

This document contains the raw output of the extracted codings on reactions to the report from the QDA miner file

Search in: [DOCUMENT] Codes: [Anger or frustration;Appreciation;Bragging upgrade;Comparison;Cooperative;Disappointment;embarrassment/reputation;Funding;How improve;Ignoring/no comment;media or opposition backlash;media critical of report;negative;Objection;Other comments;Public face saving;Moving goal posts; US arrogance;Harming relations;government reaction;public reaction] Add variables: [ORIGIN;CABLEID;CABLEDATE;CLASSIFIC;HEADING;COUNTRY1]

CASE: 8/2/2004

CODE: Anger or frustration

ORIGIN: Embassy Lilongwe

CABLEID: 04LILONGWE723

CABLEDATE: 8/2/2004

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: GOM TAKES ISSUE WITH MALAWI'S TIP RANKING

COUNTRY1: Malawi

Minister of Foreign Affairs George Chaponda told the Charge on July 28 that the GOM is "very concerned" about Malawi's ranking as a Tier Two - Watch List country in the Department's 2004 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. Chaponda said the ranking "did not reflect the situation on the ground" and was "contestable and debatable." Further explaining the government's position, Chaponda said the report's findings were "not substantiated by qualified evidence," and he insinuated that the misinformation may have been the result of a report by an NGO who "had not done thorough research on the matter." In addition to detailing measures the GOM has already taken and will take against TIP, Chaponda commented that an inter-ministerial meeting on the issue concluded that the GOM will release a press statement contesting the Department's ranking, which it did later in the day. Although challenging the accuracy of the report, Chaponda repeatedly declared the GOM's commitment to fighting TIP and support for USG TIP initiatives at UNGA. Text of press statement begins in paragraph 11

CASE: 12/18/2008

CODE: Anger or frustration

ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo

CABLEID: 08CAIRO2525

CABLEDATE: 12/18/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: EGYPT TAKING STEPS TO ADDRESS AND COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

COUNTRY1: Egypt

Mahmoud said the U.S. TIP report "does not match the legal and factual realities in Egypt." Aboulmagd expressed his frustration that even though the GOE was devoting time and resources to TIP, at the expense of other issues, Egypt is still on the Watch List

CASE: 7/1/2008

CODE: Anger or frustration

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 08BUENOSAIRE911

CABLEDATE: 7/1/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: ARGENTINA: VISITING G/TIP AMBASSADOR PRESENTS ANTI-TIP ACTION PLAN AND OFFERS PARTNERSHIP TO JUSTICE

COUNTRY1: Argentina

Lagon assured Fernandez that the USG was aware of his "personal commitment" to fight TIP. He further explained that the USG has a political reality at home, too, and that the Congress has mandated that the State Department produce its annual report evaluating the efforts of foreign governments to fight human trafficking. Fernandez interjected by characterizing the report as "terrible!" Lagon acknowledged that he knew the report can be seen as an irritant because it is mandated by Congress to give countries a grade based on performance in protecting victims, prosecuting traffickers, and preventing the crime. "We try to do our job as best we can and offer recommendations on actions we believe would help Argentina in its anti-TIP effort and help the country improve its ranking if completed," he said. He then presented a copy of ref A action plan to Minister Fernandez. 4. (C) Fernandez indicated that he understood, but stated that the USG should "discuss the matter with us first."

CASE: 10/27/2008
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy New Delhi
CABLEID: 08NEWDELHI2801
CABLEDATE: 10/27/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF COURAGE AWARD: GEETHA RAMASESHAN
COUNTRY1: India

Moreover, given GOI indignation at remaining on the Tier Two Watchlist in the 2008 TIP Report, and consequent refusal to discuss trafficking issues with USG officials -- including Ambassador-at-Large Mark Lagon -- recognizing Ms. Ramaseshan's achievements would send the GOI a subtle message

CASE: 10/19/2007
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Tashkent
CABLEID: 07TASHKENT1806
CABLEDATE: 10/19/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UZBEKS PROMISE POST-ELECTION PROGRESS ON TIP ISSUES
COUNTRY1: Uzbekistan

Summary. On October 17 poloffs and visiting G/TIP officer met with GOU officials from MFA, Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD), and the Office of the State Prosecutor to discuss TIP issues. MFA said the GOU was surprised and upset by the recent Tier 3 rating, which it considered "politically motivated".

CASE: 6/10/2008
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT426
CABLEDATE: 6/10/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: OMAN TAKES ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST TIP REPORT TO THE GCC, ARAB LEAGUE, MEDIA
COUNTRY1: Oman

3. (C) On June 10, the Ambassador spoke again with Sayyid Badr, whose strong feelings of resentment were still clearly evident, after he had briefed "core members" of the Council of Ministers on our TIP report for Oman. (Note: Many ministers currently are outside of the country, including several who are with the Sultan in Europe. End note.) He informed the Ambassador that although the ministers had decided not to suspend consideration of the draft anti-TIP law, they firmly refused to speed up their action on the legislation to meet our 60-day timeline. In light of the local press reports from the GCC ministerial in Jeddah, the Ambassador counseled caution in airing this matter in the media. "It's too late," he replied. "You did this to us first." Sayyid Badr planned to meet with local journalists today to respond to the report's allegations. While he indicated he would not discuss the government's stated intention to re-appraise "all aspects" of our bilateral relationship unless we retracted the Tier 3 designation, he emphasized that Oman could not remain quiet and "had to defend itself." He also delivered a written rebuttal of claims in the TIP report (see paragraph 6 below.)

CASE: 6/30/2009
CODE: Anger or frustration

ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo
CABLEID: 09CAIRO1222
CABLEDATE: 6/30/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: EGYPTIAN MFA REACTIONS TO 2009 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Egypt

The Government of Egypt is "frustrated" with its ranking in the 2009 TIP Report because officials felt Egypt had done enough to be moved off the Tier 2 Watch List. Some officials wanted to stop cooperating with the USG on TIP, but agreed to revisit the issue at a later date to give some time for feelings to subside.

CASE: 10/19/2009
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Tunis
CABLEID: 09TUNIS775
CABLEDATE: 10/19/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TUNISIAN MFA PIQUED AT SOURCING OF TIP REPORT, BUT READY TO TALK
COUNTRY1: Tunisia

"We do not like reports that are not right," she exclaimed. Chtoui asserted that a GOT ad hoc interagency committee working in 2008 had provided the USG with a cache of data and facts that had been "completely ignored" in the Department's final product. Chtoui charged that allegations printed in the report were undocumented, such as a story about the trafficking of a seven year old sourced to a journalist based in the Netherlands. (Note: Our subsequent review of the report found no such reference. End note.)

CASE: 10/19/2007
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Tashkent
CABLEID: 07TASHKENT1806
CABLEDATE: 10/19/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UZBEKS PROMISE POST-ELECTION PROGRESS ON TIP ISSUES
COUNTRY1: Uzbekistan

MFA Americas Chief Ismat Fayzullaev said that TIP is a global problem, and added "with great regret, I must announce that the US is the biggest global trafficking destination and we hope the USG will take greater steps" to combat TIP. He noted the GOU was "very surprised" by the Tier 3 designation this year and considered this "a politically motivated decision" since the TIP situation is "almost the same, or even worse, in other CIS countries."

CASE: 6/17/2009
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 09BUENOSAIRE5706
CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: (C) ARGENTINA: FOREIGN MINISTER "VERY UPSET" ABOUT TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Argentina

On the instructions of Argentine FM Jorge Taiana, MFA Chief of Staff Alberto D'Alotto called CDA June 17 to express the GOA's irritation with the State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report which placed Argentina on the Tier 2 Watch List. D'Alotto said Taiana was "very upset" with the report's "willfully ignorant" criticism of GOA efforts to fight TIP. D'Alotto added that the "excessively critical" USG report will make it more difficult for the GOA to work with the USG to combat TIP. Although the report did not make front-page news, Argentina's two leading dailies focused on the negative aspects of the report and their headlines used the word "harsh" to describe the report. As noted in reflets, post remains concerned that failure to recognize the GOA's notable efforts to combat TIP ultimately undermines efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation in this important human rights and law enforcement issue.

CASE: 10/2/2005
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 05KUWAIT4279
CABLEDATE: 10/2/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSS WAY AHEAD TO COMBAT
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

FM Shaykh Dr. Mohammed told the Ambassador that Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Faisal Al-Hajji was very upset by the presidential determination. Calling Al-Hajji a "true believer," the FM said Al-Hajji led the GOK effort to improve working conditions for expatriate laborers. He asserted that Kuwait was "superior" to its neighboring countries on labor issues and was implementing new programs for domestic reasons. The FM restated Kuwait's commitment to protecting its foreign labor force and welcomed a copy of the action plan (which we passed to him) to review areas of immediate concern to the U.S. (ref e).

CASE: 7/21/2008
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Valletta
CABLEID: 08VALLETTA303
CABLEDATE: 7/21/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: MALTA INVESTIGATES TRAFFICKING CLAIMS AMONG MIGRANT POPULATION
COUNTRY1: Malta

Summary. On June 25, DCM and PolOff met with a GOM interagency group on trafficking to discuss reports from representatives of NGOs based in Malta that four Nigerian women being trafficked to Italy had ended up in a Maltese detention centers after being rescued at sea. After an animated discussion over the technicalities of whether the women had been trafficked "to Malta," all the government players eventually agreed that any reports of victims of trafficking among the immigrants would be investigated immediately, and if the reports proved credible, the victims would be released from detention and offered protection and assistance. End summary. 2. (SBU) DCM and Poloff met June 25 with representatives of GoM agencies involved in handling matters related to immigrants and asylum-seekers. The interagency group includes Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs (MJHA), MFA, Police, Organization for the Integration and Welfare of Asylum Seekers (OIWAS), and APPOGG (Malta's Social Welfare Agency). For background on the origins of Embassy's request for the meeting, see para 7. 3. (SBU) At the outset of the meeting, several participants focused on venting their frustration at the 2008 TIP report, which had kept Malta at Tier Two despite significant progress in the way Malta handles TIP issues. Joseph Gerada, the Executive Director of APPOGG, provided a copy of an informative brochure outlining TIP and referring possible victims to a GoM hotline and website for assistance. Several participants made the point that the four Nigerian women had not been trafficked "to Malta" but had been en route to Italy

CASE: 9/12/2008
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Santo Domingo
CABLEID: 08SANTODOMINGO1439
CABLEDATE: 9/12/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: GODR REACTIONS TO TIP TIER 2 WATCH-LIST PLAN
COUNTRY1: Dominican Republic

The GODR officials Poloff met were courteous, but clearly frustrated. They understand the importance of the TIP issue - and the possible assistance related consequences of remaining on the Tier 2 watch-list over time - but they generally question the basis of some assertions made in previous TIP reports. Moreover, seeing poverty as a major driver of illegal migration, Dominican officials draw a fairly sharp line between economic duress and "real" trafficking (i.e., "the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit a person for profit" - as defined on page 7 of the 2008 TIP report).

