UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED Current Handling: n/a

Document Number: 2002STATE216580

Page: 1

1289

Channel: n/a

<<<>>>

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLASSIFIED PTO4987

PAGE 01 STATE 216580 312254Z

ORIGIN SWCI-00

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EAP-00	EUR-00	UTED-00
	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01
	NEA-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TEST-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	SA-00	PMB-00	DRL-02	G-00
	SAS-00	/005R				· ·	

216580

SOURCE: KODAKD.031025

DRAFTED BY: S/WCI:RMILLER -- 10/31/02 (202)647-5093

APPROVED BY: S/WCI:PPROSPER

DOD/SOLIC:DBOLTZ DOD/OGC:EDAVIDSON L/PM:JDOLAN

NSC/LEGAL: JSCHARFEN P:BBRINK S/CT: DSCOTT DOJ: MINCONTRO

CIA/CTC:LVOGT S/ES-O:KREIDER

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION:

S/WCI, L, P, S/CT

----- 312255Z /30

O 311552Z OCT 02

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 216580 312254Z
USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANAA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE IMMEDIATE

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD DATE/CASE ID: 15 MAR 2005 200303827

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Current Handling: n/a

Document Number: 2002STATE216580 Channel: n/a

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DHAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TASHKENT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BAKU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALMATY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 216580 312254Z

AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KABUL.

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

CIA WASHDC 0000

USDOC WASHDC 0000

SECDEF WASHDC 0000

USDOE WASHDC 0000

FBI WASHDC 0000

NSC WASHDC 0000

DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD 0000

TREASURY DEPT WASHDC 0000

US SECRET SERVICE WASHDC 0000

FAA WAHDC

US CUSTOMS SERVICE WASHDC

UNCLAS STATE 216580

SENSITIVE

NOTE: PROCESS AS IS PER MCO O'REA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PTER, KAWC, PINR, PREL

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE FOR RELEASE OF GUANTANAMO << DETAINEES >>> FROM

USG CONTROL

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 2

Page: 2

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED VCLASSIFIED

Current Handling: n/a

Document Number: 2002STATE216580

Page: 3

Channel: n/a

REF: STATE 209801 (NODIS)

1. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE -- SEE PARAGRAPH 2.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 216580 312254Z
2. (SBU) REFTEL DEPARTMENT ANTICIPATES INCREASED MEDIA ATTENTION
IN REACTION TO REPORTS OF THE IMPENDING RELEASE OF SOME <<DETAINEES>>
FROM USG CONTROL AT GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA. POSTS MAY RELY UPON
FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS AND SUGGESTED QUESTIONS/ANSWERS IN
RESPONSE TO SUCH MEDIA INQUIRIES:

3. (SBU) TALKING POINTS:

- -- TO MAINTAIN THE SAFETY AND PRIVACY OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DETAINED AND DUE TO OPERATIONAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, THE USG WILL NOT PROVIDE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON ANY INDIVIDUAL.
- -- SOME <<DETAINEES>> HAVE REQUESTED THAT, FOR PRIVACY AND SECURITY REASONS, WE NOT DISCLOSE INFORMATION REGARDING THEIR TRANSFER OR RELEASE.
- -- OUR DETENTION OF ENEMY COMBATANTS IS LAWFUL AND NECESSARY. ENEMY COMBATANTS MAY BE DETAINED AT LEAST UNTIL THE CESSATION OF THE CONFLICT.
- -- IT IS NECESSARY TO REMOVE ENEMY COMBATANTS FROM THE CONFLICT AND TO DETAIN THEM FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR MILITARY FORCES, AND THE PREVENTION OF FUTURE ATTACKS.
- -- AT THE TIME OF THEIR DETENTION, ENEMY COMBATANTS POSED A THREAT TO US SECURITY, AND WE ARE OBLIGATED TO MITIGATE ANY SECURITY THREAT.
- -- THE USG HAS DETERMINED THAT IT MAY TRANSFER OR RELEASE,
 UNDER APPROPRIATE CONDITIONS, INDIVIDUALS WHO NO LONGER MUST BE
 DETAINED BY THE <<UNITED>> <<STATES>>. SUCH DETERMINATIONS ARE MADE ON A
 UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 216580 312254Z CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND DEPEND UPON A VARIETY OF FACTORS.

