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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman**

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For Immediate Release
2004/xxx**March 1, 2004****STATEMENT BY RICHARD BOUCHER, SPOKESMAN****Transfer of Russian Nationals from Guantanamo**

The United States has transferred seven Russian nationals detained at Guantanamo to the control of the Government of Russia to face criminal charges relating to their terrorist activities during an armed conflict. The transfer is the result of discussions between our two governments over the past year and certain assurances, including that the individuals will be detained, investigated and prosecuted, as appropriate, under Russian law and will be treated humanely in accordance with Russian law and obligations.

The war against terrorism requires close cooperation between nations. The United States welcomes and appreciates the cooperation of the Government of Russia on this issue and looks forward to working closely in the future in the fight against terrorism.

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