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To: Cynthia Church
Public Affairs Office
Department of State

Date: Feb. 27, 2002

From: Ben Barber
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The Washington Times
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Questions for Secretary of State Colin L. Powell on the POW issue for American Legion Magazine.

1. Why was the decision made to deny detainees on Guantanamo, Cuba "prisoner of war" status?
2. Could U.S. troops serving overseas be affected by the decision to deny detainees in Guantanamo, Cuba "prisoner of war" status?
3. What does it mean when U.S. officials say the detainees are to be held under then Geneva Conventions even though not granted POW status?
4. How do you respond to foreign criticism of the decision not to grant POW status, especially by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva?
5. What can you say or do to assure that this situation will not undermine established international norms for treatment of war prisoners?

Thank you. Ben Barber, cell 240 602 3291