- -- THE RELEASE OR TRANSFER OF A << DETAINEE>> MUST BE APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. MANY FACTORS ENTER INTO EACH CONSIDERATION, INCLUDING CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.
 - -- IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SECURITY AT THE U.S. DETENTION

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED VCLASSIFIED

Current Handling: n/a

Document Number: 2002STATE216580

Page: 4

Channel: n/a

FACILITIES AT GUANTANAMO, AND IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF ANY << DETAINEES>> WHO MAY BE TRANSFERRED OR RELEASED, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO COMMENT PUBLICLY ON THE DETAILS OF ANY SUCH MOVEMENTS.

- -- WE INTEND TO LIMIT OUR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SUCH MATTERS TO RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES FROM THE PRESS, ONLY AFTER A TRANSFER OR RELEASE FROM GUANTANAMO HAS OCCURRED. WE WILL NOT IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS OR THE COUNTRIES TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN MOVED.
- -- DETAILS REGARDING TRANSFERS OR RELEASES ARE COMMUNICATED TO THE GOVERNMENTS WHOSE NATIONALS ARE CONCERNED, AND/OR TO WHOSE CONTROL <<DETAINEES>> MAY BE TRANSFERRED.
- -- PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT WE WILL NOTIFY YOU PROMPTLY IF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO TRANSFER OR RELEASE ANY OF YOUR COUNTRY'S NATIONALS PRESENTLY DETAINED AT GUANTANAMO. IN SUCH EVENT, WE WOULD WORK WITH YOU TO ARRANGE THE DETAILS OF ANY TRANSFER OR RELEASE.
- 4. (SBU) PROPOSED STATEMENT FOR RELEASE FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF TRANSFER/RELEASE:

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 216580 312254Z

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IT TRANSFERRED FOUR (4) << DETAINEES>> FROM GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, ON OCTOBER 28, 2002.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER SENIOR U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, DETERMINED THAT THESE <<DETAINEES>> NO LONGER POSED A THREAT TO U.S. SECURITY.

TRANSFER OR RELEASE OF <<DETAINEES>> CAN BE BASED ON MANY FACTORS, INCLUDING LAW ENFORCEMENT, INTELLIGENCE, MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS, AS WELL AS WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL WOULD POSE A THREAT TO THE <<UNITED>> <<STATES>>. AT THE TIME OF THEIR DETENTION, THESE ENEMY COMBATANTS POSED A THREAT TO U.S. SECURITY.

IN GENERAL TERMS, THE REASONS << DETAINEES>> MAY BE RELEASED ARE BASED ON THE NATURE OF THE CONTINUING THREAT THEY MAY POSE TO U.S. SECURITY.

AS PART OF THIS TRANSFER PROCESS, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS HAS CONDUCTED INDEPENDENT INTERVIEWS WITH THESE <<DETAINEES>> PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE FROM GUANTANAMO.

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 4

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED VCLASSIFIED

Current Handling: n/a

Document Number: 2002STATE216580

Page: 5

Channel: n/a

DURING THE COURSE OF THE WAR ON TERRORISM, WE EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE OTHER TRANSFERS OR RELEASES OF << DETAINEES>>. BECAUSE OF OPERATIONAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, NO FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE.

END OF TEXT.

5. (SBU) SUGGESTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 216580 312254Z

Q1. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE RELEASE OF << DETAINEES>> FROM GTMO?

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IT TRANSFERRED (NUMBER) << DETAINEES>> FROM GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, ON (DATE).

