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PAGE 01 CARACA 01159 141847Z
ACTION OCS-03

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CA/OCS FOR THOMAS GLOVER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: CASC, VE
SUBJECT: TRANSLATION OF LETTER FOR FAMILIES OF THREE AMCITS KILLED
BY FARC IN VENEZUELA

1. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. PLEASE SEE PARA 2.
2. ACTION REQUESTED: FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSLATION OF A CONDOLENCE LETTER SENT BY WILLIAM TAREK SAAB, PRESIDENT OF THE PERMANENT COMMISSION OF CULTURE OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OF THE CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, TO THE AMBASSADOR. CA/OCS - PLEASE FORWARD THE TRANSLATION TO THE FAMILIES OF TERENCE FREITAS, LAHE'ENA'E GAY, AND INGRID WASHINAWATOK, THE THREE AMERICAN CITIZENS KILLED BY THE FARC IN VENEZUELA.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 01159 141847Z
CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
PERMANENT COMMISSION OF CULTURE
OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

MARCH 12, 1999
CARACAS

CITIZEN
HIS EXCELLENCY MR. JOHN MAISTO
AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
IN HIS POSITION

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 2

Current Handling: n/a

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RESPECTED AMBASSADOR:

I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND TO YOU, YOUR COUNTRY, AND YOUR GOVERNMENT MY CONDOLENCES FOR THE PAINFUL INCIDENT WHICH RECENTLY OCCURRED IN THE REGION OF OUR COUNTRY BORDERING THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA, WHERE AMERICAN CITIZENS TERENCE FREITAS, LAHE'ENA'E GAY, AND INGRID WASHINAWATOK WERE VILELY MURDERED.

THOSE OF US WHO HAVE MAINTAINED A SOLID COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH IS UNDERSTOOD AS BEING THE BASIS OF HEALTHY RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD, AND WHICH IS EQUALLY UNDERSTOOD TO BE THE BASIS FOR THE RESOLUTION OF ANY CONTROVERSY OR DISPUTE BETWEEN CIVILIZED GROUPS, WE CAN DO NOTHING LESS THAN EXPRESS OUR CONSTERNATION AND REPUDIATION OF THE MURDERS. THE KILLINGS CONSTITUTE A CLEAR VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE AMERICAN ACTIVISTS EXECUTED BY THE FARC FORMED PART OF THE NON-COMBATANT CIVILIAN POPULATION, OF THE SECOND PROTOCOL OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION CONCERNING THE HUMANIZATION OF WAR. ON THE CONTRARY,
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CARACA 01159 141847Z
THEIR MISSION WAS DIRECTED TO THE SEARCH FOR PEACE.

I HOPE YOU WILL SEND MY CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THESE THREE AMERICAN CITIZENS, WHO, IN LIFE, DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES FOR THEIR PROMOTION AND RESPECT OF HUMAN DIGNITY IN THE WORLD.

SINCERELY,

TAREK WILLIAM SAAB
PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION

END TEXT.

MAISTO

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Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED