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EUR Press Guidance
January 22, 2002

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

1062

BOSNIA: TRANSFER OF SIX DETAINEES

Q: Any comment on reports that the U.S. has taken into custody six individuals with suspected links to Al-Qaida?

A: -- U.S. MILITARY FORCES IN BOSNIA ON JANUARY 18 TOOK CUSTODY OF SIX PERSONS SUSPECTED OF TERRORIST LINKS.

-- I REFER YOU TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR DETAILS.

-- THE U.S. APPRECIATES THE CLOSE COOPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND ITS LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES IN THIS MATTER.

Q: Where are they now? Will they be sent to Guantanamo Bay?

A. -- U.S. FORCES TRANSPORTED THE SIX SUSPECTED TERRORISTS FROM BOSNIA ON JANUARY 19. THEY HAVE NOW ARRIVED IN GUANTANAMO BAY. I WOULD REFER YOU TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. R. LOHMAN, DAS, A/RPS
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 21 JAN 2012
DATE/CASE ID: 21 DEC 2004 200303827

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DOS-001074

Q: What are their links to Al-Qaida?

A: -- BECAUSE OUR INVESTIGATION INTO THEIR ACTIVITIES IS CONTINUING, I CANNOT COMMENT ON WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THEIR LINKS TO THE AL-QAIDA TERRORIST NETWORK.

Q: Why weren't they handed over to SFOR?

A: -- THE TRANSFER OF THESE INDIVIDUALS WAS IN RESPONSE TO A BILATERAL REQUEST FROM THE UNITED STATES.

Q: What nationality are they?

A: -- ALL SIX ARE ALGERIAN NATIONALS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT, WHILE FIVE OF THEM HAD ALSO HELD BOSNIAN CITIZENSHIP, BOSNIAN AUTHORITIES TOOK STEPS TO REVOKE THAT CITIZENSHIP AND THE ISSUE WAS LITIGATED.

Q: What does the Algerian government have to say about this?

A: -- WE INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT OF THIS ACTION. I DIRECT YOU TO THAT GOVERNMENT FOR COMMENT.

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BACKGROUND: In October, Bosnian authorities at U.S. urging detained six persons believed to be preparing an attack on the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo.

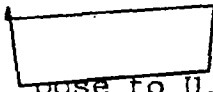
[Redacted]

The suspects were [Redacted] scheduled to be released on January 18.

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and the threat that the individuals therefore pose to U.S. forces and civilians in Bosnia, release was determined to be unacceptable. The U.S. therefore decided to take them into custody and transfer them out of Bosnia. The suspects left Bosnia on January 19 and arrived in Guantanamo Bay on January 20.

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DRAFTED: EUR/SCE/BI - Raffi Gregorian 647-4195

CLEARED: EUR/FO JBOGUE

EUR/FO:JBENTON OK

P:SCURRAN OK

D:TKAIDANOW OK

S/CT:TMAERTENS OK

NEA/ENA:BSTANTON OK

L/EUR:JDOROSIN OK

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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Case No. 200303827
Segment L008

Mr. Amrit Singh
American Civil Liberties Foundation
125 Broad Street, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10004-2400

DEC 23 2004

Dear Mr. Singh:

I refer to our previous correspondence regarding the release of certain Department of State material that you had requested under the Freedom of Information Act (Title 5 USC Section 552) in your letters of October 7, 2003, and May 25, 2004.

We have retrieved 137 additional documents from the Office of the Legal Adviser that appear responsive to your request. They have been grouped as Segment L008. The search in the other files has been completed, and we will let you know as the review of the various segments has been accomplished.

After reviewing the documents of Segment L008, we have determined that 10 may be released in full, 10 may be released with excisions, and 82 may not be released. The released documents are enclosed. A decision on one document requires interagency or intra-agency coordination. We will inform you when we receive the results of that coordination. Thirty-four documents originated with other government agencies and have been referred to those agencies for review and direct reply to you.

The material in the excised portions of nine of the documents released in part and in 49 of the documents withheld in full is currently and properly classified under Executive Order 12958 in the interest of national defense or foreign relations. As such, it is exempt from release under subsection (b) (1) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Information in 54 documents withheld in full is exempt from release under subsection (b) (5) of the Freedom of

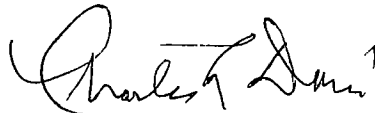
Information Act because it is protected by the deliberative process privilege, attorney client privilege, attorney work product privilege, and/or another privilege incorporated by subsection (b) (5).


The material in two of the documents withheld in full is information compiled for law enforcement purposes which, if produced, could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings. As such, it is exempt from release under subsection (b) (7) (A) of the Freedom of Information Act.

The material in the excised portions of two of the documents released in part is information compiled for law enforcement purposes which, if produced, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. As such, it is exempt from release under subsection (b) (7) (C) of the Freedom of Information Act.

In some cases, two or more exemptions apply to the same document. In the case of a document released in part, all non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released.

Sincerely,



 Margaret P. Grafeld
Director
Office of Information Programs
and Services

Enclosures:
As stated.