- Q2. HOW MANY <<DETAINEES>> HAVE BEEN RELEASED ?
 THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IT TRANSFERRED
 (NUMBER) <<DETAINEES>> FROM GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, ON (DATE).
- Q3. CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE << CONTINUES >>?
 NO. TO MAINTAIN THE SAFETY AND PRIVACY OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DETAINED AND DUE TO OPERATIONAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, WE WILL NOT PROVIDE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON ANY INDIVIDUAL. (DOD POLICY)
- Q4. WHAT CONDITIONS WERE MET THAT PROMPTED THEIR RELEASE?
 THEIR RELEASE WAS BASED ON MANY FACTORS, INCLUDING CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT MATTERS, AND WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL WOULD POSE A CONTINUED THREAT TO THE <<UNITED>> <<STATES>>. (TRANSFER & RELEASE PAG)
- Q5. WHO MADE THE DECISION TO RELEASE THESE <<DETAINEES>>?
 THESE DECISIONS ARE MADE BY THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP OF DOD AFTER
 THOROUGH ASSESSMENT OF ALL RELEVANT FACTORS AND IN CONSULTATION
 WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO ENSURE THAT THESE <<DETAINEES>> ARE
 NO LONGER NEEDED TO BE KEPT IN DETENTION BY THE <<UNITED>> <<STATES>>.

 (10/22/02 TRANSCRIPT ON DEFENSE LINK).
- Q6. ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR SAFETY AND SECURITY?
 YES, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SECURITY OF ANYONE WE RELEASE.
 THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS THAT WE ARE NOT DISCLOSING PUBLICLY
 UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 216580 312254Z THEIR IDENTITIES.

Q7. ARE THERE ANY CONDITIONS UPON RELEASE?
AS A GENERAL MATTER, ANY INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE RELEASED WILL BE

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 5

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED Page: 6

Current Handling: n/a

Document Number: 2002STATE216580 Channel: n/a

REQUIRED TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT THAT OBLIGATES THEM NOT TO TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST THE <<UNITED>> <<STATES>> OR ITS ALLIES. FOR SECURITY AND PRIVACY REASONS, THE USG WILL NOT PROVIDE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON ANY INDIVIDUAL.

Q8. WHAT DOES THE AGREEMENT SAY?
IN THE AGREEMENT, A << DETAINEE>> WHO IS TO BE RELEASED ACKNOWLEDGES
HIS STATUS AS AN ENEMY COMBATANT, PROMISES NOT TO TAKE PART IN
FURTHER COMBAT AGAINST THE << UNITED>> << STATES>> AND ITS ALLIES, AND
ACKNOWLEDGES THAT HE MAY BE DETAINED AGAIN IF HE ENGAGES IN
FURTHER COMBAT.

Q9. CAN THE <<DETAINEES>> REALLY BE TRUSTED NOT TO TAKE PART IN FURTHER FIGHTING?

DOD DOES NOT RELY ON THE PROMISES OF ANY <<DETAINEES>> IN MAKING ITS RELEASABILITY ASSESSMENTS. ONCE DOD IS SATISFIED AS TO THE RELEASABILITY OF A <<DETAINEE>>, AN AGREEMENT IS USED TO CONFIRM THIS ASSESSMENT IN WRITING, AND TO PUT THE <<DETAINEE>> ON NOTICE THAT HE MAY BE DETAINED IF HE AGAIN TAKES UP ARMS AGAINST THE <<UNITED>> <<STATES>> OR ITS ALLIES.

Q10. WILL ANY OF THE RELEASED << DETAINEES >> BE COMPENSATED FOR THEIR DETENTION?

NO. THOSE WHO ARE MOVED OUT OF GTMO WILL GET NEW CLOTHES. (SOLIC)

QL1. DOES THE GENEVA CONVENTION ENTITLE THESE << DETAINEES >> TO UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 216580 312254Z COMPENSATION?

THE PRESIDENT DETERMINED THAT NEITHER AL QAEDA, NOR THE TALIBAN <<DETAINEES>> ARE ENTITLED TO PRISONER OF WAR STATUS UNDER THE THIRD

GENEVA CONVENTION OF 1949. EVEN IF THAT WERE NOT THE CASE, THE GENEVA CONVENTION MAKES NO PROVISION FOR COMPENSATION UPON RELEASE.

Q12. WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM WHEN THEY ARE RELEASED? DO YOU JUST DROP THEM OFF ON THE TARMAC? HOW DO THEY GET HOME? WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM WHEN THEY ARE SET FREE?
WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WE HAVE COORDINATED THE LOGISTICS OF THEIR RELEASE WITH APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE COUNTRIES RECEIVING THESE INDIVIDUALS. THE RELEASED </P>
WILL BE MET UPON ARRIVAL BY OFFICIALS FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO FACILITATE THEIR RETURN TO THEIR HOMES.

