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SOURCE: CBLEXCLS.007443

DRAFTED BY: EUR/PPD:LSCHWARTZ -- 05/29/2002 202-647-6291

APPROVED BY: EUR/PPD:DARNETT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO EUROPE ONLY COLLECTIVE  
AMEMBASSY ALMATY  
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AMEMBASSY YEREVAN

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KPAO

SUBJECT: EUR DAILY PRESS GUIDANCE - 05/29/02

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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:

- SWEDEN: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH DEFENSE MINISTER
- AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM OF US HUMAN RIGHTS

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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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PRACTICES

- UN: ICTY PROVIDING TERRORISM EVIDENCE TO US
- ASYLUM SEEKING PROCESS
- EUR: LOCKERBIE COMPENSATION OFFER FROM LIBYA
- TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

2. SWEDEN: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH DEFENSE MINISTER

Q: CAN YOU PROVIDE US WITH A READOUT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH SWEDEN'S DEFENSE MINISTER?

A:-- DEPUTY SECRETARY ARMITAGE MET HERE THIS MORNING (MAY 29) WITH SWEDISH DEFENSE MINISTER BJORN VON SYDOW.

-- THE DEPUTY SECRETARY THANKED THE DEFENSE MINISTER FOR SWEDEN'S STRONG SUPPORT IN THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM, INCLUDING ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE FORCE (ISAF) IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS ASSISTANCE TO RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS. HE ALSO COMMENDED SWEDEN FOR ITS OUTSTANDING RECORD OF PARTICIPATION IN PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS WORLDWIDE.

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-- THE TWO DISCUSSED BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL SECURITY COOPERATION, INCLUDING THE EURO-ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL (EAPC) / PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE (PFP).

3. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM OF US HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.

Q: PLEASE COMMENT ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT, WHICH CHARGES THAT U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS UNDERMINE ITS GLOBAL LEADERSHIP.

A:-- FIRST OF ALL, WE WELCOME THE INTEREST OF ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY IN SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS, A SUBJECT OF GREAT INTEREST TO THE ADMINISTRATION AND TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO REVIEWING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S REPORT CAREFULLY.

-- THE UNITED STATES REMAINS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO ITS LONG-STANDING HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES, BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD. WE COMPLY WITH OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND URGE ALL GOVERNMENTS TO VIGOROUSLY ENFORCE THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THEIR CITIZENS.

-- THE UNITED STATES HAS TAKEN REASONABLE AND LEGAL STEPS IN

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OUR FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM. I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING MILITARY TRIBUNALS AND DETENTION OF FOREIGNERS.

Q: COMMENT ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S CRITICISM IN THEIR  
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEATH PENALTY AND DETAINEES AT  
GUANTANAMO BAY.

A:-- CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IS A CONTROVERSIAL AND EMOTIONAL ISSUE IN THE UNITED STATES, WITH STRONG OPPONENTS AND DEFENDERS. IT IS THE SUBJECT OF ONGOING, PASSIONATE DEBATE AT ALL LEVELS OF AMERICAN SOCIETY.

-- IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT MONOLITHIC ABOUT THE DEATH PENALTY. SEVERAL STATES DO NOT USE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, EITHER BECAUSE OF A MORATORIUM, OR A STATUTORY OR JUDICIAL PROHIBITION ON USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY.

-- WHILE INTERNATIONAL LAW LIMITS CAPITAL PUNISHMENT TO THE MOST SERIOUS CRIMES AND REQUIRES CERTAIN SAFEGUARDS, MOST NOTABLY DUE PROCESS, IT DOES NOT PROHIBIT CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

-- THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS SPECIFICALLY RECOGNIZES THE RIGHT OF STATES THAT HAVE NOT ABOLISHED THE DEATH PENALTY TO IMPOSE IT. IN THE UNITED STATES, THE U.S. SUPREME COURT HAS STRICTLY LIMITED THE APPLICATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN A MANNER THAT CONFORMS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS WE HAVE ACCEPTED.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY, THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM SHOULD REFLECT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE, FREELY EXPRESSED AND APPROPRIATELY IMPLEMENTED, INCLUDING THE PUNISHMENTS PRESCRIBED FOR THE MOST SERIOUS CRIMES.

-- WE RECOGNIZE THAT MANY COUNTRIES HAVE ABOLISHED THE DEATH  
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PENALTY UNDER THEIR DOMESTIC LAWS; HOWEVER, IN THE UNITED STATES, OUR OPEN AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES HAVE LED TO A DIFFERENT RESULT.

