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OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

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ARA-00	NSAE-00	COMC-00	SSO-00	NA-00	2-03	CTHE-00	
TRSE-00	PM-10	EAP-00	PA-02	OHM-01	STR-14	INRE-00	
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E.O. 12356 N/A
TAGS: OPRC
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING MARCH 30, 1984

FOR ADDRESSEE POSTS' INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING SPOKESMAN WAS JCPH HUGHES

I HAVE A STATEMENT ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONTROLS AS A RESULT OF OUR CONTINUED CONCERN ABOUT THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS THE SECRETARIES OF STATE AND COMMERCE HAVE DECIDED TO INSTITUTE FOREIGN POLICY CONTROLS FOR THE EXPORT TO IRAN AND IRAQ OF CERTAIN COMPOUNDS WHICH COULD BE USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. APPLICATIONS FOR VALIDATED LICENSES WILL BE CONSIDERED ON

A CASE BY CASE BASIS APPLICATIONS WILL GENERALLY BE DENIED WHERE THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THESE CHEMICALS WILL BE USED IN PRODUCING CHEMICAL WEAPONS OR WILL OTHERWISE BE DEVOTED TO CHEMICAL WARFARE. THIS POSITION IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR STRONG POLICIES IN OPPOSITION TO THE USE OF PROHIBITED CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND OUR POLICY OF NEUTRALITY IN THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR. THE FIVE CHEMICALS AFFECTED ARE POTASSIUM FLUORIDE, DIMETHYL METHYLPHOSPHONATE, METHYLPHOSPHONYL DII SULFIDE, PHOSPHOROUS OXYCHLORIDE AND ETHYLENE GLYCOL.

Q. IS THIS PRECAUTION A RESULT OF FINDING THAT YOUR MATERIAL HAS BEEN USED BY THE IRAQI SIDE AGAINST --

A. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT BEEN THE SOURCE OF CHEMICALS USED BY IRAQ TO MANUFACTURE CHEMICAL WEAPONS. HOWEVER, SINCE MANY COMPONENTS ARE COMMONLY USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES, WE CANNOT CONCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT U.S. SOURCE OF CHEMICALS HAVE BEEN EXPORTED TO IRAQ. WE'RE NOT AWARE THAT THEY HAVE, BUT BECAUSE THESE CHEMICALS ARE IN FAIRLY GENERAL USAGE IT IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT OUR KNOWLEDGE, THAT THEY HAVE. THESE STEPS THAT WE'RE TAKING ARE OBVIOUSLY TO CURB SUCH EXPORTS IN THE FUTURE.

Q. HAS THE UNITED STATES MADE ANY EFFORT TO TELL ITS ALLIES NOT TO DO THE SAME?

A. WE HAVE ON THE OVERALL QUESTION OF CHEMICAL EXPORT AND THE EXPORT OF EQUIPMENT THAT COULD BE USED FOR CHEMICAL WARFARE YES, OF COURSE. IN PARTICULAR THERE IS THE QUESTION OF GERMANY. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH GERMAN AUTHORITIES REPORTS THAT FACILITIES CAPABLE OF PRODUCING NERVE GAS MAY HAVE BEEN SHIPPED TO IRAQ BY A GERMAN COMPANY. THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING THE MATTER ON AN URGENT BASIS, AND PROBABLY YOU SHOULD GO TO THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT TO TALK TO THEM ABOUT IT.

Q. I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE OF ONE POINT -- AND IT'S PROBABLY THERE IN THE TEXT IF YOU'LL GIVE US THAT COPY -- BUT DO YOU SAY THAT IT IS NOT, TO THE BEST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE, THAT AMERICAN CHEMICALS -- THESE AMERICAN CHEMICALS HAD NOT BEEN EXPORTED TO IRAQ OR HAD NOT BEEN USED IN WEAPONS MANUFACTURE?

A. WHAT IS SAID IS THAT TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THE U.S. HAS NOT BEEN THE SOURCE OF THE CHEMICAL USED BY IRAQ TO MANUFACTURE CHEMICAL WEAPONS. I CAN'T GUARANTEE EXPORT.

Q. I'M A LITTLE UNSURE OF THE REASON FOR IMPOSING THE RESTRICTIONS ON BOTH IRAN AND IRAQ. IS THERE ANY SUGGESTION THAT IRAN HAS ALSO USED CHEMICAL WEAPONS?

A. I'M NOT SURE WHETHER THERE IS ANY SUGGESTION THAT THEY HAVE USED THEM, BUT THE INTENT WOULD BE TO MAKE SURE THAT NEITHER SIDE USES THEM.

Q. YOU'RE, IN EFFECT, PUNISHING ONE SIDE FOR DOING SOMETHING THAT IT HADN'T DONE?

A. THERE IS A WAR GOING ON THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ENDED. WE'RE NEUTRAL IN THAT WAR. WE ARE OPPOSED TO THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. AS YOU KNOW, WE'RE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN TRYING TO GET AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY APPROVED ON THAT QUESTION. SO WE THINK THAT IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE IT IS INTELLIGENT AND WISE AND PRUDENT TO BAN EXPORTS TO BOTH.

Q. SOME IRAQI OFFICIALS CLAIM THAT THESE SUPPOSEDLY

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IRANIAN WHO WERE INJURED OR BEING POISONED OR AFFECTED BY THE POISON WERE VICTIMS OF SOME EXPERIMENTATIONS IN IRAN ITSELF TO USE CHEMICALS AGAINST THE IRAQIS IN THE WAR. WERE THERE ANY SUBSTANCE TO THIS, OR DID YOU FIND ANYTHING OR ANY --

A. I DON'T KNOW. WE HAVE SAID WHAT WE HAVE SAID, AND WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS BY IRAQ. THAT STANDS. BUT I CAN'T GIVE YOU DETAILS ON EVERY SINGLE CASE WHO WAS EXAMINED BY A DOCTOR AS TO WHAT THE SOURCE IS.

Q. THEN CAN YOU -- INCIDENTALLY, CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE NEW YORK TIMES STORY TODAY REGARDING THE MASS PRODUCTION OF NERVE GAS BY IRAQ?

A. WELL, NOT REALLY. I MEAN, WERE NOT GOING TO GET INTO THAT STORY WHICH QUOTES A LOT OF UNNAMED SOURCES, BUT IN ESSENCE WHAT I'M DOING IS CONFIRMING THAT WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF WEST GERMANY WHICH IS MENTIONED IN THAT STORY OVER SOMETIME, BOTH HERE IN WASHINGTON AND IN BONN, AND I SUGGEST YOU GO TO THE GERMANS.

Q. IS THERE ANY ASSURANCES THAT THIRD COUNTRIES MAY BE USING, MAYBE SHIPPING THIS SORT OF CHEMICAL TO EITHER COUNTRIES - IRAQ, SPECIFICALLY?

A. I DON'T KNOW, I GUESS YOU'D HAVE TO ASK THEM.

Q. HAVE WE ALSO RAISED THE MATTER OF EXPORT OF CHEMICALS WITH JAPAN OR ANOTHER EUROPEAN PRODUCER?

A. I DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU A LIST OF COUNTRIES WE'VE TALKED WITH. BUT, AS YOU KNOW, WE'VE HAD A VERY ACTIVE DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE ON THIS, AND HAVE TALKED TO A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING --

Q. SO IT'S NOT JUST THE GERMANS?

A. IN CONNECTION WITH SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT WE HAVE TALKED WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN ANY EXPORT OF THESE CHEMICALS FROM THE U.S. TO IRAN OR IRAQ AT ALL IN THE PAST; IN THE RECENT PAST?

A. NO, WE DO NOT REASON TO BELIEVE THAT EXPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN USED BY EITHER IRAN OR IRAQ IN THIS CONNECTION.

Q. I GUESS I'M RAISING THE QUESTION OF IMPOSING A BAN ON THE EXPORT OF THESE CHEMICALS. IT MAY NOT HAVE ANY EFFECT SINCE THERE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ANY EXPORT OF THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN ANY EXPORT OF THESE CHEMICALS; WHETHER OR NOT THEY WERE USED.

A. I THINK THERE IS INTEREST IN ACQUIRING THESE CHEMICALS.

Q. WELL, THE HEARST STORY THAT ONE POINT HE MADE IN THAT STORY WAS THAT HE IMPLIED THAT THE U.S. THOUGHT ABOUT AIR STRIKES --

A. THERE HAS BEEN AND IS NO CONSIDERATION WHATSOEVER OF U.S. AIR STRIKES AGAINST THESE ALLEGED INSTALLATIONS, AND THERE'S BEEN NO DISCUSSION OF SUCH STRIKES WITH ISRAEL.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN DIRECT INTEREST WITH THE U.S.

COMPANIES IN ACQUIRING THESE CHEMICALS?

A. I THINK THERE HAS BEEN.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN CONSIDERATION IN THIS GOVERNMENT OF ASKING ISRAEL TO DEPLOY --

A. NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF, I'LL JUST REMIND YOU OF OUR POSITION ON THE ISRAELI STRIKE ON THE IRAQI NUCLEAR FACILITY IN 1982, WHICH WE CONDEMNED.

Q. DO WE HAVE ANY EVIDENCE OR CONFIRMATION THAT THESE FACILITIES WHICH GERMANY IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE PROVIDED TO IRAQ ACTUALLY ARE THERE?

A. NO I THINK YOU OUGHT TO TALK TO THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT THAT.

Q. THERE IS A THING FROM IRANIAN RADIO WHERE THEY CLAIM THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS CUT OFF THE TELEPHONE LINES FOR THE IRANIAN INTEREST SECTION.

A. OHAY. AND I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE THAT RIGHT AT HAND HERE. ON MARCH 23 THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS REDUCED THE TELEPHONE SERVICE TO THE IRANIAN INTEREST SECTION FROM 50 LINES TO 10 LINES. THAT ACTION WAS TAKEN BECAUSE WE DID NOT CONSIDER THAT SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF TELEPHONE LINES WAS REQUIRED TO CONDUCT THE AUTHORIZED BUSINESS OF THE INTEREST SECTION AND BECAUSE OF THE IMBALANCE COMPARED WITH THE NUMBER OF TELEPHONE LINES AVAILABLE TO THE AMERICAN INTERESTS SECTION OF THE SWISS EMBASSY IN TEHRAN. THE INTERESTS SECTION WAS ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE CONSULAR AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR THE IRANIAN COMMUNITY RESIDENT IN THE UNITED STATES. I KNOW YOUR NEXT QUESTION WILL BE, "HOW MANY TELEPHONE LINES ARE THERE AVAILABLE AT THE U.S. INTERESTS SECTION AT THE SWISS EMBASSY IN TEHRAN?" THERE ARE THREE TELEPHONE LINES, AT MOST, AVAILABLE IN TEHRAN.

Q. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT THIS GOVERNMENT CAN DO TO LIMIT OR STOP THE CHEMICAL WARFARE?

A. WELL, IT HAS ALREADY DONE QUITE A LOT. WE'VE CONTINUED TO RAISE THE ISSUE IN HIGH-LEVEL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS SINCE LATE LAST YEAR. IN OUR 1984 REPORT TO THE U.M. SECRETARY GENERAL ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE, WE ALERTED THE U.M. OF OUR GRAVE CONCERN OVER REPORTS THAT IRAQ HAD USED CHEMICAL WEAPONS. WE TOOK NOTE OF THE "IRANIAN ALLEGATIONS IN OUR 1983 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON IRAQ. WE FORCEFULLY DREW THE ATTENTION OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO THE PROBLEM THROUGH OUR PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF MARCH 5 AND THROUGH PREVIOUS DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS. WE HAVE SUPPORTED U.M. EFFORTS TO INVESTIGATE AND FAVOR A SECURITY COUNCIL STATEMENT ON THE REPORT. WE ARE INSTITUTING, AS I TOLD YOU THIS MORNING, SPECIAL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPORT TO IRAN AND IRAQ CERTAIN COMPOUNDS WHICH COULD BE USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. WE HAVE URGED OTHER COUNTRIES TO DO LIKEWISE. WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO TRY TO THOUCE IRAN TO ACCEPT A CEASE-FIRE, BECAUSE STOPPING HOSTILITIES IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND PRACTICAL WAY TO PREVENT FURTHER USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, AND IN HUMANITARIAN TERMS, WE CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT LIMIT OUR ATTENTION TO THE VICTIMS OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. INSTEAD, WE MUST ALSO WORK TO STOP THE TRAGEDY OF THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF LIVES -- MANY OF THEM BELONGING TO CHILDREN -- WHICH ARE NEEDLESSLY BEING LOST BECAUSE OF THE IRANIAN REGIME'S CONTINUED ATTEMPTS TO SPREAD ITS REVOLUTION THROUGHOUT THE REGION. SO IT IS NOT AS THOUGH WE HAVE BEEN INACTIVE OR BACKWARD.

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Q. IS THERE ANY CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO ANY FORM OF MILITARY ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES OR ITS ALLIES TO STOP THIS?

A. NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF. YOU ARE AWARE OF THE PRESENT STATEMENTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND THE PROTECTION THEREOF IN THE GULF OF HORMUZ. BUT BEYOND THAT, I'M NOT AWARE OF ANYTHING.

Q. IT'S BEEN SUGGESTED THAT IRAQ COULD NOT CARRY ON THE WAR IF IT NO LONGER HAD MARKETS FOR ITS OIL. ONE OF THE MAJOR MARKETS IS JAPAN WHICH, I THINK, BUYS LIKE 400,000 BARRELS A DAY. ARE WE CONTEMPLATING OR TRYING TO DO ANYTHING IN THE DIRECTION OF GETTING COUNTRIES THAT ARE ALLIES TO STOP BUYING OIL FROM IRAN?

A. NOT ABOUT STOP BUYING OIL, BUT COUNTRIES WITH INFLUENCE IN IRAQ, CERTAINLY WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH, AND VARIOUS OF THEM ARE USING THEIR INFLUENCE WITH IRAN. I THINK THAT IS THE DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE, NOT THE KIND OF ECONOMIC BOYCOTT THAT YOU'RE SPEAKING OF.

Q. IN LIGHT OF YOUR FINDING THAT IRAQ HAS USED NERVE GAS AND/OR OTHER FORMS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE, DOES THIS HAVE ANY EFFECT ON U.S. RECENT INITIATIVES TO EXPAND COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH IRAQ ACROSS A BROAD RANGE, AND ALSO A WILLINGNESS TO OPEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS?

A. NO. I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY CHANGE IN OUR POSITION. WE'RE INTERESTED IN BEING INVOLVED IN A CLOSER DIALOGUE WITH IRAQ.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHERE RUMSFELD IS NOW?

A. AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD RETURNED TO WASHINGTON YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, SAW THE SECRETARY. I THINK HE IS STILL IN WASHINGTON TODAY. BUT I WOULD EXPECT THAT HE WOULD WANT TO GO BACK TO CHICAGO.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT HIM TO RETURN TO THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY PLANS FOR HIM TO GO BACK THERE.

I WOULDNT RULE IT OUT. SHULTZ