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EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
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RUEHMHZ/AMCONSULMUNICH PRIORITY 2169-2171
RUEHSS/AMCONSUL STRASSBOURG PRIORITY 1714-1716
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1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED AND APPROVED BY THE BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AND CANADIAN AFFAIRS AND OTHER SELECTED BUREAUS HANDLING ISSUES OF INTEREST TO EUR POSTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING. QUESTIONS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO DAVID EVANS, EUR POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- STATUS OF DINKO SAKIC, SUSPECTED WORLD WAR II WAR CRIMINAL
- TURKEY: DESECRATION OF GREEK GRAVES
- CONSULTATIONS WITH LATVIAN STATE SECRETARY OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
- STATEMENT BY JAMES P. RUBIN, SPOKESMAN: LATVIAN GOVERNMENT PROPOSES LEGISLATION TO FACILITATE INTEGRATION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES
- STATEMENT BY JAMES P. RUBIN, SPOKESMAN: U.S. CONDEMNS MURDERS IN DRVAR

2. STATUS OF DINKO SAKIC, SUSPECTED WORLD WAR II WAR CRIMINAL

Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF DINKO SAKIC, THE CROATIAN LIVING IN ARGENTINA WHO IS ACCUSED OF WAR CRIMES IN WORLD WAR II?

A: -- TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, DINKO (AKI) (SHAH-KICH) IS STILL AT LARGE IN ARGENTINA. THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS SAID THEY WOULD ASK THEIR FEDERAL COURTS FOR A WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST, BUT WE HAVE NOT HEARD WHETHER AN ARREST WARRANT HAS BEEN ISSUED.

Q: DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BELIEVE DINKO SAKIC CAN BE FAIRLY TRIED IN CROATIA GIVEN ITS HISTORY OF NAZI COLLABORATION?

A: -- THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT SUPPORT ANYTHING OTHER THAN A VIGOROUS PROSECUTION AND A FAIR TRIAL FOR DINKO (AKI), NO MATTER WHERE HE IS TRIED.

-- CROATIA IS ONE OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES WHERE (AKI) COULD LEGALLY BE PUT ON TRIAL. THE GOVERNMENT OF CROATIA HAS TOLD US THAT THEY WILL SEEK (AKI)'S EXTRADITION FROM ARGENTINA FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRYING HIM FOR WAR CRIMES.

-- THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS MADE IT CLEAR AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE CROATIAN GOVERNMENT THAT IF IT PUTS (AKI) ON TRIAL, NOTHING LESS THAN A VIGOROUS PROSECUTION AND A FAIR TRIAL WILL DO. (AKI) IS ACCUSED OF COMMANDING A DEATH CAMP WHERE TENS OF THOUSANDS, IF NOT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WERE KILLED. (AKI) MAY BE ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT WAR CRIMINALS FROM WORLD WAR II AT LARGE TODAY. THERE IS A LOT OF ATTENTION THAT IS GOING TO BE PAID TO HOW THIS CASE IS HANDLED.
3. TURKEY: DESECRATION OF GREEK GRAVES

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE DESECRATION OF A GREEK ORTHODOX GRAVEYARD IN ISTANBUL ON MARCH 31? HAVE YOU DISCUSSED IT WITH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT?

A: -- WE DEPLORE THIS GROTESQUE AND REPULSIVE CRIME. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS JOINED IN THE WIDESPREAD CONDEMNATION OF THIS CRIME, AND WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE TURKS THAT AN INVESTIGATION IS UNDERWAY. WE HOPE THAT THE INVESTIGATION WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH THE UTMOST VIGOR.

4. CONSULTATIONS WITH LATVIAN STATE SECRETARY OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY

Q: WHAT WAS DISCUSSED WITH LATVIAN STATE SECRETARY MARIS RIEKSTINS DURING HIS RECENT TWO-DAY VISIT TO WASHINGTON?

