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E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017
By VOE NARA, Date 5/8/24
2008-0994-F-3

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S/S 9917898

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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September 29, 1999

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13526
Department of State Guidelines, November 6, 2015

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DECL: 9/29/09

VOE NARA, Date 5/8/24
2008-0994-F3

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN PODESTA, THE WHITE HOUSE

FROM: Strobe Talbott, Acting 

SUBJECT: Weekly Report from the Department of State

I. KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

- **~~(S)~~54th UNGA:** The UNGA General Debate ends October 2 and delegations will begin consideration of the 171 items on the agenda. After President Clinton's UNGA address and bilateral meetings on September 21, Secretary Albright attended a UNSC ministerial session which addressed illicit small arms transfers, with a focus on Africa. On Iraq, the Secretary met with a representative group of Iraqi opposition figures and urged other delegations to do the same. We made progress with the French in narrowing differences on the UK/Dutch draft resolution. We are hoping the British can win over the French and soon push the draft to a vote. We are making some headway in winning support for the New Zealand candidate to step aside to give the U.S. an uncontested seat on the budget oversight committee (ACABQ), an important Congressional condition for our arrears payment.
- **~~(S)~~Indonesia-East Timor:** In her meeting with FM Alatas on September 29, Secretary Albright underscored that Indonesia's relations with the U.S. depend on responsible GOI action not only on Timor, but also in ensuring the integrity of the country's presidential selection. At the same time, we are seeking to maximize support from nations committed to participate in INTERFET. The Secretary's September 26 meeting with Xanana Gusmao in New York focused on the humanitarian crises in East and West Timor; Administration officials will meet with Gusmao in Washington this week. In Geneva, we supported the establishment of a credible human rights mechanism to determine responsibility for the atrocities in East and West Timor. We voted in favor of an EU draft resolution after the GOI refused September 27 to work on compromise language.

The resolution calls for an International Commission of Inquiry to investigate human rights violations and report to the Security Council, the General Assembly, and the UN Human Rights Commission. To avoid possible backlash in the region, we promoted consensus language, giving the Indonesian Government a stronger role in the investigation. However, we

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Classified by Kristie A. Kenney
Executive Secretary
Reasons: 1.5(b) and (d)

could not bridge the gap between the EU and Jakarta, and, in the end, supported the EU resolution with an explanation of vote emphasizing Indonesia's responsibility for addressing human rights concerns and working for peace and stability in the region.

- **(C)Taiwan Earthquake:** The latest statistics are 2,100 fatalities, 8,713 injured. USG-provided assistance included a USAID sponsored search and rescue team; provision of 1500 body bags by DOD; and U.S. Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Land Reclamation technical assistance on damaged dams. Over 18 countries provided assistance and the UN sent a disaster assessment team. The PRC offered \$100,000 in cash and \$60,000 in supplies as well as relief workers. Taiwan declined the provision of personnel and supplies but accepted the financial contribution.

Unfortunately, the earthquake has not improved relations across the Taiwan Strait the way a similar tragedy recently helped relations when Greece and Turkey cooperated on their relief efforts. Instead, Taiwan has accused the PRC of delaying international assistance and has objected to Beijing's proprietary expressions of gratitude to the international community for helping Taiwan.

- **(C)U.S.-China Relations:** Despite the good atmospherics at Auckland, the Chinese have said they will not resume contacts on nonproliferation, human rights, and the mil-to-mil relationship until Under Secretary Pickering has "political consultations" with his counterpart, Vice Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi. They have proposed dates at the end of October or beginning of November. They have also made clear that compensation is the critical piece of unfinished business needed to conclude the Embassy bombing episode. Charlene Barshefsky's latest round of WTO talks resulted in no progress, as the Chinese continued to backpedal from their April offers. On September 28, however, the Chinese informed us that Minister for Construction Yu would travel to Washington November 1 for discussions with HUD Secretary Cuomo -- the first cabinet level visit since the bombing. All indications are that interactions on more contentious issues will likely be stalled until at least early November.
- **(U)Kosovo Update:** Ambassador James Pardew returned from Kosovo after witnessing the Kosovo Protection Corps in action and the progress of programs designed to reintegrate KLA members into society. In addition to providing cash and uniforms for the Corps, we also plan to contribute \$4 million to a package of International Organization for Migration reintegration programs, including scholarships, job referrals, and vocational training. We continue to press our allies to provide funding for these efforts. We are countering press reports alleging USG support for Kosovo independence with an active media campaign spelling out objectives for Kosovo autonomy within Serbia.
- **(U)Russia: Money Laundering, Chechnya, Bombings:** Secretary Albright raised escalating military activity in Chechnya with FM Ivanov on September 26. Ivanov told you that President Yeltsin accepts the proposal to send a U.S. counter-terrorism team to Moscow, and an inter-agency team will go soon, perhaps even as early as the week of October 4. In Washington, Under Secretary Larson reiterated our concerns about crime and corruption with the Russian economic delegation attending the IMF/World Bank annual meeting.

