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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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USCINCPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 222150

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

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: IS, KPAO, OPRC, PREL, XF

SUBJECT: NEA PRESS GUIDANCE - 07/31/03

LONDON PLEASE PASS TO POLITICAL OFFICER ETHAN A. GOLDRICH 3) EMBASSY,

LONDON PLEASE PASS TO MOU: N. KHOURY

THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED FOR POST'S INFORMATION:

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER

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1) ISRAEL/PALESTINIANS: ROADMAP PROGRESS

KEY POINTS:

-- WE ARE THOROUGHLY ENGAGED IN FOLLOW-UP TO THE DISCUSSIONS PRESIDENT BUSH HAD WITH PRIME MINISTER SHARON JULY 29 AND WITH PRIME MINISTER ABBAS JULY 25.

-- AMBASSADOR WOLF WILL RETURN TO THE REGION TODAY TO CONTINUE MONITORING AND COORDINATING STEPS TO FULFILL THE COMMITMENTS BOTH PARTIES MADE TO PRESIDENT BUSH; AMBASSADOR KURTZER AND ACTING CONSUL GENERAL JEFF FELTMAN CONTINUE ACTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH SIDES. SECRETARY POWELL, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR RICE, AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS WILLIAM J. BURNS, ARE IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE PARTIES.

-- BOTH SIDES HAVE OBLIGATIONS. BOTH SIDES HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES. THE SUBSTANCE OF THESE OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES HAS NOT CHANGED. ALL PARTIES AGREE THAT A FUNDAMENTAL IMPEDIMENT TO PROGRESS IS TERRORISM.

-- THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY MUST UNDERTAKE SUSTAINED, TARGETED, AND EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS TO CONFRONT THOSE ENGAGED IN TERROR AND TO DISMANTLE TERRORIST CAPABILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

-- PRIME MINISTER ABBAS HAS COMMITTED TO A COMPLETE END TO VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM. WE ARE DETERMINED TO HELP PRIME MINISTER ABBAS AS HE WORKS TO END TERROR AND ESTABLISH THE RULE OF LAW THAT WILL PROTECT ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS.

-- THE ISRAELIS HAVE OBLIGATIONS TOO, WHICH INCLUDE DISMANTLING ROADBLOCKS AND SETTLEMENT OUTPOSTS, AND FREEZING SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY. WE ARE PLEASED THAT FIVE CHECKPOINTS HAVE BEEN DISMANTLED, WHICH EASES RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL TO WORK, HOME, SCHOOL FOR PALESTINIANS, BUT MORE WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE.

-- AS PRESIDENT BUSH HAS STATED, &THE ISSUE OF SETTLEMENTS MUST BE ADDRESSED FOR PEACE TO BE ACHIEVED.8

-- WE WILL CONTINUE TALKING TO THE ISRAELIS ABOUT PRISONER RELEASES. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY POSITIVE STEPS THAT ISRAEL HAS TAKEN TO FURTHER THE CAUSE OF PEACE, INCLUDING THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS THAT PM SHARON ANNOUNCED JULY 29.

-- THE SEPARATION FENCE IS ANOTHER POINT WE WILL CONTINUE DISCUSSING WITH THE PARTIES. AS THE SECRETARY STATED, (JULY

30, REUTERS), &THE FENCE IS A PROBLEM IF IT IS CONSTRUCTED IN A WAY OR CONTINUES TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN A WAY THAT TAKES ADDITIONAL PALESTINIAN LAND, PREJUDGES WHAT MIGHT BE LEFT FOR A PALESTINIAN STATE, OR IF IT COMPLICATES OUR DISCUSSIONS GOING FORWARD.8

-- WE ARE PLEASED THAT BOTH SIDES ARE CONTINUING TO MEET REGULARLY: PRIME MINISTER SHARON WITH PRIME MINISTER ABBAS, AS WELL AS ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN CABINET AND SECURITY OFFICIALS.

