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	DODE-00	WHA-00	DS-00	MEDE-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00
	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	L-00	VCE-00	M-00	DCP-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OIG-03
	CAEX-01	PA-00	P-00	IRM-00	SS-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NEAR EAST IMMEDIATE

ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

EUROPEAN POLAD COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE

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WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

CTF OPERATION NORTHERN WATCH INCIRLIK AB TU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ADANA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

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CENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

USCINCPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

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1) INFORM CONSULS-PASS PAOS-MILITARY ALSO FOR POLAD 2) EMBASSY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: IS, KPAO, OPRC, PREL, XF

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SUBJECT: NEA PRESS GUIDANCE 12/20/02

LONDON PLEASE PASS TO POLITICAL OFFICER ETHAN A. GOLDRICH

THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED FOR POST'S INFORMATION:

1) ISRAEL/PALESTINIANS: UPCOMING QUARTET MEETING & VIOLENCE
IN THE REGION

QUARTET MEETING & ROADMAP

Q: WHAT MORE CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE ROADMAP AND THE
DECEMBER 20TH QUARTET MEETING? IS THERE DISPLEASURE AMONG
THE OTHER MEMBERS WITH THE QUARTET REGARDING YOUR DECISION
NOT TO ISSUE THE ROADMAP?

-- WE CONTINUE TO PREPARE FOR THE QUARTET THE SECRETARY IS
HOSTING HERE AT THE DEPARTMENT TODAY, AND OUR FOCUS REMAINS
ON MOVING FORWARD IN A WAY THAT MAKES POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PRESIDENT'S JUNE 24TH VISION OF TWO STATES - ISRAEL
AND PALESTINE - LIVING SIDE-BY-SIDE IN PEACE AND SECURITY.

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-- AS THE SECRETARY NOTED EARLIER THIS WEEK, "BECAUSE OF
THE ISRAELI ELECTION (AND BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF ISSUES
THAT ARE BEFORE THE ISRAELI PUBLIC RIGHT NOW, WE THINK IT
WOULD BE WISER IN THIS INSTANCE FOR US TO CONTINUE WORK ON
THE ROADMAP AND WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE ISRAELI ELECTION IS
OVER. IT'S JUST A MATTER OF WEEKS UNTIL THAT IS RESOLVED,
AND THEN WE WILL ENGAGE WITH ALL THE PARTIES IN THE REGION
WITH RESPECT TO A ROADMAP IF WE HAVE COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON
THE ELEMENTS OF THE ROADMAP, AT LEAST WITHIN THE QUARTET AT
THAT TIME."

-- THE ROADMAP IS BASED ON RELEVANT U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTIONS, THE PRESIDENT'S JUNE 24TH SPEECH, AND THE
SAUDI/ARAB LEAGUE BEIRUT SUMMIT INITIATIVE, AND WOULD SEEK TO
INCORPORATE THE MADRID "TERMS OF REFERENCE" AND PREVIOUS
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES. THIS APPROACH WOULD CLEARLY
LAY OUT OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ON ALL SIDES, WOULD
BE CLEARLY PERFORMANCE-BASED RATHER THAN TIME-ORIENTED, AND
IS AIMED AT A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE WITH "SECURITY FOR ALL
STATES OF THE REGION" AS CALLED FOR IN THE BEIRUT SUMMIT
DECLARATION. AS THESE DISCUSSIONS PROGRESS, WE WILL CONSIDER
CLOSELY THE PRACTICAL NEXT STEPS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE
PRESIDENT'S JUNE 24TH VISION THAT REMAINS AT THE CORE OF OUR
PEACEMAKING EFFORTS.

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-- EVERYTHING WE ARE DOING ON THE ROADMAP IS AIMED AT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S JUNE 24TH VISION, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO FINALIZE THE ELEMENTS OF THE ROADMAP TOGETHER WITH THE PARTIES AND OUR QUARTET PARTNERS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ASSESS CLOSELY THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND AND

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 HOW BEST TO PROCEED, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE UPCOMING ISRAELI ELECTIONS.