Q: WHAT ABOUT CRITICISM OF DETAINEES AT GUANTANAMO BAY?

A:-- THE INDIVIDUALS BEING DETAINED AT GUANTANAMO ARE BEING

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TREATED HUMANELY CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS.

-- 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 HAS ACCESS TO THE DETAINEES AT GUANTANAMO TO MONITOR THE CONDITIONS THERE.

4. UN: ICTY PROVIDING TERRORISM EVIDENCE TO US

Q: COMMENT ON WAR CRIMES PROSECUTORS PROVIDING DETAILS OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY?

A:-- THE THREAT OF TERRORISM IS RECOGNIZED AROUND THE WORLD. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE UN'S COOPERATION.

5. ASYLUM SEEKING PROCESS

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Q: TO WHOM SHOULD AN ASYLUM SEEKER WRITE? PLEASE DESCRIBE THE ASYLUM PROCESS.

A:-- UNDER U.S. LAW, ASYLUM CAN ONLY BE REQUESTED BY AN APPLICANT WHO IS PHYSICALLY PRESENT IN THE U.S. OR AT A U.S. BORDER, NOT AT U.S. EMBASSY. ALTHOUGH INVIOLEATE, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ARE NOT CONSIDERED U.S. SOIL.

-- THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DECIDING ASYLUM REQUESTS, ALTHOUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PROVIDES INFORMATION TO THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE, SUCH AS COUNTRY CONDITIONS, TO ASSIST THEM. FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ON ASYLUM PROCEDURES, I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE.

-- RESETTLEMENT IN THE U.S. AS A REFUGEE IS A SEPARATE PROCESS. U.S. POLICY IS TO ACCEPT REFERRALS OR REFUGEE CASES WHERE THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT IS NEEDED FROM THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, THE RECOGNIZED LEAD INTERNATIONAL AGENCY IN SUCH MATTERS.

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Q: DOES THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ADVISE ON SPECIFIC ASYLUM CASES?

A.-- IT IS OUR POLICY NOT TO COMMENT ON INDIVIDUAL ASYLUM REQUESTS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE ASYLUM PROCESS. I CAN TELL YOU THAT IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE REGULATIONS GIVE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THE OPPORTUNITY IN ALL ASYLUM CASES, TO  
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COMMENT ON CONDITIONS IN THE ASYLUM APPLICANT'S COUNTRY OF NATIONALITY OR ORIGIN, ON POSSIBLE GROUNDS FOR DENYING ASYLUM, ON ANY ASSERTIONS MADE BY THE APPLICANT, AND ON ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTUAL INFORMATION.

5. EUR: LOCKERBIE COMPENSATION OFFER FROM LIBYA

Q: CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA HAS AGREED TO PAY \$10 MILLION PER VICTIM TO EACH OF THE FAMILIES OF THE PAN AM 103 BOMBING?

-- WE ARE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE TALKS BETWEEN THE LAWYERS FOR THE FAMILIES AND LIBYA IN THEIR EFFORTS TO REACH AN OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, WE ARE FAMILIAR WITH REPORTS THAT A LIBYAN OFFER HAS BEEN MADE, AND THAT IT IS NOW UNDER REVIEW BY THE FAMILIES. I WOULD DIRECT YOU TO THEIR LAWYERS FOR ANY DETAILS.

(IF ASKED:)

Q: THE SETTLEMENT CALLS FOR A PHASED APPROACH TO PAYMENT. A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE WILL BE PAID FOLLOWING THE LIFT OF UN SANCTIONS AGAINST LIBYA, ANOTHER PERCENTAGE FOLLOWING THE LIFT OF U.S. SANCTIONS AGAINST LIBYA, AND ANOTHER PERCENTAGE FOLLOWING LIBYA'S REMOVAL FROM THE STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM LIST. WHEN ARE THESE STEPS GOING TO TAKE PLACE?

-- UN RESOLUTIONS REQUIRE LIBYA TO SATISFY FOUR REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO THE PAN AM 103 BOMBING BEFORE SANCTIONS ARE LIFTED. MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO PAY COMPENSATION IS ONE OF THESE REQUIREMENTS. THE OTHER REQUIREMENTS RELATE TO  
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ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY, DISCLOSURE, AND RENUNCIATION OF TERRORISM.