-- THERE ARE TOUGH ISSUES AHEAD, BUT THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS IS MOVING FORWARD. AS THE SECRETARY SAID, &THIS IS A GROUND GAME AND YOU GET IT A COUPLE OF YARDS AT A TIME.8 (JULY 30, REUTERS)

2) IRAQ: WORLD BANK LOANS FOR RECONSTRUCTION
KEY POINTS

-- WE ARE PLEASED THAT WORLD BANK PRESIDENT JAMES WOLFENSOHN TRAVELED TO IRAQ TO MEET WITH THE IRAQI GOVERNING COUNCIL, AMBASSADOR BREMER AND UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE VIEIRA DE MELLO.

-- AS QUOTED IN THE NY TIMES TODAY (7/31), MR. WOLFENSOHN SAID THAT WORLD BANK FINANCING WOULD BE AVAILABLE &BEYOND DOUBTS ONCE AN IRAQI CONSTITUTION AND ELECTED GOVERNMENT WERE IN PLACE. THE WORLD BANK AND UN ARE ALREADY LOOKING AT TRUST FUND MECHANISMS TO COVER THE SHORT-TERM.

-- ALREADY THE WORLD BANK IS ENGAGED IN A NUMBER OF NEEDS ASSESSMENTS IN IRAQ, WORKING WITH THE EXISTING IRAQI MINISTRIES, UN AGENCIES AND THE COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY. THESE NEEDS ASSESSMENTS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE PLANNING FOR AN OCTOBER DONORS, CONFERENCE AND WILL SUPPORT IRAQI EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A 2004 NATIONAL BUDGET.

-- WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE BANK,S ENGAGEMENT TO DATE ON IRAQ AND ITS COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE &THE MAXIMUM FEASIBLE SUPPORT TO IRAQ DURING THE TRANSITION TOWARD AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT.8 (WORLD BANK NEWS RELEASE)
IN ADDITION, WOLFENSOHN,S MEETING WITH THE IRAQI GOVERNING COUNCIL PROVIDED IMPORTANT RECOGNITION OF ITS ROLE IN THE TRANSITION TO AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT.

3) IRAQ: APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNING COUNCIL PRESIDENT, RETURN OF IRAQI REFUGEES, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT ON INTERNAL SITUATION IN IRAQ

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KEY POINTS:

-- AS THE SECRETARY NOTED YESTERDAY, THERE ARE SOME VERY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAQ: "IRAQI REFUGEES RETURNED TO THEIR HOMELAND TODAY FROM SAUDI ARABIA OUT OF REFUGEE CAMPS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 12 YEARS, AND THE JOY IS CLEAR IN THEIR FACES THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO GO HOME." WE ARE WORKING TO ENSURE THAT THE SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE EXISTS TO PERMIT THE SAFE RETURN OF THE MANY THOUSANDS OF IRAQI REFUGEES WHO FLED THE SADDAM HUSSEIN REGIME AND WILL CONTINUE TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH UNHCR AND IRAQ,S NEIGHBORS AS WE MOVE FORWARD. ((I MADE THIS CHANGE BECAUSE I KNOW THAT WE DON,T WANT LARGE-SCALE RETURNS YET))

-- AS YOU KNOW, THE GOVERNING COUNCIL HAS ELECTED A PRESIDENCY FOR ITSELF; AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP AS THE COUNCIL ORGANIZES ITSELF FOR THE CHALLENGING WORK AHEAD. THE GOVERNING COUNCIL WILL NAME MINISTERS, OVERSEE IRAQI MINISTRIES AND THE PREPARATION OF THE 2004 BUDGET, AND HELP LAUNCH A CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS THAT WILL DRAFT A NEW IRAQI CONSTITUTION AND PAVE THE WAY FOR NEW ELECTIONS.

-- THERE ARE OVER 12,000 IRAQI POLICEMEN BACK ON THE STREETS IN BAGHDAD, AND THIS MEANS A VISIBLE IRAQI PRESENCE INVOLVED IN MAINTAINING SECURITY. IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, WE WILL RECRUIT AND TRAIN THE FIRST BATTALION OF THE NEW IRAQI ARMY AS A VOLUNTEER) (NOT A CONSCRIPTION) - FORCE. WE WILL ALSO RAISE EIGHT NEW BATTALIONS OF NEW IRAQI CIVIL DEFENSE CORPS, RE-OPEN POLICE ACADEMY AND RECRUIT A BORDER GUARD. WE RE-ESTABLISHED THE CRIMINAL COURT IN JUNE, AND CRIMINAL TRIALS WILL RESUME SOON.

