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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E. SINN
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ALL POSTS FOR PAO; ROME FOR VATICAN; USSOCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KPAO

SUBJECT: WHA GUIDANCES, DECEMBER 19, 2000

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS:

1. PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT, DEC 19 (BOLIVIA)
 2. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, DEC 19 (HAITI, HONDURAS, PERU, CHILE)
 3. CA PRESS GUIDANCE, DEC 19 (CUBA, ECUADOR)
- END SUMMARY.

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1. PRESS STATEMENT/ANNOUNCEMENT, DECEMBER 19, 2000:
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, DECEMBER 19, 2000

NO. 2000/1321

STATEMENT BY PHILIP T. REEKER, DEPUTY SPOKESMAN

-- BOLIVIA'S COCA REDUCTION EFFORTS --

BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT HUGO BANZER IS TODAY PRESIDING OVER A CEREMONY TO MARK THE ELIMINATION OF ALL SIGNIFICANT COCA IN THE CHAPARE, WHICH WAS BOLIVIA'S PRINCIPAL COCA-GROWING REGION. 7,500 HECTARES OF COCA REMAINING IN THE CHAPARE WERE ELIMINATED THIS YEAR DESPITE SEVERE VIOLENCE DIRECTED AT ERADICATION FORCES, RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF SEVEN POLICE AND MILITARY PERSONNEL. WE APPLAUD THE RESOLVE OF THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE TO FREE THEIR COUNTRY FROM THE TYRANNY OF DRUG TRAFFICKING.

WHILE LESS THAN 14,000 HECTARES OF COCA REMAIN UNDER CULTIVATION IN THE YUNGAS REGION, THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT HAS OUTLINED PLANS FOR REDUCTIONS TO THE LEVEL NEEDED FOR INTERNAL INDIGENOUS USE AND EXPORT TO THE PHARMACEUTICAL AND COMMERCIAL MARKET. WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT, A FULL RANGE OF COUNTERNARCOTICS ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, COCA ELIMINATION, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERDICTION PROGRAMS

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CAN BE INITIATED EARLY IN THE NEXT YEAR.

PRESIDENT BANZER WILL, NO DOUBT, FACE CHALLENGES AS HE MOVES TO CONSOLIDATE THE SUCCESS OF "PLAN DIGNIDAD" IN THE CHAPARE AND REPLICATE THAT SUCCESS IN THE YUNGAS. THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT BANZER IN THIS IMPORTANT ENDEAVOR.

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2. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, DECEMBER 19, 2000:

-- HAITI: "ALTERNATIVE" GOVERNMENT --

KEY POINTS TO MAKE

--OPPOSITION PARTIES ANNOUNCE INTENT TO FORM ALTERNATIVE GOVERNMENT.

--THIS ACTION WILL NOT ADVANCE SOLUTION TO HAITI'S POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES.

--URGE POLITICAL LEADERS TO ADDRESS ELECTORAL SHORTCOMINGS THROUGH DIALOGUE.

--NOVEMBER ELECTION PROCESS INDICATED THAT HAITI HAS CONSIDERABLE GROUND TO COVER IN DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE AND INCLUSIVE ELECTORAL PROCESS

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HAITIAN POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO FORM AN ALTERNATIVE GOVERNMENT?

A: HAITI'S LEADING OPPOSITION COALITION, THE "DEMOCRATIC CONVERGENCE," ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 14 ITS INTENT TO FORM AN ALTERNATIVE GOVERNMENT WITH PLANS TO RUN NEW NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

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WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT AN ATTEMPT TO FORM AN ALTERNATIVE OR PARALLEL GOVERNMENT WILL ADVANCE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A SOLUTION TO HAITI'S POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES.

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HAITI'S POLITICAL LEADERS SHOULD ADDRESS THE COUNTRY'S ELECTORAL SHORTCOMINGS, INCLUDING THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE MAY 2000 ELECTION, THROUGH DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION.

WE STRONGLY URGE HAITIAN AUTHORITIES AND POLITICAL LEADERS TO RESUME FRANK AND REALISTIC DISCUSSIONS.

Q: DOES THIS MEAN THAT HAITI'S PRESIDENTIAL AND PARTIAL SENATE ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER WERE FREE AND FAIR?

A. WE DID NOT PROVIDE OBSERVERS OR ASSISTANCE FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS BECAUSE OF CONCERNS THAT HAITIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT ADDRESSED IRREGULARITIES ASSOCIATED WITH MAY 2000 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS.

ACCORDING TO HAITI'S ELECTORAL COUNCIL, PRESIDENT-ELECT ARISTIDE WON THE NOVEMBER ELECTION WITH OVER 90 PERCENT OF THE VOTE AND HIS FANMI LAVALAS PARTY WON ALL NINE SENATE RACES.

HOWEVER, VOTER TURNOUT WAS LOW AND THE MAIN OPPOSITION PARTIES DECLINED TO FIELD CANDIDATES.

