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XMT AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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ALL POSTS FOR PAO; LU FOR RFAUCHER; MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC
SUBJECT: ARA GUIDANCES, AUGUST 5 AND 6, 1996

1. ARA PRESS GUIDANCE, AUGUST 5, 1996:

-- COLOMBIA: CIVIL AVIATION --
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Q: IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT LIMITING SERVICE BY COLOMBIAN AIRLINES ON ROUTES TO THE U.S.?

A: THE UNITED STATES AND COLOMBIA HAVE CONDUCTED SEVERAL ROUNDS OF TALKS STEMMING FROM COLOMBIA'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW U.S. CARRIERS TO INITIATE CERTAIN AIR SERVICE UNDER THE EXISTING BILATERAL AVIATION AGREEMENT. THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL RESUME LATER IN AUGUST.

PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HAS HELD IN ABEYANCE SANCTIONS STEMMING FROM COLOMBIA'S REFUSAL TO UPHOLD THE AGREEMENT.

Q: ARE THESE NEGOTIATIONS A TOOL USED TO PRESSURE THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT ON COUNTERNARCOTICS?

A: THE ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNRELATED TO COLOMBIA'S COUNTERNARCOTICS COOPERATION AND PERFORMANCE.

-- MEXICO: ACCUSATIONS OF NARCOTICS CORRUPTION --

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE ARREST OF RICARDO CORDERO ONTIVEROS FOLLOWING HIS ACCUSATIONS OF CORRUPTION AGAINST MEXICAN COUNTERNARCOTICS OFFICIALS?

A: THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE HAS ARRESTED MR. CORDERO AND TWO OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS FROM BAJA CALIFORNIA ON SERIOUS CHARGES, INCLUDING BRIBERY AND ALLOWING PRISONERS TO ESCAPE. WE WILL MONITOR THE
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PROGRESS OF THE CASE.

MR. CORDERO'S ACCUSATIONS AGAINST OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS ARE ALSO SERIOUS, AND WE ARE FOLLOWING THE INVESTIGATION OF HIS ALLEGATIONS.

CORRUPTION IN MEXICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT UNDERMINES OUR COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS; IT IS AN ISSUE WE TAKE VERY SERIOUSLY. PRESIDENT ZEDILLO DOES AS WELL. COUNTERNARCOTICS COOPERATION BETWEEN THE USG AND THE GOM HAS EXPANDED SIGNIFICANTLY UNDER THE ZEDILLO ADMINISTRATION, AND EFFORTS AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT CORRUPTION ARE A REGULAR FEATURE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT, MOST RECENTLY DURING THE HIGH LEVEL CONTACT GROUP.

2. INL PRESS GUIDANCE, AUGUST 5, 1996:

-- COLOMBIA: COCA FARMERS REVOLT AGAINST GOVERNMENT --

Q: WHAT CAN WE SAY ABOUT COLOMBIA'S ERADICATION PROGRAM?

A: ERADICATION OF ILLICIT COCA AND HEROIN POPPY IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE U.S. AND COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENTS TO STEM THE FLOW OF NARCOTICS FROM COLOMBIA. LAST YEAR, ABOUT 9,000 HECTARES WERE ERADICATED, A CONSIDERABLE ACHIEVEMENT ON THE PART OF THE POLICE AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM, AND THIS YEAR COLOMBIA INTENDS TO ERADICATE EVEN MORE.

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Q: WHAT ABOUT COLOMBIA'S USE OF FORCE AGAINST THE FARMERS?

A: WE LOOK TO THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA (GOC) TO INSURE THAT THE FORCES IN THE AREA COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED HUMAN RIGHTS NORMS AND STANDARDS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOC IS TAKING STEPS TO BRING THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL, INCLUDING BRINGING IN SPECIALLY TRAINED RIOT POLICE. WE EXPECT COLOMBIA TO STAND ITS GROUND AND CONTINUE ERADICATION OPERATIONS.

3. CA PRESS GUIDANCE, MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 1996:

-- EL SALVADOR: STOLEN CHILDREN --

Q: ARE WE DOING ANYTHING TO HELP REUNITE DISAPPEARED CHILDREN FROM EL SALVADOR WITH THEIR FAMILIES?

A: EFFORTS BEING MADE BY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS TO ASSIST FAMILIES WHO MAY HAVE BEEN WRONGLY SEPARATED DURING THE WAR ARE ADMIRABLE.

THE U.S. EMBASSY HAS RESPONDED TO A REQUEST FOR RECORDS FROM A HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP. UNFORTUNATELY, THE RECORDS THEY ARE SEEKING ARE NOT AVAILABLE.

IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE GROUP APPROACH THE SALVADORAN AUTHORITIES FOR POSSIBLE RECORDS OF THE APPROVED
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ADOPTIONS.

Q: DO WE FEEL THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR IS OR HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN FRAUD AND ARE THEY TRYING TO IMPEDE REUNIFICATION EFFORTS?

A: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS VERY STRICT PROCEDURES FOR IMMIGRATING ADOPTIVE CHILDREN TO THE U.S. AND HAS MADE GREAT EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ACT

AGAINST ABUSE AND CORRUPTION IN ADOPTION PRACTICES.

