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INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CCO-00	CG-00	DODE-00
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FBI WASHDC  
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HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC  
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USDAO LONDON UK

C O N F I D E N T I A L C LONDON 009815

NSC FOR TOWNSEND; WHITE HOUSE PLEASE PASS TO HSC GORDON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/01/2012  
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, PREL, PTER, ASEC, ECON, UK, G-8  
SUBJECT: COUNTER TERRORISM/HOMELAND SECURITY - THE DECEMBER  
14-17 VISIT TO LONDON BY GENERAL GORDON AND DEPUTY NSA  
TOWNSEND

- REF: A. LONDON 9572
- B. LONDON 9086
- C. LONDON 8065
- D. LONDON 5311
- E. LONDON 424

Classified By: CHA David Johnson. Reasons 1.5(B) and (D)



NR

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Martin McLean, Senior Reviewer

NR

DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

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NR

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8. (SBU) The U.S. and UK signed a new Extradition Treaty on March 31. Once ratified, the Treaty should make the UK extradition process easier to navigate. Some UK NGOs have attacked the Treaty's elimination of the requirement for the U.S. to present prima facie evidence when making an extradition request, but the Treaty's opponents are small in number. Critics tend to link their concerns about the Treaty to broader concerns over U.S. handling of the Guantanamo detainees and civil liberties in the U.S. The UK continues to assist with the U.S. request for the extradition of Khaled Al-Fawwaz, Adel Abdel Bary, and Ibrahim Eidarous for their involvement in the bombing of the U.S. Embassies in East Africa. The U.S. still owes the UK a response to a set of inquiries regarding these cases, which HMG made in March 2002.

NR

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EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

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B3, NSA50, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

B3 NSA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 006726

STATE FOR EUR A/S FRIED, S/WCI AMB. PROSPER, LEGAL ADVISER  
BELLINGER, EUR/UBI, EUR/PPD, R, AND NEA/PPD - FERNANDEZ

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/08/2015

TAGS: KISL, PREL, KPAO, PGOV, MARR, MOPS, PTER, UK

SUBJECT: SPEAKING OUT ON GITMO AND DETAINEES: "BETTER TO  
EXPLAIN THE FUTURE THAN JUSTIFY THE PAST"

Classification Extended on :3/1/2012 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL  
~ Authority: DSCG 11-1 ~ Declassify on: 8/12/2030

REF: A. STATE 139288  
B. STATE 142348  
C. STATE 146163

Classified By: DCM David T. Johnson. Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Summary: Drawing on guidance in refs A-B, post continues working to secure a better understanding in the UK and elsewhere of the military necessity and security rationale for U.S. detainees operations including at Guantanamo Bay (GTMO). We have had extensive exchanges on these issues with HMG officials, UK opinion leaders, and British and international media (paras 3-8). We have made some progress in getting British and other audiences to understand the need and rationale for detainee operations, regularly incorporating USG points into our ongoing public diplomacy efforts within the UK and, through the Media Outreach Center (MOC), the Pan-Arab media.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Martin McLean, Senior Reviewer

**UNCLASSIFIED**

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Public Diplomacy Engagement  
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3. (SBU) Since the release of the last four UK citizens from GTMO in January 2005, British media have focused far more on detainee policy than on GTMO-specific cases. In editorials, GTMO is almost always mentioned in the same sentence as Abu Ghraib and Iraq. In the most critical journals, particularly "The Guardian," "The Independent," and "The Daily Mail," the three issues are consistently intertwined. Since July 7, many critics have linked the terror attacks in London to those three issues, with one op-ed critic asserting in the July 20 "Guardian" that British Muslims would have been more helpful in helping authorities monitor extremism "had it not been for Fallujah, Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay."

4. (C) While we respond proactively to such stories, we have sometimes been unable to respond as effectively due to a lack of timely, targeted guidance. This problem has been especially acute for inquiries from relatively unbiased British or international journalists on specific issues, such as Quran desecration. Delay in providing specific, targeted guidance on such issues cedes the media playing field to journalists with an anti-American agenda who also look for U.S.-UK splits.

5. (SBU) Even without more targeted guidance, we respond proactively whenever we see stories with spurious charges of abuse from former GTMO detainees or lawyers representing current detainees. The DCM has given numerous print, radio, and television interviews on the GTMO issue in general and spurious abuse allegations in particular. The Media Outreach Center (MOC), which is responsible for outreach to London's Pan-Arab media, has addressed the issue with Arab print media. In addition, the MOC's Director has appeared on Al-Jazeera on multiple occasions to explain USG policies

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Concerning GTMO and Quran desecration. A survey done by our Information Resource Center shows that British journalists have had significant access to GTMO. At least nine prominent correspondents from major British publications and the BBC have visited Guantanamo since 2003. These journalists as well as HMG press officials have confirmed that the more specific the USG points on the continuing threat from detainees, the more objective the resulting story.

