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L Press Guidance
February 11, 2002

RELEASED IN FULL

**ICRC REPORT ON TREATMENT OF DETAINEES IN
GUANTANAMO**

Q: Will we release the Red Cross report to us on the detainees? Why?

-- NO. IT HAS LONG BEEN OUR PRACTICE AND THE PRACTICE OF OTHER COUNTRIES NOT TO RELEASE ICRC REPORTS OF THIS KIND. THIS LONGSTANDING PRACTICE HELPS TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE ICRC'S IMPORTANT WORK, AND TO PROTECT THE DIGNITY AND PRIVACY INTERESTS OF THE DETAINEES.

-- WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ICRC. WE SUPPORT THEIR IMPORTANT HUMANITARIAN MISSION AND RECOGNIZE THEIR POSITION OF NEUTRALITY ON THESE ISSUES. WE WILL CONTINUE TO RESPECT THE PRIVATE NATURE OF THESE TYPES OF COMMUNICATIONS UNLESS DISCLOSURE BECOMES ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY OR SERVES SOME HUMANITARIAN PURPOSE.

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For Background Only:

The ICRC is an impartial, neutral, and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and to provide them with assistance. Its reports are designed to facilitate cooperation with the Detaining country in an effort to ensure proper treatment under the Geneva Conventions and the laws and customs of war. Such reports contain candid views of the ICRC, and may also contain specific and private comments and requests made by the detainees themselves. Public disclosure of such reports could have the effect of discouraging candid discussions and humanitarian cooperation, and therefore, typically is not in the interest of the ICRC or the Detaining country.

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Drafted: L/PM - DBowker
x76863 Doc 100411 v1 2/11/02
Cleared: L: ECummings ok

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DOS-001068