

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	re human rights practices Thailand (4 pages)	01/24/1995	P1/b(1)
002. cable	re child labor in Sao Paolo (5 pages)	02/10/1995	P1/b(1)
003. cable	re Thailand (9 pages)	03/02/1995	P1/b(1)
004. cable	re alien smuggling (5 pages)	04/14/1995	P1/b(1)
005. cable	re ambassador meeting (4 pages)	05/10/1995	P1/b(1)
006. cable	re human trafficking (3 pages)	09/15/1995	P1/b(1)
007. cable	re arrest in sweatshop in Italy (3 pages)	09/27/1995	P1/b(1)
008. cable	re Zhejiang Village (4 pages)	11/17/1995	P1/b(1)
009. cable	re country clearance (3 pages)	12/08/1995	b(7)(C), b(7)(E)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
 NSC Cables
 Jan 1995-Dec 1996 ([sweatshop ...])
 OA/Box Number: 510000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/24/1995-12/08/1995]

2018-1072-F

kc2333

RESTRICTION CODES

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

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

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OA/Box Number: 510000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/24/1995-12/08/1995]

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Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHROA3901 0740929-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 150929Z MAR 95
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 150929Z MAR 95
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5487
INFO: RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 3219
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 1954
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES 3849
SUBJ: POLICE UNCOVER CHILD LABOR ABUSE IN BRINDISI
TEXT:
UNCLAS ROME 003901

DEPT ALSO FOR DRL/IL, AND EUR/RPE
PASS DOL FOR ILAB (ROSEN)

E. O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ECON, IT
SUBJECT: POLICE UNCOVER CHILD LABOR ABUSE IN BRINDISI

REF: ROME 03128

1. ON MARCH 11 A CASE OF SEVERE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN WAS REPORTED BY THE NATIONAL MEDIA, AND CITED AS A CASE OF MODERN SLAVERY BY THE POLICE IN MAKING THE ARREST OF THEIR EMPLOYER, STEFANO STERNATIVO. IN AN UNHEALTHY BASEMENT WHERE SHIRTS FOR WELL KNOWN BRANDS WERE PRODUCED IN THE SMALL TOWN OF FRANCAVILLA FONTANA, NEAR BRINDISI IN THE PUGLIA REGION, THE POLICE DISCOVERED THAT 17 WORKERS OUT OF 20 WERE YOUNG ITALIAN GIRLS BETWEEN 12 AND 14 YEARS OF AGE, WITH NO WORK DOCUMENTS OR INSURANCE, WORKING 10-12 HOURS PER DAY FOR A DAILY PAY OF 14,000 LIRE (LESS THAN US\$10). THE SWEATSHOP FACTORY WAS LOCATED IN THE CENTER OF THE TOWN, INDICATING THAT ITS PRESENCE WAS KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC. THE POLICE, ACTING ON A TIP, WERE SEEKING EVIDENCE OF ILLEGAL ARMS IN POSSESSION OF THE EMPLOYER WHEN THEY ENTERED THE FACTORY TO MAKE A SEARCH. ONLY THEN DID THEY INCIDENTALLY UNCOVER THE ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT OF MINORS.

2. THIS CASE OF FLAGRANT CHILD LABOR ABUSE WAS PLAYED UP BY THE MEDIA AS THOUGH IT WERE AN EXCEPTIONAL VIOLATION OF THE LAW. ITALY'S LEGISLATION FORBIDS EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE (14 YEARS IN AGRICULTURE AND DOMESTIC SERVICE). HOWEVER, AN

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE ESTIMATES THAT THE NUMBER OF WORKING CHILDREN IN ITALY UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE TOTALS AT LEAST 350,000. THE LABOR MARKET STUDIES OFFICE (OSSERVATORIO SUL MERCATO DI LAVOO) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, IN A RECENT STUDY ON THE UNDERGROUNDECONOMY, ESTIMATES THAT ABOUT 500,000 CHILDREN IN THE 15-17 AGE-BAND PERMANENTLY WORK IN THE BLACK MARKET. IN THE MEZZOGIORNO, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THE 10 -14 AGE-BAND DO NOT ATTEND OBLIGATORY SCHOOLING AND ARE EMPLOYED ILLEGALLY. AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS OF THE REGION OF REGGIO CALABRIA ESTIMATED, LAST YEAR, THAT AT LEAST 7,000 CHILDREN BELOWS 14 YEARS OF AGE WERE PERMANENTLY WORKING ON FARMS AND IN CONSTRUCTION.

