

cc Press



FACSIMILE

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(Including Cover Sheet)

Extradition

Edward, State Department press guidance on Smyth extradition.
Looks "clean" to me. Regards, Mike

1) cc (fax) Mr Uermacott fi (Lamington)

2) file.

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FRIDAY.

- GREEK PRIME MINISTER SIMITIS ARRIVED SATURDAY TO ATTEND A NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING AND DEPARTED SHORTLY THEREAFTER. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL IS A GOVERNMENT ADVISORY BODY.
- (IF ASKED)
- WITH RESPECT TO STATEMENTS ISSUED ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT, WE REFER YOU TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREECE AND CYPRUS.
- OUR AMBASSADOR TO CYPRUS, KENNETH BRILL, MET WITH PRESIDENT CLERIDES AND TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER RAUF DENKTASH ON FRIDAY. HE DEPLORED THE VIOLENCE OF AUGUST 11 AND 14 URGED THAT AUTHORITIES ON BOTH SIDES ACT TO PREVENT FURTHER VIOLENCE. HE ENCOURAGED THE SIDES TO FIND A WAY TO HOLD A MEETING OF MILITARY COMMANDERS TO REVIEW STEPS TO REDUCE TENSIONS IN THE BUFFER ZONE. AMBASSADOR BRILL ALSO DISCUSSED THE IMPORTANCE OF MOVING TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT TO ESTABLISH A BIZONAL, BICOMMUNAL FEDERATION.
- (IF ASKED)
- WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS OF A JOINT STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED BY PRESIDENT CLERIDES AND DENKTASH. WE SUPPORT STEPS TOWARDS NEGOTIATIONS AND AWAY FROM VIOLENCE.
- WE WILL SEND A TEAM TO CYPRUS BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH.
- WE HAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS FOR YOU AT THIS TIME.

6. UK/NORTHERN IRELAND: EXTRADITION OF JAMES JOSEPH
(Jimmy) SMYTH

- Q: Has the U.S. turned Jimmy Smyth back over to Great Britain?
- A: -- ON AUGUST 16, SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER SIGNED A ROUTINE SURRENDER WARRANT AUTHORIZING THE
- CS RELEASE OF JAMES JOSEPH SMYTH INTO THE CUSTODY OF BRITISH AUTHORITIES.
- THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM REQUESTED MR. SMYTH'S EXTRADITION TO THE UK UNDER THE

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TERMS OF OUR BILATERAL EXTRADITION TREATY.
THE SECRETARY'S ACTION WAS THE FINAL STEP IN
THE EXTRADITION PROCESS.

-- MR. SMYTH HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE CUSTODY
OF THE APPROPRIATE BRITISH AUTHORITIES.

Q: Why does the UK want him back? What did he do?

A: -- MR. SMYTH WAS CONVICTED OF ATTEMPTED MURDER BY
A BRITISH COURT IN 1977. WE REFER YOU TO THE
BRITISH GOVERNMENT FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON THE
FACTS OF HIS CASE.

-- MR. SMYTH ESCAPED FROM PRISON IN 1983 WITH A
GROUP OF CONVICTED IRA TERRORISTS; DURING THE
COURSE OF THE PRISON BREAK, A PRISON GUARD WAS
KILLED.

-- AS PART OF ITS EFFORTS TO RECAPTURE THE
ESCAPEES, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS SOUGHT
EXTRADITION OF THOSE WHO ARE LOCATED OVERSEAS.

Q: Smyth says he was framed and will be tortured if
he's sent back to Northern Ireland. Why have you
agreed to return him?

A: -- I CAN'T COMMENT ON THE DETAILS OF MR. SMYTH'S
ORIGINAL CASE.

-- ONCE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT REQUESTED MR.
SMYTH'S EXTRADITION, HE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY IN
U.S. COURT TO ARGUE WHY HE SHOULD NOT BE
RETURNED TO THE CUSTODY OF THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT.

-- THAT PROCESS WAS DELIBERATIVE AND CONDUCTED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH U.S. LAW. AT THE END OF THAT
PROCESS, A FEDERAL APPELLATE COURT DETERMINED
MR. SMYTH WAS INDEED ELIGIBLE FOR EXTRADITION.

-- THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT MR. SMYTH'S
CONTENTION THAT HE WILL BE TORTURED UPON HIS
RETURN TO THE BRITISH PENAL SYSTEM.

-- IN ANY EVENT, WE UNDERSTAND MR. SMYTH WILL
HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SELECT THE PRISON IN
WHICH HE WILL BE INCARCERATED. IF HE CHOOSES,
MR. SMYTH COULD AVOID RETURNING TO A PRISON IN
NORTHERN IRELAND.

Q: What about the other escapees? Are any still at
large? Are there any more in the U.S.?

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- A: -- THREE OTHER PRISONERS WHO ESCAPED WITH MR. SMYTH IN 1983 ARE CURRENTLY AWAITING EXTRADITION HEARINGS IN THE UNITED STATES. THEY WERE ALL ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF PASSPORT FRAUD.
- WE UNDERSTAND MANY OF THE OTHER ESCAPEES WERE RECAPTURED AND SUBSEQUENTLY REINCARCERATED. WE REFER YOU TO ASK THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FOR DETAILS ON THEIR CASES.
- I WOULD POINT OUT, THOUGH, THAT ALL OF THE ESCAPEES WERE SERVING SENTENCES FOR VIOLENT CRIMES, MANY OF THEM FOR MURDER.

CS

Q: Why was Smyth jailed in the U.S.? Did you pick him up at British request?

- A: -- MR. SMYTH WAS ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF PASSPORT FRAUD, A SERIOUS CHARGE THAT CARRIES EQUIVALENT PENALTIES.
- AFTER LEARNING OF MR. SMYTH'S ARREST AND SUBSEQUENT PROSECUTION, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT REQUESTED HIS EXTRADITION.
- THAT REQUEST WAS COMPLETELY CONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS OF OUR BILATERAL EXTRADITION TREATY, UNDER WHICH THE U.S. AND THE UNITED KINGDOM ROUTINELY RETURN CRIMINALS WHO ARE SOUGHT IN THEIR NATIVE COUNTRIES FOR COMMITTING SERIOUS, OFTEN VIOLENT, CRIMES.
- BILATERAL EXTRADITION AGREEMENTS SUCH AS THIS ONE WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM ARE AN IMPORTANT TOOL IN OUR EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE SCOURGE OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

Q: Did we cut a deal with the UK on Smyth's return? Do we ask them to reduce his sentence?

- A: -- THERE WAS NO "DEAL." WE DID NOT ASK THE UK FOR ANY SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR SMYTH.

7. CUBA: HELMS-BURTON AND GRUPO DOMOS

Q: Have Grupo Domos executives received Notification Letters from the State Department?

- A: -- I CAN CONFIRM THAT WE HAVE FOUND THE MEXICAN FIRM GRUPO DOMOS TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THE HELMS-BURTON/LIBERTAD LAW. CONSEQUENTLY, WE ARE SENDING LETTERS TO A NUMBER OF GRUPO DOMOS

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