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TELEGRAM

September 11, 2002

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From: SECSTATE WASHDC (STATE 174094 - IMMEDIATE)

TAGS: OSCE, PHUM, PREL, PTER

Captions: None

Subject: OSCE: PRESS GUIDANCE FOR OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING

Ref: None

1. Department provides the following guidance for Mission to draw upon as appropriate concerning respect for human rights and the war on terrorism at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Review Meeting.

BEGIN POINTS:

-- The U.S. remains committed to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as we conduct the war against terrorism. As Secretary Powell said August 1, "If we are to prevail in this conflict, we must do so in a way that respects both human dignity and the rights of all men and women."

-- The U.S. strongly supports the OSCE's role in championing human rights among its member states, particularly through its annual human rights conference, the Human Dimension Implementing Meeting, which convenes in Warsaw, Poland during September 9-20.

-- Nowhere can the United States and its OSCE partners better discuss such issues as:

--Respect for Human Rights in the Fight against Terrorism, including condemnation of revenge attacks

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against Muslims;

--Internally Displaced Persons; and

--Anti-Semitism.

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WAR ON TERRORISM

-- We believe that the OSCE should renew its support for the Bucharest Ministerial Plan of Action, which affirms our commitments to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms in the fight against terrorism. We also believe it might be good to use elements from the Bishkek conference document. Specifically, we would seek to reiterate our rejection of the notion that terrorism is associated with any particular religion or culture, while pointing out that terrorists who claim to be acting on behalf of their religion are distorting the principles of that religion. We should also condemn the rise in anti-Islamic sentiment since September 11, urge government officials to make public statements against anti-Islamic sentiment, and urge governments to apprehend and prosecute perpetrators of such incidents.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

-- U.S. seeks a commitment among OSCE member states to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of IDPs, including the rights to freedom of thought, , freedom of association, election voting, and freedom of movement. At the same time, we believe any ministerial commitment should also reaffirm existing Lisbon and Istanbul commitments to facilitating voluntary returns, as a response to the current problems in Chechnya.

ANTI-SEMITISM

-- In the past year there has been an increase in anti-Semitic incidents throughout the OSCE region. We believe the current rise in violence warrants a condemnation of the incidents by our Ministers.

OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES

--We also look forward to efforts dealing with rights of Roma/Sinti, and preventing trafficking in persons.

IF ASKED

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-- Individuals detained at Guantanamo are enemy combatants captured in an on-going armed conflict involving attacks against the United States, its citizens and citizens of numerous other nations.

-- Enemy combatants were detained during hostilities and pose a security threat to the United States and Coalition partners.

-- Enemy combatants are being held in accordance with the law of armed conflict, which permits the United States to hold them for the duration of hostilities.

-- The law of armed conflict permits the USG to detain an enemy combatant regardless of whether criminal charges can be brought against him. The act of detaining enemy combatants is not an act of punishment. Rather, it is to prevent enemy combatants from continuing to fight against us.

-- As long as hostilities continue, the USG must-as a matter of national security, military necessity, and common sense continue to detain enemy combatants who could rejoin the fight against us if provided the opportunity.

-- The United States is treating all enemy combatants humanely and, consistent with military necessity, in a manner consistent with the principles of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949. Representatives of the

International Committee of the Red Cross visit Guantanamo, and meet with enemy combatants individually and privately.

END POINTS
POWELL

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SUBJECT: OSCE: PRESS GUIDANCE FOR OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION
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