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R 301954Z APR 02
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO EUROPE ONLY COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY ALMATY
AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA
AMEMBASSY CHISINAU
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AMEMBASSY MINSK
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AMEMBASSY TIRANA
AMEMBASSY YEREVAN

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KPAO

SUBJECT: EUR DAILY PRESS GUIDANCE - 04/30/02

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1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED AND APPROVED BY
THE BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN AFFAIRS AND OTHER
SELECTED BUREAUS HANDLING ISSUES OF INTEREST TO EUR POSTS FOR
THE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING. QUESTIONS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO EUR
PRESS OFFICE (202) 647-6925.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- GERMANY: NEW U.S. EMBASSY IN BERLIN
- GEORGIA: TRAIN AND EQUIP
- FRY: ICTY ACCESS TO ARCHIVES

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 04 NOV 2004 200303827

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DOS-001940

ACLU-RDI 4215 p.1

-- UK: BRITISH TRANSFER OF DETAINEES TO AFGHANS

2. GERMANY: NEW U.S. EMBASSY IN BERLIN

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT THE U.S. WILL SIGN AN AGREEMENT REGARDING A PROPOSED NEW EMBASSY OFFICE BUILDING IN BERLIN?

A:-- THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY, DANIEL COATS, AND THE MAYOR OF BERLIN WILL SIGN A MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) ON THURSDAY (MAY 2). THE AGREEMENT ADDRESSES PROPOSED CHANGES TO STREET/TRAFFIC PATTERNS AND SECURITY PROCEDURES THAT ARE NEEDED BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE CAN MODIFY ITS CURRENT DESIGN PLAN FOR ITS PROPOSED NEW EMBASSY OFFICE BUILDING ON PARISER PLATZ.

-- AFTER THE DESIGN PLAN IS COMPLETED AND APPROVED, THERE ARE ADDITIONAL PROCEDURAL STEPS THAT MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT. ALSO, FUNDING APPROVAL BY THE U.S. CONGRESS MUST BE SECURED BEFORE CONSTRUCTION PLANS CAN PROCEED.

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-- THIS AGREEMENT MARKS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN RETURNING THE U.S. EMBASSY TO PARISER PLATZ AFTER AN ABSENCE OF MORE THAN 50 YEARS.

Q. WHEN DO YOU EXPECT THE CONSTRUCTION TO COMMENCE AND BE COMPLETED?

A:-- THE U.S. HOPES TO COMPLETE THE DESIGN WITHIN A YEAR, AND WITH CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL, BEGIN CONSTRUCTION IN 2003. CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 2006.

3. GEORGIA: TRAIN AND EQUIP

Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE U.S. 'TRAIN AND EQUIP' PROGRAM PLANNED FOR GEORGIA?

A:-- AT THE REQUEST OF THE GEORGIAN GOVERNMENT, THE U.S. HAS BEGUN A 'TRAIN AND EQUIP' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE GEORGIAN MILITARY, BORDER GUARDS AND OTHER SECURITY FORCES.

-- THE U.S. AND GEORGIAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE ENJOYED A STRONG COOPERATIVE SECURITY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS. THIS BILATERAL INITIATIVE UNDERSCORES THE STRENGTH OF THIS RELATIONSHIP AND FITS INTO OUR LARGER, ONGOING ASSISTANCE EFFORTS IN GEORGIA.

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-- THE 'TRAIN AND EQUIP' PROGRAM WILL ASSIST GEORGIA IN DEVELOPING THE CAPABILITY TO CONTROL ITS OWN BORDERS AND CONDUCT LIMITED COUNTER TERRORISM OPERATIONS.

Q: HOW MANY U.S. PERSONNEL ARE PRESENTLY ON THE GROUND? WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

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A:-- I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ASSISTANCE EFFORT.

4. FRY: ICTY ACCESS TO ARCHIVES

Q: CAN YOU COMMENT ON YUGOSLAV INTERIOR MINISTER SAYING THAT ICTY WOULD BE GIVEN ACCESS TO SOME, BUT NOT ALL, DOCUMENTS FROM STATE ARCHIVES?

A:-- WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE FORMATION OF THE YUGOSLAV NATIONAL COUNCIL ON COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA (ICTY). THE COUNCIL HAS ALREADY HELD ITS FIRST MEETING WHERE THE YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER WAS ELECTED CHAIR. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING CONCRETE STEPS FROM THE COUNCIL IMPROVING COOPERATION WITH THE TRIBUNAL IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

--THE AUTHORITIES IN BELGRADE SHOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO REQUESTS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR TO ALLOW THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA TO HAVE THE MAXIMUM ACCESS POSSIBLE TO DOCUMENTS FROM THE RELEVANT STATE ARCHIVES.

- ONLY THROUGH FULL COOPERATION CAN WE MAKE THE PROGRESS THAT IS NEEDED TO PUT WAR CRIMES ISSUES BEHIND US.

Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF SECRETARY POWELL'S DECISION ON CERTIFICATION FOR ASSISTANCE TO YUGOSLAVIA?

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A:-- THE SECRETARY HAS MADE NO DECISION YET WITH RESPECT TO CERTIFICATION.

-- WE HAVE REPEATEDLY MADE CLEAR THAT YUGOSLAVIA MUST COOPERATE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA.

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-- THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF SERBIA ARE WELL AWARE OF THE NEED FOR CONCRETE STEPS FORWARD WITH RESPECT TO ACCESS TO THE RELEVANT ARCHIVES AND WITNESSES AND THE TRANSFER OF AT-LARGE INDICTEES.

-- THE NECESSARY NEXT STEP IS FOR THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT TO TAKE REMAINING INDICTEES INTO CUSTODY AND TRANSFER THEM TO THE HAGUE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

-- ALL PERSONS INDICTED FOR WAR CRIMES, INCLUDING RATKO MLADIC AND RADOVAN KARADZIC, MUST ANSWER THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM.

5. UK: BRITISH TRANSFER OF DETAINEES TO AFGHANS

Q: WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT REACTION TO THE BRITISH DECISION TO TREAT DETAINEES AS POWS AND TO TRANSFER THEM TO THE AFGHAN INTERIM AUTHORITY?

-- BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM HAVE A MUTUAL INTEREST IN TREATING DETAINEES HUMANELY CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS.

-- AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, DETAINEES -- WHETHER IN U.S. OR
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U.K. CUSTODY -- WILL BE TREATED HUMANELY, CONSISTENT WITH THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS.

-- THE U.S. HAS NOT REQUESTED THE U.K. TAKE ANY PARTICULAR ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE TRANSFER OF DETAINEES IN THEIR CUSTODY.
POWELL

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