

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Columbian Helicopter Lands in Venezuela, Causes Confusion [50 U.S.C. 403g, Section 6] [partial] (2 pages)	03/06/97	P3/b(3)
002. cable	[Impact of social and economic factors on foreign relations] (4 pages)	03/19/97	P1/b(1)
003. cable	"Straight Talk" on UFO's, Another US Manipulation? [50 U.S.C. 403g, Section 6] [partial] (2 pages)	09/11/97	P3/b(3)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([Flying Saucer or UFO])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/08/1997 - 09/11/1997]

2006-0474-F

eh113

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHTVA0222 0081118-UUUU--RHEHAAA RHEHNSC.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 081118Z JAN 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
OSRI: RUEHTV
DTG: 081118Z JAN 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO: RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE 4934
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//PA// IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE 4027
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEADWD/DA WASHDC//SASA// IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/WHITEHOUSE NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHEHAAA/WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1605
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6790
RUFHQJQ/COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA// IMMEDIATE
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE 7094
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 2274
RUFNGOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//PAO/POLAD// IMMEDIATE
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH IMMEDIATE 4006
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 4844
RUEAHQA/HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC//XOXX// IMMEDIATE
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE 7586
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 9794
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE 4398
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 3598
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE 2545
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE 5115
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//POLAD/USIA ADVISOR//
INFO: ////
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 TEL AVIV 000222

USIA

STATE PASS BIB
STATE FOR NEA/IAI, NEA/P, INR, HA, IO, S/P, PA, PM
USIA FOR NEA, I/GNEA, R/NA, I/RF, I/RFW, B/G, B/TVP, B/TVW
B/BXA, M/PA, M/PF, M/PFN, B/A, B/VOA/N, B/VOA/C

WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE
WHITE HOUSE SIT ROOM

JERUSALEM ALSO FOR VOA
JERUSALEM ALSO FOR ICD
LONDON ALSO FOR POL - TUELLER
PARIS ALSO FOR POL - ALLEGRONE
ROME FOR MFO

NICOSIA FOR ILMG

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

SMEC ROSS' MISSION

KEY STORIES IN THE MEDIA:

AMBASSADOR ROSS' ONGOING EFFORTS TO GET ISRAELIS AND THE PALESTINIANS TO OVERCOME THEIR DIFFERENCES OVER HEBRON AND OTHER ISSUES. IDF RADIO SAID IN PREDAWN NEWS CAST THAT ROSS COULD NOT GET ARAFAT AND NETANYAHU TO AGREE TO MEET LAST NIGHT. ACCORDING TO YEDIOT, "ROSS TOLD THE ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS THAT IF THERE IS NO AGREEMENT HE WOULD RETURN TO THE U.S. TODAY." MAARIV BANNERED "ROSS, INDYK LEANED ON ARAFAT TO ACCEPT AMERICAN 'PACKAGE.'" A YEDIOT CARTOON SHOWED A TOTALLY EXHAUSTED DENNIS ROSS CARRYING ON HIS MEDIATION DRIVE WHILE LYING FLAT ON A STRETCHER. STRETCHER-BEARERS ARE NONE OTHERS THAN NETANYAHU AND ARAFAT. A CARTOON IN MAARIV COMPARES THE LIKELIHOOD OF A HEBRON AGREEMENT TO THE APPEARANCE OF OUTER SPACE CREATURES (A REFERENCE TO A UFO 'ALERT' JANUARY 5 HERE).

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU AND PRESIDENT MUBARAK AGAIN ENGAGED IN A VERBAL DUEL IN INTERVIEWS TO AMERICAN TELEVISION YESTERDAY.

YEDIOT BANNERED THIS WEEK'S LARGE TRADING VOLUME AND HANDSOME RISE AT THE TEL AVIV STOCK EXCHANGE. YEDIOT SPECULATED THAT THE "LEAP" REFLECTS INVESTORS' FEELING THAT "THE NETANYAHU GOVERNMENT IS NOT THAT BAD AND, PERHAPS, NOT BAD AT ALL. THE PALESTINIAN TRACK IS ALIVE AND KICKING, THERE IS NO CRISIS IN ISRAEL-U.S. RELATIONS AND THE GOI HAS ADOPTED A SERIES OF REASONABLE ECONOMIC MEASURES."

YEDIOT REPORTED "UNPLEASANT CLIMATE" ON THE EVE OF THE OPENING TODAY OF THE FIRST ISRAELI TRADE FAIR IN AMMAN. JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION OFFICIALS ARE SAID TO OPPOSE THE EVENT.

SMEC ROSS' MISSION:

SUMMARY:

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 05 TEL AVIV 000222

USIA

STATE PASS BIB

STATE FOR NEA/IAI, NEA/P, INR, HA, IO, S/P, PA, PM

USIA FOR NEA, I/GNEA, R/NA, I/RF, I/RFW, B/G, B/TVP, B/TVW

B/BXA, M/PA, M/PF, M/PFN, B/A, B/VOA/N, B/VOA/C

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ROME FOR MFO

NICOSIA FOR ILMG

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT ALUF BEN WROTE IN THE LEAD STORY OF INDEPENDENT HA'ARETZ (1/8): "SOURCES IN ISRAEL SAID THAT PA CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT YESTERDAY TURNED DOWN AMERICAN ENVOY DENNIS ROSS' COMPROMISE PROPOSAL CONCERNING THE COMPLETION OF ISRAELI TROOP REDEPLOYMENT IN THE WEST BANK NETANYAHU APPEARS TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE AMERICAN PROPOSAL."

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENTS HEMMI SHALEV AND BEN CASPIT REPORTED IN A THE LEAD STORY OF POPULAR, PLURALIST MAARIV: "THE U.S. WANTS TO CIRCUMVENT THE REDEPLOYMENT TIMETABLE CONTROVERSY WHICH HAS BEEN STANDING IN THE WAY OF THE HEBRON AGREEMENT BY PROVIDING THE PALESTINIANS WITH A LETTER SPELLING OUT THE PULLBACK'S 'TIMEFRAME.'"

MAARIV REPORTED IN ANOTHER STORY THAT, ACCORDING TO

ISRAELI SOURCES, CHAIRMAN ARAFAT HAS BEEN DISPLAYING GROWING UNEASE OVER EGYPTIAN "OVER-INVOLVEMENT" IN THE HEBRON TALKS.

MAARIV VETERAN COLUMNIST YOSEF HARIF OPINED, "IT IS NOW NETANYAHU THAT HAS TO BEG FOR A MEETING WITH THE CHAIRMAN THIS IS A CRYING SHAME."

HA'ARETZ ANALYST AKIVA ELDAR OPINED, "FOR NOW, ARAFAT IS CONTENT WITH SCORING POINTS WITH THE AMERICANS AND WITH GETTING PRESIDENT CLINTON TO

DEEPEN HIS COMMITMENT TO THE OSLO ACCORD."
NATIONALIST HATZOFE EDITORIALIZED, "THE HEBRON
NEGOTIATIONS ARE NO REASON FOR FREEZING JEWISH
CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS OR, FOR THAT MATTER, PUTTING
UP WITH ILLEGAL ARAB BUILDING DRIVES."

INDEPENDENT JERUSALEM POST EDITORIALIZED, "IF AN
OPPORTUNITY ARISES TO FIX OSLO IN ORDER TO SAVE IT,
THAT OPPORTUNITY SHOULD BE TAKEN."

BLOCK QUOTES:

I. "ARAFAT REJECTED NETANYAHU'S DEFERRED PULLBACK
PROPOSAL"

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT ALUF BEN WROTE IN THE LEAD
STORY OF INDEPENDENT HA'ARETZ: "SOURCES IN ISRAEL
SAID THAT PA CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT YESTERDAY TURNED
DOWN AMERICAN ENVOY DENNIS ROSS' COMPROMISE PROPOSAL
CONCERNING THE COMPLETION OF ISRAELI TROOP
UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 05 TEL AVIV 000222

USIA

STATE PASS BIB

STATE FOR NEA/IAI, NEA/P, INR, HA, IO, S/P, PA, PM
USIA FOR NEA, I/GNEA, R/NA, I/RF, I/RFW, B/G, B/TVP, B/TVW
B/BXA, M/PA, M/PF, M/PFN, B/A, B/VOA/N, B/VOA/C

WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE
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ROME FOR MFO

NICOSIA FOR ILMG

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

REDEPLOYMENT IN THE WEST BANK NETANYAHU
APPEARS TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE AMERICAN PROPOSAL. THE
ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER MAY HAVE AGREED TO CONCLUDE
WEST BANK REDEPLOYMENT AND THE TRANSFER OF TERRITORY
TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY BEFORE THE SPRING OF
1999 -THE DATE HE HAD ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED
AMBASSADOR ROSS MANAGED TO PERSUADE ARAFAT NOT TO
WALK AWAY FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS ARAFAT WANTS
THE AMERICANS TO IMPROVE THEIR GUARANTEES CONCERNING
THE NEXT STAGES OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT."

II. "AGREEMENT AGAIN POSTPONED AT LAST MINUTE"

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENTS HEMMI SHALEV AND BEN

CASPIT REPORTED IN THE LEAD STORY OF POPULAR, PLURALIST MAARIV (1/8): "THE U.S. WANTS TO CIRCUMVENT THE REDEPLOYMENT TIMETABLE CONTROVERSY WHICH HAS BEEN STANDING IN THE WAY OF THE HEBRON AGREEMENT BY PROVIDING THE PALESTINIANS WITH A LETTER SPELLING OUT THE PULLBACK'S 'TIMEFRAME' AMERICAN SOURCES SAID THAT THE U.S. IS GOING TO OFFER A 'TIMEFRAME,' AND NOT A RIGID DATE, FOR THE LAST ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL THE AMERICANS APPEAR TO FEEL THAT ISRAELI REDEPLOYMENT SHOULD BE COMPLETED NOT LATER THAN MARCH OF 1998. IT APPEARS THAT DESPITE THE ISRAELI LEAKS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WANTS THE WITHDRAWAL TO LAST UNTIL MAY 1999, ISRAEL DID NOT MENTION THIS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. WHAT NETANYAHU DID WAS REITERATE HIS REFUSAL TO SET ANY DATE OR TIMETABLE CHAIRMAN ARAFAT WAS ANGRY OVER WHAT HE CALLED 'DELIBERATE ISRAELI LEAKS'."

III. "TENSION BETWEEN ARAFAT AND MUBARAK"

MAARIV REPORTED IN ANOTHER STORY (1/8) THAT, ACCORDING TO ISRAELI SOURCES, CHAIRMAN ARAFAT HAS BEEN DISPLAYING GROWING UNEASE OVER EGYPTIAN "OVER-INVOLVEMENT" IN THE HEBRON TALKS WHICH, ARAFAT REPORTEDLY FEARS, MAY YET CREATE A CRISIS IN PALESTINIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND RISK DISRUPTING U.S. ASSISTANCE TO THE PA.

IV. "NETANYAHU'S DISPLAY OF WEAKNESS"

MAARIV VETERAN COLUMNIST YOSEF HARIF OPINED (1/8): "IT APPEARS THAT DENNIS ROSS' THREATS TO TAKE THE NEXT PLANE HOME FAIL TO IMPESS YASSER ARAFAT ARAFAT KNOWS THAT IT TAKE STRONG NERVES TO CARVE OUT A GOOD DEAL ARAFT ALSO KNOWS THAT THE AMERICANS AND THE ISRAELISWOULD NOT DARE WALK AWAY BECAUSE OF 'JUST ONE MOE TINY CONCESSION.' HE UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 05 TEL AVIV 000222

USIA

STATE PASS BIB

STATE FOR NEA/IAI, NEA/P, INR, HA, IO, S/P, PA, PM
USIA FOR NEA, I/GNEA, R/NA, I/RF, I/RFW, B/G, B/TVP, B/TVW
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E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

Turns out to be right. So right in fact that it is now Netanyahu that has to beg for a meeting with the chairman This is a crying shame We're reduced to watch Netanyahu and 'read his lips' that there will be no more concessions to Arafat and that Israel would not set a date for the next pullbacks."

V. "ARAFAT TAKES HIS TIME"

Ha'aretz analyst Akiva Eldar opined (1/8): "Chairman Arafat's refusal to accept the changes in the Oslo accord proposed by Netanyahu illustrates the distance the two leaders have yet to travel before they feel they can live with each other's concessions. Arafat's restrained reaction to last week's shooting incident in Hebron is another indication of how well he controls the situation. For now, Arafat is content with scoring points with the Americans and with getting President Clinton to deepen his commitment to the Oslo accord When he feels that another eruption would serve his interests, he will find a new Temple Mount tunnel or another Israeli shooter."

VI. "WALK TALL!"

Nationalist Hatzofe editorialized (1/8): "Diplomatic constraints at times affect non-diplomatic matters. However, the Hebron negotiations are no reason for freezing Jewish construction projects or, for that matter, putting up with illegal Arab building drives. Israel's wavering on this twin issue might very well encourage the other side to try to stop our legitimate efforts to strengthen Jewish settlement activity in the land of Israel. The GOI should pursue its stated policy of expanding Jewish communities in Judea, Samaria and East Jerusalem - and do it openly for all the world to see."

VII. "FIXING OSLO"

Independent Jerusalem Post editorialized (1/8): "It is important to remember that the person who opened up the issue of the date of final redeployment during the Hebron negotiations was not ... Netanyahu but Yasser Arafat. He is the one insisting that Israel commit to dates. Once a negotiation over dates has begun, it makes sense to pick a date that is healthiest for the process as a whole. The fact that the U.S. is reportedly proposing a compromise date indicates that it might agree with this
UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 05 TEL AVIV 000222

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

PERSPECTIVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE OSLO
AGREEMENT BE HONORED THE GOVERNMENT CERTAINLY
SHOULD NOT TRY TO CHANGE THE AGREEMENT SIMPLY TO
AVOID COMPLYING WITH IT. BUT IF AN OPPORTUNITY
ARISES TO FIX OSLO IN ORDER TO SAVE IT, THAT
OPPORTUNITY SHOULD BE TAKEN."

GOOD

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 05

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 05

<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 05

<^SECT>SECTION: 04 OF 05

<^SECT>SECTION: 05 OF 05

SSN: 0222

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<^TOR>970108063446 M2565309

<^TOR>970108063508 M2565310

<^TOR>970108063559 M2565312

<^TOR>970108063613 M2565313

DIST:

SIT: GRUMMON PARRIS

SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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001. cable	Columbian Helicopter Lands in Venezuela, Causes Confusion [50 U.S.C. 403g, Section 6] [partial] (2 pages)	03/06/97	P3/b(3)

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Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([Flying Saucer or UFO])
OA/Box Number: 520000

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[01/08/1997 - 09/11/1997]

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eh113

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUESPFA7776 0650335-UUUU--RHEHOND.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU

LINE3: R 060335Z MAR 97

LINE4: FM FBIS (b)(3)

OSRI: RUESPF

DTG: 060335Z MAR 97

ORIG: FBIS (b)(3)

TO: AIG 4673

RHDIAAA/AFOSI REGION 2 RTAC LANGLEY AFB VA
RHFJJXL/MARFORSOUTH LN ELEM PM//G-2//
RHFJJXS/NAVCRIMINVSERVRA RODMAN PM
RHFJPUA/USCOMSOLANT
RHHJJAA/JICPAC HONOLULU HI
RHHJJPI/PACOM IDHS HONOLULU HI
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RHLBAAF/CDR470THMIBDE COROZAL PM//IAPP-D//
RHLBAAQ/USCINCSO SCJ2 QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
RUCKMEA/II MEF MARFOR UNITAS//S-2//
RUDHNIS/DIRNAVCRIMINVSERV WASHINGTON DC
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//FOR ARA/AND//
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS
RUEHIA/USIA WASHINGTON DC//R//
RUEHIA/USIA WASHINGTON DC//R/MR//
RUWGTCH/JIATF WEST
RUWMEGA/CDR 1ST BDE 228TH AVN BN FT KOBBE
RUWMEGA/CDR 1-228 AVN REG FT KOBBE PM//R2//
ACCT FBPA-EWDK

INFO: ////

SUBJ: Colombian Helicopter Lands in Venezuela, Causes Confusion

TEXT:

UNCLAS 6T

WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, INTERNATIONAL

SERIAL: (b)(3)0603033597

COUNTRY: VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA

SUBJ: Colombian Helicopter Lands in Venezuela, Causes Confusion

SOURCE: Caracas El Nacional (Internet version) in Spanish 4 Mar 97

TEXT:

[Report by Eleonora Delgado]

[FBIS Translated Text] San Cristobal (SPECIAL) -- A large police and military mobilization took place over the weekend in Rubio, Junin Municipality, Tachira State, after a helicopter, presumably

Colombian, landed in the "Leonardo Alarcon" sports stadium. This caused great alarm among the city's residents.

Despite that both government and military authorities in Tachira were notified, no official information has yet been given to clarify the confusion, to the point that there has even been speculation that it could be "a UFO."

General (National Guard) Gerardo Briceno Garcia, chief of Regional Command No. 1, reported that the situation was being handled directly through the Ministry of Defense. He added that he could not provide exact information about the Colombian helicopter landing. According to witnesses in Rubio, "the pilot was lost because when he landed he asked if he was in the city of Cucuta."

Investigation Requested [subhead]

Tachira Deputy Walter Marquez said that the violation of Venezuelan air space and sovereignty represent a rather serious situation. He suggested that both civil aeronautics and military aviation from the Palo Alto and Santo Domingo air bases should offer information on the incident.

"Investigations should also take place on the circumstances in which these events took place, whether this was accidental or if there was an intentional violation to Venezuelan sovereignty. The same way a helicopter comes in unchallenged and without being noticed by our country's radar, anything could happen in the future and corrective measures should be taken," Marquez said.

The congressman insisted that he will request that an investigation be initiated with the Foreign Policy Commission to clarify the events in order to apply whatever corrective measures need to be taken.

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(endall) 4 Mar tc/ (b)(3) /eb drve0503.08e 06/0334z mar

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 7776

TOR: 970306011919 M2651241

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

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002. cable	[Impact of social and economic factors on foreign relations] (4 pages)	03/19/97	P1/b(1)
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NSC Cables
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Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PTTUZYUW RUEKJCS8438 0920005-UUUU--RHEHAAA RHEHWSR.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU
LINE3: P 012307Z APR 97 FORWARD TO PAO
LINE4: FM SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//ASD PA/DDI//
OSRI: RUEKJCS
DTG: 012307Z APR 97
ORIG: SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//ASD PA/DDI//
TO: AIG 8775
INFO: ////
SUBJ: DOD NEWS BRIEFING - CONDUCTED ON TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1997 AT
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05
SUBJ: DOD NEWS BRIEFING - CONDUCTED ON TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1997 AT
1:30 P.M. BY MR. KENNETH H. BACON, ASD (PA) AT THE PENTAGON
MR. BACON: GOOD AFTERNOON.
IT'S APRIL FOOL'S DAY, AND OF COURSE I'M VERY GLAD TO BE
WITH YOU ON THIS DAY.
I'D LIKE TO START OFF WITH AN APRIL FOOL'S DAY QUESTION.
EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT APRIL IS THE MONTH NAMED AFTER THE GREEK
GODDESS APHRODITE, THE GODDESS OF BEAUTY AND LOVE. IF THAT'S THE
CASE, WHY IS THE FIRST DAY "FOOL'S DAY"? THAT'S THE QUESTION.
Q: WOMEN HAVE BEEN MAKING FOOLS OF MEN FOR ALL ETERNITY,
RIGHT?
A: THERE'S PROBABLY NO RIGHT ANSWER TO THAT, BUT WE CAN
START WITH THAT. ANYBODY ELSE HAVE AN ANSWER?
Q: ONLY FOOLS FALL IN LOVE.
A: THAT'S CERTAINLY A GOOD ANSWER. ANY OTHER ANSWERS?

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Q: YOU'RE NOT GOING TO PROVIDE US WITH...
A: NO, I DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER. THIS IS A PHILOSOPHICAL
QUESTION HERE. THIS IS A DO-IT-YOURSELF BRIEFING. YOU GUYS COME
UP WITH THE ANSWERS, AND SO FAR, IT'S BEEN PRETTY SHORT.
SECONDLY, I WANT TO DEMONSTRATE OUR TECHNOLOGY HERE.
TECHNOLOGY IN TWO WAYS. FIRST, OUR TECHNOLOGY TO SHOW YOU NEW
TECHNOLOGY ON THE INTERNET. THAT'S THE SECOND PART. THIS IS
GULFLINK. AS YOU CAN TELL, GULFLINK TODAY IS GOING INTERACTIVE,
WHICH MEANS THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME NOW, PEOPLE WHO LOG ONTO
GULFLINK TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT GULF WAR ILLNESS PROGRAMS, FOR
TREATING IT, RESEARCHING ITS CAUSES, AND MAKING INFORMATION
AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC, CAN SEND E-MAIL MESSAGES BACK AND GET
ANSWERS. THEY MAY NOT ALWAYS GET THE ANSWERS THEY WANT OR THEY
THINK THEY DESERVE, BUT THEY WILL GET RESPONSES QUICKLY, AND AS
FULLY AS WE CAN GIVE THE RESPONSES.
SO BRYAN WHITMAN IS GOING TO ILLUSTRATE THE PROGRAM HERE.
THERE IS THE FORM, ACTUALLY, THAT YOU USE FOR REPORTING BACK IN
ON MEDICAL CONDITIONS. YOU CAN ACTUALLY MAKE A MEDICAL REPORT TO

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO GET INCLUDED IN THE COMPREHENSIVE CLINICAL EVALUATION PROGRAM, SEEK INFORMATION ABOUT EITHER YOUR

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MEDICAL CONDITION, OR TO REQUEST INFORMATION ABOUT DOCUMENTS OR OTHER TYPES OF INFORMATION THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE.

[LAUGHTER]

BRYAN HAS ALWAYS LIVED A CHARMED LIFE, AS YOU CAN TELL FROM HIS ADDRESS.

WE THINK THIS WILL HELP US IN TWO WAYS. FIRST, IT WILL HELP US GET MORE INFORMATION FROM PEOPLE; AND TWO, IT WILL HELP US GET INFORMATION OUT TO PEOPLE. AS YOU KNOW, WE'RE STILL TRYING TO ASSEMBLE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS WE CAN ABOUT CERTAIN GULF WAR INCIDENTS.

THERE IT IS, A DEMONSTRATION OF HOW IT WORKS. ANY OF YOU CAN TRY THIS.

Q: I HAVE THIS QUESTION ABOUT APRIL FOOL'S DAY.

A: SEND IT IN AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS. IS IT ABOUT APHRODITE?

Q: YES, EXACTLY.

A: GOOD. I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO ASK THAT.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE, DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE SET UP TO RESPOND TO THESE QUESTIONS?

VOICE: WE HAVE SEVEN PEOPLE REPLYING TO ALL CORRESPONDENCE,

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WHETHER IT BE IN WRITTEN FORM, WHETHER IT'S E-MAIL, AND THEN WE HAVE APPROXIMATELY, AS OF TODAY, 16 OPERATORS--TELEPHONE OPERATORS--THAT ACTUALLY PHONE BACK, EITHER CALLS COMING INTO THE HOTLINE, OR WE'LL CALL BACK PEOPLE ON E-MAILS THAT COME IN, ALSO.

A: SEVEN PEOPLE ANSWERING MAIL AND E-MAIL AND 16 PEOPLE DEALING WITH THE INCIDENT HOTLINE.

Q: SO WHAT'S THE ANSWER? WHAT'S CAUSING THE PROBLEM?

A: WE'RE HOPING YOU'LL FIND THAT OUT FOR US.

LET ME MAKE ONE OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT.

AS YOU KNOW, TODAY THE B-2 BOMBER IS BEGINNING ITS INITIAL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY. A WING OF B-2S BECOMES OPERATIONAL TODAY AT WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE IN MISSOURI. THERE ARE, RIGHT NOW, 13 B-2S WHICH HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO THE 509TH BOMB WING AT WHITEMAN. THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF 21 B-2S IN OPERATION, OR 21 B-2S DELIVERED BY THE YEAR 2000. AS YOU KNOW, THIS IS A STEALTHY BOMBER DESIGNED TO INCREASE OUR AIR DOMINANCE. AIR DOMINANCE IS BASICALLY FREEDOM FROM ATTACK AND FREEDOM TO ATTACK. AS A STEALTH PLANE THIS ADVANCES BOTH THOSE MISSIONS -- FREEDOM FROM ATTACK AND FREEDOM TO ATTACK.

WITH THAT, I'LL TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS.

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Q: CAN YOU GIVE US THE DETAILS YOU HAVE ON THE CRASH IN TEGUCIGALPA, THE C-130?

A: I DO NOT HAVE EXTENSIVE DETAILS ON THAT, BUT LET ME WALK YOU THROUGH WHAT I DO HAVE.

A U.S. AIR FORCE C-130H, HERCULES CARGO AIRCRAFT, CRASHED AT ABOUT 9:45 A.M. LOCAL TIME IN HONDURAS -- THAT'S 10:45 EST. IT CRASHED AT THE VERY END OF THE TEGUCIGALPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. TEGUCIGALPA IS THE CAPITAL OF HONDURAS. IT WAS ENROUTE FROM HOWARD AIR FORCE BASE IN PANAMA TO THE BASE IN HONDURAS ON A ROUTINE RESUPPLY MISSION. IT WAS ASSIGNED TO THE AIR RESERVES 440TH AIRLIFT WING AT GENERAL MITCHELL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN WISCONSIN.

THERE WERE TEN PEOPLE ON BOARD. WE, SO FAR, HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THREE ARE DEAD. THE OTHER SEVEN ARE INJURED. WE WILL APPOINT A BOARD TO INVESTIGATE THE ACCIDENT, AS ALWAYS, AND WE WILL ALSO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DETAILS AS SOON AS WE GET THEM.

Q: A RESERVE AIRCRAFT, RESERVE FLIGHT?

A: YES.

Q: FROM WHERE?

A: THIS WAS FROM THE 440TH AIRLIFT WING AT GENERAL

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MITCHELL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN WISCONSIN, I ASSUME THAT'S MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

Q: THE PLANE WAS FLYING OUT OF HOWARD. THEY WERE ON TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT.

A: IT WAS FLYING OUT OF HOWARD. THEY HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TEMPORARILY TO HOWARD, AND THEY WERE RESUPPLYING EITHER TROOPS OR EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN TEGUCIGALPA.

Q: IT CRASHED ON APPROACH?

A: YES. IT CRASHED ON APPROACH AT THE EDGE OF THE RUNWAY. I DON'T BELIEVE THERE WERE... SO FAR WE HAVE RECEIVED NO REPORTS OF COLLATERAL DAMAGE.

Q: DO WE KNOW WHO WAS ON THE PLANE? WERE THEY ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL?

A: I BELIEVE SO, BUT I DON'T KNOW THAT FOR SURE. WE'LL BE CHECKING THAT. WE HAVE NOT, I BELIEVE, RELEASED THE NAMES OF ANY PEOPLE IN THE CREW YET. WE'LL CHECK ON THAT. YOU SHOULD STAY IN TOUCH WITH DDI ON THAT, OR I CAN ALSO GIVE YOU A CONTACT DOWN AT HOWARD AIR FORCE BASE IF YOU WANT TO CALL DIRECTLY DOWN THERE. IT WOULD BE CAPTAIN MIKE MURK, AND HE IS AT 507-284-5459.

Q: HAD THERE BEEN ANY INDICATION THE AIRCRAFT WAS IN UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 05 DIFFICULTY?

A: WE DON'T HAVE THOSE DETAILS YET. THIS JUST HAPPENED SEVERAL HOURS AGO, AND THE AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATING MORE ON TAKING CARE OF THOSE WHO ARE INJURED. AS THOSE DETAILS BECOME AVAILABLE, WE'LL GET THEM TO YOU.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THE PLANE CRASHED AT... WHICH END OF THE RUNWAY? WAS IT A MISSED APPROACH, OR THE END OF THE RUNWAY OR THE BEGINNING OF THE RUNWAY?

A: I BELIEVE IT CRASHED ON APPROACH, BUT I DON'T HAVE FULL DETAILS OF THIS YET. MORE DETAILS, I'M SURE, WILL BECOME AVAILABLE IN THE NEXT FEW HOURS.

Q: JUST TO FOLLOW UP ON THE B-2, THE PLANE HAS BEEN CRITICIZED BY SOME BECAUSE OF ITS EXPENSE; BY OTHERS BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT IT WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED FOR A DIFFERENT MISSION, THAT IT MIGHT BE A COLD WAR RELIC. CAN YOU ASSURE THE U.S.

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TAXPAYERS THAT THE B-2, THAT THEY'RE GETTING THEIR MONEY'S WORTH WITH THE B-2 BOMBER THAT NOW ASSUMES OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY?

A: I CAN ASSURE THE U.S. TAXPAYERS THAT THIS IS THE MOST UP-TO-DATE HEAVY BOMBER FLYING IN THE WORLD TODAY. IT HAS STEALTH CAPABILITY. AS YOU KNOW, IT HAS A VERY UNIQUE, PIONEERING SHAPE. IT'S A FLYING WING MADE OUT OF COMPOSITE MATERIALS. IT'S DESIGNED TO BE ABLE TO EVADE ENEMY DEFENSES AND TO ZERO IN ON ITS TARGETS. GENERAL FOGLEMAN, THE AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF, HAS SAID THAT IN THE PAST WE TALKED ABOUT HOW MANY AIRCRAFT WE NEEDED TO DESTROY A TARGET. WITH THE B-2, WE TALK ABOUT HOW MANY TARGETS WE CAN DESTROY WITH ONE AIRCRAFT. IN FACT DURING SOME RECENT TESTS--USING THE JOINT DIRECT ATTACK MUNITION, THE JDAM, WHICH AS BEEN CITED MANY TIMES FROM THIS PODIUM AS AN EXAMPLE OF SAVING MONEY THROUGH PROCUREMENT REFORM, AND SOMETHING ELSE CALLED THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SATELLITE AIDED MUNITION, BOTH VERY HIGHLY ACCURATE, PINPOINT BOMBS--THREE B-2S DESTROYED 16 TARGETS USING 16 BOMBS, SO THEY WERE ABLE TO DESTROY 16 DIFFERENT TARGETS WITH 16 BOMBS. THAT, I THINK, ILLUSTRATES GENERAL FOGLEMAN'S COMMENT THAT WE'VE CHANGED THE CALCULUS OF WARFARE WITH PLANES THAT CAN (1) EVADE ENEMY AIR DEFENSES; AND (2)

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DELIVER HIGHLY PRECISE MODERN MUNITIONS.

Q: IF IT'S SUCH A GOOD PLANE, WHY DOESN'T THE PENTAGON WANT TO BUY ANY MORE OF THEM?

A: WE'VE SAID MANY, MANY TIMES THAT THIS IS A WONDERFUL PLANE BUT IT'S A VERY EXPENSIVE PLANE. IT WAS BUILT, AS YOU KNOW, IT WAS DESIGNED BEFORE THE END OF THE COLD WAR WHEN WE MAINTAINED ON ALERT A NUCLEAR BOMBER, LONG RANGE AIRCRAFT CARRYING NUCLEAR BOMBS. WE NO LONGER MAINTAIN THOSE PLANES ON ALERT ANY MORE, ON RUNWAY ALERT AS WE USED TO.

THIS IS A PLANE THAT HAS BOTH A CONVENTIONAL AND A NUCLEAR MISSION AND WILL BE ABLE TO, I THINK, GIVE US FULL SPECTRUM DOMINANCE IN ANY TYPE OF HEAVY BOMBING THAT MAY BE REQUIRED TODAY OR IN THE FUTURE. BUT IT IS A COSTLY PLANE. ONE OF THE THINGS WE LEARNED WHEN WE USED THE F-117 FIGHTERS IN DESERT STORM WAS THAT WHEN YOU HAVE A STEALTHY AIRCRAFT THAT CAN EVADE AIR DEFENSES, YOU DON'T NEED NEARLY AS MANY OF THEM AS YOU DID CONVENTIONAL PLANES. THEREFORE, THE PLANNERS FELT THAT WE WERE ABLE TO GET BY WITH A FAR SMALLER FLEET THAN WE WOULD HAVE HAD TO 40 YEARS AGO BUILDING HEAVY BOMBERS. WE'RE DOING THAT. AS YOU KNOW, WE ONLY HAVE 50 F-117S, AND THAT FLEET PERFORMED

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BRILLIANTLY DURING THE GULF WAR.

Q: THE B-2 IS NOW CERTIFIED TO CARRY NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IS IT COUNTABLE UNDER THE START RULES? DOES THAT LIMIT ITS AVAILABILITY FOR CONVENTIONAL MISSIONS?

A: SORRY, DOES IT LIMIT ITS AVAILABILITY?

Q: IF IT'S COUNTED UNDER START RULES...

A: I'M AFRAID I'M NOT AN EXPERT ON THE DETAILS OF THAT. WE'LL GET YOU AN ANSWER TO THAT.

Q: I JUST WANTED TO BE CLEAR ON YOUR ANSWER TO MY QUESTION, AND MAKE SURE I DIDN'T QUOTE YOU OUT OF CONTEXT. BASICALLY WHAT YOU'RE SAYING ABOUT WHY YOU DON'T WANT MORE OF THEM IS THAT WHILE IT'S A WONDERFUL PLANE, IN YOUR WORDS, IT'S VERY EXPENSIVE. SO IS THE COST FACTOR WHY YOU DON'T WANT TO BUY ANY MORE OF THESE PLANES?

A: THE AIR FORCE HAS MADE THE DECISION THAT 21 PLANES WILL BE ENOUGH FOR THEM TO MEET THEIR NEEDS IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER HEAVY BOMBERS WE ALREADY HAVE. WE'VE GOT NEARLY 100 B-1 BOMBERS AND WE HAVE SEVERAL HUNDRED B-52 BOMBERS STILL IN OPERATION. SO WE HAVE A DIVERSE, HEAVY BOMBER FORCE BUILT OVER A NUMBER OF DECADES, BUT AS YOU KNOW, THE B-52S, SOME OF WHICH ARE 40 OR MORE

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YEARS OLD, ARE STILL FLYING AND PERFORMING VERY, VERY WELL. IN FACT B-52S WERE USED TO LAUNCH CRUISE MISSILES AGAINST TARGETS IN IRAQ SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. SO THEY'RE STILL VERY MUCH IN USE.

Q: CAN B-2S LAUNCH CRUISE MISSILES?

A: B-2S CAN LAUNCH A VARIETY OF ORDNANCE. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THESE HAVE BEEN OUTFITTED TO LAUNCH CRUISE MISSILES.

Q: WE HAVE IT FROM A HIGHLY RELIABLE SOURCE THAT THESE 13 B-2S ARE NOW IN MODIFICATION TO HAVE THEIR WINGS FOLDED AND OPERATE FROM CARRIERS. COULD YOU COMMENT ON THAT?

A: SINCE THEY ARE A WING, I THINK IT WOULD BE HARD TO FOLD THE WING. IT WOULD BE LIKE FOLDING A BUTTERFLY.

Q: THE MASS SUICIDE IN CALIFORNIA HAS AROUSED THE AMERICAN PUBLIC'S GROWING INTEREST ONCE AGAIN IN UFOS TO THE POINT WHERE SOME OF THE PUBLIC BELIEVES THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN SUBSTANTIATE THEIR EXISTENCE--THAT THE GOVERNMENT HOUSES REMAINS OF THESE SPACECRAFT AND ALIENS. WOULD YOU ADDRESS THOSE TWO ISSUES, PLEASE?

A: YES. WE CANNOT SUBSTANTIATE THE EXISTENCE OF UFOS, AND WE ARE NOT HARBORING REMAINS OF UFOS. I CAN'T BE MORE CLEAR ABOUT IT THAN THAT. WE CANNOT SUBSTANTIATE THAT THEY EXIST AND

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WE ARE NOT HARBORING REMAINS.

Q: WHEN CITIZENS CALL WITH SIGHTINGS OF UFOS, WHERE ARE THOSE CALLS ROUTED TO NOW?

A: THAT'S AN INTERESTING QUESTION. LET ME TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT UFOS.

FOR 22 YEARS, FROM 1947 TO 1969, THE U.S. AIR FORCE INVESTIGATED REPORTS OF UFOS. IT WAS CALLED PROJECT BLUE BOOK, AND THAT PROJECT WAS HEADQUARTERED AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE IN DAYTON, OHIO. THEY INVESTIGATED 12,618 SIGHTINGS DURING THAT 22-YEAR PERIOD, AND THEY REACHED THREE CONCLUSIONS BASED ON THOSE INVESTIGATIONS.

THE FIRST WAS THAT NO UFO REPORTED, INVESTIGATED OR EVALUATED BY THE U.S. AIR FORCE POSED ANY THREAT TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NATIONAL SECURITY. THAT WAS THE FIRST CONCLUSION THEY REACHED.

THE SECOND CONCLUSION THEY REACHED WAS THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE SUBMITTED TO THE AIR FORCE OR UNCOVERED BY THE AIR FORCE THAT SIGHTINGS CALLED "UNIDENTIFIED" REPRESENTED TECHNOLOGICAL

DEVELOPMENTS OR PRINCIPLES BEYOND THE RANGE OF OUR SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE WAS NOTHING OUTSIDE THE REALM UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 05 OF OUR SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, OUR ABILITY TO BUILD AIRCRAFT, UNDERSTAND AIRCRAFT, ETC.

THE THIRD CONCLUSION THEY REACHED WAS THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT SIGHTINGS OF THESE SO-CALLED UFOS WERE EXTRATERRESTRIAL VEHICLES. A VAST MAJORITY OF THOSE SIGHTINGS WERE EXPLAINED BY METEOROLOGICAL PHENOMENA -- LIGHTNING, ETC. -- OR THEY WERE EXPLAINED BY PLANES IN THE AREA, ETC.

OF THE 12,618 SIGHTINGS, VIRTUALLY ALL OF THEM WERE EXPLAINED. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, 701 "UNIDENTIFIED" SIGHTINGS. THOSE ARE THE ONES THAT I REFERRED TO IN THE SECOND POINT I WAS MAKING, WHICH IS, OF THE SIGHTINGS IDENTIFIED OR CATEGORIZED AS UNIDENTIFIED. NOTHING REPRESENTED TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS BEYOND THE REALM OF OUR KNOWLEDGE.

SO MANY OF THESE WE BELIEVE MIGHT HAVE JUST BEEN SKETCHY REPORTS THAT COULDN'T BE TRACKED DOWN TOTALLY; THEY COULDN'T BE

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NAILED DOWN BECAUSE WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH FACTS.

Q: SO THE CALLS ARE ROUTED TO WHERE NOW?

A: NOW THE CALLS ARE ROUTED TO PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS THAT LOOK INTO UFOS. YOU CAN GET THESE NAMES OFF THE INTERNET IF YOU ENTER UFO YOU CAN GET NAMES OFF THE INTERNET. BUT THERE'S ALSO SOMETHING CALLED GALE'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ASSOCIATIONS, WHICH LISTS ASSOCIATIONS BY INTEREST OR SUBJECT MATTER, AND IT HAS A LIST OF UFO-INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS, AND PEOPLE CAN CALL THOSE ORGANIZATIONS.

YOU MIGHT ASK WHY DID THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE STOP AFTER 22 YEARS INVESTIGATING? WHY DID IT STOP INVESTIGATING REPORTS OF UFOS? IT DID SO PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT DIDN'T FIND THAT THERE WAS ANY THREAT TO THE NATION'S SECURITY, AND IT DIDN'T FIND THAT ANY OF THESE WERE EXTRATERRESTRIAL VEHICLES AS CLAIMED BY MANY OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THESE CALLS. IT JUST WAS NOT A GOOD WAY TO USE THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY.

Q: A QUESTION ON THE FUTURE OF NATO COMMAND. HOW HIGH RANKING ON THE AGENDA OF GENERAL CLARK IS THE EXPANSION OF NATO?

A: THE EXPANSION OF NATO WILL BE ONE OF THE MAJOR TOPICS ON HIS AGENDA. HE WILL NOT GET THERE PROBABLY UNTIL JULY OF THIS

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YEAR.

AS YOU KNOW, THERE WILL BE A SUMMIT IN MADRID IN JULY WHERE IT'S ANTICIPATED THAT THE LEADERS OF NATO WILL ANNOUNCE THE COUNTRIES WHO WILL BE ASKED TO JOIN NATO. IT WILL TAKE SEVERAL YEARS, PROBABLY, UNTIL THEY'RE ACTUALLY INTO THE ALLIANCE BECAUSE IT REQUIRES A UNANIMOUS VOTE BY ALL OF THE CURRENT NATO MEMBERS, ALL 16 MEMBERS.

GENERAL CLARK, OR THE SACEUR--WHETHER IT'S GENERAL CLARK OR NOW GENERAL JOULWAN--IS INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN MAKING THE MILITARY SIDE OF NATO EXPANSION WORK. THE DECISION TO EXPAND NATO AND WHOM TO INVITE INTO NATO WILL BE MADE BY POLITICAL LEADERS, BY PRESIDENTS AND PRIME MINISTERS. THAT'S MAINLY A

POLITICAL AUTHORITY MADE BY ELECTED OFFICIALS. THE MILITARY COMMANDERS WILL MAKE THE MILITARY SIDE OF THAT WORK, WHICH IS MAKING THE MILITARY FORCES OF THE NEW NATO MEMBERS AS INTEROPERABLE AS POSSIBLE WITH THE FORCES OF THE EXISTING NATO MEMBERS. DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?

Q: THERE'S A PIECE IN THE WASHINGTON TIMES ABOUT EVIDENCE THAT MOSCOW HAS HAD AN AGGRESSIVE UNDERGROUND BUNKER-BUILDING PROGRAM GOING ON WITH FOUR SEPARATE PROJECTS IN AND AROUND

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MOSCOW, AND ALSO A RELATED STORY ABOUT THERE HAVING BEEN AT LEAST FOUR ALERTS DURING THE 1990S WHEN RUSSIAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS WERE PLACED ON A HIGHER-LEVEL ALERT. CAN YOU SHED ANY LIGHT ON EITHER OF THOSE REPORTS? IS THE PENTAGON AWARE OF IT? CONCERNED ABOUT IT?

A: THE RUSSIANS ARE BUILDING--AND HAVE BEEN FOR SOME TIME--VARIOUS UNDERGROUND FACILITIES IN RUSSIA. THESE WERE DONE IN THE SOVIET UNION AND THEY'RE BEING CONTINUED BY RUSSIA TODAY. WE ALSO HAVE HARDENED STRUCTURES TO PROTECT OUR LEADERS IN THE EVENT OF NUCLEAR WAR, AND WE ALSO HAVE OTHER WAYS TO PROTECT OUR LEADERS, BY MOVING THEM, BY PUTTING THEM IN THE AIR, ETC., FROM NUCLEAR ATTACK. SO THIS IS SOMETHING THAT BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA HAVE DONE.

RUSSIA IS CONTINUING THE PROGRAM. WE DO NOT REGARD THE PROGRAM AS A THREAT. IT IS NOT AN OFFENSIVE PROGRAM. IT'S A PROGRAM TO PROTECT THEIR OFFICIALS. WE DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY'RE CONTINUING TO DO THIS, BUT THEY ARE.

Q: THIS DOESN'T BOTHER YOU IN LIGHT OF RUSSIA TALKING ABOUT NOT HAVING THE FUNDS TO GO WITH FURTHER REDUCTIONS OF START? YET THEY'RE PUTTING ALL THIS MONEY INTO THAT KIND OF...

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A: FIRST OF ALL, RUSSIA HAS AGREED, PRESIDENT YELTSIN HAS AGREED TO BRING START II UP BEFORE THE DUMA, SO THE DUMA WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO VOTE ON THE START II TREATY. THE RUSSIAN LEADERSHIP, LED BY PRESIDENT YELTSIN, THINKS THAT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT TREATY AND IT'S A NECESSARY PRECONDITION TO FURTHER ARMS REDUCTIONS WHICH BOTH RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES WANT.

SECONDLY, RUSSIA HAS BEEN REDUCING ITS NUCLEAR ARSENAL IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE START I AGREEMENT. THAT TAKES ARSENALS DOWN FROM 10,000 OR MORE NUCLEAR WEAPONS DOWN TO ABOUT 6,000 AS DEFINED BY THE START I AGREEMENT. THEY'VE BEEN DOING THAT AND THEY'VE BEEN DOING IT QUITE AGGRESSIVELY. JUST IN RECENT WEEKS THEY'VE DESTROYED 19 SUBMARINE LAUNCHED BALLISTIC MISSILES, IN THE LAST 7 TO 14 DAYS THEY'VE DESTROYED THOSE. SO THEY ARE MOVING FORWARD WITH THEIR WEAPONS DESTRUCTION AS REQUIRED UNDER THE START I TREATY AND WE FULLY ANTICIPATE THAT THEY WILL UNDER THE START II TREATY, AFTER THE DUMA RATIFIES IT.

Q: YOU SAID THEY DESTROYED 19 MISSILES. DO YOU MEAN SUBMARINES OR MISSILES?

A: NO, THEY DESTROYED 19 SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED BALLISTIC MISSILES IN THE LAST WEEK OR SO.

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Q: YOU DON'T THINK THAT THE RESOURCES THEY'RE USING COULD BE USED IN A BETTER WAY?

A: EVERY COUNTRY MAKES DECISIONS ABOUT HOW TO DEFEND ITSELF AND HOW TO DEFEND ITS PEOPLE AND ITS LEADERS. WE MAKE THOSE DECISIONS EVERY DAY AND RUSSIA MAKES THOSE DECISIONS, AND THIS IS HOW THEY DECIDED TO DO IT.

AS I POINTED OUT, WE DO HAVE FACILITIES FOR PROTECTING MILITARY/CIVILIAN LEADERS, FOR PROTECTING OUR NATIONAL COMMAND AUTHORITY.

Q: DOES THE UNITED STATES DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH RUSSIA? ABOUT MAYBE THESE FUNDS WOULD BE BETTER SPENT ELSEWHERE?

A: FIRST OF ALL, MONEY THAT'S BEING SPENT ON DIGGING TUNNELS IS NOT BEING SPENT ON DEVELOPING NEW MISSILES; IT'S NOT BEING SPENT ON DEVELOPING NEW OFFENSIVE CAPABILITIES. I THINK THAT'S A VERY IMPORTANT DISTINCTION. THESE ARE ON DEFENSIVE MEASURES. WE ARE WORRIED PRIMARILY ABOUT OFFENSIVE MEASURES.

AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE A PROGRAM--THE COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION PROGRAM--THAT IS HELPING RUSSIA DESTROY ITS NUCLEAR ARSENALS. IT HELPS THEM CUT THE WINGS OFF BOMBERS; IT HELPS THEM DISMANTLE MISSILES. WE PROVIDE ALL OF THAT ASSISTANCE IN KIND TO UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 05 RUSSIA. NOT IN TERMS OF MONEY. WE PROVIDE THEM EQUIPMENT, WE PROVIDE THEM TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, ETC. SO THESE ARE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PROGRAMS AND IT'S NOT, THEY CAN'T TAKE MONEY FROM THE COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION PROGRAM, ALSO KNOWN AS NUNN/LUGAR, AND DIVERT IT TO OTHER PURPOSES.

AS I SAID, WE'RE WORRIED PRIMARILY ABOUT OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY, AND WE'VE STARTED A VERY AGGRESSIVE ARMS REDUCTION REGIME WITH RUSSIA TO LIMIT THEIR OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY AND OUR OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY. IN HELSINKI, THE LEADERS OF BOTH RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THEY WANT TO GO BEYOND START II TO A START III AGREEMENT THAT WILL REDUCE EVEN FURTHER THE NUCLEAR ARSENALS OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

Q: TO KIND OF PUT THIS STORY IN PERSPECTIVE, HAS THE UNITED STATES OR THE PENTAGON NOTICED AN ACCELERATED MOVEMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THESE BUNKERS, OR IS THIS SOMETHING THAT'S

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BEEN GOING ON FOR SOME TIME?

A: THEY'VE BEEN BURROWING AWAY FOR SOME TIME IN VARIOUS UNDERGROUND FACILITIES. THEY HAVE ALWAYS PLACED A HEAVY EMPHASIS, GOING BACK TO SOVIET TIMES, ON CIVIL DEFENSE AND PROTECTION, UNDERGROUND PROTECTION AND OTHER TYPES OF PROTECTION. I CAN RECALL DECADES AGO HAROLD BROWN, THEN THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, USED TO TALK, THERE WAS A BIG DEBATE DURING THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION ABOUT CIVIL DEFENSE. THE DEBATE WENT THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE OUTSPENDING US BY SOME HUGE MARGIN ON CIVIL DEFENSE, AND, THEREFORE, WE WERE LEAVING OURSELVES EXPOSED BY NOT SPENDING AS MUCH MONEY ON CIVIL DEFENSE.

HAROLD BROWN SAID, "WE PRACTICE CIVIL DEFENSE EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON WHEN PEOPLE LEAVE CITIES AND DRIVE OUT INTO THE COUNTRY. WE HAVE WAYS OF DISBURSING OUR POPULATIONS VERY, VERY QUICKLY." THE RUSSIANS HAVE NOT PAID AS MUCH ATTENTION TO DISPERSION AS WE HAVE, AND THEY'VE PAID MORE ATTENTION TO

UNDERGROUND PROTECTION.

BUT I THINK THIS DEVELOPMENT WHICH HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR A LONG WHILE AND IS NOT NEW, DEFLECTS ATTENTION FROM TWO MORE IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS. THE FIRST IS THE PROGRESS THAT WE'RE

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MAKING ON ARMS REDUCTION TODAY. THE START I TREATY, AS I SAID, BRINGS IT DOWN TO ABOUT 6,000 COUNTABLE WEAPONS. START II WHICH OUR SENATE HAS RATIFIED AND WE HOPE THE DUMA WILL RATIFY SOON, BRINGS THE NUMBERS DOWN BETWEEN 3,000 AND 3,500 ON EACH SIDE -- A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION. AND START III, AS OUTLINED BY PRESIDENT CLINTON AND PRESIDENT YELTSIN, WOULD BRING THE ARSENALS DOWN TO BETWEEN 2,000 AND 2,500. SO THIS IS A REDUCTION OF ABOUT 80 PERCENT OR WILL BE A REDUCTION OF OVER 80 PERCENT IN ARSENALS IN A 10 TO 15 YEAR PERIOD. THIS IS AN EXTRAORDINARY DEVELOPMENT. THAT'S JUST ONE OF THEM, THOUGH.

THE SECOND IS THAT BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA HAVE AGREED TO STOP TARGETING THEIR STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS AT EACH OTHER. SO WE NO LONGER HAVE THE HAIR TRIGGER THAT WE LIVED WITH FOR DECADES UNDER THE COLD WAR. THIS, AGAIN, IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT. IT'S AN EFFORT BY BOTH SIDES TO BUILD STABILITY AND CONFIDENCE IN A CONTINUING PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT.

WE STILL MAINTAIN VERY EXTENSIVE NUCLEAR FORCES, AS DO THE RUSSIANS. WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO IS TO LIMIT AND CONTAIN THOSE FORCES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

Q: DO YOU THINK THIS POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT COULD COME TO A

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HALT CONSIDERING THAT RUSSIA MIGHT BE THREATENED BY POSSIBLE NATO EXPANSION?

A: NO, I DON'T. AND I DON'T THINK PRESIDENT YELTSIN DOES EITHER. IN HELSINKI HE TALKED ABOUT MOVING TO START III. I THINK THE RUSSIANS UNDERSTAND THAT NATO IS GOING TO EXPAND AND IT WILL EXPAND IN A WAY THAT'S NOT THREATENING TO RUSSIA. NATO EXPANSION IS NOT AGAINST RUSSIA, IT'S FOR STABILITY IN EUROPE, INCREASED STABILITY IN EUROPE. WE'VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME TALKING TO RUSSIA ABOUT THAT. WE'RE WORKING HARD TO FIND WAYS TO INCORPORATE RUSSIA INTO A CONSULTING ARRANGEMENT THAT WILL MAKE THEM FEEL PART OF RATHER THAN OUTSIDE OF SECURITY DECISIONS MADE IN EUROPE. THEY'LL HAVE A VOICE, NOT A VETO IN THESE DECISIONS.

