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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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TAGS: IS, US, SHUM, FDIP

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING: ALEXANDRA U. JOHNSON

REF: TEL AV IV 02315

1. FULL TEXT OF FBI STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS: "BUREAU FILES CONTAIN NO RECORD OF A REQUEST FROM THE SHIN BETH FOR PERMISSION FOR SURVEILLANCE OR TO TAP THE TELEPHONE OF ONE ALEXANDRA U. JOHNSON, NOR WOULD IT HAVE BEEN WITHIN THE PROVINCE OF THE FBI TO GIVE SUCH PERMISSION."

2. THE BUREAU DID NOT STATE IN PUBLIC THAT THE LAST FBI AGENT ASSIGNED TO TEL AV IV DEPARTED IN JUNE, 1976 -- WELL BEFORE MS. JOHNSON'S TOUR OF DUTY BEGAN. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO EMBASSY OR CONGEN MAKING THIS POINT SHOULD OCCASION ARISE.

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3. IN ANSWER TO PRESS QUESTIONS HERE, DEPARTMENT HAS PREPARED FOLLOWING GUIDANCE.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT THE U.S. APPROVED AN ISRAELI REQUEST TO PLACE ALEXANDRA JOHNSON UNDER SURVEILLANCE AND TAP HER TELEPHONE IN JERUSALEM?

A. NO. WE HAVE SEARCHED OUR RECORDS HERE AND IN TEL AVIV AND JERUSALEM AND FIND NO SUCH REQUEST. INDEED, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER TO INDICATE THAT THE EVENTS ALLEGED IN THE WASHINGTON STAR OR ANYTHING LIKE THEM EVER TOOK PLACE. I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT NEITHER THE DEPARTMENT NOR ITS POSTS ABROAD WOULD ENTERTAIN SUCH A REQUEST FROM ANOTHER GOVERNMENT.

CHRISTOPHER

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