IT IS CLEAR THAT HAITI HAS CONSIDERABLE GROUND TO COVER IN DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE AND INCLUSIVE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND IN ENSURING CREDIBILITY OF THE RESTORED PARLIAMENT AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

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-- HONDURAS: CASTILLO ARREST --

Q: DOES THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON HONDURAS' ALLEGATIONS THAT THE UNITED STATES VIOLATED INTERNATIONAL LAW WITH THE ALLEGED KIDNAPPING OF A HONDURAN MAN TO BRING HIM TO JUSTICE IN THE US?

A: LEONCIO CASTILLO WAS DETAINED BY GUATEMALAN AUTHORITIES ON OCTOBER 4, AFTER HE ENTERED GUATEMALA WITHOUT PROPER DOCUMENTATION. THE GUATEMALAN AUTHORITIES DEPORTED HIM TO HONDURAS ON A FLIGHT THROUGH LOS ANGELES. IN LOS ANGELES, HE WAS ARRESTED BY THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE ON AN OUTSTANDING WARRANT IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL LAW. FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING HIS CASE, I REFER YOU TO THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE.

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-- PERU: WHERE IS MONTESINOS? --

KEY POINTS TO MAKE

-- DO NOT HAVE INFORMATION ON MONTESINOS' WHEREABOUTS.

-- ARE PREPARED TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH MONTESINOS INVESTIGATION.

Q: COMMENT ON CONTINUING RUMORS OF WHEREABOUTS EX-SPY CHIEF
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MONTESINOS?

A: WE HAVE SEEN THE RECENT PRESS REPORTS ON MONTESINOS. WE CANNOT CONFIRM THIS INFORMATION AND WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON MONTESINOS' CURRENT WHEREABOUTS.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. DOING TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU IN ITS EFFORTS TO PROSECUTE MONTESINOS FOR ALLEGED CORRUPTION?

WE HAVE RECEIVED REQUESTS FROM THE PERUVIAN CONGRESS FOR DOCUMENTS RELATED TO MR. MONTESINOS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. WE WILL RESPOND TO THESE REQUESTS AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE.

ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A FORMAL REQUEST FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE INVESTIGATIONS AGAINST MR. MONTESINOS, WE ARE PREPARED TO COOPERATE FULLY AS SOON AS THAT REQUEST IS RECEIVED.

-- CHILE: U.S. CONGRESS' STANCE ON PINOCHET --

Q: HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO DEMOCRATS IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES URGING THAT THE ADMINISTRATION INDICT AUGUSTO PINOCHET FOR THE 1976 CAR-BOMBING THAT KILLED ORLANDO LETELIER AND RONNI MOFFITT?

A: QUESTIONS ABOUT LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES, INCLUDING THE LETELIER-MOFFITT CASE, SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

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3. CA PRESS GUIDANCE, DECEMBER 18, 2000:

-- CUBA: COLOMBINI CASE (UPDATE) --

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING NEW ON THE JONATHON COLOMBINI CASE?

A: MR. COLOMBINI IS IN CUBA.

HE HAS MET WITH OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. INTERESTS SECTION.

WE ARE DISCUSSING WITH HIM WAYS WE MIGHT POSSIBLY BE OF ASSISTANCE TO HIM AND HIS FAMILY.

WE HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT AT THIS TIME.

-- ECUADOR: UPDATE ON KIDNAPPING OF AMERICAN OIL WORKERS --

KEY POINTS TO MAKE:

-- FIVE AMERICANS ABDUCTED OCTOBER 12 STILL BEING HELD.

-- U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY IS NOT TO PAY RANSOM OR RECOMMEND PAYMENT OF RANSOM IN THESE SITUATIONS.

-- INAPPROPRIATE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DETAILS AT THIS TIME.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW INFORMATION ON THE AMERICANS WHO
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WERE KIDNAPPED IN ECUADOR IN EARLY OCTOBER?

A: STILL NO DEFINITIVE INFORMATION ABOUT LOCATION OF HOSTAGES.

NEGOTIATOR HAS ESTABLISHED RADIO CONTACT WITH KIDNAPPERS.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN A RANSOM DEMAND?

A: AS YOU KNOW, IT IS U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY NEITHER TO MAKE NOR TO RECOMMEND PAYMENT OF RANSOM TO KIDNAPPERS.

WE BELIEVE RANSOM PAYMENT MERELY ENCOURAGES FURTHER KIDNAPPINGS.

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Q: IF THERE HAS BEEN A RANSOM DEMAND, HOW MUCH IS IT?

A: I'M NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON ANY ASPECTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

Q: HAVE THE KIDNAPPERS PROVIDED ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE HOSTAGES ARE STILL ALIVE?

A: WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THE HOSTAGES ARE NOT ALIVE.

(IF PRESSED)

I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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