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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 17, 2008

NATIONAL SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE/NSPD-58

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT
 THE SECRETARY OF STATE
 THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
 THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
 THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
 THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
 THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY
 ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OF STAFF
 DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
 UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
 DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
 DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
 ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY
 AFFAIRS
 COUNSELOR TO THE PRESIDENT
 ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF
 STAFF FOR POLICY
 ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY
 AND COUNTERTERRORISM
 ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR ECONOMIC POLICY
 DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 ADMINISTRATOR, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
 AGENCY
 ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR
 INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
 CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
 ADMINISTRATOR OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT
 CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY
 BOARD

SUBJECT: Institutionalizing the Freedom Agenda ~~(C)~~

Policy (U)

It is the policy of the United States to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in the

world. The promotion of freedom, justice, human dignity, and effective democratic institutions are central goals of our national security. This directive records and codifies this policy and the organization and procedures developed to carry it out. (U)

Championing freedom is a national security imperative. Governments that respect the human rights of their own people are more likely to uphold responsible conduct toward other nations, and the advancement of freedom is the most effective long-term measure for strengthening international stability, reducing regional conflicts, countering terrorism and terror-supporting extremism, and extending peace and prosperity. (U)

To advance this policy, the United States employs the full array of political, economic, diplomatic, and other tools at its disposal:

- speaks out honestly against abuses of human rights;
- publicly supports democratic reformers in repressive nations, including by holding high-level meetings with them at the White House, the Department of State, and U.S. Embassies;
- uses foreign assistance to support free and fair elections, rule of law, civil society, human rights, women's rights, free media, and religious freedom;
- tailors assistance and training of military forces to support civilian control of the military and military respect for human rights in a democratic society;
- applies sanctions designed to target those who lead oppressive regimes while sparing the people;
- encourages other nations not to support oppressive regimes;
- partners with other democratic nations to promote freedom, democracy, and human rights in specific countries and regions;
- strengthens and builds new initiatives such as the Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative's Forum for the Future, the Community of Democracies, and the United Nations Democracy Fund;
- forms creative partnerships with nongovernmental organizations and other civil society voices to support and reinforce their work;
- works with existing international institutions such as the United Nations and regional organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the African Union, and the Organization of American States to help implement democratic commitments, and to help establish democracy charters in regions that lack them;

- supports condemnation in multilateral institutions of egregious violations of human rights and freedoms;
- encourages foreign direct investment in and foreign assistance to countries where there is a commitment to the rule of law, fighting corruption, and democratic accountability; and
- concludes free trade agreements that encourage countries to enhance the rule of law, fight corruption, and further democratic accountability. (U)

Responsibilities of All Executive Departments and Agencies (U)

Departments and agencies shall engage foreign governments in a manner consistent with this directive. Departments and agencies shall coordinate with the Secretary of State on supporting the goals and objectives of this directive within the context of each department/agency mission. (U)

Policy Coordinating Committee (U)

As established in NSPD-1, the Policy Coordinating Committee on Democracy, Human Rights, and International Organizations (Democracy PCC) has primary responsibility for interagency coordination of national security policy on promoting democracy and includes representatives as laid out in NSPD-1. Consistent with title XXI (Advancing Democratic Values) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53), the Democracy PCC:

- (i) bears primary responsibility for policy analysis for consideration by the more senior committees of the National Security Council system and ensures timely implementation of decisions made by the President;
- (ii) identifies for deputies' approval, countries to be designated as priorities for democracy promotion. Priority countries include those of high strategic value, those with important and significant regional impact, those that involve particularly oppressive regimes, and targets of opportunity to affect democratic change. The list will be periodically updated to reflect changing political situations;
- (iii) develops and oversees the implementation of country-specific diplomatic and foreign assistance strategies for promoting democracy in priority countries designed to achieve the goals set forth in this directive;
- (iv) provides input and recommendations during the Office of Management and Budget budget process for relevant assistance programs to ensure adequate support to

- implement the strategies identified for priority countries; and
- (v) ensures that this policy coordination process is conducted in a timely manner to effectively influence other relevant NSC policy processes and agency and OMB budget processes. ~~(C)~~

Foreign Assistance for Priority Countries ~~(C)~~

Each fiscal year as part of the Foreign Operations budget request, the Secretary of State identifies funds to support democracy promotion in priority countries. Priority countries will receive special consideration for monetary and diplomatic resources. The Secretary of State shall also designate an appropriate senior-level official to assume responsibility for the alignment of democracy promotion programs and resources with the policies and strategies identified for each priority country. ~~(C)~~

The following typology is to be used to help guide funding for assistance programs in support of this directive:

- **Threatened or Fragile Democracies:** In countries with weak but functioning democratic governments, including those at risk of or in transition from conflict or civil strife, United States Government assistance should primarily be used to support activities designed to strengthen democratic capacity by addressing the specific vulnerabilities of government and civil society, support peaceful political competition, promote good governance, and promote development of effective, transparent, and fully representative political institutions. Such assistance could also include support for nongovernmental checks on these institutions, including where needed nonpartisan support for political parties, independent media, independent labor unions, and nongovernmental organizations.
- **Authoritarian Regimes:** In countries with authoritarian governments, United States Government assistance should primarily be used to strengthen pro-democracy forces and institutions in a nonpartisan manner, including civil society organizations, political parties, independent labor unions or movements, free media outlets, and independent legal or judicial systems. The objective of the United States is to strengthen those forces to a point where they can effectively advocate for reform, hold governments accountable, and meaningfully compete in elections in order to bring about democratic transformation.

- **Closed Totalitarian Regimes:** In countries with closed, totalitarian regimes, United States Government assistance should primarily be used to keep hope alive by supporting activities designed to expose human rights abuses, support and protect political dissidents and their families, strengthen pro-democracy groups, break information blockades, and increase public access to information. The objective of the United States is to improve the chances for a peaceful transition to democracy when the existing regime falls and to bring that day closer. ~~(c)~~

Cooperation with Democratic Countries (U)

The Secretary of State, in coordination with other executive departments and agencies as necessary, looks to establish stronger cooperation with other democratic countries to:

- (i) promote and protect shared democratic principles, practices, and values;
- (ii) promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and respect for the rule of law;
- (iii) develop, adopt, and pursue strategies to advance common interests through new and existing bilateral and multilateral mechanisms for cooperation; and
- (iv) provide political, economic, security, and other necessary assistance and support to fellow democracies and countries undergoing a transition to democracy. (U)

Other Activities (U)

1. Global Human Rights Defenders Fund. The Secretary of State maintains and supports the Global Human Rights Defenders Fund. Through this Fund, the United States Government provides assistance to activists and their organizations facing extraordinary financial, legal, or medical needs as a direct result of government repression. The Global Human Rights Defenders Fund will be used for:

- legal representation;
- medical bills arising from abuse;
- food and necessities for persons (and/or their families) who have been detained, imprisoned, or evicted from their homes for their human rights advocacy;
- trial monitoring;
- prison visits;

- replacing communications equipment (e.g., computers, cell phones, fax machines) confiscated by government authorities; and
- other types of emergency needs. (U)

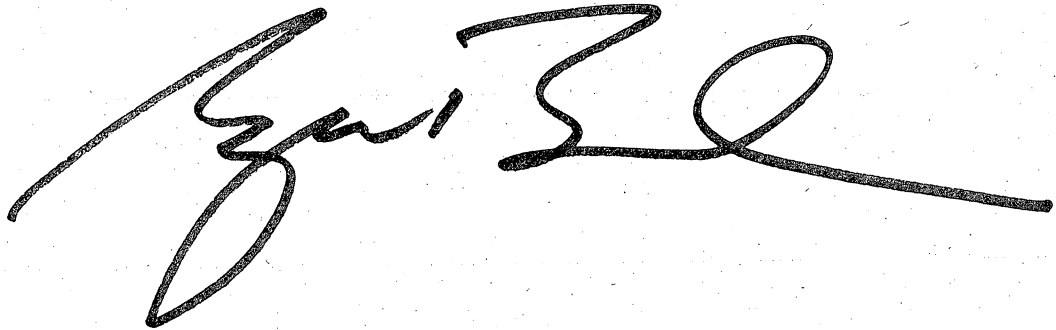
2. Training and Incentives for Foreign Service Officers. The Secretary of State is establishing as part of the training provided for members of the Foreign Service instruction in how to develop and implement transformational democracy promotion strategies in consultation with individuals and NGOs that support democratic principles, practice, and values. The Secretary of State shall ensure such training is provided for, among others, all Chiefs of Mission and Deputy Chiefs of Mission, members of the Foreign Service having reporting or other responsibilities relating to internal political developments and human rights, and all United States Agency for International Development (USAID) officers responsible for democracy promotion assistance programs. (U)

Performance in the duty of promoting democracy should be rewarded. The Secretary of State should increase incentives for members of the Foreign Service and other employees of the Department who take assignments relating to the promotion of democracy and the protection of human rights through such mechanisms as performance pay, awards such as the Human Rights and Labor Officer Award and the Diplomacy for Freedom Award, and ensuring that consideration for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service takes into account documented experience in democracy promotion and defense of human rights for those who carry out their assignments in an outstanding manner. (U)

3. Diplomatic and Media Outreach and Contacts. Senior-level U.S. Embassy officials, including Chiefs of Mission and USAID Mission Directors, in countries with authoritarian and totalitarian governments shall maintain regular contact with political dissidents and human rights activists to the extent such contact is practicable and is agreed to by these dissidents, and will facilitate meetings with senior United States Government officials, including the President, in Washington or in the host country. In addition, Embassy officials shall seek to reach out to independent (non-government sponsored or controlled) media outlets and will facilitate opportunities for interaction between such outlets and visiting United States Government officials. Chiefs of Mission in open societies will reach out to and support dissidents in exile from authoritarian and closed regimes in their host country and encourage their host governments to do the same. (U)

4. Communicating U.S. Support for Global Democracy and Human Rights. In order to facilitate increased access to information regarding the United States and its commitment to democratic values, the Secretary of State is establishing a Department Internet site dedicated to the promotion of democracy and human rights. In addition, the Secretary of State and other appropriate departments and agencies shall seek additional means and venues to communicate more effectively the commitment of the United States to promoting human rights and democratic values, as set forth in this directive. (U)

5. Speaking with a Consistent Voice. Because it is the responsibility of all United States Government officials to implement Presidential priorities and United States Government policies, this directive applies to all United States Government officials who engage in any activities with foreign governments. Specifically, Cabinet and sub-Cabinet officials meeting with foreign leaders are responsible for communicating the United States priorities on democracy promotion. (U)

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to George W. Bush, is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.