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O 251744Z JAN 02 FM AMCONSUL STRASBOURG TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1687. INFO COE COLLECTIVE USMISSION USUN NEW YORK USMISSION USOSCE USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 STRASBOURG 0011

STATE FOR EUR/ERA, EUR/WE, DRL/MLA, H, L/LEI PARIS FOR POL, CON, PAO, ADMIN, DCM BRUSSELS FOR MRICHARD

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TAGS: OREP, PREL, PHUM, KDEM, PTER, FR SUBJECT: CODEL SENSENBRENNER TO COUNCIL OF EUROPE STRASBOURG, FRANCE, JANUARY 19-22, 2002

REF: A) STRASBOURG 010 B) STRASBOURG 009

- C) STRASBOURG 008 D) STRASBOURG 005
- E) STRASBOURG 004 F) STRASBOURG 002
- G) STRASBOURG 001 H) STATE 03686

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1. SUMMARY: LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES RELATED TO THE WAR ON TERRORISM, NOTABLY MILITARY TRIBUNALS FOR CAPTURED TALIBAN AND AL-QAEDA PRISONERS, HIGHLIGHTED THE VISIT OF U.S. CONGRESSMAN JAMES F. SENSENBRENNER, JR., HOUSE CHAIRMAN OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, TO STRASBOURG, JANUARY 19-22, 2002, FOR CONSTRUCTIVE AND INFORMATIVE MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (COE) AND PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (PACE). HE EMPHASIZED AMERICA'S DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE OUTSTANDING SUPPORT BY EUROPEANS IN THE WAKE OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST THE <<UNITED>

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<<states>> AND DISCUSSED ON-GOING ANTI-TERRORISM EFFORTS.
POSITIVE LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE NOTED THE CHAIRMAN'S
ASSURANCES OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S COMMITMENT TO FORMULATING
PROCEDURES CONSISTENT WITH AMERICAN AND INTERNATIONAL
STANDARDS OF JUSTICE AND DUE PROCESS FOR THOSE ACCUSED OF
CRIMES. COE OFFICIALS WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR
DIALOGUE AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BUT STRESSED THAT ANTITERRORISM MEASURES SHOULD ENSURE PROTECTION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS. THEY ALSO REITERATED OPPOSITION TO EXTRADITION OF
SUSPECTS WHO FACED THE DEATH PENALTY IN THE <<UNITED>>
<<STATES>>. END SUMMARY.

2. REP. JAMES F. SENSENBRENNER, JR., CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, HEADED A CODEL TO STRASBOURG, FOR MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (COE) AND PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (PACE), JANUARY 19-22, 2002 (REF G). THE PURPOSE WAS TO DISCUSS LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES RELATED TO THE WAR ON TERRORISM, INCLUDING PROPOSED U.S. MILITARY TRIBUNALS FOR UNCLASSIFIED

STRASB 00011 01 OF 05 251841Z PAGE 03 CAPTURED TALIBAN AND AL-QAEDA PRISONERS FROM <<AFGHANISTAN>>, AND TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR EUROPEAN SUPPORT IN THE BATTLE AGAINST TERRORISM AFTER THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ATTACKS. COMMITTEE GENERAL COUNSEL PHIL KIKO ACCOMPANIED SENSENBRENNER TO JANUARY 21 MEETINGS WITH: GUY DE VEL, COE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS; BRUNO HALLER, SECRETARY GENERAL, PACE; WALTER SCHWIMMER, COE SECRETARY GENERAL; HENRI IMBERT, COE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS; GUNNAR JANSSON, THEN CHAIRMAN, PACE LEGAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE; MATEO SORINAS-BALFEGO, HEAD OF PACE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND JUDICIAL AFFAIRS; DANIELLE COIN, SECRETARY, PACE LEGAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE; PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES/AMBASSADORS AND PERMANENT OBSERVERS TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE; AND LUZIUS WILDHABER, PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. CONSUL GENERAL GAYLEATHA BROWN WAS NOTE-TAKER FOR THE CODEL.

CODEL SENSENBRENNER'S MESSAGE

3. THE CHAIRMAN EXPLAINED TO INTERLOCUTORS THAT HE HOPED THIS U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL-ENDORSED TRIP WOULD BENEFIT ON-GOING ANTI-TERRORISM EFFORTS AND PROVIDE A CHANCE FOR FRIENDS TO DISCUSS THESE EFFORTS. HE PROPOSED TO CLARIFY THE PATRIOT ACT AND PRESIDENT BUSH'S RELATED EXECUTIVE ORDER, CITING A WHITE HOUSE GENERAL COUNSEL "OP ED" ARTICLE.