MANTRA ON VIOLENCE & ISRAELI MILITARY ACTIONS

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE RECENT PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE AND ISRAELI MILITARY ACTIONS THAT HAVE RESULTED IN NUMEROUS CIVILIAN CASUALTIES?

-- WE ARE DEEPLY TROUBLED BY UPSURGE IN VIOLENCE IN THE REGION, INCLUDING THE KILLING OF AN 11-YEAR OLD PALESTINIAN GIRL IN GAZA YESTERDAY AND THE KILLING BY GUNMEN OF A RABBI IN GAZA EARLIER TODAY. THERE CAN BE NO EXCUSE FOR THE VIOLENCE AND TERRORIST ATTACKS THE ISRAELI PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO ENDURE, AND WE ARE PRESSING THE PALESTINIANS TO DO ALL THEY CAN TO END THE TERROR AND VIOLENCE IMMEDIATELY AND WORK TO RESTORE ACTIVE SECURITY CONTACTS TO DISMANTLE THE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT SUPPORTS TERROR AND VIOLENCE.

-- AS THE SECRETARY DID IN HIS MEETING WITH DEFENCE MINISTER MOFAZ EARLIER THIS WEEK, WE CONTINUE TO URGE THE ISRAELIS TO KEEP IN MIND THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS, TO COMPLETE THEIR ANTI-TERRORIST OPERATIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, TO TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT FURTHER CIVILIAN CASUALTIES, AND TO CONSIDER STEPS THAT CAN EASE THE DIRE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION INSIDE PALESTINIAN AREAS, LIKE EASING CLOSURE. WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE RECENT CIVILIAN CASUALTIES RESULTING FROM ISRAELI MILITARY ACTIONS. WE REITERATE OUR CALL ON ISRAEL TO INVESTIGATE AND FULLY EVALUATE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THESE INCIDENTS, AND TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO ENSURE THAT CIVILIANS, HUMANITARIAN SITES,

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 AND HUMANITARIAN WORKERS ARE NOT HARMED DURING ISRAELI ACTIONS. OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES GO OUT TO THE FAMILIES OF ALL THE CIVILIAN VICTIMS IN THIS CONFLICT. WE ARE RAISING THESE ISSUES DIRECTLY WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT.

MANTRA ON DEMOLITIONS

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Q: WHAT REACTION DO YOU HAVE TO THE ISRAELI DEMOLITION OF 16 PALESTINIAN HOUSES LAST WEEK AND ANOTHER TODAY?

-- WE RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S NEED TO TAKE LEGITIMATE ANTI-TERRORIST ACTION, AND WE'VE BEEN VERY CLEAR ABOUT THE NEED FOR PALESTINIAN ACTION AGAINST VIOLENCE AND TERROR. HOWEVER, STEPS SUCH AS THE DISPLACEMENT OF PEOPLE THROUGH THE DEMOLITION OF HOMES AND PROPERTY EXACERBATE THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION INSIDE THE PALESTINIAN AREAS, AND UNDERMINE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE. WE ARE FURTHER DISTURBED BY REPORTS THAT THE DEMOLITION OF HOMES IN RECENT WEEKS HAS RESULTED IN THE <<DEATHS>> OF TWO CIVILIAN OCCUPANTS INSIDE. WE URGE ISRAEL TO CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF ACTIONS SUCH AS THESE, AND TO TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT CIVILIAN CASUALTIES DO NOT RESULT FROM ISRAELI ANTI-TERRORIST ACTIONS.

U.S. PRIVATE ASSISTANCE FOR ISRAELI FENCE-BUILDING?

Q: WHAT REACTION DO YOU HAVE TO ISRAEL'S CONTINUED FENCE-BUILDING BETWEEN ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN AREAS AND REPORTS THAT U.S. PRIVATE ASSISTANCE IS FUNDING THIS EFFORT?