A: -- WE DISCUSSED A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES WITH MR. RIEKSTINS. THIS INCLUDED EXCHANGING VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN THE BALTIC REGION AND THE US-LATVIAN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

5. STATEMENT BY JAMES P. RUBIN, SPOKESMAN: LATVIAN GOVERNMENT PROPOSES LEGISLATION TO FACILITATE INTEGRATION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

-- THE UNITED STATES WARMLY WELCOMES THE LATVIAN GOVERNMENT'S APRIL 15 PROPOSAL TO ADOPT MEASURES TO SIMPLIFY ASPECTS OF THE NATURALIZATION PROCESS AND FACILITATE THE INTEGRATION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES.

-- THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION INCLUDES MEASURES TO OPEN THE NATURALIZATION PROCESS TO ALL INTERESTED AND QUALIFIED NON-CITIZENS. IN ADDITION, THE LATVIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED LEGISLATION GRANTING IMMEDIATE CITIZENSHIP TO ALL STATELESS CHILDREN BORN IN LATVIA SINCE INDEPENDENCE IN 1991. ALSO PLANNED ARE AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSED LANGUAGE AND LABOR LAWS IN ORDER TO BRING THESE BILLS INTO CONFORMANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL NORMS.

-- IF ENACTED BY THE LATVIAN LEGISLATURE, THE SAEIMA, THESE PROPOSALS WILL MARK A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN FACILITATING THE INTEGRATION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN LATVIA. ENACTMENT OF THESE MEASURES WOULD ADDRESS KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE), AND THE OSCE'S HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES, MAX VAN DER STOEL.

-- WE CONGRATULATE THE GOVERNMENT OF LATVIA ON THESE PROPOSALS, AND ENCOURAGE THE LATVIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE SAEIMA TO ADOPT THESE IMPORTANT MEASURES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

-- WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE BALTIC CHARTER GOALS OF THE FULL INTEGRATION OF LATVIA INTO EUROPEAN AND TRANSATLANTIC
INSTITUTIONS, AND CLOSE COOPERATIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
BALTIC NATIONS AND OTHER NEIGHBORING STATES, INCLUDING
RUSSIA.

6. STATEMENT BY JAMES P. RUBIN, SPOKESMAN: U.S. CONDEMNS
MURDERS IN DRVAR

-- THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS IN THE STRONGEST
TERMS THE MURDER LAST NIGHT OF AN ELDERLY BOSNIAN SERB
COUPLE IN THE TOWN OF DRVAR IN THE LIVNO CANTON OF WESTERN
BOSNIA. THE COUPLE HAD JUST RECENTLY RETURNED TO THEIR
HOMETOWN AFTER FLEEING MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO DURING THE
BOSNIAN WAR. SINCE RETURNING, THEY HAD BEEN HARASSED WHILE
LOCAL BOSNIAN CROAT OFFICIALS DID NOTHING. WE HOLD THE
LOCAL OFFICIALS IN DRVAR AND IN THE LIVNO CANTON
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CLIMATE OF INTOLERANCE AND HARASSMENT
IN WHICH THESE MURDERS TOOK PLACE.

-- THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CALLS ON THE LOCAL
AUTHORITIES -- IN COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY -- TO FULLY INVESTIGATE THESE MURDERS AND BRING
THE RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS TO JUSTICE. THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT ALSO CALLS ON BOSNIAN LEADERS -- AT LOCAL,
CANTONAL, FEDERATION AND NATIONAL LEVELS -- TO CONDEMN
THESE BRUTAL MURDERS AND TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO
FACILITATE THE RETURN OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PEOPLE TO
THEIR HOMES IN SAFETY AND WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS, AS CALLED
FOR IN THE DAYTON AGREEMENT.

-- THIS INCIDENT UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF REFORMING
AND INTEGRATING ON A MULTIETHNIC BASIS THE POLICE FORCES IN
THE LIVNO CANTON, AS REQUIRED BY DAYTON. SO FAR, CANTONAL
OFFICIALS HAVE REFUSED TO DO THIS. WE EXPECT ALL BOSNIAN
OFFICIALS TO DILIGENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY DISCHARGE THEIR
DUTY TO PROTECT BOSNIAN CITIZENS OF ALL ETHNICITIES. WE
SUPPORT THE AUTHORITY, UNDER DAYTON, OF THE HIGH
REPRESENTATIVE TO REMOVE ANY BOSNIAN OFFICIAL WHO REFUSES
TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THE DAYTON AGREEMENT.

PICKERING

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE