

Tremont, Pamela M (London)**RELEASED IN FULL**

From: Goshko, Matt E (London)
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 11:25 AM
To: Mills Jr., Richard M (London); LondonPol; LondonEcon
Cc: Custin, Dick R (London); Poisson, Beth L (London); Walkley, Barrie R (London)
Subject: RE: Did we ever get anything on Diego rendition? ginity

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EUR PRESS GUIDANCE
 February 21, 2008

United Kingdom: 2002 Rendition Flights through Diego Garcia

Q: What is your reaction to Foreign Secretary Miliband's statement today regarding rendition flights through Diego Garcia in 2002?

- We are aware of the Foreign Secretary's statement before Parliament regarding two rendition flights through Diego Garcia in 2002.
- His account reflects accurately events concerning this issue, including our efforts to bring this new information, to UK government authorities promptly and fully.
- As I understand it, when the CIA discovered that the information it gave the British on past rendition flights through Diego Garcia was not accurate, the CIA itself corrected the situation. That's how allies behave. If a mistake is made, you fix it.
- We would refer you to the CIA for further inquiries on this matter.

IF ASKED:

Q: Why is this information becoming public now?

- We recently discovered that assurances that we had made to the UK about the use of its facilities on Diego Garcia were in error. We informed the UK promptly and they have promptly informed the Parliament.

Q: What prompted the review by the USG that revealed the error?

- The review was conducted as a result of internal inquiries about the use of Diego Garcia.

Q: Are there similar cases involving other countries in which new information has been discovered or new investigations should be undertaken?

- We are not aware of any similar cases involving other countries.

Q: Will the U.S. answer the questions raised by the UK regarding other potential rendition flights?

- We refer you to the CIA, which will handle discussions with the UK on this matter.

Q: How can countries have confidence in US assurances if they are not based on complete information?

- There was an error made in this case that was disclosed to the UK government as soon as it was discovered. Our communications with other governments are made on the basis of the best information that we have in any particular case.

Q: What are details of particular rendition flights?

- We are not in a position to provide any additional information about the flights. We would refer you to the CIA for questions regarding its activities.

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Q: Were any of the detainees involved High Value Detainees, such as Khalid Sheikh Mohammed? Were they subjected to enhanced interrogation methods by the CIA?

- Neither of these individuals was ever part of CIA's high value detainee program, nor were they subject to enhanced interrogation methods.

Q: Secretary Rice has said the US renditions are carried out with respect for the sovereignty of other countries. Was that true in these cases?

- We respect the sovereignty of our allies when conducting renditions.

IF PRESSED:

- We acted consistent with our bilateral and international obligations in this case.

Background: Today (February 21) the UK Foreign Secretary released a statement concerning two incidents in 2002 in which Diego Garcia was used as a refueling stop for flights carrying detainees. Previous assurances made by the United States to the UK concerning the use of facilities at Diego Garcia were in error in that they did not disclose these two incidents. These errors resulted from the fact that the information about these incidents was closely held within the United States government and the offices with this information were not identified during the process of preparing the previous assurances.

The United States has confirmed that Diego Garcia has never been used for detention of detainees and, with the exception of these two incidents in 2002, there have not been other refueling stops on Diego Garcia of flights containing detainees. The United States government has also assured the UK government that it will not use Diego Garcia for the transit of detainees in the future without prior coordination with the UK.

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From: Mills Jr., Richard M (London)
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 11:15 AM
To: Goshko, Matt E (London)
Subject: Did we ever get anything on Diego rendition? gnlntty

I'm being asked by some other posts for press guidance/lines we used, cause they are getting asked. Do you have anything I can forward?

Rick M