-- WE FULLY SUPPORT ISRAEL IN ITS EFFORTS TO COMBAT TERRORISM, AND RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S NEED TO TAKE LEGITIMATE
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 ANTI-TERRORIST ACTION, BUT HAVE LONG OPPOSED UNILATERAL STEPS THAT COULD PREJUDGE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS ON PERMANENT STATUS ISSUES LIKE BORDERS. SUCH STEPS UNDERMINE EFFORTS TO RESTORE TRUST IN A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THIS CONFLICT, AND WE URGE THE ISRAELIS TO CONSIDER THE EFFECT SUCH STEPS WILL HAVE ON EFFORTS TO ADVANCE TOWARDS THE PRESIDENT'S VISION OF TWO STATES - PALESTINE AND ISRAELI - LIVING SIDE-BY-SIDE IN PEACE AND SECURITY.

Q: COULD YOU POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION AGAINST THESE ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS FUNDING THIS EFFORT?

-- WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY SPECIFIC LEGAL PROHIBITION AGAINST SUCH FUNDING, BUT I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY FOR ANY FURTHER COMMENT.

PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS TO BE DELAYED?

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT REPORTS THAT PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS MIGHT BE DELAYED PAST JANUARY 2003? IS THIS A FURTHER POSTPONEMENT ON THE QUARTET PLAN OR THE U.S. ROADMAP? WHAT ABOUT ARAFAT'S REMARKS THAT ONLY THE PALESTINIANS CAN

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ELECT THEIR LEADERS?

-- THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN VERY CLEAR ABOUT OUR SUPPORT FOR A NEW PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP BROUGHT ABOUT THROUGH A FREE, FAIR, AND CREDIBLE ELECTION PROCESS CONDUCTED BY THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THIS NEW LEADERSHIP SHOULD BE TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE, FREE FROM ASSOCIATIONS WITH VIOLENCE AND TERROR, AND CAPABLE OF TAKING THE NECESSARY DECISIONS TO PREPARE THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE FOR STATEHOOD,

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INCLUDING THE PREPARATION OF A CONSTITUTION.

-- THE INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON REFORM (U.S., EUROPEAN UNION, UNITED NATIONS, RUSSIA, IMF, WORLD BANK, JAPAN, AND NORWAY) HAVE BEEN ENGAGED FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE ELECTORAL REFORM MEASURES THAT CAN ENSURE THAT FUTURE PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS ARE FREE, FAIR, AND CREDIBLE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT AMPLE TIME BE AFFORDED FOR THE ISRAELIS TO EFFECT A WITHDRAWAL FROM PALESTINIAN AREAS AND REFORM MEASURES ENACTED TO ENSURE A FREE, FAIR, AND CREDIBLE PROCESS.

AL-QAEDA PRESENCE IN WEST BANK AND GAZA?

Q: ISRAELI MEDIA REPORTS THAT MINISTER OF DEFENSE MOFAZ RAISED THE ISSUE OF GROWING PALESTINIAN LINKS WITH AL-QAEDA. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW?

-- THE DESTRUCTION OF THE AL-QAEDA TERRORIST NETWORK REMAINS AT THE CENTER OF OUR NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS AND WE CONTINUE TO WORK WITH A NUMBER OF REGIONAL LEADERS IN ENSURE THAT AL-QAEDA DOES NOT RECONSTITUTE ITSELF ANYWHERE IN THE REGION. WE CONTINUE TO WATCH AL-QAEDA'S MOVEMENTS VERY CLOSELY, BUT I HAVE NOTHING FOR YOU AT THIS TIME REGARDING ANY AL-QAEDA LINKS WITH PALESTINIAN GROUPS.

-- WE WELCOME STATEMENTS BY PALESTINIAN LEADERS THAT AL-QAEDA DOES NOT AND HAS NEVER SPOKEN ON BEHALF OF THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE. WE EXPECT THAT PALESTINIAN LEADERS WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO COMBAT ANY AL-QAEDA INVOLVEMENT IN THIS CONFLICT.

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MANTRA ON SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY?

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Q: IS ANYTHING BE DONE TO STOP SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY? WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE ISRAELI DECISION TO DISMANTLE A SETTLEMENT IN HEBRON?