CASE: 6/4/2008
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 08TOKYO1528
CABLEDATE: 6/4/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JAPAN REACTS NEGATIVELY TO TIP REPORT TIER RANKING
COUNTRY1: Japan

Japan is very disappointed with the Tier 2 ranking, Deputy Director General for Foreign Policy Masatoshi Shimbo continued. Japanese agencies are feeling "cooperation fatigue," after having worked so hard to fulfill U.S. requests for information. The report's language about Japanese law not criminalizing labor recruiting through fraud is "completely false," said Shimbo, asserting that the misunderstanding could have been avoided by setting up a DVC between the Ministry of Justice and G/TIP. In addition, it is unacceptable that the report contains references to information obtained from NGOs that was not double-checked with MOFA. The Tier 2 ranking threatens Japan's ability to provide information to the Embassy. "The issue is not whether the United States will work with Japan, the issue is whether Japan will work with the United States," concluded Shimbo.

CASE: 6/13/2007
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 07KINGSTON927
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JAMAICA: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON 7TH ANNUAL TIPS REPORT: GOJ AND PRESS REACTIONS
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

Both Post and the GOJ remain disappointed in the Tier ranking as the GOJ has made significant gains in countering human trafficking and are facing the reality that they may not be able to move to Tier 1 status due to cultural beliefs about cooperation with law enforcement that are beyond their control. Only 2 years ago, Jamaica was a Tier 3 nation, with no GOJ official even acknowledging the problem. Today, GOJ officials routinely discuss trafficking, the police routinely investigate cases, and the Ministry of Justice has launched a new campaign to crack-down on employment ads that are used to lure women into prostitution. The GOJ is understandably frustrated with what they see as ill-defined objectives and "moving goal posts" which do not acknowledge the ongoing extraordinary work they have undertaken.

CASE: 6/12/2007
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 07MUSCAT597
CABLEDATE: 6/12/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP DEMARCHE READ OUT- CONCERN OVER TIER 3 SANCTIONS
COUNTRY1: Oman

On Monday morning, June 11, Emboffs delivered ref A, the Trafficking in Person's (TIP) demarche on Oman's Tier 3 designation, to the Director of the Under Secretary's Office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Humaid al-Ma'ani. Al-Ma'ani expressed his disappointment with the lowered ranking - Oman had been placed on Tier 2 Watch List in the 2006 report - and, as MFA officials have been in previous years (ref B), was critical of the U.S. approach toward Oman on TIP. Al-Ma'ani stated that while MFA Under Secretary Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi had been interested in a meeting with U.S. Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky while in Washington for the Gulf Security Dialogue (GSD) (ref B), he now planned to advise Sayyid Badr against it, asking rhetorically, "what's the point?" Emboffs responded that the meeting would provide the Under Secretary with an excellent opportunity to express directly to G Oman's views on and plans for eliminating TIP, gain perspective on U.S. policy, and perhaps explore ways to address the issue.

CASE: 4/6/2006
CODE: Anger or frustration

ORIGIN: Embassy Rangoon
CABLEID: 06RANGOON462
CABLEDATE: 4/6/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: SOMETHING BETTER THAN NOTHING:FIGHTING TIP IN BURMA
COUNTRY1: Burma

UNIAP organizers told us that the USG's TIP report figured prominently at the Seminar, as participants expressed frustrations that, despite their anti-trafficking efforts, Burma would retain its Tier 3 ranking, primarily because of ongoing state-sanctioned forced labor. Police Col. Hkam Awng told participants early in the seminar not to focus on the U.S. ranking, but to work hard to implement the new law. Police Col. Khin Maung Si added, "In spite of one-sided allegations and imposing of sanctions, Burma will continue to strive all out for the prevention and suppression of trafficking in persons."

CASE: 6/15/2007
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 07CARACAS1192
CABLEDATE: 6/15/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: BRV DISPUTES 2007 TIER 3 TIP REPORT RANKING
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

1. (SBU) In meetings with USG officials and in the press, BRV officials reacted angrily to the Department's designation of Venezuela as a Tier 3 country in the 2007 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report released June 12.

CASE: 6/20/2007
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 07TOKYO2788
CABLEDATE: 6/20/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: MOFA PRESENTS TALKING POINTS FOR UPCOMING G/TIP VISIT OF AMB. LAGON
COUNTRY1: Japan

Though not visibly upset, Uchikawa was clearly frustrated and disappointed with both the results stated in the report and an information gathering process that he said he found sporadic, opaque and, with a set of additional questions submitted shortly before the report, ill-timed. 2. (C) Uchikawa said that Japan was very disappointed with their continued Tier 2 ranking and that official displeasure was expressed at much higher levels in the government this year. He repeatedly stressed the amount of effort expended by MOFA and other agencies of the Government of Japan in collecting information in response to questions posed by the United States. In particular, Uchikawa said that the Japanese Embassy in Washington had informed him that the Department was using "internal criteria" not explicitly stated in the report nor communicated to Japan to arrive at the Tier 2 ranking assessment. Uchikawa expressed frustration on this point and wondered how Japan could adequately address the concerns and assumptions of the United States if they are not communicated clearly to the Government of Japan well in advance of the report's submission deadline.

CASE: 8/4/2007
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers
CABLEID: 07ALGIERS1099
CABLEDATE: 8/4/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: CONTINUING TO ENGAGE GOA, MEDIA AND NGOS ON TIP
COUNTRY1: Algeria

MFA Deputy Director for Human Rights Ahmed Saadi repeated the GOA refrain in a July 16 meeting, telling poloff that Algeria was upset about its Tier 3 TIP status and said the GOA was currently studying the TIP report.

CASE: 8/7/2007
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers
CABLEID: 07ALGIERS1114
CABLEDATE: 8/7/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: CONTINUING TO ENGAGE GOA ON LEGAL REFORM AND TIP
COUNTRY1: Algeria

Belaiz acknowledged the negative GOA reaction to the June 2007 TIP report and, reacting to Ambassador's references to the financial implications of Tier-3 status, said U.S.-Algeria relations were not constrained by money.

CASE: 8/7/2007
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers
CABLEID: 07ALGIERS1114
CABLEDATE: 8/7/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: CONTINUING TO ENGAGE GOA ON LEGAL REFORM AND TIP
COUNTRY1: Algeria

(C) While the GOA is still annoyed about the June 2007 release of the TIP report, we now have some indication the Algerian government will be addressing the trafficking issue

CASE: 4/16/2008
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT286
CABLEDATE: 4/16/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ATTORNEY GENERAL COMMENTS ON EFFORTS TO COMBAT SEX TRAFFICKING
COUNTRY1: Oman

(C) Summary: In a recent meeting with the Ambassador, Omani Attorney General Hussain Ali Zaher al-Helali provided several concrete examples of government prosecution of cases of trafficking in persons (TIP) for sexual exploitation. He expressed his continued willingness to cooperate with the Embassy on TIP and share statistics on TIP-related and other crimes. The Attorney General also expressed his frustration with last year's TIP report, claiming that it did not provide an accurate picture of Oman's actions against TIP, and invited the Embassy to attend a trial for men and women accused of running a prostitution ring. End Summary. 2. (C) During an April 14 meeting with the Ambassador, Attorney General Helali expressed his displeasure with last year's TIP report and asserted that counter to the report's findings, Oman is taking concrete legal steps to combat TIP, particularly trafficking for sexual exploitation. For example, he said, the Public Prosecution Office is currently preparing a case against an expatriate man accused of running a prostitution ring near Muscat and forcing women - most of whom originally entered Oman as housemaids - to work as prostitutes. Helali said that the man and four to five women of Asian descent are facing prostitution charges and are in prison awaiting their court dates. He invited the Embassy to attend the trial -- "This is a case of trafficking," Helali said, "and I reject claims (in the 2007 TIP report) that Oman is not taking steps to combat it."

CASE: 2/14/2008
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers
CABLEID: 08ALGIERS168
CABLEDATE: 2/14/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT EVOLVING ON TIP
COUNTRY1: Algeria

Speaking without notes and without the rancor that followed the release of the 2007 TIP report (refs B,

C, D),

CASE: 6/25/2003
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 03ANKARA4066
CABLEDATE: 6/25/2003
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: GOT EXPRESSES DETERMINATION ON ANTI-TIP EFFORTS
COUNTRY1: Turkey

5. (C) While our approach elicited a useful discussion about the USG recommendations, the steps provided in refel do not represent clear, objective benchmarks - benchmarks that are necessary to provide appropriate guidance to the GOT on what steps are required for Tier II. Apaydin noted, "While the USG report allows TIP to remain at the forefront of government objectives, it is frustrating to implement many anti-TIP steps only to be told later they are not sufficient." If we cannot set and maintain clear goalposts, this process will prove counterproductive to our ability to enhance cooperation against Trafficking-in-Persons and to other interests and objectives in Turkey. PEARSON

CASE: 6/13/2008
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Nicosia
CABLEID: 08NICOSIA450
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: CYPRIOT REACTIONS MIXED TO RELEASE OF TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Cyprus

Reactions to the June 4 release of the 2008 Trafficking in Persons report were mixed in Cyprus, with GOC officials voicing frustration over the Tier 2 Watch List ranking while media and NGOs praised the report for highlighting the severity of the island's TIP problem.