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NOTING THAT SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 WAS AN UNPLEASANT "WAKE-UP CALL," CHAIRMAN SENSENBRENNER MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN THE SUBJECT MEETINGS:

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STRASB 00011 01 OF 05 251841Z PAGE 04 -- INCLUSIVE U.S. LEGISLATION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROTECTION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES - THE PATRIOT ACT - PASSED HIS COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY, AN UNUSUAL EVENT. -- PROVISIONS ON MILITARY TRIBUNALS, A SUBJECT OF MUCH PUBLIC DEBATE, HAVE NOT YET BEEN MADE PUBLIC. THE ALLIED MILITARY ACTION HAD GOTTEN AHEAD OF THE LEGAL PROCESS. RULES WOULD BE PUBLISHED, INCLUDING BY THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE U.S. CONGRESS.

-- PRESIDENT BUSH IS WHOLEHEARTEDLY COMMITTED TO FORMULATING PROCEDURES CONSISTENT WITH AMERICAN AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF JUSTICE AND DUE PROCESS FOR

NOTE: POSSIBLY MISSING CODEL CAPTION.

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O 251744Z JAN 02 FM AMCONSUL STRASBOURG TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1688 INFO COE COLLECTIVE USMISSION USUN NEW YORK USMISION USOSCE USMISSION GENEVA USEU BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 05 STRASBOURG 0011

STATE FOR EUR/ERA, EUR/WE, DRL/MLA, H, L/LEI PARIS FOR POL, CON, PAO, ADMIN, DCM BRUSSELS FOR MRICHARD

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THOSE ACCUSED OF CRIMES.

- -- PRESIDENT BUSH HAS MADE CLEAR THAT THE ACCUSED WILL RECEIVE FULL AND FAIR TRIALS; BE INFORMED OF CHARGES AGAINST THEM; HAVE A RIGHT TO QUALIFIED COUNSEL; AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT A DEFENSE.
- -- ANYONE TRIED BEFORE THESE TRIBUNALS WILL BE ABLE TO CHALLENGE THE LAWFULNESS OF THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION THROUGH A HABEAS CORPUS PROCEEDING IN A FEDERAL COURT. THESE NUMEROUS PROTECTIONS MORE THAN ADEQUATELY PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED.
- -- MILITARY TRIBUNALS ARE AN OPTION FOR DISPENSING JUSTICE SINCE PROVIDING JUDICIAL FORUM FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS TERRORISTS POSE SERIOUS DANGERS. THEY PROVIDE VITAL FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING: PROTECT JUDGES, WITNESSES AND THE COURT; PROTECT NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION; PROVIDE EFFICIENT JUSTICE, WITHOUT YEARS OF PRE-TRIAL PROCEEDINGS OR POST-TRIAL APPEALS; ALLOW JUDGES TO REVIEW THE BROADEST RANGE OF RELEVANT EVIDENCE TO RENDER A VERDICT.
- -- MILITARY TRIBUNALS HAVE A LONG HISTORY IN THE << UNITED>> << STATES>> - AND THAT HISTORY DEMONSTRATES THAT THEY DO NOT UNDERMINE THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED. THEY PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL BY ENSURING THAT ALL LAWFUL MEANS ARE UTILIZED TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF AMERICAN, CLOSE FRIENDS AND FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLE.
- -- EUROPE AND THE <<UNITED>> <<STATES>> WOULD HAVE TO AGREE TO DISAGREE ON THE DEATH PENALTY SINCE 70% OF AMERICANS FAVORED IT.
- 4. SENSENBRENNER RELATED HOW CAPTURED AL-QAEDA MANUALS UNCLASSIFIED

00011 02 OF 05 PAGE 03 STRASB 251842Z OUTLINED HOW TO USE THE AMERICAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM, DELAY JUSTICE AND TO GET INFORMATION, HE EXPLAINED THAT TERRORISTS USED USG EVIDENCE, WHICH WAS DISCLOSED IN COURT DURING THE 1993 BOMBING OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER TRIAL, TO HAMPER LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS. A JANUARY 24

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ARTICLE IN "L'ALSACE," A DAILY NEWSPAPER, QUOTED SENSENBRENNER, "DURING THE 1993 TRIAL AGAINST THE PERPETRATORS OF THE FIRST ATTEMPT AGAINST THE WORLD TRADE CENTER INVOLVING A BOOBY-TRAPPED CAR, THE PUBLIC PROSECUTORS HAD TO REVEAL SENSITIVE INFORMATION. FOR EXAMPLE, THE TWIN TOWERS WERE BUILT TO RESIST THE IMPACT OF A 707 AIRCRAFT AND THAT BEN LADEN'S SATELLITE PHONE WAS TAPPED. AS OF THE NEXT DAY, BEN LADEN STOPPED USING HIS DEVICE AND, ON SEPTEMBER 11, THE TERRORISTS USED 767 AIRCRAFTS HOLDING TWICE AS MUCH FUEL AS 707 AIRCRAFTS". THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT SECRET MATERIAL COULD NOT BE BROUGHT TO CIVIL TRIBUNALS.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S RESPONSE

5. DE VEL: WHY DO YOU PROPOSE TO USE MILITARY TRIBUNALS WHEN YOU HAVE GOOD U.S. CIVIL TRIBUNALS? SPAIN HAS COPED WITHOUT MILITARY TRIBUNALS WITH OVER 1,000 VICTIMS OF TERRORISM FOR 30 YEARS. HE NOTED THAT ONE COULD NOT PREDICT THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS' REACTION TO THE UK'S DECISION TO DEROGATE FROM EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN RECENT ANTI-TERRORISM LEGISLATION. INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNALS UNDER THE ROME STATUTE WOULD BE BETTER.

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STRASB 00011 02 OF 05 251842Z PAGE 04 6. SORINAS: EXTRADITION OF SUSPECTS MAY BE DIFFICULT FROM COE MEMBER COUNTRIES TO THE U.S. IF THEY WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE DEATH PENALTY. THERE IS A NEED FOR INCREASED COOPERATION TO CURB MONEY LAUNDERING. IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR THE USG TO JOIN THE COE CONVENTION ON MONEY LAUNDERING.

7. HALLER: WELCOMED THE LONG AWAITED VISIT OF A U.S. MEMBER OF CONGRESS TO A PACE SESSION IN STRASBOURG. HALLER SAID THAT THE PACE RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY TO SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 TERRORIST ATTACKS AND HAD ASKED THE

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O 251744Z JAN 02 FM AMCONSUL STRASBOURG TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1689 INFO COE COLLECTIVE USMISSION USUN NEW YORK USMISION USOSCE USMISSION GENEVA USEU BRUSSELS

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COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS FOR CONCRETE ANTI-TERRORIST MEASURES, WHICH IT SUBSEQUENTLY DEVELOPED (REF A). THE PACE DOES NOT LIKE MILITARY COURTS. REGRETTING THAT THE FULL COMMITTEE COULD NOT MEET WITH THE CHAIRMAN AS PLANNED, HALLER GAVE THE CHAIRMAN A COPY OF THE PACE LEGAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE REPORT ON TERRORISM THAT HAD RESERVATIONS REGARDING PRESIDENT BUSH'S NOVEMBER 14, 2001 MILITARY ORDER CONCERNING DETENTION, <<TREATMENT>> AND TRIAL OF CERTAIN NON-CITIZENS BY MILITARY TRIBUNALS AND RISK OF THE DEATH PENALTY. COE STATES CANNOT EXTRADITE PEOPLE WHO RISK CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. THE PACE PLENARY REAFFIRMED THIS POSITION ON JANUARY 24 BY ADOPTING THE REPORT'S RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS (REF B).

8. SCHWIMMER: WELCOMED THE VISIT AND NEWS THAT THREE CURRENT TERRORIST CASES WOULD GO TO CIVILIAN COURTS. HE WAS CONCERNED OVER THE CHARACTER OF EVIDENCE TO BE USED IN A CIVILIAN VS. MILITARY COURT AND ASKED IF PRISONERS

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WOULD HAVE REMEDIES AVAILABLE IN THE U.S. NOTED THAT THE U.S. CONDEMNATION OF USE OF MILITARY COURTS FOR U.S. CITIZENS ABROAD GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF A DOUBLE STANDARD. HE INQUIRED ABOUT THE STATUS OF PRISONERS IN CUBA. SENSENBRENNER STATED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) WOULD REPORT ON DEFICIENCIES FOR CORRECTION, IF ANY. TRANSPORTING DANGEROUS TALIBAN FIGHTERS NECESSITATED SHACKLING OF THE PRISONERS, GIVEN THE RISK OF HIGHJACKING AND FLIGHT INTO A BUILDING, IN SENSENBRENNER'S VIEW. SCHWIMMER OPINED THAT PRISONERS SHOULD BE PROSECUTED, UNCLASSIFIED

00011 03 OF 05 PAGE 03 STRASB SENTENCED IF GUILTY AND OFFERED PROTECTION OF A LEGAL SYSTEM. NOTING HIS COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AREA, SENSENBRENNER SAID THAT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WOULD FORMULATE SPECIFIC REGULATIONS FOR THE PRISONERS WHO WERE PROBABLY MORE COMFORTABLE WITHOUT WALLS IN THAT CLIMATE. SCHWIMMER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE USG OBSERVERSHIP AND HOPED FOR A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CONGRESS.