- **(C) Iraq/No-Fly Zones:** Iraq has once again stepped up its challenges to coalition aircraft patrolling the no-fly zones; Iraqi fighter aircraft are entering the zones more frequently, and SAM and AAA firing continue unabated. On September 25, we targeted a Seersucker (anti-ship) missile system that was recently re-deployed within the no-fly zones where it presented an imminent threat to our naval assets in the Gulf.
- **(C) Cyprus-Aegean:** At UNGA, the Secretary met separately with Cypriot President Clerides, Greek FM Papandreu, and Turkish FM Cem to urge them to build on improved Greco-Turkish relations through renewed Cyprus talks. We alerted the UN to be ready for Cyprus negotiations should Ecevit agree to bring Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash to the table.
- **(S) OSCE/Istanbul Summit:** At the Vienna Review Conference we secured endorsement for our Corruption Initiative and our REACT proposal to develop an OSCE emergency civilian reserve. We are working with key allies and the Russians to fix three major issues in a Norwegian draft Charter: language on use of force, peacekeeping, and an implied collective security guarantee. For the Summit, the Turks have pledged to accept OSCE/ODIHR decisions on NGO applications and not to limit NGO attendance.
- **(U) WTO:** During her UNGA-related meetings, Secretary Albright emphasized to other foreign ministers the importance we ascribe to a successful WTO Ministerial Conference and laid out U.S. objectives for the new round of trade negotiations. The Secretary made a political-level push to build consensus among WTO Members for Seattle and the U.S. negotiating agenda.

II. NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

- **(SBU) Foreign Operations Bill Conference:** House and Senate Conferees have approved the FY-2000 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill at an overall spending level of \$12.7 billion. The bill, which had stalled in Conference September 22 over international family planning issues, was forwarded to the Rules Committee September 28 after Republican conferees agreed both to drop contentious "Mexico City" language and to include in the bill limited funding for UN Population Fund activities outside of China. Although most policy language problems in the bill have been removed, the low funding levels in the bill -- almost \$2 billion below your request -- would make it difficult to carry out an effective foreign policy. We and the NSC are working to ensure there are sufficient votes against the Conference Report to sustain an eventual veto. Although Democratic Senators Inouye, Lautenberg, Mikulski and Byrd (reportedly based on misinformation) signed the Conference Report, none of the House Democratic conferees did so. The measure could be considered on the House floor as early as September 29.
- **(SBU) State Department Authorization Bill Conference:** The Senate Foreign Relations Committee and House International Relations Committee are seeking to arrange Member-level Conference meetings on the State Authorization bill as soon as possible. The House has not yet appointed its conferees, however, pending a House leadership decision on how to handle the "Mexico City" family planning issue and the issue of UN arrearages. We understand that

the House leadership has committed to consult with Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), the principal champion of "Mexico City" language, before conferees are named.

- **(SBU)Deputy Secretary's Testimony on Russia:** Deputy Secretary Talbott defended administration policy on Russia during his September 23 testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on U.S.-Russia policy. Senator Helms (R-NC) suggested that the Administration has turned a blind eye to corruption among Russian leaders, and asked about the Vice President's relationship with former Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin. Senators Hagel (R-NE), Biden (D-DE), Kerry (D-MA), and Wellstone (D-MN) questioned aspects of our Russia policy, particularly regarding IMF lending, but generally offered support.
- **(SBU)Indonesia/East Timor:** EAP Assistant Secretary Stanley Roth and Defense Under Secretary Walt Slocombe discussed developments in East Timor with House Members and Senators on, respectively, September 23 and September 28. Neither audience was well attended (four House Members, 12 Senators); questions generally focused on the U.S. role in the multinational force, and the expected duration of a UN operation. On September 27, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved for floor action Senator Feingold's (D-WI) bill suspending U.S. assistance to Indonesia. The House International Relations Committee earlier had given unanimous approval September 23 to a resolution offering support for actions by the international community to ensure that the East Timorese vote for independence is respected.
- **(SBU)Congressional Trip to United Nations:** Ambassador Holbrooke hosted Representatives King (R-NY), Pelosi (D-CA), Berman (D-CA), Hall (D-OH), Nadler (D-NY), Shays (R-CT), Lowey (D-NY), Engel (D-NY) and Miller (R-FL) at a Waldorf-Astoria dinner September 26 to make the case for paying UN arrearages. Top U.S. and UN officials, including UN Deputy Secretary General Louise Frechette, then briefed Members September 27 on a variety of UN issues. Members urged that the White House make payment of arrearages a top priority and oppose any omnibus appropriations bill that does not include UN arrears. Representative King, who has supported Mexico City limits on international family planning funds, indicated a willingness to support the Administration on getting UN arrearages funded now.
- **(SBU)Nominations:** The SFRC reported out three nominations on September 27: Sim Farar, U.S. Delegate to the 54th UN General Assembly Session; Zell Miller, Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation; and Edward Stimpson, Rank of Ambassador for the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization. Senator Helms announced September 16 that he has put a hold on Robert Einhorn's nomination as Assistant Secretary of State for Nonproliferation Affairs, pending since April 13. Helms said he will not schedule a hearing for Einhorn until the Administration sanctions China for the reported transfer of M-11 missiles to Pakistan. On September 10, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) wrote to you that the Senate is unlikely to vote "soon" on the nomination of John Holum to be Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security. Lott said the delay is based on his view that, as an unconfirmed government official, Holum should not have led a U.S. delegation to Moscow in August to discuss the START III and ABM treaties.

III. SECRETARY ALBRIGHT'S UPCOMING MEETINGS AND PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS EVENTS

October 4-7 Official Travel and Speaking Engagements in Los Angeles, CA; San Francisco, CA; and Detroit, MI.

October 7-8 Participates in the President's Visit to Ottawa, Canada

II. SUB-CABINET SCHEDULE

Deputy Secretary Talbott

October 7 Speaking Event on "The Future of NATO"
Chatham House, London

October 8 Women in Democracy Event with The First Lady
Reykjavik, Iceland

Under Secretary Pickering

October 8 DACOR Address
Washington, D.C.

V. WEEKEND CONTACT

Kelly Degnan can be reached through the State Department Operations Center at 202-647-1512.

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TO: **ROBERT A. BRADKE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, GRND FLR, WW
THE WHITE HOUSE
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