THE SPOKESPERSON FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY IN EL SALVADOR EXPLAINED THAT IN THE EARLY 80'S PROCEDURES FOR DETECTING FRAUD WERE NOT WELL DEVELOPED. MORE SOPHISTICATED AND STANDARDIZED METHODS FOR DETECTING FRAUD ARE NOW IN PLACE.

Q: HOW DO WE RESPOND TO THE CRITICISM OF THE U.S. EMBASSY'S VISA PROCESSING OF THESE CHILDREN?

A: AS THE NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE STATES THERE HAS BEEN NO SUGGESTION BY ANYONE INVOLVED THAT ADOPTIVE AMERICAN PARENTS ACTED IN ANYTHING BUT GOOD FAITH OR THAT MORE THAN A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF ADOPTIONS INVOLVED ABDUCTED CHILDREN.

BETWEEN FISCAL YEAR 80 AND FY92 2333 IMMIGRANT VISAS WERE ISSUED FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADOPTION OF ORPHANS FROM EL SALVADOR.

IT IS NOT UNCOMMON IN A WAR SITUATION FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN TO BECOME SEPARATED.

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IN A COUNTRY WHICH IS IN TURMOIL, IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHETHER CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS ARE MISSING ARE TRULY ORPHANS ACCORDING TO ADOPTION AND IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS.

THE U.S. EMBASSY IN EL SALVADOR IS CURRENTLY AWAITING CLARIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN EL SALVADOR'S FOREIGN ADOPTION LAW THAT OCCURRED WITH THE OCTOBER 1, 1994 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW SALVADORAN FAMILY CODE.

CONSEQUENTLY, NUMBERS OF IMMIGRANT VISAS ISSUED TO ORPHANS FROM EL SALVADOR FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADOPTION HAVE DECLINED SINCE 1994.

AT THIS TIME, THE ONLY LEGAL WAY TO TAKE A CHILD OUT OF EL SALVADOR IS BY FIRST ADOPTING THE CHILD LEGALLY IN EL SALVADOR.

UNDER SALVADORAN LAW, AN ORPHAN IS A CHILD WHOSE PARENTS HAVE DIED.

AN ADOPTABLE CHILD IS ANY CHILD SURRENDERED BY HIS/HER NATURAL PARENT(S) FOR ADOPTION.

4. ARA PRESS GUIDANCE, AUGUST 6, 1996:

-- CUBA: IMPACT OF TITLE IV --

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Q. IS IMPLEMENTATION OF TITLE IV REALLY ACTING AS A DISINCENTIVE TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN EXPROPRIATED U.S. PROPERTIES IN CUBA? IS THERE CONCRETE EVIDENCE?

A. YES. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SENT ADVISORY LETTERS IN LATE MAY TO THREE COMPANIES KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH CONFISCATED U.S.-CLAIMED PROPERTIES PRIOR TO THE ENACTMENT OF THE ACT. IN ADDITION TO NOTIFYING SUCH COMPANIES ABOUT THE ACT'S PROVISIONS, THESE LETTERS ALSO SERVED NOTICE TO ALL INVESTORS IN CUBA THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS SERIOUS ABOUT IMPLEMENTING THE ACT. AS A RESULT, A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF COMPANIES WITH POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IN CONFISCATED U.S.-CLAIMED PROPERTIES HAVE INFORMED THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT THEY ARE DISENGAGING FROM THOSE ACTIVITIES.

THESE FOREIGN FIRMS ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO WILL FEEL THE IMPACT OF TITLE IV ACTIONS. THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO BEEN FINDING IT MORE DIFFICULT TO PROFIT FROM EXPROPRIATED SUGAR PROPERTIES AND PROPERTIES CLAIMED BY U.S. NATIONALS IN OTHER KEY SECTORS IN THE WAKE OF TITLE IV IMPLEMENTATION.

WHILE SOME FIRMS ARE DISENGAGING FROM EXPROPRIATED U.S. PROPERTIES ON THE ISLAND, SOME OTHER FIRMS HAVE INDICATED THEIR INTENTION TO REMAIN IN CUBA ENGAGED IN "TRAFFICKING" ACTIVITIES. THE STATE DEPARTMENT MADE ITS FIRST DETERMINATIONS OF "TRAFFICKING" UNDER TITLE IV, AND ON JULY 10 SENT LETTERS TO SEVEN INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE CORPORATE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF A CANADIAN MINING FIRM. THOSE INDIVIDUALS WILL BE

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EXCLUDED FROM THE UNITED STATES FORTY-FIVE DAYS FROM THE
DATE OF THOSE LETTERS SHOULD THEY SEEK ENTRY TO THIS
COUNTRY UNLESS THE COMPANY DISENGAGES FROM ITS
"TRAFFICKING" IN CONFISCATED U.S. PROPERTY OR THE
INDIVIDUALS WITHDRAW FROM THEIR POSITIONS WITH THE
COMPANY. WE ARE CONTINUING TO INVESTIGATE OTHER CASES.
WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THESE INITIAL DETERMINATIONS WILL
FURTHER DISCOURAGE FOREIGN INVESTMENT OR OTHER
ARRANGEMENTS INVOLVING U.S.-CLAIMED PROPERTIES IN CUBA.

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