- 9. IMBERT: A STEERING COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS IS PREPARING GUIDELINES FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM WITH DUE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY. THERE MUST BE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. STATUS OF MILITARY TRIBUNALS AND PEOPLE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS. PRISONERS ARE DENIED "PRISONER OF WAR" STATUS UNDER THE GENEVA CONVENTION BUT AT THE SAME TIME SOME OF THE PROTECTIONS ARE GIVEN - THAT IS A CONTRADICTION. AFTER SEPTEMBER 11, THE USG INVOKED INTERNATIONAL LAW AND UNSC BASED ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AND CALLED THE ATTACKS AN "ACT OF WAR." WHY AFTER THAT RECOGNITION OF WAR DID THE U.S. DENY THE STATUS OF WAR PRISONERS TO THE << DETAINEES>>? THE CHAIRMAN REPLIED THAT THE GENEVA CONVENTION APPLIED ONLY TO ARMED FORCES IN UNIFORM. THE TALIBAN WAS NOT AN ARMED FORCE OF A STATE; ONLY PAKISTAN HAD RECOGNIZED THE TALIBAN. SENSENBRENNER SAID THAT BEFORE ANYONE WAS CHARGED, THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WOULD PUBLISH IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER REGULATIONS REGARDING THE MILITARY TRIBUNALS.
- 10. JANSSEN: ASKED IF SENSENBRENNER HAD CONSIDERED UNCLASSIFIED

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CENSORSHIP, WAR CRIMINALS IN CUBA AND APPLICABILITY OF UNSC RESOLUTIONS. NOTING THE WAR POWERS ACT OF 1973, THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT CONGRESS CAN DECLARE WAR, AND THAT HE WAS PARTY TO A SUIT AGAINST PRESIDENT CLINTON. HE ADDED THAT THE SUPREME COURT HAD NEVER DECIDED RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AREA BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES. SENSENBRENNER NOTED THE SUNSET PROVISION IN THE PATRIOT ACT AFTER 4 YEARS. HE ADDED THAT THE U.S. SENATE WAS UNLIKELY TO RATIFY ANY TREATY THAT DID NOT ALLOW TRIAL OF U.S. CITIZENS IN U.S. COURTS.

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FM AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1690

INFO COE COLLECTIVE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION USOSCE

USMISSION GENEVA

USEU BRUSSELS

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SENSENBRENNER NOTED THE PRESIDENT'S INTENTION TO CONVERT ILLEGAL ALIENS' STATUS TO THAT OF GUEST WORKERS.

11. AMBASSADORS/PERMANENT OBSERVERS/COE SENIOR STAFF/DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL: ALL OF SENSENBRENNER'S ISSUES CAME TOGETHER IN THIS SIGNAL MEETING WITH OVER 20 PEOPLE CHAIRED BY THE ACTING COM CHAIRMAN, AMBASSADOR PHILLIPS OF LUXEMBOURG. THE LATTER CALLED MR. SENSENBRENNER'S ATTENTION TO THE MULTINATIONAL INTERNATIONAL ACTION GROUP AGAINST TERRORISM (GMT), WHICH THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS HAD APPROVED IN NOVEMBER 2001 TO ASSESS JUDICIAL INSTRUMENTS AND TO REPORT BACK BY THE MAY 2002 MINISTERIAL MEETING IN VILNIUS AND THE CYBERCRIME CONVENTION (REF A). PHILLIPS NOTED PRESS CONCERNS, AND THE HOLY SEE PERMANENT OBSERVER INQUIRED ABOUT PRECEDENTS FOR U.S. MILITARY TRIBUNALS. DE VEL RAISED EXTRADITION AND APPEAL ISSUES. NOTING AND NOTWITHSTANDING THE UK'S NOTICE OF DEROGATION TO THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE UK AMBASSADOR STATED THAT ALL DEFENDANTS SHOULD HAVE PROTECTION OF THEIR RIGHTS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS. COE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL KRUGER SUGGESTED THE UTILITY OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS' VAST JURISPRUDENCE ON TERRORISM GIVEN THE LONG EXPERIENCE IN IRELAND IN DEALING WITH TERRORISTS. MULTICULTURAL, INTERFAITH DIALOGUE WAS COMMENDED TO THE CONGRESSMAN AS THE U.S. FOUGHT TWO WARS: TERRORISM AND ROOTS OF TERRORISM (MISGUIDED POPULAR SUPPORT FOR TERRORIST "HEROES" AND PERCEPTION OF THE U.S. IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE WORLD) .

