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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 STATE 223530
INFORM CONSULS, FOR PAOS, GENEVA PASS NST AND CD DELS
E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OPRC
SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

1. THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCES WERE PREPARED FOR USE BY THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON JULY 12, 1988. THE GUIDANCES IN SECTIONS 2, 3, AND 4 WERE USED IN TODAY'S BRIEFING.

2. TERRORIST ATTACK ON GREEK CRUISE SHIP
Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE ATTACK ON THE GREEK CRUISE SHIP?

A: -- WE CATEGORICALLY CONDEMN THIS BARBAROUS ATTACK, WHICH UNDERLINES THE NEED FOR ALL COUNTRIES TO COOPERATE CLOSELY TO ELIMINATE THE SCOURGE OF TERRORISM. WE WELCOME THE STATEMENT BY GREEK PRIME MINISTER PAPANDREOU THAT GREECE INTENDS TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CONFRONT EFFECTIVELY THIS SCOURGE.

-- OUR LATEST INFORMATION IS THAT THERE ARE NINE DEAD; 60 INJURED IN HOSPITAL; AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF

INDIVIDUALS NOT ACCOUNTED FOR. WE ARE AWARE OF REPORTS OF ELEVEN DEAD AND 98 INJURED, BUT WE CANNOT CONFIRM THESE NUMBERS. OF THE KNOWN DEAD, FIVE ARE FRENCH, AND ONE GREEK; THE IDENTITIES AND NATIONALITIES OF THE OTHER DEAD HAVE YET TO BE DETERMINED. THE MISSING APPARENTLY JUMPED OVERBOARD TO EVADE GUNFIRE OR THE FIRE THAT BROKE OUT ON BOARD. GREEK NAVAL VESSELS ARE ACTIVELY SEARCHING THE AREA.

-- AS TO PERPETRATORS, NO GROUP HAS YET CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY. THREE MASKED GUNMEN ON BOARD THE SHIP, "THE CITY OF POROS", OPENED FIRE WITH SUBMACHINE GUNS AND GRENADES. THEY ESCAPED ON ANOTHER VESSEL THAT PULLED UP CLOSE TO THE CRUISE SHIP.

Q: ARE THERE AMERICANS INVOLVED?

A: -- WE KNOW OF NO AMERICAN CASUALTIES. WE KNOW OF NINE AMERICANS WHO WERE ON BOARD, AND ARE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MINOR SCRAPES AND BRUISES, NOT INJURED. ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME OF THOSE UNACCOUNTED FOR OR STILL UNIDENTIFIED MAY BE AMERICANS, AT THIS POINT IT APPEARS THAT THE AMERICANS ON BOARD ESCAPED HARM.

Q: DO WE DETECT ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN THIS ATTACK AND THE EARLIER EXPLOSION IN PIRAEUS, OR WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF OUR DEFENSE ATTACHE, CAPT. NORDEEN, IN ATHENS TWO WEEKS AGO?

A: -- WE ARE AWARE OF SPECULATION OF A POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN THE CAR EXPLOSION AND THE ATTACK ON THE SHIP, BUT DO NOT HAVE ANY HARD INFORMATION. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON A POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN THE NORDEEN ASSASSINATION AND THE CAR EXPLOSION AND SHIP ATTACK.

Q: DOES THE UNITED STATES CONTEMPLATE A TRAVEL

ADVISORY?

A: -- NO. WE ISSUE TRAVEL ADVISORIES CONCERNING TERRORISM WHEN THERE IS A PATTERN OF INCIDENTS OVER A PERIOD OF TIME, AS WE DISCUSSED IN GENERAL ON JULY 5. HOWEVER, WE ARE CONCERNED BY THE RECENT TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN GREECE. WE LOOK TO THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE, AS WE DO OF ALL SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENTS, TO MAINTAIN INTERNAL SECURITY, AND ARE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH GREEK AUTHORITIES.

Q: WHAT ADVICE ARE YOU GIVING TO AMERICAN TRAVELLERS TO GREECE?

A: -- TRAVEL IS NEVER WITHOUT RISK AND TRAVELLERS OBVIOUSLY SHOULD TAKE RECENT EVENTS INTO CONSIDERATION AND EXERCISE CAUTION. ESSENTIALLY, HOWEVER, TRAVEL REMAINS AN INDIVIDUAL DECISION.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON PAPANDREOU'S REMARK THAT OUR 1985 TRAVEL ADVISORY ON GREECE WAS UNWARRANTED?

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A: -- THAT TRAVEL ADVISORY WAS BASED ON AN INSPECTION OF THE ATHENS AIRPORT BY AN FAA AIRPORT SECURITY TEAM AND WAS LIFTED A MONTH LATER FOLLOWING A CAREFUL FAA INSPECTION WHICH FOUND THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD SUBSEQUENTLY TAKEN POSITIVE ACTIONS TO MEET INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.

3. GORBACHEV'S PROPOSAL FOR AN ALL-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV'S PROPOSAL FOR AN ALL-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL? WOULD THE U.S. BE INCLUDED IN SUCH A CONFERENCE?

A: -- WE SEE LITTLE UTILITY IN PROPOSING A NEW, DIFFERENT FORUM SINCE DISCUSSIONS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS ARE ALREADY ONGOING IN VIENNA.

-- THE BASIC SECURITY PROBLEM IN EUROPE IS POSED BY THE VAST CONVENTIONAL SUPERIORITY OF THE WARSAW PACT.

-- THE FIRST STEP TOWARD RECTIFYING THIS IMBALANCE IS TO REACH EAST-WEST AGREEMENT ON A NEGOTIATING MANDATE FOR NEW ARMS CONTROL TALKS COVERING NATO AND WARSAW PACT CONVENTIONAL FORCES FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE URALS.

-- AT NATO'S INITIATIVE, SUCH MANDATE DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE 23 COUNTRIES OF THE TWO ALLIANCES BEGAN IN VIENNA IN FEBRUARY 1987.

-- WE AGAIN SEE IN MR. GORBACHEV'S PROPOSAL AN ATTEMPT TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE BUSINESS AT HAND.

-- IF THE SOVIET UNION IS SINCERE IN ITS PURSUIT OF CONVENTIONAL REDUCTIONS, IT WILL WORK IN VIENNA TO ACHIEVE A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE MANDATE AND A BALANCED OUTCOME TO THE VIENNA CSCE FOLLOW-UP MEETING.

4. SOVIET OFFER ON AIRCRAFT REDUCTIONS

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE SOVIET OFFER, ANNOUNCED BY GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV BEFORE THE