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TO WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

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AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMCONSUL TIJUANA

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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ALL POSTS FOR PAO, USSOCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: OPRC, KPAO  
SUBJECT: WHA GUIDANCE, JANUARY 17, 2002

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS:

1. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, JAN 17 (ARGENTINA)
  2. S/WCI-L PRESS GUIDANCE, JAN 17 (GUANTANAMO/DETAINEES)
  3. CA PRESS GUIDANCE, JAN 16 (MEXICO)
- END SUMMARY.

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1. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, JANUARY 17, 2002  
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-- ARGENTINA: JANUARY 16 BUSH SPEECH TO WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL  
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QUESTION: DOES THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH LAST NIGHT SIGNAL ANY  
CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY REGARDING ARGENTINA'S FINANCIAL CRISIS?

A: AS PRESIDENT BUSH SAID LAST NIGHT, AMERICA IS DEEPLY  
CONCERNED ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES FACING OUR ALLY AND OUR  
FRIEND, ARGENTINA, AND THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS ON  
ITS CITIZENS.

THE UNITED STATES REMAINS READY TO HELP ARGENTINA WEATHER ITS  
CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. ONCE ARGENTINA HAS COMMITTED  
TO A SOUND AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC PLAN, WE WILL SUPPORT  
ASSISTANCE FOR ARGENTINA THROUGH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL  
INSTITUTIONS.

THIS ASSISTANCE, SAID THE PRESIDENT, CAN SOFTEN THE IMPACT OF  
THE CRISIS ON THE LIVES OF THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE, AND HELP  
THEIR COUNTRY RETURN TO GROWTH AND PROSPERITY.

THE PRESIDENT NOTED ARGENTINE PRESIDENT DUHALDE'S DESIRE TO  
PURSUE A FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS WAS ENCOURAGING.

FOR OUR PART, WE CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD A FREE TRADE AREA OF  
THE AMERICAS AND REMAIN DETERMINED TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS  
BY JANUARY OF 2005.

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2. S/WCI - L PRESS GUIDANCE, JANUARY 17, 2002  
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-- TREATMENT OF DETAINEES IN GUANTANAMO --  
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Q: PLEASE UPDATE GUIDANCE REBUTTING ALLEGATIONS OF THE  
INHUMANE TREATMENT OF THE PRISONERS IN CUBA. DO WE HAVE A  
INTERPRETATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION THAT ALLOWS US TO  
DESIGNATE THE DETAINEES AS "UNLAWFUL COMBATANTS" AS OPPOSED  
TO PRISONERS OF WAR?

ANSWER: THE INDIVIDUALS BEING DETAINED AT GUANTANAMO ARE  
BEING TREATED HUMANELY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENEVA  
CONVENTIONS.

EACH DAY THE DETAINEES ARE GIVEN THREE CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE  
MEALS.

THEY HAVE DAILY OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOWER, EXERCISE AND RECEIVE  
MEDICAL ATTENTION.

IT IS OF COURSE THE CASE THAT THESE DETAINEES ARE VERY  
DANGEROUS PEOPLE, AND ALL APPROPRIATE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS ARE  
BEING TAKEN.

WE ARE CONTINUING TO INVESTIGATE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE  
DETAINEES AND AL QAEDA, AND ARE COLLECTING ANY RELEVANT  
INFORMATION CONCERNING CRIMES THEY MAY HAVE COMMITTED.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RED CROSS WILL HAVE  
ACCESS TO THE DETAINEES AT GUANTANAMO TODAY TO INSPECT THE  
CONDITIONS THERE.

REFER YOU TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION.

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3. CA PRESS GUIDANCE, JANUARY 16, 2002  
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-- MEXICO: BOOZ-ALLEN CONTRACT ON MIGRATION POLICY --

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KEY POINTS:

CONTRACT BETWEEN CONSULAR AFFAIRS AND BOOZ-ALLEN AND HAMILTON

INDEPENDENT POLICY ANALYSIS ASSOCIATED WITH U.S.-MEXICO  
MIGRATION TALKS, TO LOOK INTO POSSIBLE NEED FOR A  
NON-AGRICULTURAL TEMPORARY WORKER PROGRAM.

BOOZ-ALLEN REPORT DUE BACK TO CONSULAR AFFAIRS IN MARCH 2002.

QUESTION: PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S  
PRIORITIES IN ITS MIGRATION RELATIONSHIP WITH MEXICO MAY HAVE  
CHANGED IN THE POST-SEPT. 11 ENVIRONMENT.

ANSWER: THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 HAVE CAUSED THE  
FOCUS OF THE TALKS TO SHIFT FROM A TEMPORARY WORKER PROGRAM  
TO STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S BORDERS.

THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT WE PLACE ANY LESS  
IMPORTANCE ON BILATERAL MIGRATION ISSUES, WHICH REMAIN AN  
IMPORTANT PART OF OUR OVERALL RELATIONSHIP WITH MEXICO.

QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA BOOZ-ALLEN WILL BE USING IN  
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ITS ANALYSIS?

ANSWER: WE EXPECT THAT BOOZ-ALLEN WILL BE REVIEWING THE  
AVAILABLE LITERATURE ON PREVIOUS GUEST-WORKER PROGRAMS,  
TRAVELING THROUGHOUT THE U.S. TO MEET WITH VARIOUS  
"STAKEHOLDERS" WHO MIGHT HAVE AN INTEREST IN SUCH A PROGRAM,  
AND ANALYZING BOTH THE CURRENT AND PROJECTED LABOR MARKETS IN  
THE RELEVANT SECTORS.

QUESTION: DOES THE FACT THAT YOU'VE ENTERED INTO THIS  
CONTRACT WITH BOOZ-ALLEN INDICATE THAT THE U.S. INTENDS TO  
MOVE FORWARD WITH A TEMPORARY WORKER PROGRAM WITH MEXICO,  
DESPITE THE OBVIOUS CHANGES AND ADDITIONAL CONCERNS ABOUT  
IMMIGRATION ISSUES IN THE WAKE OF SEPTEMBER 11?

ANSWER: THE PURPOSE OF THIS CONTRACT IS TO PROVIDE US AN  
INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS OF THE LABOR MARKETS AND THE POTENTIAL  
FOR SUCH A PROGRAM.

STATING DEFINITELY AT THIS TIME THAT THERE WILL OR WILL NOT  
BE SUCH A PROGRAM IS PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE.  
POWELL