLONES) FOR COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND SERVICE EMPLOYEES; \$3.66 (31.20 COLONES) PLUS FOOD ALLOWANCE FOR COFFEE PLANTATION WORKERS; \$2.61 (22.80 COLONES) PLUS FOOD ALLOWANCE FOR SUGAR AND COTTON PLANTATION WORKERS; AND \$2.47 (21.60 COLONES) PLUS FOOD ALLOWANCE FOR ALL OTHER AGROINDUSTRIAL WORKERS. BYLAW, A FULL-TIME MINIMUM WAGE EMPLOYEE IS PAD A FULL 7 DAYS (56 HOURS) FOR THE 44-HOR NORMAL WORKWEEK AND RECEIVES AN AVERAGE OF 1 MONTH'S WAGE A YEAR IN REQUIRED BONUSES PLUS 2 WEEKS OF PAID VACATION. THERE WERE CONTINUING LLEGATIONS THAT THE MAQUILA SECTOR UNDERPAID WORERS. THE PDDH 1998 REPORT ON MAQUILAS FOUNDTHAT 42.3 PERCENT OF THE MAQUILA WORKERS SURVEED RECEIVED THE MINIMUM WAGE, 25.1 PERCENT EARNED AN AMOUNT MODERATELY ABOVE THE MINIMUM WAGE, AND 10 PERCENT EARNED SIGNIFICANTLY MORE THAN THE MINIMUM WAGE. OF THE 23.3 PERCENT OF THE WORKERS EARNING LESS THAN THE MINIMUM WAGE, MANY WERE APPRENTICES OR WORKERS IN TRAINING, AND UNDER THE LAW WERE NOT GUARANTEED THE MINIMUM WAGE. THE MINIMUM WAGE WITH BENEFITS DOES NOT PROVIDE A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING FOR A WORKER AND FAMILY. THE LABOR MINISTRY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING MINIMUM WAGE LAWS AND DOES SO EFFECTIVELY IN THE FORMAL SECTOR.

THE LAW LIMITS THE WORKDAY TO 6 HOURS FOR YOUTHS BETWEEN 14 AND 18 YEARS OF AGE AND 8 HOURS FOR ADULTS, AND IT MANDATES PREMIUM PAY FOR LONGER HOURS. THE LABOR CODE SETS A MAXIMUM NORMAL WORKWEEK OF 36 HOURS FOR YOUTHS AND 44 HOURS FOR ADULTS. IT REQUIRES BONUS PAY FOR OVERTIME AND LIMITS THE WORKWEEK TO NO MORE THAN 6 DAYS FOR ALL WORKERS.

THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LABOR CODE REQUIRE EMPLOYERS, INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT, TO TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT EMPLOYEES ARE NOT PLACED AT RISK IN THEIR WORKPLACES. THESE LAWS PROHIBIT THE EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, AND OF ALL WOMEN, IN OCCUPATIONS CONSIDERED HAZARDOUS. NEVERTHELESS, HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS ARE OUTDATED, AND ENFORCEMENT, WHILE IMPROVED, IS INADEQUATE. THE MINISTRY OF LABOR ATTEMPTS TO ENFORCE THE APPLICABLE REGULATIONS AND HAS DEVOTED RESOURCES TO IMPROVING THE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING OF ITS STAFF AND INSPECTORS.

INCREASINGLY, ITS INVESTIGATIONS LEAD TO FINES OR OTHER FINDINGS FAVORING WORKERS. THE MINISTRY HAS RESTRICTED POWERS AND ONLY LIMITED, BUT GROWING, RESOURCES TO ENFORCE COMPLIANCE. THE MAQUILA SECTOR CONTINUES TO BE SUBJECT TO CHARGES THAT IT MAINTAINS "SWEATSHOP" CONDITIONS IN ITS FACTORIES. THE PDDH STUDY FOUND THAT 70 TO 80 PERCENT OF THE WORKERS SURVEYED WERE SATISFIED WITH BATHROOMS, DRINKING WATER, AND EATING FACILITIES BUT THAT ONLY 53 PERCENT WERE SATISFIED WITH THE VENTILATION, I.E., THEY INDICATED PROBLEMS WITH DUST AND HEAT. DESPITE OVERALL GOOD GRADES FOR THE SECTOR, THE REPORT STILL FOUND THAT SOME 20 TO 25 PERCENT OF WORKERS HAD INADEQUATE OR NO BATHROOMS, DRINKING WATER, OR EATING FACILITIES AND 47 PERCENT WERE DISSATISFIED WITH VENTILATION. THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH WORKING CONDITIONS THAT EXIST WERE CONCENTRATED IN SMALLER, NON-EPZ PLANTS. IN GENERAL, THE LARGER PLANTS (WHICH EMPLOY THE MAJORITY OF MAQUILA WORKERS) HAVE ADEQUATE TO EXCELLENT WORKING CONDITIONS. SOME OF THE LARGEST COMPANIES HAVE DUST CONTROL, AIR CONDITIONING, ON-PLANT MEDICAL FACILITIES, AND ENFORCED SAFETY REGIMES.

WORKERS CAN REMOVE THEMSELVES FROM DANGEROUS WORK SITUATIONS WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING THEIR EMPLOYMENT ONLY IN SITUATIONS WHERE THEY CAN PRESENT A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY A DOCTOR OR THE SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE INDICATING THAT THEIR HEALTH IS AT RISK WHILE USING CERTAIN EQUIPMENT OR SUBSTANCES.

END TEXT PART 3 OF 3

PATTERSON

**SECT:** SECTION: 01 OF 06  
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 06  
<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 06  
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<^TOR>990924185903 M4066331  
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<^TOR>990924185911 M4066333  
<^TOR>990924185915 M4066335  
<^TOR>990924185929 M4066336

**DIST:**  
SIT: NSC

# Cable

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**PREC:** IMMEDIATE

**CLASS:** UNCLASSIFIED

**LINE1:** OAAUZYUW RUEHCAA1675 2702228-UUUU--RHEHNSC.

**LINE2:** ZNR UUUUU ZZH

**LINE3:** O P 272224Z SEP 99

**LINE4:** FM SECSTATE WASHDC

**OSRI:** RUEHC

**DTG:** 272224Z SEP 99

**ORIG:** SECSTATE WASHDC

**TO:** ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU IMMEDIATE 0489

RUEHGZ/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU IMMEDIATE 0608

RUESLE/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI IMMEDIATE 6565

RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG IMMEDIATE 0621

RUEHJA/AMCONSUL SURABAYA IMMEDIATE 0608

RUEHKO/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA IMMEDIATE 9851

RUEHKO/AMCONSUL NAGOYA IMMEDIATE 3048

RUHHBMA/AMCONSUL NAHA IMMEDIATE 3561

RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE IMMEDIATE 7032

RUEHKO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO IMMEDIATE 8156

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0005

RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5670

RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 6559

**INFO:** RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 4618

RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY 8235

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 8470

RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 6989

RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 2128

RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 1780

RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY 7019

RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 3716

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8329

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0114

RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP PRIORITY 9174

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY 1800

RHHMHAH/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI PRIORITY

RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA PRIORITY

RUETIAA/DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD PRIORITY

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

RUAGAMS/CHJUSMAG SEOUL KOR PRIORITY

RUCJACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY 9273

RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT WASHDC PRIORITY 8023

**SUBJ:** SEPTEMBER 27 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

ALL POSTS -- ALSO FOR USIS

SECDEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA AND OASD/SOLIC/SOP

USCINCPAC FOR FPA TWINING

**TEXT:**

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 10 STATE 181675

USIA FOR EA, MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 27 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

ALL POSTS -- ALSO FOR USIS

SECDEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA AND OASD/SOLIC/SOP

USCINCPAC FOR FPA TWINING

UNVIE FOR FITZPATRICK

USEU FOR RUTH

1. INDEX

- DPRK: FM ADDRESS TO UNGA (PARAS 2-3)
- DPRK: SANCTIONS EASING PROCESS (PARAS 2,4)
- DPRK-JAPAN: JAPAN TO EASE SANCTIONS? (PARAS 2,5)
- JAPAN: STEPS TO HALT RISE OF THE YEN (PARAS 2,6)
- INDONESIA: EAST TIMOR UPDATE (PARAS 2,7)
- EAST TIMOR: AIR DROPS/AID (PARAS 2,8)
- INDONESIA: EAST TIMOR (PARAS 2,9)
- CHINA/INDONESIA: PRC OPPOSITION TO U.N. INVESTIGATION INTO ATROCITIES (PARAS 2,10)
- TAIWAN: EARTHQUAKE UPDATE (PARAS 2, 11)
- TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN (PARAS 2,12)

2. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCES WERE PREPARED ON 9/27/99. THERE WAS NO REGULAR PRESS BRIEFING THAT DAY. POSTS MAY DRAW FROM THESE GUIDANCES ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

3. DPRK: FM ADDRESS TO UNGA

CONTEXT: DPRK FOREIGN MINISTER PAEK (PRONOUNCED "PECK") NAM SUN, ADDRESSED THE 54TH UNGA SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, REPEATING BOTH THE DPRK'S PLEDGE NOT TO LAUNCH A MISSILE WHILE HIGH LEVEL TALKS WITH THE U.S. ARE UNDERWAY AND GIVING A REPRISAL OF A FAMILIAR MENU OF ACCUSATIONS AND THREATS STEMMING FROM ITS VIEW OF THE U.S.' "HOSTILE," "HIGH-HANDED AND ARBITRARY" POLICY TOWARD HIS COUNTRY. REFERRING TO THE U.S. DECISION TO EASE CERTAIN ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST THE DPRK, PAEK TERMED THE U.S. MOVE "FORTUNATE," BUT ADDED A CALL FOR LIFTING ALL SANCTIONS. PAEK CONTINUED TO ISSUE THE DPRK'S STANDARD RHETORIC, THREATENING "CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES" SHOULD U.S. "THREATS AND PROVOCATIONS" BE ATTEMPTED AGAINST THE DPRK, AND CALLING FOR THE REMOVAL OF U.S. FORCES, DISSOLUTION OF THE U.N. COMMAND, AND REUNIFICATION OF THE KOREA PENINSULA UNDER DPRK SUPREME LEADER KIM JONG-IL'S FIVE POINT PLAN. THE DPRK, WHICH RECEIVES SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE FROM A NUMBER OF U.N. HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES, FAILED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE U.N.'S EFFORTS ON ITS BEHALF IN THE FIFTEEN MINUTE SPEECH. A U.S. OFFICIAL, BREAKING WITH FORMER PRACTICE, ATTENDED THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S ADDRESS.

Q. ANY REACTION TO THE DPRK FOREIGN MINISTER'S U.N. ADDRESS?

A. THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES ARE PURSUING A POLICY OF UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 10 STATE 181675

USIA FOR EA, MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 27 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

ENGAGING THE DPRK IN A DIALOGUE IN PURSUIT OF PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. AS YOU KNOW, IN BERLIN EARLIER THIS MONTH, WE AND THE DPRK DECLARED OUR MUTUAL INTENTION TO PRESERVE A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS. TOWARDS THIS END, THE U.S. IS TAKING ACTION TO EASE A LIMITED NUMBER OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST THE DPRK.

-- SUBSEQUENTLY, THE DPRK ANNOUNCED ITS PLEDGE TO REFRAIN FROM A MISSILE LAUNCH AS WE ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS.

-- FOR ITS PART, THE UNITED STATES REMAINS RESOLVED TO CONTINUE WORKING DILIGENTLY TO EFFECT A SERIOUS DIALOGUE ON THE SETTLEMENT OF PENDING ISSUES, AS RECOMMENDED BY DR. PERRY IN HIS REPORT, AGREED TO BY THE DPRK, AND REAFFIRMED IN SOME OF MINISTER PAEK'S REMARKS AT THE U.N.

-- WE HOPE THAT THAT DIALOGUE WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE BEYOND THE STALE FORMULATIONS OF THE PAST, AND THAT THE TWO SIDES CAN WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY TOWARDS BUILDING A NEW RELATIONSHIP.

(IF PRESSED ON THE NEGATIVE ELEMENTS IN PAEK'S STATEMENT):

-- WHILE WE WERE DISAPPOINTED IN ELEMENTS IN PAEK'S STATEMENT, WE WILL LOOK TO THE DPRK'S ACTIONS AS IT KEEPS ITS COMMITMENTS TO US AND AS WE MOVE FORWARD THROUGH DIALOGUE TOWARD THE GOAL OF IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND, ULTIMATELY, A PEACEFUL AND STABLE KOREAN PENINSULA.

Q. WHEN WILL THE "HIGH-LEVEL TALKS" TAKE PLACE?

A. WE ARE WORKING OUT SCHEDULING DETAILS WITH THE DPRK THROUGH OUR USUAL CHANNEL IN NEW YORK. WHEN PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETED, WE WILL MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE DPRK FM'S CALL FOR COMPLETE SANCTIONS LIFTING?

A. AS YOU RECALL, THE DPRK JOINED US IN BERLIN IN ACKNOWLEDGING, IN THE PRESS STATEMENT WE ISSUED TOGETHER, THE NEED TO CONTINUE TAKING STEPS THAT ADDRESS EACH OTHER'S CONCERNS.

-- THE 1994 AGREED FRAMEWORK CONTEMPLATED SANCTIONS EASING MEASURES, AND OUR RECENT ACTIONS ARE CONSISTENT WITH IT. WE ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS EASING MEASURES IN THE CONTEXT OF FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS

AND AS THE DPRK ADDRESSES OUR CONCERNS, INCLUDING THOSE ON TERRORISM AND NONPROLIFERATION. WE HAVE NO PLANS FOR ADDITIONAL STEPS AT THIS TIME.

4. DPRK: SANCTIONS EASING PROCESS

CONTEXT: A REPORTER QUERIED THE PRESS OFFICE IN NEW YORK ON THE MECHANICS OF THE SANCTIONS EASING PROCESS. THE PROCESS INVOLVES INTERAGENCY COORDINATION AMONG THE DEPARTMENTS OF TREASURY, COMMERCE, STATE, AND THE WHITE HOUSE. NORMALLY, UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 10 STATE 181675

USIA FOR EA, MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 27 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

THE CHANGES TO THE AFFECTED PORTIONS OF THE VARIOUS REGULATIONS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER ON COMPLETION OF THE INTERAGENCY REVIEW.

Q. WHAT IS THE PROCESS OF SANCTIONS EASING? HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

A. WORK BY AN INTERAGENCY GROUP TO IMPLEMENT THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO EASE CERTAIN ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST THE DPRK IS UNDERWAY.

-- WHEN WE IMPLEMENT THE EASING OF IMPORT SANCTIONS AGAINST THE DPRK ADMINISTERED UNDER THE TRADING WITH THE ENEMY ACT, REGULATIONS WILL BE PUBLISHED TO EXPLAIN HOW THE EASING WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.

-- WE EXPECT THE PROCESS TO MOVE SMOOTHLY, BUT I'M UNABLE TO GIVE YOU A DATE CERTAIN FOR ITS COMPLETION AT THIS POINT.

5. DPRK-JAPAN: JAPAN TO EASE SANCTIONS?

CONTEXT: DPRK FOREIGN MINISTER PAEK (PRONOUNCED "PECK") NAM SUN, ADDRESSED THE 54TH UNGA SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, REPEATING THE DPRK'S PLEDGE NOT TO LAUNCH A MISSILE WHILE HIGH-LEVEL TALKS WITH THE U.S. ARE UNDERWAY. PAEK ALSO TOLD THE PRESS IN NEW YORK THAT THE DPRK IS READY TO IMPROVE TIES WITH JAPAN. A JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS CALLED PAEK'S REMARKS "SIGNIFICANT." JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS ARE CARRYING STORIES -- STILL UNCONFIRMED -- THAT JAPAN IS CONSIDERING LIFTING SOME SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON THE DPRK IN 1998, INCLUDING A SUSPENSION OF CHARTER FLIGHTS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE DPRK, AND PROCEEDING WITH A PARLIAMENTARY MISSION TO PYONGYANG.

Q. ANY REACTION TO REPORTS JAPAN IS CONSIDERING LIFTING SOME SANCTIONS ON THE DPRK?

A. THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES ARE PURSUING A POLICY OF

ENGAGING THE DPRK IN A DIALOGUE IN PURSUIT OF PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. IN THIS REGARD, WE UNDERSTAND THAT FM PAEK HAS REFERRED PUBLICLY TO THE DPRK'S READINESS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH JAPAN.

-- AS YOU KNOW, IN BERLIN EARLIER THIS MONTH, WE AND THE DPRK DECLARED OUR MUTUAL INTENTION TO PRESERVE A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS. TOWARDS THIS END, THE U.S. IS TAKING ACTION TO EASE A LIMITED NUMBER OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST THE DPRK.

-- REGARDING REPORTS THAT JAPAN IS CONSIDERING LIFTING SOME SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON NORTH KOREA, I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.

6. JAPAN: STEPS TO HALT RISE OF THE YEN

CONTEXT: THE HEAD OF THE BANK OF JAPAN ISSUED A STATEMENT UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 10 STATE 181675

USIA FOR EA, MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 27 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

YESTERDAY SUGGESTING THAT THE BANK MIGHT REVERSE COURSE AND LOOSEN MONETARY POLICY IN AN EFFORT TO HALT THE THREE-MONTH RISE OF THE YEN. MANY ECONOMISTS, AS WELL AS JAPAN'S OWN FINANCE MINISTRY, HAVE BEEN WARNING THAT THE YEN'S RISE COULD CHOKE OFF JAPAN'S FRAGILE ECONOMIC RECOVERY BY MAKING JAPANESE EXPORTS LESS COMPETITIVE.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO REPORTS THAT THE BANK OF JAPAN MIGHT BE PREPARED TO ADJUST MONETARY POLICY TO HALT THE RISE OF THE YEN?

A. WE DO NOT COMMENT ON OTHER COUNTRIES' MONETARY OR EXCHANGE RATE POLICIES.

7. INDONESIA: EAST TIMOR UPDATE

CONTEXT: DILI WAS RELATIVELY CALM ON SEPTEMBER 27, WITH REMAINING INDONESIAN TROOPS FOCUSING ON SELLING LOOTED GOODS.

AN INCREASINGLY LAWLESS ATMOSPHERE PREVAILS IN THE BORDER AREA OF WEST TIMOR. INTERFET TROOPS HAVE MOVED INTO THE FORMER MILITIA STRONGHOLD OF LIQUICA.

Q. PLEASE PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE SITUATION.

A. DILI WAS RELATIVELY CALM TODAY, WITH NO REPORTED SHOOTINGS OR VIOLENCE. THE SITUATION REMAINS TENSE, HOWEVER.

-- THE SITUATION ELSEWHERE IN EAST TIMOR REMAINS UNSETTLED AND DANGEROUS. DEPARTING INDONESIAN TROOPS ARE REPORTEDLY

STILL SETTING FIRE TO EAST TIMORESE VILLAGES AS THEY GO. INTERFET HAS ESTABLISHED CONTROL IN DILI AND BAUKAU, AND HAS MOVED INTO THE FORMER MILITIA STRONGHOLD OF LIQUICA. BUT FORCES HAVE NOT ESTABLISHED A PRESENCE IN THE OUTLYING AREAS OF THE PROVINCE.

-- LAW AND ORDER IS APPARENTLY BREAKING DOWN IN ATAMBUA AND THE REST OF THE BORDER REGION OF WEST TIMOR. STREAMS OF VALUABLE GOODS, MANY OF THEM LOOTED, ARE REPORTEDLY ARRIVING FROM EAST TIMOR, DRAWING CRIMINAL ELEMENTS TO THE AREA.

-- IN WEST TIMOR, UNRESTRAINED MILITIA ACTIVITY AND LAWLESSNESS CONTINUE TO PREVENT INTERNATIONAL RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHERS FROM OPERATING NORMALLY. WE REITERATE OUR CALL ON THE GOI TO IMMEDIATELY TAKE STEPS TO RESTORE ORDER, ARREST THOSE INVOLVED IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, AND DISARM MILITIA GROUPS THAT CONTINUE TO INTIMIDATE AND THREATEN BOTH EAST TIMORESE AND FOREIGNERS.

Q. IS THE U.S. CONSIDERING FURTHER SANCTIONS AGAINST INDONESIA BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION IN WEST TIMOR? WHAT MESSAGE WILL THE SECRETARY DELIVER TO FOREIGN MINISTER ALATAS WHEN THEY MEET? ARE WE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT INDONESIA'S DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION? ANY READ-OUT OF THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH XANANA GUSMAO?

-- THE SECRETARY MET WITH XANANA GUSMAO YESTERDAY TO DISCUSS UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 10 STATE 181675

USIA FOR EA, MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 27 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN BOTH EAST AND WEST TIMOR. THEY AGREED ON THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION AND ON THE NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION ON THE PART OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO RESOLVE IT.

-- AS THE SECRETARY STATED AFTER HER MEETING WITH GUSMAO, "THE GOVERNMENT AND ARMED FORCES OF INDONESIA SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT HAPPENS IN WEST TIMOR AND TO EAST TIMORESE LIVING ELSEWHERE IN INDONESIA IS AS IMPORTANT TO U.S. POLICY AS WHAT HAPPENS IN EAST TIMOR ITSELF. THE ONGOING AID REVIEW THAT WE INITIATED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL RELEVANT FACTORS. THESE INCLUDE WHETHER A SECURE ENVIRONMENT HAS BEEN CREATED IN THE WEST TIMOR CAMPS, WHETHER NECESSARY SERVICES ARE BEING PROVIDED, WHETHER EAST TIMORESE WHO DESIRE TO RETURN HOME ARE ALLOWED TO DO SO, AND WHETHER INDONESIA'S MILITARY IS PREVENTING THE MILITIAS IN WEST TIMOR FROM CARRYING OUT ATTACKS IN EAST TIMOR."

-- SECRETARY ALBRIGHT WILL REITERATE THESE MESSAGES WHEN SHE MEETS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ALATAS LATER THIS WEEK. IN ADDITION, SHE WILL UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE THE UNITED STATES ATTACHES TO INDONESIA'S CONTINUING POLITICAL

TRANSITION, INCLUDING THE SELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT, THAT IT TAKE PLACE PEACEFULLY, WITHOUT DELAY, AND IN A FASHION THAT REFLECTS THE WILL OF THE INDONESIAN PEOPLE FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE.

