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ALL POSTS FOR PAO, USSOCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KPAO
SUBJECT: WHA GUIDANCE, JANUARY 23, 2002

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS:

- 1. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, JAN 23 (PERU, VENEZUELA)
- 2. S/WCI-L PRESS GUIDANCE, JAN 23 (DETAINEES/GUANTANAMO END SUMMARY.

 1. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, JANUARY 23, 2002

-- PERU: MONTESINOS ALLEGATIONS --

Q: ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT ALLEGED U.S. KNOWLEDGE OF MONTESINOS DEATH SQUAD INVOLVEMENT?
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A: THESE ARE NOT NEW ALLEGATIONS. THEY WERE WIDELY PUBLICIZED IN PERU IN MAY OF 1993. THE ALLEGATIONS WERE INCLUDED IN OUR 1993 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON PERU.

Q: WHY DID THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTINUE TO DEAL WITH MONTESINOS?

A: U.S. OFFICIALS NECESSARILY HAD CONTACT WITH MONTESINOS DUE TO HIS POSITION AS DE-FACTO HEAD OF THE PERUVIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE AND HIS DESIGNATION BY THE FUJIMORI GOVERNMENT AS LIAISON ON COUNTERNARCOTICS PROGRAMS) AN ISSUE OF VITAL U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST. NEVERTHELESS, WE DID PUBLICLY RAISE THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HIM, AS IN OUR 1993 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT.

-- VENEZUELA: CHAVEZ ARMING SUPPORTERS --

QUESTION: CAN YOU CONFIRM REPORTS THAT VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CHAVEZ IS ARMING SUPPORTERS IN PREPARATION FOR JANUARY 23 MARCHES AND DEMONSTRATIONS? WHAT IS YOUR REACTION?

A: WE HAVE NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM SUCH ALLEGATIONS.

OUT OF CONCERN FOR THE WELL BEING OF U.S. CITIZENS, OUR

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CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET WARNS OF SPORADIC POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS, WHICH MAY AT TIMES TURN VIOLENT, AND URGES U.S. CITIZENS TO MONITOR THE LOCAL MEDIA OR CALL THE U.S. EMBASSY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. ON JANUARY 22, WE ISSUED
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THE FOLLOWING NOTICE TO U.S. CITIZENS IN VENEZUELA:

VARIOUS POLITICAL EVENTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATIONS AND MARCHES IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA OF CARACAS, ARE PLANNED FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23. BECAUSE LARGE CROWDS ARE PREDICTED FOR THESE EVENTS, STREET DISTURBANCES ARE POSSIBLE AS WELL AS INCIDENTS OF PETTY CRIME. U.S. CITIZENS RESIDENT IN OR VISITING CARACAS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS SITUATION AND MAY WISH TO AVOID THE DOWNTOWN MARCH ROUTES. FURTHER INFORMATION ON TRAVEL IN VENEZUELA IS AVAILABLE ON THE EMBASSY WEB SITE: [HTTP://EMBAJADAUSA.ORG.VE](http://EMBAJADAUSA.ORG.VE).

2. S/WCI - L PRESS GUIDANCE, JANUARY 23, 2002

-- TREATMENT OF DETAINEES IN GUANTANAMO --

Q: PLEASE UPDATE GUIDANCE REBUTTING ALLEGATIONS OF THE INHUMANE TREATMENT OF THE PRISONERS IN CUBA. DO WE HAVE A INTERPRETATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION THAT ALLOWS US TO DESIGNATE THE DETAINEES AS &UNLAWFUL COMBATANTS AS OPPOSED TO PRISONERS OF WAR?

A: THE INDIVIDUALS BEING DETAINED AT GUANTANAMO ARE BEING TREATED HUMANELY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS.

EACH DAY THE DETAINEES ARE GIVEN THREE CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE MEALS.

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THEY HAVE DAILY OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOWER, EXERCISE AND RECEIVE MEDICAL ATTENTION.

THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE DETAINEES IS UNDER REVIEW.

IT IS OF COURSE THE CASE THAT THESE DETAINEES ARE VERY DANGEROUS PEOPLE, AND ALL APPROPRIATE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS ARE BEING TAKEN.

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WE ARE CONTINUING TO INVESTIGATE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE
DETAINEES AND AL QAEDA, AND ARE COLLECTING ANY RELEVANT
INFORMATION CONCERNING CRIMES THEY MAY HAVE COMMITTED.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RED CROSS IS BEING GIVEN
ACCESS TO THE DETAINEES AT GUANTANAMO TO INSPECT THE
CONDITIONS THERE.

REFER YOU TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION.
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