-- WE WELCOME RECENT ISRAELI STEPS TO DISMANTLE SOME SETTLEMENTS. AS THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY HAVE SAID FOR SOME TIME, THAT "ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY HAS SEVERELY UNDERMINED PALESTINIAN TRUST AND HOPE. IT PREEMPTS AND PREJUDGES THE OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS AND, IN DOING SO, CRIPPLES CHANCES FOR REAL PEACE AND SECURITY. THE U.S. HAS LONG OPPOSED SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY AND CONSISTENT WITH THE REPORT OF THE MITCHELL COMMITTEE, SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY MUST STOP." WE HAVE WELCOMED SOME RECENT ISRAELI ACTIONS TO DISMANTLE EXISTING SETTLEMENTS AND WE HAVE REITERATED TO THE ISRAELIS THAT "A HARD LOOK OF THE SETTLEMENT ISSUE" (KURTZER, HERZLIYA SPEECH 12/3) WILL BE REQUIRED TO DETERMINE THE NATIONAL AND DIPLOMATIC INTERESTS OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

TARGETED KILLINGS: DOUBLE STANDARD?

Q: HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THE ARGUMENT THAT THE U.S. IS PRACTICING A DOUBLE-STANDARD WHEN IT CONDUCTS ASSASSINATIONS OF TERRORISTS BUT CRITICIZES ISRAEL FOR DOING SO?

-- OUR POLICY ON TARGETED KILLINGS IS WELL-KNOWN. ISRAELI ACTIONS SUCH AS THESE IN CROWDED URBAN AREAS JEAPORDIZE THE LIVES OF PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS, UNDERMINE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACE, AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION IN THE REGION, AND DO NOT

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CONTRIBUTE TO PROGRESS ON PALESTINIAN CIVIL AND SECURITY REFORM.

-- AS WE HAVE MADE CLEAR IN THE PAST (BOUCHER, 7/25/02), WE HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT ISRAELI POLICIES THAT ARE NOT JUST LEGAL CONCERNS. THE ISSUE OF TARGETED KILLINGS AND THE ISSUE OF USE OF HEAVY WEAPONRY IN BUILT-UP AREAS, ARE ISSUES THAT RELATE TO HOW ARE WE GOING TO ACHIEVE PEACE, AND HOW WE CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT PERMITS US TO MOVE FORWARD TOWARDS THE RESUMPTION OF A POLITICAL DIALOGUE BASED ON A RESUMPTION OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. WE CONTINUE TO MONITOR ISRAELI ACTIONS CAREFULLY AND URGE ISRAEL TO CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF ACTIONS SUCH AS THESE, IRRESPECTIVE OF ANY LEGAL CONCERNS.

ISRAELIS BLOCK ARAFAT TRAVEL TO BETHLEHEM

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO THE ISRAELI DECISION TO BLOCK

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ARAFAT'S TRAVEL TO BETHLEHEM?

-- I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE PARTIES INVOLVED FOR ANY COMMENT. OUR FOCUS REMAINS ON BRINGING ABOUT WHAT THE PRESIDENT CALLED "A NEW DYNAMIC IN THE REGION": A NEW PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP BROUGHT ABOUT THROUGH A FREE, FAIR, AND CREDIBLE ELECTION PROCESS. THIS NEW LEADERSHIP SHOULD BE TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE, FREE FROM ASSOCIATIONS WITH VIOLENCE AND TERROR, AND CAPABLE OF TAKING THE NECESSARY DECISIONS TO PREPARE THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE FOR STATEHOOD, INCLUDING THE PREPARATION OF A CONSTITUTION.

2) ALGERIA: ACCESS TO GUANTANAMO <<DETAINÉES>>
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(BACKGROUND: AN ALGERIAN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE AND TWO LAWYERS PLAN TO APPLY FOR U.S. VISAS IN ORDER TO VISIT ALGERIANS DETAINED AT GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA. THE PARLIAMENTARIAN APPEARS TO HAVE TWO GOALS: TO GAIN MEDIA ATTENTION, AND EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT OF ALGERIA OVER ITS CT COOPERATION WITH THE U.S.)

