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INFO	LOG-00	NP-01	AMAD-01	A-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00
	INL-01	DODE-00	DOEE-00	WHA-01	SRPP-00	DS-00	EAP-01
	EB-00	EUR-01	UTED-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	JUSE-00	L-01	ADS-00	AC-01	NEA-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02
	OIG-03	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

ALL OECD CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DURBAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JEDDAH IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RIYADH IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE WASHDC/SITRRM PASS TO SMITH IMMEDIATE 0000

SOMALIA COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

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ECOWAS IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1999

SUMMARY

1. MAURITIUS
2. SIERRA LEONE
3. RWANDA
4. UGANDA

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END SUMMARY

1. MAURITIUS

BACKGROUND: THE CHAGOS ISLANDS, WHERE THE U.S. MILITARY BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA IS LOCATED, IS ADMINISTERED AND OWNED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM. THE U.S. LEASES THE BASE FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM. COMPLICATING OWNERSHIP OF THE ISLANDS IS THE CLAIM OF SOVEREIGNTY OF THE ISLANDS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS.

THE ILOIS PEOPLE, WHO HAD LIVED ON THE CHAGOS, WERE RELOCATED TO MAURITIUS. THE ILOIS PEOPLE ARE SEEKING LEGAL REDRESS FOR THEIR REMOVAL AND HAVE FILED FOR MONETARY COMPENSATION FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE MAURITIAN GOVERNMENTS FOR THEIR FORCED RELOCATION. IN THEIR LAW SUIT, THE ILOIS PEOPLE ARE ALSO SEEKING TO RETURN TO THE CHAGOS, BUT BRITISH OFFICIALS INFORM US PRIVATELY THAT THIS GROUP IS PRIMARILY SEEKING FINANCIAL PAYMENT.

THE UNITED STATES HAS STATED OFFICIALLY THAT THIS ISSUE IS FOR THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND MAURITIUS TO RESOLVE.

Q: IS THE U.S. INVOLVED IN THE REMOVAL/RETURN OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO?

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A: THE U.S. IS NOT INVOLVED IN THE REMOVAL OR RETURN OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE CHAGOS ISLAND, THE ILOIS PEOPLE. THE UNITED STATES HAS A MILITARY BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA ON THE CHAGOS ISLAND WHICH IS LEASED FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. THE STATUS OF THE ILOIS PEOPLE AND THE LAWSUIT THEY HAVE FILED IN LONDON AS WELL AS THEIR LEGAL CLAIMS AGAINST THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS ARE ISSUES FOR THE APPROPRIATE COURTS TO RESOLVE AND FOR THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE U.K. AND MAURITIUS TO HANDLE.

2. SIERRA LEONE: UN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PEACEKEEPING

IO PRESS GUIDANCE

SEPTEMBER 30, 1999

CONTEXT FOR BRIEFER: A SEPTEMBER 28 REPORT BY THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL RECOMMENDED THE DEPLOYMENT OF ABOUT 6,000 UN PEACEKEEPING TROOPS AND 260 MILITARY OBSERVERS TO IMPLEMENT THE LOME PEACE AGREEMENT IN SIERRA LEONE. THE AGREEMENT CALLS ON THE UN TO DISARM AND DEMOBILIZE EX-COMBATANTS WORKING WITH ECOMOG, A MULTINATIONAL FORCE COMPRISED OF TROOPS FROM THE WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY. PRESENTLY, 210 UN MILITARY OBSERVERS ARE AUTHORIZED TO HELP ECOMOG IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT. NIGERIA HAS DECLARED ITS INTENTION TO WITHDRAW ITS SIZEABLE ECOMOG CONTINGENT, AND THE UN IS PLANNING TO DEPLOY A PEACEKEEPING FORCE TO SUPPLEMENT ECOMOG. AN INTERAGENCY GROUP IS NOW MAKING A DECISION REGARDING THE

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US SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL. WE HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO SUPPORT A SUBSTANTIAL UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION, AND CONSULTED CLOSELY WITH THE UN DURING THE PLANNING. WE

WERE NONETHELESS CONCERNED BY FINAL ESTIMATES FOR TROOP NUMBERS, SINCE PREVIOUS ESTIMATES WERE IN THE 3,000-4,500 RANGE. THERE ARE NO PLANS TO INCLUDE US TROOPS IN THE OPERATION.

Q: WHAT IS OUR INITIAL REACTION TO ANNAN'S RECOMMENDATION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A 6,000-STRONG UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE FOR SIERRA LEONE?

A: THE U.S. PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT PRODUCED THE LOME PEACE AGREEMENT. THE U.S. ALSO SUPPORTED THE DEPLOYMENT OF MILITARY OBSERVERS TO SIERRA LEONE.

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-- WE FULLY SUPPORT THE SIERRA LEONE PEACE PROCESS.

-- WE ANTICIPATE THAT A SUBSTANTIAL UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION WILL LIKELY BE NEEDED TO HELP IMPLEMENT THE PEACE AGREEMENT.

