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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL FUKUOKA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL NAGOYA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL NAHA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL PUSAN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL SAPPORO IMMEDIATE
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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FOIA Exemptions PA _____
CLASSIFY as () S or () C Sec. _____
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EO Citations _____
Date: 6/1/97

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
 CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI PRIORITY
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
 CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS PRIORITY
 COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//CC/BJ/CJ/EJ/PAJ/SJS// PRIORITY
 SACINCUNC KS PRIORITY
 USCINCUNC SEOUL KS PRIORITY
 SECDEF WASHDC//USDP PRIORITY
 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 HQ USSPACECOM PETERSON AFB CO//POLAD// PRIORITY
 USMISSION USVIENNA PRIORITY

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USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR USIS/YAMAUCH MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL OPRC XE US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 18 PRESS GUIDANCE FOR THE EAP REGION

ALL POSTS -- ALSO FOR USIS
 SECDEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA
 USCINCPAC FOR FPA TEARE
 USVIENNA FOR UNVIE
 PARIS FOR ZEYA

1. INDEX

- PERU: TERRORIST ATTACK (PARAS 2-3)
- PERU: U.S. ROLE/HOSTAGES (PARAS 2 AND 4)
- PERU: MRTA (PARAS 2 AND 5)

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- NORTH KOREA: ASSISTANCE/NY MEETING (PARAS 2 AND 6)
- U.N. ARREARS (PARAS 7-8)

2. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCES WERE PREPARED ON
 12/18/96. AT THE BRIEFING THAT DAY, SPOKESMAN NICHOLAS
 BURNS USED THE ANSWER IN PARA 3 AND PARTS OF PARAS 4 AND
 5 (SEE TRANSCRIPT SEPTTEL FOR DETAILS). FROM PARA 6, HE

USED THE SECOND TICK IN THE FIRST ANSWER, AS WELL AS THE SECOND, THIRD AND FIFTH ANSWERS. THE REMAINDER MAY BE USED ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

3. PERU: TERRORIST ATTACK

Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN PERU?

A. THE UNITED STATES CONMNS THE BRUTAL HOSTAGE-TAKING IN LIMA.

-- WE CALL ON THE TERRORISTS TO RELEASE ALL OF THE HOSTAGES SAVE AND UNHARMED. THERE CAN BE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS SHAMEFUL ACT OF VIOLENCE.

-- OUR CONCERNS ARE WITH THE HOSAGES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

-- I HAVE SPOKEN WITH AMB. DENNIS JETT TWICE IN THE LAST HOUR. HE WAS AT THE RECEPTION AND LEFT ABOUT A HALF AN HOUR BEFORE THE ATTACK.

-- THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED A TASK FORCE IN THE EMBASSY
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IN LIMA. THE TASK FORCE HAS BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT, AND WILL REMAIN AS CLOSELY IN TOUCH AS POSSIBLE.

-- WE HAVE ALSO ESTABLISHED A TASK FORCE HERE AT THE DEPARTMENT. SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER HAS BEEN BRIEFED REGULARLY.

-- AS A MATTER OF POLICY, THE U.S. DOES NOT DISCUSS POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF AMERICANS IN TERRORIST INCIDENTS.

-- THE USG DOES NOT MAKE CONCESSIONS TO TERRORISTS. WE DO NOT ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO SO.

BACKGROUND:

GUERRILLAS FROM THE MARXIST TERRORIST TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRTA) TOOK SEVERAL HUNDRED HOSTAGES LAST NIGHT AT A RECEPTION AT THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF THE EMPEROR.

THE GUERRILLAS SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED SOME OF THOSE HELD, MOSTLY WOMEN.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT AMONG THE HOSTAGE ARE SEVERAL SENIOR PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY.

WE STRONGLY CONDEMN THIS AND ALL ACTS OF TERRORISM. WE
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HOPE THIS INCIDENT CAN BE QUICKLY BROUGHT TO A CONCLUSION, THAT ALL THE HOSTAGES WILL BE RELEASED SAFELY. THERE CAN NEVER BE JUSTIFICATION FOR SUCH A SHAMEFUL ACT OF VIOLENCE.

OUR CONCERNS AND THOUGHTS ARE WITH THE HOSTAGES AND WITH THIER FAMILIES.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE TERRORISTS ARE ASKING FOR FREEDOM FOR THEIR LEADERS, AND A NUMBER OF CHANGES TO PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE TERRORISTS HAVE THREATENED TO KILL THE HOSTAGES IF THEIR DEMANDS ARE NOT MET, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS THREAT.

4. PERU: U.S. ROLE. ANY HOSTAGES?

-- AS A MATTER OF POLICY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF AMERICANS IN TERRORIST INCIDENTS.

-- U.S. AMBASSADOR TO PERU DENNIS JETT IS IN CLOSE

CONTACT WITH PERUVIAN OFFICIALS AND IS MONITORING THIS SITUATION CLOSELY.

- IT IS THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT TO RESOLVE THIS SITUATION. AS I SAID AMBASSADOR JETT IS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH PERUVIAN OFFICIALS. FOR THE SAFETY OF THE HOSTAGES IT WOULD INAPPROPRIATE FOR ME TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE
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FURTHER.

- THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS ESTABLISHED A TASK FORCE TO MONITOR THIS SITUATION. GIVEN THAT THIS IS A MAJOR INCIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, WE FEEL IT APPROPRIATE TO HAVE A FORMAL MECHANISM FOR KEEPING ABREAST OF THIS SITUATION HERE IN WASHINGTON.

