RELEASED IN FULL

Telephone conversation

Use guidance - President Kellenberger's visit

Mr. Buche, State Department

2 663 1002

Mr. Buche informed me that during a phone conversation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva to clarify whether or not and to what extent the ICRC had discussed the specifics of the Abu Ghraib case during his visit, the ICRC was one of many for delegations where a press officer is based. It is not a statement per se, but a relayed verbally in response to media questions.

The guidance we received relating to the a/m topic is as follows:

We received the following guidance on whether or not and to what extent Mr. Kellenberger had discussed the specifics of the Abu Ghraib case during his visit to Geneva, and whether or not and to what extent the ICRC had discussed the specifics of the Abu Ghraib case during his visit to Washington, D.C., in January. The main focus was on Guantanamo, and other issues in Iraq. If asked about the visit, please reply as follows:

Mr. Kellenberger visited Washington in January and discussed detention matters with Paul Wolfowitz and Colin Powell. The main focus was on Guantanamo, and other issues in Iraq. The meetings were part of the regular encounters between the ICRC and different governments. The substance of these discussions cannot be made public due to the sensitive nature of the topics discussed.

The guidance we received states that only when directly asked whether or not and to what extent Mr. Kellenberger had discussed the specifics of the Abu Ghraib case during his visit to Geneva can the ICRC's upcoming report on US detention in Iraq but did not discuss this report.

End quote
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ED TO: Principals Committee Meeting on Detainees

REMARKS:

E-MAIL COMMENTS/CLEARANCE TO:

AUTHORIZED BY: Saadia Sarkis

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