Q. WERE PRESIDENT CLINTON, SECRETARY ALBRIGHT, AND OTHER WESTERN LEADERS "LIED TO" AND MADE TO LOOK LIKE FOOLS OVER EAST TIMOR BECAUSE OF A SERIES OF BROKEN PROMISES. WILL IT TAKE YEARS FOR INDONESIAN LEADERS TO REBUILD TRUST IN WESTERN NATIONS?

A. THE TRAGEDY OF RECENT EVENTS IN EAST TIMOR IS CLEARLY DUE TO THE FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA TO LIVE UP TO ITS CLEAR AND UNAMBIGUOUS RESPONSIBILITY UNDER THE MAY 5 AGREEMENTS WITH PORTUGAL AND THE UNITED NATIONS TO PROVIDE SECURITY IN EAST TIMOR. AS LONG AS THE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES CONTINUE, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR INDONESIA TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE DONE TO ITS INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION.

8. INDONESIA/EAST TIMOR: AIR DROPS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Q. WHAT HAS THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM AIRDROPPED TO DATE?

A. TO DATE, THE U.N. HAS AIRDROPPED 172,000 U.S.-DONATED HUMANITARIAN DAILY RATIONS (HDRS). HDRS CONTAIN APPROXIMATELY 2000 CALORIES AND ARE SUITABLE FOR SUSTAINING ONE PERSON FOR ONE DAY. ADDITIONALLY, THE WFP HAS AIRDROPPED 120,000 HIGH PROTEIN BISCUITS, AS WELL AS 50 TONS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES.

Q. WHAT WAS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO THE AIRDROPS?

A. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DONATED 300,000 HUMANITARIAN UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 10 STATE 181675

USIA FOR EA, MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 27 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

DAILY RATIONS, AT A COST OF \$1.2 MILLION, FOR DISTRIBUTION TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS. USAID ARRANGED TRANSPORT OF THE HDRS, AT A COST OF \$1.2 MILLION.

Q. IS THE U.S. PROVIDING ANY ADDITIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE?

A. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH U.N. AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM AND MEMBERS OF THE UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION IN EAST TIMOR.

-- USAID HAS AUTHORIZED PROVISION OR \$4.9 MILLION IN EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE (5900 MTS OF RICE AND 4000 MTS OF CORN) TO THE WFP. THIS IS SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE CARBOHYDRATES TO 360,000 PEOPLE FOR 60 DAYS.

-- USAID PROVIDED RELIEF SUPPLIES (500 ROLLS OF PLASTIC SHEETING, 20,000 BLANKETS AND 5,200 WATER JUGS) TO THE WFP. THESE ITEMS WILL BENEFIT ABOUT 5000 FAMILIES OR 25,000 PEOPLE.

-- TO DATE, TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY HAS BEEN APPROXIMATELY \$9.2 MILLION.

9. INDONESIA: EAST TIMOR

Q. UPDATE ON PRM A/S TAFT'S VISIT TO EAST/WEST TIMOR, CURRENT STATUS OF REFUGEES, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS INTO THE WEST TIMOR CAMPS?

A. MS. TAFT CONCLUDED HER VISIT TO INDONESIA ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, WITH A NUMBER OF CONSTRUCTIVE MEETINGS WITH INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND NGO REPRESENTATIVES. IN THESE MEETINGS, SHE EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO DEMILITARIZE CAMPS IN WEST TIMOR AND TO HASTEN THE SAFE RETURN OF REFUGEES TO EAST TIMOR IN TIME FOR THE PLANTING SEASON. COORDINATION OF THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORT IN EAST TIMOR IS GOOD, BUT CONTINUED INSECURITY HAMPERS THE RELIEF EFFORT THERE.

-- MS. TAFT HAS REPORTED THAT INDONESIAN CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES ARE DOING THE BEST THEY CAN TO ADDRESS THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN THE WEST TIMOR CAMPS, BUT MILITIA GROUPS STILL MOVE UNIMPEDED THROUGHOUT THE CAMPS. WE CONTINUE TO HEAR REPORTS OF THE HARRASSMENT OF EAST TIMOR REFUGEES BY MILITIA ELEMENTS. MOST INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS USE INDONESIAN STAFF TO DELIVER SERVICES TO THE REFUGEES, OWING TO HOSTILITY AGAINST "WESTERNERS." WE REMAIN STRONGLY CONCERNED ABOUT REPORTS THAT MILITIAS ARE OPERATING IN AND AROUND THE CAMPS AND CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA TO BRING REPORTED MILITIA ACTIVITY TO A HALT.

-- MS. SADAKO OGATA, HEAD OF UNHCR, MET WITH PRESIDENT HABIBIE LAST WEEK AND RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT UNHCR STAFF WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO ALL IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE IN THE WEST TIMOR CAMPS. IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW THESE COMMITMENTS HAVE TRANSLATED ON THE GROUND AS YET. MS. OGATA VISITED TWO MAKESHIFT CAMPS FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE IN THE WEST TIMOR TOWNS UNCLAS SECTION 07 OF 10 STATE 181675

USIA FOR EA, MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 27 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

OF ATAMBUA AND KUPANG DURING HER VISIT TO THE REGION. MS. TAFT AND THE MULTILATERAL HUMANITARIAN MISSION ALSO VISITED CAMPS IN KUPANG AND ATAMBUA.

-- FOLLOWING OGATA'S VISIT, UNHCR RECEIVED GOVERNMENT APPROVAL TO SET UP A JOINT OCHA/UNHCR SUB-OFFICE IN KUPANG, WEST TIMOR, THAT WILL COORDINATE ONGOING EFFORTS BY RELIEF

AGENCIES.

-- AT LEAST 170-200,000 REFUGEES HAVE EITHER FLED OR BEEN FORCED TO MOVE INTO WEST TIMOR, WHERE MANY HAVE BEEN LIVING IN SCATTERED, ISOLATED CAMPS WITH MINIMAL FACILITIES. THERE ARE AT LEAST 31 KNOWN CAMPS IN WEST TIMOR, BUT SOME REFUGEES ARE ALSO REPORTED TO BE IN HIDING. ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA, THE MAJORITY OF THE REFUGEES ARE LOCATED IN KUPANG, BELU, AND TIMOR TENGAH UTARA, REGENCIES OF WEST TIMOR.

10. CHINA/INDONESIA: PRC OPPOSITION TO U.N. INVESTIGATION INTO ATROCITIES

CONTEXT: THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED ON SUNDAY THAT INDONESIA, CHINA AND SEVERAL OTHER ASIAN NATIONS WERE OPPOSING A EU-PROPOSED U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS IN EAST TIMOR. A VOTE IS EXPECTED THIS MORNING. CHINA IS NOT VOCALLY OPPOSING THE EU PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME BUT MAY OPPOSE THE RESOLUTION WHEN THE VOTE COMES.

Q. CHINA REPORTEDLY IS OPPOSING A U.N. RESOLUTION BACKED BY THE U.S. AND EU CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO ATROCITIES IN EAST TIMOR. WILL THIS HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON U.S.-PRC RELATIONS?

A. THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CONTINUES IN GENEVA. THE EU AND OTHERS HAVE TABLED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO REPORTS OF ATROCITIES IN EAST TIMOR. TO BE UPDATED BY IO: WE DO NOT HAVE THE RESULTS OF THAT VOTE YET.

IF CHINA OPPOSES:

-- WE HAD HOPED FOR A CONSENSUS RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS IN EAST TIMOR. SEVERAL, INCLUDING CHINA, OPPOSED IT.

-- OVERALL, HOWEVER, WE HAVE COORDINATED WELL WITH CHINA ON EAST TIMOR, AND WELCOMED ITS SUPPORT OF UNSCR 1264, WHICH ENABLED THE MULTILATERAL FORCE TO ENTER EAST TIMOR. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ADDRESS BOTH EAST AND WEST TIMOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN GENERAL IN OUR OFFICIAL DIALOGUE WITH CHINA.

11. TAIWAN: EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

CONTEXT: THE LATEST FIGURES AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT ARE 2,086 DEAD AND 8,711 INJURED. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COLLAPSED UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 10 STATE 181675

USIA FOR EA, MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 27 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

BUILDINGS IS 7,284. (NOTE: THE DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 24 GUIDANCE IS DUE TO ACCIDENTAL DOUBLE COUNTING.) THERE ARE NO ADDITIONAL REPORTS OF AMERICAN CASUALTIES OR INJURED BEYOND THE SEPTEMBER 22 CONFIRMATION OF ONE DEATH AND TWO INJURIES.

ON SEPTEMBER 26 AT 7:52 A.M. (TAIPEI TIME) A MAJOR AFTERSHOCK, MEASURING 6.8, HIT NANTOU COUNTY AND SURROUNDING AREAS. TAIWAN AUTHORITIES REQUESTED THAT THE USAID SPONSORED SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM DEPLOY IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL RESCUE OPERATIONS TO NANTOU COUNTY. THE TEAM PROCEEDED TO NANTOU AND AFTER DETERMINING, IN CONJUNCTION WITH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS THAT THERE WERE NO SURVIVORS, RETURNED TO TAIPEI. THE GROUP DEPARTED TO THE U.S. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 (TAIPEI TIME) AND WILL ARRIVE AT ANDREWS AIRFORCE BASE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28.

PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI DECLARED A SIX-MONTH STATE OF EMERGENCY ON SEPTEMBER 25 TO STRENGTHEN THE AUTHORITIES' ABILITY TO RESPOND TO THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE EARTHQUAKE. THE DECREE COVERS THE TWO HARDEST HIT COUNTIES IN TAIWAN: NANTOU AND TAICHUNG, ALONG WITH PARTS OF OTHER COUNTIES THAT SUFFERED SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE. ACCORDING TO AIT TAIPEI, THE DECREE SHOULD HELP SPEED UP DECISION-MAKING AND DELIVERY OF NEEDED SUPPORT. THE LEGISLATIVE YUAN IS EXPECTED TO ENDORSE THE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE WHEN IT CONVENES ON SEPTEMBER 28.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US AN UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN TAIWAN.

A. THE LATEST FIGURES AVAILABLE TO US REPORT 2,086 DEAD AND 8,711 INJURED. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COLLAPSED BUILDINGS IS 7,284.

-- ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26 AT 7:52 A.M., NANTOU COUNTY AND SURROUNDING AREAS EXPERIENCED A MAJOR AFTERSHOCK MEASURED AT 6.8.

-- AT THE REQUEST OF THE TAIWAN AUTHORITIES, THE USAID SPONSORED SEARCH AND RESCUE GROUP, COMPOSED OF PERSONNEL FROM FAIRFAX AND MIAMI DADE COUNTIES AND FROM USAID, REDEPLOYED TO NANTOU COUNTY IN RESPONSE TO THE SEPTEMBER 26 AFTERSHOCK. AFTER DETERMINING, IN CONJUNCTION WITH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS THAT RESCUE AND SEARCH EFFORTS WERE UNNEEDED, THEY RETURNED TO TAIPEI. THE GROUP DEPARTED TAIWAN ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 AND WILL ARRIVE IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28.

Q. WHY DID LEE TENG-HUI DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY?

A. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING FROM TAIWAN AUTHORITIES THAT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY DECREE WILL SPEED UP MOBILIZATION OF RESCUE AND RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF THE SEPTEMBER 21 EARTHQUAKE.

-- WE NOTE THAT THE DECREE WILL ONLY REMAIN IN EFFECT IF IT IS RATIFIED BY TAIWAN'S LEGISLATIVE YUAN IN TEN DAYS.

Q. HOW CAN AMERICANS CONTRIBUTE TO DISASTER ASSISTANCE  
UNCLAS SECTION 09 OF 10 STATE 181675

USIA FOR EA, MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 27 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

EFFORTS?

A. AMERICANS WISHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO PRIVATE RELIEF  
OPERATIONS IN TAIWAN MAY CONSULT USAID'S WEBSITE  
(WWW.INFO.USAID.GOV) WHICH PROVIDES INFORMATION ON HOW TO  
CONTRIBUTE TO U.S. RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS RESPONDING TO THE  
SITUATION IN TAIWAN.

## 12. TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

CONTEXT: ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1999 SECRETARY ALBRIGHT  
HOSTED A DINNER IN NEW YORK FOR THE TEN WOMEN FOREIGN  
MINISTERS ATTENDING THE 54TH U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE  
WOMEN FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE ALL SIGNED A LETTER TO U.N.  
SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI ANAN, A U.S. GOVERNMENT IDEA,  
EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S ISSUES ON THE U.N.  
AGENDA AND CONDEMNING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS. THE LETTER  
SAID, "IT IS UNACCEPTABLE THAT HUMAN BEINGS AROUND THE WORLD  
ARE SOLD INTO SITUATIONS SUCH AS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION,  
DOMESTIC SERVITUDE AND DEBT BONDAGE THAT ARE LITTLE DIFFERENT  
THAN SLAVERY." THE MINISTERS ASKED THAT GOVERNMENTS TAKE  
SERIOUSLY THE NEGOTIATIONS ON ADDING A PROHIBITION ON HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING TO A CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME.

Q. WHAT IS THE U.S. DOING ABOUT THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND  
CHILDREN?

A. TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, PARTICULARLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN,  
IS A GROWING GLOBAL TRANSNATIONAL CRIME AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
PROBLEM. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT TRAFFICKERS FORCE OVER ONE  
MILLION PERSONS EACH YEAR INTO PROSTITUTION, DOMESTIC  
SERVITUDE, BONDED SWEATSHOP LABOR, AND OTHER FORMS OF COERCED  
LABOR.

-- PRESIDENT CLINTON ISSUED A DIRECTIVE ON MARCH 11, 1998  
ESTABLISHING THE U.S. STRATEGY TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN  
PERSONS AROUND THE WORLD.

-- THIS STRATEGY INCLUDES: (1) PREVENTION; (2) PROTECTION  
FOR THE VICTIMS; AND (3) PROSECUTION OF THE TRAFFICKERS. THE  
DIRECTIVE CHARGED THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON  
WOMEN, CHAIRED BY SECRETARY ALBRIGHT, TO LEAD THE DEVELOPMENT  
AND COORDINATION OF U.S. POLICY ON THIS ISSUE.  
THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN CHAIRS AN  
INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP THAT INCLUDES STATE, LABOR,  
JUSTICE, HHS, USIA, USAID AND CIA. ALTHOUGH WE ARE PREPARED  
TO DISCUSS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING, THE OTHER AGENCIES WITHIN THE COUNCIL SHOULD

ALSO BE CONSULTED WITH RESPECT TO THEIR EFFORTS IN THIS AREA.

-- AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WE TAKE THESE ISSUES VERY SERIOUSLY. WE ALREADY REPORT EXTENSIVELY ON THE PROBLEM IN OUR ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES. IN ADDITION, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HAROLD HONGJU KOH ANNOUNCED WHEN HE TESTIFIED ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING BEFORE CONGRESS ON SEPTEMBER 14 THAT WE WILL BE ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION ON TRAFFICKING TO THIS REPORT. HIS TESTIMONY CAN BE FOUND ON UNCLAS SECTION 10 OF 10 STATE 181675

USIA FOR EA, MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 27 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

THE DEPARTMENT'S WEB PAGE.

-- THE U.S. IS ALSO ENGAGED IN NUMEROUS MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING. FOR EXAMPLE:

-- WE ARE LOOKING FOR COUNTRIES TO BE SPONSORS FOR A PROTOCOL TO BE ATTACHED TO THE U.N. TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME CONVENTION THAT OBLIGATES STATES TO CRIMINALIZE TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS, TO PROTECT AND ASSIST VICTIMS, AND TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING.

-- WE ARE ALSO WORKING WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE G-8, THE UNITED NATIONS, THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN), THE OSCE, THE GOVERNMENTS OF ISRAEL, ITALY, UKRAINE AND OTHERS TO RESOLVE THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM. FOR INSTANCE, WE ARE CO-HOSTING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES A MEETING OF ASIAN GOVERNMENTS AND NGOS IN MARCH OF 2000 TO LAUNCH A REGIONAL INITIATIVE ON THE ISSUE.

-- WE ARE ALSO SPONSORING PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS AROUND THE WORLD TO WARN POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKERS' RECRUITING METHODS. OUR EMBASSIES IN SOURCE, TRANSIT, AND DESTINATION COUNTRIES ARE WORKING TO PROTECT VICTIMS, EXPOSE TRAFFICKERS, AND ENHANCE ANTI-FRAUD TRAINING.

-- USAID, ILO, UNICEF AND OTHERS HAVE ESTABLISHED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN IN SOURCE COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES TO TRAFFICKERS' LURE OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.  
TALBOTT

**SECT:** SECTION: 01 OF 10  
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**DIST:**  
SIT: FALLIN HAMMER LEAVY  
SIT: NSC

# Cable

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**PREC:** PRIORITY

**CLASS:** UNCLASSIFIED

**LINE1:** PAAUZYUW RUEHCAA3699 2722143-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

**LINE2:** ZNR UUUUU ZZH

**LINE3:** P 292138Z SEP 99

**LINE4:** FM SECSTATE WASHDC

**OSRI:** RUEHC

**DTG:** 292138Z SEP 99

**ORIG:** SECSTATE WASHDC

**TO:** RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 0000  
RUEHBD/AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN 0000  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0000  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0000  
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 0000  
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 0000  
RUEHPF/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 0000  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0000  
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 0000  
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 0000  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0000  
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 0000  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0000  
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 0000  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0000  
RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 0000  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0000

**INFO:** RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY 0000  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0000  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0000  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0000  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0000  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0000  
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA  
RUEHUM/AMEMBASSY ULAANBAATAR 0000  
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 0000  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC 0000  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC 0000  
RUETIAA/NSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC 0000  
RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT WASHDC 0000  
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 0000

**SUBJ:** ARIAT - THE ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST  
TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

**TEXT:**

UNCLAS STATE 183699

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, KWMN, PREL, PREF, KCRM, SMIG, KFRD, ASEAN, AS,  
CA, CH, EU, HK, JA, KS, NZ, RS

SUBJECT: ARIAT - THE ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST  
TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

REFS:A) STATE 039952 B) MANILA 08111 C) MANILA 02271  
D) CHIANG MAI 019 E) OTTAWA 01160 F) SEOUL 02136  
G) SINGAPORE 0927 H) VIENTIANE 0548 I)98 JAKARTA 05417  
J) 98 TOKYO 5709 K)98 BANGKOK 014232 L)98 BANDAR 0343  
  
M) 98 HANOI 2470

1. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARA. 7.

2. SUMMARY. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES HAS AGREED TO CO-HOST WITH THE USG A REGIONAL MEETING TO COMBAT THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN (TWC) WITHIN AND FROM ASIA. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN MANILA IN SPRING 2000 AND WILL LAUNCH THE ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN (ARIAT). AN INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP OF CONCERNED DEPARTMENT BUREAUS AND OTHER AGENCIES HELD ITS INITIAL MEETING ON AUGUST 12 AND A SECOND MEETING SEPTEMBER 15 TO COORDINATE THE USG PREPARATIONS FOR THE ARIAT. AT THIS POINT, THE DEPARTMENT IS STILL DISCUSSING PLANS WITH THE GOP AND POSTS SHOULD

NOT/NOT SHARE THE DRAFT AGENDA WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS. THE DEPARTMENT REQUESTS POSTS' VIEWS ON THE DRAFT AGENDA, SUGGESTIONS ON PRESENTERS, AND AN UPDATE ON WHAT PROGRAMS HOST GOVERNMENTS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND NGOS ARE CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING TO COMBAT THE TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS. END SUMMARY.

ARIAT REGIONAL MEETING IN SPRING OF 2000  
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3. THE USG AND THE GOP WILL CO-HOST A THREE DAY REGIONAL MEETING TO EXPLORE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN WITHIN AND FROM ASIA (REF B). THE SECRETARY ANNOUNCED THE MEETING DURING THE ASEAN POST MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN SINGAPORE ON JULY 26. THE MEETING WILL LAUNCH THE ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN (ARIAT) AND WILL BE HELD IN MANILA IN SPRING 2000 WITH THE EXACT DATES TO BE DETERMINED. THE PROPOSED LIST OF INVITEES IS: AUSTRALIA, BRUNEI, BURMA, CAMBODIA, CANADA, CHINA, EUROPEAN UNION, HONG KONG, INDONESIA, JAPAN, LAOS, MALAYSIA, NEW ZEALAND, RUSSIA, SINGAPORE, SOUTH KOREA, THAILAND, AND VIETNAM.

4. THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING WILL BE A WORKSHOP FORMAT FOCUSING ON THE THREE PRONGED APPROACH OF 1) PREVENTION, 2) PROTECTION AND REINTEGRATION FOR THE VICTIMS, AND 3) PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS. THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE FOR MIGRATION (IOM) IN MANILA WILL SERVE AS THE ORGANIZER AND SECRETARIAT FOR THE MEETING. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE REGIONAL MEETING IS TO LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR PRACTICAL RESULTS. EACH PARTICIPATING COUNTRY WILL BE ASKED TO DEVELOP AN ATTAINABLE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN AND TO REACH CONSENSUS ON A REGIONAL COOPERATION STRATEGY TO FIGHT TRAFFICKING. THE WORKSHOP

PRESENTERS AND PANELISTS WILL BE INVITED FROM BOTH THE ASEAN AND NON-ASEAN COUNTRIES AND WILL INCLUDE NGOS.

LEVEL OF ATTENDANCE  
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5. THE US DELEGATION WILL TENTATIVELY BE CO-LED BY EAP DAS, RALPH BOYCE, AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN (S/PICW), ANITA BOTTI. THE LEVEL OF ATTENDANCE FROM PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS WILL BE SENIOR WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM THE APPROPRIATE MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH ANTI-TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS IN THE AREAS OF PREVENTION, PROTECTION OR PROSECUTION. EACH PARTICIPATING

COUNTRY/ECONOMY CAN SEND FROM 3 TO 5 DELEGATES. ONE OR TWO PARTICIPANTS FROM MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS CAN BE ACCOMMODATED. NGOS WILL ALSO BE INVITED.

6. IN MOST INSTANCES, THOSE INVITED ARE EXPECTED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN COSTS OF PARTICIPATION. IN THE CASE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FOR GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS' TRAVEL AND PER DIEM EXPENSES FOR THE THREE DAYS IN MANILA. NOTE: IT IS UNLIKELY THAT OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF CHINA, BURMA OR CAMBODIA WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR ANY USG-FINANCED ASSISTANCE. THE FY-2000 APPROPRIATIONS ACT MAY CONTINUE TO RESTRICT ASSISTANCE TO THOSE AND OTHER POSSIBLE PARTICIPANTS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: POSTS ARE ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE ARIAT REGIONAL MEETING (PARA 8). POSTS ARE ALSO ASKED TO REPORT ON THE CURRENT ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE HOST COUNTRY TO COMBAT TWC ON THE PART OF GOVERNMENTS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND NGOS IN ORDER TO SELECT THE BEST EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO SHARE AT THE WORKSHOPS. FOR THOSE POSTS HAVING REPORTED WITHIN THE PAST YEAR CONCERNING EFFORTS TO REDUCE TWC (REFTELS), A SHORT SUMMARY OR UPDATE IS SUFFICIENT. ALL OTHER POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE AS COMPLETE A REPORT AS POSSIBLE BY OCTOBER 15. FINALLY, THE DEPARTMENT SOLICITS POSTS' SUGGESTIONS ON POSSIBLE PRESENTERS OR PANELISTS IN THE THREE AREAS OF PREVENTION, PROTECTION OF VICTIMS, AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS.

DRAFT PROPOSAL  
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8. THE DRAFT PROPOSAL OF THE STRUCTURE AND AGENDA OF THE ARIAT REGIONAL MEETING FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ASIAN INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN - ARIAT.

BACKGROUND

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS, PREDOMINATELY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, IS A FORM OF MODERN-DAY SLAVERY. THIS GROWING

TRANSNATIONAL CRIME PROBLEM IS ONE OF THE MOST EGREGIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF OUR TIME. TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN (TWC) INVOLVES THE RECRUITMENT, TRANSPORT OR SALE OF PERSONS ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS OR WITHIN A

COUNTRY THROUGH FORCE, FRAUD, DECEPTION OR COERCION FOR PURPOSES OF FORCED LABOR OR SERVICES, INCLUDING FORCED PROSTITUTION, DOMESTIC SERVITUDE, BONDED SWEATSHOP LABOR OR OTHER DEBT BONDAGE.

OVER 50,000 WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE TRAFFICKED ANNUALLY INTO THE UNITED STATES, PRIMARILY FROM THE FORMER SOVIET UNION AND THE EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION. WITHIN THE EAP REGION, THERE ARE ORIGIN, TRANSIT AND DESTINATION COUNTRIES, WHERE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE TRAFFICKED INTO SWEATSHOP LABOR, DOMESTIC SERVITUDE, AND THE SEX INDUSTRY.

THE LOW SOCIAL STATUS OF WOMEN, LOW EDUCATION LEVELS AND THE LACK OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS, ARE MAJOR FORCES DRIVING THE TRAFFICKING INDUSTRY. TRAFFICKERS CAPITALIZE ON RISING UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE LACK OF VIABLE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES TO LURE VICTIMS INTO THE TRAFFICKING SCHEME. THE TRADE IN HUMAN BEINGS IS GROWING RAPIDLY IN THE REGION DUE TO THE DECLINE IN ALTERNATE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES RESULTING FROM THE ASIAN ECONOMIC CRISIS, A DRAMATIC RISE IN INTRA-ASIAN MIGRATION SINCE THE LATE 1980S, AND THE LOW RISK OF PROSECUTION TO TRAFFICKERS.

PRESIDENT CLINTON ISSUED A DIRECTIVE ON MARCH 11, 1998, ESTABLISHING THE UNITED STATES' STRATEGY TO COMBAT THE TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS AROUND THE WORLD. THE STRATEGY INVOLVES PREVENTION, PROTECTION FOR AND REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS, AND PROSECUTION AND ENFORCEMENT AGAINST TRAFFICKERS. THE UNITED STATES VIEWS TRAFFICKING AS A GLOBAL PROBLEM THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED THROUGH REGIONAL COOPERATION AS WELL AS COUNTRY-SPECIFIC, ANTI-TRAFFICKING INITIATIVES.

#### REGIONAL MEETING

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES HAS AGREED TO CO-HOST WITH THE UNITED STATES A REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON TWC. THE MEETING WILL INCLUDE PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS ON PREVENTION, PROTECTION, AND PROSECUTION STRATEGIES WITH THE GOAL OF FORMULATING A COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING WITHIN AND FROM ASIA. THE

MEETING WILL CONVENE SENIOR WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS WILL EXAMINE ANTI-TRAFFICKING STRATEGIES RELATED TO PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS, AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS. THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP WILL EMPHASIZE WAYS FOR GOVERNMENTS TO IMPROVE WOMEN'S EQUAL ACCESS TO RESOURCES, EMPLOYMENT, MARKETS, AND TRADE. IT WILL SERVE TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE ISSUE OF TWC IN THE EAST ASIA

AND PACIFIC REGION, TO CREATE NETWORKS, AND TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR USG AGENCIES AND PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP AND PUBLICIZE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE REGION.

THE WORKSHOP WOULD ALSO WELCOME INITIATIVES FROM INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH TRADITIONALLY HAVE NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF TRAFFICKING, INCLUDING PRIVATE SECTOR GROUPS AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB), IN ORDER TO BRING GREATER ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RESOURCES TO BEAR ON THE PROBLEM. ONE GOAL OF THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE IS TO EXPAND THE POOL OF ACTORS, RESOURCES, AND APPROACHES THAT FOCUS ON ALLEVIATING THE SUFFERING OF THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND ON PURSUING THE CRIMINALS WHO OPERATE THE TRAFFICKING RINGS.

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES/ECONOMIES COULD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REGIONAL MEETING:

AUSTRALIA	MALAYSIA
BRUNEI	NEW ZEALAND
BURMA	PHILIPPINES
CAMBODIA	SOUTH KOREA
CANADA	RUSSIA
CHINA	SINGAPORE
EUROPEAN UNION	THAILAND
HONG KONG	UNITED STATES (INCLUDING
INDONESIA	C.N.M.I.)
JAPAN	VIETNAM
LAOS	

TITLE: ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN - ARIAT

TIMEFRAME FOR MEETING: SPRING 2000, 3 DAYS (EXACT DATES TBD)

VENUE: MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

RATIONALE: THE PHILIPPINES IS ACTIVE DOMESTICALLY AND REGIONALLY WITH ANTI-TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION AND INITIATIVES. THE USG-GOP WORKSHOP WILL BUILD ON AND AUGMENT DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS EMERGING FROM THE APRIL 1999 INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION SYMPOSIUM HOSTED BY THAILAND BY DEVELOPING PRACTICAL STRATEGIES AND NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PLANS TO REDUCE TRAFFICKING.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

- A) EXPAND COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS AMONG AND WITH EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES OF PREVENTION, PROTECTION OF VICTIMS, AND PROSECUTION AND ENFORCEMENT AGAINST TRAFFICKERS.

- B) REACH CONSENSUS AMONG PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES ON EFFECTIVE WAYS TO CREATE NATIONAL ACTION PLANS TO COMBAT THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.
- C) PROVIDE A FORUM FOR EAP COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP A REGIONAL ACTION PLAN TO REDUCE TWC.
- D) LINK PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES WITH POTENTIAL RESOURCES TO AID IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL AND COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ACTION PLANS AND ANTI-TRAFFICKING INITIATIVES, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, NGOS, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

ANTICIPATED WORKSHOP OUTCOMES:

1. FOUNDATIONS FOR A REGIONAL ACTION PLAN TO REDUCE THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN THAT EMPHASIZES PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND REINTEGRATION OF THE VICTIMS, AND PROSECUTION OF AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES AGAINST TRAFFICKERS. THIS ACTION PLAN WILL INCLUDE

PROPOSED STRATEGIES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING AND BENCHMARKS TO MEASURE PROGRESS.

2. PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES COMMIT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ACTION PLANS CONSISTENT WITH THE REGIONAL PLAN TO COMBAT TWC.
3. COMMITMENTS FROM DONORS--PARTICIPATING NATIONS, INTERNATIONAL BANKS AND ORGANIZATIONS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR--TO PLEDGE SPECIFIC RESOURCES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING.
4. COMMITMENTS FROM ONE OR TWO EAP COUNTRIES TO CO-HOST A PROGRESS REVIEW CONFERENCE IN 18 TO 24 MONTHS.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS (SUGGESTED):

I. PREVENTION STRATEGIES

-- EXPLORE EFFECTIVE WAYS TO EDUCATE AND TO RAISE AWARENESS THROUGH THE MEDIA, BOTH ELECTRONIC AND PRINT, AND PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS AND IN COMMUNITIES TO WARN POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKERS' RECRUITING METHODS AND THE FATE OF TRAFFICKING VICTIMS INCLUDING HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMS. (REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS, STATE, USAID, IOM, ILO-IPEC, UNIFEM, NGOS) REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS)

-- EXPLORE EFFECTIVE WAYS AND BEST PRACTICES TO IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION, MONITORING AND REPORTING OF INCIDENCE RATES, TRAFFICKING ROUTES, INFORMATION ON KNOWN OR SUSPECTED TRAFFICKERS, CONDITIONS OF EXPLOITATION, ORGANIZED CRIME LINKS, VICTIM ASSISTANCE NEEDS, AND OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN. (REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS, STATE, USAID, INS, DOJ, IOM, UNCICP, NGOS)

-- EXPLORE EFFECTIVE WAYS TO INSTITUTE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVES TO

THE LURE OF ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT PROMISED BY TRAFFICKERS. SUCH PROGRAMS WOULD INCLUDE INCREASING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO RESOURCES, CREDIT, LAND, INFORMATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING. (REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS, USAID, UNDP, ILO-

IPEC, IOM, ASIA DEVELOPMENT BANK, PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES, NGOS)

-- EXPLORE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY STRATEGIES IN THE PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING INCLUDING THE USE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND MEDIA CAMPAIGNS TO

- WARN POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF REALITIES AND CONSEQUENCES OF TRAFFICKING.
- WARN POTENTIAL PERPETRATORS OF THE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF TRAFFICKING.
- MOBILIZE PUBLICS TO INFLUENCE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES TO TAKE STEPS TO REDUCE TRAFFICKING.  
(REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS, STATE, NGOS)

OTHER PREVENTION STRATEGIES:

A) EXPLORE THE IMPORTANCE OF EXISTING WORLDWIDE LINKS TO STRENGTHEN PREVENTION STRATEGIES.

B) INCREASE COLLABORATION TO SHARE INFORMATION IN SUCH AREAS AS HEALTH PROTECTION FOR VICTIMS, AND THE APPREHENSION OF CRIMINALS.

## II. PROTECTION STRATEGIES

-- EXPLORE BEST PRACTICES TO MEET THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF VICTIMS ESCAPING FROM TRAFFICKING NETWORKS. (IOM, STATE/PRM, ASIAN NGOS)

-- EXPLORE REINTEGRATION MODELS TO MEET THE MENTAL, PHYSICAL, EDUCATIONAL, SKILLS TRAINING, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVES TO IMMEDIATE DEPORTATION OF VICTIMS.  
(REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS' MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE, INTERIOR, LABOR, HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE, STATE/PRM, IOM, NGOS)

-- DEVELOP MONITORING PROGRAMS TO ENSURE SAFE REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS INTO COMMUNITIES AND GUARD AGAINST RETRIBUTION AGAINST VICTIMS BY THE TRAFFICKERS  
(STATE/PRM, IOM, NGOS)

-- EXPLORE TRAINING MODELS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHERS WHO MAY COME IN CONTACT WITH VICTIMS TO RECOGNIZE TRAFFICKING CASES AND INTERVENE APPROPRIATELY.  
(MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE, MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR, STATE/INL, INS, NGOS)

-- OTHER PROTECTION STRATEGIES:

A) TRAINING FOR POLICE AND JUDICIARY TO UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF TRAFFICKING AND TO RELATE EFFECTIVELY TO TRAFFICKED VICTIMS. (DOJ, STATE/INL)

B) EXPLORE TRAUMA TREATMENT FOR VICTIMS INCLUDING TREATING THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF TRAFFICKING. (NGOS)

C) IDENTIFY GUIDELINES FOR GOVERNMENTS TO FACILITATE THE RETURN OF TRAFFICKED PERSONS. (REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS, STATE, IOM)

### III. PROSECUTION STRATEGIES

-- EXAMINE EXISTING OR PROPOSED LEGISLATION IN EACH COUNTRY AND DISCUSS HOW LAWS PROSECUTING TRAFFICKERS CAN BE STRENGTHENED AND STREAMLINED. (MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE, DOJ, STATE/INL)

-- EXPLORE TRAINING MODELS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, INCLUDING BORDER ENFORCEMENT, CONSULAR, ANTI-FRAUD, VISA OFFICERS AND LOCAL POLICE OFFICIALS, TO RECOGNIZE AND PROSECUTE TRAFFICKERS, AS WELL AS TO ASSIST TRAFFICKING VICTIMS. (STATE/INL, STATE/CA, ILEA-BANGKOK, DOJ)

-- EXPLORE WAYS TO STANDARDIZE AND INSTITUTIONALIZE PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS OF CASES INVOLVING TRAFFICKING. (MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE, MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR, DOJ)

-- EXPLORE BEST PRACTICES TO MINIMIZE OFFICIAL CORRUPTION FACILITATING THE TRAFFICKING INDUSTRY. (REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS, MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE, STATE/INL)

-- OTHER PROSECUTION STRATEGIES:

PRESENTATION ON STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PROTOCOL TO THE UN CONVENTION ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME ON THE TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS. (STATE/INL)

#### SCOPE OF THE WORKSHOP:

NUMBER OF NATIONS: 18 TO 20  
3 TO 5 DELEGATES PER COUNTRY

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 160 - 180 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

60 - 80 SENIOR WORKING LEVEL  
OFFICIALS  
30 - 40 NGO REPRESENTATIVES  
25 INTL. ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES  
15 - 20 PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

NUMBER OF EMINENT SPEAKERS: 2 TO 3

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

HIGH LEVEL U.S. ADMINISTRATION LEADERS  
HIGH LEVEL GOP ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS:  
E.G. PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA

VICE PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO  
FS DOMINGO SIAZON  
FIRST LADY MRS. ESTRADA

NGOS ASIAN NGOS  
US-BASED NGOS  
WORLDWIDE ANTI-TRAFFICKING NGOS.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- INTERNATIONAL OFFICE FOR MIGRATION
- WORLD BANK
- ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
- UN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION (UNCICP)
  
- UNDP (MEKONG SUB-REGION GROUP)
- ILO-IPEC
- INTERPOL
- UNICEF
- UNIFEM
- UNFPA
- UNESCO

9. THE COMMENTS AND REPORTING OF EACH POST ON THE TWC ISSUE NOW AND OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF BOTH THE REGIONAL MEETING AND THE ARIAT LONG-TERM STRATEGY. PLEASE SLUG REPLIES FOR MARY JOHNSON, EAP/RSP AND CAROL DENNISON, S/PICW.  
TALBOTT

**SECT:** SECTION: 01 OF 01  
**SSN:** 3699  
**TOR:** 990929175012 M4072953  
**DIST:** SIT: NSC

# Cable

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**PREC:** PRIORITY  
**CLASS:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**LINE1:** PAAUZYUW RUEHCAA3699 2722143-UUUU--RHEHNSC.  
**LINE2:** ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
**LINE3:** P 292138Z SEP 99  
**LINE4:** FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
**OSRI:** RUEHC  
**DTG:** 292138Z SEP 99  
**ORIG:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**TO:** RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 6842  
RUEHBD/AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN 8953  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7851  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1369  
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 2335  
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 8527  
RUEHPF/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 9025  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 2731  
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 7386  
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 5488  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 8603  
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 1628  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3074  
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 0394  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1476  
RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 9054  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 3320  
**INFO:** RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY 4729  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 4712  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2227  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 7840  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0208  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 6640  
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA  
RUEHUM/AMEMBASSY ULAANBAATAR 2874  
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 4172  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC 8425  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC 9299  
RUEAIIA/NSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC 0065  
RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT WASHDC 8057  
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 5751  
**SUBJ:** ARIAT - THE ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST  
TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

**TEXT:**  
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 08 STATE 183699

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PHUM, KWMN, PREL, PREF, KCRM, SMIG, KFRD, ASEAN, AS,  
CA, CH, EU, HK, JA, KS, NZ, RS

SUBJECT: ARIAT - THE ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST  
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REFS:A) STATE 039952 B) MANILA 08111 C) MANILA 02271  
D) CHIANG MAI 019 E) OTTAWA 01160 F) SEOUL 02136  
G) SINGAPORE 0927 H) VIENTIANE 0548 I) 98 JAKARTA 05417  
J) 98 TOKYO 5709 K) 98 BANGKOK 014232 L) 98 BANDAR 0343  
M) 98 HANOI 2470

1. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARA. 7.

2. SUMMARY. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES HAS AGREED TO CO-HOST WITH THE USG A REGIONAL MEETING TO COMBAT THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN (TWC) WITHIN AND FROM ASIA. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN MANILA IN SPRING 2000 AND WILL LAUNCH THE ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN (ARIAT). AN INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP OF CONCERNED DEPARTMENT BUREAUS AND OTHER AGENCIES HELD ITS INITIAL MEETING ON AUGUST 12 AND A SECOND MEETING SEPTEMBER 15 TO COORDINATE THE USG PREPARATIONS FOR THE ARIAT. AT THIS POINT, THE DEPARTMENT IS STILL DISCUSSING PLANS WITH THE GOP AND POSTS SHOULD

NOT/NOT SHARE THE DRAFT AGENDA WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS. THE DEPARTMENT REQUESTS POSTS' VIEWS ON THE DRAFT AGENDA, SUGGESTIONS ON PRESENTERS, AND AN UPDATE ON WHAT PROGRAMS HOST GOVERNMENTS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND NGOS ARE CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING TO COMBAT THE TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS. END SUMMARY.

ARIAT REGIONAL MEETING IN SPRING OF 2000  
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3. THE USG AND THE GOP WILL CO-HOST A THREE DAY REGIONAL MEETING TO EXPLORE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN WITHIN AND FROM ASIA (REF B). THE SECRETARY ANNOUNCED THE MEETING DURING THE ASEAN POST MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN SINGAPORE ON JULY 26. THE MEETING WILL LAUNCH THE ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN (ARIAT) AND WILL BE HELD IN MANILA IN SPRING 2000 WITH THE EXACT DATES TO BE DETERMINED. THE PROPOSED LIST OF INVITEES IS: AUSTRALIA, BRUNEI, BURMA, CAMBODIA, CANADA, CHINA, EUROPEAN UNION, HONG KONG, INDONESIA, JAPAN, LAOS, MALAYSIA, NEW ZEALAND, RUSSIA, SINGAPORE, SOUTH KOREA, THAILAND, AND VIETNAM.

4. THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING WILL BE A WORKSHOP FORMAT FOCUSING ON THE THREE PRONGED APPROACH OF 1) PREVENTION, 2) PROTECTION AND REINTEGRATION FOR THE VICTIMS, AND 3) PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS. THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE FOR MIGRATION (IOM) IN MANILA WILL SERVE AS THE ORGANIZER AND SECRETARIAT FOR THE MEETING. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE REGIONAL MEETING IS TO LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR PRACTICAL RESULTS. EACH PARTICIPATING COUNTRY WILL BE ASKED TO DEVELOP AN ATTAINABLE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN AND TO REACH CONSENSUS ON A REGIONAL COOPERATION STRATEGY TO FIGHT TRAFFICKING. THE WORKSHOP

PRESENTERS AND PANELISTS WILL BE INVITED FROM BOTH THE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 08 STATE 183699

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, KWMN, PREL, PREF, KCRM, SMIG, KFRD, ASEAN, AS, CA, CH, EU, HK, JA, KS, NZ, RS

SUBJECT: ARIAT - THE ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN ASEAN AND NON-ASEAN COUNTRIES AND WILL INCLUDE NGOS.

LEVEL OF ATTENDANCE

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5. THE US DELEGATION WILL TENTATIVELY BE CO-LED BY EAP DAS, RALPH BOYCE, AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN (S/PICW), ANITA BOTTI. THE LEVEL OF ATTENDANCE FROM PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS WILL BE SENIOR WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM THE APPROPRIATE MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH ANTI-TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS IN THE AREAS OF PREVENTION, PROTECTION OR PROSECUTION. EACH PARTICIPATING

COUNTRY/ECONOMY CAN SEND FROM 3 TO 5 DELEGATES. ONE OR TWO PARTICIPANTS FROM MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS CAN BE ACCOMMODATED. NGOS WILL ALSO BE INVITED.

6. IN MOST INSTANCES, THOSE INVITED ARE EXPECTED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN COSTS OF PARTICIPATION. IN THE CASE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FOR GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS' TRAVEL AND PER DIEM EXPENSES FOR THE THREE DAYS IN MANILA. NOTE: IT IS UNLIKELY THAT OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF CHINA, BURMA OR CAMBODIA WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR ANY USG-FINANCED ASSISTANCE. THE FY-2000 APPROPRIATIONS ACT MAY CONTINUE TO RESTRICT ASSISTANCE TO THOSE AND OTHER POSSIBLE PARTICIPANTS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: POSTS ARE ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE ARIAT REGIONAL MEETING (PARA 8). POSTS ARE ALSO ASKED TO REPORT ON THE CURRENT ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE HOST COUNTRY TO COMBAT TWC ON THE PART OF GOVERNMENTS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND NGOS IN ORDER TO SELECT THE BEST EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO SHARE AT THE WORKSHOPS. FOR THOSE POSTS HAVING REPORTED WITHIN THE PAST YEAR CONCERNING EFFORTS TO REDUCE TWC (REFTELS), A SHORT SUMMARY OR UPDATE IS SUFFICIENT. ALL OTHER POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE AS COMPLETE A REPORT AS POSSIBLE BY OCTOBER 15. FINALLY, THE DEPARTMENT SOLICITS POSTS' SUGGESTIONS ON POSSIBLE PRESENTERS OR PANELISTS IN THE THREE AREAS OF PREVENTION, PROTECTION OF VICTIMS, AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS.

DRAFT PROPOSAL

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8. THE DRAFT PROPOSAL OF THE STRUCTURE AND AGENDA OF THE ARIAT REGIONAL MEETING FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ASIAN INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN - ARIAT.

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TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS, PREDOMINATELY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, IS A FORM OF MODERN-DAY SLAVERY. THIS GROWING TRANSNATIONAL CRIME PROBLEM IS ONE OF THE MOST EGREGIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF OUR TIME. TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN (TWC) INVOLVES THE RECRUITMENT, TRANSPORT OR SALE OF PERSONS ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS OR WITHIN A

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 08 STATE 183699

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, KWMN, PREL, PREF, KCRM, SMIG, KFRD, ASEAN, AS, CA, CH, EU, HK, JA, KS, NZ, RS

SUBJECT: ARIAT - THE ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDR

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THE LOW SOCIAL STATUS OF WOMEN, LOW EDUCATION LEVELS AND THE LACK OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS, ARE MAJOR FORCES DRIVING THE TRAFFICKING INDUSTRY. TRAFFICKERS CAPITALIZE ON RISING UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE LACK OF VIABLE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES TO LURE VICTIMS INTO THE TRAFFICKING SCHEME. THE TRADE IN HUMAN BEINGS IS GROWING RAPIDLY IN THE REGION DUE TO THE DECLINE IN ALTERNATE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES RESULTING FROM THE ASIAN ECONOMIC CRISIS, A DRAMATIC RISE IN INTRA-ASIAN MIGRATION SINCE THE LATE 1980S, AND THE LOW RISK OF PROSECUTION TO TRAFFICKERS.

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES HAS AGREED TO CO-HOST WITH THE UNITED STATES A REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON TWC. THE MEETING WILL INCLUDE PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS ON

PREVENTION, PROTECTION, AND PROSECUTION STRATEGIES WITH THE GOAL OF FORMULATING A COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING WITHIN AND FROM ASIA. THE

MEETING WILL CONVENE SENIOR WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS WILL EXAMINE ANTI-TRAFFICKING STRATEGIES RELATED TO PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS, AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS. THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP WILL EMPHASIZE WAYS FOR GOVERNMENTS TO IMPROVE WOMEN'S EQUAL ACCESS TO RESOURCES, EMPLOYMENT, MARKETS, AND TRADE. IT WILL SERVE TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE ISSUE OF TWC IN THE EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION, TO CREATE NETWORKS, AND TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR USG AGENCIES AND PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP AND PUBLICIZE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE REGION.

THE WORKSHOP WOULD ALSO WELCOME INITIATIVES FROM INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH TRADITIONALLY HAVE NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF TRAFFICKING, INCLUDING PRIVATE SECTOR GROUPS AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 08 STATE 183699

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, KWMN, PREL, PREF, KCRM, SMIG, KFRD, ASEAN, AS, CA, CH, EU, HK, JA, KS, NZ, RS

SUBJECT: ARIAT - THE ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

SUCH AS THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB), IN ORDER TO BRING GREATER ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RESOURCES TO BEAR ON THE PROBLEM. ONE GOAL OF THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE IS TO EXPAND THE POOL OF ACTORS, RESOURCES, AND APPROACHES THAT FOCUS ON ALLEVIATING THE SUFFERING OF THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND ON PURSUING THE CRIMINALS WHO OPERATE THE TRAFFICKING RINGS.

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES/ECONOMIES COULD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REGIONAL MEETING:

AUSTRALIA	MALAYSIA
BRUNEI	NEW ZEALAND
BURMA	PHILIPPINES
CAMBODIA	SOUTH KOREA
CANADA	RUSSIA
CHINA	SINGAPORE
EUROPEAN UNION	THAILAND
HONG KONG	UNITED STATES (INCLUDING
INDONESIA	C.N.M.I.)
JAPAN	VIETNAM
LAOS	

TITLE: ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN - ARIAT

TIMEFRAME FOR MEETING: SPRING 2000, 3 DAYS (EXACT DATES TBD)

VENUE: MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

RATIONALE: THE PHILIPPINES IS ACTIVE DOMESTICALLY AND REGIONALLY WITH ANTI-TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION AND INITIATIVES. THE USG-GOP WORKSHOP WILL BUILD ON AND AUGMENT DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS EMERGING FROM THE APRIL 1999 INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION SYMPOSIUM HOSTED BY THAILAND BY DEVELOPING PRACTICAL STRATEGIES AND NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PLANS TO REDUCE TRAFFICKING.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

- A) EXPAND COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS AMONG AND WITH EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES OF PREVENTION, PROTECTION OF VICTIMS, AND PROSECUTION AND ENFORCEMENT AGAINST TRAFFICKERS.
- B) REACH CONSENSUS AMONG PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES ON EFFECTIVE WAYS TO CREATE NATIONAL ACTION PLANS TO COMBAT THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.
- C) PROVIDE A FORUM FOR EAP COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP A REGIONAL ACTION PLAN TO REDUCE TWC.
- D) LINK PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES WITH POTENTIAL RESOURCES TO AID IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL AND COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ACTION PLANS AND ANTI-TRAFFICKING INITIATIVES, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, NGOS, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

ANTICIPATED WORKSHOP OUTCOMES:

UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 08 STATE 183699

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, KWMN, PREL, PREF, KCRM, SMIG, KFRD, ASEAN, AS, CA, CH, EU, HK, JA, KS, NZ, RS

SUBJECT: ARIAT - THE ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

1. FOUNDATIONS FOR A REGIONAL ACTION PLAN TO REDUCE THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN THAT EMPHASIZES PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND REINTEGRATION OF THE VICTIMS, AND PROSECUTION OF AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES AGAINST TRAFFICKERS. THIS ACTION PLAN WILL INCLUDE

PROPOSED STRATEGIES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING AND BENCHMARKS TO MEASURE PROGRESS.

2. PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES COMMIT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ACTION PLANS CONSISTENT WITH THE REGIONAL PLAN TO COMBAT TWC.
3. COMMITMENTS FROM DONORS--PARTICIPATING NATIONS, INTERNATIONAL BANKS AND ORGANIZATIONS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR--TO PLEDGE SPECIFIC RESOURCES TO COMBAT

TRAFFICKING.

4.COMMITMENTS FROM ONE OR TWO EAP COUNTRIES TO CO-HOST  
A PROGRESS REVIEW CONFERENCE IN 18 TO 24 MONTHS.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS (SUGGESTED):

I. PREVENTION STRATEGIES

-- EXPLORE EFFECTIVE WAYS TO EDUCATE AND TO RAISE  
AWARENESS THROUGH THE MEDIA, BOTH ELECTRONIC AND PRINT,  
AND PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS AND IN COMMUNITIES TO WARN  
POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKERS' RECRUITING METHODS AND  
THE FATE OF TRAFFICKING VICTIMS INCLUDING HIV/AIDS  
AWARENESS PROGRAMS. (REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS, STATE, USAID,  
IOM, ILO-IPEC, UNIFEM, NGOS) REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS)

-- EXPLORE EFFECTIVE WAYS AND BEST PRACTICES TO IMPROVE  
DATA COLLECTION, MONITORING AND REPORTING OF INCIDENCE  
RATES, TRAFFICKING ROUTES, INFORMATION ON KNOWN OR  
SUSPECTED TRAFFICKERS, CONDITIONS OF EXPLOITATION,  
ORGANIZED CRIME LINKS, VICTIM ASSISTANCE NEEDS, AND OTHER  
ISSUES RELATED TO TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN.  
(REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS, STATE, USAID, INS, DOJ, IOM,  
UNCICP, NGOS)

-- EXPLORE EFFECTIVE WAYS TO INSTITUTE SOCIAL AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVES TO  
THE LURE OF ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT PROMISED BY TRAFFICKERS.  
SUCH PROGRAMS WOULD INCLUDE INCREASING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO  
RESOURCES, CREDIT, LAND, INFORMATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
AND TRAINING. (REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS, USAID, UNDP, ILO-

IPEC, IOM, ASIA DEVELOPMENT BANK, PRIVATE SECTOR  
REPRESENTATIVES, NGOS)

-- EXPLORE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY STRATEGIES IN THE PREVENTION  
OF TRAFFICKING INCLUDING THE USE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND  
MEDIA CAMPAIGNS TO

- WARN POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF REALITIES AND CONSEQUENCES OF  
TRAFFICKING.
- WARN POTENTIAL PERPETRATORS OF THE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF  
TRAFFICKING.
- MOBILIZE PUBLICS TO INFLUENCE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES TO  
TAKE STEPS TO REDUCE TRAFFICKING.

UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 08 STATE 183699

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, KWMN, PREL, PREF, KCRM, SMIG, KFRD, ASEAN, AS,  
CA, CH, EU, HK, JA, KS, NZ, RS

SUBJECT: ARIAT - THE ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST  
TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
(REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS, STATE, NGOS)

OTHER PREVENTION STRATEGIES:

- A) EXPLORE THE IMPORTANCE OF EXISTING WORLDWIDE LINKS  
TO STRENGTHEN PREVENTION STRATEGIES.

B) INCREASE COLLABORATION TO SHARE INFORMATION IN SUCH AREAS AS HEALTH PROTECTION FOR VICTIMS, AND THE APPREHENSION OF CRIMINALS.

## II. PROTECTION STRATEGIES

-- EXPLORE BEST PRACTICES TO MEET THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF VICTIMS ESCAPING FROM TRAFFICKING NETWORKS. (IOM, STATE/PRM, ASIAN NGOS)

-- EXPLORE REINTEGRATION MODELS TO MEET THE MENTAL, PHYSICAL, EDUCATIONAL, SKILLS TRAINING, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVES TO IMMEDIATE DEPORTATION OF VICTIMS. (REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS' MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE, INTERIOR, LABOR, HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE, STATE/PRM, IOM, NGOS)

-- DEVELOP MONITORING PROGRAMS TO ENSURE SAFE REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS INTO COMMUNITIES AND GUARD AGAINST RETRIBUTION AGAINST VICTIMS BY THE TRAFFICKERS (STATE/PRM, IOM, NGOS)

-- EXPLORE TRAINING MODELS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHERS WHO MAY COME IN CONTACT WITH VICTIMS TO RECOGNIZE TRAFFICKING CASES AND INTERVENE APPROPRIATELY. (MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE, MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR, STATE/INL, INS, NGOS)

-- OTHER PROTECTION STRATEGIES:

A) TRAINING FOR POLICE AND JUDICIARY TO UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF TRAFFICKING AND TO RELATE EFFECTIVELY TO TRAFFICKED VICTIMS. (DOJ, STATE/INL)

B) EXPLORE TRAUMA TREATMENT FOR VICTIMS INCLUDING TREATING THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF TRAFFICKING. (NGOS)

C) IDENTIFY GUIDELINES FOR GOVERNMENTS TO FACILITATE THE RETURN OF TRAFFICKED PERSONS. (REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS, STATE, IOM)

## III. PROSECUTION STRATEGIES

-- EXAMINE EXISTING OR PROPOSED LEGISLATION IN EACH COUNTRY AND DISCUSS HOW LAWS PROSECUTING TRAFFICKERS CAN BE STRENGTHENED AND STREAMLINED. (MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE, DOJ, STATE/INL)

-- EXPLORE TRAINING MODELS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, INCLUDING BORDER ENFORCEMENT, CONSULAR, ANTI-FRAUD, VISA OFFICERS AND LOCAL POLICE OFFICIALS, TO RECOGNIZE AND PROSECUTE TRAFFICKERS, AS WELL AS TO ASSIST TRAFFICKING VICTIMS. (STATE/INL, STATE/CA, ILEA-BANGKOK, DOJ)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, KWMM, PREL, PREF, KCRM, SMIG, KFRD, ASEAN, AS, CA, CH, EU, HK, JA, KS, NZ, RS

SUBJECT: ARIAT - THE ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

-- EXPLORE WAYS TO STANDARDIZE AND INSTITUTIONALIZE PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS OF CASES INVOLVING TRAFFICKING. (MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE, MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR, DOJ)

-- EXPLORE BEST PRACTICES TO MINIMIZE OFFICIAL CORRUPTION FACILITATING THE TRAFFICKING INDUSTRY. (REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS, MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE, STATE/INL)

-- OTHER PROSECUTION STRATEGIES:

PRESENTATION ON STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PROTOCOL TO THE UN CONVENTION ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME ON THE TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS. (STATE/INL)

SCOPE OF THE WORKSHOP:

NUMBER OF NATIONS: 18 TO 20  
3 TO 5 DELEGATES PER COUNTRY

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 160 - 180 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

60 - 80 SENIOR WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS  
30 - 40 NGO REPRESENTATIVES  
25 INTL. ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES  
15 - 20 PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

NUMBER OF EMINENT SPEAKERS: 2 TO 3

SUGGESTIONS FOR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

HIGH LEVEL U.S. ADMINISTRATION LEADERS  
HIGH LEVEL GOP ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS:  
E.G. PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA  
VICE PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO  
FS DOMINGO SIAZON  
FIRST LADY MRS. ESTRADA

NGOS ASIAN NGOS  
US-BASED NGOS  
WORLDWIDE ANTI-TRAFFICKING NGOS.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- INTERNATIONAL OFFICE FOR MIGRATION
- WORLD BANK
- ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
- UN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION (UNCICP)

- UNDP (MEKONG SUB-REGION GROUP)
- ILO-IPEC
- INTERPOL
- UNICEF
- UNIFEM
- UNFPA
- UNESCO

9. THE COMMENTS AND REPORTING OF EACH POST ON THE TWC  
UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 08 STATE 183699

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, KWMN, PREL, PREF, KCRM, SMIG, KFRD, ASEAN, AS,  
CA, CH, EU, HK, JA, KS, NZ, RS

SUBJECT: ARIAT - THE ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST  
TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDR

ISSUE NOW AND OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO  
THE SUCCESS OF BOTH THE REGIONAL MEETING AND THE ARIAT  
LONG-TERM STRATEGY. PLEASE SLUG REPLIES FOR MARY JOHNSON,  
EAP/RSP AND CAROL DENNISON, S/PICW.  
TALBOTT

**SECT:** SECTION: 01 OF 08  
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**DIST:** SIT: BABBITT BUSBY FELDMAN GUARNIERI NAPLAN SCHWARTZ STROMSETH VACCARO  
SIT: NSC

# Cable

PREC: PRIORITY  
 CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED  
 LINE1: PAAEZYUW RUEHABA7446 2731322-EEEE--RHEHAAX.  
 LINE2: ZNY EEEEE ZZH  
 LINE3: P 301322Z SEP 99  
 LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
 OSRI: RUEHAB  
 DTG: 301322Z SEP 99  
 ORIG: AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
 TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5973  
 RUEHIA/USIS WASHDC PRIORITY 0871  
 INFO: ////  
 SUBJ: 1999 COUNTRY HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR COTE  
 D'IVOIRE - PART III OF III

TEXT:

////////////////////////////////// INCOMPLETE MESSAGE //////////////////////////////////

UNCLAS E F T O SECTION 01 OF 06 ABIDJAN 007446

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SENSITIVE

NOFORN

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PHUM, ELAB, KDEM, PINS, IV  
SUBJECT: 1999 COUNTRY HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR COTE  
D'IVOIRE - PART III OF III

REF: STATE 140463

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - NOFORN -- ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SECTIONS 4, 5, AND 6 OF THE 1999 COUNTRY HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR COTE D'IVOIRE.
3. SECTION 4 GOVERNMENTAL ATTITUDE REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

THE LIDHO, A HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORMED IN 1987 AND RECOGNIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN 1990, HAS INVESTIGATED ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVELY AND ISSUED PRESS RELEASES AND REPORTS, SOME CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT. OTHER GROUPS SUCH AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE MIFED ALSO MONITORED GOVERNMENT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND PUBLISHED PRESS RELEASES CRITICAL OF THEM.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS COOPERATED WITH INTERNATIONAL

INQUIRIES INTO ITS HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES, WHICH HAVE BEEN CHIEFLY IN THE AREA OF PRISON CONDITIONS (SEE SECTION 1.C.).

SECTION 5 DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE, SEX, RELIGION, DISABILITY, LANGUAGE, OR SOCIAL STATUS

DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE, ETHNICITY, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, OR RELIGION IS PROHIBITED BY LAW, BUT IN PRACTICE WOMEN OCCUPY A SUBORDINATE ROLE IN SOCIETY, MUSLIMS COMPLAIN OF GOVERNMENTAL DISCRIMINATION (SEE SECTION 2.C.), SOCIETAL ETHNIC DISCRIMINATION IS A PROBLEM, AND THE BAOULE ETHNIC GROUP DOMINATES THE RULING PARTY AND THROUGH IT, THE GOVERNMENT.

WOMEN

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE IVOIRIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEFENSE OF WOMEN (AIDF) STATE THAT SPOUSAL ABUSE (USUALLY WIFE BEATING) OCCURS FREQUENTLY AND OFTEN LEADS TO DIVORCE. AN AIDF SURVEY FOUND THAT MANY WOMEN REFUSED TO DISCUSS THEIR EXPERIENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; OF WOMEN WHO COMPLETED THE AIDF INTERVIEW PROCESS, NEARLY 90 PERCENT HAD BEEN BEATEN OR STRUCK ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION. DOCTORS STATE THAT THEY RARELY SEE THE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. A SEVERE SOCIAL STIGMA IS ATTACHED TO SUCH VIOLENCE, AND NEIGHBORS OFTEN INTERVENE IN A DOMESTIC QUARREL TO PROTECT A WOMAN WHO IS THE KNOWN OBJECT OF PHYSICAL ABUSE. THE COURTS AND POLICE VIEW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AS A FAMILY PROBLEM, UNLESS SERIOUS BODILY HARM IS INFLECTED, OR THE VICTIM LODGES A COMPLAINT, IN WHICH CASE THEY MAY INITIATE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS. WOMEN'S ADVOCACY GROUPS HAVE PROTESTED THE INDIFFERENCE OF AUTHORITIES TO FEMALE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND CALLED ATTENTION TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND FGM. THE GROUPS ALSO REPORTED THAT WOMEN WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF RAPE OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARE OFTEN IGNORED WHEN THEY ATTEMPT TO BRING THE VIOLENCE TO THE ATTENTION OF THE POLICE. THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT COLLECT STATISTICS ON THE RAPE OR OTHER PHYSICAL ABUSE OF WOMEN. THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO CLEAR POLICY REGARDING SPOUSE ABUSE BEYOND THE STRICTURES AGAINST VIOLENCE IN THE CIVIL CODE. IN DECEMBER 1998 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ENACTED A LAW CONCERNING CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN, WHICH FORBIDS AND PROVIDES CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR FORCED OR EARLY MARRIAGE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT, BUT SAYS NOTHING ABOUT SPOUSE ABUSE. IN JULY, THE AIDF LAUNCHED A PETITION DRIVE TO PRESSURE THE AUTHORITIES TO ENACT AND ENFORCE LAWS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ESPECIALLY SPOUSE ABUSE; 5,000 PETITIONS HAD BEEN COLLECTED BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER. THE AIDF ALSO IS ACTIVE IN OPPOSING FORCED MARRIAGE AND ADVANCING THE RIGHTS OF FEMALE DOMESTIC WORKERS.

IN RURAL AREAS, WOMEN AND MEN DIVIDE THE LABOR, WITH MEN CLEARING THE LAND AND ATTENDING TO CASH CROPS LIKE COCOA AND COFFEE, WHILE WOMEN GROW VEGETABLES AND OTHER STAPLES AND PERFORM MOST MENIAL HOUSEHOLD TASKS.

GOVERNMENT POLICY ENCOURAGES FULL PARTICIPATION BY WOMEN IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE, BUT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INFORMAL RESISTANCE AMONG EMPLOYERS TO HIRING WOMEN, WHOM THEY CONSIDER LESS DEPENDABLE BECAUSE OF THEIR POTENTIAL PREGNANCY. WOMEN ARE UNDERREPRESENTED IN SOME PROFESSIONS AND IN THE MANAGERIAL SECTOR AS A WHOLE. SOME WOMEN ALSO ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING LOANS, AS THEY CANNOT MEET THE LENDING CRITERIA MANDATED BY BANKS. THESE CRITERIA INCLUDE SUCH ELEMENTS AS TITLE TO A HOUSE AND PRODUCTION OF PROFITABLE CASH CROPS, SPECIFICALLY COFFEE AND COCOA. WOMEN IN THE FORMAL SECTOR, HOWEVER, ARE PAID ON AN EQUAL SCALE WITH MEN.  
UNCLAS E F T O SECTION 03 OF 06 ABIDJAN 007446

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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PHUM, ELAB, KDEM, PINS, IV  
SUBJECT: 1999 COUNTRY HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR COTE  
D'IVOIRE - PART III OF III

MEDICAL FACILITIES, AND TECHNIQUES AND HYGIENE DO NOT MEET MODERN MEDICAL STANDARDS. ACCORDING TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND THE AIDF, AS MANY AS 60 PERCENT OF WOMEN HAVE UNDERGONE FGM. SINCE THE LAW ON FGM WAS ENACTED IN DECEMBER 1998, SIX GIRLS IN ABIDJAN'S PORT BOUET DISTRICT WERE EXCISED, AND POLICE AND SOCIAL WORKERS ACTED NEITHER TO PREVENT THE EXCISION NOR TO ARREST THE GIRLS' PARENTS.

WOMEN'S ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS HAVE SPONSORED CAMPAIGNS AGAINST FGM, FORCED MARRIAGE AND MARRIAGE OF MINORS, PATTERNS OF INHERITANCE THAT EXCLUDE WOMEN, AND OTHER PRACTICES CONSIDERED HARMFUL TO WOMEN AND GIRLS. IN 1997 THE MINISTRY OF THE FAMILY AND WOMEN'S AFFAIRS ORGANIZED A SEMINAR ON FGM. IN SOME AREAS TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES, WHO GENERALLY HAVE UPHELD THE PRACTICE, BEGAN TO TAKE PART IN PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST FGM.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

UNTIL RECENTLY THERE WERE NO LAWS MANDATING ACCESSIBILITY TO BUILDINGS, TRANSPORTATION OR OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES BY THE DISABLED. HOWEVER, ON OCTOBER 30, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ENACTED A LAW, SPONSORED BY THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE, THAT REQUIRES THE STATE TO EDUCATE AND TRAIN THE DISABLED, TO HIRE THEM OR HELP THEM FIND JOBS, TO DESIGN HOUSES AND PUBLIC FACILITIES FOR WHEELCHAIR ACCESS, AND TO ADAPT MACHINES, TOOLS, AND WORK SPACES FOR ACCESS AND USE BY THE DISABLED. THE LAW COVERS INDIVIDUALS WITH PHYSICAL, MENTAL, VISUAL, AUDITORY, AND CEREBRAL MOTOR DISABILITIES. LAWS ALSO EXIST THAT PROHIBIT THE ABANDONMENT OF THE MENTALLY OR PHYSICALLY DISABLED AND ENJOIN ACTS OF VIOLENCE DIRECTED AT THEM. TRADITIONAL PRACTICES, BELIEFS, AND

SUPERSTITIONS VARY, BUT INFANTICIDE IN CASES OF SERIOUS BIRTH DISABILITIES IS LESS COMMON THAN IN THE PAST. DISABLED ADULTS ARE NOT SPECIFIC TARGETS OF ABUSE, BUT THEY ENCOUNTER SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN COMPETING WITH ABLE-BODIED WORKERS. THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS SPECIAL SCHOOLS, ASSOCIATIONS, AND ARTISANS' COOPERATIVES FOR THE DISABLED, BUT CRIPPLED PERSONS STILL BEG ON URBAN STREETS AND IN COMMERCIAL ZONES.

#### NATIONAL RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITIES

THE COUNTRY'S POPULATION OF ABOUT 15 MILLION IS ETHNICALLY DIVERSE. THE CITIZENRY--WHICH EXCLUDES THE LARGE NON-CITIZEN PART OF THE POPULATION--IS MADE UP OF FIVE MAJOR FAMILIES OF ETHNIC GROUPS. THE AKAN FAMILY MADE UP MORE THAN 40 PERCENT OF THE CITIZENRY, ACCORDING TO THE 1988 CENSUS; THE LARGEST AKAN ETHNIC GROUP, AND THE LARGEST ETHNIC GROUP IN THE COUNTRY, WAS THE BAOULE, TO WHICH PERHAPS ONE-FOURTH OF ALL CITIZENS BELONG. ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF CITIZENS BELONG TO THE MANDE FAMILY, OF WHICH THE MALINKE ARE THE LARGEST GROUP. ABOUT 15 PERCENT OF CITIZENS BELONG TO THE KROU FAMILY, OF WHICH THE BETE ARE THE LARGEST GROUP. SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 15 PERCENT ALSO BELONG TO THE VOLTAIC FAMILY, OF WHICH THE SENOFO ARE THE LARGEST GROUP. MAJOR ETHNIC GROUPS GENERALLY HAVE THEIR OWN PRIMARY LANGUAGES AND THEIR NON-URBAN POPULATIONS TEND TO BE CONCENTRATED REGIONALLY.

BETWEEN 30 AND 40 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION ARE AFRICANS, MOSTLY FROM POORER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES SUCH AS MALI AND BURKINA FASO, WHO MAY NOT LEGALLY CLAIM CITIZENSHIP. BIRTH ON IVOIRIAN NATIONAL TERRITORY DOES NOT CONFER CITIZENSHIP. THE ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF THE WHOLE POPULATION INCLUDING THESE NON-CITIZENS IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE CITIZENRY ALONE.

SOCIETAL DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF ETHNICITY IS SOMETIMES PRACTICED BY MEMBERS OF ALL ETHNIC GROUPS. URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS STILL HAVE IDENTIFIABLE ETHNIC CHARACTERISTICS, AND MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES TEND TO HAVE IDENTIFIABLE ETHNIC AND REGIONAL BASES, ALTHOUGH INTERETHNIC MARRIAGE IS INCREASINGLY COMMON IN URBAN AREAS.

SOME ETHNIC GROUPS INCLUDE MANY NON-CITIZENS, AND THEIR SHARE OF THE ELECTORATE WOULD BE INCREASED BY ENFRANCHISING NON-CITIZENS. OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS INCLUDE FEW NON-CITIZENS, AND THEIR SHARE OF THE ELECTORATE WOULD BE DECREASED BY ENFRANCHISING NON-CITIZENS. THERE ARE SOCIETAL AND POLITICAL TENSIONS BETWEEN THESE TWO SETS OF ETHNIC GROUPS. THIS CLEAVAGE CORRESPONDS TO SOME EXTENT TO REGIONAL DIFFERENCES; ETHNIC GROUPS THAT INCLUDE MANY NON-CITIZENS ARE FOUND CHIEFLY IN THE NORTH. MEMBERS OF NORTHERN ETHNIC GROUPS THAT ARE FOUND IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AS WELL AS IN COTE D'IVOIRE ARE UNCLAS E F T O SECTION 04 OF 06 ABIDJAN 007446

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E.O. 12958: N/A  
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SUBJECT: 1999 COUNTRY HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR COTE  
D'IVOIRE - PART III OF III

OFTEN REQUIRED TO DOCUMENT THEIR CITIZENSHIP, WHEREAS MEMBERS OF POLITICALLY POWERFUL ETHNIC GROUPS, SUCH AS THE BAOULE AND THE AGNI, REPORTEDLY DO NOT HAVE THIS PROBLEM. POLICE ROUTINELY ABUSE AND HARASS NON-CITIZEN AFRICANS RESIDING IN THE COUNTRY. OFFICIAL HARASSMENT REFLECTS THE FREQUENTLY ENCOUNTERED CONVICTION THAT FOREIGNERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIGH LOCAL CRIME RATES, AS WELL AS CONCERN FOR IVOIRIAN NATIONAL IDENTITY.

ELECTION LAW CHANGES IN 1994 LIMITED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO THOSE WHO COULD PROVE THAT BOTH PARENTS HAD BEEN BORN IN COTE D'IVOIRE. THIS RESTRICTION WAS INCORPORATED INTO THE CONSTITUTION IN JUNE 1998. IN JULY 1998 THE GOVERNMENT TRIPLED THE COST OF THE RESIDENCE PERMITS THAT NON-CITIZENS WHOM THE GOVERNMENT REGARDS AS NATIONALS OF OTHER WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE REQUIRED TO CARRY, WHILE GREATLY REDUCING THE COST OF NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR CITIZENS. THIS DISCRIMINATORY LAW TENDED TO PERPETUATE THE POLITICAL DISENFRANCHISEMENT OF NON-CITIZENS BY MAKING IT HARDER FOR THEM TO BECOME CITIZENS. IT ALSO TENDED TO ENTRENCH THE ELECTORAL POWER OF ETHNIC GROUPS, SUCH AS THE BAOULE.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE BAOULE GROUP AND OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS, ESPECIALLY THE BETE, ARE A MAJOR SOURCE OF POLITICAL TENSIONS AND HAVE REPEATEDLY ERUPTED INTO VIOLENCE, MOST RECENTLY IN 1997. MANY MEMBERS OF THE BAOULE GROUP, WHICH HAS LONG INHABITED THE EAST-CENTRAL REGION, HAVE SETTLED IN TOWNS AND ON PREVIOUSLY UNCULTIVATED LAND IN OTHER AREAS, ESPECIALLY IN MORE WESTERLY REGIONS. IN THE PAST, THE GOVERNMENT GENERALLY HAS VIEWED USE OF LAND AS CONFERRING DE FACTO OWNERSHIP OF LAND. IN 1998, HOWEVER, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ENACTED A NEW LAND USE LAW THAT ESTABLISHES THAT LAND TITLE DOES NOT TRANSFER FROM THE TRADITIONAL OWNER TO THE USER SIMPLY BY VIRTUE OF USE.

MEMBERS OF THE BAOULE ETHNIC GROUP DOMINATE THE RULING PDCI PARTY AND ARE WIDELY BELIEVED TO HOLD DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBERS OF POSITIONS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, INCLUDING THE SECURITY FORCES, THE CIVIL SERVICE, AND STATE-OWNED BUSINESSES (SEE SECTION 3). IN 1998 AND 1999, A SERVING NON-BAOULE AND A FORMER NON-BAOULE ARMY OFFICER COMPLAINED PUBLICLY, IN LETTERS PUBLISHED IN PRIVATE NEWSPAPERS, ABOUT ETHNIC DISCRIMINATION AGAINST NON-BAOULES IN THE ARMED FORCES; THE SERVING OFFICER WAS REPRIMANDED BY THE MINISTRY OF

DEFENSE. SECURITY FORCES WRE ACCUSED OF FAVORING BAOULES IN 1997 VIOLENCE BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE BAOULE AND GUERE ETHNIC GROPS.

IN MAY 1998 THE GOVERNMENT ORDERED THE DOZO, A GROUP OF TRADITIONAL HUNTERS FROM THE NORTH ND NORTHWEST REGIONS, TO CEASE ACTIVITIES "OUTSIE THE GEOGRAPHIC AND CULTURAL SPHERE OF THEIR ORIGIN," AND TO SURRENDER ANY MODERN WEAPONS. SOME EPORTS POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ORDER CME SHORTLY AFTER DOZOS, SOME OF WHOM LONG HAD SEVED AS BODYGUARDS FOR RULING PARTY POLITICIANS, EGAN TO PERFORM SECURITY FUNCTIONS FOR OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS AND RALLIES. GOVERNMENT AND DOZO POKESPERSONS INDICATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ORDER RESPONDED TO INFILTRATION OF THE DOZOS BY "FALSEDOZOS" WHO HAD BEGUN TO USE EXCESSIVE FORCE IN TEIR PRIVATE SECURITY ROLES.

IN JULY 1998 MEMBERS OF THE AGNI ETHNIC GROUP BURNED VILLAGES OF DECENDANTS OF BOZO IMMIGRANTS IN A FISHING RIGHTS DISPUTE AND DROVE MANY BOZOS BACK TO THEIR ANCESTRAL AREAS IN MALI. GHANAIAAN FANTI FISHERMEN WERE SIMILARLY DRIVEN OUT OF PARTS OF SOUTHWESTERN COTE D'IVOIRE IN DECEMBER 1998.

#### SECTION 6 WORKER RIGHTS

##### A. THE RIGHT OF ASSOCIATION

THE LAW PROVIDES WORKERS WITH THE RIGHT TO FORM UNIONS. REGISTRATION OF A NEW UNION REQUIRES 3 MONTHS. FOR ALMOST 30 YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED LABOR CONFEDERATION, THE GENERAL UNION OF WORKERS OF COTE D'IVOIRE (UGTCI), DOMINATED MOST UNION ACTIVITY. THE UGTCI'S HOLD ON THE LABOR MOVEMENT LOOSENED IN 1991 WHEN SEVERAL FORMERLY UGTCI-AFFILIATED UNIONS BROKE AWAY AND BECAME INDEPENDENT. IN 1992 11 FORMERLY INDEPENDENT UNIONS JOINED TOGETHER TO FORM THE FEDERATION OF AUTONOMOUS TRADE UNIONS OF COTE D'IVOIRE. THERE ARE NOW ALSO TWO OTHER REGISTERED LABOR FEDERATIONS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

UNCLAS E F T O SECTION 05 OF 06 ABIDJAN 007446

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E.O. 12958: N/A  
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SUBJECT: 1999 COUNTRY HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR COTE D'IVOIRE - PART III OF III

ALTHOUGH UNIONS ARE LEGALLY FREE TO LEAVE THE UGTCI AND JOIN ANOTHER FEDERATION, IN PRACTICE THEIR CHOICE IS RESTRICTED BY ANTI-COMPETITIVE OFFICIAL DISCRIMINATION IN FAVOR OF THE GOVERNMENT-AFFILIATED UGTCI. ON

SEPTEMBER 26, 1998, AFTER A THREE-YEAR STRUGGLE AND THANKS TO INTERVENTION BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION, LABOR INSPECTORS WERE OBLIGED TO ORGANIZE AN ELECTION OF UNION DELEGATES AT THE SIP CATA COMPANY IN SAN PEDRO, AND TO ALLOW "DIGNITE," AN INDEPENDENT LABOR FEDERATION TO COMPETE WITH THE UGTCI. DIGNITE'S CANDIDATES WON THE ELECTION, AND THE UNION SWITCHED ITS AFFILIATION TO DIGNITE.

THE RIGHT TO STRIKE IS PROVIDED BY THE CONSTITUTION AND BY STATUTE. THE LABOR CODE REQUIRES A PROTRACTED SERIES OF NEGOTIATIONS AND A 6-DAY NOTIFICATION PERIOD BEFORE A STRIKE MAY TAKE PLACE, EFFECTIVELY MAKING LEGAL STRIKES DIFFICULT TO ORGANIZE. THE UGTCI CALLED A STRIKE IN JUNE TO PROTEST CONTINUING LOW WAGE INCREASES AND LACK OF FUNDING FOR THE SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICAL SYSTEMS. BAILIFFS AND CUSTOMS OFFICERS ALSO WENT ON STRIKE. NON-UGTCI UNIONS ALSO CALLED STRIKES OF LAWYERS, GARBAGE COLLECTORS, STREET CLEANERS, AND TAXI DRIVERS.

TWELVE EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT BROADCAST MEDIA COMPANY, RTI, WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN APRIL 1997 IN A STRIKE THAT REPORTEDLY CAUSED AN INTERRUPTION OF RTI BROADCASTING, WERE TRIED IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1998 ON CHARGES, FILED IN MAY 1997, OF DISTURBING PUBLIC ORDER, WILLFUL DESTRUCTION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY, AND INTERFERING WITH PUBLIC SERVICES. THEY HAD BEEN DETAINED FOR 3 MONTHS IN 1997. THE JUDGE FINALLY RENDERED A VERDICT IN JANUARY 1999, ACQUITTING SIX AND CONVICTING THE OTHER SIX. THOSE CONVICTED WERE GIVEN SUSPENDED SIX-MONTH SENTENCES AND FINES OF 50,000 FCFA EACH.

UNIONS ARE FREE TO JOIN INTERNATIONAL BODIES.

#### B. THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AND BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY

THE LABOR CODE GRANTS ALL CITIZENS, EXCEPT MEMBERS OF THE POLICE AND MILITARY, THE RIGHTS TO JOIN UNIONS AND TO BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS ARE IN EFFECT IN MANY MAJOR BUSINESS ENTERPRISES AND SECTORS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE. IN MOST CASES IN WHICH WAGES ARE NOT ESTABLISHED IN DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS, SALARIES ARE SET BY JOB CATEGORIES BY THE MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT AND CIVIL SERVICE. LABOR INSPECTORS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ENFORCE A LAW THAT PROHIBITS ANTIUNION DISCRIMINATION. THERE HAVE BEEN NO KNOWN PROSECUTIONS OR CONVICTIONS UNDER THIS LAW.

THERE WERE NO EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES.

#### C. PROHIBITION OF FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOR

FORCED LABOR IS PROHIBITED BY LAW; HOWEVER, THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION'S COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS IN ITS 1993 ANNUAL REPORT QUESTIONED A DECREE THAT PLACES CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF PRISONERS AT THE DISPOSAL

OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISES FOR WORK ASSIGNMENTS WITHOUT THEIR APPARENT CONSENT. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THIS DECREE.

THE LAW PROHIBITS FORCED AND BONDED CHILD LABOR; HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ENFORCE THAT PROHIBITION EFFECTIVELY. IN SEPTEMBER 1998 A PRIVATE ABIDJAN DAILY NEWSPAPER EXPOSED THE WIDESPREAD PRACTICE OF IMPORTING AND INDENTURING OF MALIAN BOYS FOR FIELD WORK ON IVOIRIAN PLANTATIONS UNDER ABUSIVE CONDITIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, CHILDREN RECRUITED BY MALIANS IN THE BORDER TOWN OF SIKASSO WERE PROMISED EASY AND LUCRATIVE JOBS IN COTE D'IVOIRE, TRANSPORTED ACROSS THE BORDER, AND THEN SOLD TO OTHER MALIANS WHO DISPERSED THEM THROUGHOUT THE PLANTATIONS OF THE CENTRAL REGION. THESE CHILDREN WERE FORCED TO WORK 12-HOUR DAYS IN THE FIELDS AND WERE LOCKED AT NIGHT IN CROWDED SHEDS, WITH THEIR CLOTHING CONFISCATED. THE GOVERNMENTS OF MALI AND COTE D'IVOIRE CONFIRMED THE REPORTS. THE GOVERNMENT OF MALI AND THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF) TOOK STEPS TO HALT THIS TRAFFICKING AND REPATRIATE THE CHILDREN TO MALI. ABOUT 100 CHILDREN FROM MALI HAD BEEN RETURNED TO THEIR FAMILIES IN 1998. THE EXTENT OF THIS PRACTICE WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE, BECAUSE MANY MALIAN ADULTS ALSO WORKED ON IVOIRIAN PLANTATIONS IN THE SAME AREA UNDER DIFFICULT CONDITIONS.

MALI WAS NOT THE ONLY SOURCE OF FORCED CHILD LABOR USED  
UNCLAS E F T O SECTION 06 OF 06 ABIDJAN 007446

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SUBJECT: 1999 COUNTRY HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR COTE  
D'IVOIRE - PART III OF III

IN THE COUNTRY. IN JANUARY, ELEVEN 10- AND 11-YEAR-OLD NIGERIAN GIRLS WHO HAD BEEN BROUGHT FROM LAGOS, NIGERIA, TO ABIDJAN WERE FOUND AND REPATRIATED. ON JUNE 11, 13 BENINESE GIRLS RANGING FROM 4 TO 10 YEARS OLD WERE INTERCEPTED AT COTE D'IVOIRE'S BORDER WITH GHANA, AND BENINESE CHILD TRAFFICKERS MARCELIN DAGBEGNON AND ANTOINE ASSOGBA WERE ARRESTED. ACCORDING TO "SOIR INFO," AN ABIDJAN DAILY, IN 1998 BENINESE POLICE INTERCEPTED ALMOST 1,000 CHILDREN WHO WERE BEING "SOLD INTO SLAVERY" IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. IN JULY 1999, POLICE IN DIVO BROKE UP A RING OF CHILD TRAFFICKERS WHO HAD BROUGHT CHILDREN FROM BURKINA FASO TO WORK ON FARMS AND PLANTATIONS IN COTE D'IVOIRE. POLICE RELEASED AND ARRANGED FOR THE REPATRIATION OF SIX TEENAGERS AND WERE SEEKING 11 OTHERS WHO HAD ALREADY BEEN PLACED WITH IVOIRIAN FAMILIES KNOWN TO TRAFFICKER MADELEINE N'DA ADJOUA.

D. STATUS OF CHILD LABOR PRACTICES AND MINIMUM AGE FOR EMPLOYMENT

IN MOST INSTANCES, THE LEGAL MINIMUM WORKING AGE IS 16. HOWEVER, THE MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT AND CIVIL SERVICE ENFORCES THIS PROVISION EFFECTIVELY ONLY IN THE CIVIL SECTOR AND IN LARGE MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES. LABOR LAW LIMITS THE HOURS OF YOUNG WORKERS, DEFINED AS THOSE UNDER THE AGE OF 18. HOWEVER, CHILDREN OFTEN WORK ON FAMILY FARMS, AND SOME CHILDREN ROUTINELY ACT AS VENDORS, SHOE SHINERS, ERRAND BOYS, CAR WATCHERS, AND WASHERS OF CAR WINDOWS IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR IN CITIES. THERE ARE RELIABLE REPORTS OF SOME USE OF CHILD LABOR IN INFORMAL-SECTOR MINING AND ALSO OF CHILDREN WORKING IN "SWEATSHOP" CONDITIONS IN SMALL WORKSHOPS. PRIMARY EDUCATION IS MANDATORY BUT FAR FROM UNIVERSALLY ENFORCED, PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AREAS. MANY CHILDREN LEAVE THE FORMAL SCHOOL SYSTEM WHEN THEY ARE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 12 AND 14, HAVING FAILED SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMS.

ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT PROHIBITS FORCED AND BONDED CHILD LABOR, IT DOES NOT ENFORCE THIS PROHIBITION EFFECTIVELY. THERE WAS WIDESPREAD ABUSE OF FOREIGN CHILDREN FOR FORCED LABOR ON AGRICULTURAL PLANTATIONS (SEE SECTION 6.C.).

E. ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS OF WORK

THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVELY DETERMINES MONTHLY MINIMUM WAGE RATES, WHICH WERE LAST ADJUSTED IN 1996. A SLIGHTLY HIGHER MINIMUM WAGE RATE APPLIES FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS. THE GOVERNMENT ENFORCES THE MINIMUM WAGE RATES ONLY FOR SALARIED WORKERS EMPLOYED BY THE GOVERNMENT OR REGISTERED WITH THE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE. MINIMUM WAGES VARY ACCORDING TO OCCUPATION, WITH THE LOWEST SET AT APPROXIMATELY \$67.90 (36,607 FCFA) PER MONTH, WHICH IS INSUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING FOR A WORKER AND FAMILY. THE MAJORITY OF THE LABOR FORCE WORKS IN AGRICULTURE OR IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR WHERE THE MINIMUM WAGE DOES NOT APPLY.

THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT AND THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE GOVERNMENT ENFORCES A COMPREHENSIVE LABOR CODE THAT GOVERNS THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR WAGE EARNERS AND SALARIED WORKERS AND PROVIDES FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS. THOSE EMPLOYED IN THE FORMAL SECTOR GENERALLY ARE PROTECTED AGAINST UNJUST COMPENSATION, EXCESSIVE HOURS, AND ARBITRARY DISCHARGE FROM EMPLOYMENT. THE STANDARD LEGAL WORKWEEK IS 40 HOURS. THE LAW REQUIRES OVERTIME PAYMENT ON A GRADUATED SCALE FOR ADDITIONAL HOURS. THE LABOR CODE PROVIDES FOR AT LEAST ONE 24-HOUR REST PERIOD PER WEEK.

GOVERNMENT LABOR INSPECTORS CAN ORDER EMPLOYERS TO IMPROVE SUBSTANDARD CONDITIONS, AND A LABOR COURT CAN

LEVY FINES IF THE EMPLOYER FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE LABOR CODE. HOWEVER, IN THE LARGE INFORMAL SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY INVOLVING BOTH URBAN AND RURAL WORKERS, THE GOVERNMENT'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS ARE ENFORCED ERRATICALLY, IF AT ALL. WORKERS IN THE FORMAL SECTOR HAVE THE RIGHT, UNDER THE LABOR CODE, TO REMOVE THEMSELVES FROM DANGEROUS WORK SITUATIONS WITHOUT JEOPARDY TO CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT BY UTILIZING THE MINISTRY OF LABOR'S INSPECTION SYSTEM TO DOCUMENT DANGEROUS WORKING CONDITIONS. WORKERS IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR, HOWEVER, ORDINARILY CANNOT REMOVE THEMSELVES FROM SUCH LABOR WITHOUT RISKING THE LOSS OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT.

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# Cable

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**PREC:** ROUTINE  
**CLASS:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**LINE1:** RAAUZYUW RUEHCAA4665 2732001-UUUU--RHEHAAX.  
**LINE2:** ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
**LINE3:** R 301957Z SEP 99  
**LINE4:** FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
**OSRI:** RUEHC  
**DTG:** 301957Z SEP 99  
**ORIG:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**TO:** ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS  
SPECIAL EMBASSY PROGRAM  
**INFO:** ////  
**SUBJ:** 1999 WORLDWIDE LABOR OFFICERS CONFERENCE: SUMMARY  
REPORT

**TEXT:**

UNCLAS STATE 184665

FOR LABOR OFFICERS AND LRO'S

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PHUM, APER

SUBJECT: 1999 WORLDWIDE LABOR OFFICERS CONFERENCE: SUMMARY  
REPORT

1. THIS IS BOTH A SUMMARY CABLE AND AN ACTION REQUEST  
WHICH HAS BEEN CLEARED BY M/P (SEP). SEE PARAGRAPH 17.

2. THE SECOND ANNUAL WORLDWIDE LABOR OFFICER CONFERENCE  
WAS HELD IN WASHINGTON ON JULY 22 AND 23. THERE WERE OVER  
100 PARTICIPANTS IN ATTENDANCE INCLUDING 25 CURRENTLY  
SERVING LABOR OFFICERS, 17 STUDENTS IN THE LABOR OFFICER  
TRAINING PROGRAM, AND SEVERAL FORMER LABOR OFFICERS AS  
WELL AS PARTICIPANTS FROM DRL, IO, EB AND THE REGIONAL  
BUREAUS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, THE AFL-CIO AND THE RECENTLY-ESTABLISHED  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LABOR DIPLOMACY. THE ONE-AND-A-  
HALF-DAY CONFERENCE FEATURED PANELS ON THE ROLE OF LABOR  
IN MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS; CHILD LABOR; THE ROLE OF  
USAID IN LABOR PROGRAMS; THE USE OF THE INTERNET IN  
FURTHERING LABOR DIPLOMACY; THE FUTURE OF THE LABOR  
FUNCTION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; THE ROLE OF THE AFL-  
CIO'S SOLIDARITY CENTER; THE ROLE OF LABOR IN THE GLOBAL

ECONOMY; AND CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVES. AFL-  
CIO PRESIDENT JOHN SWEENEY GAVE A KEYNOTE ADDRESS DURING  
THE RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE FIRST DAY SESSION. SEE  
SEPTELS FOR MORE DETAILED REPORTING ON EACH OF THE PANELS.

INTRODUCTORY SESSION  
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3. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND LABOR (DRL), HAROLD HONGJU KOH, INAUGURATED THE CONFERENCE BY DECLARING THAT DRL'S CENTRAL MISSION IS THE WORLDWIDE PROMOTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS THAT ARE ENSHRINED IN THE 1948 UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HE NOTED THAT ARTICLE 23 OF THE DECLARATION ASSERTS THAT EMPLOYEES HAVE THE RIGHT TO WORK WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION UNDER JUST AND FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR JUST AND FAVORABLE REMUNERATION, AND THAT THEY ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO FORM AND JOIN TRADE UNIONS.

4. TURNING TO HIS WORK IN DRL THUS FAR, MR. KOH EXPLAINED THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD ONLY BEEN IN HIS JOB FOR EIGHT MONTHS, HE HAS ALREADY HAD A CHANCE TO TRAVEL WIDELY AND MEET MANY LABOR OFFICERS OVERSEAS. AFTER A WARM TRIBUTE TO RETIRING DRL/IL DIRECTOR, NICK STIGLIANI, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY INTRODUCED UNDER SECRETARY FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS FRANK LOY.

5. AFTER ECHOING ASSISTANT SECRETARY KOH'S CORDIAL STATEMENTS TO THE ATTENDING LABOR OFFICERS IN THE ROOM, UNDER SECRETARY LOY TRACED THE HISTORY OF LABOR DIPLOMACY. HE SAID THAT LABOR WORK DURING THE COLD WAR PERIOD WAS LARGELY AN EFFORT TO KEEP LABOR MOVEMENTS AROUND THE WORLD FROM BECOMING ALLIED TO THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT. THE UNDER SECRETARY STATED THAT DURING THE POST-COLD WAR PERIOD, HOWEVER, THE ISSUES HAVE SHIFTED DRAMATICALLY REQUIRING A NEW FOCUS AROUND 1) THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO), 2) EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT CORE LABOR STANDARDS WORLDWIDE, AND 3) GLOBALIZATION OF TRADE AND MARKETS.

6. MR. LOY STRESSED THAT UNDERSTANDING THE PUBLIC ATTITUDE TOWARD GLOBALIZATION AND ITS IMPACT UPON SOCIETY

IS THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING WHAT LABOR OFFICERS WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS IN THE YEARS TO COME. HE FOLLOWED WITH A SERIES OF ANECDOTES ILLUSTRATING THAT SOME WORKERS AND BUSINESS PEOPLE IN THE US ARE DISMAYED AND UPSET BECAUSE EVENTS IN FAR CORNERS OF THE GLOBE NEGATIVELY AFFECT THEM. THE UNDER SECRETARY STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH GLOBALIZATION IS INEXORABLE; ITS EFFECT ON THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD CAN BE EITHER POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE. HE THEN EXHORTED THE LABOR OFFICERS PRESENT TO WORK SO THAT GLOBALIZATION IS CARRIED OUT IN A WAY THAT SUPPORTS FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS, RAISES LIVING STANDARDS, AND PROMOTES STABILITY.

7. WITH RESPECT TO CONCERNS THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT GIVEN ADEQUATE ATTENTION TO LABOR DIPLOMACY, THE UNDER SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL) HAS JOINED THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND ESPECIALLY DRL, IN AN EFFORT TO MAINSTREAM LABOR ISSUES. THE DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN STEPS TO REVITALIZE THE LABOR FUNCTION BY EXPOSING MANY FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS TO THESE ISSUES. HE STATED THAT LABOR ISSUES SHOULD NOT BE TREATED AS AN ARCANE SUBJECT OF EXPERTISE FOR ONLY A FEW FOREIGN SERVICE

OFFICERS. BESIDE HOLDING ANNUAL WORLDWIDE LABOR OFFICER CONFERENCES, THIS REVITALIZATION IS REFLECTED IN A NUMBER OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND INITIATIVES:

- AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LABOR DIPLOMACY CHAIRED BY FORMER AFL-CIO PRESIDENT TOM DONAHUE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO ADVISE THE PRESIDENT AND THE DEPARTMENT.
- A STATE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOR DIPLOMACY IS ABOUT TO BE APPOINTED;
- THE NUMBER OF LABOR DESIGNATED POSITIONS OVERSEAS HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM 35 TO 49;
- THE NUMBER OF LABOR OFFICERS IN DRL IS BEING INCREASED;
- DOL HAS DETAILED SEVERAL DOL OFFICERS TO WORK IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS LABOR OFFICERS, OVERSEAS AS WELL AS IN WASHINGTON, AS PART OF AN EMPLOYEE EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN STATE AND LABOR.

8. UNDER SECRETARY LOY CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY THANKING THE LABOR OFFICERS IN FROM THE FIELD FOR THE WORK THEY ARE DOING IN THEIR PRESENT ASSIGNMENTS AND WISHING THE NEW OFFICERS WELL IN THEIR UPCOMING ASSIGNMENTS.

9. ASSISTANT SECRETARY KOH THEN INTRODUCED DRL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, BENNETT FREEMAN. DAS FREEMAN BEGAN HIS REMARKS BY EXPLAINING THAT DRL, SUPPORTED BY OTHER BUREAUS, HAD BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY BUSY LATELY PREPARING FOR JUNE'S LANDMARK INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO) MEETING IN GENEVA, WHICH ADOPTED THE CONVENTION ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR AND WHICH WAS HONORED BY A SPEECH FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT DRL HAS ALSO BEEN WORKING ON:

- ANTI-SWEATSHOP INITIATIVES;
- ISSUES GENERATED BY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND CORE LABOR STANDARDS, INCLUDING LINKS BETWEEN THE ILO AND WTO;
- GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) AND OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION (OPIC) ISSUES;
- LABOR ISSUES RAISED BY USG PRINCIPALS ON OVERSEAS TRIPS (SUCH AS THE RECENT TEXTILE AGREEMENT IN CAMBODIA); AND
- PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLDWIDE LABOR OFFICERS CONFERENCE AND OTHER EVENTS RELATED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTITUTIONAL REVITALIZATION OF ITS LABOR FUNCTION, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ADVISORY-COMMITTEE ON LABOR DIPLOMACY.

KEYNOTE REMARKS BY JOHN SWEENEY, PRESIDENT OF AFL-CIO

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10. IN ADDITION TO PARTICIPANTS FROM THE CONFERENCE, THE AUDIENCE AT THE LATE AFTERNOON RECEPTION INCLUDED, LABOR OFFICERS OF WASHINGTON EMBASSIES, DOS AND DOL OFFICIALS, UNION OFFICIALS, AND NGO REPRESENTATIVES. MR. SWEENEY WAS INTRODUCED BY A/S KOH. THE PREPARED TEXT OF HIS HIS REMARKS FOLLOWS.

11. "THE AFL-CIO HAS A STRONG INTEREST IN THE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES OF THE USG, AND HAS ALWAYS MAINTAINED A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH US LABOR OFFICERS OVERSEAS. THE FACT THAT THE WORLDWIDE LABOR OFFICERS CONFERENCE IS NOW IN ITS SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR, AFTER A LONG HIATUS, DEMONSTRATES THE RENEWED COMMITMENT OF THE USG TO THE LABOR FUNCTION IN US

DIPLOMACY. THE WORK OF LABOR OFFICERS IS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT IN THE CONDUCT OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY, AND INCREASINGLY VALUABLE TO OUR POLICY-MAKERS. YOU (LABOR OFFICERS) NEED THE TOOLS TO DO YOUR JOBS EFFECTIVELY, AND THIS CONFERENCE WILL HELP IN THAT PROCESS.

12. "EVERYBODY IS TALKING ABOUT GLOBALIZATION AND ITS EFFECTS. OUR FOCUS IS ON HOW IT AFFECTS THE FAMILIES OF WORKING PEOPLE HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD. DOES GLOBALIZATION MEAN THERE WILL BE MORE PROSPERITY FOR ALL? OR DOES IT MEAN THERE WILL BE EVEN GREATER DISPARITY BETWEEN RICH AND POOR? YOU HELP OUR POLICY-MAKERS UNDERSTAND HOW GLOBALIZATION AFFECTS WORKING FAMILIES. YOU MUST BE EFFECTIVE ADVOCATES FOR THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS, ENSURING THAT THEIR INTERESTS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THIS PROCESS OF GLOBALIZATION. THIS IS IMPORTANT TO WORKERS IN THE US JUST AS MUCH AS TO WORKERS IN ALL THE COUNTRIES WHERE YOU ARE, OR WILL SOON BE, WORKING.

13. "OVER THE YEARS, YOURS HAS OFTEN BEEN A LONELY VOICE IN THE POLICY ARENA, BUT YOU ARE NO LONGER LOST IN THE WILDERNESS AS YOUR NUMBERS GROW AND AS YOUR WORK GROWS IN STATUS. THIS IS LONG OVERDUE. THE AFL-CIO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS FOR SEVERAL YEARS WITH THE WHITE HOUSE AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE LABOR DIPLOMACY FUNCTION. WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE NEW PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ARE HERE THIS EVENING, AND WE RECOGNIZE THAT SECRETARIES ALBRIGHT AND HERMAN ARE BOTH COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING THE LABOR FUNCTION.

14. "YOU REPRESENT NOT ONLY OUR WORKERS, BUT OUR COUNTRY. WE IN THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT HAVE HIGH RESPECT FOR THE WORK YOU DO, AND WE WELL APPRECIATE THE VALUE OF THAT WORK. WE ARE YOUR CONSTITUENCY, AND WE STAND READY TO ASSIST YOU IN ANY WAY WE CAN. I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET YOU ALL, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN THE COMING YEARS."

CLOSING REMARKS BY DRL ASSISTANT SECRETARY KOH  
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15. IN CLOSING THE CONFERENCE ON JULY 23, MR. KOH OPENED BY SAYING THAT LABOR DIPLOMACY IS OFTEN CONSIDERED AN OXYMORON. GLOBALIZATION SHOULD BE A RACE TO THE TOP, NOT TO THE BOTTOM. WE MUST ELIMINATE EXPLOITATION AS A MEANS OF COMPETING. IT SHOULD BE COMPETITION THROUGH PERSPIRATION, NOT THROUGH EXPLOITATION. MR. KOH CONTINUED BY MAKING SOME BASIC OBSERVATIONS:

-- THE IMPORTANCE OF LABOR ISSUES IS BETTER UNDERSTOOD.  
-- GLOBALIZATION WITH A HUMAN FACE IS NOW AN OBJECTIVE

SET BY THE PRESIDENT.

-- LABOR OFFICERS PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE, FOR THEY ARE AT THE CROSSROADS OF GLOBALIZATION. LABOR OFFICERS HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERMEDIARY INSTITUTIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY.

16. MR. KOH STRESSED THAT THERE IS A NEW DIRECTION FOR LABOR DIPLOMACY, WHICH CAN BE SUMMARIZED BY THE THEMES THAT EMERGED FROM THIS CONFERENCE:

-- GLOBALIZATION: GLOBAL ISSUES ARE BECOMING MORE DOMINANT THAN REGIONAL ISSUES. THERE IS A "MULTILATERALIZATION" OF ISSUES THROUGH INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE ILO AND THE WTO. FOR EXAMPLE, THE BURMA RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE JUNE 1999 ILO CONFERENCE WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED IF ILO WERE STRICTLY AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION BECAUSE THEN COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT HOW THE RESOLUTION COULD BE USED AGAINST THEM IN THE FUTURE. IT WAS THE TRIPARTITE NATURE OF THE ILO WHICH ALLOWED THE RESOLUTION TO BE ADOPTED. WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF AN INFORMATION REVOLUTION. HUMAN RIGHTS CAN EXPAND WHEN THERE IS LESS CENTRALIZED CONTROL OF INFORMATION. THE "FALUN GONG" WEB-SITE IS ONE SUCH EXAMPLE. THERE ARE VERY DIFFERENT SOURCES OF INFORMATION; E-MAIL AND THE WEB. THE LABOR OFFICERS ARE THE EYES AND EARS THAT PROVIDE US WITH CRITICAL INFORMATION TO MAKE JUDGEMENTS AS TO WHAT'S HAPPENING; THEY PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE.

-- INTERNALIZATION: THE KEY TO HUMAN RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT IS THE ACCEPTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AS STANDARDS OF INTERNAL CONDUCT. THE QUESTION IS HOW DO WE GET COUNTRIES TO INTERNALIZE THESE RULES? SANCTIONS, CODES OF CONDUCT, CORPORATE EXHORTATION, INTERNAL DISCIPLINARY

MECHANISMS ARE ALL APPROACHES TO ACHIEVING THIS GOAL. YOU, AS LABOR OFFICERS, WILL SUGGEST NOVEL WAYS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN THIS AREA. THERE IS A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS DOMESTICALLY.

-- INSTITUTIONALIZATION: THERE IS NOW A CRITICAL MASS OF LABOR OFFICERS WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THERE WILL BE A NEW SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS COMING ON BOARD THIS FALL. THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LABOR DIPLOMACY WILL HAVE ITS FIRST MEETING SEPTEMBER 17. THESE LABOR OFFICER CONFERENCES WILL NOW BE AN ANNUAL EVENT. SETTING UP A LABOR OFFICER E-MAIL DISCUSSION LINK THROUGH THE INTRANET WILL HELP TO KEEP A SUBSTANTIVE DIALOGUE FLOWING.

-- PARTNERSHIP: WE MUST HAVE CONTINUED COLLABORATION AMONG THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, THE SOLIDARITY CENTER, USAID, CORPORATIONS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, USTR, EB, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. YOU, AS LABOR OFFICERS, MUST KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN IN THE FIELD FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD MODEL PARTNERSHIPS.

17. ACTION REQUEST. AS A/S KOH NOTED IN HIS CONCLUDING REMARKS, THE WORLDWIDE LABOR OFFICER CONFERENCE WILL BECOME AN ANNUAL EVENT. IN THAT SPIRIT, POSTS ARE ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE LABOR OFFICER CONFERENCE. DRL/IL WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT WORKED AND WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE BETTER. WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE. AN ANNOUNCEMENT CABLE SHOULD GO OUT IN MARCH OR APRIL 2000 REGARDING THE NEXT TWO-DAY CONFERENCE, PROBABLY TO BE CONVENED DURING THE LAST WEEK OF JULY 2000. WE HOPE TO COMBINE THE LABOR OFFICER CONFERENCE WITH A SUMMER MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LABOR DIPLOMACY. PLEASE SLUG YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR DRL/IL. YOU MAY RESPOND BY CABLE, E-MAIL OR FAX (OUR FAX NUMBER IS 647-0431). PLEASE REMEMBER THAT OUR UNCLASSIFIED E-MAIL ADDRESSES ARE LISTED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S GLOBAL DIRECTORY AFTER THE PREFIX (DRL), I.E. JAKE ALLER'S E-MAIL ADDRESS WOULD BE (DRL) JOHN.C.ALLER OR VIA INTERNET E-MAIL: ALLERJC (AT) STATE.GOV. WE HOPE TO

HEAR FROM MANY OF YOU DURING THE COURSE OF THE YEAR AS WE PLAN FOR AN EVEN BETTER LABOR OFFICER CONFERENCE NEXT SUMMER. SEPTELS ON INDIVIDUAL PANEL DISCUSSIONS WILL FOLLOW.

ALBRIGHT

**SECT:** SECTION: 01 OF 01

**SSN:** 4665

**TOR:** 990930160519 M4074809

**DIST:**

SIT: BABBITT BUSBY FELDMAN GUARNIERI NAPLAN SCHWARTZ STROMSETH VACCARO  
SIT: NSC

# Cable

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**PREC:** ROUTINE  
**CLASS:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**LINE1:** RAAUZYUW RUEHCAA9944 2802043-UUUU--RHEHAAX.  
**LINE2:** ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
**LINE3:** R 072041Z OCT 99  
**LINE4:** FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
**OSRI:** RUEHC  
**DTG:** 072041Z OCT 99  
**ORIG:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**TO:** ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS  
SPECIAL EMBASSY PROGRAM  
USOFFICE PRISTINA 0000  
**INFO:** ////  
**SUBJ:** TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS: CONGRESSIONAL FOCUS ON THE  
PROBLEM AND INCREASED REPORTING

**TEXT:**  
UNCLAS STATE 189944  
  
E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PHUM, KSEP, ELAB  
SUBJECT: TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS: CONGRESSIONAL FOCUS ON THE  
PROBLEM AND INCREASED REPORTING

1. THIS IS AN ACTION TELEGRAM. SEE PARAGRAPH 8. THIS TELEGRAM HAS BEEN CLEARED WITH M/P(SEP).
2. TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, PARTICULARLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, HAS BEEN A PRIORITY FOR THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY, AND IS A FOCUS OF INCREASING CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN. TRAFFICKING IS DEFINED AS ALL ACTS INVOLVED IN THE RECRUITMENT, ABDUCTION, TRANSPORT, HARBORING, TRANSFER, SALE, OR RECEIPT OF PERSONS THAT OCCUR WITHIN NATIONAL OR ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS; INVOLVING THE USE OF FORCE, COERCION, FRAUD, OR DECEPTION; AND RESULTING IN PERSONS BEING SUBJECTED TO SLAVERY OR SLAVERY-LIKE CONDITIONS, OR SUBJECTED TO FORCED LABOR OR SERVICES, SUCH AS FORCED PROSTITUTION OR SEXUAL SERVICES, DOMESTIC SERVITUDE, FORCED OR BONDED SWEATSHOP LABOR, OR OTHER DEBT BONDAGE.
3. THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS SUBCOMMITTEE HELD A HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 14 ENTITLED "TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE INTERNATIONAL SEX TRADE," AT WHICH SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CHRIS SMITH ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR FULL COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF HIS BILL, H.R. 1356, THE FREEDOM FROM SEXUAL TRAFFICKING ACT.