6. (SBU) When occasional stories surface on the status of third-country nationals detained at GTMO who also hold UK "residency," both we and HMG officials reiterate that international law only grants consular responsibility for such detainees to their country of citizenship. The Public Affairs Section uses a letter based on the most relevant USG points (refs A-B) as a template to respond to the numerous GTMO-related letters that we receive, many of which are prompted by Amnesty International or other NGO campaigns.

POL is also drawing on the USG points to respond to inquiries from Members of Parliament and organizations such as the United Nations Association of Wales.

7. (C) We also continue to engage proactively with local American, British and other experts on international law. We have taken advantage of the presence of visiting USG officials, such as the April 18 visit of Legal Adviser Bellinger, to provide more direct messages and answers to British officials and opinion leaders. Echoing themes we have heard from FCO and other HMG officials, a group of prominent international lawyers based in London told Bellinger that the USG would win more friends if it could engage in discussion -- privately or publicly -- with other governments and opinion leaders about alternatives to GTMO. These and other experts also recommend more data and information be disseminated on judicial proceedings and results at GTMO. We agree that dissemination of such detailed material could be valuable in responding to specific allegations, if provided rapidly.

8. (U) In that regard, we look forward to taking advantage of the Department's reenergized commitment to translation of USG points (ref C) to prepare the latest version of USG detainee points (ref B) in Arabic for dissemination to Mideast journalists attending an August 24 MOC-hosted media roundtable with CENTCOM MG Lute.

B1

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<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/london/index.cfm>  
Tuttle

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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	A-00	CCO-00	CG-00	[REDACTED]	COME-00	B3 NSA
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B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B3, NSA50

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 000584

NOFORN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/19/2016  
TAGS: PREL, PTER, UK

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] RENDITIONS  
-- HMG COMING UNDER INCREASED PRESSURE

B1

REF: A. 05 STATE 220071  
B. 05 LONDON 9683  
C. 05 STATE 221655

Classification Extended on : 05/30/2014 ~ Class:  
CONFIDENTIAL ~ Authority: DSCG 11-1 ~ Declassify on:  
01/27/2031

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission David T. Johnson for reasons 1.4  
(b,d)

1. (C/NOFORN) Summary: The British press has been making  
hay of a leaked Foreign Office memo to Number 10 Downing  
Street which laboriously explains the legal boundaries of  
rendition.

B1

[REDACTED]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Martin McLean, Senior Reviewer

UNCLASSIFIED

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The Leaked Memo  
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2. (C/NOFORN) The New Statesman published an article January 19th which reports on a leaked Foreign Office memo to the Prime Minister's office. The New Statesman charges the Blair government with either cooperating in an effort it knows to be illegal (extraordinary rendition, as the New Statesman asserts it is defined -- rendition with the intent of torture) or of ignorance of USG activity in the UK which UK law would prohibit. The actual memo, which was also published, explains the various interpretations of the meaning of the terms "rendition" and "extraordinary rendition," reports that various parts of the British government are reviewing their files for cases of cooperation on rendition with the U.S., and acknowledges that the government is uncertain its knowledge on rendition and cooperation with the U.S. is complete. The memo is reportedly dated December, 2005.

B1

4. (C/NOFORN) Committees tasked with investigating UK participation in rendition and cooperation with the U.S. on the same are multiplying in the UK and in EU machinery. They include:

- the Foreign Affairs Committee in the UK House of Commons (whence the charge of lying);
- the Intelligence Committee in the UK House of Commons, which has said it wants to investigate; and,