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- 12. SENSENBRENNER OBSERVED THAT THE GENEVA CONVENTION PROTECTED UNIFORMED MILITARY OF A HOSTILE STATE BUT SAID THAT THE U.S. WOULD ENSURE HUMANE << TREATMENT>> OF << DETAINEES>>. HE NOTED A RECENT VISIT BY UK OFFICIALS TO THOSE IN CUBA CLAIMING UK CITIZENSHIP. THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WOULD DECIDE WHO GOES TO MILITARY TRIBUNALS, NOTED THE CHAIRMAN. THE U.S. HAD GOTTEN A "BUM RAP" IN SENSENBRENNER'S VIEW, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT HAD GONE INTO ACTION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND KOSOVO TO PROTECT MUSLIMS.
- THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS MUST WILDHABER: DECIDE ON THE LEGITIMACY OF THE UK DEROGATION TO THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO ITS ANTI-TERRORISM LEGISLATION. WILDHABER STATED THAT IT WAS

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IN THE UK AND USG'S OWN INTEREST NOT TO BE TOO FAR AWAY FROM THE USUAL STANDARDS. HE NOTED THAT THE COURT HAS REJECTED SIMILAR REQUESTS IN THE PAST (I.E., FROM GREECE AND TURKEY). HE SAID THAT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE WAS CLOSE TO PROPOSING A 13TH PROTOCOL TO OUTLAW THE DEATH PENALTY IN ALL INSTANCES. SENSENBRENNER ACCEPTED WILDHABER'S OFFER TO BE OF ASSISTANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE COURT'S CASE LAW ON TERRORISM. (NOTE: THE PACE WELCOMED ON JANUARY 21 THE COE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS' DECISION TO OPEN FOR SIGNATURE A 13TH PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ASSEMBLY IN 1994 TO REVOKE AUTHORITY FOR THE DEATH PENALTY IN TIMES OF WAR OF IMMINENT THREAT OF WAR. THE 6TH PROTOCOL CURRENTLY BINDS COE MEMBER STATES TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY IN PEACE-TIME.)

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PAGE 04 STRASB 00011 04 OF 05 251843Z "YANKEES STAY HERE"

14. RESPONDING TO SECRETARY GENERAL SCHWIMMER'S EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR USG/COE COOPERATION AND THE U.S. OBSERVERSHIP, SENSENBRENNER RECOUNTED HIS "SUCCESSFUL FIGHT AGAINST THE STATE DEPARTMENT" IN THE LATE 80'S TO SAVE THE CONSULATE GENERAL DURING CUT-BACKS TO FUND NEW POSTS IN 15 EX-SOVIET STATES.

PRESS COVERAGE

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O 251744Z JAN 02
FM AMCONSUL STRASBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1691
INFO COE COLLECTIVE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USOSCE
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15. 'BASED ON SENSENBRENNER'S PRESS BRIEFING AT THE CG'S RESIDENCE, DNA, ALSACE'S PRINCIPAL DAILY NEWSPAPER, AND L'ALSACE, A SMALLER ONE, RAN POSITIVE NEWS ARTICLES ABOUT THE CODEL AND ITS OBJECTIVES ON JANUARY 22 AND 24, RESPECTIVELY. THEY MENTIONED THE CONGRESSMAN'S MESSAGE NOTED IN PARA 3 ABOVE AS WELL AS THE CONGRESSMAN'S POSITIVE ASSESSMENT OF HIS COE AND PACE MEETINGS. DNA REPORTED THAT THE CHAIRMAN HAD CONCLUDED HIS VISIT BY MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION ALSACE-ETATS-UNIS. BOTH ARTICLES REPORTED THAT SENSENBRENNER'S ANCESTORS HAD LEFT ALSACE IN 1854 AND THAT HE THOUGHT HIMSELF TO BE THE ONLY MEMBER OF CONGRESS OF ALSATIAN ORIGIN.

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