SO I GATHER FROM WHAT PRESIDENT YELTSIN SAID THAT THEY FULLY INTEND AND WANT TO GO AHEAD WITH FURTHER ARMS REDUCTIONS, EVEN AS NATO EXPANDS.

Q: A STATUS REPORT ON THE SECURITY REVIEW OF THE COSCO/LONG BEACH LEASE. THERE WAS A STORY IN THE PAPER THE OTHER DAY THAT WE'VE NOW GRANTED COSCO 24- HOUR NOTICE TO PULL INTO ANY PORT THAT HAS MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE, WHICH IS SOMETHING WE STILL DON'T DO FOR RUSSIA AND SOME OF THE OTHER FORMER RUSSIAN STATES.

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THAT DECISION WAS MADE, AND THE INITIAL DECISION TO ALLOW LONG BEACH TO GO AHEAD LAST YEAR. WERE BOTH OF THOSE DECISIONS MADE

WITHOUT ANY PENTAGON REVIEW OF THE SECURITY THREAT?

A: THE SECURITY REVIEW OF THE COSCO ARRANGEMENT--AND THE POTENTIAL COSCO ARRANGEMENT IS THAT THE CHINA OCEAN SHIPPING COMPANY WHICH HAS BEEN OPERATING OUT OF LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA SINCE 1981--WOULD EXPAND ITS OPERATIONS THERE IF IT REACHES AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PORT OF LONG BEACH, AND ALL OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN COSCO AND THE CITY, OR THE PORT OF LONG BEACH, NOT BETWEEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND COSCO OR BETWEEN THE U.S. NAVY AND COSCO.

COSCO ALSO OPERATES IN A NUMBER OF OTHER PORTS, INCLUDING BALTIMORE, WHICH OF COURSE IS RELATIVELY NEARBY. AND IT OPERATES OUT OF LOS ANGELES AND SEATTLE, OTHER PORTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE HAS DONE A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND HAS TALKED TO SOME PEOPLE ON THE HILL ABOUT ITS FINDINGS. IT HAS NOT FOUND--I DON'T BELIEVE IT HAS FOUND--NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS.

WE ARE CONTINUING TO REVIEW THIS, AND THE SECRETARY HAS NOT COMPLETED WORK, THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT COMPLETED ITS WORK ON

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THIS, BUT THE EARLY REPORTS ARE THAT THERE WERE NOT NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS ATTENDANT TO EXPANDING COSCO'S PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Q: IS THIS REVIEW BEING AFFECTED AT ALL BY THE FUNDRAISING ALLEGATIONS CONNECTING THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE DNC?

A: NO, THIS IS TOTALLY SEPARATE FROM THAT. AS I POINTED OUT, COSCO HAS OPERATED IN THE UNITED STATES FOR MANY YEARS BEFORE THESE ALLEGATIONS CAME TO THE SURFACE. THIS IS A COMPLETELY SEPARATE OPERATION FROM THAT.

COSCO IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST OCEAN SHIPPING COMPANY. IT CARRIES GOODS FOR THE WORLD'S LARGEST, MOST POPULOUS COUNTRY; A COUNTRY THAT HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING ECONOMIC BOOM AND DOING MORE AND MORE TRADING ALL OVER THE WORLD, INCLUDING WITH THE UNITED STATES. IT IS THE COMPANY THAT BRINGS CHINESE GOODS, ONE OF THE COMPANIES THAT BRINGS CHINESE GOODS TO THE UNITED STATES, AND THEN CARRIES U.S. GOODS BACK TO [CHINA]. I KNOW THAT YOU PROBABLY SPENT ENOUGH TIME IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TO HAVE SEEN COSCO CONTAINERS TRAVELING ON TRUCKS OR RAILROAD TRAINS. YOU'VE PROBABLY BEEN SEEING THIS FOR THE LAST 10 OR 15 YEARS, AND I DOUBT IF YOU'VE EVER WORRIED ABOUT OUR NATIONAL SECURITY WHEN UNCLAS FINAL SECTION OF 05 YOU'VE SEEN A COSCO CONTAINER.

Q: HAS THE DEPARTMENT MADE ITS OFFICIAL POSITION YET ON THE MCDONNELL DOUGLAS/BOEING MERGER? AND IF NOT, WHEN WILL ONE BE FORTHCOMING?

A: IT HAS NOT MADE ITS POSITION KNOWN YET, AND I DON'T KNOW WHEN THAT DECISION WILL BE.

Q: THE QDR REPORT IS DUE TO CONGRESS SIX WEEKS FROM NOW. CAN YOU GIVE US AN UPDATE ON WHERE IT IS? HAVE RECOMMENDATIONS BEEN MADE? WHAT'S THE SECRETARY'S INVOLVEMENT AT THIS POINT?

A: THE SECRETARY'S INVOLVEMENT IS INTENSE. HE HAS MET SEVERAL TIMES WITH THE CHIEFS TO DISCUSS THIS. HE HAS BRIEFINGS PRETTY MUCH ON A WEEKLY BASIS ABOUT THE QDR. RIGHT NOW THERE HAS BEEN A DRAFT... HE HAS SAID FROM THE VERY BEGINNING THAT HE WANTS THIS TO BE A STRATEGY DRIVEN REVIEW, NOT IN RESPONSE TO BUDGETARY FIGURES, BUT IN RESPONSE TO OUR VIEW OF WHAT OUR

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STRATEGY SHOULD BE FOR THE NEXT 10, 15, 20 YEARS. AND A LOT OF WORK RIGHT NOW HAS BEEN GOING INTO GETTING THAT STRATEGY PORTION WORKED OUT.

THERE ARE DRAFTS THAT HAVE BEEN WRITTEN, BUT NOTHING IS FINAL YET. THERE'S STILL WORK BEING DONE ON THE STRATEGY PART, AND THAT WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE FOR ANOTHER WEEK OR SO.

IN PARALLEL TO THAT, THERE ARE SEVEN GROUPS, AS YOU KNOW, WORKING ON VARIOUS TOPICS. ALL OF THIS STUFF IS BEING INTEGRATED, GROUPS HAVE BEEN--ARE--LOOKING AT WAYS THAT THE PENTAGON CAN BE RUN MORE EFFICIENTLY, AND THAT SOME THINGS CAN BE DONE FOR LESS MONEY. SOME THINGS MAY HAVE TO BE DONE MORE AGGRESSIVELY THAN WE'VE DONE IN THE PAST AND MAY COST MORE MONEY. THOSE ARE THE TYPES OF CHOICES THAT WILL BE MADE IN THE NEXT MONTH OR SIX WEEKS.

Q: THE STRATEGY PORTIONS... IS IT SAFE TO ASSUME THAT A WEEK OR SO FROM NOW EITHER THE TWO MRC STRATEGY WILL BE LOCKED IN PLACE OR SOMETHING WILL REPLACE IT? IS THAT WHAT YOU MEAN BY OVERALL STRATEGY?

A: WELL, IT'S MORE COMPLEX THAN THAT. IT'S BROADER THAN JUST WHETHER WE STICK WITH THE TWO MRC STRATEGY. IT REALLY IS

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THE STRATEGY THAT WILL DEFINE THE WAY WE ENGAGE WITH THE WORLD. AND THE WAY WE THINK WE CAN BEST SHAPE EVENTS THAT ARE OF INTEREST TO OUR NATIONAL WELL-BEING. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE LOOKING AT. WHAT TYPES OF FORCES DO WE NEED TO DO THAT, HOW BEST DO WE DO IT, WHAT SORT OF FORWARD DEPLOYMENTS DO WE NEED? THERE ARE A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS THAT HAVE TO BE ANSWERED BY THAT.

WE, I BELIEVE, WILL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THE STRATEGY SECTION OF THE QDR BEFORE THE WHOLE STUDY IS COMPLETED. OUR HOPE IS WE'LL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THAT SOME TIME IN EARLY MAY BEFORE THE FINAL DOCUMENT IS DONE. AFTER THE STRATEGY PART IS COMPLETE, THEN A NUMBER OF CHOICES WILL HAVE TO BE MADE ABOUT HOW BEST TO IMPLEMENT THAT STRATEGY. THAT WORK WILL BE DONE OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS.

Q: A JAPANESE TELEVISION NETWORK HAS REPORTED THAT ACCORDING TO U.S. INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, THERE'S BEEN SOME RECENT MILITARY MOVEMENTS IN NORTH KOREA. ONE OF THE REPORTS SAYING THAT SOME OF OUR TROOPS HAVE MOVED TO (INAUDIBLE). AND...

A: SORRY?

Q: ...HAVE MOVED TO THE BORDER REGION OF CHINA; AND THE OTHER ONE BEING SOME UNUSUAL TANK MOVEMENTS IN PYONGYANG. CAN

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YOU CONFIRM THESE REPORTS?

A: THERE HAVE BEEN... THE WINTER IS USUALLY THE MOST INTENSE TRAINING PERIOD FOR THE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY, AND THEY HAVE BEEN CARRYING OUT TRAINING EXERCISES RECENTLY, SOME OF WHICH WERE REPORTED BY THE SENATE DELEGATION THAT'S JUST COME OUT OF NORTH KOREA.

THAT TRAINING HAS BEEN AT SOMEWHAT LOWER TEMPO THAN PAST YEARS, BUT IT HAS BEEN GOING ON, AND AS PART OF THAT TRAINING THERE HAVE BEEN MOVEMENTS OF TROOPS, ETC., AND VARIOUS TYPES OF TRAINING FLIGHTS. I'M NOT AWARE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ANY UNUSUAL MOVEMENTS OR ANYTHING THAT HAS CAUSED US ANY PARTICULAR CONCERN. WE DO WATCH MOVEMENTS BY THE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY VERY, VERY CLOSELY. WE WATCH THEM ALL THE TIME, AND WE'VE VERY ALERT TO ANY CHANGES THAT COULD BE MENACING, BUT I'M NOT AWARE THAT WE HAVE SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS.

PRESS: THANK YOU.

- END -

TRANSCRIPTS OF THE DOD NEWS BRIEFING ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON DEFENSELINK, THE DOD HOMEPAGE - [HTTP://WWW.DTIC.MIL/DEFENSELINK/](http://www.dtic.mil/defenselink/)

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SUBJ: DOD NEWS BRIEFING - CONDUCTED ON TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1997 AT
TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03
SUBJ: DOD NEWS BRIEFING - CONDUCTED ON TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1997 AT
1:30 P.M. (EDT) BY MR. KENNETH H. BACON, ASD (PA) AT THE PENTAGON
MR. BACON: WELL, GOOD AFTERNOON. IT CERTAINLY IS A
GREAT THRILL TO BE THE WARM-UP ACT TO THE ROSWELL UFO REPORT!
[LAUGHTER] AND I WELCOME YOU ALL TO THE BRIEFING. LET ME MAKE A
FEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE BEGINNING, AND THEN I'LL TAKE YOUR
QUESTIONS. I KNOW YOU ALL WANT TO GET ON TO UFOS, SO WE CAN DO
THAT AS SOON AFTER I FINISH AS POSSIBLE.

FIRST, I'D LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THAT SECRETARY COHEN HAS SENT A
MESSAGE TO THE TROOPS ON FORCE PROTECTION ON THE FIRST
ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOBAR TOWERS BOMBING. AND THAT'S AVAILABLE
AT THE BACK OF THE ROOM FOR ANYBODY WHO WANTS A COPY OF THAT.
THE ANNIVERSARY, AS YOU KNOW, IS TOMORROW.

SECOND, I'D LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THAT SECRETARY COHEN HAS
ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS NOMINATED GENERAL WILLIAM

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CROUCH OF THE ARMY TO TAKE OVER THE JOB OF VICE CHIEF OF STAFF OF
THE ARMY HERE IN WASHINGTON. GENERAL CROUCH, AS YOU KNOW, IS
CURRENTLY THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF U.S. ARMY EUROPE AND ALSO THE
SEVENTH ARMY IN GERMANY.

AND WITH THAT, I'LL TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS.

Q: SPEAKING OF UFOS, WHAT'S THE PENTAGON'S TAKE ON THIS
WHOLE THING? DO YOU ALL SUBSCRIBE TO THE AIR FORCE'S EXPLANATION
THAT THESE WERE JUST A BUNCH OF DUMMIES DROPPED WITH PARACHUTES?

A: I THINK IT'S -- THE AIR FORCE HAS SPENT YEARS
INVESTIGATING THIS, NOT JUST THIS INCIDENT BUT A NUMBER OF
INCIDENTS, ALLEGED INCIDENTS INVOLVING UFOS, AND THEY HAVE FOUND
OTHER EXPLANATIONS FOR ALMOST -- I BELIEVE FOR ALL OF THESE. AND
THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM ANY SO-CALLED "SIGHTING" OF
UFOS. THEY FOUND EITHER NATURAL PHENOMENA TO EXPLAIN WHAT
HAPPENED OR AIRCRAFT LIGHTS IN THE AREA TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED.
BUT THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF EXPLANATIONS THEY HAVE COME UP
WITH OVER THE YEARS. AS YOU KNOW, AFTER YEARS OF INVESTIGATING
REPORTS OF UFOS, THE AIR FORCE STOPPED MORE THAN A DECADE AGO,

AND THEY HAVE NOT BEEN INVESTIGATING THESE INCIDENTS AT ALL
BECAUSE IT WAS A WASTE OF TAXPAYERS' MONEY TO KEEP INVESTIGATING

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REPORTS THAT NEVER TURNED OUT TO BE TRUE.

BUT THIS WILL BE EXPLAINED IN GREAT DETAIL VIS-A-VIS THE
ROSWELL INCIDENT AS SOON AS I FINISH.

Q: DO YOU THINK THIS WILL PUT THIS WHOLE THING TO REST?

A: OF COURSE NOT. [LAUGHTER] PROBABLY, IN ANOTHER
DECADE, WE'LL BE HERE HAVING -- ANOTHER COLONEL WILL BE HERE
GIVING ANOTHER BRIEFING ON THE ROSWELL INCIDENT. [LAUGHTER]

Q: WHY DOES THIS COME OUT IN DRIBS AND DRABS? DOESN'T
THAT SORT OF JUST FUEL CONSPIRACY? AND WHY WASN'T IT INCLUDED IN
THE 1994 REPORT?

A: WELL, I THINK THE AIR FORCE WILL EXPLAIN ALL THAT. BUT
THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, THIS HAS BEEN INVESTIGATED MANY TIMES,
AND THIS IS AN EFFORT TO PULL TOGETHER THEIR LATEST THINKING ON
IT. I THINK THEY'RE REISSUING AN OLDER REPORT, AS I UNDERSTAND
IT. [OFF MIKE] ISN'T THAT CORRECT?

Q: ON THE SUBJECT OF KHOBAR TOWERS, YOU MENTIONED THE ONE-
YEAR ANNIVERSARY. IT HAS BEEN A YEAR. WHAT'S BEEN THE DELAY IN
THE RELEASE OF THE RECORD REPORT AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH
HAS BEEN COMPLETED FOR OVER SIX MONTHS NOW?

A: WELL, THE RECORD REPORT WAS REDONE, AS YOU KNOW, AT THE

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REQUEST OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND THE SECRETARY OF
THE AIR FORCE. AND THE SECOND REPORT, BY THE AIR FORCE IG,
LIEUTENANT GENERAL SWOPE, WAS COMPLETED SHORTLY BEFORE THE
QUADRENNIAL DEFENSE REVIEW CAME OUT. SECRETARY COHEN MADE A
DECISION AT THAT TIME THAT HE WAS GOING TO CONCENTRATE ON
BRINGING THE QUADRENNIAL DEFENSE REVIEW TO CLOSURE AND PRESENTING
IT ON THE HILL, PRESENTING IT TO THE PUBLIC. AND HE DID THAT.
AND SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER THE QDR WAS RELEASED AND EXPLAINED ON THE
HILL, HE BEGAN LOOKING NOT JUST AT THE SWOPE VERSION OF THE
RECORD REPORT, BUT HE WENT RIGHT BACK TO THE BEGINNING AND
STARTED WITH THE DOWNING REPORT. AND HE STARTED WITH NOT ONLY
THE REPORT, BUT THE ATTACHMENTS, THE APPENDICES, AND THEN HE WENT
THROUGH THE RECORD REPORT AND THE ATTACHMENTS AND THE APPENDICES,
AND NOW HE IS ON TO THE SWOPE REPORT.

AND SO THIS HAS BEEN A MONUMENTAL UNDERTAKING. HE HAS
WANTED TO BE VERY CAREFUL AND THOROUGH, AND HE HAS BEEN. AND
HE'S NOT DONE YET. BUT MY ANTICIPATION IS THAT, IN SEVERAL
WEEKS, HE WILL BE FINISHED WITH HIS REVIEW AND WILL BE ABLE TO
DISCUSS WHAT HIS CONCLUSIONS ARE.

Q: KEN, WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION UPON THE HOUSE

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ACTION OF LAST WEEK THAT PASSED A BILL, WHICH SAID THAT 10,000
SOLDIERS COULD BE USED FOR BORDER PATROL? AND, SECONDLY, WHAT IS
YOUR RESPONSE TO MILITARY PEOPLE WHO SAY WE JUST DON'T HAVE THAT
MANY TRAINED SOLDIERS TO SPARE, EVEN IF WE WANTED TO? AND LASTLY,

WHAT'S THE LEGAL STATUS OF THIS MARINE WHO IS ACCUSED OF SHOOTING A U.S. CITIZEN WHILE ON BORDER PATROL? AND YOU HAVE A CIVILIAN AUTHORITY INVESTIGATING AND CHARGING, AND ARE THE MARINES GOING TO HAVE A SEPARATE LITIGATION? WHAT'S THE STATE OF PLAY ON THAT?

A: I'M TEMPTED TO INVOKE THE WARREN CHRISTOPHER RULE THAT IN A MULTI-PART QUESTION, I GET TO ANSWER THE QUESTION I CHOOSE. [LAUGHTER] BUT I WON'T BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL SERIOUS QUESTIONS.

TODAY THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS ABOUT 242 PEOPLE ON THE BORDER ASSISTING WITH OBSERVATION AND SURVEILLANCE OF BORDER ACTIVITIES. THIS IS PART OF THE SUPPORT OF COUNTER-DRUG EFFORTS, NOT MOUNTED BY THIS AGENCY, BUT MOUNTED BY GENERAL MCCAFFREY'S AGENCY.

WE PROVIDE TROOPS PURELY IN A SUPPORT CAPACITY, BECAUSE, AS YOU KNOW, THE MILITARY IS PROSCRIBED FROM PARTICIPATING IN DOMESTIC LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES UNDER AN 1878 LAW, THE POSSE COMITATUS LAW. SO WE PROVIDE SUPPORT IN TERMS OF EXTRA EYES AND

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EARS, SOME SURVEILLANCE, MAYBE SOME INTELLIGENCE FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT IT'S ALL IN A SUPPORT CAPACITY.

GENERAL MCCAFFREY HAS MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT HE WOULD PREFER TO HAVE ALL OF THE BORDER PATROL OPERATION DONE BY BORDER PATROL AGENTS AND NOT HAVE THE MILITARY INVOLVED AT ALL. AND THE MILITARY WOULD CERTAINLY SUPPORT A DECISION LIKE THAT, BUT IT WOULD REQUIRE APPOINTING MANY MORE BORDER PATROL AGENTS THAN WE HAVE TODAY. SO WE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT IN AN AS-NEEDED BASIS. I DON'T THINK THAT WE NEED ANYWHERE NEAR AN ADDITIONAL 10,000 SOLDIERS TO ASSIST IN THE SUPPORT OF THE BORDER PATROL OPERATIONS RIGHT NOW. AND THERE HAS BEEN-- SO ANSWERING YOUR FIRST QUESTION, THAT'S IT.

I'M AFRAID I'VE FORGOTTEN MOST OF THE OTHER QUESTIONS, BUT -

Q: THE OTHER ONE WAS, WHAT'S THE STATE OF PLAY, LEGALLY, WHERE YOU HAVE CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES IN TEXAS CHARGING A MARINE WITH SHOOTING A CITIZEN WHILE ON BORDER PATROL, AND THEN YOU HAVE THE MARINES, WHO PRESUMABLY HAVE THEIR OWN LEGAL ACTION. WILL THE DEPARTMENT LET THE CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES QUESTION THE MARINE OR WILL THEY INSIST ON A SEPARATE LEGAL ACTION BY THE CORPS?
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A: WELL, FIRST OF ALL, THE MARINES HAVE COOPERATED FULLY WITH DOMESTIC LAW AND WITH CIVILIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE COURSE OF THIS INVESTIGATION, AND THEY CONTINUE TO COOPERATE FULLY. THEY HAVE MADE STATEMENTS, THEY HAVE PROVIDED ALL THE INFORMATION THEY'VE BEEN REQUESTED TO PROVIDE.

Q: WHILE YOU'RE ON THAT, DOES THAT INCLUDE LETTING THEM QUESTION THIS ACCUSED PERSON?

A: SORRY?

Q: THERE WAS A COMPLAINT THAT THE CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES WEREN'T ALLOWED TO QUESTION THE ACCUSED MARINE.

A: I KNOW THE ACCUSED MARINE HAS PROVIDED A STATEMENT OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CIVILIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

Q: BUT I JUST WANT TO KNOW IF I CAN TAKE IT FROM YOUR STATEMENT THAT, IF REQUESTED, THE MARINES WILL LET HIM BE QUESTIONED BY CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES.

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A: IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE FOUR-MAN PATROL HAS COOPERATED FULLY WITH DOMESTIC LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES. THEY REMAINED FOR FOUR DAYS IN THE AREA. AT THE END OF FOUR DAYS, THERE WAS NO MORE DEMAND OR REQUEST FOR THEM TO PROVIDE INFORMATION, AND THEY LEFT. THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT HAPPENED.

THE MARINES HAVE LAUNCHED THEIR OWN INVESTIGATION OF WHAT WENT ON. AND THE JOINT TASK FORCE SIX, WHICH RUNS THE BORDER SUPPORT OPERATION, HAS ALSO DONE AN INVESTIGATION, AND THAT INVESTIGATION, WHICH I'VE READ IN DRAFT FORM, BUT I HAVE NOT SEEN IN FINAL FORM, CONCLUDES THAT THEY WERE FOLLOWING PROPER PROCEDURES IN RESPONDING TO AN ATTACK AGAINST THEM. THEY RESPONDED THE WAY THEY'RE ALLOWED TO, IN SELF-DEFENSE.

NOW, THE MARINES ARE LOOKING INTO IT, AND THERE IS A CIVILIAN PROCEEDING GOING ON, AT THE SAME TIME. AS I SAID, THE MARINES HAVE COOPERATED WITH THAT.

Q: ANY RESULTS ON THE TODAY'S MEETING BETWEEN THE GREEK MINISTER OF DEFENSE APOSTOLOS TSOHATZOPOULOS AND THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM COHEN HERE AT THE PENTAGON?

A: I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO TALK TO ANYBODY WHO WAS AT

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THE MEETING YET. THEY WERE PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES -- SECRETARY COHEN WAS -- STARTING WITH NATO ENLARGEMENT, WHICH OF COURSE IS AT THE TOP OF EVERYBODY'S LIST RIGHT NOW. THEY WERE ALSO GOING TO TALK ABOUT BOSNIA AND THE PROGRESS OF THE SFOR MISSION IN BOSNIA. THEY WERE GOING TO TALK ABOUT CYPRUS, AND THEY WERE GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES IN THE AEGEAN. THOSE WERE THE MAIN ISSUES OF CONVERSATION THEY WERE PLANNING TO COVER.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE EXTENSIVE MEETING BETWEEN THE GREEK MINISTER OF DEFENSE APOSTOLOS TSOHATZOPOULOS AND THE UNDERSECRETARY JAN LODAL YESTERDAY AT THE GREEK EMBASSY?

A: I AM AFRAID I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

Q: AND LAST NIGHT, IT WAS REPORTED THAT YOUR AMBASSADOR IN ATHENS, THOMAS NILES, PROTESTED TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE WELL-KNOWN ISSUE OF THE UPGRADING THE F-4 GREEK FIGHTERS BY U.S. OR GERMANY. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A: I AM AFRAID I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT. WE'LL TRY TO GET INFORMATION ON THAT.

Q: WELL, THE CINCS THAT ARE IN TOWN FOR THE CINC CONFERENCE, WILL THEY MEET AS A GROUP WITH THE PRESIDENT? OR

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WILL ANY CINCS INDIVIDUALLY MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT?

A: I DON'T BELIEVE THE CINCS ARE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT THIS TIME AROUND. AND I DON'T BELIEVE THAT ANY INDIVIDUAL CINCS WILL BE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, EITHER.

Q: YOU MENTIONED THE STATEMENT OF COHEN TO THE TROOPS. COULD YOU JUST PARAPHRASE WHAT THAT STATEMENT IS, TO GIVE IT A LITTLE BIT ON CAMERA?

A: SECRETARY COHEN MADE BASICALLY TWO POINTS IN HIS

STATEMENT TO THE TROOPS. THE FIRST IS THAT THE FBI IS MAKING PROGRESS IN ITS INVESTIGATION, TO LOCATE THE TERRORISTS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS DEADLY ACT A YEAR AGO, AND THAT THIS GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO BRING THE TERRORISTS TO JUSTICE.

I THINK THE RECENT CAPTURE OF THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLINGS OUTSIDE THE CIA SHOWS THAT WE ARE DETERMINED AND DEDICATED TO BRINGING TERRORISTS LIKE THIS TO JUSTICE, AND WE WILL PURSUE THESE TERRORISTS WITH THE SAME VIGOR THAT WE PURSUED THAT FELLOW.

SECONDLY, HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF FORCE PROTECTION. HE REPORTED ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO THE GULF, IN WHICH HE HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW A NUMBER OF THE INSTALLATIONS OVER THERE, THE

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PRINCE SULTAN AIR BASE AT AL-KHARJ, FOR INSTANCE, THE PRE-POSITIONING SITE IN -- AT CAMP DOHA IN KUWAIT, THE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FACILITY THAT HOUSES THE FIFTH FLEET IN BAHRAIN. AND HE ALSO VISITED A SITE IN OMAN. HE REPORTED THAT HE FOUND THE FORCE PROTECTION MEASURES VERY IMPRESSIVE, BUT NOTED THAT THERE'S NO ABSOLUTE LEVEL OF FORCE PROTECTION, THAT IT REMAINS EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY ALL THE TIME, AND THAT FORCE PROTECTION IS CLEARLY THE BUSINESS OF EVERY PERSON IN THE MILITARY, EVERY DAY IN EVERY WAY. THAT WAS BASICALLY THE GIST OF HIS MESSAGE TO THE TROOPS.

Q: COULD YOU CHARACTERIZE THE PROGRESS THAT THE FBI IS MAKING IN THE CASE?

A: I CANNOT. THAT'S SOMETHING FOR THE FBI TO TALK ABOUT.

Q: TODAY THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER, THE BRITISH PAPER, REVEALED THAT MOST OF THE AMERICAN BOMBS AND AIR-TO-GROUND MISSILES ACQUIRED BY ISRAEL IN LEBANON LAST YEAR, WERE SOLD TO THE UNITED STATES' ARMED FORCES AND NOT TO ISRAEL. AND THEY KILLED 200 CIVILIANS AND 14 GUERRILLAS. AND THEY FOUND OUT THAT 1,700 BOMBS AND MISSILES WERE TRANSFERRED FROM U.S. MILITARY STOCKS, WITH NO PROHIBITION ON THEIR USE AGAINST CIVILIANS. WHAT DO YOU COMMENT ON THIS REPORT?

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A: I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT REPORT, AND I'D RATHER NOT COMMENT ON IT UNTIL I HAVE A --

Q: THEY ARE SAYING ALSO THAT SO ROUTINE HAS THE SYSTEM OF WEAPONS TRANSFER FROM U.S. INVENTORIES BECOME, THAT MASSIVE SHIPMENTS OF ORDINANCE TO ISRAEL ARE NOW UNDERTAKEN WITH NO PUBLICITY OR DEBATE IN AMERICA.

A: I WOULD SAY THAT ALL ASPECTS OF OUR POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL ARE DEBATED HEALTHFULLY EVERY YEAR. BUT I CAN'T COMMENT SPECIFICALLY ON THAT REPORT, BECAUSE I HAVEN'T READ IT.

Q: ARE YOU DENYING THAT SHIPMENT OF ARMS ARE BEING TRANSFERRED TO ISRAEL FROM THE STOCKPILES HERE, WITHOUT ANY DEBATE?

A: I'M TELLING YOU THAT I'M NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON A REPORT THAT I HAVEN'T READ.

Q: WHEN SECRETARY COHEN MET IN SAUDI ARABIA WITH ABDULLAH AND SAUD, DID THAT RESULT IN THEM PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE KHOBAR TOWERS?

A: THIS IS A -- IS A TASK THAT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS

UNDERTAKING, THROUGH THE FBI. THEY'RE IN CHARGE OF THIS INVESTIGATION. DIRECTOR FREEH HAS BEEN OVER THERE SEVERAL TIMES. UNCLAS FINAL SECTION OF 03

THERE IS EXTENSIVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SAUDIS ON THIS INVESTIGATION, AND IT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT SECRETARY COHEN HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN A DETAILED WAY.

Q: HE HASN'T RAISED THAT -- [OFF MIKE]?

A: HE DID TALK TO THEM ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION, AND HE SAID PUBLICLY THAT HE -- HE URGED THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION, FULL COOPERATION WITH THE SAUDIS -- FROM THE SAUDIS WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE REPEATED WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID; THAT WE EXPECT FULL AND COMPLETE COOPERATION FROM THEM. AND HE DID SPEAK ABOUT ONE PARTICULAR INCIDENT, WHICH WAS THE DEPORTATION OF AL-SAYEGH FROM CANADA TO THE UNITED STATES. BUT THE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF THE INVESTIGATION ARE UNDER THE MANTLE OF THE FBI.

YES?

Q: FOLLOWING UP ON MARK'S QUESTION, WITH THE CINCS IN TOWN, WILL DEFENSE SECRETARY COHEN CONDUCT INTERVIEWS REGARDING

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THE CHAIRMANSHIP, USE THE OPPORTUNITY?

A: I CAN'T GO INTO SPECIFICS, BUT CERTAINLY THAT'S ON HIS MIND AND IT'S ON THEIR MIND, AND THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOME OF THEM TO TALK.

Q: HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER ARMEY LAST NIGHT SAID THAT IF THE PRESIDENT IS NOT WILLING TO COMPROMISE ON THE QUESTION OF KELLY AND MCCLELLAN -- THE DEPOTS AT KELLY AND MCCLELLAN AIR FORCE BASES, THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER ROUND OF BASE CLOSINGS. DOES THE PENTAGON SEE ROOM FOR COMPROMISE HERE, OR IS THE PRESIDENT GOING TO INSIST, AND PENTAGON GOING TO INSIST, THAT YOU RETAIN THE RIGHT TO PRIVATIZE THOSE DEPOTS?

A: WELL, FIRST OF ALL, I CAN'T TALK FOR THE PRESIDENT ON THIS ISSUE. WE ARE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME, THE SECRETARY AND THE STAFF ARE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME THIS WEEK ON THAT ISSUE, WHICH IS BRAC, AND HOW TO GET BRAC THROUGH. THE SECRETARY WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT THERE WAS A 9-9 VOTE ON IT IN THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. AS YOU KNOW, THERE ARE STRONG SUPPORTERS FOR BRAC IN THE SENATE, IN PARTICULAR; THERE ARE SOME IN THE HOUSE AS WELL. AND WE ARE PREPARED TO WORK WITH CONGRESS AGGRESSIVELY AND ENERGETICALLY TO TRY TO GET A BRAC PACKAGE

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THROUGH. I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT THE DETAILS OF ANY EVENTUAL COMPROMISE WILL BE. I THINK IT MAY BE TOO EARLY TO TALK ABOUT DETAILS AT THIS TIME. I THINK WE HAVE TO GET A CLEARER IDEA OF WHERE EVERYBODY STANDS, AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO.

BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT BRAC IS TO STRESS THAT IF WE WANT TO GO AHEAD WITH THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM THAT THE PENTAGON, THAT THE CHIEFS, THAT THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE -- AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE QDR -- THINKS IS THE RIGHT MODERNIZATION PROGRAM FOR THE FUTURE, WE HAVE TO GENERATE SAVINGS SOMEWHERE, AND IT REALLY DOES COME DOWN TO A CHOICE BETWEEN PROTECTING FORCES OR PROTECTING OLD FACILITIES -- PROTECTING FACILITIES THAT ARE EXCESS IN MANY RESPECTS. AND I KNOW THIS IS A CONTROVERSIAL

AND EMOTIONAL AREA, BUT IT'S AN AREA IN WHICH WE MUST MAKE PROGRESS IF WE'RE GOING TO GO AHEAD AND CARRY OUT THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WE THINK IS NECESSARY FOR THE NEXT CENTURY.

Q: ON THAT ISSUE, THERE'S BEEN SOME ANALYSES THAT INDICATE THAT IF THE CONGRESS DOESN'T LIFT THE 60-40 RULE, THAT THE PENTAGON WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PRIVATIZE KELLY AND MCCLELLAN -- EVEN IF THE COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROVES THAT TO BE THE BEST DEAL. HAVE YOU ALL HAD A CHANCE TO LOOK AT THAT AND SEE WHETHER --

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A: WELL, WE ARE STILL HOPEFUL THAT WE'LL GET SOME RELIEF FROM THE 60-40 RULE. THE SECRETARY HAS SENT LETTERS TO CONGRESS ON THAT. WE'RE ASKING FOR 50-50, WHICH GIVES US SOME RELIEF. AND WE CAN MAKE COPIES OF THOSE LETTERS AVAILABLE TO YOU, IF YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN THEM ALREADY. BUT I THINK WE MADE SOME AVAILABLE LAST WEEK, AND THERE WERE SOME NEW LETTERS EITHER LATE LAST WEEK OR EARLY THIS WEEK.

Q: YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU COULD PRIVATIZE THOSE UNDER 60-40?

A: IT WOULD BE MORE COMPLICATED, OBVIOUSLY, AND THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS WE HAVE ASKED FOR RELIEF. WE HAVE ASKED FOR 50-50. ALL ASPECTS OF THIS ISSUE ARE CONTROVERSIAL, AS YOU KNOW. BUT WE'RE TRYING TO MAKE THE CASE THAT -- AS THE PRESIDENT MADE IN 1995, THAT THERE SHOULD BE A COMPETITIVE ASPECT IN TRYING TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS. AND 50-50 WOULD GIVE US MORE ROOM TO ALLOW COMPETITION.

Q: HAS SECRETARY COHEN RECEIVED ANY TYPE OF BRIEFING ON THE ROSWELL REPORT? AND IF SO, WHAT WAS HIS REACTION?

A: I AM NOT AWARE THAT HE DID, SO I CAN'T REPORT ON HIS REACTION.

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Q: COULD YOU TAKE THAT QUESTION?

A: SURE.

Q: THANK YOU.

A: JUST A SEC' -- GEORGE?

Q: JUST A SHORT [INAUDIBLE]. YOU SAID THAT WE DON'T NEED 10,000 TROOPS THERE TO HELP IN DRUG PATROL. ASIDE FROM THAT, COULD YOU SPARE THAT MANY TRAINED TROOPS TO DO THAT JOB? THE COMMANDERS TELL ME THEY DON'T HAVE THAT MANY TO SPARE.

A: [PAUSE] THE TROOPS ARE STRETCHED NOW, AS YOU KNOW. THE OPERATIONAL TEMPO AND THE PERSONNEL TEMPO IS VERY HIGH.

TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, WE RESPOND TO THE DIRECTION WE GET FROM CONGRESS AND THE DIRECTION WE GET FROM THE PRESIDENT. WE ALWAYS RESPOND TO THE DIRECTION WE GET FROM THE PRESIDENT, THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF. BUT RIGHT NOW THERE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE A NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL 10,000 TROOPS. WE'RE COMFORTABLE WITH THE FORCE THAT WE HAVE PROVIDED TO THE BORDER PATROL OPERATIONS ALREADY. I DON'T SEE A HUGE DEMAND, ON THE PART OF GENERAL MCCAFFREY, OR ON THE PART OF THE PRESIDENT, TO SUPPLY LARGE NUMBERS OF ADDITIONAL TROOPS. I THINK THAT PEOPLE ARE SATISFIED WITH THE SUPPORT WE'RE PROVIDING ALREADY.

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AND I THINK THAT WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO THE NEXT POINT OF WHETHER WE COULD DO IT, BECAUSE I DON'T THINK WE ARE GOING TO BE ASKED TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 10,000 TROOPS TO THE BORDER PATROL OPERATIONS.

PRESS: THANK YOU.

-END-

TRANSCRIPTS OF THE DOD NEWS BRIEFING ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON DEFENSELINK, THE DOD HOMEPAGE - HTTP://WWW.DTIC.MIL/DEFENSELINK/OASD/PA IS LOOKING AT DISCONTINUING TRANSMITTAL OF THE TWICE WEEKLY PRESS BRIEFING IN MESSAGE FORMAT. WE BELIEVE MOST, IF NOT ALL, AGENICES ON OUR DISTRIBUTION LIST ARE ABLE TO OBTAIN THIS BRIEFING VIA DEFENSELINK. WE SOLICIT YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS PROPOSAL. PLEASE REPLY VIA MESSAGE TO: OASD/PA/DDI (ATTN: LT COL SCHULTZ) OR VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO: TSCHULTZ@PAGATE.PA.OSD.MIL. YOUR OPINION IS IMPORTANT. PLEASE LET US KNOW.

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03

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TO: AIG 8775
INFO: ////
SUBJ: DOD NEWS BRIEFING - CONDUCTED ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1997 AT
TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05
SUBJ: DOD NEWS BRIEFING - CONDUCTED ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1997 AT
1:15 P.M. (EDT) BY MR. KENNETH H. BACON, ASD (PA) AT THE PENTAGON
MR. BACON: GOOD AFTERNOON.
SORRY I'M LATE FOR THE EARLY BRIEFING. I'VE BEEN GETTING
BRIEFED BY CHIEF JESTER ON THE SECURITY INCIDENT HERE THIS
MORNING, AND I'D BE GLAD TO TALK ABOUT THAT LATER. BUT BEFORE I
START, LET ME MAKE A FEW ANNOUNCEMENTS.
ON FRIDAY THE 8TH AT 11:00, ALAN LIOTTA, WHO IS THE DEPUTY
DIRECTOR OF THE PRISONER OF WAR/MISSING PERSONNEL OFFICE, WILL BE
HERE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS ON THE LATEST RETURN OF REMAINS
FROM NORTH KOREA. HE WILL GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF WHAT HAPPENED,
TALK ABOUT THE NEXT STEP IN OUR DEALINGS WITH NORTH KOREA OVER
THIS CRUCIAL ISSUE OF GETTING REMAINS BACK, AND ALSO ANSWER YOUR
QUESTIONS ON THE LATEST EVENTS AS WELL AS WHAT WE EXPECT TO DO IN
THE FUTURE.

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SECOND, I'D LIKE TO WELCOME 14 ARMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS PEOPLE
HERE FROM THE ADVANCED NCO COURSE. THEY ARE STUDENTS AND
INSTRUCTORS FROM FORT MEADE, MARYLAND. WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE YOU
HERE.
I'D ALSO LIKE TO WELCOME THE NAVY. ADMIRAL PEASE IS HERE
WITH SOME OFFICERS WHO WILL GIVE YOU A REPORT ON SOME NEW
RESEARCH. I WILL INTRODUCE THEM AT THE END OF THE BRIEFING AS
THEY TAKE OVER AFTER ME.
WITH THAT, I'LL TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS.
Q: ON THE MATTER THIS MORNING, DO YOU HAVE ANY
IDENTIFICATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED? ALSO, THE
IDENTIFICATION OF THE OFFICER WHO WAS ABLE TO TAKE THE GUN AWAY
FROM HIM?
A: LET ME TELL YOU BRIEFLY WHAT HAPPENED AND THEN I'LL
TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS.
AT ABOUT 8:12 THIS MORNING, AN INDIVIDUAL TRIED TO GET INTO
THE MALL ENTRANCE WITHOUT A PASS. THE OFFICER ASKED HIM TO STEP
TO THE SIDE. VERY BRIEFLY HE PULLED A GUN, THE OFFICER DISARMED

HIM, HE WAS HANDCUFFED AND TAKEN AWAY. HE REMAINS UNDER QUESTIONING NOW.

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THE NAME OF THE INDIVIDUAL WAS RAYMOND STEVE MAESTAS. HE'S 36 YEARS OLD. HE'S 5'11" TALL, 240 POUNDS. HE IS FROM WEST COVINA, CALIFORNIA, WHICH IS NEAR LOS ANGELES. ALL OF THIS INFORMATION COMES FROM HIS DRIVER'S LICENSE.

HE WAS APPREHENDED BY AN OFFICER NAMED CHRISTOPHER FREEMAN WHO IS QUITE A BIT SMALLER THAN MR. MAESTAS. CHRISTOPHER FREEMAN IS ABOUT 5'6", WEIGHS ABOUT 165 POUNDS.

HE WAS ASSISTED IN THIS ARREST BY A SECURITY AIDE NAMED MARVIN FRAZIER.

BASICALLY WHAT HAPPENED WAS THAT FREEMAN AND FRAZIER WERE BEHIND THE DESK THAT YOU PROBABLY ALL GO BY WHEN YOU COME IN THE MALL ENTRANCE. WHEN MAESTAS WAS UNABLE TO SHOW AN IDENTIFICATION BADGE, HE [FREEMAN] ASKED HIM TO STEP TO THE OFFICER'S RIGHT, WHICH IS OVER BY THE X-RAY MACHINE. FREEMAN WENT AROUND TO TALK TO HIM. MAESTAS WAS WEARING A KNAPSACK AT THE TIME. FRAZIER IMMEDIATELY PICKED UP THE PHONE TO CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS. FRAZIER, RIGHT AFTER HE DIALED THE NUMBER, LOOKED UP AND SAW THAT MAESTAS HAD PULLED A GUN ON FREEMAN, BUT FREEMAN DIDN'T SEE IT BECAUSE HE WAS SIDEWAYS TO MAESTAS. SIMULTANEOUSLY, FREEMAN TURNED AROUND, SAW THE GUN WAS PULLED, IMMEDIATELY GRABBED HIS

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HAND WITH THE GUN IN IT, PUSHED IT TO THE SIDE, PUSHED MAESTAS DOWN TO THE GROUND -- WRESTLED HIM TO THE GROUND. AT THAT POINT, FRAZIER, THE AIDE, CAME AROUND AND HELPED HIM, AND THEY HANDCUFFED HIM. THIS WAS ALL DONE IN A MATTER OF PROBABLY LESS THAN A MINUTE. THE REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED ABOUT A MINUTE, MAYBE A MINUTE AND A HALF LATER.

Q: WAS THERE A ROUND IN THE CHAMBER?

A: I UNDERSTAND IT WAS A 9MM BARETTA. IT HAD A CLIP IN IT WITH TEN ROUNDS IN IT, AND THERE WAS A ROUND IN THE CHAMBER. HE ALSO HAD, IN THE KNAPSACK, 12 OTHER MAGAZINES FILLED, SO HE HAD A TOTAL OF 120 ROUNDS IN THE KNAPSACK, 10 ROUNDS IN THE GUN, A TOTAL OF 130 IN ALL.

Q: ANY KIND OF SERVICE HISTORY THAT YOU'VE RUN ON THIS INDIVIDUAL?

A: WE DO NOT HAVE ANY RECORD THAT HE SERVED IN THE MILITARY, AS OF YET. HE APPARENTLY DOES HAVE A CRIMINAL RECORD, BUT THE CALIFORNIA CRIMINAL REPORTING COMPUTER SYSTEM IS DOWN THIS MORNING, [LAUGHTER] AND WE ARE UNABLE TO FIND OUT WHAT HIS CRIMINAL RECORD IS.

Q: THERE ARE REPORTS HE ASKED FOR SOMEONE WHEN HE ENTERED

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THE BUILDING.

A: YES.

Q: CAN YOU FILL US IN ON THAT?

A: WHEN HE ENTERED THE BUILDING HE ASKED TO SPEAK TO "THE

ADMIRAL IN CHARGE." THEN HE ASKED TO SPEAK TO THE "VICE ADMIRAL ABOUT A CAR THEFT." I DON'T THINK HE MEANT THE VICE ADMIRAL IN CHARGE OF CAR THEFT, IT WAS THE VICE ADMIRAL ABOUT A CAR THEFT. IT WAS AT THAT POINT THAT OFFICER CHRISTOPHER FREEMAN ASKED HIM TO STEP TO THE SIDE BECAUSE HE CONCLUDED THAT THIS MIGHT BE A TOUGH CASE. THIS WASN'T THE NORMAL GUY COMING TO WORK.

LET ME JUST SORT OF WALK YOU THROUGH THE EVENTS. ACTUALLY, HE HAD TRIED TO ENTER THE ENTRANCE BY THE SOUTH PARKING LOT ABOUT 15 MINUTES BEFORE HE GOT TO THE MALL ENTRANCE AND HAD BEEN TURNED AWAY BECAUSE HE DIDN'T HAVE A PASS. HE THEN WENT BACK, GOT INTO HIS CAR, DROVE TO THE MALL ENTRANCE. HE TRIED TO GET IN THROUGH THE PARKING SECURITY STATION, BUT WAS TURNED BACK. SO HE WENT AROUND AND PARKED IN THE EXTENDED MALL PARKING LOT. IN OTHER WORDS, HE COULDN'T GET CLOSE TO THE BUILDING. THEN HE WALKED IN, AND, AS I SAID, AT APPROXIMATELY 8:12 CAME THROUGH THE MALL ENTRANCE AND TRIED TO GET IN.

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HE WAS WRESTLED TO THE GROUND AND TAKEN TO A HOLDING AREA FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE ARRESTED IN THE BUILDING. WE ANTICIPATE THAT HE WILL BE ARRAIGNED SOMETIME THIS AFTERNOON AT U.S. MAGISTRATE COURT IN VIRGINIA, ALEXANDRIA. WE DON'T KNOW THE TIME YET, WHEN THAT WILL HAPPEN.

Q: DO YOU KNOW THE CHARGES?

A: I DON'T KNOW YET WHAT HE'LL BE CHARGED WITH, NO.

Q: YOU SAID THAT HE WAS REFUSED AT ONE ENTRANCE,

A: YES.

Q: ...REFUSED AT A PARKING GATE, AND HE WASN'T BEING LOOKED FOR? THERE WAS NO ALERT?

A: FIRST OF ALL, IT'S VERY ROUTINE FOR PEOPLE TO COME HERE WITHOUT PASSES AND TRY TO GET IN. THERE'S NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THAT, AND THAT DOESN'T TRIGGER A REPORT. SECONDLY, IT'S QUITE ROUTINE FOR PEOPLE TO COME IN A CAR WHO DON'T KNOW THE PARKING LOT SYSTEM AND TRY TO GET THROUGH ONE OF THOSE PARKING CONTROL GATES AND BE TOLD THEY CAN'T COME AND PARK CLOSE TO THE BUILDING. THEY'RE FREQUENTLY TOLD BY THE GUARDS THAT THEY CAN FIND IN A DISTANT LOT AN EMPTY PARKING PLACE IF THEY HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE SOMEBODY. SO THIS DIDN'T SEEM UNUSUAL IN EITHER CASE, AND UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 05

THERE WERE NO PHONE CALLS MADE BECAUSE OF THIS.

Q: HE WAS NOT EXHIBITING ABERRANT BEHAVIOR AT THAT TIME, BUT...

A: HE WAS, BUT WE DIDN'T KNOW IT BECAUSE THE ABERRANT BEHAVIOR IS SO MUCH LIKE WHAT HAPPENS MANY, MANY TIMES A DAY. [LAUGHTER] NO, PEOPLE SHOW UP ALL THE TIME WITHOUT PASSES, AND THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW THE ROPES, SO WE DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS ABERRANT BEHAVIOR AT THE TIME UNTIL HE CAME INTO THE BUILDING.

NOW OFFICER FREEMAN DID EXACTLY WHAT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO DO. HE DID EVERYTHING RIGHT. HE HAD BEEN TRAINED IN DISARMING PEOPLE AND HE USED THAT TRAINING AND DISARMED THIS GUY VERY QUICKLY AND SKILLFULLY.

Q: WAS THE MAN'S CAR FOUND?

A: YES. HE WAS DRIVING A RED CHEVY WHICH HE HAD RENTED

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FROM AVIS AT BWI ON FRIDAY. ABOUT AN HOUR AFTER HE ARRIVED, AN ARMY EOD TEAM WAS DISPATCHED TO HIS CAR. THEY WERE ABLE TO LOCATE THE CAR BECAUSE THEY HAD THE LICENSE NUMBER FROM THE AVIS KEY.

THEY FIRST SENT A CANINE TEAM OUT TO SNIFF THE CAR, SO A DOG WENT AND SNIFFED THE CAR FOR EXPLOSIVES. THE DOG FOUND NO SIGN OF EXPLOSIVES. THEN THE ARMY DISPATCHED A ROBOT CALLED ARGUS, WHICH IS A SMALL TRACK VEHICLE WITH AN ARM AND A TV CAMERA ON IT. THEY PUT THE KEY INTO ARGUS' HAND AND THEY MANIPULATED IT WITH THE CONTROLS TO GO UP AND OPEN THE CAR DOOR. THEY WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE CAR DOOR WASN'T RIGGED TO EXPLODE WHEN IT WAS OPENED. SO ARGUS WENT UP AND PUT THE KEY IN AND TURNED THE KEY. UNFORTUNATELY FOR A REASON INVOLVING BRIGHT SUNLIGHT IN THE CAMERA, THEY WEREN'T ABLE TO MANIPULATE ARGUS ACTUALLY TO OPEN THE DOOR, SO AN ARMY EOD MAN, DRESSED UP IN ONE OF THOSE BOMB PROTECTIVE SUITS, WENT OUT AND ACTUALLY OPENED THE CAR DOOR.

IN THE CAR THEY FOUND AN EMPTY COKE CAN AND A RECEIPT FROM A CVS PHARMACY FOR A PACK OF CIGARETTES. THEY FOUND NO EXPLOSIVES. THEY ALSO FOUND NO INDICATION OF WHAT HE WAS DOING OR WHY.

Q: BEYOND THE CAR THEFT, HAS HE SAID ANYTHING THAT SHED

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ANY LIGHT ON HIS MOTIVATION?

A: I'M NOT AWARE THAT HE HAS AT THIS STAGE. HE'S STILL BEING INTERVIEWED.

Q: THIS COULD POTENTIALLY HAVE BEEN A VERY SERIOUS INCIDENT.

A: WELL...

Q: IF HE HAD 130 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION.

A: I THINK WHAT YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON IS THAT THE SYSTEM HERE WORKED. HE WAS NOT ALLOWED INTO THE BUILDING, HE WAS APPREHENDED BEFORE HE EVEN GOT BY THE DESK. AN OFFICER WHO WAS COURAGEOUS, WELL TRAINED, AND VERY DECISIVE AND QUICK DID EXACTLY WHAT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO DO -- MOVED THE GUN AWAY, DISARMED HIM, WRESTLED HIM TO THE GROUND, HANDCUFFED HIM. AT THE SAME TIME HIS ASSISTANT HAD ALREADY CALLED FOR REINFORCEMENTS AND THE REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED VERY, VERY QUICKLY.

Q: WILL THIS RESULT IN ANY REVIEW, PERHAPS EVEN A ROUTINE REVIEW, OF THE SECURITY PROCEDURES? AND ARE YOU CONFIDENT GENERALLY THAT SECURITY AT THE PENTAGON IS ADEQUATE?