-- BASIC SERVICES ARE IMPROVING: ALL IRAQI HOSPITALS HAVE RE-OPENED, AS WELL AS 90% OF IRAQ'S MEDICAL CLINICS. ELECTRICITY OUTPUT IS UP TO 74% OF PRE-WAR OUTPUT AND WE HAVE A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS UNDERWAY THAT WILL GET US BACK UP TO MEETING IRAQ'S ELECTRICITY NEEDS. OVER 90% OF IRAQI PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVE RE-OPENED AND ALL 22 IRAQI UNIVERSITIES HAVE RE-OPENED. IN ADDITION, QATAR AND UNESCO HAVE JOINTLY CREATED AN IRAQI HIGHER EDUCATION FUND WITH AN INITIAL \$15 MILLION QATARI CONTRIBUTION TO ENHANCE IRAQI HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND COMPUTER SCIENCE.

-- WE'RE PAYING PUBLIC SECTOR SALARIES, AND INJECTING \$200 MILLION PER MONTH INTO THE ECONOMY THROUGH PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND PENSIONS. BOTH STATE BANKS HAVE RE-OPENED AND NORMAL TRANSACTIONS LIKES CHECK-CASHING ARE AVAILABLE. AND, ON JULY 7TH, WE CREATED AN INDEPENDENT CENTRAL BANK WITH A

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NEW IRAQI GOVERNOR.

-- THE COALITION EFFORT IS TRULY INTERNATIONAL AND PROGRESS IS BEING MADE, AND AS THE SECRETARY NOTED, "THERE ARE A LOT OF GOOD THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING (AND) SLOWLY BUT SURELY, AMBASSADOR BREMER AND HIS TEAM ARE SUCCESSFULLY STARTING UP ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND A POLITICAL PROCESS IS UNDERWAY. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS COMING IN ALL WAYS TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT."

REGARDING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CRITICISMS:

-- WE ARE LOOKING AT THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT. I WOULD REITERATE THAT THE COALITION IS VERY FOCUSED ON ENSURING THAT THE SITUATION INSIDE IRAQ CREATED BY THE REGIME OF SADDAM HUSSEIN AND INHERITED BY THE COALITION IS RECTIFIED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. WE HAVE LONG DOCUMENTED THE DEPLORABLE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN IRAQ UNDER SADDAM HUSSEIN, INCLUDING THE DISCREDITED AND LARGELY DYSFUNCTIONAL JUDICIAL SYSTEM, A NON-FUNCTIONING POLICE FORCE, THE RELEASE OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF VIOLENT CRIMINALS ONTO THE STREETS IN THE LATE DAYS OF THE REGIME, THE PERVASIVE CLIMATE OF FEAR AND REPRESSION, AND THE ABSENCE OF THE RULE OF LAW.

-- WE ARE WORKING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO ADDRESS THIS. MANY OF THE STEPS I HAVE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED - THE TRAINING OF A NEW POLICE FORCE AND CIVIL DEFENSE FORCE, THE RE-OPENING OF THE CRIMINAL COURTS AND THE RESUMPTION OF CRIMINAL TRIALS WILL HELP SIGNIFICANTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUES NOTED IN THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT.

-- WHILE A GREAT DEAL OF WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE, THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE, AND WE BELIEVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN IRAQ IS STEADILY IMPROVING.

(IF PRESSED ON DETAINEES):

-- AS AMBASSADOR BREMER SAID WHILE IN WASHINGTON: &WE ARE IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS. THE ICRC, THE UNHCR, THEY ALL HAVE FULL ACCESS AND HAVE VISITED OUR DETAINEES. OUR DETAINEES NOW HAVE ACCESS TO LAWYERS. WE HAVE ARRANGED FAMILY VISITS FOR ALL BUT A FEW OF THE DETAINEES.

4) HAS US SOUGHT TO INTERVIEW AL-BAYOUMI?

Q. HAVE WE SOUGHT TO INTERVIEW OMAR AL-BAYOUMI, A SAUDI WHO KNEW TWO OF THE 9/11 HIJACKERS?

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-- A.) QUESTIONS CONCERNING ANY PREVIOUS INTERVIEWS WITH AL-BAYOUMI SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES, IN THIS CASE THE FBI. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ON BEHALF OF THE FBI, DR. RICE REQUESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA COOPERATE WITH US LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS IN CASES PERTAINING TO SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS. FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING DETAILS ABOUT THOSE INDIVIDUALS, PLEASE CONTACT THE FBI.

5) WESTERN SAHARA: UNSC RESOLUTION ON BAKER PLAN

KEY POINTS

-- THE UNITED STATES WELCOMES THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL'S UNANIMOUS ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 1495.

-- THIS RESOLUTION:

-- OFFERS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND HIS PERSONAL ENVOY, JAMES BAKER, AND SIMILARLY SUPPORTS THEIR PEACE PLAN FOR SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WESTERN SAHARA;

-- CALLS UPON THE PARTIES TO WORK WITH THE UN AND EACH OTHER TOWARDS ACCEPTANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE PLAN;

-- RENEWS THE MANDATE FOR THE UN MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA (MINURSO) FOR THREE MONTHS (UNTIL OCTOBER 31).

-- THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THE BAKER PLAN PROVIDES A FAIR AND BALANCED BASIS ON WHICH TO MOVE FORWARD TOWARD RESOLVING THE LONGSTANDING DISPUTE OVER WESTERN SAHARA.

-- WE URGE THE PARTIES AND NEIGHBORING STATES TO SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THE PLAN AND COOPERATE CLOSELY AND ACTIVELY WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND HIS PERSONAL ENVOY*AND WITH EACH OTHER*TO MOVE THE PROCESS FORWARD.

IF ASKED: COMMENT ON REPORTED OBJECTIONS BY MOROCCO THAT THE BAKER PLAN &IMPOSES A SETTLEMENT?

-- ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS AGREE THAT THE PEACE PLAN FOR THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE OF WESTERN SAHARA COULD BE AN OPTIMUM POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THIS LONGSTANDING DISPUTE OF NEARLY THIRTY YEARS.

-- THIS RESOLUTION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN IMPOSITION; IT REPRESENTS THE COUNCIL,S RECOMMENDATION TO THE PARTIES AND

NEIGHBORING STATES.

-- ONLY THE PARTIES CAN RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. IT IS UP TO THE PARTIES TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO SIGNAL THEIR FORMAL ACCEPTANCE BY SIGNING THE PLAN.

-- WE WOULD URGE ALL PARTIES AND NEIGHBORING STATES TO WORK WITH THE UN AND EACH OTHER TOWARDS ACCEPTANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE PLAN.
IF ASKED: MOROCCO,S REPORTED REJECTION OF THE PLAN?

-- REFER YOU TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MOROCCO.

BACKGROUND FOR BRIEFER ONLY: IN LATE MAY, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FORWARDED THE BAKER PEACE PLAN IN A REPORT TO THE UNSC. SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS BEGAN WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE POLISARIO HAD ACCEPTED THE PLAN. THE US CIRCULATED A DRAFT MINURSO RESOLUTION THAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE FRIENDS GROUP. AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS OF DISCUSSION AND A LENGTHY SESSION YESTERDAY, THE COUNCIL WAS ABLE TO REACH CONSENSUS ON A SLIGHTLY MODIFIED TEXT. THE TEXT WAS VOTED ON THIS MORNING; UNSCR 1495 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

PRIOR TO YESTERDAY,S COUNCIL SESSION, MOROCCO ISSUED A STATEMENT REJECTING THE BAKER PLAN. IT IS UNCLEAR, HOWEVER, WHETHER MOROCCO,S POSITION HAS CHANGED DUE TO THE COURSE OF EVENTS OF THAT SESSION.
POWELL

NNNN