4. DRL ASSISTANT SECRETARY HAROLD HONGJU KOH AND DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN THERESA LOAR TESTIFIED THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY HAVE COMMITTED THE ADMINISTRATION TO MAKING THE FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS AN INTEGRAL ASPECT OF OUR OVERALL HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, AND TO COMBAT IT ON BOTH THE DOMESTIC AND THE INTERNATIONAL FRONTS. THEY NOTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AGREED ON THE NEED TO PROVIDE STATUTORY PROTECTION FOR ALIENS IN THE U.S. WHO ARE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING, AND THE VALUE OF STRENGTHENING OUR OWN CRIMINAL LAWS TO HELP BRING TRAFFICKERS TO JUSTICE. THEY ALSO AGREED THAT ENHANCED REPORTING ON ALL FORMS OF TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS AS A VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS IS CRUCIAL TO DETERMINING THE EXTENT AND NATURE OF THE PROBLEM.

5. HOWEVER, BOTH KOH AND LOAR OPPOSED COMPONENTS OF THE SMITH BILL, SUCH AS A NEW, BURDENSOME REQUIREMENT FOR A SEPARATE, FREE-STANDING GLOBAL REPORT ON TRAFFICKING, IN THE MANNER OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REPORT; A NEW LAYER OF BUREAUCRACY; AND MANDATORY SANCTIONS. A/S KOH ALSO TESTIFIED THAT TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS IS A TRANSNATIONAL PROBLEM; THAT TARGETED SANCTIONS AGAINST SPECIFIC STATES ARE FAR LESS EFFECTIVE DETERRENTS WHEN THE PRIMARY MOVING FORCES BEHIND THE PROBLEM ARE NOT NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OR POLICIES, BUT NON-STATE ACTORS; THAT VICTIMS DO NOT ENJOY THE PROTECTION OF ESTABLISHED TRANSNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS CAPABLE OF SPEAKING OUT ON THEIR BEHALF; AND THAT GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD ARE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ISSUE. (THE TESTIMONY IS ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEB SITE.)

6. DEPARTMENT THANKS POSTS FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE WITH COUNTRY BRIEFING PAPERS, WHICH WERE VERY HELPFUL IN

PREPARING FOR THE HEARING. DEPARTMENT ALSO COMMENDS POSTS THAT HAVE TAKEN AN ACTIVE APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM. FOR EXAMPLE, DURING NGO TESTIMONY, ONE WITNESS WHO REPRESENTS A FAITH-BASED NGO THAT RESCUES VICTIMS OF SEXUAL TRAFFICKING AROUND THE WORLD SAID, IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT QUESTION FROM A REPRESENTATIVE, THAT ON OCCASIONS WHEN HIS ORGANIZATION HAS APPROACHED OUR POSTS FOR HELP, THEY HAD RECEIVED NEEDED ASSISTANCE. THIS POSITIVE RESPONSE IS IN KEEPING WITH THE INTEREST IN THE PROBLEM EXPRESSED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY.

7. DEPARTMENT HOPES TO AVOID ANOTHER CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED GLOBAL REPORT ON TRAFFICKING. LEGISLATION CALLING FOR A NEW REPORT HAS BEEN PROPOSED IN BOTH THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE. IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH A NEW BURDEN, AND AFTER CONSULTATION WITH H AND CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS ON THE SENATE SIDE, A COMPROMISE WAS WORKED OUT, AND A/S KOH ANNOUNCED AT THE HEARING THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD ADD A NEW SUBSECTION ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS TO THE ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES. THIS SUBSECTION, TITLED "TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS", WILL BE ADDED TO THE SECTION ON WORKER RIGHTS,

AS SUBSECTION 6.F.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: DRL WILL REORGANIZE MATERIAL ALREADY SUBMITTED BY POSTS IN THE FIRST TWO TRANCHES OF SUBMISSIONS OF EMBASSY DRAFTS OF THE COUNTRY REPORTS. THOSE POSTS NEED NOT/NOT SUBMIT REFORMATTED SECTIONS BUT ARE WELCOME TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IF SUCH BECOMES AVAILABLE. THOSE POSTS THAT HAVE NOT YET SUBMITTED THEIR DRAFTS ARE REQUESTED TO REORGANIZE MATERIAL ON TRAFFICKING IN THEIR DRAFTS IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

--THE BULK OF THE DETAIL ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW SECTION 6.F.

--HOWEVER, IF THERE ARE REPORTS OF TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN, THIS ALSO SHOULD BE SUMMARIZED BRIEFLY IN SECTION 5 IN THE SUBSECTION ON WOMEN, WITH A CROSS-REFERENCE TO SECTION 6.F.

--IF THERE ARE REPORTS ON TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN, THIS ALSO SHOULD BE SUMMARIZED BRIEFLY IN SECTION 5 IN THE SUBSECTION ON CHILDREN, WITH A CROSS-REFERENCE TO SECTION 6.F.

--REPORTS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS BASED ON RELIGION SHOULD BE NOTED BRIEFLY IN SECTION 2.C. AND/OR SECTION 5 (RELIGIOUS MINORITIES) AS APPROPRIATE, WITH A CROSS-REFERENCE TO SECTION 6.F.

--REPORTS OF TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS ALSO SHOULD BE NOTED BRIEFLY IN SECTION 6.C., ON FORCED LABOR, WITH A CROSS-REFERENCE TO SECTION 6.F.

--IF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PARTICIPATE IN TRAFFICKING, THIS SHOULD BE NOTED IN SECTION L.C. AS WELL, WITH A CROSS-REFERENCE TO SECTION 6.F.

--IF TRAFFICKING IS A PROBLEM IN THE COUNTRY, THIS ALSO SHOULD BE NOTED IN THE INTRODUCTION TO THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY REPORT.

--IF THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF TRAFFICKING IN THE COUNTRY, POSTS SHOULD USE THE FOLLOWING STANDARDIZED LANGUAGE FOR SECTION 6.F.: "THERE WERE NO REPORTS THAT PERSONS WERE TRAFFICKED IN, TO, OR FROM THE COUNTRY."

DETAILED GUIDANCE ON HOW TO APPROACH TRAFFICKING CAN BE FOUND ON PP. 50-51 OF THE INSTRUCTIONS ON DRAFTING THE COUNTRY REPORTS, WHICH WERE POUCHED TO POSTS IN JULY.

IN THE PAST, REPORTING HAS FOCUSED LARGELY ON THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES. POSTS SHOULD TRY TO EXPAND THIS FOCUS TO ALSO COVER SITUATIONS WHERE WOMEN, MEN, AND/OR CHILDREN ARE TRAFFICKED INTO FORCED OR BONDED LABOR, DOMESTIC SERVITUDE, COERCED SWEATSHOP LABOR, OR OTHER SLAVERY-LIKE CONDITIONS.

9. DEPARTMENT COMMENDS THOSE POSTS THAT HAVE ALREADY REPORTED BACK ON THE ISSUE OF TRAFFICKING BOTH IN THE COUNTRY REPORTS AND IN CABLES OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

10. QUESTIONS ABOUT USG POLICY AGAINST TRAFFICKING SHOULD BE SLUGGED FOR S/PICW; QUESTIONS REGARDING REPORTING SHOULD BE SLUGGED FOR DRL/CRA.

11. THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO HOLD HEARINGS ON TRAFFICKING IN OCTOBER. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND INPUT FROM POSTS IS WELCOME, AS IS FURTHER REPORTING ON THIS PROBLEM IN GENERAL.

12. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.  
ALBRIGHT

**SECT:** SECTION: 01 OF 01

**SSN:** 9944

**TOR:** 991007164452 M4086876

**DIST:**

SIT: NSC

# Cable

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**PREC:** ROUTINE  
**CLASS:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**LINE1:** RAAUZYUW RUEHCAA3374 2862105-UUUU--RHEHNSC.  
**LINE2:** ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
**LINE3:** R 132100Z OCT 99  
**LINE4:** FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
**OSRI:** RUEHC  
**DTG:** 132100Z OCT 99  
**ORIG:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**TO:** LABOR COLLECTIVE  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 1878  
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE 5934  
**INFO:** RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 8162  
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 2446  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 6566  
RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 0045  
RUEHPU/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE 9478  
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC 9531  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC 0474  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC 0187  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC 9187  
RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT WASHDC 8272  
RUETIAA/NSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD  
**SUBJ:** WORLDWIDE LABOR OFFICERS CONFERENCE: PANELS ON  
JUNE ILC, CHILD LABOR, USAID, AND INTERNET  
**TEXT:**  
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 08 STATE 193374  
  
FOR LABOFFS AND LRO'S, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD  
  
E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, PHUM, EAID, ETRD, ILO  
SUBJECT: WORLDWIDE LABOR OFFICERS CONFERENCE: PANELS ON  
JUNE ILC, CHILD LABOR, USAID, AND INTERNET  
  
REF: STATE 184665

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THIS CABLE REPORTS ON THE FIRST FOUR  
PANEL DISCUSSIONS HELD DURING THE WORLDWIDE LABOR OFFICER'S  
CONFERENCE JULY 22-23. THESE PANELS CONSIDERED:  
-- THE ROLE OF MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS,  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE JUNE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE  
(ILC) AND NEXT STEPS;  
-- CHILD LABOR ISSUES;  
-- THE ROLE OF USAID IN LABOR DIPLOMACY/PROGRAMMING;  
-- NEW TOOLS FOR LABOR DIPLOMACY (USE OF THE INTERNET).  
REFTEL PROVIDED A SUMMARY/OVERVIEW OF THE ENTIRE  
CONFERENCE. TWO OTHER SEPTELS WILL REPORT ON THE REMAINING  
PANELS. END SUMMARY

ROLE OF MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS: JUNE ILC AND NEXT STEPS  
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MODERATOR: ANDREW SAMET

PANELISTS: ANTHONY FREEMAN, ILO WASHINGTON DIRECTOR;  
BARBARA SHAILOR, AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR;  
HUGH NEIGHBOUR, IO/T; JOHN RITCHOTTE, USCIB, MANAGER OF  
INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS

ANDREW SAMET  
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3. MR. SAMET NOTED THAT THIS YEAR WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT PRESIDENT CLINTON HAD MENTIONED THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO) IN A STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS. THIS IS PROGRESS FROM A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, WHEN THERE WAS A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE UNITED STATES NEEDED TO HAVE ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ILO. SAMET SAID THAT THERE WAS NEW LEADERSHIP AT THE ILO AND THAT THE ILO WAS GOING THROUGH A TRANSITION. HE SAID THAT THE ILO IS ABLE TO FRAME LABOR RIGHTS ISSUES.

ANTHONY FREEMAN  
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4. MR. FREEMAN SAID THAT THE LABOR OFFICER CONFERENCE SHOWS THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS MADE A COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING THE LABOR DIPLOMACY FUNCTION AND ADDED THAT HE WAS HONORED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LABOR DIPLOMACY. HE LISTED THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE JUNE CONFERENCE OF THE ILO AS FOLLOWS: 1) THE SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENDANCE AND ADDRESS TO THE ILC; 2) THE ADOPTION OF CONVENTION 182 ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR, WHICH WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY AND WITHOUT ABSTENTION; AND 3) THE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION ON MYANMAR (BURMA), WHICH PROVIDED THAT MYANMAR SHOULD NOT RECEIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OR COOPERATION.

5. MR. FREEMAN ALSO NOTED THAT LAST YEAR'S CONFERENCE ACHIEVED A LANDMARK POST-COLD WAR DECLARATION ON CORE LABOR STANDARDS. U.S. EMPLOYERS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE DECLARATION. THE DECLARATION IMPOSES A CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATION OF EACH MEMBER STATE OF THE ILO TO RESPECT, PROMOTE AND ADHERE TO FIVE PRINCIPLES: 1) FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION; 2) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS; 3) FORCED LABOR PROHIBITION; 4) CHILD

LABOR PROHIBITION; 5) A BAR ON DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT.

6. NEXT STEPS INCLUDE A RATIFICATION CAMPAIGN FOR THE NEW CHILD LABOR CONVENTION AND FOLLOW-UP ON LAST YEAR'S DECLARATION. EACH MEMBER COUNTRY'S GOVERNMENT HAS TO SUBMIT REPORTS REGARDING THE CORE CONVENTIONS, WITH AN EXPLANATION OF FAILURES TO RATIFY. IN MARCH, THE ILO GOVERNING BODY WILL DISCUSS THESE REPORTS. THE U.S. IS A

MAJOR DONOR TO THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM ON THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOR (IPEC). THERE IS A REQUEST IN UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 08 STATE 193374

FOR LABOFFS AND LRO'S, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PHUM, EAID, ETRD, ILO

SUBJECT: WORLDWIDE LABOR OFFICERS CONFERENCE: PANELS ON JUNE ILC, CHILD LABOR, USAID, AND INTERNET

THE CURRENT BUDGET FOR CONGRESS TO PROVIDE SIMILAR FUNDING (\$25 MILLION) FOR PROMOTION OF THE OTHER CORE STANDARDS. LATER THIS YEAR, AT THE WORLD BANK CONFERENCE, THERE WILL BE A WHOLE DAY DEVOTED TO LABOR ISSUES.

7. ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL SOMAVIA HAS REORGANIZED THE STRUCTURE OF THE ILO. THE REORGANIZED BUDGET OF THE ILO ESTABLISHES FOUR OBJECTIVES: 1) FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES; 2) EMPLOYMENT CREATION; 3) SOCIAL PROTECTION; 4) SOCIAL DIALOGUE. THE BUDGET IS A "ZERO GROWTH" BUDGET. SOMAVIA HAS BROUGHT A NEW MANAGEMENT STYLE TO THE ILO. HE HAD A LOT TO DO WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE 1998 DECLARATION. THE MYANMAR RESOLUTION IS PRECEDENT-SETTING. IT IS A DEPARTURE FROM ILO PHILOSOPHY. BURMA EGREGIOUSLY VIOLATED LABOR STANDARDS. THE NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL IS CHILEAN AND IS SENSITIVE TO THE IMPOSITION OF VALUES FROM THE OUTSIDE BY OTHER COUNTRIES. THE DECLARATION OF CORE LABOR STANDARDS IS "PROMOTIONAL." IT PROMOTES THE ACCEPTANCE OF CORE LABOR STANDARDS IN THE CONTEXT OF ALL ASPECTS OF GLOBALIZATION: TRADE, TECHNOLOGY, COMMUNICATION. THE GOAL IS TO IMPROVE WORKING STANDARDS OF WORKERS. AS CHILE'S FORMER PERMREP TO THE U.N., CHAIR OF ECOSOC AND OF THE 1995 SOCIAL SUMMIT IN COPENHAGEN, SOMAVIA IS AWARE OF THE NEED FOR THE ILO TO WORK WITH THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO).

BARBARA SHAILOR

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8. MS. SHAILOR NOTED THAT THE AFL-CIO WAS NOW CONVENING REPRESENTATIVES FROM TWENTY COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD.

THERE ARE AFL-CIO PROGRAMS IN 60 COUNTRIES. TO PUT THE LABOR DIPLOMACY FUNCTION IN CONTEXT, SHE NOTED THAT DURING THE COLD WAR, THERE WERE INDEPENDENT VIBRANT LABOR ORGANIZATIONS THAT HELPED DURING THE TRANSFORMATION FROM COMMUNISM. AFTER THE COLD WAR, THE LABOR DIPLOMACY FUNCTION AND THE ROLE OF THE AFL-CIO BEGAN TO DIMINISH. IT BECAME CLEAR THAT SOME BELIEVED THAT LABOR WOULD BE AN IMPEDIMENT TO FREE MARKET WILD WEST CAPITALISM. DISCUSSIONS BEGAN TO TRY TO INCREASE THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S LABOR CAPACITY. SHE IS GRATEFUL TO JACK JOYCE OF THE BRICKLAYERS UNION (WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE) AND A MEMBER OF THE NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LABOR DIPLOMACY FOR HIS WORK ON THIS ISSUE.

9. SHAILOR SAID THAT DURING HER YEARS DOING INTERNATIONAL LABOR WORK FOR THE MACHINISTS UNION SHE WAS IN CHINA. AT THE TIME, NO ONE IN THE U.S. EMBASSY IN CHINA DEALT WITH LABOR ISSUES. THIS IS A CRITICAL FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE. NOT TO HAVE THE CAPACITY TO DEAL WITH LABOR ISSUES IN A PLACE LIKE CHINA WAS A MAJOR LAPSE. THE ILO IS THE FOURTH PILLAR IN THE GLOBAL ARCHITECTURE. PRESIDENT CLINTON HAS STRESSED PUTTING A HUMAN FACE ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMY. WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT WORKERS HAVE A PLACE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY. THE ILO IS WHERE THE COMPETENCE LIES FOR LABOR ISSUES. SHE SAID THAT SHE IS ECSTATIC ABOUT THE NEW LEADERSHIP AT THE ILO.

10. THE RULES FOR THE GLOBAL ECONOMY INCLUDE THE BASIC CORE CONVENTIONS OF THE ILO. THERE IS NOW A PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TO PASS THE CHILD LABOR CONVENTIONS, TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC, TO EDUCATE THE TEACHERS. THE AFL-CIO WANTS THE ILO TO HAVE PARITY WITH THE WORLD BANK, IMF AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS. THE AFL-CIO WANTS TO PROD THESE INSTITUTIONS TO GIVE THE ILO OBSERVER STATUS. IT WANTS TO SEE CORE WORKER RIGHTS IN TRADE AND INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS. IT WORKS POLITICALLY, INTELLECTUALLY AND ACADEMICALLY AND WANTS TO ENCOURAGE MORE ECONOMIC STUDIES ON THE CONNECTION BETWEEN GROWTH AND FREE LABOR.

11. GLOBALIZATION SHOULD NOT BE A RACE TO THE BOTTOM, SHE SAID. RUSSIAN WORKERS' WAGES ARE IN ARREARS FOR SIX MONTHS. IT'S NOT MORAL AND IT'S NOT GOOD FOREIGN POLICY.

WE MUST LIFT STANDARDS WORLDWIDE. THE WORK THAT LABOR OFFICERS DO IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER. LABOR OFFICERS GIVE A REAL VOICE TO WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE AFL-CIO WANTS WORKERS AROUND THE WORLD TO BE SAFE AND SECURE, UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 08 STATE 193374

FOR LABOFFS AND LRO'S, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PHUM, EAID, ETRD, ILO

SUBJECT: WORLDWIDE LABOR OFFICERS CONFERENCE: PANELS ON JUNE ILC, CHILD LABOR, USAID, AND INTERNET

NOT FEARFUL AND ANGRY AND THREATENED.

HUGH NEIGHBOR  
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12. MR. NEIGHBOUR THANKED LABOR OFFICERS FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN DEVELOPING ILO CONVENTION 182 ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR. HE SAID IT ADVANCES THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO PUT "A HUMAN FACE ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMY," WHICH IS BASED ON THE CONVICTION THAT WORKERS AND ORDINARY PEOPLE MUST SHARE IN THE BENEFITS OF NEW TRADE AGREEMENTS. IF THEY DON'T THERE WILL BE NO POPULAR SUPPORT FOR TRADE EXPANSION. MR. NEIGHBOR ALSO PRAISED THE ILO'S ORGANIZATIONAL REFORMS THAT ARE A MODEL FOR OTHER UN ORGANIZATIONS.

JOHN RITCHOTTE  
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13. MR. RITCHOTTE OPENED BY NOTING THAT THE U.S. COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS REPRESENTS U.S. EMPLOYERS AT THE ILO. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY IS LOOKING FOR A FIRM FOLLOW-UP ON THE REPORTING PROCEDURES OF THE 1998 DECLARATION ON FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND RIGHTS AT WORK. HE NOTED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN PROPOSALS TO USE THE DECLARATION AS A DEVICE FOR PURSUING LABOR STANDARDS IN THE WTO. THE U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY OPPOSES THIS APPROACH (AS DOES ILO DG SOMAVIA) BUT THERE IS SUPPORT FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION IN THE ILO CONTEXT. SINCE THERE IS ALMOST UNANIMOUS OPPOSITION IN THE WTO TO LINKAGE, MR. RITCHOTTE WONDERED WHY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL PURSUE A POLICY IT KNOWS WILL FAIL. THERE WILL BE BLOOD ON THE FLOOR FROM A WTO LEADERSHIP DEBATE ON THIS ISSUE. IT IS NOT GOOD TO PUSH THE LINE.

14. WITH RESPECT TO CONVENTION 182 ON THE WORST FORM OF CHILD LABOR, MR. RITCHOTTE NOTED THAT IT WAS THE FIRST TIME U.S. EMPLOYERS EVER VOTED IN FAVOR OF ADOPTING AN ILO CONVENTION. THEY USUALLY ABSTAIN. MR. RITCHOTTE PRAISED ANDREW SAMET FOR HIS LEADERSHIP ON THE BURMA RESOLUTION AT THE ILO. THOSE KINDS OF OFFENDERS ARE NOW ON NOTICE.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS  
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15. JAMES EHRMAN (LABOR COUNSELOR, ROME) RAISED THE ISSUE THE FAILURE OF THE U.S. TO RATIFY MOST OF THE ILO CONVENTIONS. IT HAS ONLY RATIFIED 12 OUT OF 182 CONVENTIONS, AND 7 OF THOSE DEAL WITH MARITIME ISSUES. A MAJOR REASON FOR THIS IS THE WORKINGS OF OUR FEDERAL SYSTEM. HE COMMENDED THE PAPER PROVIDED TO CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS EXPLAINING THE U.S. SYSTEM FOR RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTIONS. ALDEN IRONS (DRL/IL DEPUTY DIRECTOR) THEN ASKED HOW THE U.S. WILL RESPOND TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS' (ICFTU) RECENT SUBMISSION TO THE ILO CRITICAL OF THE U.S. RATIFICATION RECORD AND ALSO OF U.S. PRACTICE WITH RESPECT TO SOME OF THE CORE CONVENTIONS.

16. MS. SHAILOR RESPONDED THAT WE HAVE TO BE HONEST ABOUT THE FACT THAT FOR THE LAST TWENTY YEARS THERE HAS BEEN AN AGGRESSIVE ORGANIZED ATTACK ON FUNDAMENTAL LABOR RIGHTS IN THIS COUNTRY. THE AFL-CIO IS NOT GOING TO PAPER IT OVER. WE ARE PROUD OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, BUT IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO SAY THAT WE DON'T HAVE PROBLEMS IN THIS COUNTRY. WE ARE CAPABLE OF BOTH IDENTIFYING VIOLATIONS AND SUPPORTING THE USG'S POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS.