A: I THINK THIS SHOWS THAT THE FORCE OF 220 AGENTS, DEFENSE PROTECTIVE AGENTS, IS EXTREMELY WELL TRAINED AND WELL

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SUITED FOR ITS JOB.

OBVIOUSLY ANY INCIDENT LIKE THIS CAUSES CHIEF JOHN JESTER AND HIS STAFF TO SIT DOWN AND REVIEW ONE, WHAT HAPPENED; TWO, DID IT HAPPEN ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES; THREE, DID EVERYTHING GO RIGHT; AND FOUR, WAS THERE ANYTHING WE SHOULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY; AND FIVE, SHOULD WE REEXAMINE PROCEDURES? THAT'S SORT OF SOP IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS. IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THE PROCEDURES ARE WRONG, IT DOESN'T MEAN THERE WILL BE A CHANGE. IT

JUST MEANS THAT THIS IS ALWAYS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK FOR WAYS TO FINE TUNE THE OPERATION.

Q: AT ANY TIME DID THE SECURITY GUARDS DRAW THEIR GUNS?

A: NO. THE ONLY PERSON WHO WAS ARMED WAS OFFICER FREEMAN. THE AIDE, FRAZIER, WAS NOT ARMED. FRANKLY, FREEMAN DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO DRAW HIS GUN.

Q: IS THERE NO PANIC BUTTON UP THERE? DO THEY HAVE TO ACTUALLY, PHYSICALLY, PHONE FOR HELP?

A: IN THIS CASE THEY PHONED. I DON'T BELIEVE THERE'S A PANIC BUTTON. I'LL FIND THAT OUT. I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION. I'LL FIND THAT OUT.

Q: YOU MENTIONED HE RENTED HIS CAR ON FRIDAY AT BWI

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AIRPORT.

A: RIGHT.

Q: DO WE KNOW IF HE FLEW INTO BWI THAT DAY, OR HE WAS...

A: THAT'S WHAT WE'RE STILL TRYING TO CHECK. HE IS FROM CALIFORNIA, BUT WE DON'T KNOW HOW LONG HE'D BEEN IN THE AREA. THE OBVIOUS QUESTION IS: DID HE FLY IN HERE WITH THE WEAPON AND THE 130 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION, OR DID HE ACQUIRE THEM HERE? IF HE ACQUIRED THEM HERE, HOW DID HE DO IT IF HE HAS A CRIMINAL RECORD? THOSE ARE STILL QUESTIONS WE'RE LOOKING INTO. AS I SAY, THE FELLOW IS STILL BEING QUESTIONED.

Q: WHAT OTHER INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES ARE INVOLVED?

A: MANY. THE FBI, FOR ONE, IS INVOLVED.

Q: YOU SAY OFFICER, IS THAT HIS RANK? OFFICER FREEMAN? AND THE SPELLING OF MR. FRAZIER'S NAME? AND IS THAT HIS RANK AS WELL?

A: HE'S CALLED A SECURITY AIDE. I BELIEVE THAT FRAZIER IS SPELLED THE NORMAL WAY, F-R-A-S-E-R [CORRECTED TO F-R-A-Z-I-E-R], BUT I'LL DOUBLE CHECK ON THAT. MARVIN IS HIS FIRST NAME. AND THERE ARE TEN OF THOSE. THERE ARE ABOUT TEN AIDES AND 220 OFFICERS WHO ALL HAVE ABOUT EIGHT AND A HALF WEEKS OF TRAINING

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BEFORE THEY BECOME OFFICERS, AND THAT'S FOLLOWED BY ABOUT 12 WEEKS OF ON-THE-JOB TRAINING ONCE THEY GET HERE.

Q: AM I ACCURATE IN MY PERCEPTION THAT THERE WAS ONE ARMED OFFICER STANDING BETWEEN THIS FELLOW AND NAVAL HEADQUARTERS, ALL THE STAFF UPSTAIRS, AND THE REST OF THE BUILDING, AND AT ONE POINT THIS GUY HAD THE DROP ON THAT GUARD THAT WAS ARMED, MR. FREEMAN?

A: NO. YOU'RE NOT ENTIRELY RIGHT. THERE WAS ONE OFFICER AND ONE AIDE AND THE SECURITY DESK. YOU KNOW THE MACHINE FOR CHECKING PACKAGES IS THERE. BUT YES, THERE WERE TWO PEOPLE THERE AND THOSE TWO PEOPLE WERE ADEQUATE TO APPREHEND THIS FELLOW AND DISARM HIM.

Q: BUT THERE WAS NOTHING BETWEEN THAT SECURITY DESK AND NAVAL HEADQUARTERS, RIGHT?

Q: DID THE SECURITY DOORS NOT CLOSE?

A: HE WAS ALREADY INSIDE. I DON'T BELIEVE THE DOORS CLOSED.

THERE IS A PANIC BUTTON AT THE DESK, IN RESPONSE TO AN

EARLIER QUESTION, BUT THE AIDE WAS ALREADY ON THE PHONE. SO IT WAS QUICKER FOR HIM, SINCE HE WAS ALREADY ON THE PHONE, TO SAY, UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 05
BY THE WAY WE'VE GOT A STRANGE FELLOW HERE THAT WE'RE INVESTIGATING. THEN HE LOOKED UP AND SAW THAT THE GUN HAD BEEN PULLED.

Q: WHAT IMPACT WILL THIS HAVE ON THE CURRENT INVESTIGATION THAT'S BEING DONE, THE REVIEW THAT'S BEING DONE AT THE REQUEST OF CONGRESSMAN TRAFICANT ABOUT SECURITY PROCEDURES HERE AT THE PENTAGON?

A: I'M SURE IT WILL BE ONE OF THE INCIDENTS THAT WILL BE LOOKED AT. HE'LL HAVE TO DRAW HIS OWN CONCLUSION ABOUT IT, BUT THE CONCLUSION THAT CHIEF JESTER HAS DRAWN IS THAT HERE THE SYSTEM WORKED.

Q: WAS THIS THE FIRST TIME, IT'S THE FIRST TIME I REMEMBER AN ARMED PERSON BEING APPREHENDED AT THE GATE.

A: I DON'T HAVE THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION. WE'LL GET IT.

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Q: JUST TO CLARIFY AN EARLIER ANSWER, YOU SAID YOU HAD NO RECORD THAT HE WAS EVER A MEMBER OF ANY OF THE ARMED SERVICES. ARE YOU STILL SEARCHING, OR IS THAT COMPLETE NOW, YOU'RE SATISFIED...

A: WE'RE STILL LOOKING, BUT THE EARLY RETURNS DID NOT INDICATE... OBVIOUSLY WHEN A FELLOW COMES AND ASKS FOR A PERSON OF A SPECIFIC RANK IN A SPECIFIC SERVICE, YOU MIGHT THINK HE HAD SOME SORT OF CONNECTION WITH THAT SERVICE. IN THIS CASE HE MIGHT HAVE WORKED IN A SHIPYARD. THERE COULD BE ANY NUMBER OF THINGS. BUT SO FAR, WE HAVEN'T FOUND ANY INDICATION THAT THAT'S THE CASE.

Q: IS THERE AN EFFORT UNDERWAY TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT HIS COMMENTS ABOUT AN ADMIRAL OR A VICE ADMIRAL WAS, IN FACT, TRUE? THAT HE DOES KNOW SOMEBODY?

A: WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE THAT.

Q: HIS PROFESSION?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS PROFESSION IS.

Q: HE DID NOT THEN ASK FOR SOMEONE SPECIFICALLY BY NAME?

A: NO.

Q: WERE HIS ACTIONS CAPTURED ON THE PENTAGON VIDEO MONITOR?

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A: THEY WERE NOT. THE MONITORING SYSTEM IS NOT ON ALL THE TIME, OR AT LEAST IT WASN'T ON THIS MORNING AT THE MALL ENTRANCE. IT CAN BE TURNED ON, BUT THIS INCIDENT WAS OVER BEFORE THEY THOUGHT OF TURNING THE MONITOR ON.

Q: WHAT WOULD THE PENTAGON SAY ABOUT FREEMAN OTHER THAN HE WAS JUST DOING HIS JOB? WOULD THE PENTAGON SAY ANYTHING FURTHER? HOW WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE IT?

A: HE DID HIS JOB VERY WELL. I SAID THAT HE WAS COURAGEOUS, WELL TRAINED, DECISIVE, QUICK MOVING, AND HE DID EXACTLY WHAT HE WAS TRAINED TO DO. HE DID IT EXTREMELY WELL.

Q: WOULD YOU SAY HE AVERTED TRAGEDY?

A: HE CERTAINLY PREVENTED THIS FELLOW FROM GETTING INTO

THE BUILDING WITH MANY ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION. YES, I'D SAY HE WAS [DOING] WHAT WE TRAIN POLICE OFFICERS, THE PROTECTIVE FORCE AT THE PENTAGON, TO DO. HE WAS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF TRAINING AND COURAGE COMING TO THE FORE ALL AT ONCE.

I POINTED OUT TO YOU THAT THIS FELLOW, MAESTAS, WEIGHS 240 POUNDS, AND THAT OFFICER FREEMAN IS CONSIDERABLY SMALLER, WEIGHS ABOUT 165 POUNDS. HE WORKS OUT. HE'S PART OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM THAT THE PENTAGON HAS, SORT OF A SEPARATE, MORE

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ELITE SWAT TEAM. THESE ARE THE GUYS YOU SEE DRESS UP IN SORT OF JEDI-TYPE UNIFORMS IN BLACK AT TIMES OF CRISIS AROUND THE BUILDING WHEN WE'RE EXPECTING UNUSUAL EVENTS, CHALLENGES. HE'S ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE. SO HE HAS ADDITIONAL TRAINING BEYOND WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AN OFFICER.

Q: HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN ON THE FORCE?

A: I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW THAT.

Q: YOU NOTED THAT EVERYTHING WENT RIGHT THE WAY IT WAS SUPPOSED TO WORK TODAY. BUT IT SEEMS ALSO, WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE SITUATION, THAT THERE WAS CERTAINLY POTENTIAL THAT IF EVERYTHING HADN'T GONE EXACTLY RIGHT THAT WE COULD HAVE HAD A HUGE TRAGEDY HERE TODAY. ISN'T IT SOMEWHAT COMPLACENT TO JUST SAY EVERYTHING WORKED, EVERYTHING'S FINE? DOESN'T THIS POINT OUT THAT THERE MAY BE MORE OF A THREAT THAN WAS ANTICIPATED?

A: FIRST OF ALL, JAMIE, I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN SAY ANYTHING DIFFERENT THAN EVERYTHING WORKED BECAUSE, IN FACT, IT DID. THIS IS WHY WE HAVE POLICE OFFICERS. THIS IS WHY WE HAVE SECURITY, TO PREVENT DISASTERS. IN THIS CASE, IT WORKED.

I TOLD YOU THAT EVERY SECURITY INCIDENT GIVES US A REASON TO REVIEW OUR PROCEDURES AND TO REVIEW EVERYTHING FROM TRAINING, TO

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THE RECRUITING OF PERSONNEL, TO THE PROCEDURES, TO THE PHYSICAL BARRIERS AT ENTRANCEWAYS, AND WE WILL DO THAT. THAT'S NOT TO SAY THAT ANYTHING WAS WRONG OR THAT WE'LL CHANGE ANYTHING, BUT IT'S AN INVITATION FOR A REVIEW, AND WE WILL TAKE THAT INVITATION.

BUT I THINK, LOOKING AT THE FACTS HERE, YOU HAVE TO CONCLUDE THAT THIS WENT EXTREMELY WELL AND WE SHOULD THANK OFFICER FREEMAN AND WE SHOULD THANK MARVIN FRAZIER, HIS AIDE, FOR THE GOOD JOB THEY DID IN APPREHENDING THIS FELLOW.

Q: BUT IS THERE CONCERN THAT THERE WERE ONLY TWO OFFICERS BETWEEN THIS GUNMAN AND NAVAL HEADQUARTERS?

A: FIRST OF ALL, NAVAL HEADQUARTERS ISN'T EXACTLY ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE PENTAGON. ONE OF THE THINGS WE POINTED OUT HERE WAS THAT THE FIRST THING THE SECURITY AIDE, FRAZIER, DID, WAS TO CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS AND THE REINFORCEMENTS WERE THERE VERY, VERY QUICKLY. THERE ARE PLENTY OF OFFICERS IN THE AREA, PARTICULARLY DURING THE HEAVY TRAFFIC TIMES OF THE DAY. THERE ARE PEOPLE MOVING AROUND, THERE ARE PEOPLE OUTSIDE, THERE ARE PEOPLE INSIDE THE BUILDING, SO THE REINFORCEMENTS WERE THERE VERY QUICKLY. I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD NECESSARILY ASSUME THAT HAD THIS FELLOW GOTTEN THROUGH, HE WOULD HAVE HAD A CLEAR SHOT AT

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NAVAL HEADQUARTERS WHICH IS ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THE PENTAGON. FIRST OF ALL, HE MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN WHERE THEY WERE -- WE DON'T KNOW THAT. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HE KNEW AND WHAT HE DIDN'T KNOW. THE INDICATIONS WERE THAT THIS PROBABLY ISN'T THE TYPE OF GUY YOU'D ASK TO DO COMPLEX PROBLEMS FOR YOU IF YOU NEEDED A RATIONAL SOLUTION. HE DID NOT SEEM TO BE APPROACHING HIS DAY IN A RATIONAL WAY. SO WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED WHEN HE GOT INTO THE BUILDING, AND, OF COURSE, THAT'S ONE THING TO WORRY ABOUT.

BUT THE THING TO FOCUS ON HERE IS THAT THE POLICE AGENTS, THE PROTECTIVE SERVICE PEOPLE, DID EXACTLY WHAT THEY'VE BEEN TRAINED TO DO AND THE SYSTEM WORKED.

Q: WHEN HE CAME TO THE SOUTH PARKING LOT EARLIER AND TRIED TO GET IN, DID HE ASK FOR ANYBODY THERE?

A: I DON'T BELIEVE HE DID. HE JUST TRIED TO GET IN. HE MAY HAVE THOUGHT THAT IF HE FLASHED THE WORD "ADMIRAL" AROUND THAT PEOPLE WOULD JUST LET HIM IN. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WAS ON HIS MIND, AND THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS WE'RE TRYING TO FIND OUT, EXACTLY WHY HE DID THIS. WE DON'T KNOW WHY HE DID THIS. BUT IT APPEARS TO BE A VERY INDIVIDUAL ACT BY A PERSON WHO CLEARLY HAD UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 05 SOMETHING ON HIS MIND, BUT WE HAVEN'T QUITE FIGURED OUT WHAT, YET.

Q: WAS THE GUN CONCEALED UNDER A COAT OR IN A HOLSTER SOMEHOW?

A: IT WAS APPARENTLY IN THE KNAPSACK, AND HE WAS ABLE TO REACH IN QUICKLY AND GET IT. THAT'S MY UNDERSTANDING.

Q: CAN YOU CLARIFY, IS HE STILL IN THE PENTAGON?

A: YES. THERE'S A SPECIAL HOLDING AREA FOR PEOPLE LIKE HIM.

Q: YOU SAID...

A: BUT HE'S HANDCUFFED, SO DON'T WORRY. [LAUGHTER] AND WE'VE TAKEN HIS GUN AWAY.

Q: I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT THE REINFORCEMENTS THAT YOU SAID ARRIVED VERY QUICKLY. CAN YOU DESCRIBE HOW LARGE OF A GROUP OF REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED?

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A: WE'LL FIND OUT, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OFFICERS ARRIVED.

Q: WE WERE TOLD EARLIER HE WOULD BE TAKEN TO A FEDERAL MAGISTRATE IN ALEXANDRIA FOR ARRAIGNMENT. DO YOU KNOW WHEN THAT MIGHT OCCUR?

A: THAT'S SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN THIS AFTERNOON, BUT I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT TIME. AT THE MOMENT I CAME IN HERE HE WAS STILL BEING INTERVIEWED BY THE DEFENSE PROTECTIVE SERVICE AND THE FBI.

Q: HE'S NOT BEEN CHARGED YET.

A: HE HAS NOT BEEN CHARGED. THAT'S WHY HE HAS TO GO TO THE U.S. MAGISTRATE'S COURT, TO BE CHARGED.

Q: PRIOR TO HIS DRAWING THE GUN WAS THERE SOMETHING IN HIS MANNER OR HIS DRESS OR HIS ATTITUDE OR THE VOLUME OF HIS VOICE THAT PROMPTED THE SUSPICION OF THE OFFICERS?

A: WELL ONE, THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE A PASS; AND TWO, THAT HE WANTED TO TALK TO THE ADMIRAL IN CHARGE AND THEN TO THE VICE

ADMIRAL ABOUT CAR THEFT. THOSE TWO QUESTIONS WERE A TIP-OFF THAT THIS WASN'T A NORMAL PENTAGON VISITOR.

Q: WAS THERE ANYTHING BIZARRE ABOUT HIS BEHAVIOR OR THE MANNER IN WHICH HE WAS DRESSED OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

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A: WELL, HE'S AN IMPOSING LOOKING FELLOW BECAUSE OF HIS SIZE -- 240 POUNDS. BUT I DON'T BELIEVE HE WAS DRESSED IN A BIZARRE WAY THAT TIPPED PEOPLE OFF.

Q: WHEN THERE'S A VERY SERIOUS INTRUSION LIKE THAT...

A: THERE WAS NOT AN INTRUSION. THE INTRUSION DID NOT TAKE PLACE.

Q: ATTEMPTED INTRUSION.

A: RIGHT.

Q: WHEN SECURITY IS TIPPED ABOUT THIS, DOES DEFENSE SECURITY GO TO THE VITAL OFFICES AROUND THE PENTAGON AND ALSO TO PROTECT TOP LEADERS IN DOD?

A: BILL, I WANT TO BE VERY CLEAR ABOUT THIS. THIS FELLOW DID NOT GET INTO THE BUILDING. THERE WAS NO REASON TO TIP PEOPLE OFF BECAUSE HE WAS APPREHENDED BEFORE HE GOT BEYOND THE DESK, AND HE WAS APPREHENDED VERY, VERY QUICKLY.

I THINK WHAT YOU CAN TELL FROM THE WAY THIS HAPPENED IS THAT THE SYSTEM IS VERY RESPONSIVE. REINFORCEMENTS WERE ON THE WAY, AND THEY ARRIVED SHORTLY THEREAFTER AND HELPED TAKE THE GUY AWAY. WITHIN AN HOUR WE HAD AN EOD TEAM ON SITE WITH A ROBOT CHECKING OUT THE CAR BECAUSE WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THERE WERE NO

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EXPLOSIVES IN THE CAR, SO THE SYSTEM RESPONDED QUICKLY.

Q: IS THERE SUCH A CONTINGENCY?

A: WE HAVE MANY CONTINGENCIES.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY EFFECT ON THE MILITARY'S MOVEMENT OF SUPPLIES OR ANYTHING BECAUSE OF THE UPS STRIKE THAT YOU KNOW OF?

A: NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF.

Q: A KOREAN AIRLINER IS DOWN NEAR GUAM. CAN YOU UPDATE US ON ANY MILITARY SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORTS?

A: I CANNOT BECAUSE I JUST SAW THE REPORT AS I WALKED IN HERE. WE'RE CHECKING ON THAT. DO WE HAVE ANY FACTS ON THAT YET? I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT WAS A KOREAN AIRLINER. I JUST HEARD THERE WAS A 747 REPORTED MISSING OFF GUAM. BUT WE WILL FOLLOW THAT AND LET YOU KNOW IF WE'VE BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE ANY SEARCH AND RESCUE.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY DETAILS ON THE CASUALTY IN BOSNIA THE OTHER DAY?

A: IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN... THE SOLDIER DIED OF A GUNSHOT WOUND THAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN EITHER ACCIDENTAL OR SELF-INFLICTED, BUT IT'S STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION. WE DON'T HAVE A CONCLUSIVE REPORT YET ON HOW IT HAPPENED.

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Q: DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE SOLDIER'S JOB WAS OR ANYTHING ABOUT HIM?

A: HE WAS STAFF SERGEANT EZZARD C. FULLER, E-Z-Z-A-R-D, 42 YEARS OLD, FROM SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA. HE HAS A FAMILY -- SURVIVED BY A WIFE AND THREE DAUGHTERS, A SON, STEP-DAUGHTER, AND TWO STEP-SONS. HE AS ASSIGNED TO THE 603RD TRANSPORTATION COMPANY AT FORT POLK, LOUISIANA. HIS SPECIALTY WAS TRUCK DRIVER. AS I SAID EARLIER, THE INCIDENT REMAINS UNDER INVESTIGATION.

Q: CAN YOU UPDATE US ON THE REVIEW OF THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL" POLICY? WHO'S IN CHARGE OF IT AND HOW LONG IS IT GOING TO TAKE? THIS EVIDENTLY CAME UP MONTHS AGO, BUT...

A: IT DID. IT CAME UP SHORTLY AFTER THE SERVICEMEMBERS LEGAL DEFENSE NETWORK REPORT CAME OUT. IT'S BEING DONE BY FRED PANG, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FORCE MANAGEMENT POLICY, HE'S SUPERVISING IT. I CAN'T TELL YOU WHEN IT'S GOING TO BE COMPLETED, BUT IT BASICALLY HAS TWO MAJOR ELEMENTS TO IT. THE FIRST IS TO LOOK AT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE DISCHARGED EVERY YEAR BECAUSE THEY'VE EITHER ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WERE HOMOSEXUALS OR BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN DISCOVERED TO BE HOMOSEXUALS. IN OTHER

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WORDS, DISCHARGED FOR HOMOSEXUALITY. THAT NUMBER HAS RISEN OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, AND WE WANT TO UNDERSTAND WHY IT'S RISEN. THAT'S THE FIRST PART OF THE STUDY.

THE SECOND PART OF THE STUDY IS TO LOOK INTO SOME OF THE SPECIFIC CHARGES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE SLDN AND OTHER GROUPS ABOUT INAPPROPRIATE INVESTIGATIONS. WE WANT TO FIND OUT IF THOSE ALLEGATIONS ARE CORRECT OR NOT. THE GOAL OF THE STUDY IS TO FIND OUT IF THE "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL, DON'T PURSUE" LAW IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY -- BOTH ENLISTED AND OFFICERS, PARTICULARLY BY COMMANDERS -- AND WHETHER IT'S BEING CONSISTENTLY AND FAIRLY ENFORCED THROUGHOUT THE MILITARY.

SECRETARY COHEN FELT THAT THE LAW WHICH HAS BEEN IN EFFECT FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS COULD BE APPROPRIATELY REVIEWED, AND WE OUGHT TO FIND OUT, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IT, COULD BE APPROPRIATELY REVIEWED NOW. WE HAVE SOME EVIDENCE, WE HAVE SOME FACTS. WE OUGHT TO TAKE A LOOK AT THEM AND SEE WHERE WE STAND.

THIS IS A LAW. WE CANNOT CHANGE THE LAW. WE DON'T INTEND TO CHANGE THE LAW. WE DON'T WANT TO CHANGE THE LAW. IT'S JUST LOOKING AT HOW WELL THE LAW'S UNDERSTOOD AND HOW WELL IT'S BEING IMPLEMENTED.

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Q: BY ANY PROCESS AT ALL, BY THE END OF THE YEAR PERHAPS..

A: OH, IT WILL BE DONE BY THE END OF THE YEAR. I JUST DON'T HAVE A PRECISE DATE FOR WHEN IT WILL BE DONE.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE REQUEST FROM SPEAKER GINGRICH THAT A NEW INVESTIGATION BE SET UP ON SEXUAL MATTERS IN THE MILITARY? IS THERE ANYONE JUMPING TO THAT HERE IN THE PENTAGON?

A: WE ARE DOING IT. WE ARE, ONE, LOOKING AT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL, DON'T PURSUE" LAW, AND WE ALREADY HAVE THREE SEPARATE INVESTIGATIONS UNDERWAY LOOKING AT ISSUES THAT CAME OUT OF ABERDEEN AND THE KELLY FLINN CASE. THESE ARE THREE DOD INVESTIGATIONS. AS YOU KNOW, THE ARMY HAS DONE ITS OWN INVESTIGATION OF INTEGRATED TRAINING AND HOW THAT'S WORKING IN THE ARMY AND WHAT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WERE THAT WERE ILLUSTRATED BY ABERDEEN.

SO WE HAVE MANY INVESTIGATIONS UNDERWAY, THE MOST PROMINENT

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OF WHICH IS THE PANEL BEING HEADED BY FORMER SENATOR KASSENBAUM BAKER THAT LOOKS AT INTEGRATED TRAINING, HOW IT'S WORKING, AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES. THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO REPORT IN THE FALL. WE ALSO HAVE THE TASK FORCE THAT'S LOOKING AT THE "GOOD ORDER AND DISCIPLINE" PHRASE, HOW THAT'S UNDERSTOOD, HOW IT'S IMPLEMENTED, WHETHER THERE'S CLEAR AND CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF THAT. AND WE HAVE ANOTHER GROUP LOOKING AT THE RULES THAT DEAL SPECIFICALLY WITH ADULTERY. THAT'S ALSO TO LOOK AT THE CLARITY OF THE LANGUAGE, THE DEGREE OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE RULE AND HOW WELL IT'S BEING ENFORCED.

Q: IS THERE ANY WORD YET ON WHEN MILITARY SUPPORT TO CIVILIAN AGENCIES ON THE BORDER MIGHT RESUME, AND IF THERE WILL BE ANY CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THAT?

A: NO. I'M AFRAID WE HAVEN'T FINISHED THAT REVIEW YET.

Q: ON THE UFO STUDY THAT THE CIA DID OVER THE WEEKEND, OR IT WAS RELEASED OR REPORTED ON OVER THE WEEKEND -- AS PENTAGON SPOKESMAN ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT A REPORT THAT SAYS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILLFULLY MISLED INDIVIDUALS TO CONCEAL PROGRAMS?

A: I'VE READ THE CIA STUDY, AND I HAVE READ WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT THE AIR FORCE. IT'S THEIR CHARACTERIZATION OF WHAT THE AIR

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FORCE SAID. I HAVE NOT GONE BACK AND CHECKED WHAT THE AIR FORCE SAID AT THE TIME, SO I'D PREFER NOT TO COMMENT ON WHAT THE STUDY SAID. IT IS NOT THE POLICY OF SECRETARY COHEN OR ANY OF THE PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR HIM TO MISLEAD THE PUBLIC.

Q: WERE YOU AT ALL AWARE OF ANY MISLEADING OF THE PUBLIC THAT WAS DONE BY THE AIR FORCE PRIOR?

A: I WAS NOT AWARE OF THAT. I WILL SAY THAT ONE INTERESTING ASPECT OF THE REPORT WAS THAT FOR YEARS, UFO PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CHARGING THAT WE'VE COVERED UP THE FACT THAT THERE REALLY ARE UFOS, AND THE CIA STUDY CONFIRMS, AS HAS EVERY OTHER STUDY DONE BY THE GOVERNMENT, THAT WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF UFOS. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL VISITORS TO THIS PLANET. THE STUDY GOES ON TO SAY THAT ONE EXPLANATION FOR MANY OF THESE SIGHTINGS MIGHT HAVE BEEN AIRPLANES THAT WERE BEING TESTED AT THE TIME.

Q: DO YOU THINK THAT APPLIES TO ANY PROGRAMS THAT MIGHT BE TESTED NOW, OR CAN YOU SAY CATEGORICALLY THAT THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT ENGAGE IN THAT KIND OF PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITY IN TERMS OF PROGRAMS THAT ARE PERHAPS FLYING TODAY?

A: FIRST OF ALL, WE CERTAINLY HAVE CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS AND

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WE CERTAINLY HAVE LEGITIMATE REASONS FOR NOT DISCLOSING SOME OF THE WORK WE'RE DOING, WHETHER IT'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OR WHETHER IT'S OPERATIONS. I AM NOT AWARE THAT WE ARE PUTTING OUT STORIES THAT MISSTATE THE TRUTH ABOUT THOSE PROGRAMS. THE DISTINCTION WOULD BE WE JUST DON'T TALK ABOUT THE PROGRAMS AT ALL, SO I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T TALK ABOUT ANY OF THOSE PROGRAMS

TODAY.

Q: HAVE YOU SEEN REPORTS ABOUT LEAKED DECLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ON THE AIR FORCE AND POWS SHOWING THAT THE AIR FORCE KNEW MORE ABOUT LIVE POWS THAN WAS FIRST ADMITTED? HAVE YOU SEEN THAT REPORT YET?

A: I HAVE NOT SEEN THAT REPORT. THERE HAVE BEEN SIMILAR REPORTS IN THE PAST ABOUT OTHER SERVICES, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY SPECIFIC ONE ABOUT THE AIR FORCE SO I CAN'T COMMENT ON IT AT ALL.

Q: WHAT'S THE STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO EZEQUIEL HERNANDEZ'S DEATH? AND DO YOU...

A: I'M SORRY?

Q: WHAT'S THE STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF THE REDFORD TEENAGER? AND DO YOU EXPECT THAT INVESTIGATION TO COME TO AN END ANY TIME SOON?

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A: YES, I EXPECT IT TO COME TO AN END. I CAN'T GIVE YOU THE EXACT TIMING OF WHEN IT WILL COME TO AN END. THE INITIAL CONCLUSION OF THE MARINE CORPS WHEN THEY LOOKED INTO THIS WAS THAT THE MARINES ACTED APPROPRIATELY. THEY FELT THEY WERE UNDER THREAT, THEY'D BEEN FIRED UPON, AND THEY RESPONDED LEGITIMATELY TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AS THEY'RE ALLOWED TO DO UNDER THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT. BUT WE ARE CONTINUING TO LOOK AT THAT INCIDENT. WHEN WE FINISH, WE WILL REPORT ON THE FINDINGS.

Q: A SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SAID YESTERDAY THAT VERY SOON ARRESTS OF MLADIC AND KARADZIC WOULD COME. DOES THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SEE IT THAT WAY, THAT THAT IS IMMINENT?

A: I DIDN'T SEE ANY REPORT THAT THAT SENIOR OFFICIAL SAID THAT. I HAVE TO CONFESS, I HAVEN'T FINISHED THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE BRIEFING, BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT IF HE SAID THAT YESTERDAY, IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN REPORTED. I DON'T THINK I SHOULD COMMENT ON THAT UNTIL I READ THE ACTUAL REMARKS MYSELF. DID YOU SEE ANY REPORTS THAT THAT'S WHAT HE ACTUALLY SAID?

Q: I ASKED THE QUESTION. THAT "ARRESTS WOULD COME SOON" OF THESE WAR CRIMINALS, AND I TAKE IT THAT THAT ARREST WOULD COME BY WHAT MEANS? ANYTHING TO DO WITH NATO OR SFOR?

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A: ALL I CAN TELL YOU, BILL, IS WHAT WE HAVE SAID MANY TIMES BEFORE, THAT WE'RE DETERMINED TO HELP THE INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL BRING INDICTED WAR CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE.

PRESS: THANK YOU.

- END -

TRANSCRIPTS OF THE DOD NEWS BRIEFING ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON DEFENSELINK, THE DOD HOMEPAGE - HTTP://WWW.DTIC.MIL/DEFENSELINK/OASD/PA IS LOOKING AT DISCONTINUING TRANSMITTAL OF THE TWICE WEEKLY PRESS BRIEFING IN MESSAGE FORMAT. WE BELIEVE MOST, IF NOT ALL, AGENCIES ON OUR DISTRIBUTION LIST ARE ABLE TO OBTAIN THIS BRIEFING VIA DEFENSELINK. WE SOLICIT YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS PROPOSAL. PLEASE REPLY VIA MESSAGE TO: OASD/PA/DDI (ATTN: LCDR CAMPBELL) OR VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO: SCAMPBEL@PAGATE.PA.OSD.MIL. YOUR OPINION IS IMPORTANT. PLEASE LET US KNOW.

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. cable	"Straight Talk" on UFO's, Another US Manipulation? [50 U.S.C. 403g, Section 6] [partial] (2 pages)	09/11/97	P3/b(3)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([Flying Saucer or UFO])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/08/1997 - 09/11/1997]

2006-0474-F
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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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SOURCE: Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1730 GMT
3 Sep 97

TEXT:

[FBIS Summary] Antonio Molto is the host and Ecuadorian journalist Christian Almeida Leon, coordinator of the UFO Research Program in Ecuador, is the main guest on today's "Straight Talk" program. (Alexis Slachter), science specialist for the Cuban media employed by Granma newspaper, and Osvaldo Rodríguez, a former "Straight Talk" host, are also guests in the discussion called: "UFO's, another US manipulation?"

Rodriguez says he has learned there is evidence of the presence of UFO's in the world, but the explosion of a UFO in New Mexico in 1947 and the results of an autopsy performed on one of the humanoid bodies found at the site has been kept a secret by the Americans.

Almeida adds: "There is a double standard by the US Government. On the one hand they discredit and ridicule the topic, but, on the other, they have commissions working on a government budget to conduct the investigations. It is an opportunity for them to have access to new technology, a contribution to their economy, of

course."

(Slachter) adds that it may be possible that extraterrestrials did in fact land and that the Americans kept all the secrets for themselves, but he says there could be a second part to the story: "The extraterrestrials came here, but the Americans took advantage of this to stage a great disinformation campaign on a global level. Based on that reality, they could have implemented a giant disinformation campaign to conduct experiments in the world, always saying: these are not our systems, they come from outer space, they are extraterrestrials. That could be a possibility."

Osvaldo Rodriguez adds: "I want to point out that, last year, there was a great commotion after a peasant in southern Matanzas Province claimed he saw a flying saucer land in an area near him. He claims to have seen two human-looking beings. It was a story carried by our television and our media. We have also been visited by strange objects; however, we may wonder: could this not be part of the US aggression against Cuba? Could they be testing our defense systems? Christian was telling me that people who have seen these objects claim they hear no sound. We know the United States has planes that are not detected by radar. Could this not be part of the war against us?"

Almeida goes on to explain that 50 years have passed since the UFO incident in New Mexico. He says a CD-ROM is now available with over 1,700 declassified documents of the US Government on the subject. It is not that the United States is being nice and wants the world to be informed about it, but it is because there is a series of civilian institutions that are exerting pressure for this information to be made available. Almeida adds that inexplicable technological advances are taking place. "These advances can only be explained by a technological transfer, of which the Americans are taking advantage to maintain their policy of world domination."

Almeida says the UFO topic is being manipulated because of the way it has been handled by the US Government. "It is information blockade, which prevents the information from being made available to other countries. The United States maintains a direct blockade against Cuba, but is also maintaining a blockade on the rest of the world, which does not permit us to draw our own conclusions on the matter. They want to impose their reasons and their truth," Almeida concludes.

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