Q: WILL THE U.S. GRANT VISAS TO AN ALGERIAN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND ACCOMPANYING LAWYERS TO VISIT ALGERIANS DETAINED AT GUANTANAMO BAY?

-- VISITS TO GUANTANAMO <<DETAINÉES>> BY FOREIGN PARLIAMENTARIANS, ATTORNEYS, FAMILY MEMBERS, AND MEMBERS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS OR PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS ARE NOT PERMITTED.

-- REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS INDIVIDUALLY AND PRIVATELY VISIT ENEMY COMBATANTS HELD AT GUANTANAMO ON A REGULAR BASIS.

-- FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ARE PERMITTED TO SCHEDULE VISITS TO THEIR OWN NATIONALS AND, ON OCCASION, TO OTHER <<DETAINÉES>> IF THEY HAVE SPECIFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT OR INTELLIGENCE NEEDS TO VISIT THEM. THESE VISITS ARE ONLY AUTHORIZED FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INTELLIGENCE PURPOSES.

-- FOR OPERATIONAL AND SECURITY REASONS, VISITS BY FOREIGN OFFICIALS TO GUANTANAMO MUST BE MISSION-ESSENTIAL OR IN FURTHERANCE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OBJECTIVES OR INTELLIGENCE GATHERING.

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-- THE USG WILL BE HAPPY TO CONSIDER ANY APPLICATION FOR A VISA TO VISIT THE U.S., AND WILL MAKE ITS DECISION BASED ON THE LEGAL CRITERIA FOR ISSUANCE OF NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS.

Q: IF TRAVEL TO GUANTANAMO IS NOT POSSIBLE, AND THAT IS THEIR REASON FOR GOING TO THE U.S., WOULD THE APPLICANTS STILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR VISIT VISAS?

-- WE CANNOT PRE-ADJUDICATE THESE APPLICATIONS NOW. THEY WILL RECEIVE VISAS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES IF THE CONSULAR OFFICER FINDS THEM ELIGIBLE UNDER U.S. LAW.

Q: DON'T THE <<DETAINEES>> HAVE THE RIGHT TO SPEAK WITH A LAWYER?

-- IN THIS WAR, AS IN EVERY WAR, ENEMY COMBATANTS HAVE NO RIGHT TO COUNSEL OR ACCESS TO COURTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHALLENGING THEIR DETENTION.

-- ACCESS TO COUNSEL, IN THE ABSENCE OF CRIMINAL CHARGES, BY ENEMY COMBATANTS WOULD DIRECTLY INTERFERE WITH OUR SECURITY INTERESTS AND THE ONGOING EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS COALITION PARTNERS TO GATHER AND EVALUATE INTELLIGENCE ABOUT THE ENEMY, ITS CAPABILITIES, AND ITS PLANS.

-- IF A <<DETAINEE>> IS CHARGED WITH A CRIME, THE INDIVIDUAL WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO COUNSEL AND WOULD RECEIVE A FAIR TRIAL.

-- TO DATE, NO ENEMY COMBATANT AT GUANTANAMO HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH A CRIME.

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Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE SITUATION OF <<DETAINEES>> AT GUANTANAMO BAY? HOW MANY ARE ALGERIAN?

-- THE USG HAS NOTIFIED ALL GOVERNMENTS WHOSE NATIONALS ARE HELD AS ENEMY COMBATANTS AT GUANTANAMO.

-- ALL <<DETAINEES>> ARE BEING TREATED HUMANELY IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE THIRD GENEVA CONVENTION OF 1949. THEY RECEIVE ADEQUATE FOOD, SHELTER, MEDICAL CARE, AND OPPORTUNITY TO WORSHIP.

-- REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS INDIVIDUALLY AND PRIVATELY VISIT ENEMY

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COMBATANTS HELD AT GUANTANAMO ON A REGULAR BASIS.

-- FOR SECURITY REASONS, WE WILL NOT COMMENT ON THE
NUMBERS AND NATIONALITIES OF GUANTANAMO <<DETAINees>>.
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