3. THE REACTION OF THE PARENTS OF THE YOUNG GIRLS TO THE POLICE DISCOVERY, AS REPORTED IN THE MEDIA, WAS THAT THEY WILL HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY MAKING ENDS MEET WITHOUT THE MEAGER EARNINGS THESE CHILDREN CONTRIBUTED TO THE FAMILY INCOME. &THE CHILDREN INTERVIEWED SAID THEY DID NOT SEE THEMSELVES AS EXPLOITED BUT AS HELPING MEET THEIR FAMILIES NEEDS. THEY WERE TOLD THAT IF THEY OBJECTED TO THE LOW WAGES THEY COULD BE EASILY REPLACED BY OTHERS ONLY TOO EAGER TO HAVE THEIR JOBS IN THE DEPRESSED BRINDISI AREA.

4. COMMENT: THIS GLARING CASE OF EXPLOITATION OF CHILD LABOR REPRESENTS THE TIP OF AN ICEBERG, MORE THAN AN ISOLATED EXCEPTION. THE LABOR INSPECTORS IN THE SOUTH IGNORE SUCH VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW UNTIL SOME INCIDENT, E.G. THE ILLEGAL ARMS POSSESSION IN THIS CASE, BRINGS THE VIOLATION TO PUBLIC ATTENTION. ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO GO TO INDIA OR PAKISTAN TO HEAR THE DEFENSE THAT IF THESE GIRLS DON'T HAVE THIS WORK THEIR FAMILIES WILL SUFFER. THAT THE WAGES ARE CLOSE TO THOSE IN SOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS EXCUSED WITH THE STATEMENT THAT OTHERWISE THE WORK WOULD BE DONE IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY. ITALY'S LUKEWARM SUPPORT FOR THE SOCIAL CLAUSE (I.E. THE COMMITMENT OF WTO COUNTRIES TO RESPECT MINIMUM LABOR STANDARDS) IS USUALLY EXPLAINED BY ITS DESIRE TO EXPORT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT OPPOSE SUCH A LINK. HOWEVER, ITALY'S OWN PROBLEMS IN POLICING ITS TOUGH LAWS ON CHILD LABOR ALSO NEED AIRING.
BARTHLOMEW

BT

#3901

NNNN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3901

TOR: 950315043254 M1564937

DIST:

SIT: NSC

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. cable	re alien smuggling (5 pages)	04/14/1995	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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NSC Cables
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OA/Box Number: 510000

FOLDER TITLE:

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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 180548Z AUG 95
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
OSRI: RUEHBK
DTG: 180548Z AUG 95
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO: RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8395
INFO: RUDKIA/AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI PRIORITY 4263
RUEHPF/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY 0739
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY 6954
RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//USIA// PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 2760
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORIOY 7666
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2872
RUEHUD/AMCONSUL UDORN PRIORITY 2438
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: NUCLEAR TESTING; INDONESIA-
- HUMAN RIGHTS; BILATERAL LABOR RELATIONS
TEXT:
UNCLAS BANGKOK 024810

USIA FOR EA, R/MR, I, I/RFW, I/GEA, D, D/P, B
SECSTATE FOR D, E, EAP/P, EAP/TB, EAP/VLC, USTR, HA/HR
LABOR FOR ILAB-ASAMET
USCINCPAC FOR USIA ADVISOR
CHIANG MAI FOR CONGEN AND BPAO-STHIBEAULT
UDORN FOR CONSUL

E.O. 12356: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: NUCLEAR TESTING; INDONESIA-
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1. THE THAI PRESS, AUGUST 18, CARRIED A COMMENTARY ON
WATCH LIST ITEM: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY: NUCLEAR TESTING.
ALSO INCLUDED WERE REPORTING AND COMMENTARY ON INDONESIA-
HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELOCATION OF THAI GARMENT LABOR TO THE
UNITED STATES.

2. WATCH LIST: NUCLEAR TESTING

-- "NUCLEAR MANIACS"

COMMENTARY BY ELITE NAEW NA'S CHARNNARIT BOONPARORD
COMMENTED ON FRANCE'S AND CHINA'S PERSISTENCE IN
CONTINUING THEIR NUCLEAR TESTING PROGRAMS IN DEFIANCE OF
WORLDWIDE OPPOSITION, CONCLUDING: "...MUCH MORE VEHEMENT
CRITICISMS HAVE SO FAR BEEN DIRECTED AT FRANCE THAN AT

CHINA POSSIBLY BECAUSE CHINA DETONATES ITS BOMBS IN ITS OWN TURF WHILE FRANCE DOES SO IN ONE OF ITS COLONIES IN

2

THE PROXIMITY OF (SEVERAL REGIONAL) COUNTRIES... WHAT BEWILDERS MOST COUNTRIES IS WHY THESE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE TO RESUME THEIR NUCLEAR TESTING PROGRAMS IN THIS AGE OF MUTUAL (INFORMATION AND ECONOMIC) COOPERATION..."

3. INDONESIA-HUMAN RIGHTS:

-- "INDONESIA AT 50: GREATER FREEDOM FOR ITS CITIZENS?"

LEAD EDIT OF INDEPENDENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY, THE NATION, WHILE NOTING THE RECENT FORUM ASIA REPORT WHICH IS CRITICAL OF INDONESIA, EXPRESSES SOME OPTIMISM THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THAT COUNTRY IS IMPROVING. IT CONCLUDES: "THIS YEAR MARKS HALF A CENTURY SINCE INDONESIA DECLARED INDEPENDENCE FROM THE DUTCH. AND THIS YEAR MORE THAN ANY OTHER PERIOD, INDONESIANS ARE ASKING DEEPER QUESTIONS ON THE MEANING OF INDEPENDENCE AND WHETHER IT AMOUNTS TO GREATER FREEDOM... THE HUMAN RIGHTS PICTURE IS NOT, HOWEVER, THAT BLEAK. FORTUNATELY, THE NGO MOVEMENT IN INDONESIA IS VIBRANT, CREATIVE AND GROWING AND CANNOT BE KILLED OFF IN A FIT OF GOVERNMENT PIQUE. THERE IS A HEALTHY DEBATE GOING ON ALMOST EVERYDAY ABOUT THE AUTHORITY OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS, BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEE LESS CAPRICE IN DECISION-MAKING AND GREATER ADHERENCE TO THE RULE OF LAW... SIGNS ARE ALREADY EMERGING THAT SUHARTO AND THE FIRST FAMILY CANNOT HAVE THEIR WAY MUCH LONGER AND DEMOCRATIC REFORMS IN INDONESIA MIGHT COME SOONER THAN EXPECTED..."

4. BILATERAL LABOR RELATIONS:

-- "THE HELLISH SWEATSHOP OF EL MONTE"

COMMENTARY IN BUSINESS DAILY PHUJATKARN, BYLINED PROFESSOR RANGSAN THANAPORN PAN OF THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY'S ECONOMIC FACULTY, FOCUSES ON THE RECENT FBI RAID ON A THAI GARMENT SWEATSHOP IN EL MONTE, CALIFORNIA. ARTICLE COMMENTED: "...THERE ARE STILL MANY SUCH FACTORIES IN THE UNITED STATES... THE RELOCATION OF THAI TEXTILE PRODUCTION BASE TO THE UNITED STATES OCCURRED BECAUSE OF THE TEXTILE QUOTA SYSTEM AND OTHER FORMS OF TRADE PROTECTIONIST MEASURES UNDER THE MULTI-FIBER AGREEMENT (MFA)... WHICH INDICATES THAT THE TEXTILE MARKET, ESPECIALLY IN THE UNITED STATES AND WESTERN EUROPE, IS FAR FROM FREE..." MORRIS, ACTING BT
#4810

NNNN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4810

TOR: 950818014615 M1815477

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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBYA5996 3310325-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 270325Z NOV 95
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RUEHDC/USDOC WASHDC
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SUBJ: MAJOR AUSTRALIAN RETAILER AGREES TO "ETHICAL
- SOURCING" FROM SUPPLIERS

TEXT:
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DEPT PASS LABOR FOR ILAB

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TAGS: ELAB, PHUM, ETRD, AS
SUBJECT: MAJOR AUSTRALIAN RETAILER AGREES TO "ETHICAL
- SOURCING" FROM SUPPLIERS

REF: BRUSSELS 10739

1. SUMMARY: IN A FIRST FOR AUSTRALIA, A NATIONAL RETAIL CHAIN HAS AGREED WITH THE TEXTILE, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR UNION OF AUSTRALIA (TCFUA) NOT TO SELL GARMENTS MADE WITH SUB-MINIMUM-WAGE LABOR. ACCORDING TO THE TCFUA NATIONAL SECRETARY, HIS UNION IS WORKING WITH ITS ICFTU-AFFILIATED INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIAT (ITS) TO USE THIS LANDMARK AGREEMENT AS A MODEL AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES. END SUMMARY.

2. TARGET AUSTRALIA (NOW INDEPENDENT OF ITS FORMER U.S. PARENT), A SIGNIFICANT DISCOUNT RETAILER HERE, CONCLUDED AN AGREEMENT ON NOVEMBER 3 WITH THE TCUFA TO REQUIRE ITS CLOTHING SUPPLIERS TO PRACTICE FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES -- MOST NOTABLY, TO PAY AT LEAST THE MINIMUM WAGE ESTABLISHED FOR THEIR INDUSTRY BY THE AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION. (NOTE: THE AIRC MAKES "AWARDS" FOR INDIVIDUAL TRADES AND INDUSTRIES, RATHER

THAN SET A UNIVERSAL MINIMUM WAGE. AUSTRALIA'S LOWEST AWARDS ARE FOUND WITHIN THE TCFUA INDUSTRIES.)

3. UNDER THE AGREEMENT, TARGET WILL PROVIDE THE TCFUA WITH SUPPLIER DETAILS AND MAY BE REQUIRED TO CANCEL CONTRACTS WITH SUPPLIERS IDENTIFIED AS PAYING BELOW AWARD STANDARDS. ACCORDING TO TARGET'S MANAGING DIRECTOR, HOWEVER, THE RETAILER HAS BEEN WORKING FOR SOME TIME TO ENSURE ITS SUPPLIERS USE FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES.

4. THE DEAL IS DESIGNED TO FORCE CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS TO APPLY AWARD (MINIMUM WAGE) CONDITIONS TO "OUTWORKERS," WORKERS WHO TYPICALLY OWN THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT AND WORK ON A PIECE-RATE BASIS FROM THEIR HOMES. SOME 300,000 OUTWORKERS SUPPLY THE GARMENT INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA. EFFECTIVELY, MANY OF ARE PAID AS LITTLE AS A\$2 (US\$1.50) AN HOUR, ACCORDING TO A RECENT UNION STUDY FUNDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO TCFUA NATIONAL SECRETARY TONY WOOLGAR, WHO SPOKE WITH LABATT LAST WEEK, MOST ARE WOMEN FROM AUSTRALIA'S MOST RECENT, NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRANT GROUPS. TWENTY YEARS AGO, WOOLGAR COMMENTED, THEY WERE GREEKS AND ITALIANS; TODAY, THEY ARE SOUTHEAST ASIAN.

5. ALTHOUGH THE TCFUA SECURED AN AIRC RULING IN 1987 REQUIRING OUTWORKERS TO BE PAID MINIMUM AWARD ENTITLEMENTS, IT HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY ENFORCING THE AWARD BECAUSE OF THE FRAGMENTED NATURE OF THE INDUSTRY. AS A RESULT, THE TCFUA IS NOW FOCUSING ITS CAMPAIGN ON THE OTHER END OF THE CONTRACTING CHAIN IN THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY, THE MAJOR RETAILERS. WOOLGAR AVERRED THAT THE TARGET AGREEMENT WAS KEY BECAUSE THE RETAILER IS PART OF THE COLES-MYER GROUP, AUSTRALIA'S RETAIL GIANT.

6. THE UNION WILL PRESS RETAILERS BY LAUNCHING CONSUMER CAMPAIGNS AGAINST OUTLETS WHICH REFUSE TO ENTER SUCH AGREEMENTS AND BY THE THREAT OF STRIKE ACTION UNDER THE LABOR RELATIONS SYSTEM. THE TARGET DEAL WAS NEGOTIATED AFTER THE UNION MOVED EARLIER THIS YEAR TO HAVE THE RETAILING GROUP ROPED INTO THE CLOTHING TRADES AWARD AND, THUS, OBLIGED TO PROVIDE DETAILS ABOUT SUPPLIERS.

7. WOOLGAR SEES THE AUSTRALIAN AGREEMENT AS A LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENT. HE TOLD LABATT THAT HE IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH NEIL KEARNEY, GENSEC OF THE INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE, GARMENT AND LEATHER WORKERS' FEDERATION (ITGLW), TO SPREAD NEWS OF THE AUSTRALIAN AGREEMENT WORLDWIDE. WOOLGAR SHARES KEARNEY'S CONCERN ABOUT THIRD WORLD SUPPLIERS UNDERMINING DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES (REFTEL), BUT BELIEVES INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO DO IN THEIR OWN BACKYARDS. THE REEMERGENCE OF IMMIGRANT-LABOR SWEATSHOPS IN NEW YORK AND THE RECENT DISCOVERY OF SLAVE LABOR IN A THAI-RUN, CALIFORNIA GARMENT FACTORY, WOOLGAR OPINED, ILLUSTRATE THE DARK SIDE OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION.

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