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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Janina Slattery, Senior Reviewer

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OPRC

SUBJECT: ARA GUIDANCES, JANUARY 30, 1990

1. PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCES.

NICARAGUA: POLITICAL PRISONERS

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO REPORTS THAT DANIEL ORTEGA IS SEEKING PARDON FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS BEFORE THE FEBRUARY 25TH ELECTIONS?

A: THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT HAS PROMISED SEVERAL TIMES TO RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS, AS THE CENTRAL AMERICAN ACCORDS REQUIRE IT TO DO.

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-- IF THIS PROMISE IS KEPT, WE WELCOME IT AS A POSITIVE STEP.

-- HOWEVER, INDEPENDENT HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE STATED THAT THE NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IS MUCH LARGER THAN THE 1,090 PRISONERS MR. ORTEGA HAS PROMISED TO RELEASE.

-- WE CALL UPON THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT TO PUBLISH THE NAMES OF ALL PRISONERS, INCLUDING POLITICAL PRISONERS, SO THAT INDEPENDENT HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS CAN REVIEW AND VERIFY THAT ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED.

NICARAGUA: NUNS' KILLING

Q: ANY FURTHER REACTION TO THE AMERICA'S WATCH REPORT?

A: WE HAVE READ THE REPORT. WE ARE CONTINUING THROUGH ALL POSSIBLE MEANS OUR INVESTIGATION INTO THIS INCIDENT, AND ARE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE AMERICA'S WATCH REPORT.

NICARAGUA: CARTER VISIT

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO FORMER PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRAISE OF SANDINISTA ELECTION PREPARATIONS? HAVE YOU SPOKEN TO PRESIDENT CARTER SINCE HIS RETURN?

A: WE WELCOME THE CONTRIBUTION THAT FORMER PRESIDENT CARTER IS MAKING TO THE NICARAGUAN ELECTION PROCESS.

-- PRESIDENT CARTER PERCEIVED SOME REAL ELECTORAL PROBLEMS.

-- IN PARTICULAR, HE RECOGNIZED SANDINISTA INTIMIDATION OF POLLWATCHERS AND BLOCKAGE OF FUNDING FOR THE OPPOSITION.

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-- HE HAS GAINED NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS.

-- WE URGE OBSERVERS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT KEEPS ITS WORD ON THOSE ISSUES.

-- WE HAVE SPOKEN TO THE CARTER CENTER STAFF IN ATLANTA TO GET A READ-OUT ON THE TRIP.

EL SALVADOR: FENASTRAS BOMBING

Q: WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE FENASTRAS BOMBING?

A: THE OFFICES OF THE SALVADORAN LABOR UNION FENASTRAS WERE BOMBED ON OCTOBER 31. FENASTRAS REFUSED TO ALLOW GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATORS ACCESS TO THE SITE UNTIL EIGHT DAYS AFTER THE BLAST. IN THE MEANTIME, FENASTRAS HAD CLEANED UP THE SITE, MAKING IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND USABLE EVIDENCE. THE UNION ALSO REFUSED TO PERMIT THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT TO PERFORM AUTOPSIES ON THE VICTIMS.

-- AN FBI EXPLOSIVES INCIDENTS EXPERT EXAMINED THE BOMBING SITE ON NOVEMBER 8. REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS ON THE FBI'S REPORT ON THE BOMBING SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE BUREAU.

-- SINCE THE NOVEMBER 8 ACCESS TO THE SITE, FENASTRAS HAS REFUSED TO COOPERATE IN ANY WAY WITH THE GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATORS. NO FURTHER ACCESS TO THE SITE HAS BEEN GRANTED. FENASTRAS MEMBERS HAVE REFUSED TO BE INTERVIEWED BY THE INVESTIGATORS.

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-- FENASTRAS HAS TOLD US THAT IT MAY SOON BEGIN COOPERATING WITH THE INVESTIGATION. THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS CRIME.

EL SALVADOR: CRISTIANI VISIT

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE SCHEDULE FOR THE VISIT OF SALVADORAN PRESIDENT CRISTIANI?

A: PRESIDENT CRISTIANI WILL BE IN WASHINGTON ON THURSDAY

AND FRIDAY THIS WEEK. HE WILL BE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BUSH ON THURSDAY AND HE WILL BE MEETING WITH SECRETARY BAKER ON THURSDAY.

-- PRESIDENT CRISTIANI IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO MEET DEFENSE SECRETARY CHENEY AND GENERAL POWELL.

-- WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SALVADORAN EMBASSY HAS ARRANGED APPOINTMENTS WITH A NUMBER OF KEY CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS.

HAITI: STATE OF SIEGE

Q: CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT HAITI HAS LIFTED THE STATE OF SIEGE? WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE?

A: OUR EMBASSY INFORMS US THAT THE STATE OF SIEGE HAS BEEN LIFTED, THAT PRESS FREEDOMS HAVE BEEN RESTORED, AND THAT THE FOUR ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION RELATING TO THE IMPOSITION OF A STATE OF SIEGE AND THE EXILING OF HAITIANS HAVE BEEN REINSTITUTED.

-- WE WELCOME THESE MEASURES AS A NECESSARY FIRST STEP IN RE-ESTABLISHING THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN HAITI.

-- WE CALL UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI TO FREE ARRESTED UNCLASSIFIED

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OPPOSITION ACTIVISTS, TO ALLOW THOSE EXILED ABROAD TO RETURN AND TO TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO RESTORE VOTER CONFIDENCE IN THE ELECTION PROCESS.

-- WE ALSO CALL UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI TO PUBLICLY COMMIT ITSELF TO FREE AND SECURE ELECTIONS AND TO A TRANSFER OF POWER TO WHOMEVER IS ELECTED.

-- SUCH STEPS WOULD HELP CREATE CONDITIONS THAT WOULD PERMIT A RE-EVALUATION OF U.S.-HAITIAN RELATIONS.

PANAMA: JAMAICAN CRITICISM OF PANAMA INVASION

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER MANLEY'S CRITICISMS OF THE U.S. ACTION IN PANAMA WHICH HE MADE TO VICE PRESIDENT QUAYLE?

A: VICE PRESIDENT QUAYLE HIMSELF HAS STATED THAT THE DECISION TO ACT IN PANAMA WAS "CORRECT AND COURAGEOUS, BUT NOT WITHOUT CONTROVERSY."

-- WE HAVE STATED OUR REASONS FOR THE ACTION ON MANY OCCASIONS TO PROTECT AMERICAN LIVES, TO PROTECT OUR RIGHTS AND MEET OUR RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES, TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY AND TO BRING AN INDICTED DRUG TRAFFICKER TO JUSTICE.

-- THESE REASONS ARE AS COMPELLING NOW AS WHEN THE PRESIDENT MADE HIS DECISION.

-- ALTHOUGH WE DISAGREE WITH PRIME MINISTER MANLEY ON THIS QUESTION, WE REMAIN GOOD FRIENDS WITH HIM AND WITH JAMAICA.

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-- FRIENDLY NATIONS, LIKE FRIENDLY INDIVIDUALS, SOMETIMES VIEW COMPLICATED DIFFICULT ISSUES FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES AND WITH DIFFERENT POLITICAL CONCERNS. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT SUCH DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ARE DISCUSSED OPENLY AND HONESTLY.

-- AS THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IN JAMAICA, THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION IS VERY IMPORTANT, PARTICULARLY TO SMALLER COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE.

-- WE UNDERSTAND THESE SENSITIVITIES AND WE RESPECT THEM.

-- AS THE PRESIDENT HAS STATED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, THE SITUATION IN PANAMA WAS UNIQUE.

PANAMA: QUAYLE ON ELECTIONS IN PANAMA

Q: VICE PRESIDENT QUAYLE IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT PRESIDENT ENDARA MAY HAVE TO CONSIDER HOLDING NEW ELECTIONS. DOES THIS MARK A CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY?

A: AS THE VICE PRESIDENT HAS CLEARLY INDICATED, OUR VIEW REMAINS THE SAME. OVER 300 CREDIBLE OBSERVERS FROM MORE THAN 25 COUNTRIES TO THE MAY 1989 ELECTIONS STATED THAT ONLY THE USE OF FORCE BY NORIEGA PREVENTED MR. ENDARA FROM BEING DECLARED THE WINNER THEN AND THERE.

-- MOREOVER, ACTUAL VOTE TALLIES FROM THE MAY ELECTION WERE PRESERVED AND PROVE CONCLUSIVELY THAT MR. ENDARA WAS THE LEGITIMATE WINNER.

-- PRESIDENT ENDARA'S GOVERNMENT ENJOYS FULL LEGITIMACY. IT HAS BEEN CERTIFIED BY THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL, WHICH HAS ADMITTED THAT ITS PREVIOUS RULING ANNULLING THE ELECTION HAD BEEN FORCED UPON IT BY NORIEGA.

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-- AS THE VICE PRESIDENT STATED, ANY MATTER HAVING TO DO WITH ELECTIONS IS CLEARLY AN INTERNAL MATTER FOR THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER.

-- THE ENDARA GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED THAT IT PLANS TO HOLD LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN THE APPROXIMATELY SIX

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS FOR WHICH VOTE TALLIES WERE NOT PRESERVED.

JAMAICA: U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Q: HAS THE U.S. REDUCED AID TO JAMAICA?

A: THE U.S. HAS NOT MADE A FINAL DECISION ABOUT AID LEVELS FOR JAMAICA.

-- IN PARTICULAR, DECISIONS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE ON THE ALLOCATION OF THE ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND (ESF) MONIES WHICH ARE IN SCARCE SUPPLY.

-- JAMAICA RECEIVED 25 MILLION DOLLARS IN ESF IN FISCAL YEAR 1989. NONETHELESS, THERE IS, AS YOU KNOW, A SQUEEZE ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BUDGETS AROUND THE WORLD, AND THERE WILL CLEARLY BE REDUCTIONS IN MANY NATIONS.

-- JAMAICA HAS BEEN AN OUTSTANDING PERFORMER IN ECONOMIC REFORM AND IN THE WAR AGAINST DRUGS, AND WE VALUE JAMAICA'S FRIENDSHIP. EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF ASSISTANCE REDUCTIONS.

-- THE U.S. IS PLANNING TO PROVIDE OTHER KINDS OF ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA THIS YEAR, INCLUDING 14 MILLION DOLLARS IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND 27.4 MILLION IN FOOD UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSISTANCE UNDER TITLE I OF P.L. 480.

-- JAMAICA IS ALSO A MAJOR BENEFICIARY OF THE CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE, AND U.S. PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN JAMAICA IS BEING BOLSTERED THROUGH GUARANTEES OFFERED BY THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION (OPIC).

IF ASKED:

IN FISCAL YEAR 89, JAMAICA RECEIVED 117 MILLION DOLLARS IN AID. THIS FIGURE REFLECTS SUBSTANTIAL U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR POST-HURRICANE RECONSTRUCTION.

Q: WAS VICE PRESIDENT QUAYLE'S "FENCE MENDING" TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA A SUCCESS?

A: THE VICE PRESIDENT HAD EXCELLENT AND USEFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE HEADS OF STATE OF: HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, COSTA RICA, VENEZUELA, PANAMA, BELIZE AN JAMAICA. AS YOU KNOW, IN EARLY MARCH, HE WILL ALSO BE VISITING A NUMBER OF SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING CHILE AND BRAZIL, AMONG OTHERS TO BE ANNOUNCED.

