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TEXT

TAGS: OPRC

SUBJECT: EUR DAILY PRESS GUIDANCE - MAY 6, 1999

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED AND APPROVED BY THE BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND OTHER SELECTED BUREAUS HANDLING ISSUES OF INTEREST TO EUR POSTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING. QUESTIONS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO DOUGLAS EBNER, SUSAN ELBOW, ARIC SCHWAN (BOSNIA), OR MARK SMITH (KOSOVO), EUR POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

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SERBIA (KOSOVO): KOSOVO
BALKANS: HUMANITARIAN SITUATION
SWITZERLAND-~~ARGENTINA~~: ARGENTINE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
FINDS NEW TIE TO NAZI GOLD VIA SWITZERLAND
STATEMENT ON YUGOSLAV NAVY CLOSING PORT OF BAR IN

MONTENEGRO
TURKEY: OCALAN'S LAWYERS THREATEN TO RESIGN

2. SERBIA (KOSOVO)

Q: DO YOU HAVE A READOUT OF THE G-8 MEETING?

-- AT THEIR MEETING TODAY, G-8 FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREED ON A COMMON STRATEGY FOR RESOLVING THE CRISIS IN KOSOVO. THEY AGREED THAT THE FOLLOWING GENERAL PRINCIPLES MUST BE ADOPTED AND IMPLEMENTED IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS:

- IMMEDIATE AND VERIFIABLE END OF VIOLENCE AND REPRESSION IN KOSOVO;
- WITHDRAWAL FROM KOSOVO OF MILITARY, POLICE AND PARAMILITARY FORCES;
- DEPLOYMENT IN KOSOVO OF EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AND SECURITY PRESENCES, ENDORSED AND ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS, CAPABLE OF GUARANTEEING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE COMMON OBJECTIVES;
- ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERIM ADMINISTRATION FOR KOSOVO TO BE DECIDED BY THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL TO ENSURE CONDITIONS FOR A PEACEFUL AND NORMAL LIFE FOR ALL INHABITANTS IN KOSOVO;
- THE SAFE AND FREE RETURN OF ALL REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND UNIMPEDED ACCESS TO KOSOVO BY HUMANITARIAN AID ORGANIZATIONS;
- A POLITICAL PROCESS TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERIM POLITICAL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR A SUBSTANTIAL SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR KOSOVO, TAKING FULL ACCOUNT OF THE RAMBOUILLET ACCORDS AND THE PRINCIPLES OF SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE FRY AND THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, AND THE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE UCK;
- A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND STABILIZATION OF THE CRISIS REGION.

Q: DOESN'T THIS AGREEMENT SHOW THAT NATO MADE CONCESSIONS TO THE RUSSIANS? DO YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT NATO MUST BE THE CORE OF AN INTERNATIONAL MILITARY PRESENCE? WHY DO THE PRINCIPLES REFER TO A SECURITY PRESENCE RATHER THAN A MILITARY PRESENCE?

-- NATO HAS MADE NO CONCESSIONS REGARDING ITS FIVE CONDITIONS FOR ENDING THE AIR CAMPAIGN.

-- TODAY'S MEETING WAS NOT A NATO MEETING. IT WAS HELD IN THE CONTEXT OF THE G-8. THAT MEANS NON-NATO COUNTRIES ALSO AGREED ON THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH TODAY.

-- WE HAVE BEEN WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH THE RUSSIANS TO BUILD A COMMON STRATEGY FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN KOSOVO. THIS IS A BUILDING PROCESS, NOT A ZERO-SUM GAME.

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-- PRIOR TO TODAY, WE HAD REACHED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE RUSSIANS ON FOUR OF NATO'S FIVE CONDITIONS. TODAY, RUSSIA FOR THE FIRST TIME AGREED TO THE DEPLOYMENT IN KOSOVO OF AN EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY PRESENCE.

-- DIFFERENCES OF OPINION REMAIN ON THE NATURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY PRESENCE, BUT TODAY'S AGREEMENT REPRESENTS A CLEAR STEP FORWARD, AND WE WILL WORK HARD TO OVERCOME THE REMAINING DIFFERENCES.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT, IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES, AND IN PARTICULAR THE RETURN OF ALL REFUGEES TO KOSOVO, AN EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY PRESENCE IN KOSOVO MUST BE MILITARY IN NATURE AND MUST HAVE NATO AS ITS CORE. WE WOULD WELCOME THE PARTICIPATION OF RUSSIA AND OTHER PARTNER COUNTRIES IN SUCH A FORCE, BUT NATO MUST BE ITS CORE.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE PROPOSAL THAT NATO COUNTRIES NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE AIR CAMPAIGN FORM THE CORE OF AN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY PRESENCE?

-- IT IS CLEAR THAT SUCH A FORCE WOULD NOT BE CAPABLE OF GUARANTEEING THE SAFE AND FREE RETURN OF ALL REFUGEES.

-- REFUGEES WILL ONLY FEEL SAFE ENOUGH TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IF NATO FORMS THE CORE OF AN INTERNATIONAL MILITARY PRESENCE, AND IF THE UNITED STATES IS INVOLVED.

Q: WILL YOU NOW SEEK A UNSC RESOLUTION?

-- WE INTEND TO MOVE FORWARD AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME TO SEEK A UNSC RESOLUTION ENDORSING AND ADOPTING THE DEPLOYMENT IN KOSOVO OF AN EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL PRESENCE AND AN EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY PRESENCE CAPABLE OF GUARANTEEING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE COMMON OBJECTIVES.

-- IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT PRECISELY WHEN THIS MAY OCCUR.

Q: DO YOU SEE ANY SIGNS OF COMPROMISE ON THE PART OF MILOSEVIC?

-- THE RELEASE OF OUR THREE SERVICEMEN LAST WEEKEND, AND OF DR. RUGOVA AND HIS FAMILY YESTERDAY, MAY BE SIGNS THAT MILOSEVIC IS INCREASINGLY LOOKING FOR WAYS TO END NATO'S AIR CAMPAIGN.

-- WE HAVE SEEN NO INDICATIONS, HOWEVER, THAT MILOSEVIC IS PREPARED TO DO THE ONE THING THAT WOULD END THE AIR STRIKES

-- NAMELY, TO AGREE TO NATO'S FIVE CONDITIONS, ON WHICH THERE CAN BE NO COMPROMISE.

Q: WILL THE TWO SERBIAN SOLDIERS BE HANDED OVER TO YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES?

-- SECRETARY OF DEFENSE COHEN SAID YESTERDAY THAT WE WILL CONSIDER RELEASING THE TWO SOLDIERS AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, ONCE THE ADMINISTRATIVE WORK IS COMPLETED AND THERE HAS BEEN A COMPLETION OF THE ICRC EXAMINATION OF THE PRISONERS.

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-- THE RELEASE OF THE THREE U.S. SERVICEMEN WAS UNCONDITIONAL. THERE WAS NO PROMISED QUID PRO QUO.

-- THE SERBIAN SOLDIERS ARE COMBATANTS IN THE CONFLICT, IN CONTRAST TO OUR SERVICEMEN WHO WERE ON A ROUTINE PEACEKEEPING PATROL AND SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DETAINED.

-- THE YUGOSLAV SOLDIERS WILL CONTINUE TO BE HANDLED CONSISTENT WITH THE GENEVA CONVENTION.

Q: HAS THE SECRETARY SPOKEN WITH IBRAHIM RUGOVA?

-- SECRETARY ALBRIGHT SPOKE EARLIER TODAY BY TELEPHONE WITH DR. RUGOVA. IN ADDITION, AMB. CHRIS HILL HAS FLOWN TO ITALY AND HAS SPOKEN WITH DR. RUGOVA.

-- DR. RUGOVA TOLD THE SECRETARY THAT HE SUPPORTED ALL FIVE OF THE CONDITIONS NATO HAS LAID OUT FOR RESOLVING THE CRISIS IN KOSOVO.

3. BALKANS: HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN THE BALKANS

Q: UPDATE ON REFUGEES AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS?

A: -- THE FLOW OF REFUGEES INTO MACEDONIA AND ALBANIA DECREASED YESTERDAY. HOWEVER, UNHCR REPORTED THAT MACEDONIAN POLICE FORCIBLY TURNED BACK AN ESTIMATED 1,000 REFUGEES. AFTER THE POLICE PUSHED THE REFUGEES BACK, SERBIAN TROOPS WERE SEEN BEATING AND SHOVING THE REFUGEES UNTIL THEY WERE OUT OF SIGHT. UNHCR HAS EXPRESSED ITS DEEP CONCERN OVER THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT.

-- THE AIR EVACUATION OUT OF MACEDONIA TO THIRD COUNTRIES IS INCREASING. YESTERDAY 1,942 REFUGEES WERE FLOWN OUT OF MACEDONIA IN AN EFFORT TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE ON MACEDONIA. 453 OF THESE REFUGEES ARRIVED IN THE US AND ARE CURRENTLY AT FORT DIX. THE NEXT AIRLIFT OF REFUGEES TO FORT DIX IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE ON FRIDAY, WITH TWO MORE FLIGHTS DUE ON MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY. SOME 100 REFUGEES WITH FAMILY TIES IN THE US WILL ARRIVE IN NEW YORK ON SATURDAY VIA A COMMERCIAL FLIGHT.

-- IN ALBANIA, 1,160 REFUGEES ARRIVED FROM KOSOVO IN THE LAST 24 HOURS. THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL TO AN ESTIMATED 405,360. AN ESTIMATED 4,000 ALBANIANS HAVE BEEN DISPLACED FROM BORDER VILLAGES IN THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS DUE TO THE MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE AREA.

-- IN MACEDONIA, APPROXIMATELY 2,600 REFUGEES ARRIVED FROM KOSOVO YESTERDAY BEFORE POLICE BEGAN FORCING REFUGEES BACK ACROSS THE BORDER. THE CURRENT REFUGEE ESTIMATE NOW STANDS AT 201,890. 104,500 REFUGEES ARE ESTIMATED TO BE IN ESTABLISHED CAMPS WHILE THE REMAINDER ARE STAYING WITH HOST FAMILIES OR LIVING IN BORDER COMMUNITIES.

-- IN MONTENEGRO, THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF NEW IDP ARRIVALS INTO MONTENEGRO IN THE LAST 24 HOURS.

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Q: IS THE MACEDONIAN BORDER OPEN?

A: -- THE MACEDONIAN BORDER WITH THE FRY REMAINS OPEN DURING THE DAY, BUT SOME REFUGEES ARE BEING DENIED ENTRY. THE MACEDONIAN GOVERNMENT RECENTLY DECLARED ITS INABILITY TO ACCEPT OR ACCOMMODATE NEW REFUGEES BEYOND THE APPROXIMATELY 200,000 ALREADY IN THE COUNTRY.

-- WE NOTE THE OBLIGATION UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW THAT REFUGEES BE PERMITTED TO CROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS TO ESCAPE PERSECUTION, AND CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT OF MACEDONIA

TO CONTINUE TO ALLOW REFUGEES TO ENTER INTO MACEDONIA FROM KOSOVO.

-- RECOGNIZING THE BURDEN PLACED UPON STATES NEIGHBORING THE FRY BY THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS CREATED BY MILOSEVIC'S ACTIONS IN KOSOVO, WE ENCOURAGE EU MEMBER STATES AND OTHERS IN THE REGION AND ELSEWHERE WHO HAVE COMMITTED TO ACCEPT REFUGEES TO EVACUATE THEM FROM MACEDONIA AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

-- HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES SADAOKO OGATA ADDRESSED THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL YESTERDAY. MRS. OGATA CITED INDICATIONS OF SOME COUNTRIES WAVERING IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO ADMIT REFUGEES. IN HER REMARKS, SHE CALLED FOR ASYLUM COUNTRIES TO CONTINUE TO KEEP THEIR DOORS OPEN TO REFUGEES FROM KOSOVO. SHE WENT ON TO SAY THAT UNHCR WOULD CONTINUE TO MOBILIZE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TO EASE THE BURDEN ON ASYLUM COUNTRIES. OF THE APPROXIMATELY 120,000 SLOTS OFFERED BY EUROPEAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE US, MORE THAN 30,000 HAVE BEEN FILLED SO FAR.

-- ON ANOTHER NOTE, MRS. OGATA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT UNHCR WOULD HAVE TO START MAKING PLANS TO EQUIP REFUGEE CAMPS FOR THE BITTER BALKAN WINTER IF THE CONFLICT WASN'T RESOLVED SHORTLY.

Q: COMMENTS ON UNHCR ACCOUNTS OF KOSOVO REFUGEES FORCED INTO PROSTITUTION?

A: -- MRS. OGATA EXPRESSED HER CONCERN OVER THE GROWING THREAT OF TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY IN ALBANIA. SUCH SMUGGLING OPERATIONS OFTEN RESULT IN WOMEN BEING FORCED INTO PROSTITUTION AND CHILDREN BEING ABUSED. SHE SAID SMUGGLING OF REFUGEES HAS ALREADY STARTED ACROSS THE ADRIATIC INTO ITALY AND THE EUROPEAN UNION.

-- THE US HAS IN AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH UNHCR AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON THIS SERIOUS ISSUE. THE US AND OTHER NATIONS ARE COMMITTED TO COUNTERING THE SMUGGLING AND ABUSE OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM ALL FRONTS, INCLUDING IN THE BALKANS.

-- RECOGNIZING THE INCREASED THREAT CAUSED BY THE KOSOVO REFUGEE SITUATION, ADDED ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO MONITORING AND PREVENTING ANY SUCH ACTIVITY IN THE REGION.

4. SWITZERLAND/ARGENTINA: ARGENTINE HISTORICAL COMMISSION FINDS NEW TIE TO NAZI GOLD VIA SWITZERLAND

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Q: THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTS THAT ARGENTINA'S CENTRAL BANK MAY HAVE SERVED AS A TEMPORARY REPOSITORY FOR NAZI GOLD FOLLOWING THE FALL OF HITLER. WHAT'S YOUR REACTION?