17. MS. SHAILOR WENT ON TO COMMENT ON CONDITIONALITY IN TRADE AGREEMENTS, NOTING THAT IT ALREADY EXISTS IN GSP, SECTION 301, AND OTHER PROVISIONS. THE PROBLEM IS THAT THESE ARE NOT MULTILATERAL. MR. RITCHOTTE SAID THAT THE

PROBLEM WITH TRYING TO MULTILATERALIZE IS THAT THE WTO OPERATES UNDER UNANIMITY. WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET UNANIMITY IN THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENT.

18. WILLIAM LUCY (AFSCME, MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LABOR DIPLOMACY) NOTED THAT COUNTRIES ARE UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 08 STATE 193374

FOR LABOFFS AND LRO'S, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PHUM, EAID, ETRD, ILO

SUBJECT: WORLDWIDE LABOR OFFICERS CONFERENCE: PANELS ON JUNE ILC, CHILD LABOR, USAID, AND INTERNET

ALSO EMPLOYERS OF PUBLIC WORKERS. IN THE CURRENT CLIMATE

OF PRIVATIZATION, WE HAVE TO ENSURE THAT PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS ENJOY THE RIGHTS OF ALL OTHER WORKERS.

CHILD LABOR ISSUES  
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MODERATOR:SARAH ROSEN WARTELL, NEC, SENIOR ADVISOR  
PANELISTS:NICHOLAS STIGLIANI, DRL/IL OFFICE DIRECTOR;  
MARCIA EUGENIO, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR INT'L CHILD LABOR PROGRAM; DARLENE ADKINS, CHILD LABOR COALITION.

SARAH ROSEN WARTELL  
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19. MS. ROSEN WARTELL WORKS FOR GENE SPERLING AT THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL. SHE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: MR. SPERLING IS KNOWN FOR KNOWING WHERE THE PRESIDENT'S PASSION IS. CHILD LABOR IS A PERSONAL PASSION FOR THE PRESIDENT. CHILD LABOR IS ONE OF THE CORE LABOR STANDARDS. ROSEN WARTELL DID NOT WANT TO SUGGEST THAT THE ADMINISTRATION CARES ABOUT CHILD LABOR AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR CORE LABOR STANDARDS, BUT RATHER CHILD LABOR IS A KEY PART OF RAISING LABOR STANDARDS GLOBALLY. WE WON'T HAVE A DOMESTIC CONSENSUS FOR A GLOBAL MARKET PLACE UNLESS WE CAN DO MORE TO PROMOTE CORE LABOR STANDARDS. CHILD LABOR IS IMPORTANT -- BOTH AS A MORAL IMPERATIVE AND AS A WAY TO COMMUNICATE CORE VALUES. FEW TOPICS MAKE IT INTO THE STATE OF THE UNION TWICE, AND CHILD LABOR IS ONE OF THEM.

20. THE EXECUTIVE ORDER ON PROCUREMENT OF PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY FORCED OR INDENTURED CHILD LABOR, WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED IN THE PRESIDENT'S UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO SPEECH IN JUNE, INVOLVES GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR NEEDS TO PUBLISH BY OCTOBER 10 A LIST OF PRODUCTS MADE OR PRODUCED WITH FORCED OR INDENTURED CHILD LABOR. (SEE STATE 145085 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.) THE EXECUTIVE ORDER DOES NOT SET FORTH A LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARD. IT IS "SOME REASON TO BELIEVE." WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WILL DRAMATICALLY CHANGE THINGS. PROBABLY A SMALL AMOUNT OF PRODUCTS WILL BE AFFECTED. IT IS LARGELY SYMBOLIC. IT SENDS AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE: WE DO NOT APPROVE

OF GOODS THAT ARE MADE WITH FORCED OR INDENTURED CHILD LABOR.

NICK STIGLIANI  
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21. SENATOR TOM HARKIN IN THE EARLY 1990'S SUBMITTED A BILL TO BAN THE IMPORTATION OF GOODS MADE WITH CHILD LABOR. AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME THE ILO'S VOLUNTARY INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOR (IPEC) WAS ESTABLISHED. IPEC FOCUSES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR. CHILD LABOR IS SEEN AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ABOLITION OF ABUSIVE CHILD LABOR HAS BECOME A FOREIGN POLICY GOAL. A MORAL, SOCIAL AND ALTRUISTIC GOAL IS NOT USUALLY THOUGHT OF AS A TRADITIONAL FOREIGN POLICY GOAL. THE CHILD SOLDIER ISSUE BECAME A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE IN THIS YEAR'S DISCUSSION OF THE ILO'S NEW CONVENTION OF THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR. ENLISTMENT OF 17 YEAR OLDS IS PERMITTED IN THE US. SINCE THE PROPOSED NEW CONVENTION DEFINED A CHILD AS ANYONE UNDER 18, THIS WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE US. THE AGREED LANGUAGE BANS FORCED OR COMPULSORY RECRUITMENT FOR ARMED CONFLICT.

MARCIA EUGENIO  
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22. THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S CHILD LABOR PROGRAM IN ILAB WORKS WITH LABOR OFFICERS AND THE ILO. IT PARTICULARLY OVERSEES THE US CONTRIBUTION TO THE ILO'S IPEC, WHICH INCREASED FROM \$3 MILLION LAST YEAR TO \$30 MILLION THIS YEAR. WE SEEK PROGRESSIVE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOR BY HELPING COUNTRIES DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM. THERE IS A WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT TOWARD THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOR. 250 MILLION CHILDREN ARE WORKING WORLDWIDE. 120 MILLION WORK FULL TIME, WITH NO SCHOOL. THEY WORK IN FACTORIES, MINES, AGRICULTURE AND OTHER FIELDS, AND ARE EXPOSED TO MANY HAZARDS, SUCH AS PESTICIDES. THEY OFTEN WORK UNDER UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 08 STATE 193374

FOR LABOFFS AND LRO'S, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: WORLDWIDE LABOR OFFICERS CONFERENCE: PANELS ON JUNE ILC, CHILD LABOR, USAID, AND INTERNET

FORCED CONDITIONS. OVER 60 COUNTRIES ARE MEMBERS OF IPEC. OF THESE, 32 ARE "PREPARATORY COUNTRIES" WHICH HAVE NOT YET SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH ILO-IPEC. IPEC ENGAGES GOVERNMENTS, WORKS WITH UNIONS, NGOS, AND PARENTS OF WORKING CHILDREN. IT WORKS TO FOSTER A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP OF THE CHILD LABOR ISSUE ON A LOCAL LEVEL. THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR HAS WORKED WITH IPEC SINCE 1994-1995.

23. IN THE BRIEF DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED, SARAH ROSEN WARTELL UNDERScoreD THAT CONGRESS INCREASED THE US IPEC BUDGET FROM \$3 MILLION TO \$30 MILLION THIS YEAR. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THESE PROGRAMS WORK. MS. EUGENIO GAVE AN

EXAMPLE OF ONE PROJECT TO CREATE A NON-PROFIT SCHOOL WHERE THERE ARE NO OTHER VIABLE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. THERE IS A CONCERN AS TO WHETHER NON-PROFIT SCHOOLS ARE A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION. THERE ARE ALSO TARGETED ASSISTANCE

PROGRAMS TO SCHOOL SYSTEMS, TO HELP MOVE CHILDREN OUT OF CHILD LABOR.

DARLENE ADKINS

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24. DARLENE ADKINS, FROM THE CHILD LABOR COALITION, STRESSED THAT CHILDREN ARE OFTEN PREFERRED WORKERS. THEY ARE CHEAPER, EASIER TO CONTROL, EXPENDABLE. NGOS SPOTLIGHT PROBLEMS. WE DO NOT WANT CHILDREN ENDING UP IN EVEN WORSE CONDITIONS. LAST YEAR THERE WAS A GLOBAL MARCH AGAINST CHILD LABOR. IT WAS A SIX-MONTH MARCH THROUGH 62 COUNTRIES IN AFRICA, EUROPE, ASIA AND THE AMERICAS, INCLUDING IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THE NEW ILO CONVENTION IS ACTION-ORIENTED. WE WANTED TO BAN ANY WORK, WHICH DENIES ACCESS TO FREE EDUCATION. THIS WAS NOT INCLUDED. BUT THE CONVENTION REFERS TO EDUCATION. WE WANT RATIFICATION BY THE US. WE HAVE OUR OWN PROBLEMS IN THE US. 800 THOUSAND CHILDREN ARE IN THE FIELDS OF THE US AS MIGRANT WORKERS. OUR OWN CHILD LABOR LAWS ARE NOT ADEQUATE TO PROTECT THESE CHILDREN. A TEN-YEAR OLD UNDER US LAW CAN WORK IN THE FIELDS. THERE ARE EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE LAW FOR AGRICULTURAL FARM WORKERS WITH RESPECT TO SCHOOLING. THE RATE OF SCHOOL ENROLLMENT FOR FARM CHILDREN IS LOW WITH ABOUT A 45 PERCENT DROPOUT RATE. THERE HAS BEEN CONSUMER AND COMMUNITY ACTIVISM. THE ACTIVISM IS IMPACTING GOVERNMENTS AND INDUSTRIES OVERSEAS. ONE EXAMPLE IS THE VOLUNTARY RUGMARK PROGRAM, NOW UNDERWAY IN INDIA, NEPAL AND PAKISTAN. ON CAMPUSES, THERE ARE OVER 100 UNIVERSITIES IN THE APPAREL INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP (AIP). IN QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS, A MIDDLE SCHOOL RAISED OVER 100,000 DOLLARS TO BUILD A SCHOOL IN PAKISTAN. 298 CHILDREN NOW ATTEND THIS SCHOOL.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

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25. JAMES EHRMAN (LABOR COUNSELOR, ROME): NO COUNTRY THAT HAS AN ADULT LITERACY RATE OF 30-40 PERCENT CAN HOPE TO CLIMB OUT OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT. CHILDREN HAVE TO HAVE AN ADEQUATE EDUCATION. MILLIONS OF CHILDREN'S LIVES ARE BEING WASTED IN CHILDHOOD. EMBASSIES MUST BE KEPT INFORMED OF PROJECTS. NICK STIGLIANI STATED THAT DRL/IL WILL KEEP EMBASSIES INFORMED.

26. BILL LUCY (AFSCME, MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LABOR DIPLOMACY): THERE SHOULD BE A "NO CHILD LABOR" CLAUSE IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS OVERSEAS.

27. SARAH ROSEN WARTELL: THE PRESIDENT SAYS THAT THIS MUST BE A JOINT EFFORT BY OTHER COUNTRIES AND THE US. IT IS NOT JUST US. IT IS MULTILATERAL. THE SUCCESS OF IPEC PROGRAMS CAN LEAD TO A SIMILAR APPROACH IN OTHER AREAS SUCH AS THE

PROMOTION OF CORE LABOR STANDARDS, SOCIAL SAFETY NET ISSUES. THE US WOULD LIKE TO SEE A NEW ARM OF ILO LIKE IPEC. THE PRESIDENT ASKED FOR 25 MILLION DOLLARS FROM CONGRESS AS AN INITIAL CONTRIBUTION TO A PROGRAM THAT WOULD ASSIST COUNTRIES IN IMPLEMENTING OTHER CORE LABOR STANDARDS.

28. JOHN LONG (LABOR COUNSELOR, GENEVA): THE US CONTRIBUTION TO IPEC HAS SPURRED INTEREST BY THE UK, SWEDEN, AND FRANCE AND OTHERS COUNTRIES. GERMANY HAS LONG UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 08 STATE 193374

FOR LABOFFS AND LRO'S, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 12958: N/A

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BEEN A MAJOR DONOR TO IPEC.

29. ALDEN IRONS (DRL/IL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR): WE NEED TO CONVINCED THE COUNTRIES WHERE CHILD LABOR IS PREVALENT THAT THIS IS A PRIORITY. PAKISTAN SPENDS ABOUT ONE PERCENT ON EDUCATION AND SOME 40 PERCENT ON THE MILITARY. WE NEED TO DEVELOP A DIPLOMATIC STRATEGY TO HAVE COUNTRIES CHANGE THEIR PRIORITIES. FAMILIES HAVE AN IMMEDIATE SHORT-TERM PRIORITY. HAVE TO RECONCILE SHORT-TERM THINKING (SURVIVAL) WITH LONG-TERM THINKING.

ROLE OF USAID IN PROMOTING LABOR STANDARDS

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PRESENTER:       MICHAELA MEEHAN, ON LOAN TO USAID FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

30. MS. MEEHAN OPENED WITH BRIEF OVERVIEW OF USAID'S CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE, NOTING THAT THE CENTER IS A NEW ORGANIZATION, HAVING BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR 5 YEARS. ITS FOCUS IS TO PROVIDE STRATEGIC SUPPORT AND INTELLECTUAL LEADERSHIP TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF USAID'S GROWING DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE PORTFOLIO THROUGH TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP AND DIRECT PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.

31. THE CENTER'S OPERATION AND STRUCTURE REFLECT FOUR DEMOCRACY OBJECTIVES:  
-- TO STRENGTHEN THE RULE OF LAW AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS;  
-- TO ESTABLISH MORE DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS AND COMPETITIVE POLITICAL PROCESSES;  
-- TO INCREASE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POLITICALLY ACTIVE AND CAPABLE CIVIL SOCIETY;

-- TO HAVE MORE TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

32. USAID RECOGNIZES ORGANIZED LABOR AS AN IMPORTANT PLAYER IN ACHIEVING THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES. IT BELIEVES THAT THE

HALLMARK OF A FREE SOCIETY IS THE ABILITY OF INDIVIDUALS TO ASSOCIATE WITH LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS PUBLICLY, TO OPENLY DEBATE PUBLIC POLICY, TO PETITION THEIR GOVERNMENT, AND TO HAVE THEIR OPINIONS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC POLICY.

33. CIVIL SOCIETY IS THE TERM THAT BEST DESCRIBES THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL, INDEPENDENT NATURE OF THIS SEGMENT OF SOCIETY. USAID'S CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVITIES ENABLE THESE ORGANIZATIONS TO ADVOCATE POLICY REFORMS ON TWO LEVELS: -- FIRST, BY ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT; -- SECOND, BY ASSISTING GROUPS TO BECOME FINANCIALLY VIABLE AND SELF-SUFFICIENT.

34. THE CENTER'S FIELD SUPPORT IS PRIMARILY DIRECTED TO USAID MISSIONS, BUT IT OFFERS TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO LABOR OFFICERS THROUGH THEIR WRITTEN DOCUMENTS. (DEMOCRACY DIALOGUE, MORE IN-DEPTH RESEARCH AND GUIDANCE IN TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS.) TOPICS INCLUDE ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION, CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS, AND POLITICAL PARTY DEVELOPMENT.

35. OUTLINE OF SPECIFIC COMPONENTS OF USAID'S LABOR PORTFOLIO INCLUDES:  
-- STRENGTHENING RESPECT FOR WORKER RIGHTS AS A FUNDAMENTAL ASPECT OF THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS;  
-- ENHANCING THE RELATIONSHIP OF CORE LABOR STANDARDS TO TRADE NEGOTIATION: DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FIND ACCESS TO SOME MARKETS LIMITED BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE PROTECTION OF WORKER RIGHTS. INADEQUATE PROTECTION AFFECTS A COUNTRY'S ABILITY TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. US GSP AND CBI BOTH REQUIRE THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SEEKING TRADE PREFERENCES COMPLY WITH BASIC PROTECTION OF WORKER RIGHTS. NAFTA INCLUDES A SIDE AGREEMENT ON WORKER RIGHTS. FUTURE REGIONAL AGREEMENTS INCLUDING THE FTAA MAY OR MAY NOT INCLUDE SUCH CONDITIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT OF THE AMERICAS (FTAA) NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY, AND INCLUSION OF A SOCIAL CLAUSE IS STILL AN OPEN QUESTION.  
-- DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE THE TARGET OF USAID  
UNCLAS SECTION 07 OF 08 STATE 193374

FOR LABOFFS AND LRO'S, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

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ASSISTANCE. FOR THEM TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPETE IN GLOBAL MARKETS, THEIR EXPORTS MUST MEET HIGH QUALITY STANDARDS

DEMANDED BY THOSE MARKETS. THIS REQUIRES IMPROVED LABOR RELATIONS, GOOD COMMUNICATION WITH WORKERS, GREATER INVESTMENT IN HUMAN CAPITAL, HIGH WORKER MORALE, AND WORKER COMPENSATION COMMENSURATE WITH PRODUCTIVITY GAINS. MUCH OF USAID'S WORK RESPONDING TO THESE ISSUES IS ACCOMPLISHED

THROUGH A GRANT TO AMERICAN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOR SOLIDARITY -- THE AFL-CIO'S SOLIDARITY CENTER.  
-- SUSAIID IS PLANNING TO FUND PROGRAMS DEVELOPED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR RIGHTS FUND (ILRF) TO TRAIN INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTY MONITORS IN ONE COUNTRY IN ASIA AND ONE IN LATIN AMERICA. (THE COUNTRIES ARE YET TO BE DETERMINED.) SHE WOULD WELCOME RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHERE TO OPERATE THE PROGRAM.  
-- USAID IS ALSO CONTRIBUTING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FAIR LABOR ASSOCIATION (FLA), WHICH WILL BE LAUNCHED IN SEPTEMBER AS THE OPERATIONAL ARM OF THE APPAREL INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP (AIP).

36. MS. MEEHAN CLOSED BY ENCOURAGING LABOR OFFICERS STATIONED OVERSEAS TO REACH OUT TO USAID'S DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE OFFICERS AND THE AFL-CIO'S SOLIDARITY CENTER REPRESENTATIVES IN THEIR HOST COUNTRIES.

37. DURING THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD, THERE WERE MORE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FLA. MS. MEEHAN EXPLAINED THAT FLA WILL BECOME THE OPERATIONAL ARM OF THE AIP. ALSO, THERE WAS DISCUSSION ABOUT THE REVIEW PROCESS FOR IFI PROJECTS, WHETHER THEY HAVE LABOR COMPONENTS, AND WHO DEALS WITH THE REVIEW PROCESS.

NEW TOOLS FOR LABOR DIPLOMACY  
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SPEAKERS: JAKE ALLER, DRL/IL; STEVE MARLER, DOL/ILAB

38. MR. ALLER PROVIDED A RUNDOWN OF INTERNET WEBSITES COVERING INTERNATIONAL LABOR ISSUES, AND DISTRIBUTED A HARD COPY LIST OF SITES. AMONG HIS RECOMMENDATIONS: THE LONDON-BASED LABOURSTART ([HTTP://WWW.LABOURSTART.ORG](http://www.labourstart.org)) FEATURING EXTENSIVE LINKS AND DAILY UPDATES OF LABOUR NEWS WORLDWIDE, AND THE SIMILAR LABOURNET ([WWW.LABOURNET.ORG](http://www.labournet.org)); CYBERPICKETLINE ([WWW.EF.AC.UK](http://www.ef.ac.uk)), A DIRECTORY OF GLOBAL LABOR ACTIONS; NEWSNOW ([WWW.NEWSNOW.CO.UK](http://www.newsnow.co.uk)), ALSO REACHABLE VIA LABOURSTART, WHICH UPDATES LABOR NEWS EVERY FIVE MINUTES; CORPORATE WATCH ([WWW.CORPWATCH.ORG](http://www.corpwatch.org)), WHICH MONITORS CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. KEY ORGANIZATIONAL SITES INCLUDE THOSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION ([WWW.ILO.ORG](http://www.ilo.org)); INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS ([WWW.ICFTU.ORG](http://www.icftu.org)); U.S. FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE ([WWW.FMCS.GOV](http://www.fmcs.gov)); PLUS ([WWW.STATE.GOV](http://www.state.gov)), ([WWW.USIS.GOV](http://www.usis.gov)), AND ([WWW.WHITEHOUSE.GOV.](http://www.whitehouse.gov))

39. MR. ALLER CAUTIONED THAT SOME "NEWS" SITES ARE MAINTAINED BY GROUPS WITH A POLITICAL SLANT; SOME IDENTIFY THEIR SPONSOR (AND BY IMPLICATION, THEIR AGENDA); SOME DO NOT. CAVEAT SURFER.

40. DOL/ILAB'S STEVE MARLER PRESENTED THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S MAIN WEBSITE ([DOL.GOV](http://dol.gov)) AND THE RELATED SITE OF THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS ([BLS.GOV](http://bls.gov)). HE NOTED THAT WHILE MANY DOL DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE ON LINE, OTHER PUBLICATIONS MUST BE ORDERED THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT

PRINTING OFFICE. MARLER REPORTED THAT DOL WAS GAUGING DEMAND FOR A GLOBAL INTRANET FOR LABOR OFFICERS, WHICH WOULD FEATURE AN ONLINE "CHATROOM," AND ENCOURAGED INTERESTED LABOR OFFICERS TO CONTACT ALLER OR DOL'S BILL BRUMFIELD.

41. NOTE: COPIES OF DRL/IL'S LABOR INTERNET DIRECTORY ARE AVAILABLE FROM DRL/IL JAKE ALLER. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO PUT THE DIRECTORY ON THE DRL WEB PAGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED AN UNCLASSIFIED AND CLASSIFIED GLOBAL E-MAIL MAILING LIST. TO SEND E-MAIL TO LABOR OFFICERS ON THE DEPARTMENT'S CLASSIFIED SYSTEM, TYPE "LABOR" IN THE GLOBAL DIRECTORY TO FIND LABOR LISTS BY REGION AS WELL AS A GLOBAL LIST. THE SAME LIST IS AVAILABLE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 08 STATE 193374

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UNCLASSIFIED VERSION, BUT YOU MUST TYPE (DRL) FIRST, AND THEN SCROLL DOWN TO THE MIDDLE OF THE DRL LISTINGS. TWO FURTHER SEPTELS WILL REPORT ON ADDITIONAL PANELS.  
ALBRIGHT

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