-- WE ARE NOW STUDYING THE UN'S RECOMMENDATIONS, AND WILL REACH A DECISION SOON. OUR OBJECTIVE IS A UN OPERATION THAT IS OF AN APPROPRIATE SIZE TO ACCOMPLISH ITS MISSION AT A SUSTAINABLE COST.

-- NO U.S. TROOPS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED FOR THE PROPOSED FORCE, AND WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THERE WILL BE ANY
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U.S. TROOP PARTICIPATION. THE FORCE IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPOSED MOSTLY OF WEST AFRICANS.

-- FOR NOW, WE URGE THE UN MILITARY OBSERVERS ALREADY IN SIERRA LEONE TO WORK WITH ECOMOG TO ACCELERATE THE DISARMAMENT AND DEMOBILIZATION OF EX-COMBATANTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE LOME AGREEMENT.

-- WE ALSO URGE THE U.N. TO DEPLOY ALL OF THE 210 MILITARY OBSERVERS AUTHORIZED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

-- THE CONTRIBUTION, AND THE SACRIFICES, THAT ECOMOG HAS MADE FOR SIERRA LEONE ARE INCALCULABLE. WE COMMEND ECOMOG FOR ITS EFFORTS, AND ASK THAT IT CONTINUE TO PROMOTE A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO THE NEXT STAGE OF PEACEKEEPING.

3. RWANDA: TRIAL OF CATHOLIC BISHOP MISAGO

S/WCI PRESS GUIDANCE SEPTEMBER 30, 1999

Q: ANY COMMENTS ON THE GENOCIDE TRIAL IN RWANDA OF CATHOLIC BISHOP MISAGO? WHY IS HE NOT BEING TRIED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA?

A: BISHOP MISAGO IS AMONG 130,000 PEOPLE ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH GENOCIDE AND OTHER SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW DURING THE 1994 GENOCIDE IN RWANDA. WE HAVE NO COMMENT ON THE MERITS OF THIS SPECIFIC CASE, BUT WE WILL BE WATCHING IT CAREFULLY.

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-- THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA (ICTR) WAS NEVER INTENDED TO HANDLE ALL THE CASES ASSOCIATED WITH THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE. IT IS UP TO THE ICTR TO DETERMINE WHICH CASES MERIT THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL'S ATTENTION. THE BALANCE OF CASES ARE HANDLED IN DOMESTIC COURTS. FOR THIS REASON, ONE OF THE MOTIVATIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S GREAT LAKES JUSTICE INITIATIVE IS TO STRENGTHEN RWANDA'S DOMESTIC CAPABILITY - INCLUDING ITS CAPABILITY OF ENSURING FAIR TRIALS WITH FULL PROTECTION OF DUE PROCESS RIGHTS - FOR HANDLING GENOCIDE CASES.

4. UGANDA: HOMOSEXUALS FACE ARREST

DRL PRESS GUIDANCE

SEPTEMBER 30, 1999

CONTEXT: THE NEW YORK TIMES OF SEPTEMBER 30 STATES THAT UGANDAN PRESIDENT YOWERI MUSEVENI HAS ORDERED THE ARREST OF HOMOSEXUALS IN UGANDA, THE GOVERNMENT OWNED NEW VISION NEWSPAPER QUOTED HIM AS SAYING. EMBASSY REPORTING TODAY CONFIRMS THE ACCOUNT. IN AN ADDRESS TO SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS ATTENDING A WORKSHOP ON HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN KAMPALA ON SEPTEMBER 27, MUSEVENI SAID HE HAD ORDERED POLICE TO LOOK FOR, LOCK UP AND CHARGE HOMOSEXUALS. SOURCES AT THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE COULD NOT COMMENT OR CONFIRM MUSEVENI'S EXACT REMARKS, BUT SAID THE SPEECH WOULD BE REBROADCAST ON UGANDA TELEVISION OCTOBER 2. IN SEPARATE REMARKS MUSEVENI ALSO SAID THAT UN CONVENTIONS (INCLUDING THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN

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RIGHTS) WERE MADE WITHOUT AFRICAN STATES' INVOLVEMENT, AND AS SUCH WERE NOT UNIVERSAL TO AFRICA. HOMOSEXUAL ACTS ARE ILLEGAL UNDER UGANDA'S PENAL CODE AND CARRY A MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT. UGANDAN SOCIETAL ATTITUDES ON THE SUBJECT ARE VERY CONSERVATIVE.

Q: ANY COMMENT ON TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES STATEMENT THAT UGANDAN PRESIDENT MUSEVENI HAS ORDERED THE ARREST OF HOMOSEXUALS IN HIS COUNTRY?

A: WE HAVE SEEN THE REPORT, WHICH HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY OUR EMBASSY IN KAMPALA.

-- WE CLEARLY WOULD VIEW WITH SERIOUS CONCERN ANY ARREST AND LIFE IMPRISONMENT OF PERSONS BASED ON THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

-- UGANDA IS A PARTY TO THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON CIVIL AND

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POLITICAL RIGHTS, AND ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS. ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS SEXUAL ORIENTATION, THIS INDICATES A BROAD COMMITMENT BY UGANDA TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS.

-- WE WILL SEEK MORE DETAILS THROUGH OUR EMBASSY AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.
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