-- CONTRARY TO SOME PERCEPTIONS, MOST OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S CONVERSATIONS WITH THESE LATIN AND CARIBBEAN

LEADERS WERE NOT ABOUT PANAMA. THESE LEADERS AND THE VICE PRESIDENT TALKED ABOUT A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN TO OUR GOVERNMENTS: SUPPORT AND PROGRESS FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE HEMISPHERE, ECONOMIC REFORM, DEBT, AND GROWTH; THE WAR ON DRUGS; THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PEACE PROCESS, INCLUDING BOTH ELECTIONS IN NICARAGUA AND TH NEED TO MOVE FORWARD ON NEGOTIATIONS IN EL SALVADOR.

INM PRESS GUIDANCE:

Q: THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTS TODAY THAT PRIME MINISTER UNCLASSIFIED

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MANLEY, DURING VP QUAYLE'S VISIT TO JAMAICA, EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT CUTS IN U.S. ASSISTANCE TO FIGHT NARCOTICS. HAVE WE CUT OUR ANTI-DRUG ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA?

A: THE U.S. HAS NOT REDUCED OUR ANTI-DRUG ASSISTANCE FOR JAMAICA/

-- SINCE 1989, U.S. NARCOTICS PROGRAMS WITH JAMAICA HAVE AVERAGED 2 MILLION.

-- THIS FUNDING IS USED FOR MARIJUANA ERADICATION AND TO FIGHT COCAINE TRAFFICKING. A GOOD PORTION OF THE FUNDING IS USED FOR HELICOPTER SUPPORT TO TRANSPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.

-- OUR FISCAL 91 REQUEST FOR JAMAICA IS 2.3 MILLION.

IO PRESS GUIDANCE:

U.S. CRITICISM OF U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL

Q: IS IT TRUE THE VICE PRESIDENT HAS CRITICIZED THE U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL, JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR, FOR HIS REFUSAL TO PREPARE A REPORT ON CUBAN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES? ISN'T THE UNITED STATES UNHAPPY WITH PEREZ DE CUELLAR?

A: THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT PEREZ DE CUELLAR PREPARE A REPORT TO THE UNHRC ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN CUBA. THE SECRETARY GENERAL, HOWEVER, HAS DECIDED TO COMMUNICATE HIS CONCERNS IN ANOTHER FORM. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL WILL PURSUE THIS ISSUE.

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-- SO, WHILE WE HAD HOPED FOR A REPORT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE COMMISSION (IT OPENED JANUARY 29), WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THIS ISSUE AS THE SESSION DEVELOPS (IT GOES TO MARCH 9).

IF PRESSED

-- THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAD REQUESTED A REPORT ON THE EFFORTS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL AFTER HE HAD INDICATED SUCH A REPORT WOULD BE PREPARED, IF ASKED BY ONE OR MORE MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS. WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT SUBSEQUENTLY HE DETERMINED THAT THIS REPORT NEEDED TO BE REQUESTED THROUGH THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

FYI:

-- WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE COMMISSION IS NOW CONSIDERING IN GENEVA WHETHER TO SEEK SUCH A REPORT.

-- THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT CUBAN GOVERNMENT'S TREATMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS AND DISSIDENTS WARRANTS URGENT ACTION BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

-- THE UNITED STATES IS NOT SINGLING CUBA OUT, BUT RATHER BELIEVES IT SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE TO THE STANDARDS EMBODIED IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

BACKGROUND: IN 1988 THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AUTHORIZED A VISIT BY A SPECIAL WORKING GROUP TO CUBA. IT WROTE A REPORT DOCUMENTING HUNDREDS OF VIOLATIONS. IN MARCH 1989 AFTER PROLONGED DEBATE, THE UNHRC APPROVED A WEEK RESOLUTION ASKING THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO MAINTAIN CONTACTS WITH THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT ON ISSUES RAISED IN THE REPORT AND TO TAKE UP THESE CONTACTS AND THEIR RESULTS IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER.

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