-- U.S. BILATERAL SANCTIONS AND THE PROCESS BY WHICH A

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COUNTRY IS REMOVED FROM THE TERRORISM LIST ARE NOT GOVERNED BY THE UN RESOLUTIONS. AS WE HAVE MADE CLEAR IN THE PAST, WE WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO SERIOUSLY ADDRESS SUCH BILATERAL ISSUES WITH LIBYA UNTIL THE UN REQUIREMENTS ARE MET. WE HAVE MADE NO DECISIONS ON THESE ISSUES.

(IF PRESSED) :

Q: BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK OF LIBYA SETTING CONDITIONS ON THE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION - ISN'T THAT HIGHLY PRESUMPTIOUS?

-- WHETHER TO ACCEPT ANY PARTICULAR PROPOSAL FOR RESOLVING THE FAMILIES' CLAIMS IS A MATTER FOR THEM TO ADDRESS. HOWEVER, THE CONDITIONS FOR LIFTING OF SANCTIONS ARE DECISIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE U.S., NOT LIBYA.

Q. WILL THIS SETTLEMENT RESOLVE ALL OUTSTANDING CLAIMS RELATED TO PAN AM 103?

A:-- YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK THE LAWYERS ABOUT THE SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT.

Q. DOES THIS SETTLEMENT APPLY ONLY TO AMERICAN FAMILIES?

A:-- WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT WOULD APPLY TO THE FAMILIES OF ALL 270 VICTIMS, REGARDLESS OF NATIONALITY.

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U.S. ROLE:

Q: DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL?

A:-- THE ADMINISTRATION HAS SUPPORTED THE EFFORTS OF THE FAMILIES TO REACH A DIRECT SETTLEMENT WITH LIBYA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE PROPOSAL IS AN OFFER DIRECTLY TO THE FAMILIES FOR THEM TO CONSIDER AS A BASIS FOR RESOLVING THEIR CLAIMS.

Q. WHO DECIDES WHAT IS APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION?

A:-- THE FAMILIES WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO ACCEPT A PROPOSED SETTLEMENT. ACCEPTANCE OF ANY SUCH SETTLEMENT BY THE FAMILIES WOULD BE HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT IN ADDRESSING THE COMPENSATION ISSUE.

Q. WHY HASN'T THE U.S. REACHED AGREEMENT YET ON THE OTHER UN

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REQUIREMENTS?

A:-- DISCUSSIONS ARE ONGOING.

BURNS MEETING?

Q: CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS BILL BURNS WILL MEET WITH LIBYAN OFFICIALS IN LONDON ON JUNE 6?

A:-- ASSISTANT SECRETARY BURNS PLANS TO PARTICIPATE IN A TRILATERAL MEETING WITH THE U.K. AND LIBYA IN LONDON ON HIS  
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WAY BACK TO WASHINGTON FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF HIS CURRENT TRIP THROUGH THE REGION. HIS SCHEDULE IS STILL BEING DETERMINED, BUT WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE MEETING TO TAKE PLACE AT THE END OF NEXT WEEK.

-- AS IN PREVIOUS TRILATERAL MEETINGS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY BURNS WILL PRESS LIBYA TO COMPLY WITH ITS U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO PAN AM 103. COMPENSATION IS ONE REQUIREMENT; LIBYA MUST ALSO COMPLY WITH THE OTHER REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY, BEFORE UN SANCTIONS CAN BE LIFTED.

SATISFYING UNSCR REQUIREMENTS

Q: WOULD THIS PROPOSAL SATISFY THE UNSCR COMPENSATION REQUIREMENT?

A:-- WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMENT ON ANY PARTICULAR PROPOSAL, BUT CLEARLY A SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO THE FAMILIES WOULD BE HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT TO THE ISSUE OF COMPENSATION.

Q: DOES THIS MEAN LIBYA NO LONGER HAS TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR PAN AM FLIGHT 103?

A:-- ABSOLUTELY NOT. THIS REQUIREMENT IS SEPARATE FROM THE COMPENSATION REQUIREMENT.

Q: WHAT IS BEING DONE TO ENSURE THAT LIBYA MEETS THE OTHER THREE REQUIREMENTS? IS ASSISTANT SECRETARY BURNS GOING TO MEET WITH LIBYANS AGAIN?

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A:-- THE U.S. AND U.K. GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN JOINTLY DISCUSSING THE REMAINING UN REQUIREMENTS WITH LIBYA FOR SOME TIME. THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING BUT I HAVE NOTHING TO ANNOUNCE ABOUT A SPECIFIC MEETING AT THIS TIME.

THE FAMILIES AND THE PROPOSAL:

Q. WHEN WILL THE FAMILIES DECIDE WHETHER TO ACCEPT THIS PROPOSAL OR NOT?

A:-- YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK THEIR LAWYERS ABOUT THE TIMING.

Q. WHAT HAPPENS IF NOT ALL THE FAMILIES ACCEPT THE OFFER? IF THERE ARE A FEW HOLD-OUTS?

A:-- AGAIN, THE LAWYERS FOR THE FAMILIES WILL BE ADDRESSING THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT, ALONG WITH THE COURT IN NEW YORK.

Q: WHAT WILL YOU DO IF THE FAMILIES DON'T ACCEPT THIS OFFER?

A:-- I AM NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ON SUCH ISSUES.

Q. DOESN'T THIS DEAL CREATE A LOBBY OF FAMILIES WHO WILL NOW PRESS THE ADMINISTRATION TO LIFT SANCTIONS SO THEY CAN COLLECT \$10 MILLION EACH?

A:-- ANY DECISIONS ON BILATERAL ISSUES, SUCH AS U.S. SANCTIONS WILL BE BASED ON LIBYAN ACTIONS, U.S. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS, AND OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS.

"BLOOD MONEY" & LIBYAN ASSETS:  
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Q. ISN'T THE PAYMENT OF SO MUCH "BLOOD MONEY" AN ADMISSION OF GUILT BY LIBYA?

A:-- WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO CHARACTERIZE LIBYA'S MOTIVATION. SEPARATELY, WE ARE SEEKING LIBYA'S ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTIONS OF ITS OFFICIALS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PAN AM 103 BOMBING.

Q. ISN'T LIBYA BUYING ITS WAY OUT OF THE MURDER OF HUNDREDS OF OUR CITIZENS?

A:-- PAYMENT OF APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION IS ONE OF THE UN REQUIREMENTS.

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Q. ARE FROZEN LIBYANS ASSETS IN THE U.S. BEING USED TO PAY COMPENSATION? IS THERE A DEAL TO RELEASE THOSE FUNDS?

A:-- THERE IS NO SUCH DEAL. BILATERAL ISSUES SUCH AS BLOCKED ASSETS ARE NOT ON THE TABLE. WE WANT TO SEE LIBYA MEET THE UN REQUIREMENTS BEFORE TAKING UP ANY BILATERAL ISSUES.

Q. WHERE IS ALL THIS MONEY COMING FROM? IS IT ALL LIBYA'S OR HAVE OTHER GOVERNMENTS CONTRIBUTED?

A:-- YOU WILL NEED TO ASK THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT.

Q: DOES THIS AMOUNT SET A NEW PRECEDENT?

A:-- I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU ON THAT; I CAN LOOK INTO  
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IT.

LIBYA AND TERRORISM:

Q: IS THE U.S. GOING TO REMOVE LIBYA FROM THE LIST OF STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM NOW?

A:-- IT IS PREMATURE TO SPECULATE ABOUT THAT. ALL FOUR UNSCR REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET BEFORE WE CAN ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF U.S. SANCTIONS, INCLUDING THE TERRORISM LIST. IF WE REACH THAT STAGE, ANY SUCH DECISIONS WOULD BE TAKEN IN LIGHT OF RELEVANT REQUIREMENTS OF U.S. LAW.

Q. WE WENT TO WAR OVER THE 9/11 ATTACKS. IF LIBYA HAS EFFECTIVELY ADMITTED ITS GUILT, AND IS GOING TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR PAN AM 103, WHY AREN'T WE GOING TO WAR WITH LIBYA?

A:-- OUR POLICY TOWARDS LIBYA IS BASED ON DECISIONS MADE IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AFTER THE PAN AM 103 TRAGEDY. THAT POLICY, SUPPORTED BY THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND BY THE U.K., WAS AIMED AT FORCING LIBYA OUT OF THE TERRORISM BUSINESS AND MAKING SURE THAT THEY WOULD NEVER AGAIN KILL INNOCENT PEOPLE LIKE THOSE ON PAN AM 103. SINCE THAT TIME, LIBYA HAS TAKEN POSITIVE STEPS WITH REGARD TO TERRORISM, AND IN THE WAKE OF 9/11 WAS SUPPORTIVE OF COALITION EFFORTS AGAINST AL QAIDA.

OTHER CLAIMS AGAINST LIBYA:

Q: WHAT ABOUT OUTSTANDING CLAIMS IN CONNECTION WITH 103

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AGAINST LIBYA BY INSURANCE COMPANIES AND THE ESTATE OF THE  
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FORMER PAN AM?

A:-- WE HAVE ENCOURAGED LIBYA TO ADDRESS ALL CLAIMS ARISING  
OUT OF PAN AM 103.

ROLE OF THE LAWYERS:

Q. WHO IS THE LEAD LAWYER FOR THE FAMILIES?

A:-- WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE LARGEST GROUP IS REPRESENTED BY  
THE FIRM OF KREINDLER & KREINDLER IN NEW YORK.

Q. HOW MUCH MONEY WILL THE LAWYERS COLLECT?

A:-- WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THIS QUESTION. YOU WOULD  
HAVE TO ASK THE LAWYERS.

Q. WHAT HAPPENS TO THE CIVIL SUIT IN NEW YORK?

A:-- THAT IS A QUESTION YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK THE LAWYERS.

NO SECRET DEAL WITH LIBYA:

Q. HAS THE U.S. REACHED A SECRET UNDERSTANDING WITH LIBYA ON  
THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS?

A:-- THERE IS NO SECRET DEAL WITH LIBYA ON LIFTING  
SANCTIONS. AS WE'VE SAID MANY TIMES, THERE CAN BE NO  
SHORTCUTS. LIBYA KNOWS WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

Q. HAS THE ADMINISTRATION BEEN PRESSURED BY U.S. OIL  
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COMPANIES TO CUT A DEAL?

A:-- THIS IS NOT ABOUT OIL INTERESTS. THIS IS ABOUT LIBYA  
FULFILLING ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE RELEVANT UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS.

6. TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE "TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS"  
(TIP)REPORT?

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A:-- THE PURPOSE OF THE REPORT IS TO HIGHLIGHT THE EFFORTS BEING MADE INTERNATIONALLY TO COMBAT THE GLOBAL CRIME OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS. THE REPORT IDENTIFIES COUNTRIES WITH SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF VICTIMS, DESCRIBES THE PROGRESS THAT GOVERNMENTS ARE MAKING, AND HIGHLIGHTS THE AREAS WHERE MORE WORK IS NEEDED. IN PREPARING THE REPORT, THE DEPARTMENT IS COMPLETING A VERY THOROUGH AND RIGOROUS REVIEW PROCESS.

Q: WHO COMPILES THIS REPORT?

A:-- THE REPORT IS COMPILED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, IN COORDINATION WITH MANY BUREAUS IN THE DEPARTMENT AND SEVERAL U.S. AGENCIES. WE HAVE A RIGOROUS PROCESS OF EVALUATING EACH GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING, AS PROVIDED IN THE LEGISLATION, THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000. THE PROCESS OF COLLECTING AND EVALUATING INFORMATION IS BEING CONDUCTED BY A TEAM THAT HAS WORKED EXTENSIVELY ON THIS ISSUE, AND ARE FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, JUSTICE, AND HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

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Q: WHO MANDATES THE TIP REPORT?

A:-- CONGRESS MANDATES THIS ANNUAL REPORT, THROUGH LEGISLATION KNOWN AS "THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000."

Q: HOW ARE THE DECISIONS MADE REGARDING SPECIFIC COUNTRIES?

A:-- THE DEPARTMENT HAS CAST A VERY BROAD NET IN ITS EFFORTS TO COLLECT INFORMATION WORLDWIDE, AND THIS WILL HAVE BEEN A VERY THOROUGH AND RIGOROUS PROCESS. THE REVIEW INCLUDES REPORTS FROM OUR MISSIONS OVERSEAS, THE MEDIA AND INTERNATIONAL AND ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONS AND NGOS. THIS YEAR WE ESTABLISHED A DEDICATED E-MAIL ADDRESS TO ACCEPT SUBMISSIONS FROM NGOS. IN OUR REVIEW OF THIS INFORMATION, WE CONSIDERED THE LEGISLATION'S PROVISIONS, INCLUDING ITS DESCRIPTION OF THE 3-TIERS AND THE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF TRAFFICKING.

Q: WHEN WILL THIS YEAR'S "TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS" (TIP) REPORT BE RELEASED?

A: THE TIP REPORT WILL BE RELEASED IN JUNE.  
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