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SUMMARY OF CONTENTS:

- 1. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, MARCH 1 (CUBA/MEXICO)
 - 2. INL PRESS GUIDANCE, MARCH 1 (COLOMBIA)
 - 3. S/WCI PRESS GUIDANCE, MARCH 1 (DETAINEES/GUANTANAMO)
- END SUMMARY.

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- 1. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, MARCH 1, 2002
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-- CUBA: CUBAN RUSH ON MEXICAN EMBASSY --

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Q: ANY COMMENT ON THE FORCED REMOVAL FROM THE MEXICAN EMBASSY IN HAVANA OF THE GROUP OF CUBANS THAT ENTERED YESTERDAY?

A: WE ARE AWARE OF THE ACTION.

NOW THAT THE 21 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO CUBAN AUTHORITIES, THEY MUST BE TREATED JUSTLY, TRANSPARENTLY, WITHOUT REPRISALS AND IN ACCORD WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS.

IN THIS REGARD, THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT MUST TREAT THE 21 IN FULL ACCORD WITH HUMANITARIAN PRACTICE AND MEXICO'S COMMITMENT TO STRICT HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE. WE, THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL MONITOR CLOSELY.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE DOZENS OF CUBANS ARRESTED AND BEATEN BY CUBAN SECURITY FORCES? THE BEATINGS OF THE REUTERS CORRESPONDENT AND HIS PHOTOGRAPHER?

A: CUBAN GOVERNMENT POLICE AND REGIME-BACKED THUGS BEAT SCORES OF CUBANS WHO GATHERED AROUND THE MEXICAN EMBASSY ON FEBRUARY 26-27. DOZENS OF CUBANS WERE DETAINED.

WE CONDEMN THESE ACTIONS, AND CALL FOR THE RELEASE OF THE

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DETAINEES.

WE ARE ALSO SHOCKED BY, AND UNRESERVEDLY CONDEMN, THE CUBAN POLICE BEATINGS OF FOREIGN REPORTERS DURING THE FEBRUARY 27 INCIDENT.

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Q: WHAT DOES THIS INCIDENT SAY ABOUT THE CUBAN REGIME?

A: THE BEATINGS AND DETENTIONS OF INNOCENTS IS A REFLECTION OF THE ABYSMAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION FACED BY THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT, A SITUATION CREATED BY 43 YEARS OF POLICE-STATE RULE.

THE ONLY REAL SOLUTION TO INCIDENTS LIKE THESE IS AN IMPROVEMENT IN CUBA'S HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.

AT THE UPCOMING UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS MEETING IN GENEVA, THE COMMISSION NEEDS TO ONCE AGAIN ADOPT A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR CHANGE IN CUBA.

Q: ANY COMMENT ON THE ATTACKS ON RADIO MARTI'S HANDLING OF FS CASTANEDA'S REMARKS?

A: RADIO MARTI AND OTHER MEDIA REPORTED ON FOREIGN SECRETARY CASTANEDA'S VISIT TO MIAMI. RADIO MARTI IS A PROFESSIONAL MEDIA OUTLET THAT REPORTEDLY THE STORY ACCURATELY.

WE WELCOME THE MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S FEBRUARY 27 STATEMENT, REPEATING FOREIGN SECRETARY CASTANEDA'S REMARK THAT MEXICO'S EMBASSY REMAINS OPEN TO ALL CUBAN CITIZENS, INCLUDING DISSIDENTS.

WE HOPE THAT ALL EMBASSIES IN HAVANA MAINTAIN AND EXPAND RELATIONS WITH DISSIDENTS AND OTHER INDEPENDENT VOICES IN CUBA.

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2. INL PRESS GUIDANCE, MARCH 1, 2002

-- COLOMBIA: LACK OF COCA AND OPIUM POPPY STATISTICS --

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Q: THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL STRATEGY REPORT DOES NOT HAVE COCA/OPIUM CULTIVATION AND PRODUCTIONS NUMBERS FOR COLOMBIA? WHY?

A: THE OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT 2001 COCA AND OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION AND PRODUCTION STATISTICS FOR COLOMBIA WERE NOT AVAILABLE FOR INCLUSION IN THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL STRATEGY REPORT. WE HOPE TO HAVE THOSE STATISTICS SHORTLY.

3. S/WCI PRESS GUIDANCE, MARCH 1, 2002

-- TREATMENT OF DETAINEES IN GUANTANAMO --

Q: COMMENT ON THE TREATMENT OF THE PRISONERS AT GUANTANAMO (AND THE HUNGER STRIKE)?

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

EACH DAY THE DETAINEES ARE GIVEN THREE CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE UNCLASSIFIED

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MEALS.

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

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

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 HAS ACCESS TO THE DETAINEES AT GUANTANAMO TO MONITOR THE CONDITIONS THERE.

(IF ASKED)

Q. WHAT'S THE STATUS OF THE HUNGER STRIKE?

A: REFER YOU TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.
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