- THERE APPROXIMATELY 10,000 AMERICAN CITIZENS RESIDENT IN PERU.

5. PERU: MRTA

Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT MRTA?

A. THE TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRTA) IS A MARXIST TERRORIST ORGANIZATION THAT HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE IN 1983.

- THE GROUP HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR A NUMBER OF BOMBINGS, POLITICAL ASSASINATIONS, KIDNAPPINGS AND OTHER TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.

- AMONG OTHER ACTIVITIES, IT IS BELEIVED TO HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR A ROCKET PROPELLED GRENADE ATTACK ON THE U.S. EMBASSY DURING THE GULF WAR.

- WHILE THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT HAS MADE GREAT STRIDES AGAINST MRTA, AND MANY OF ITS LEADERS ARE IN PRISON, THIS EVENT SHOWS THAT IT IS STILL

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CAPABLE OF MOUNTING ATTACKS.

6. NORTH KOREA: ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

Q. IS THE U.S. CONSIDERING ADDITIONAL FOOD AND ENERGY ASSISTANCE TO NORTH KOREA IF IT EXPRESSES REGRET OVER THE ROK SUBMARINE INCIDENT?

A. THE FOOD SITUATION IN NORTH KOREA CONTINUES TO BE VERY SERIOUS AND WE ARE MONITORING IT CLOSELY. THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP) AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO) ISSUED A NEW REPORT ON DECEMBER 6, WHICH PROJECTS THIS YEAR'S FOOD SHORTFALL TO BE LARGER THAN A YEAR AGO. THIS SHORTFALL COULD FURTHER AGGRAVATE THE ALREADY WEAKENED NUTRITIONAL STATE OF THE NORTH KOREAN CIVILAINS. THEREFORE, NORTH KOREA MUST SEEK WAYS TO SUPPLEMENT ITS SHORTFALL WITH EITHER COMMERCIAL IMPORTS OR FURTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, BOTH OF WHICH WILL BE DIFFICULT THIS YEAR.

-- THE TALKS IN NEW YORK HAVE ADDRESSED A RANGE OF PENDING ISSUES, INCLUDING THE SUBMARINE INCIDENT, THE AGREED FRAMEWORK, FOUR PARTY TALKS, AND BILATERAL ISSUES.

-- THERE IS NO LINKAGE BETWEEN THESE TALKS IN NEW YORK AND ADDITIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S. HOWEVER, SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THE SUBMARINE INCIDENT BY NORTH KOREA COULD CREATE A MORE STABLE ENVIRONMENT ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

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THAT WOULD EASE THE CONCERNS OF POTENTIAL
ASSISTANCE DONORS AND PROSPECTIVE COMMERCIAL
VENDORS.

-- I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU ON ADDITIONAL U.S.
FOOD ASSISTANCE.

Q. PLEASE PROVIDE A READOUT OF TUESDAY'S MEETING IN NEW
YORK.

A. U.S. AND NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS HELD A
WORKING-LEVEL MEETING IN NEW YORK ON TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 17.

-- AS IN THE TALKS ON MONDAY, ON TUESDAY THE NORTH
KOREAN SIDE INCLUDED MR. LI HYONG CHOL, THE
DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS IN THE NORTH KOREAN
FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHO IS VISITING THE U.S.

Q. CAN YOU CHARACTERIZE TUESDAY'S TALKS?

A. THE TALKS CONTINUED TO BE SERIOUS AND USEFUL, BUT
I DO NOT WANT TO CHARACTERIZE THEM BEYOND THAT.

Q. WHO REPRESENTED THE U.S.?

A. THE U.S. SIDE WAS HEADED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF KOREAN AFFAIRS, AND
INCLUDED A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE NATIONAL
SECURITY COUNCIL.

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Q. HOW LONG WILL MR. LI BE IN NEW YORK? WILL THERE BE
ADDITIONAL SESSIONS?

A. MR. LI'S DEPARTURE DATE HAS NOT BEEN FIRMLY SET.
WE ANTICIPATE AN ADDITIONAL SESSION OR SESSIONS IN

NEW YORK.

Q. IS MR. LI COMING TO WASHINGTON?

A. WE HAVE NO PLANS FOR MEETINGS WITH MR. LI OUTSIDE NEW YORK.

7. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE, ALSO PREPARED ON 12/18/96, WAS NOT USED AT THE BRIEFING. POSTS MAY DRAW FROM THEM ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

8. UNITED NATIONS ARREARS

Q. WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI'S CRITICISM OF THE UNITED STATES FOR FAILURE TO PAY ARREARS? WHAT ARE OUR PLANS TO PAY ARREARS? HOW MUCH DO WE OWE, AND HOW MUCH HAVE WE PAID?

A. OUR CURRENT DEBT TO THE ENTIRE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM IS \$1.1 BILLION, ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF WHICH REPRESENTS U.N. PEACEKEEPING ARREARS.

-- EVEN WITH THIS DEBT, THE U.S. WAS THE LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO THE U.N. SYSTEM IN 1995, CONTRIBUTING IN EXCESS OF \$1.8 BILLION.

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-- AS THE PRESIDENT SAID MONDAY, THE ADMINISTRATION REMAINS COMMITTED TO MEETING ITS DEBTS TO THE U.N. AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. WE ARE STUDYING HOW BEST TO DO SO WHILE BEARING IN MIND THE BUDGET STRINGENCIES FACING OUR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUDGET.

CHRISTOPHER