CASE: 4/1/2009
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 09MUSCAT273
CABLEDATE: 4/1/2009
CLASSIFIC: SECRET
HEADING: SCENESETTER FOR U.S.-OMAN JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION
COUNTRY1: Oman

6. (C) The U.S. enjoys a multi-faceted and similarly strong relationship with Oman outside the security and military arenas. The entry into force on January 1, 2009, of the landmark U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement promises to substantially boost trade and economic ties, while U.S. and Omani officials continue to consult closely on a variety of regional and bilateral issues. Public diplomacy programs, including numerous exchanges, are helping to foster greater understanding of U.S. society and policies. Major irritants in the bilateral relationship are few and far between, but Oman's placement on "Tier 3" (i.e. the worst category) in the State Department's 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report -- which carries with it mandatory sanctions if not waived by the administration -- greatly angered the Omani government and threatened to damage bilateral cooperation on a variety of fronts. Oman was fortunately moved up a notch to "Tier 2 Watch List," which succeeded in mollifying the government, after taking remedial measures during a reassessment period. The 2009 TIP Report is scheduled to be released on June 1.

CASE: 6/30/2009
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo
CABLEID: 09CAIRO1222
CABLEDATE: 6/30/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: EGYPTIAN MFA REACTIONS TO 2009 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Egypt

Wael Aboulmagd, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights, told us on June 28 that the GOE was "frustrated" with the 2009 TIP Report. He stated that Egypt felt like it had done enough in the past year to be moved off the Tier 2 Watch List, and the report "left a bitter taste," especially in light of overall increased U.S.-Egyptian dialogue and cooperation. Aboulmagd asked how the report could enumerate the positive steps that Egypt had taken in the past year and still not change the tier ranking. He said that those GOE officials that deal with TIP feel like the USG "moved the goalposts" by highlighting new issues in order to justify keeping Egypt on the watch list. Aboulmagd specifically mentioned the insertion of child labor issues in the 2009 TIP report. He told us that some officials wanted to stop cooperating with the USG on TIP, but he stated that everyone agreed to revisit the issue at a later date to give some time for feelings to subside.

CASE: 9/10/2009

CODE: Anger or frustration

ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo

CABLEID: 09CAIRO1758

CABLEDATE: 9/10/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CHILDHOOD AND MOTHERHOOD'S ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS

COUNTRY1: Egypt

Azza El Ashmawy, Head of the Anti-TIP unit at NCCM on August 27 told us the GoE is extremely upset with the 2009 TIP Report because it left Egypt on the "watchlist" after it passed a comprehensive child trafficking law and began steps to prosecute trafficking offenses using the law.

CASE: 7/12/2007

CODE: Anger or frustration

ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo

CABLEID: 07TOKYO3186

CABLEDATE: 7/12/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: G/TIP AMBASSADOR LAGON'S JULY 2 MEETING WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

COUNTRY1: Japan

These inconsistencies remain in this year's report, asserted Uchikawa, citing that even though one G-8 country was criticized in the Report for suspending sentences in all but 31% of its trafficking convictions, it was still ranked at Tier 1. Japan will continue its efforts to fight human trafficking regardless of its evaluation in the TIP Report, but if the United States cannot clearly explain its Tier ranking criteria and give Japan assurances that meeting those criteria will result in a Tier-1 ranking, MOFA will no longer cooperate with the U.S. Embassy in compiling data for the report, said Uchikawa.

CASE: 6/13/2006

CODE: Anger or frustration

ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas

CABLEID: 06CARACAS1736

CABLEDATE: 6/13/2006

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: VENEZUELA RESPONDS TO TIER 3 PLACEMENT

COUNTRY1: Venezuela

1. (C) After several days of working to arrange an appointment, Poloff delivered 2006 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and mini-plan demarches to BRV Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Director for North American and Multilateral Affairs Yaneth Arocha on June 8. Poloff confirmed BRV's criticism of the U.S. report derives in part from a failure to distinguish between alien smuggling enforcement and TIP enforcement. Arocha expressed frustration that this was the third year in a row Venezuela was listed as a Tier 3 country. She dismissed the report's validity due to what she called its unilateral and politicized nature. She also stated the BRV's view is that these types of reports should only come from multilateral institutions. Arocha claimed that in spite of obvious improvements, the Tier 3 placement was simply a part of escalating tensions between the two governments.

CASE: 6/22/2004

CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 04CARACAS2059
CABLEDATE: 6/22/2004
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP REPORT: GOV REACTS INDIGNANTLY
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

NUMEROUS GOV OFFICIALS RESPONDED WITH INDIGNATION AND CONDEMNATION TOWARD THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S 2004 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) REPORT, WHICH LISTED VENEZUELA AS A TIER 3 COUNTRY.

CASE: 6/6/2006
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 06MUSCAT907
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP: OMAN DISMAYED BY TIER 2 WATCH LIST RANK
COUNTRY1: Oman

1. (C) Following the June 5 delivery of the 2006 Trafficking in Persons report to the Foreign Ministry, the MFA Under Secretary roundly condemned the U.S. text in a June 6 phone SIPDIS call with the Ambassador. Calling the report "unfair and arrogant," he accused the USG of ignoring Oman's progress on TIP over the past year and questioned the point of any further engagement. The Ambassador succeeded in winning agreement for further discussions in coming weeks. End summary. ----- What Point Further Dialogue? ----- 2. (C) The Ambassador spoke on June 6 with MFA Under Secretary Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi regarding the Department's SIPDIS 2006 Trafficking in Persons report for Oman, which the Embassy delivered on June 5. The normally imperturbable Sayyid Badr reacted harshly to the report, calling its assessment of Oman "unfair, arrogant, discourteous and unfriendly," and charging that it ignored Oman's serious, constructive engagement on TIP over the past year as well as the Sultanate's mature, positive relations with the U.S. He said his ministry is "extremely frustrated" that their efforts have been ignored, and openly wondered whether there was a hidden agenda behind the unfavorable ranking. In light of the results of their engagement since the 2005 TIP report, he questioned the efficacy of any further dialogue with the USG. 3. (C) The Ambassador acknowledged Oman's ongoing efforts to enhance TIP protections, and noted that the scope of trafficking in persons in Oman is clearly not on the par of a major offender. The Ambassador observed, however, that there remained an absence of certain legal and procedural mechanisms. He urged that the Ministry and Embassy continue to engage in addressing those shortfalls. The Under Secretary launched again into a litany of complaints on the SIPDIS TIP report and expressed profound skepticism that anything can be done to receive a fair assessment. He nevertheless consented to a follow-on discussion with the Ambassador later in June to discuss ways of working together and specific actions to address TIP in Oman. ----- Fearing Consequences ----- 4. (SBU) Prior to the Ambassador's discussion with the Under Secretary, Pol/Econ Chief delivered the TIP report on June 5 SIPDIS to Humaid al-Maani, deputy chief of the Under Secretary's office, conversing at length regarding the points of concern and implications of the report. Al-Maani acknowledged that Oman is still working to perfect its regulatory framework, which will take some time, but criticized the tenor and substance of the TIP report as being the worst way to move the process forward in Oman. Once the report reaches the Council of Ministers, he warned, reactions are likely to be far less diplomatic than those coming from the Foreign Ministry. Whatever polemics or backlash might result, P/E Chief urged that the Ministry remain focused on taking concrete steps to strengthen Oman's defenses against trafficking in persons, an abominable practice that all can agree must be confronted and eliminated. 5. (C) Al-Maani replied that the timing of the unwelcome report could be particularly disastrous for the Free Trade Agreement ratification proceedings still underway in Congress, fearing that the TIP report's blow to the bilateral relationship may quickly overwhelm whatever impulses there may be to seek further trafficking engagement with the USG. P/E Chief underscored the Administration's support for FTA ratification, praised the TIP efforts already underway within the Omani government, and reiterated the Embassy's desire for productive further dialogue on the issue. For examples of other states' efforts to combat TIP, P/E Chief forwarded to al-Maani on June 6 the TIP reports for the GCC states and Yemen, as well as a copy of the September 2005 "Assessment of U.S. Government Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons" report. ----- Comment ----- 6. (SBU) The Embassy is preparing an action

plan that the Ambassador will provide to Sayyid Badr when they meet later in the month that will incorporate many of the TIP report's suggestions. GRAPPO

CASE: 2/6/2008
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Tashkent
CABLEID: 08TASHKENT157
CABLEDATE: 2/6/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: STATE-CONTROLLED PAPER RUNS FULL-PAGE HUMAN TRAFFICKING STORY
COUNTRY1: Uzbekistan

6. (SBU) The Government of Uzbekistan was angry about last year's Tier 3 assessment, but we have nonetheless consistently heard from key nongovernmental organization contacts since then that awareness and sensitivity among law enforcement officials is steadily increasing. A visitor from G/TIP last fall -- the first in several years -- met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and emphasized the Department's interest in monitoring convictions; this prominent article may reflect an attempt by the Government of Uzbekistan to highlight its efforts on this front. Post and G/TIP have also repeatedly stressed the importance of comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation to international observers, and the submission of such a law to the parliament, albeit after many promises, is a positive step. While the Government of Uzbekistan maintains that such legislation is being done out of concern for its people and not because the U.S. told it to do so, it is an area in which our mutual interests converge.

