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EAP/ANP Press Guidance
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RELEASED IN FULL

Australia/U.S. - Meeting on Legal Issues

- Q: The White House announced last week the visit of Australian legal experts to discuss the issue of Australian nationals detained at Guantanamo Bay. Can you provide details on this visit? Has Secretary Powell discussed this issue with Foreign Minister Downer?
- A: An Australian delegation, led by the Minister of Justice, Senator Chris Ellison, will meet July 22 with officials at both the Departments of State and Defense. The Legal Adviser William Taft IV and the Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues Pierre Prosper will meet with the delegation.

The meetings will discuss a number of legal issues of mutual concern, including the status of Australian nationals detained at Guantanamo Bay. These talks are a continuation of a long-running dialogue between the United States and Australia on the subject of detainees, which has included discussions between Secretary Powell and Foreign Minister Downer.

(If asked) The Secretary last spoke with Foreign Minister Downer on this subject July 16.

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