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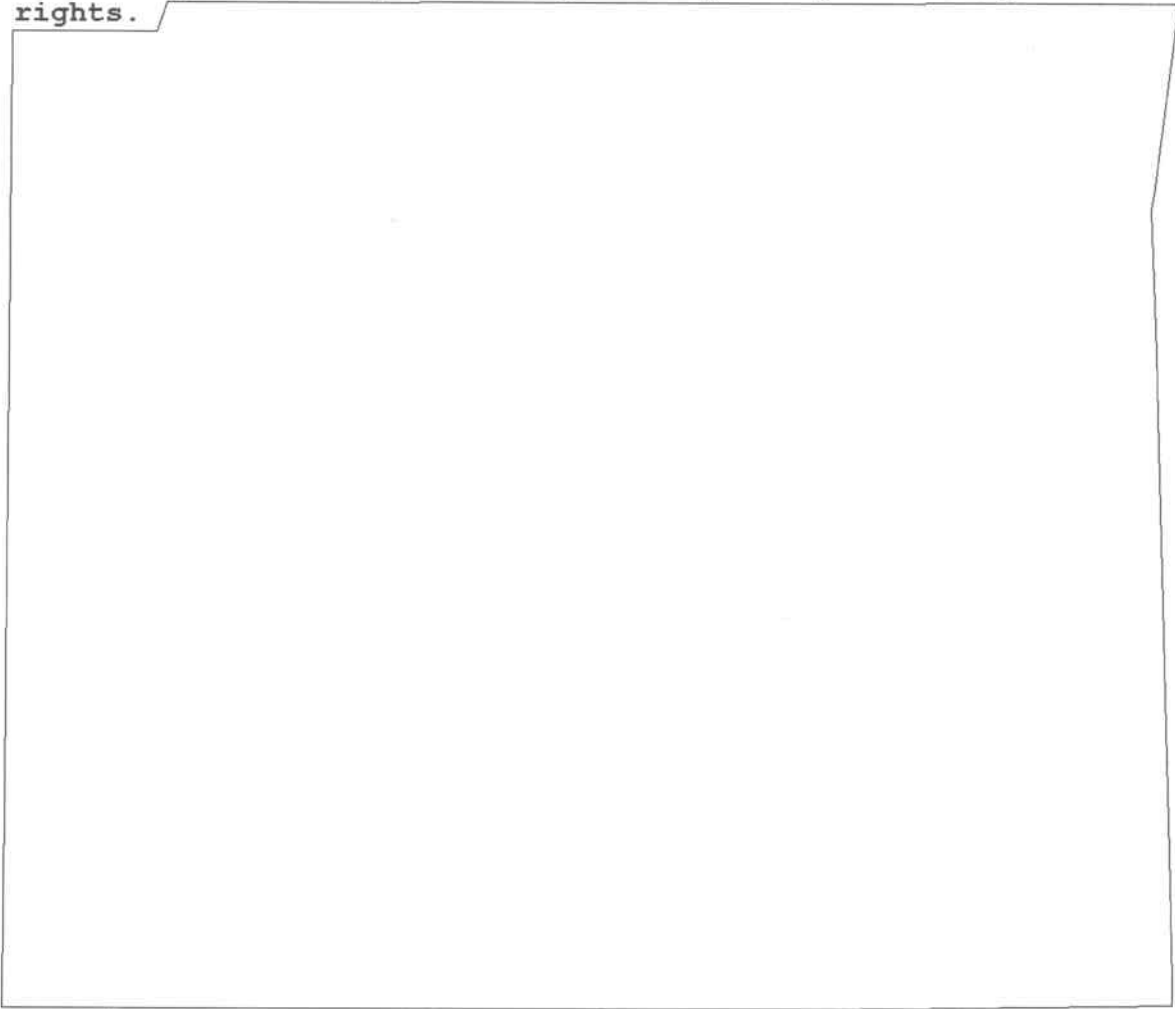
Human Rights Committee which wants to review what the Solicitor General will propose when that office pronounces on rendition in February.

UNCLASSIFIED

British MPs are also asking a torrent of questions, which are processed by the government in response to follow-on questions triggered by the Prime Minister's weekly questions.

British NGOs "Liberty" and "Redress" have made requests of the government for further information and both have threatened judicial review. And the European Commission has said it will look into the matter through a Judiciary Committee, with the possibility of suspending UK voting rights.

B1



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<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/london/index.cfm>  
Tuttle

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INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	<input type="text"/>	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	B3 NSA
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**B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B3, NSA50**

**S E C R E T** LONDON 000955

NOFORN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/07/2016  
TAGS: PREL, PTER, KISL, UK  
SUBJECT: UK COURT FINDS ABU HAMZA GUILTY OF USING SERMONS  
TO INCITE MURDER

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Martin  
McLean, Senior Reviewer**

Classified By: Classified by PolMinCouns Maura Connelly for Reasons 1.4  
B, D

1. (S/NF) Summary. A UK court January 7 found Muslim cleric Abu Hamza al-Masri guilty of 11 charges including using his sermons to incite murder and sentenced him to seven years in prison. U.S. extradition proceedings will continue and he will be returned to the U.S. as soon as UK law permits. While Abu Hamza's lawyer called him a "prisoner of faith," many UK Muslims have welcomed the verdict publicly, one calling Abu Hamza "an embarrassment to the Muslim community."

B1



Conservative and Liberal Democrat MPs will likely point to Abu Hamza's conviction as proof that existing UK laws adequately cover extremist crimes and that

**Classification Extended on : 05/30/2014 ~ Class: SECRET ~ Authority: DSCG 11-1 ~ Declassify on: 02/07/0231**

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Government's controversial Racial and Religious Hatred Bill -- which the House of Lords amended February 1 over government objections -- went too far and threatened freedom of speech. End summary.

The Conviction

2. (U) Abu Hamza al-Masri, an Egyptian-born 47-year-old who has been in prison since May 2004, was convicted by a London court January 7 of 11 out of 15 charges brought against him. The specific verdict is as follows:

- Guilty of 6 charges of soliciting to murder
- Guilty of 3 charges related to "stirring up racial hatred"
- Guilty of 1 charge of owning recordings related to "stirring up racial hatred"
- Guilty of 1 charge of possessing "terrorist encyclopaedia"
- Not guilty of 3 charges of soliciting to murder
- Not guilty of 1 charge related to "stirring up racial hatred"

Abu Hamza was sentenced to seven years to run concurrently on eight of the counts and 21 months for the others. He preached from the Finsbury Park Mosque in North London where both shoebomber Richard Reid and 20th hijacker Zacarias Moussaoui reportedly worshipped. A search of the mosque in 2003 uncovered forged passports, CS gas, knives, and guns, while searches of Abu Hamza's home uncovered more than 3,000 audio cassettes and 600 videos of inflammatory speeches intended for wider distribution, as well as a terror manual listing Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower and the Statue of Liberty as possible targets for a terrorist attack.

UK Muslim Reaction: Embarrassment or Prisoner of Faith?

3. (U) UK Muslim leaders have welcomed the conviction publicly. Leader of the Muslim Parliament of Great Britain Ghayassuddin Siddiqui called Hamza publicly "an embarrassment to the Muslim community... an arrogant, illiterate person, with no knowledge of Islam." Imam Sajid, formerly of the Brighton Mosque, said justice had been done: "(Abu Hamza) has nothing to do with the majority of British Muslims who are not only law abiding also peace-loving." A member of Abu Hamza's defense team, on the other hand, told the media after the verdict that her client was a "prisoner of faith."



B1



... news of the convictions was coupled with media stories that Abu Hamza was running terrorist training camps in the UK.



UK Existing Legislation Is Enough  
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5. (C) Hamza's conviction will likely be used by MPs -- some Labour as well as Conservative and LibDem -- as proof that the UK's existing legislation is enough to convict extremists like Abu Hamza and that the original language in the Blair government's controversial Racial and Religious Hatred Bill went too far. The Bill, which was amended by the House of Lords over government objections on February 1 in the second defeat only for Tony Blair since he assumed office in 1997, was seen by many as threatening freedom of speech. Tory Shadow Attorney General Dominic Grieve said of the Bill's original language: "It was completely contrary to our national tradition of free speech."

U.S. Extradition of Abu Hamza  
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6. (C) U.S. extradition proceedings will continue and Abu Hamza will be returned to the U.S. when British law proceedings permit.

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<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/london/index.cfm>  
Tuttle

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ACTION SCT-00

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RELEASED IN PART  
 B3, NSA50, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 002422

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/31/06  
 TAGS: PREL, PTER, PHUM, SY, CA, UK  
 SUBJECT: BBC PRESSES STRAW TO ASK MORE OF U.S. ON  
 RENDITIONS (ARAR CASE)

Classified By: DCM David T. Johnson for reasons 1.4(b,d)

1. (U) On March 31, as the Secretary visited North West England as the guest of Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, the BBC ran an interview with its security correspondent Gordon Corera about renditions and the use of British airspace. The interview focused on the case of Maher Arar, now in Canada, and his allegation that he had been arrested at JFK, sent to Rome, transported to Syria and tortured. Corera also interviewed a Chris Yates (nfi) who said the plane on which Arar was transported was a Gulfstream G3, with a limited flight capacity such that the plane would have to have passed over UK airspace in its transit to Rome. Corera said a request had been made of the British Foreign Office about HMG's knowledge of the Arar case and that the reply had been that there were no files on this case. He suggested that HMG was engaged in a policy of deniability and that it was obliged to ask more of the U.S. about the use of UK airspace. The December remarks by the Secretary that "torture and conspiracy to commit torture are crimes under U.S. law" were repeated in the interview. The piece concluded with the suggestion that Straw seek more information about the use of UK airspace for renditions and on the Arar case specifically.

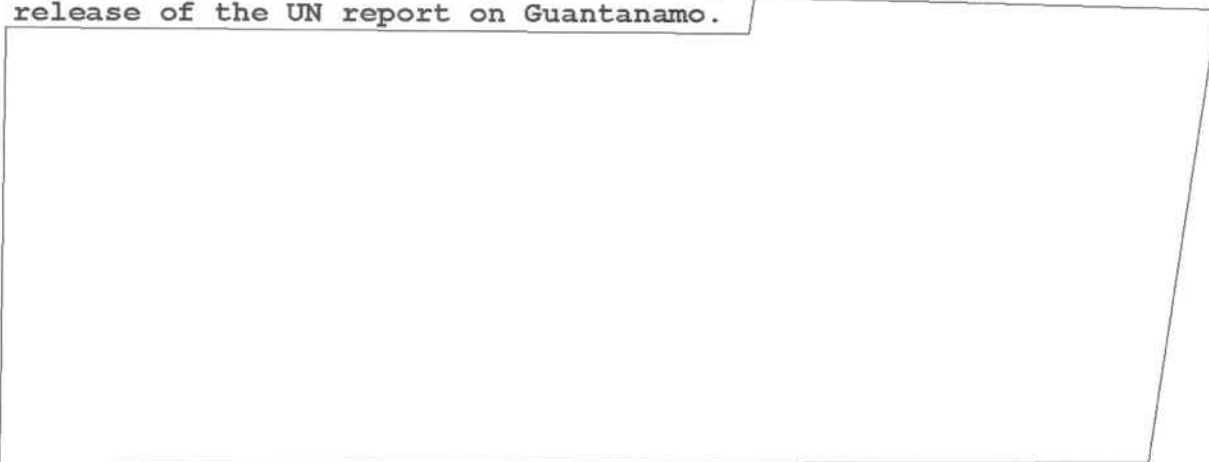
REVIEW AUTHORITY:  
 Martin McLean,  
 Senior Reviewer

2. (C) Comment: This interview marked the return of the

Reclassified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B1 ~ Declassify on: 04/01/2016

condition as a high-level issue in the press,  
renditions having been bumped off the public screen upon the  
release of the UN report on Guantanamo.

B1



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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 005373

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Classification Extended on : 05/30/2014 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~  
Authority: DSCG 11-1 ~ Declassify on: 7/20/2031

STATE FOR EUR, EUR/UBI, NEA, D, P

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/20/2016  
 TAGS: PREL, MARR, PGOV, PINR, KPAL, UNSC, ETRD, UK, IZ, IS,  
 IR, LE, AF, SU  
 SUBJECT: (C) SCENESETTER FOR PM BLAIR'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: LONDON 3606 (NOTAL)

Classified By: Ambassador Robert H. Tuttle, Reasons 1.4 B, D

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Martin McLean, Senior Reviewer

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His government continues to defend the U.S. in the face of sharp criticism that often depicts him as subservient to Washington (e.g., the 2003 U.S.-UK extradition treaty is in force here but not yet ratified by the U.S. Senate;

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-- The 2003 U.S.-UK extradition treaty is in force here even though it has not yet been ratified by the U.S. Senate; HMG has explained to Parliament that the new treaty redresses an imbalance that disadvantaged the U.S.

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ACTION EUR-00

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INFO JCS WASHDC

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/21/2016  
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PTER, UK  
SUBJECT: (C) UK INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY PARLIAMENTARY  
COMMITTEE REQUEST FOR U.S. RENDITION INFORMATION

Classified By: Ambassador Robert H. Tuttle for reasons 1.4 (b,d)

1. (U) This is a State action request -- please see para 3.
2. (C) The Ambassador has received a letter, dated December 12, from the chairman of the UK Intelligence and Security Parliamentary Committee requesting that the USG share information about UK agencies' involvement in U.S. renditions operations, as well as information on any overflights of UK airspace during the course of a rendition operation. The text of the Committee letter is at para. 4. Embassy's proposed reply is at para. 5.
3. (SBU) Action request: Embassy London requests State authorization to send the Committee Chairman the text of the draft response at para. 5.
4. (SBU) BEGIN TEXT OF UK INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE LETTER:

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Martin McLean, Senior Reviewer

DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL - UKUS

From: The Chairman, The Rt Hon Paul Murphy MP

Intelligence and Security Committee  
70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS  
Telephone: 020 7276 1215 Facsimile: 020 7276 1026

ISC 252/2006 12 December 2006

Dear Ambassador,

INQUIRY INTO UK SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES  
INVOLVEMENT IN U.S. RENDITION OPERATIONS

The Intelligence and Security Committee is currently conducting an inquiry into the UK intelligence and security Agencies involvement in, or knowledge of, rendition operations. The inquiry is obviously limited to the UK Agencies' actions, in accordance with our remit.

We have spoken to our Agencies in the first instance, however given that we are talking about U.S. operations, I am writing now to ask if there is any material that the U.S. Government can contribute to our inquiry, regarding UK Agency involvement in, or knowledge of, U.S. rendition operations.

On a secondary matter - the issue of United States renditions through UK airspace (including that of overseas territories) - I would be grateful if you could let the Committee know of any occasions on which U.S. planes have transited UK airspace during the course of a rendition operation (including refueling stops on return journeys). It would be helpful if you could clarify whether these operations involved detainees being transferred for the purposes of trial, individuals detained during battlefield operations and transferred between countries whilst remaining in military custody, or individuals being transferred between countries for the purposes of interrogation and/or detention.

Thank you in advance for your help with our inquiry. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Murphy

END TEXT.

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6. (U) Embassy London appreciates Department's timely assistance in this matter.

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<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/london/index.cfm>

Tuttle

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	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	
	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NIMA-00	SCT-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	
	FMPC-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	T-00	NCTC-00	ASDS-00	
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SOURCE: CBLEXCLS.007682

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APPROVED BY: EUR/UBI:MGALLAGHER

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/16/2017

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PTER, UK

SUBJECT: (C) UK INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY PARLIAMENTARY  
COMMITTEE REQUEST FOR U.S. RENDITION INFORMATION.

REF: LONDON 08450

Classified By: UBI Director Michael Gallagher for reasons 1.4 (b, d).

1. (C) The Department has reviewed Embassy London's proposed response to the December 12 letter sent to Ambassador Tuttle from the Chairman of the UK Intelligence and Security Parliamentary Committee requesting that the USG share information about UK agencies' involvement in U.S. renditions operations, as well as information on any overflights of UK airspace during the course of a rendition operation.

2. State authorizes the following reply:

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Martin McLean, Senior Reviewer

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(SBU) Begin text of proposed Embassy London response.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Thank you for your letter of December 12 inquiring into support by Her Majesty's Government for the United States' counter-terrorism efforts.

On December 5, 2005, Secretary of State Rice sent a letter covering these issues to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in his European Union capacity.

Contemporaneously, Secretary Rice made a public statement that sets forth the same information contained in the letter.

Enclosed please find the text of her remarks.

Secretary Rice made clear our gratitude to those countries, especially the United Kingdom, that have joined us in the fight against terrorism. She has also made clear that in the conduct of our rendition operations, we fully respect the sovereignty of our European allies. But she has also said that the United States Government, as a matter of policy, will not discuss the details of intelligence arrangements.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Tuttle  
Ambassador

Enclosures: As stated.

END TEXT OF DRAFT RESPONSE.

3. (U) Embassy London appreciates Department's timely assistance in this matter.

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CCO-00	CG-00	
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RELEASED IN PART  
 B3, NSA50, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

S E C R E T LONDON 000333

NOFORN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/01/2018  
 TAGS: PREL, MOPS, PTER, UK  
 SUBJECT: MPS ACCUSE HMG OF RENDITIONS COVER-UP ON DIEGO GARCIA

Classification Extended on : 05/30/2014 ~  
 Class: SECRET ~ Authority: DSCG 11-1 ~  
 Declassify on: 2/1/2033

Classified By: DCM Richard LeBaron, reasons 1.4, a/b/c/d.

1. (S/NF) Summary. UK press is reporting outrage among British Members of Parliament over HMG's denial of their Freedom of Information Act request to see the minutes of the September 2007 U.S.-UK Pol-Mil Deigo Garcia Talks. MPs assert that the denial is an HMG cover-up for rendition activities occurring on the island.

B1

[redacted]

In the meantime, the MPs criticize HMG for not conducting a full investigation into whether our assurances are accurate, given retired GEN Barry Qffrey's public statements to the contrary. End Summary.

2. (U) UK press February 1 reports outrage among a group of British Members of Parliament over HMG's denial of their UK Freedom of Information Act request for the minutes of the September 2007 U.S.-UK Diego Garcia Pol-Mil talks. MPs from

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Martin McLean, Senior Reviewer

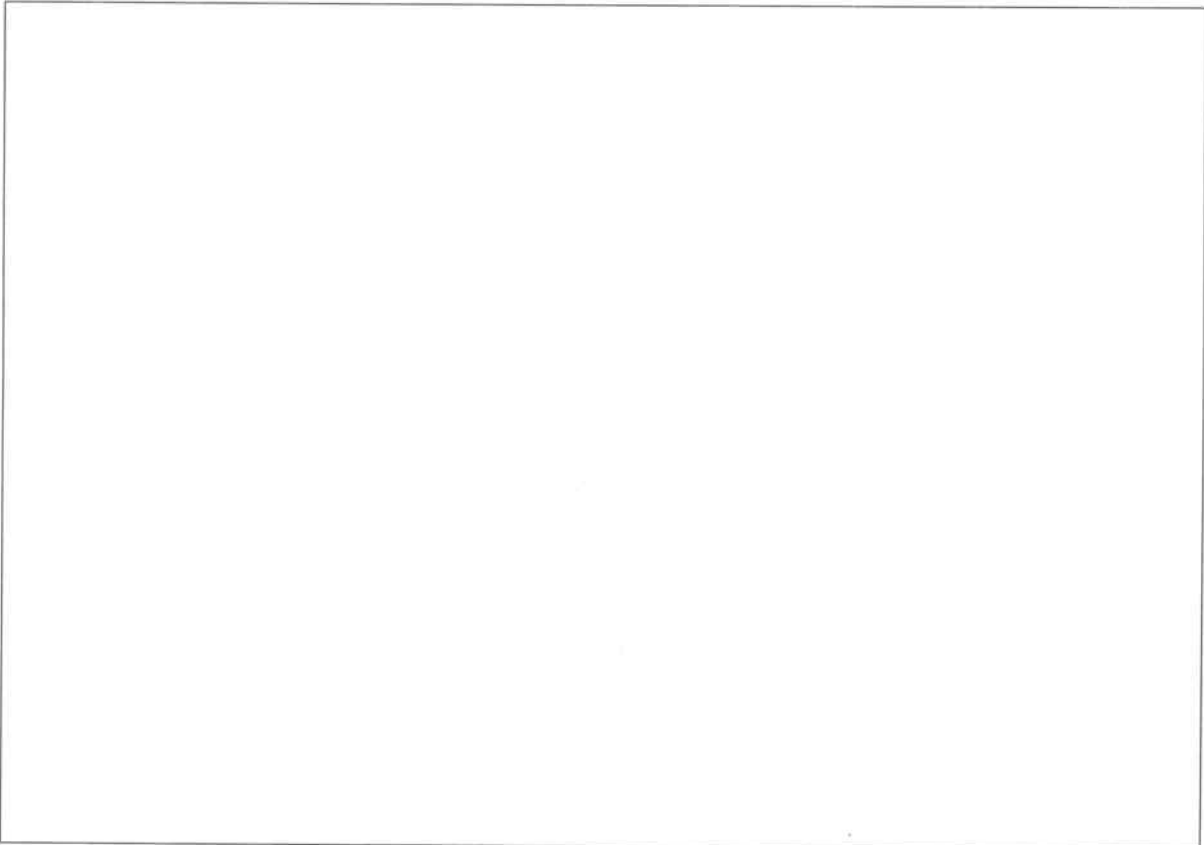
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-----y Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition

UNCLASSIFIED

requested access to the minutes of the meeting as part of their investigation into whether Diego Garcia has been used to transit or detain rendered persons. Andrew Tyrie, Chairman of the Parliamentary committee that made the FOIA request, has launched an appeal of the FCO refusal, which was based on the FCO's determination that to release the requested documents would prejudice the defense of the territory and could damage diplomatic relations with the United States. Tyrie asserts that the minutes could reveal whether Diego Garcia has been used for renditions and the FOIA denial is a cover-up. He told the Guardian newspaper, "Cover-up and obfuscation by the UK government have hampered efforts to discover the truth about British involvement in the U.S. rendition program from day one. There have been repeated allegations that the U.S. has used the British territory of Diego Garcia in its rendition program. Yet the Government has done next to nothing to investigate them and continues to rely on U.S. assurances, which have been called into question by the Intelligence and Security Committee." The Guardian also reports that the MPs have written to retired U.S. General Barry McCaffrey to give evidence about renditions on Diego Garcia because McCaffrey has twice claimed in media interviews that detainees were held by the U.S. military there.

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ACQ-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00
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SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T LONDON 001777

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/03/2018  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PTER, UK  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY MILIBAND SUBMITS RENDITION  
STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Richard LeBaron for  
reasons 1.4 (b,d)

[Redacted]

B1

There are no plans for an oral statement, but questions from MP's are likely over the next week and the statement will likely attract considerable press attention as well as skepticism from NGOs and op-ed writers.

FS Miliband's Written Statement on Rendition  
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2. (U) Begin Statement: Terrorist Suspects (Rendition)

On 21 February I made a statement to the House regarding new information we had been passed by the US Government regarding

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Martin McLean, Senior Reviewer

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Contrary to earlier assurances that Diego Garcia had not been used for rendition flights, US investigations had revealed two occasions, both in 2002, when this had in fact occurred. Since February, I have corresponded with Secretary Rice on this issue and our officials have continued to work through the details and implications of the new information.

I promised the House that, as part of this of this (sic) process, my officials would compile a list of flights where we had been alerted to concern about rendition through the UK or our Overseas Territories. The list which they have compiled, containing 391 flights, reflects concerns put to us by hon. Members, members of the public, multilateral organisations and non-governmental organisations. Inclusion on this list does not represent an official endorsement of any allegations about a particular flight. On the contrary, US government flights as with other government flights occur regularly for a variety of purposes. Our intention was to collate in one place those concerns that had been put to us directly. The list was passed to the US on 15 May. I undertook in February to publish the list and have today placed a copy in the library of the House and published it on the FCO website ([www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk)).

The United States Government received the list of flights from the UK Government. The United States Government confirmed that, with the exception of two cases related to Diego Garcia in 2002, there have been no other instances in which US intelligence flights landed in the United Kingdom, its Overseas Territories, or the Crown Dependencies, with a detainee on board since September 11, 2001.

Our US allies are agreed on the need to seek our permission for any future renditions through UK territory. Secretary Rice has underlined to me the firm US understanding that there will be no rendition through the UK, our Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, with a detainee on board since September 11, 2001.

Our US Allies are agreed on the need to seek our permission for any future renditions through UK territory. Secretary Rice has underlined to me the firm US understanding that there will be no rendition through the UK, our Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies or Airspace without first receiving our express permission. We have made clear that we would only grant such permission if we were satisfied that the rendition would accord with UK law and our international obligations. The circumstances of any such request would be carefully examined on a case-by-case basis.

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Our intelligence and counter-terrorism relationship with the US is vital to the national security of the United Kingdom. There must and will continue to be the strongest possible intelligence and counter-terrorism relationship between our two countries, consistent with UK law and our international obligations. (End Text)

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[http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:United\\_Kingdom](http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:United_Kingdom)

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HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC  
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DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC

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UNCLAS LONDON 006370

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PREL, PTER, UK, ZA  
SUBJECT: INQUIRY ABOUT HARUN RASHID ASWAT

1. Summary: Action Request. Post received a faxed inquiry from Birnberg Peirce & Partners, solicitors, regarding Mr. Harun Rashid Aswat, who is detained in Zambia. Please advise on how to respond to the letter. The text of the letter follows. The letter has been forwarded to the UBI/UK desk. End Summary.

2. Begin text:

Your ref: GP/sm

Robert Holmes Tuttle  
US Embassy  
24 Grosvenor Square  
London  
W1A 1AE

29 July 2005

BY FAX TO: 0207 493 3425

Dear Sir/Madam

Harun Rashid Aswat

We understand that Mr Aswat, a British citizen, is currently detained in Zambia (media reports suggest that he was arrested by the Zambians in response to a request from the US

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Martin McLean, Senior Reviewer

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Further, we understand that the US government may seek to remove Mr Aswat from Zambia to the US elsewhere.

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Mr Aswat's family are understandably deeply concerned about his welfare and have instructed us to represent him.

