

Dept. Non Press Briefing
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AFL-CIO to develop and maintain relations with trade union movements internationally. R

Now, are you saying that none of those U.S.-financed activities are involved in the current Suriname situation?

A I'm not going to go beyond what I've offered you on Suriname here today.

Q Do you have any statement at all today on either the Newsweek article or the New York Times article in which senior officials are quoted as confirming that we are providing assistance to anti-Sandinista guerrillas but deny that we are trying to overthrow the government?

A No. I have nothing further for you.

Q Do you have any update on what anti-Sandinista groups are involved in Honduras and what their activities are?

A No.

Q John, back on President Mubarak's statement for a minute. Something you said earlier led me to believe that you have something to say on that. He apparently also called for resumption of the autonomy talks which struck me as a new development since it was my understanding that the last position was that the talks should not resume until Israel withdraws from Lebanon. Does the U.S. -- you indicated you haven't even read the statement.

A I haven't.

Q Is it possible for you to check on that to see whether there's any suggestion of a change in position?

A All right.

Q Does the State Department have any comment on the barring of Western reporters from a news conference in Moscow that was supposed to be held by a Soviet pacifist group? I understand that some of the pacifists themselves were prevented from attending.

A Yes, I think we do have something on that for you. This action by the Soviet authorities once again points up the hypocrisy of their position on the international peace movement. The Soviet authorities are perfectly willing to promote and praise the activities of overseas peace movements as a means of advancing their own

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.

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A Not to my knowledge.

Q Shortly after the --

A Not to my knowledge.

Q But do you think that in the future American representatives --

A No. Let's wait and see.

Q Can I question about what earlier was asked about the Moroccan troops into Lebanon? I remember when the MNF before they were sent into Lebanon, the U.S. Government waited, I think, sometime for the Lebanese Government to invite these forces which signals to me, or says to me that the Lebanese Government has the authority and will not -- and the U.S. Government itself did not send its troops until the Lebanese Government did ask for them now.

If the Lebanese Government does ask for Moroccans or other parties than the MNF to come in and join in the maintenance of order, or whatever, in Beirut, you're saying this cannot be before the parties --

A No, no. Lebanon clearly is a sovereign country and can invite whatever forces it wants. But I would think that having already initiated the Multinational Force involving the United States, the Italians and the French, my expectation is that Lebanon would discuss with those countries any enlargement of the MNF or any change in its role along with any other countries that it might be discussing this with.

Q I'm not aware of what statements you may have made with regard to the Newsweek and the New York Times articles on Nicaragua to which you have nothing further to add. Can you tell me what you said previously?

A Yes. We've said that traditionally we have not discussed intelligence matters from this podium and will continue to take that position.

Q Is Ambassador Negro Ponte overseeing an ambitious, covert campaign to arm, train and direct Nicaraguan exiles?

A As I say, we're not going to address ourselves to covert activities in Nicaragua. Insofar as Ambassador Negro Ponte is concerned -- and I'm not talking about the question of covert activities in any part of the world or, indeed, in Honduras -- but insofar as the

Ambassador is concerned, there isn't any question but that the Secretary and the President maintain their full confidence in the Ambassador.

Q Just one more follow-up on that. Does it continue to be the Administration's contention that Nicaragua is actively attempting to destabilize its neighbors?

A I think I would refer you to the language we've used in the past. I don't think that there's any question among other nations in the area that Nicaragua is troublesome in this regard.

Q But as opposed to the opinion of other nations, what is our opinion?

A I think we've offered you our opinion, too, and I think that opinion would coincide with those of those nations I just mentioned.

Q Do you have anything on my question yesterday about dairy surplus policy?

A I do not know whether we've come up with anything. No, I'm afraid we haven't. But that doesn't mean we're not working on it diligently.

Q This afternoon?

A We'll post it this afternoon? We are working on it more diligently than I had understood. We will post it this afternoon.

Q Can you give us any idea what the Secretary's meetings with the President are about; it's scheduled twice today?

A No. I think you probably have to ask the White House.

Q Any news conference with the Secretary contemplated?

A None planned.

Q Do you know what the Secretary's elections plans are?

A No, I don't.

Q He won't be watching them at the White House with the President?