Q13. HOW CAN WE BE SURE THAT <<DETAINEES>> DIDN'T COMMIT SUICIDE AND YOU'RE JUST NOW TELLING US THEY WERE RELEASED SOME TIME AGO,

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED Page: 6

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED NCLASSIFIED

Current Handling: n/a

Document Number: 2002STATE216580

Channel: n/a

Page: 7

SOMEWHERE, TO SOMEONE YOU WON'T DISCLOSE?

NO <<DETAINEES>> HAVE DIED WHILE UNDER US CONTROL. WE ARE
WITHHOLDING SPECIFIC DETAILS OF THE SITUATION TO PROTECT THE
INDIVIDUALS FROM POTENTIAL HARM FROM AL QAIDA-THIS ENEMY WILL
PREY ON ITS OWN. (OSD/PA & SOLIC)

Q14. IF A <<DETAINEE>> EXPRESSES CONCERN FOR HIS SAFETY, WOULD YOU CONSIDER AND FORWARD A REQUEST FOR ASYLUM TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

IF A <<DETAINEE>> EXPRESSES CONCERN FOR HIS SAFETY UPON HIS RETURN TO HIS COUNTRY OF NATIONALITY, WE WILL WORK WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE ENTITIES TO ADDRESS THAT MATTER.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 216580 312254Z

Q15. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT A <<DETAINEE>>, ONCE RELEASED, COULD BE TRACKED DOWN AND RECAPTURED IF THE SITUATION WARRANTS?

ANY RELEASED <<DETAINEES>> ARE REQUIRED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY MAY BE DETAINED AGAIN IF THEY TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST THE U.S. OR ITS ALLIES.

Q16. WHY DID IT TAKE SO LONG TO PROVE THE INNOCENCE OF THESE << DETAINEES>>?

THIS IS NOT ABOUT GUILT OR INNOCENCE. THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE DETAINED AS ENEMY COMBATANTS CAPTURED IN CONNECTION WITH AN ONGOING ARMED CONFLICT. THEY CONTINUE TO BE ENEMY COMBATANTS UNDER THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT.

IT IS A UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED PRINCIPLE UNDER THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT THAT ENEMY COMBATANTS ENGAGED IN WAR MAY BE CAPTURED AND DETAINED FOR THE DURATION OF CONFLICT. THIS HAS BEEN THE PRACTICE OF THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES IN EVERY MODERN WAR. OUR DETENTION OF ENEMY COMBATANTS IS LAWFUL AND NECESSARY TO PREVENT THEM FROM RETURNING TO THE BATTLEFIELD OR REENGAGING IN ARMED CONFLICT AGAINST US AND OUR COALITION PARTNERS. THIS LEGAL RIGHT TO DETAIN ENEMY COMBATANTS EXISTS INDEPENDENTLY OF ANY NOTIONS OF GUILT OR INNOCENCE UNDER THE LAW.

ENEMY COMBATANTS WHO CEASE TO POSE A THREAT TO THE U.S. OR WHO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS AND CEASE FIGHTING MAY BE RELEASED IF THEY WILL NO LONGER ENGAGE IN COMBATANT ACTIVITIES. THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT DOES NOT REQUIRE THEY BE RELEASED BEFORE THE END OF HOSTILITIES. IN THIS CASE, THE INDIVIDUALS ARE JUDGED NOT TO POSE A THREAT TO THE U.S. AND EACH HAS AGREED NOT TO SUPPORT ACTS OF TERRORISM OR ENGAGE IN COMBATANT ACTIVITIES. DOD HAS UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 11 STATE 216580 312254Z

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED NCLASSIFIED

Current Handling: n/a

Document Number: 2002STATE216580 Channel: n/a

DETERMINED THAT THE THREAT POSED BY THESE INDIVIDUALS HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY MITIGATED AND THEY NO LONGER REQUIRE DETENTION BY THE U.S.

WE ARE CONSTANTLY REVIEWING THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF EACH << DETAINEE>> BASED ON A VARIETY OF FACTORS, INCLUDING INTELLIGENCE, SECURITY THREATS, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AND HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS.
ALL OF THESE NEED TO BE CONSIDERED BEFORE A RELEASE MAY OCCUR.