We would be grateful if you could urgently advise us in respect of the following:

1. Whether Mr Aswat was detained in Zambia at the request of the US authorities;
2. The reason for his arrest and subsequent detention;
3. The date, place and time of Mr Aswat's arrest;
4. Whether there are any imminent plans to remove Mr Aswat from Zambia;
5. Whether the US authorities will be seeking to extradite Mr Aswat;
6. The name and contact details of the relevant person/office responsible for the US involvement in Mr Aswat's arrest and detention.

Please advise us as a matter of urgency what legal representation has been available to Mr Aswat in Zambia.

Mrs Peirce in this office can be reached throughout the weekend on 07774 885130.

We await your urgent response.

Yours faithfully,

- signed - Birnberg Peirce & Partners -

3. The contact information on the letterhead is:

Birnberg Peirce & Partners

Solicitors

14 Inverness Street

London NW1 7HJ

Telephone: 020 7911 0166

DX 57059 Camden Town

Fax: 020 7911 0170

Immigration Dept Fax: 020 7692 0173

email: (name)@birnbergpeirce.co.uk

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<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/london/index.cfm>

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ACTION INR-00

B3 OTHER

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	[REDACTED]	INL-00	DNI-00	DODE-00
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E.O. 13526: N/A  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, KJUS, KDRG, PTER, UK, PINR, KMDR  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO UK DETAINEE INQUIRY ANNOUNCEMENT

1. (SBU) Summary: Media coverage of Prime Minister David Cameron's announcement of an inquiry into the treatment of detainees was mixed. Cameron's address to the House of Commons, which was broadcast live, gave clear guidelines for the effort and reaffirmed that his government's support for legal protections to facilitate intelligence cooperation between the UK and its partners. Broadcast coverage was straightforward and factual on July 6 but the story received little air time. Print media reporting on July 7 ran the gamut, with some major dailies giving the story minimal coverage and others dedicating several pages to reporting, analysis, and commentary. Coverage focuses on: how much of the inquiry will be made public; the fact that the UK will pay compensation to twelve former detainees; HMG's proposed legislation to protect shared foreign intelligence; U.S.-UK intelligence cooperation; and new guidelines for UK intelligence and security officers regarding detainees. (The Embassy press office has received no calls for comment.) End Summary.

2. (U) Broadcast coverage on 7/6 was sparse. The story made the headlines but news of a manhunt for a local killer dominated broadcast time. Notably, the next morning's (7/7) Today show on BBC Radio 4, a program credited with setting London's daily news agenda, did not cover the story. Print media coverage was more varied. The Daily Telegraph and the Sun, the highest circulating

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Martin McLean, Senior Reviewer

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quality daily and tabloid respectively, did not carry the story on their front pages. The Guardian carried the story below the fold and the Times folded the story into a broader piece on tracking terror cells. Only the Daily Mail, a large circulation tabloid widely read outside London, gives the story full front page coverage and dedicates five full pages of coverage to the story. The paper has been leading a campaign to get a judicial inquiry into allegations of UK complicity in detainee abuse.

3. (SBU) Reporting and commentary in the print media trend with the editorial slant of the papers. Coverage and commentary on the right looks at the need to free up the security services to focus on countering continuing threats, the importance of protecting intelligence cooperation, new guidelines for security officials, and outrage that alleged terrorists, many of whom are not UK citizens, are to receive compensation payments. There is also a widespread assumption on the right that while the detainees were mistreated, they are not innocent men. Reporting on the left focuses on: the strain on intelligence cooperation with the U.S., the proposed legislation to protect intelligence material, and reports that judicial pressure forced the inquiry. The Guardian's Ian Cobain also reports tensions within the government's coalition and claims that Clegg was instrumental in opposing an early plan for a commission to examine the allegations in secrecy. The editorial position of the Guardian is that while the terror threat is real, the government has overreacted and given too much power to the security services at the expense of civil liberties and British values.

4. (SBU) The Daily Mail, the second largest circulating paper in the UK, stakes out a unique position. The paper is editorially conservative, staunchly pro-security services, and deeply suspicious of EU-derived human rights legislation. It is also deeply opposed to New Labour and campaigns on issues to drive sales. Claiming to have long advocated for a judicial review of detainee policy, the Daily Mail's basic position is that New Labour, in slavish adherence to the U.S., have driven the security services into disreputable practices that must be exposed and expunged. Their editorials call for making as much information public as possible and insist that HMG should "not be afraid to embarrass the US" if need be.

Comment

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5. (SBU) Barring immediate new developments, this story will likely run through the weekend with some Sunday papers reviewing the material in depth. While advocacy groups for the detainees such as Reprieve and Liberty will advocate for more disclosures and against

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C18732223 U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2008-06808 Doc No. C18732223 Date: 06/05/2014  
legislation protecting foreign shared intelligence, HMG has been  
clear in its public statements that it intends to strengthen the  
protections required for robust intelligence cooperation. The  
announcement by PM Cameron received less media attention than we  
expected, but it remains to be seen whether the media and advocacy

groups will campaign effectively for opening up more of the inquiry  
when it takes place.

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