A: -- WE WELCOME THE EFFORTS OF THE ARGENTINE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY TO DEVELOP INFORMATION REGARDING THE DISPOSITION OF NAZI GOLD. HOWEVER, AS WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT, WE ARE UNABLE TO COMMENT ON IT. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT LINE OF INQUIRY THAT COULD HELP COMPLETE THE HISTORY OF THESE EVENTS.

--THE ARGENTINE COMMITTEE IS AMONG THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE AND SERIOUS HISTORICAL RESEARCH EFFORTS ON THIS TOPIC, AND HAS PRODUCED IMPORTANT STUDIES THUS FAR REGARDING ARGENTINA'S RELATIONS WITH NAZI GERMANY.

--(IF ASKED) UNDER SECRETARY EIZENSTAT AND HIS STAFF MET ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS OVER THE PAST YEARS WITH ARGENTINE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER DI TELLA, ON THIS MATTER.

5. SERBIA (MONTENEGRO): YUGOSLAV NAVY CLOSES PORT OF BAR IN MONTENEGRO

-- THE U.S. STRONGLY CONDEMNS RECENT ACTIONS BY THE YUGOSLAV NAVY TO CLOSE THE PORT OF BAR IN MONTENEGRO. THIS ACTION WILL IMPOSE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP ON MONTENEGRINS AND OBSTRUCT EFFORTS BY HUMANITARIAN RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS TO DELIVER FOOD AND RELIEF SUPPLIES TO THE THOUSANDS OF DISPLACED KOSOVAR ALBANIANS WHO HAVE SOUGHT AND RECEIVED SHELTER IN MONTENEGRO.

-- THE PORT OF BAR IS MONTENEGRO'S ECONOMIC LIFELINE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND HUMANITARIAN RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS HAVE USED IT AS A DISTRIBUTION HUB FOR RELIEF SUPPLIES SINCE EARLY 1998. CLOSING THE PORT IS CLEARLY DESIGNED TO UNDERMINE MONTENEGRO'S DEMOCRATICALLY-ELECTED AND PRO-REFORM GOVERNMENT BY CHOKING THE MONTENEGRIN ECONOMY AND IMPOSING ADDITIONAL HARDSHIP ON DISPLACED KOSOVAR ALBANIANS. WE CALL ON THE FRY AUTHORITIES TO REOPEN THE PORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND AVOID PROVOKING AN EVEN GREATER HUMANITARIAN TRAGEDY.

6. TURKEY: OCALAN'S LAWYERS THREATEN TO RESIGN

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. VIEW OF THREATS BY OCALAN'S LAWYERS TO RESIGN OR SUSPEND THEIR DEFENSE OF OCALAN UNLESS CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE MET?

A: -- PRESIDENT DEMIREL AND PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT (EDGE-A-VIT) CONSISTENTLY HAVE STATED THAT OCALAN WILL RECEIVE A FAIR AND OPEN TRIAL.

-- TURKEY KNOWS IT IS IN ITS INTEREST TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR OCALAN'S TRIAL TO BE CONDUCTED WITH TRANSPARENCY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS

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UNDER INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS.

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE OCALAN TRIAL?

A: -- THE TURKISH STATE SECURITY COURT ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 30 THAT OCALAN'S TRIAL WILL BEGIN ON MAY 31 ON THE ISLAND OF IMRALI. OCALAN IS CHARGED WITH TREASON.

Q: WHAT ABOUT REPORTS THAT OBSERVERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND THE TRIAL?

A: -- THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED ON MAY 2 PROCEDURES BY WHICH NGO AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES CAN APPLY TO ATTEND THE TRIAL. OUR BUREAU OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND LABOR AND USIA ARE WORKING TO FACILITATE THE APPLICATIONS OF AMERICAN NGO AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

-- THE PRESIDING JUDGE HAS GIVEN THE STATE SECURITY COURT PROSECUTOR AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE WHO WILL BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND THE TRIAL.

-- WE HAVE RECEIVED INDICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE STATE SECURITY COURT IS MAKING ARRANGEMENTS THAT APPEAR LIKELY TO ALLOW A WIDE RANGE OF ATTENDEES.

-- WE BELIEVE SUCH ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE HELPFUL AND IN THE SPIRIT OF OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY.
IF ASKED:

Q: WHAT ABOUT REPORTS THAT SEVERAL OF OCALAN'S LAWYERS WERE TAKEN BY POLICE TO A NEIGHBORHOOD IN ANKARA WHERE THEY WERE BEATEN?

A: -- WE ARE LOOKING INTO THESE TROUBLING BUT UNCONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS.

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED
TALBOTT

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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