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FRANKFURT FOR GAO

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: AGAO  
SUBJECT: GAO REVIEWS OF (1) USG PLANS FOR AND USE OF  
KAMINA BASE, (2) MILITARY AID TO EL SALVADOR, AND (3)  
SAFAIR FREIGHTERS

*HC*  
*Rep Wolpe*  
*Dellume*

1. GAO HAS ASKED THE DEPARTMENT TO TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:
2. AT CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST (WOLPE/DELLUME) GAO HAS UNDERTAKEN A REVIEW OF CURRENT AND PLANNED USE OF KAMINA BASE IN ZAIRE. THIS WORK INCLUDES REVIEWING USG REQUIREMENTS FOR AND USAGE OF THIS FACILITY, CURRENT ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS, CONDITION OF THE FACILITY, CONSTRUCTION (COMPLETED, IN PROCESS, AND PLANNED) AND ITS COSTS, JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES AT THE BASE, POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH USG USE OF THIS FACILITY, AND OTHER COUNTRIES USE OF OR ACTIVITIES AT THIS FACILITY.
3. GAO HAS COLLECTED INFORMATION FROM STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS. GAO PROVIDED AN INTERIM BRIEFING TO REQUESTERS' STAFFS IN EARLY FEBRUARY. REMAINING AUDIT WORK TO BE COMPLETED IS FIELD WORK TO EUCOM AND ZAIRE (TO INCLUDE VISIT TO BASE PER SPECIFIC DIRECTION OF REQUESTERS).
4. FOLLOWING RECENT RESOLUTION OF TRIP STATUS, GAO EVALUATOR ALAN BENNETT'S TENTATIVE TRAVEL SCHEDULE IS TO CONDUCT FIELD WORK IN GERMANY WEEKS OF JULY 4 AND 11 AND ZAIRE WEEK OF JULY 18. FIELD WORK IN GERMANY WILL INVOLVE KAMINA BASE REVIEW AND EL SALVADOR REVIEW (SEE PARAGRAPH 8). KAMINA BASE AND SAFAIR REVIEW (SEE PARAGRAPH 6).
5. REGARDING FIELD WORK IN ZAIRE, GAO REQUESTS USE OF DAO C-12 AIRCRAFT FOR ITS TRIP TO KAMINA BASE. DEPARTMENT HAS ADVISED GAO OF C-12 USE ON A REGIONAL BASIS AND NEED TO ARRANGE USE IN ADVANCE. AS SUCH, GAO REQUESTS INFORMATION ON AVAILABILITY OF AIRCRAFT DURING WEEK OF ITS PLANNED FIELD WORK IN ZAIRE. IF AIRCRAFT IS AVAILABLE, GAO

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REQUESTS ITS RESERVATION FOR KAMINA TRIP. IF NOT AVAILABLE, GAO REQUESTS DATA ON DATES OF AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY. ANSWER SHOULD BE BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENT SLUGGED FOR AF/C. GAO HAS ADVISED THE DEPARTMENT THAT ONCE C-12 AVAILABILITY AND TIME IS CONFIRMED, IT WILL FINALIZE TRIP AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC TRAVEL DATES, FLIGHTS, AND RELATED INFORMATION.

6. GAO HAS ADVISED THE DEPARTMENT THAT IT IS AWARE OF DEPARTMENT CONCERN ABOUT SENSITIVITY OF DISCUSSING SUBJECT OF KAMINA BASE WITH ZAIRIAN OFFICIALS AND VISITING THE BASE. GAO WELCOMES POST OFFICIALS' ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS WITH GOZ OFFICIALS AND VISIT TO KAMINA. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION WITH GOZ OFFICIALS WILL LIKELY INCLUDE CURRENT USG ACCESS TO KAMINA, GOZ CONSTRUCTION AND FUNDING, JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES, AND GOZ VIEW OF POLITICAL IMPACT OF USG USE OF THE FACILITY. AT STATE DEPARTMENT SUGGESTION, GAO ADVISED GOZ EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IN MARCH OF ITS REVIEW AND NEED TO CONDUCT FIELD WORK. GOZ RESPONSE WAS FULL COOPERATION WITH REVIEW INCLUDING REQUEST TO MEET WITH GOZ DEFENSE MINISTER AND VISIT BASE. SPECIFIC TOPICS OF DISCUSSION WITH POST OFFICIALS INCLUDE THOSE LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 1.

7. IN ADDITION TO KAMINA WORK IN ZAIRE, GAO ALSO HAS RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM CHAIRMAN WOLPE TO REVIEW THE ACTIVITIES OF SAFAIR FREIGHTERS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ANTI APARTHEID ACT. THE EXPORT CONTROL ASPECTS OF THIS REVIEW INCLUDE LEASE OF SAFAIR L-100 AIRCRAFT TO A ZARIAN FIRM CALLED SCIBE-SOCIETE COMMERCIAL ET D IMPORTATION BEMBA - AIRLIFT. GAO IS INTERESTED IN ANY INFORMATION POST HAS ON THIS COMPANY AND ITS OPERATIONS.

8. GAO EUCOM VISIT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH EUCOM/ECCM.

THEY WILL ADVISE EUCOM PLANNING, ENGINEERING, AND EXERCISE PERSONNEL OF GAO WORK AND NEED TO DISCUSS KAMINA BASE ISSUE.

9. IN ADDITION TO KAMINA ISSUE, GAO WORK IN GERMANY INVOLVES TWO EL SALVADOR RELATED ASSIGNMENTS. GAO HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY SENATOR HARKIN TO REVIEW ALLEGATIONS THAT U.S. MILITARY AID TO EL SALVADOR WAS USED TO ASSIST THE CONTRA AIRLIFT OPERATION. ALSO, GAO HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY REPRESENTATIVE DELAY TO REVIEW THE USE OF SALVADORAN FIRMS TO PERFORM MILITARY CONSTRUCTION IN EL SALVADOR FUNDED BY U.S. MILITARY AID. GAO WORK INVOLVES INTERVIEWING COL. JAMES STEELE, FORMER COMMANDER OF THE U.S. MILITARY GROUP IN EL SALVADOR. THIS WORK HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH USAREUR/AEAGX-IA AND COL. STEELE. GAO REQUEST USAREUR COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR THIS WORK.

10. GAO WORK ON THE FOUR ASSIGNMENT WILL BE PERFORMED BY ALAN BENNETT [REDACTED] BENNETT HAS A TOP SECRET CLEARANCE. DEPARTMENTS AND COMMANDS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED GAO SECURITY CLEARANCE NOTICE AND BENNETT WILL ALSO HAND CARRY NOTICE. SHOULD YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, BENNETT CAN BE REACHED ON 202-695-1713 OR AUTOVON 225-1713. SHULTZ  
END OF MESSAGE

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