WE WILL NOT COMMENT ON THE SPECIFICS OF PARTICULAR DECISIONS.

Q17. IF YOU ARE LETTING THESE PEOPLE GO, DOES IT MEAN DOD SHOULD NOT HAVE CAPTURED THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE? WERE THEY CAPTURED BY MISTAKE? WHAT HAS CHANGED THAT MAKES DOD LET THEM GO NOW? THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE APPREHENDED DURING AN ARMED CONFLICT BECAUSE THEY ARE COMBATANTS. WE BELIEVE THEIR CAPTURE AND DETENTION ON THAT BASIS WAS PROPER. OVER THE COURSE OF THEIR DETENTION, WE HAVE ASSESSED - AMONG OTHER THINGS - THEIR POTENTIAL TO REMAIN A THREAT TO U.S. SECURITY, AVAILABLE INFORMATION CONCERNING WHETHER THEY MAY HAVE ENGAGED IN THE COMMISSION OF WAR CRIMES, AND THEIR POTENTIAL TO SUPPORT OR PARTICIPATE IN ACTS OF TERRORISM OR COMBATANT ACTIVITIES. BASED ON THESE AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, WE HAVE DECIDED THEY COULD BE RELEASED UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS. ONE OF THOSE CONDITIONS, BUT BY NO MEANS THE DETERMINING ONE, WAS THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT.

Q18. WHY HAVEN'T CRIMINAL CHARGES BEEN BROUGHT AGAINST ANY OF THESE << DETAINEES>>?
DETENTION OF ENEMY COMBATANTS AND PROSECUTION OF THOSE ENEMY

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 12 STATE 216580 312254Z
COMBATANTS FOR ALLEGED WAR CRIMES ARE TWO SEPARATE THINGS. IN
THIS INSTANCE, WE HAVE DECIDED THAT IT IS PREFERABLE TO RELEASE
THESE INDIVIDUALS UNDER SUCH AGREEMENTS.

Q19. WILL THE <<DETAINEES>> RETURN DIRECTLY TO <<AFGHANISTAN>>?
WE WILL NOT COMMENT ON THE TIMING, ROUTE OR DESTINATION OF THEIR
RETURN. (TRANSFER & RELEASE PAG)

Q20. WILL THEY PASS THROUGH THE <<UNITED>> <<STATES>>?

Q21. HOW WERE THEY MOVED OUT OF GTMO?
WE ARE NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THE SECURITY MEASURES IN PLACE DURING A << DETAINEE>> MOVEMENT .

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 8

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED Page: 9

Current Handling: n/a

Document Number: 2002STATE216580 Channel: n/a

Q22. ARE YOU CONCERNED THAT CAMP OPERATIONS MAY BE COMPROMISED FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF <<DETAINEES>>?

WE ARE ALWAYS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF MILITARY OPERATIONS. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE RELEASE OF THESE <<DETAINEES>> POSES AN ADDITIONAL OR SIGNIFICANT THREAT.

Q23. WHAT PROCESS WAS USED TO DETERMINE THEIR INNOCENCE?
THIS IS NOT A QUESTION OF GUILT OR INNOCENCE. THEY ARE ENEMY
COMBATANTS. THEIR RELEASE WAS BASED ON MANY FACTORS, INCLUDING
INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT CONSIDERATIONS, HEALTH CONCERNS
AND WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL WOULD POSE A CONTINUED THREAT TO THE
<<UNITED>> <<STATES>>. A DETERMINATION OF THEIR GUILT OR INNOCENCE WAS
NOT MADE. (TRANSFER & RELEASE PAG)

Q24. IF THEY NO LONGER POSE A THREAT, DID THEY TRAVEL UNDER ARMED ESCORT? WERE THEY SHACKLED AND HANDCUFFED?

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 13 STATE 216580 312254Z
WE ARE NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THE SECURITY MEASURES IN PLACE DURING A << DETAINEE>> MOVEMENT.

Q25. WHEN DO YOU ANTICIPATE FUTURE TRANSFERS/RELEASE?
AS WE HAVE STATED FROM THE OUTSET, WE EXPECT THERE WILL BE OTHER
RELEASES AND, PRESUMABLY, THAT WE MAY TRANSFER SOME <<DETAINEES>> TO
THE CONTROL OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS. WE WILL NOT PUT <<DETAINEES>> OR
OUR OPERATIONS AT RISK BY DISCUSSING SUCH TRANSFERS OR RELEASES
BEFORE THEY TAKE PLACE. (OSD PA PLAN)

Q26. WHY WERE YOU DETAINING ELDERLY MEN BELIEVED TO BE AT LEAST 80 YEARS OLD?
AGE IS NOT A DETERMINING FACTOR IN DETENTION. WE DETAIN ENEMY COMBATANTS, THOSE WHO ARE ENGAGED IN ARMED CONFLICT AGAINST US OR ARE PROVIDING MATERIAL SUPPORT TO OTHERS WHO ARE FIGHTING US.

THOSE DETAINED AT GTMO WERE SENT THERE FOR A REASON. AS WE HAVE STATED NUMEROUS TIMES, WHEN SUCH AN ENEMY COMBATANT IS DETERMINED TO NO LONGER POSE A THREAT, AND HAS NO MORE INTELLIGENCE OR LAW ENFORCEMENT VALUE, HE WILL BE RELEASED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE CONTROL OF ANOTHER GOVERNMENT.

HOWEVER, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT THE AL QAIDA AND THE - TALIBAN COMBATANTS ARE FROM A MUCH WIDER AGE GROUP THAN A TYPICAL ORGANIZED MILITARY. WE HAVE ONLY DETAINED INDIVIDUALS THAT REQUIRED FURTHER SCREENING DUE TO THREAT, INTELLIGENCE, OR LAW ENFORCEMENT CONCERNS.

Q27. ARE THE REMAINING <<DETAINEES>> AT GTMO AWARE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A RELEASE?

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED NCLASSIFIED

Current Handling: n/a

Document Number: 2002STATE216580

. Page: 10

Channel: n/a

· UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 14

STATE 216580 312254Z

YES.

Q28. WHEN DID THE <<DETAINEES>> LEARN THEY WERE TO BE RELEASED? THEY WERE INFORMED SEVERAL DAYS AGO.

Q29. DID THE <<DETAINEES>> SAY ANYTHING WHEN THEY LEARNED THEY WERE GOING HOME?

WE WILL NOT RELAY COMMENTS MADE BY INDIVIDUAL << DETAINERS >> REGARDING THEIR STATUS.

Q30. ARE YOU CONCERNED A << DETAINEE>> WILL DIE IN CAPTIVITY?
WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL << DETAINEES>>. WE
ARE PROVIDING EXPERT MEDICAL << TREATMENT>> FOR THE << DETAINEES>>. SINCE
DETENTION OPERATIONS BEGAN, WE HAVE TREATED WOUNDS SUSTAINED IN
BATTLE AND RELIEVED PAIN AND SUFFERING CAUSED BY PRE-EXISTING
CONDITIONS.

Q31. HOW LONG HAD EACH << DETAINEE>> BEEN HELD IN CONFINEMENT? INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO THE INDIVIDUALS WILL NOT BE PROVIDED.

Q32. ARE <<DETAINEES>> PERMITTED ANY PRIVILEGES AT GTMO, NOT AFFORDED TO OTHERS, ONCE THEIR INNOCENCE HAS BEEN DETERMINED? (FOOD, SHELTER, CLOTHING, PRIVACY)
THIS IS NOT ABOUT GUILT OR INNOCENCE. THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE DETAINED AS ENEMY COMBATANTS. THE U.S. HAS THE AUTHORITY UNDER THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT TO DETAIN ENEMY COMBATANTS WHO POSE A THREAT TO THE U.S. DOD HAS DETERMINED THAT THE THREAT POSED BY THESE INDIVIDUALS HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY MITIGATED AND THEY NO LONGER REQUIRE DETENTION BY THE U.S.

Q33. ARE THOSE SOON TO BE RELEASED HELD UNDER ARMED GUARD? UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 15 STATE 216580 312254Z
WE WILL NOT DISCUSS THE SPECIFIC SECURITY MEASURES IN PLACE AT
GTMO AS THEY PERTAIN TO THE <<DETAINEES>>.

5. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. POWELL

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED