

UNCLASSIFIED

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NotesTele.TXT

B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B7(C)

CONFIDENTIAL
TELEGRAM

March 04, 2004

To: SECSTATE WASHDC - IMMEDIATE

Action: SCT

From: AMEMBASSY PARIS (PARIS 1672 - IMMEDIATE)

TAGS: CJAN, PGOV, PHUM, PTER, FR

Captions: None

Subject: FAMILIES OF GTMO DETAINEES INCREASE PRESSURE ON GOF

Ref: None

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Sharon Wiener for reasons
1
.5 (b) and (d).

1. (C) This cable conveys a dip note and contains a guidance request (see paras 5 and 6).

2. (C)

[Redacted]

The MFA spokesperson has publicly stated the GoF's preference to have the detainees returned to France and tried under the French judicial system,

[Redacted]

on February 20, the MFA spokesperson stated, "France plans to pursue its contacts with the American authorities to seek to have the detainees returned to their country."

[Redacted]

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B1

[redacted] lawyers for the French detainees at Guantanamo, who in January formed an alliance with British human rights activists, including actress Vanessa Redgrave's brother Colin Redgrave and former Lebanese hostage Terry Waite, to create the "Commission on Human Rights at Guantanamo." This group has publicly criticized the GoF for "absolute inaction."

B1

[redacted] In September 2003, 120 deputies signed a petition calling for the government to seek the repatriation of the detainees.

4. (C) The Embassy has received a diplomatic note from the MFA dated February 19 that passed on the request of four attorneys for the families of the French detainees at Guantanamo to be allowed to visit the base (faxed to WE/EUR March 2; full text below). On March 3, press reports indicated that some of these attorneys, accompanied by the mayor of Venissieux (the Lyonnais suburban hometown of several of the detainees), representatives of the "Committee of Support to Families of Venissieux," and Colin Redgrave, will travel to the U.S. this weekend to present their concerns in Washington and at the UN in New York. We do not have additional information on their scheduled meetings.

5. (U) Informal translation of dipnote:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States in Paris and has the honor of informing it of the request of the attorneys for the French detainees at Guantanamo to be allowed to visit the American naval base in order to visit their clients. The request has been expressed by:

- Paul-Albert Iweins, former head of the Paris Bar, attorney for [redacted]
- Jean-Marc Florand, attorney for [redacted]
- William Bourdon
- Jacques Debray, attorneys for [redacted]

B7(C)
B7(C)

B7(C)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be grateful if the United States Embassy would transmit this request to the competent American authorities and keep it informed of their response.

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(Complimentary closing.)

6. (U) Guidance request: Post requests that Department advise post how to respond to this dip note.
Leach

Additional Addressees:
None

cc:
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

Distribution:

TED8113
ACTION SCT-00

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O 040835Z MAR 04
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9050
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 001672

S/WCI FOR PIERRE PROSPER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/06/2012
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