CASE: 10/23/2007
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Tashkent
CABLEID: 07TASHKENT1829
CABLEDATE: 10/23/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: NEW HUMAN TRAFFICKING OBSERVATIONS FROM KEY NGO
COUNTRY1: Uzbekistan

9. (C) Karimova said her GOU contacts were angered by this year's Tier 3 designation, but it is a good sign that she feels her NGO "is treated more and more like a partner." There are increasing signs that the GOU may be willing to engage further on the TIP issue, especially in expanded training programs, although the GOU needs to follow through on introducing, passing, and implementing draft legislation, enhancing prosecutorial efforts, and providing assistance to victims. The new data on the number of IOM-assisted trafficking victims indicates that TIP will remain a problem in Uzbekistan for the foreseeable future, especially labor trafficking. End comment.

CASE: 6/23/2008
CODE: Anger or frustration
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT474
CABLEDATE: 6/23/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ROYAL OMAN POLICE, MAJLIS AL-SHURA SUSPEND AREAS OF COOPERATION DUE TO TIP
COUNTRY1: Oman

During a June 22 meeting with Post's Regional Security Officer (RSO), high-ranking officials in the ROP's Criminal Investigation Division (CID) stated that Post will no longer enjoy "special access" to criminal statistics or other law enforcement data due to Oman's Tier 3 ranking in the 2008 TIP Report. Brigadier General Suheil Fadel, speaking "in the name of the Inspector General (IG) of the ROP," stated that the ROP felt "stabbed in the back" by the US report, and that while the ROP always has shared statistics and information on criminal trends with the Embassy, including letting emboffs tour the ROP's central prison (ref) and detention facilities, Fadel saw the report as evidence that the US had abused the "privileges of its relationship" by mischaracterizing the ROP's record on human rights

CASE: 6/13/2006
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Banjul

CABLEID: 06BANJUL375
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: THE GAMBIA: TIP DEMARCHE DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Gambia

On June 5, Post delivered Trafficking in Persons (TIP) demarche (ref a) to the Foreign Ministry. Copies of demarche and country report were delivered to the Vice President, Secretary General, Attorney General, Secretary of State for Interior and Secretary of State for Health & Social Welfare. On June 12 SIPDIS poloff met with senior Justice Ministry officials and the Director of the Gambian Interagency Anti-TIP task force to review in detail The Gambia's Tier Two rating. 2. (U) The Justice Department officials were pleased and relieved to learn that The Gambia had moved up to Tier Two from Tier Two Watch list. Poloff congratulated them on the progress made to date, while advising that continued progress and attention to combating TIP is essential, particularly passage of comprehensive Anti-Trafficking legislation. The Embassy has scheduled additional meetings with the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the Department of Social Welfare to review this year's TIP Report and reiterate need for further progress toward achieving Tier One placement.

CASE: 6/9/2006
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Phnom Penh
CABLEID: 06PHNOMPENH1092
CABLEDATE: 6/9/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: AMBASSADOR PRESSES CAMBODIAN DPM ON TIP
COUNTRY1: Cambodia

DPM Sar Kheng welcomed Cambodia's upgrade and pledged to redouble RGC efforts on TIP.

CASE: 7/1/2009
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Nicosia
CABLEID: 09NICOSIA432
CABLEDATE: 7/1/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: CYPRIOT RESPONSE TO 2009 TIP REPORT BALANCED, PRODUCTIVE
COUNTRY1: Cyprus

The Minister of Interior, Neoclis Sylikiotis, in a June 17 CyBC report, stressed that, while no country should stand in judgment of another, he welcomed U.S. recognition that Cyprus is making progress to combat TIP.

CASE: 8/23/2006
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong
CABLEID: 06HONGKONG3400
CABLEDATE: 8/23/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN
HEADING: DEMARCHE TO MACAU ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
COUNTRY1: China

1. (C) On August 15, poloffs delivered Ref demarche on trafficking in persons (TIP) to Deputy Director Patricia Ferreira of Macau's International Law Office. Ferreira reacted positively to the recommendations contained in the nonpaper about how Macau could improve its TIP tier rating and agreed to convey the information to other concerned agencies and officials.

CASE: 6/13/2008
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Astana
CABLEID: 08ASTANA1111
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: KAZAKHSTAN: TIP REPORT DELIVED
COUNTRY1: Kazakhstan

Very pleased with the news, Azimova said that the GOK intends to work to further improve its TIP ranking by enhancing the victim assistance and protection components of the national anti-TIP action plan.

CASE: 7/25/2007
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Jakarta
CABLEID: 07JAKARTA2007
CABLEDATE: 7/25/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP REPORT'S POSITIVE IMPACT
COUNTRY1: Indonesia

The Department's 2007 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report has prompted a positive reaction in Indonesia.

CASE: 7/1/2009
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Nicosia
CABLEID: 09NICOSIA432
CABLEDATE: 7/1/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: CYPRIOT RESPONSE TO 2009 TIP REPORT BALANCED, PRODUCTIVE
COUNTRY1: Cyprus

une 16, Poloff delivered the 2009 TIP report to Andreas Nicolaides, TIP Desk Officer in the MFA's Multilateral Affairs Department. Nicolaides welcomed the report and the news of Cyprus, elevation from the &watch list8 to tier 2. This move was expected, according to Nicolaides, as the GOC had made many improvements on TIP in the past year, most notably the abolition of the &artiste work permit

CASE: 7/14/2006
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Athens
CABLEID: 06ATHENS1836
CABLEDATE: 7/14/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: NEW TIP SPOKESMAN DETAILS GOG EFFORTS TO STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING, RESPONDS TO ACTION PLAN
COUNTRY1: Greece

The Spokesman "is happy" with Greece's upgraded Tier Two position, and we are encouraged by Greece's continual efforts to combat human trafficking.

CASE: 6/22/2004
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Santo Domingo
CABLEID: 04SANTODOMINGO3667
CABLEDATE: 6/22/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: USG REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS HITS DOMINICAN NEWS
COUNTRY1: Dominican Republic

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) was on the front pages and in private discussions last week in the Dominican Republic. On June 14, poloffs delivered the 2003 Trafficking in Persons report and reftel talking points to Ambassador Rogert Espaillat, Deputy Director of the Americas Desk at the GODR Foreign Ministry. Espaillat noted the importance of the report and thanked us for our efforts to work with the Dominican Republic to improve its record on TIP issues. Poloffs stressed the need for continued efforts to enforce the 2003 anti-TIP law and urged the need for arrests and prosecutions.

Ambassador Espaillat agreed that the GODR has taken the first steps to combat TIP, but needs vigorous future efforts.

CASE: 6/23/2009
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Tirana
CABLEID: 09TIRANA411
CABLEDATE: 6/23/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: GOA PLEASED WITH TIER 2 RANKING
COUNTRY1: Albania

On June 15, Poloff delivered ref A talking points and information to Ilir Melo, Chief of the Americas Desk at the MFA, who was visibly pleased to learn that Albania had been lifted to Tier 2. He expressed his gratitude for this ranking and, recognizing past mistakes by the GOA in dealing with this issue, said that the GOA will continue to move forward on TIP.

CASE: 9/25/2006
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Manila
CABLEID: 06MANILA4053
CABLEDATE: 9/25/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: AMBASSADOR AND VICE PRESIDENT REAFFIRM USG-GRP PARTNERSHIP AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING
COUNTRY1: Philippines

2. (U) During the conference, Vice President De Castro pulled Ambassador aside to discuss TIP privately. De Castro told Ambassador his government was pleased that the Philippines had been removed from the Tier 2 Watch List but reiterated that his government had to "do more." He suggested that the Philippines Overseas Employment Administration, the agency charged with oversight of overseas employment opportunities, should expand TIP awareness programs for those workers going overseas who are most at risk, such as young women. Noting the difficulty in prosecuting criminals because victims are reluctant to testify, he requested further USG assistance in training TIP prosecutors. He strongly emphasized the GRP concern for TIP and offered to continue to seek ways to cooperate with USG on the issue.

CASE: 1/25/2007
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Phnom Penh
CABLEID: 07PHNOMPENH131
CABLEDATE: 1/25/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: PDAS STEPHENS MEETS CAMBODIA'S POLITICAL AND CIVIL SOCIETY ELITE
COUNTRY1: Cambodia

He described Cambodia's trafficking in persons (TIP) ranking upgrade from Tier III to Tier II Watchlist as an encouraging step for which he and the Ambassador should both claim some credit.

CASE: 7/2/2008
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Tashkent
CABLEID: 08TASHKENT769
CABLEDATE: 7/2/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: UZBEK PARLIAMENT RATIFIES UNITED NATIONS TIP PROTOCOL
COUNTRY1: Uzbekistan

Nodira Karimova, Director of the main anti-trafficking NGO "Istiqbolli Avlod," believes the GOU was encouraged by its improved ranking this year and is seeking to build on it.

CASE: 6/23/2009

CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Ottawa
CABLEID: 09OTTAWA487
CABLEDATE: 6/23/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: TIP REPORT MAKES HEADLINES AROUND CANADA
COUNTRY1: Canada

SBU) On June 15 Poloff delivered refel TIP report to Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Policy Advisor Graeme Hamilton. Hamilton expressed satisfaction and relief that Canada maintained its Tier 1 status, and noted that Canada is committed to improving its prosecution and enforcement performance.

CASE: 6/6/2008
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Vilnius
CABLEID: 08VILNIUS438
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: 2008 TIP REPORT DELIVERED TO LITHUANIAN OFFICIALS
COUNTRY1: Lithuania

Darius Staniulis, head of the MFA's Human Rights and NGO division, was pleased to learn that Lithuania remained in Tier 1 when we shared the 2008 TIP report with him on June 4. He noted that both police and NGOs noticed a considerable decrease in identified victims over the last two years and said he feels this is evidence that anti-TIP efforts in Lithuania have been effective. He added that the GOL is considering making TIP a priority issue when it holds the chair of the OSCE in 2011. 2. We shared the TIP report via email with other GOL officials on June 4 and with relevant local NGOs on June 5. We posted the English version of the TIP report on Post's website on June 5 and will post the Lithuanian translation as soon as it is available.

CASE: 6/4/2008
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 08CARACAS771
CABLEDATE: 6/4/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: MFA OFFICIALS 'PLEASED' WITH 2008 TIP DESIGNATION
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

1. (C) PolCouns and PolOff met with MFA Director for North America and Multilateral Affairs Yaneth Arocha and U.S. Desk Officer Marie Borregales to deliver a courtesy copy of Venezuela's country narrative in the 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report and to inform them of their change in status to Tier 2 Watchlist. (Note: Since 2004, Venezuela has been designated as a Tier 3 country in the TIP Report. End Note). Arocha told us she is "very pleased" with the designation. She stated she would brief Vice Minister Jorge Valero on the designation upon his return from the OAS General Assembly meeting in Colombia. Arocha credited her staff for working diligently to arrange meetings between Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (BRV) and USG officials despite tensions in the bilateral relationship. She also said the visit of G/TIP's Barbara Fleck in October 2007 provided the BRV with an opportunity to showcase its law enforcement efforts and public awareness campaigns (Ref. B). Arocha referred to the change in status as an example that both parties can work together to strengthen the bilateral relationship, particularly on technical issues. She added that greater cooperation was likely in similar issues.

CASE: 7/1/2009
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Nicosia
CABLEID: 09NICOSIA432
CABLEDATE: 7/1/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: CYPRIOT RESPONSE TO 2009 TIP REPORT BALANCED, PRODUCTIVE
COUNTRY1: Cyprus

Reactions to the 2009 State Department Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report were generally positive. GOC officials welcomed this year's report as long-overdue recognition of substantial GGC progress to combat TIP

CASE: 7/1/2009
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Nicosia
CABLEID: 09NICOSIA432
CABLEDATE: 7/1/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: CYPRIOT RESPONSE TO 2009 TIP REPORT BALANCED, PRODUCTIVE
COUNTRY1: Cyprus

Rita Superman, Director of the Cyprus Police Anti-TIP unit, told Poloff on June 18 that the report is a very good report -- quite fair.8

CASE: 6/6/2005
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Prague
CABLEID: 05PRAGUE854
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: 2005 TIP REPORT DEMARCHE DELIVERED TO CZECHS
COUNTRY1: Czech

Poloff delivered the demarche regarding the release of the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report on Monday, June 6, 2005, to First Deputy Interior Minister Miroslav Koudelny and to Dr. Pavel Rotyka, Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Justice. Minister Koudelny, who is the Czech Republic's National Coordinator for the fight against trafficking in persons, was pleased to learn that the Czech Republic retained its Tier 1 status in the 2005 report but assured Poloff that he realizes there is much more to be done on this important issue, and that combating trafficking will remain a top priority for the country. Koudelny mentioned in particular that more will be done to enhance and expand the country's victim assistance model. Although the Deputy Minister of Justice was unavailable, his Advisor, Dr. Rotyka, was pleased to hear the TIP demarche and acknowledged the fact that more convictions and tougher sentences for traffickers were the Czechs' main areas for improvement. Rotyka was eager to use the 2005 TIP Report to impress upon judges and prosecutors how important the TIP issue is to the USG, and said that the Justice Ministry would like to post the report on its own webpage. Poloff told him that in addition to the copy given at the demarche, the report is available in both English and Czech on the Embassy's webpage, and that the Department encourages the Ministry to give the report the widest distribution possible.

CASE: 6/6/2008
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Phnom Penh
CABLEID: 08PHNOMPENH463
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: CAMBODIA TIER 2 ANNOUNCEMENT: GOVERNMENT PLEDGES TO DO MORE
COUNTRY1: Cambodia

2. (SBU) The Charge officially delivered the news of Cambodia's Tier 2 ranking to DPM Sar Kheng on June 5. The DPM said it was with "extreme happiness" that he received the news of being upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List, and that he was pleased that the U.S. Government had recognized Cambodia's hard work to combat TIP. He said that Cambodia's success cannot be disconnected from the cooperation and assistance of the U.S. through which Cambodia has gained experience and ideas that will be the basis for the country's future work. Sar Kheng, who had clearly read the report carefully, remarked that he is not yet satisfied with Cambodia's anti-TIP efforts and agreed with the TIP Report's recommendations. During a joint press conference following the meeting, Sar Kheng was honest in recognizing remaining challenges and told the press that Cambodia will strive over time to reach a Tier 1 rating. (Note: DPM and Minister of Interior Sar Kheng has largely led Cambodia's anti-TIP efforts from the highest levels of the government, and currently serves as the head of the

government's High Level Working Group overseeing the Cambodian anti-TIP National Task Force (NTF). End note.)

CASE: 6/16/2009
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers
CABLEID: 09ALGIERS563
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: ALGERIA OPEN TO DISCUSS TIP LAW IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE
COUNTRY1: Algeria

As to Algeria's ranking on the Tier 2 Watch List, Selmane expressed her appreciation that this year's report considered Algeria's ongoing efforts to combat TIP.

CASE: 7/31/2007
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Accra
CABLEID: 07ACCRA1606
CABLEDATE: 7/31/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: Trafficking in Persons Report Rollout in Ghana
COUNTRY1: Ghana

On June 13 PolChief and Democracy and Human Rights Coordinator met with the Chief Director of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC), Valentine Kuuzume, and the Desk Officer for Trafficking, Marilyn Annan, to discuss Ghana's Tier 2 ranking in the TIP Report this year. The Chief Director appreciated that the country narrative recognized some of Ghana's efforts in combating trafficking. He reiterated the need for funding in the area of victim rehabilitation and was disappointed that the embassy had not done as much as he would have liked to support anti-trafficking activities by MOWAC.

CASE: 6/16/2006
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Islamabad
CABLEID: 06ISLAMABAD11365
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES PAKISTAN'S TRAFFICKING EFFORTS WITH MINISTER SHERPAO
COUNTRY1: Pakistan

On June 12, Ambassador met with Interior Minister Sherpao to cover a broad range of issues (other reported septels), including trafficking in persons. Minister Sherpao said he had read the 2006 TIP report and found the section on Pakistan to be encouraging. He also thanked Ambassador for his support of Pakistan's anti-trafficking efforts. 2. (SBU) Minister Sherpao agreed with the report's conclusion that internal trafficking occurs in Pakistan. He said that the problem is getting provincial authorities, who currently have jurisdiction over internal trafficking, to act. He added that he is working to get the provincial authorities to be more aggressive in fighting internal trafficking. Minister Sherpao also said that while currently the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) does not investigate internal trafficking cases, the Ministry will change the FIA's jurisdiction to include internal trafficking. 3. (SBU) Minister Sherpao also detailed two Government of Pakistan (GOP) initiatives that relate to its anti-trafficking efforts. The first is a recently created Public Safety Commission at the federal level. This Commission is intended to foster communication and create a working relationship between federal law enforcement officials and civil society. The second initiative is the recently-created gender crimes unit at the FIA, which is intended to investigate crimes against women, including trafficking. 4. (SBU) Comment. Although Min

CASE: 6/22/2004
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Santo Domingo
CABLEID: 04SANTODOMINGO3667

CABLEDATE: 6/22/2004

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: USG REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS HITS DOMINICAN NEWS

COUNTRY1: Dominican Republic

Ref A points were made by the Ambassador and other emboffs throughout the day, and specifically and in detail during the session on anti-corruption and the session dedicated to consular and TIP issues. During the consular/TIP session, poloff presented PLD transition team members with copies of the 2003 TIP report (Dominican Republic portion) and explained the Department's evaluation criteria. PLD attendees were receptive and grateful for the information. Emboffs will arrange further discussions with the PLD transition team to explain TIP and emphasize the importance of the GODR's role in combating TIP, arresting those involved and ensuring that the accused are prosecuted. ----- Comment -----

CASE: 6/19/2008

CODE: Appreciation

ORIGIN: Embassy Antananarivo

CABLEID: 08ANTANANARIVO440

CABLEDATE: 6/19/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: GOM WELCOMES MADAGASCAR'S TIER ONE TIP STATUS

COUNTRY1: Madagascar

On June 12, in conjunction with the World Day Against Child Labor, Embassy Antananarivo organized a digital videoconference (DVC) featuring Ambassador Mark Lagon and Director of the Office for East Africa James Knight from Washington with high-level representatives from the Government of Madagascar (GOM), international partners, civil society, and media in order to launch the eighth annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, with the special announcement that Madagascar has finally achieved Tier 1 status. GOM officials welcomed the news with pride, were curious to know how Madagascar can maintain Tier 1 status in the future, and pledged to continue their efforts in collaboration with international partners and local NGOs to combat TIP on Malagasy soil.

CASE: 6/15/2009

CODE: Appreciation

ORIGIN: Embassy Abuja

CABLEID: 09ABUJA1064

CABLEDATE: 6/15/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: NIGERIA: 2009 TIP REPORT DEMARCHE DELIVERED

COUNTRY1: Nigeria

1. (SBU) Poloff delivered reftel country narrative of the ninth annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report to the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP). NAPTIP's Director of Investigations and Monitoring, Muhammed Babandede, and Executive Secretary, Simon Egede, were pleased with Nigeria's move to Tier 1 status

CASE: 6/5/2008

CODE: Appreciation

ORIGIN: Embassy Abuja

CABLEID: 08ABUJA1040

CABLEDATE: 6/5/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: NIGERIA: NAPTIP PLEASED WITH TIP REPORT AND REQUESTS FURTHER ASSISTANCE

COUNTRY1: Nigeria

1. (C) Poloff delivered a copy of the eighth annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report to the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP). Director of Investigations and Monitoring, and second in command at the agency, Mr. Muhammad Babandede, was pleased that Nigeria remained a Tier 2 country rather than slipping back to the Tier 2 Watchlist category. Hopeful to someday move to Tier 1, Babandede asked what Nigeria needs to focus on in order to make it to the next level. Highlighting the recommendations listed in the report, Poloff encouraged NAPTIP to continue the hard work they have exhibited, but to focus on increasing prosecutions and convictions,

as well as victim care and protection. Babandede was grateful that the report noted the specific achievements made by NAPTIP; and ultimately agreed that Nigeria has a lot more work to do. He was also delighted that the report noted NAPTIP's need for additional funding to carry out its mandate.

CASE: 6/14/2007
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Tallinn
CABLEID: 07TALLINN395
CABLEDATE: 6/14/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: ESTONIAN REACTION TO 2007 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Estonia

On June 13, we delivered reftel points informing the GOE of the release of the 2006 TIP (trafficking in persons) Report and Estonia's Tier 2 status to Mai Hion, MFA Director for Human Rights. Hion was pleased that the Report acknowledged the progress the GOE has made in combating TIP - principally in implementing its National Action Plan (NAP) to combat TIP and increasing its anti- TIP budget. Hion said the GOE remains committed to the full implementation of the NAP and making new anti-TIP funding permanent.

CASE: 6/17/2004
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Manama
CABLEID: 04MANAMA940
CABLEDATE: 6/17/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: TIP REPORT NARRATIVE AND DEMARCHE DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Bahrain

POL/ECON Chief delivered ref a country narrative and talking points regarding the 2004 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Assistant Undersecretar Shaikh Abdul Aziz bin Mubarak Al Khalifa on June 15, 2004. Shaikh Abdul Aziz, who chairs the GOB interministerial TIP Committee, expressed satisfaction with Bahrain's Tier Two ranking.

CASE: 6/9/2006
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Sarajevo
CABLEID: 06SARAJEVO1321
CABLEDATE: 6/9/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: BOSNIA: TIP REPORT DEMARCHE
COUNTRY1: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Poloff delivered the 2006 TIP report and demarche (ref A) to Samir Rizvo, the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings on June 5. The Coordinator was pleased with comments in the report acknowledging that significant progress has been made in a number of areas.

CASE: 6/7/2006
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Tallinn
CABLEID: 06TALLINN541
CABLEDATE: 6/7/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: ESTONIA: 2006 TIP REPORT DEMARCHE DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Estonia

On June 5 we delivered reftel points informing the GOE of the release of the 2006 TIP Report and Estonia's Tier 2 status to Mai Hion, MFA Director for Human Rights, and Karen Tikenberg, MFA TIP Desk Officer. The Estonians were pleased to hear that the Report acknowledged progress the GOE has made in combating TIP, principally in regards to the National Action Plan (NAP). Hion said that the GOE's main TIP priority in the short and mid-term is successful NAP implementation.

CASE: 6/13/2007
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 07KINGSTON927
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JAMAICA: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON 7TH ANNUAL TIPS REPORT: GOJ AND PRESS REACTIONS
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

loff delivered the 7th Annual TIP country report on Jamaica to the Government of Jamaica's (GOJ) National Anti-Trafficking Task Force at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) on June 11. The task force is headed by Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Justice Carol Palmer. Ms. Palmer allowed all members of the task force to stay in the meeting; however, in order to prevent any leaks to the media, she only circulated the report to members of the MFAFT. PUBLIC REACTIONS POSITIVE ----- 2. (U) Both the GOJ and local media reacted favorably to Jamaica's improvement to Tier 2 status.

CASE: 6/12/2003
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Rangoon
CABLEID: 03RANGOON696
CABLEDATE: 6/12/2003
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: COM PRESSES HOME MINISTER TO RELEASE DETAINEES AND MOVE FORWARD ON RECONCILIATION
COUNTRY1: Burma

The COM provided the Minister with a copy of this year's Trafficking In Persons report and Poloff provided an overview of the Burma section of the report. TIP falls under the Minister's purview and Poloff was able to report on several areas in which the Ministry and its partners had made progress on TIP during the year. Poloff noted, however, that Burma remained a Tier 3 country on the TIP ranking in large part due to its failure to make adequate progress on forced labor, which is included in the U.S. definition of TIP. The Minister appeared to appreciate receiving the report and feedback on his Ministry's actions (he does not have authority on forced issues).

CASE: 6/16/2009
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 09KINGSTON478
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: JAMAICA: DELIVERY OF DEMARCHE ON 2009 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) REPORT
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

Per reftel, EmbOff delivered demarche advising Jamaica of its tier ranking and the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report's imminent release to Mr. Samuel Blake, Director of the Office of Organized Crime and Defence in the Government of Jamaica's (GOJ) Ministry of National Security and Chairman of GOJ's TIP Task Force on the afternoon of June 15. 2. (SBU) Mr. Blake expressed thanks for the information, noted that GOJ was pleased that it had retained its Tier 2 ranking, and concurred with the areas of recommended improvement. The Director also advised EmbOff that he looked forward to working with the Embassy on the 2010 TIP Report. Post will report any further response from the GOJ

CASE: 6/14/2007
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Jakarta
CABLEID: 07JAKARTA1655
CABLEDATE: 6/14/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: GOI AGREES WITH MAIN POINTS OF 2007 TIP REPORT INDONESIA NARRATIVE
COUNTRY1: Indonesia

2. (SBU) We delivered on June 12 the 2007 TIP Report's Indonesian country narrative and talking points to the key person coordinating Indonesia's anti-trafficking efforts, Sumarni Dawam Raharjo, appointed last month by the Minister of Women's Empowerment to spearhead implementation of Indonesia's comprehensive new anti-trafficking law. (Note: Sumarni retired in March as deputy minister but was appointed to this special position to ensure continuity in implementation of the new law, a law which she worked on for two years before its successful enactment in April 2007). Sumarni noted her satisfaction with Indonesia's improvement from Tier 2 Watchlist status in 2006 to Tier 2 in 2007, reading the narrative carefully before commenting further. Pleased with the areas of progress noted in the report, Sumarni also acknowledged each of the areas of weakness. PolOff pointed out to her the progress and deficiencies emphasized in the talking points and left her a non-paper, which she said she would share with the minister.

CASE: 6/6/2005
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Asuncion
CABLEID: 05ASUNCION742
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: PARAGUAY ON TIP REPORT, NEXT STEPS
COUNTRY1: Paraguay

1. On 6/2, Polcouns shared with Julio Peralta, the MFA's Director of International Organizations, an advance copy of the 2005 TIP report on Paraguay. Drawing from reftel points, Polcouns noted significant progress Paraguay had made in combating TIP particularly with regard to successful prosecution of traffickers, greater coordination and collaboration among key players, and creation of a rehabilitation center. Paraguay needed to do more to step up prosecutions, increase public awareness, and improve services for victims. Peralta, as chair of an interagency coordination group on TIP, was central to GOP efforts to improve Paraguay's record on combating this problem. He appreciated the report's recognition of the progress Paraguay had made and was pleased with the decision to remove Paraguay from the Watch List.

CASE: 6/5/2008
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Zagreb
CABLEID: 08ZAGREB421
CABLEDATE: 6/5/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: GOC RECEIVES TIER ONE TIP SCORE ENTHUSIASTICALLY
COUNTRY1: Croatia

On July 3rd, per REFTEL, POLOFF delivered news of Croatia's upgraded TIER 1 rating to TIP National Coordinator Luka Maderic, who also serves as the Head of the Government Office of Human Rights. The GoC enthusiastically received the news of Croatia's full compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

CASE: 6/12/2006
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Freetown
CABLEID: 06FREETOWN473
CABLEDATE: 6/12/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: SL GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS TIP FINDINGS AND COMMITS TO TIP TASK FORCE
COUNTRY1: Sierra Leone

On June 6, the Ambassador delivered reftel demarche to Acting Foreign Minister Dr. Mohamed Kamara. The Ambassador encouraged the GoSL to activate the Trafficking in Persons Task Force, as stipulated in the new Anti-Trafficking Act, and prepare a national strategy on TIP. Kamara was pleased by Sierra Leone's elevation to Tier 2 and asserted that trafficking is an important issue on the GoSL agenda. Kamara said that SL will continue working toward a Tier 1 ranking. Kamara also said that he will report on the TIP demarche at next week's cabinet meeting. HULL

CASE: 6/14/2004
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Yerevan
CABLEID: 04YEREVAN1339
CABLEDATE: 6/14/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: MFA INITIAL RESPONSE TO 2004 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Armenia

We delivered TIP report language and accompanying fact sheet and press release information to Special Advisor Salpi Ghazarian and Human Rights Desk Officer Karine Soudjian June 14 per reftel instructions. Both reported that the GOAM was pleased to see that Armenia had remained a Tier 2 country but recognized the need for progress -- especially in the area of victim protection -- in order to avoid a Tier 3 classification in the future.

CASE: 7/15/2003
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Guatemala
CABLEID: 03GUATEMALA1815
CABLEDATE: 7/15/2003
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: BILATERAL TIP WORKING GROUP FORMED
COUNTRY1: Guatemala

The GOG responded enthusiastically to our request to the MFA for an inter-governmental meeting on this subject. V

CASE: 6/13/2007
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Berlin
CABLEID: 07BERLIN1190
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: GERMANY - MFA RESPONSE TO 2007 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Germany

Emboffs delivered demarche contained in ref and passed an advance copy of the 2007 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report country narrative for Germany to Axel Kuechle, MFA Deputy Director for International Cooperation against Organized Crime, Narcotics, Corruption, and Human Trafficking, on June 11. Kuechle agreed with the report's overall positive assessment of Germany's steps to combat TIP and expressed appreciation for the report's recognition of German efforts during the June-July 2006 Soccer World Cup championship.

CASE: 6/16/2006
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Phnom Penh
CABLEID: 06PHNOMPENH1134
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: DCM DELIVERS TIP DEMARCHE TO CAMBODIAN POLICE COMMISSIONER HOK LUNDY
COUNTRY1: Cambodia

Lundy was delighted that Cambodia had been upgraded.

CASE: 11/16/2009
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Kinshasa
CABLEID: 09KINSHASA1013
CABLEDATE: 11/16/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: TIP Action Plan Demarche Delivered
COUNTRY1: Democratic Republic of Congo

Overall, response from most parties was positive. Kalenga and Yande expressed appreciation for the concern and assistance of the USG in recognizing this serious issue. Yande proposed the development of a national strategy to combat the problem of trafficking.

CASE: 6/13/2007
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Panama
CABLEID: 07PANAMA996
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: PANAMA: FM SATISFIED WITH TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Panama

"The 2007 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report does not look too different from last year's report. That is good to see," said First Vice President and Foreign Minister Samuel Lewis after Ambassador delivered reftel demarche on June 11. Ambassador noted the report acknowledged positive steps Panama had taken to fight trafficking, including the first conviction of a TIP-related offender and an ongoing public awareness campaign. Lewis said it was good to see that Panama received a Tier Two rating again this year. (Note: Panama first appeared in the TIP report in 2004 and has received a Tier Two rating since then. End note.) 2. (SBU) Ambassador discussed ways Panama could continue to improve its anti-trafficking record, including dedicating additional resources and ending the alternadora visa program. Lewis did not comment on these ideas. He said he appreciated receiving an advance copy of the report, and anticipated there would be significant press coverage of it. 3. (SBU) Comment: Trafficking continues to be a sensitive subject for Panama. Lewis' relief at having missed Tier Two Watchlist status was apparent. Post will continue to engage with the GOP on this issue, using the progress noted in the 2007 report as a departure point for additional efforts and cooperation. EATON

CASE: 6/19/2009
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Pretoria
CABLEID: 09PRETORIA1246
CABLEDATE: 6/19/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: SOUTH AFRICA'S RESPONSE TO 2009 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: South Africa

Summary: PolCouns and Poloffs met with the Department of International Cooperation's (DICO) Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Chief Director Pitso Montwedi and Deputy Director Raymond Sithole on June 15 to deliver the final text of the 2009 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report on South Africa. Montwedi was glad for the upgrade to Tier Two and acknowledged that South Africa has work to do on fighting TIP.

CASE: 6/24/2009
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Brussels
CABLEID: 09BRUSSELS865
CABLEDATE: 6/24/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: BELGIUM'S JUSTICE MINISTRY REACTS TO 2009 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Belgium

Poloff and Polintern delivered reftel Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report to the Justice Minister's Diplomatic Advisor Ambassador Marc Van den Reeck and Trafficking in Persons Coordinator Paule Somers on June 15. Both Van den Reeck and Somers were pleased that Belgium received a Tier 1 ranking in the 2009 report.

CASE: 3/31/2006
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Bratislava
CABLEID: 06BRATISLAVA254

CABLEDATE: 3/31/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: CARETAKER MINISTER OF INTERIOR PROMISES STEADY COURSE ON TIP, EXTREMISM

COUNTRY1: Slovakia

3. (SBU) Pado was pleased that Slovakia's efforts got such positive reaction in the TIP Interim Assessment.

CASE: 6/6/2006

CODE: Appreciation

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait

CABLEID: 06KUWAIT2113

CABLEDATE: 6/6/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: POST INFORMS GOK OF TIP RANKING; OFFICIALS LOOK FORWARD TO MORE PROGRESS

COUNTRY1: Kuwait

1. (SBU) Poloff met with representatives of three Kuwaiti Ministries on June 5 to inform them of Kuwait's rise from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watchlist: Saud Al-Saeedi, who handles human rights issues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Legal Department, Zakaria Al-Ansari, Assistant Director of the International Relations Depart at the Ministry of Justice; and Dr. Salih Al-Shaykh, Assistant Undersecretary for Labor Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. All expressed satisfaction with the recognition of Kuwait's efforts and confirmed that they understood that much more work needs to be done. Specifically, Al-Ansari pledged to help elucidate the TIP prosecution statistics his office provided this year. Al-Shaykh, who will participate in the August TIP International Visitors Program, agreed to use his position to put pressure on the inter-ministerial committee on expatriate labor affairs to make progress on a shelter for domestic workers. Saeedi said he would coordinate with the Minister of Interior and Kuwaiti embassies in labor-sending countries to make sure that the standardized domestic labor contracts are enforced.

CASE: 7/14/2006

CODE: Appreciation

ORIGIN: Embassy Athens

CABLEID: 06ATHENS1836

CABLEDATE: 7/14/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: NEW TIP SPOKESMAN DETAILS GOG EFFORTS TO STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING, RESPONDS TO ACTION PLAN

COUNTRY1: Greece

GREECE "VERY HAPPY" WITH IMPROVED TIER RANKING ----- - 5.
(U) Referring to our 2006 TIP report, Rocanas stated he is "very happy" that Greece was moved up to Tier Two, and believes that Greece should continue to move "up and up." Ambassador congratulated the progress, praised U.S.-Greece cooperation on the issue, and added that if we are open and constructive, we can solve this problem together.

CASE: 6/13/2007

CODE: Appreciation

ORIGIN: Embassy Tel Aviv

CABLEID: 07TELAVIV1727

CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

COUNTRY1: Israel

Yediot, The Jerusalem Post, and Israel Radio reported that the State Department released its 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report, which states: "The Government of Israel does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so." Yediot and Israel Radio cited the satisfaction of Justice Minister Daniel Friedmann and his ministry over the report.

CASE: 6/14/2006
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Athens
CABLEID: 06ATHENS1524
CABLEDATE: 6/14/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: GREECE: GOG AND MEDIA CALL 2006 TIP REPORT "ENCOURAGING"
COUNTRY1: Greece

1. SUMMARY: The Greek government and press responded positively to the release of the 2006 TIP report, calling Greece's advancement to Tier 2 from Tier 2 Watch List (T2WL) "encouraging." News articles relied on post's press release, press conference, and the report narrative for straightforward, factual reporting. Deputy Foreign Minister Stylianidis issued a balanced statement that described Greece's successes during the past year and cited areas which still need to be addressed. Working level interlocutors we have met with since the announcement are pleased that Greece is seen as our "partner" in the TIP fight, rather than as a country "under supervision." END SUMMARY.

CASE: 10/20/2009
CODE: Appreciation
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 09MUSCAT973
CABLEDATE: 10/20/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: OMAN PUBLISHES NATIONAL PLAN TO COMBAT TIP
COUNTRY1: Oman

2. (U) Press reports on October 16 quoted extensively from comments made by Royal Oman Police (ROP) Inspector General H.E. Malik bin Sulaiman Al-Ma'mari after the meeting of the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking (NCCHT). Remarks included, "Stringent measures are being taken to curb this phenomenon," and "there is a need to create awareness among the public about this menace." Ma'mari noted that the ROP had been receiving complaints from employees about violations of their rights and that the courts were currently examining the cases. He pointed out that human trafficking was not only a violation of the anti-trafficking law, but also of Shari'a law, the Basic Statute of the State, the Omani Penal Law and Labor Law and went against the practices and traditions of Omani society as well as agreements the government had signed with international organizations. Al-Ma'mari expressed satisfaction over the results achieved by Oman, particularly noting the elevation of the Sultanate from Tier 3 to Tier 2. He encouraged "any citizen or expatriate resident" to bring instances of human trafficking to the notice of the NCCHT through its new helpline or website.

CASE: 6/23/2009
CODE: Bragging upgrade
ORIGIN: Embassy Tirana
CABLEID: 09TIRANA411
CABLEDATE: 6/23/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: GOA PLEASED WITH TIER 2 RANKING
COUNTRY1: Albania

The GOA also touted its improved ranking in the media and in a press conference with Zajmi and Minister of the Interior Bujar Nishani.

CASE: 6/19/2008
CODE: Bragging upgrade
ORIGIN: Embassy Antananarivo
CABLEID: 08ANTANANARIVO440
CABLEDATE: 6/19/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: GOM WELCOMES MADAGASCAR'S TIER ONE TIP STATUS
COUNTRY1: Madagascar

Even before the news hit the Malagasy media at the June 12 DVC, Prime Minister Rabemananjara,

who had been notified along with other government and international partners by Deputy Chief of Mission Sibley the week prior, announced Madagascar's achievement of Tier 1 status to donors as a special good news flash at the high-level Madagascar Action Plan Round Table on June 10. The Minister of Labor and the heads of UNICEF and the International Labor Organization - International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor (ILO-IPEC) privately expressed their excitement to Embassy staff before the public announcement as well, pleased that their intensive efforts over the previous years were being recognized.

CASE: 6/13/2007

CODE: Bragging upgrade

ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston

CABLEID: 07KINGSTON927

CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: JAMAICA: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON 7TH ANNUAL TIPS REPORT: GOJ AND PRESS REACTIONS

COUNTRY1: Jamaica

The GOJ issued a press release noting the ranking "...is a testament to the significant effort being made by the country to meet the international standards that are required to effectively combat human trafficking.... Jamaica's improved rating is attributable to several key factors, including the enactment of comprehensive legislation and the increase in the number of cases brought before the courts. The US Government also acknowledged the turnaround in the attitude towards human trafficking activities by government officials and their willingness to address this matter in public fora." The press release also noted, "The Government of Jamaica considers the improved Tier 2 status to be a welcome recognition by the international community in general and the United States Government in particular, of the intense efforts being undertaken by the government to tackle this growing problem affecting the entire international community and specifically the Caribbean." Finally, the GOJ urged "...all sectors of the society to maintain this interest and give active support to all pertinent educational material, as it can only augur well for the detection, prevention and deterring of human trafficking anywhere in the island."

CASE: 6/22/2004

CODE: Comparison

ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas

CABLEID: 04CARACAS2059

CABLEDATE: 6/22/2004

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: TIP REPORT: GOV REACTS INDIGNANTLY

COUNTRY1: Venezuela

RANGEL COMPARED VENEZUELA'S TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS' SITUATION TO COLOMBIA AND BRAZIL, WHO RECEIVED BETTER RATINGS. SHAPIRO

CASE: 6/4/2008

CODE: Comparison

ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo

CABLEID: 08TOKYO1528

CABLEDATE: 6/4/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: JAPAN REACTS NEGATIVELY TO TIP REPORT TIER RANKING

COUNTRY1: Japan

ummary: Japan is very disappointed with being ranked Tier 2 in the 2008 TIP Report, DVM Kawai told the DCM June 4. The result will make it harder for Japan to cooperate with the United States in preparing the next report. In addition, Japan is being held to a different standard than Tier 1 countries, Kawai complained. Japan has made progress in many areas, replied the DCM, but the United States remains concerned about issues such as labor trafficking and victim identificatio

CASE: 7/13/2004

CODE: Comparison

ORIGIN: Embassy Rangoon

CABLEID: 04RANGOON882
CABLEDATE: 7/13/2004
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: SENIOR GOB OFFICIAL DISCUSSES TIP AND DRUG ISSUES, THE NLD, AND THE NATIONAL CONVENTION
COUNTRY1: Burma

Col Tin Hlaing said he was "greatly discouraged" to read the TIP report on Burma, complaining that the conclusions were biased and that the global report had placed too much emphasis on countries of origin. He lamented that Burma remained a Tier 3 country while numerous countries with inferior plans of action and legislative efforts had earned Tier 2 rankings.

CASE: 7/26/2005
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Managua
CABLEID: 05MANAGUA2142
CABLEDATE: 7/26/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: DIPLOMATIC NOTE RECEIVED ON GON CONCERNS WITH 2005 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Nicaragua

Taking all of the above into account, this ministry feels that Nicaragua made important strides during 2004 to fight this crime that affects our societies, despite the fact that the Nicaraguan government has limited economic resources available. While recognizing that these efforts should grow and become more intensive during 2005, this ministry is concerned by the fact that Nicaragua has been placed in the Special Watch List of category two in the State Department's report, on the same level with other countries that present serious problems related to trafficking. The Ministry of Foreign Relations takes the opportunity to reiterate to the honorable Embassy of the United States of America the interest and commitment of Nicaragua to fight against trafficking in persons at the national and international levels. The Foreign Ministry also assures the Embassy of its highest consideration.

CASE: 6/21/2006
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Paris
CABLEID: 06PARIS4295
CABLEDATE: 6/21/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: DEMARCHE TO FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON 2006 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT
COUNTRY1: France

He characterized France as the European leader in the TIP fight and expressed amazement at the tier rankings of some other countries with which he had direct experience.

CASE: 1/8/2010
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 10BUENOSAIRE511
CABLEDATE: 1/8/2010
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: (C) WHA A/S VALENZUELA MEETS WITH ARGENTINE OFFICIALS, OPPOSITION AND BUSINESS LEADERS DURING HIS DE
COUNTRY1: Argentina

10. (C) Taccetti raised the GOA's unhappiness with the USG's proliferating report cards on how other countries addressed issues. He took issue with the State Department's annual report on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Argentina's place on the Tier Two Watch List. He said other countries such as Italy had a much worse TIP problem than Argentina but were not on the Watch List. Valenzuela explained that these reports were often mandated by the U.S. Congress and were Capitol Hill's way of ensuring that the executive branch would track and monitor these issues of great concern to legislators.

CASE: 7/6/2007
CODE: Comparison

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 07BUENOSAIRES1302
CABLEDATE: 7/6/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR'S JULY 3 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
COUNTRY1: Argentina

The Foreign Minister Jorge Taiana also expressed displeasure with the TIP report. In a meeting with the ambassador on July 2, 2007, he asked rhetorically "how can anyone think that the TIP problem is worse in Argentina than in surrounding countries?" noting that this is what the report implied. He said that it seems Argentina is being punished for its recognition of the problem and openness to cooperation.

CASE: 7/15/2009
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 09KUALALUMPUR583
CABLEDATE: 7/15/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ATTORNEY GENERAL STRESSES INCREASED GOM ENGAGEMENT ON TIP
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

Gani emphasized his government's fervent desire to return to the Tier 2 if not Tier 1 status. Venting mildly his frustration with Malaysia's Tier 3 status, Gani wondered rhetorically what distinctions could be made between Malaysia and its neighbors that led to the conclusion that somehow Malaysia was in worse shape.

CASE: 11/26/2007
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 07CARACAS2229
CABLEDATE: 11/26/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: VENEZUELA: VISIT OF G/TIP'S BARBARA FLECK
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

3. (C) Poloff and Fleck met with Yaneth Arocha October 19 to discuss the BRV's efforts to combat trafficking in persons (TIP) and to review the Department's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. (Note: The Department has designated Venezuela as a Tier 3 country in its Trafficking in Person's Report since 2004. End Note.) As she has done in previous TIP-related meetings, Arocha dismissed the report's findings and referred to it as an "unilateral" document, arguing that the report should be undertaken by a multilateral organization and not by the USG (Ref. A). Arocha expressed frustration over the Department's grouping of Venezuela in the same category as Cuba, saying "we are not as bad as Cuba on this issue." She argued that the BRV has made significant strides in combating trafficking and cited its public awareness campaigns, a victim's assistance hotline, and its alleged prosecution efforts against traffickers.

CASE: 7/23/2008
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Tel Aviv
CABLEID: 08TELAVIV1578
CABLEDATE: 7/23/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: KNESSET SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN DISCUSSES 2007 STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT ON TRAF
COUNTRY1: Israel

While the hearing was almost entirely devoted to the report on Israel, criticism was voiced of the Tier 1

placing of countries that have legalized prostitution. Idit Harel Shemesh of the Toda'a Institute, an NGO which works extensively with international NGOs, expressed her frustration by labeling the report "disappointing and irrelevant" for its Tier 1 placing of Holland and Germany. She was not challenged by any other speaker on her blurring of the lines between trafficking and prostitution.

CASE: 7/12/2007
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 07TOKYO3186
CABLEDATE: 7/12/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: G/TIP AMBASSADOR LAGON'S JULY 2 MEETING WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT
COUNTRY1: Japan

The Japan country narrative of the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report is "biased and unfair" compared to other Tier 1 countries, said Foreign Policy Bureau Deputy Director-General Masatoshi Shimbo to Ambassador Mark Lagon, Director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP) during a July 2 meeting. Japan treats trafficking in persons as a serious crime and a violation of human rights and human dignity, and has therefore taken "aggressive actions" to fight human trafficking, stated DDG Shimbo. Japan was "not happy, not happy at all," to be ranked Tier 2 in the TIP Report, he complained, noting that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) had already delivered this message to Embassy Tokyo (Ref A).

CASE: 6/15/2007
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 07CARACAS1192
CABLEDATE: 6/15/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: BRV DISPUTES 2007 TIER 3 TIP REPORT RANKING
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

1. (SBU) In meetings with USG officials and in the press, BRV officials reacted angrily to the Department's designation of Venezuela as a Tier 3 country in the 2007 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report released June 12. -- During a June 13 meeting between Vice President of the National Assembly (NA) Desiree Santos Amaral, NA Deputy and Chairman of the External Relations Committee Saul Ortega, Special Coordinator for Venezuela Deborah McCathy, and PolCouns, Santos Amaral criticized the TIP report for grouping Venezuela and Cuba in the same category. Santos Amaral questioned the Department's ranking of Colombia as a Tier 1 country, noting the large number of Colombians trafficked into Venezuela.

CASE: 10/16/2008
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT728
CABLEDATE: 10/16/2008
CLASSIFIC: SECRET//NOFORN
HEADING: UNDERSTANDING AND MOVING ON FROM OMAN'S HARSH REACTION TO THE TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Oman

As alleged evidence that the TIP rankings are based at least in part on purely political factors, some Omanis interlocutors point to the placement of the United Arab Emirates -- with which Oman maintains a relationship that is simultaneously cordial and strained -- and its enormous expatriate population and potentially huge pool of TIP victims, on Tier 2.

CASE: 6/16/2009
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Manama
CABLEID: 09MANAMA362
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: BAHRAIN DISAPPOINTED WITH TIER TWO WATCH LIST RANKING
COUNTRY1: Bahrain

A/DCM informed MFA Bilateral Relations Director Dhafer Al Umran on June 15 of Bahrain's Tier Two Watchlist ranking in the trafficking in persons report to be released June 16. Poloff followed up on the morning of June 16, delivering the country narrative (ref A). Umran expressed disappointment with Bahrain's ranking, and was concerned how Bahrain stacked up against its GCC neighbors.

CASE: 6/9/2008
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Rabat
CABLEID: 08RABAT524
CABLEDATE: 6/9/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: MOROCCO: 2008 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS DEMARCHE DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Morocco

2. (SBU) DCM subsequently delivered the 2008 TIP report (Ref A) to Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director of American Affairs Fouad Yazourh. Yazourh said Morocco's geographic location makes it a logical transit country for trafficking in persons, drugs, extremism, and terrorism. However, he asserted that Morocco should not be judged by the standards of other countries who are not in the same position.

CASE: 6/30/2007
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 07KUWAIT1025
CABLEDATE: 6/30/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN
HEADING: MINISTER OF FINANCE ON CABINET RESIGNATIONS, THE BUDGET, AND TIP
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

TIP: Why is Kuwait Tier 3? ----- 8. (C/NF) Al-Humaidhi was curious about Kuwait's Tier 3 ranking in the recently released Trafficking in Persons Report, as he described conditions in Kuwait as among the best in the GCC. The Ambassador noted that one of the principle factors in the final determination were concerns regarding conditions for domestic employees working in Kuwait.

CASE: 6/13/2008
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Nicosia
CABLEID: 08NICOSIA450
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: CYPRIOT REACTIONS MIXED TO RELEASE OF TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Cyprus

She called the evaluation "discouraging" and argued that the government had taken greater steps than other countries with the same ranking.

CASE: 6/21/2006
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Paris
CABLEID: 06PARIS4295
CABLEDATE: 6/21/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: DEMARCHE TO FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON 2006 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT
COUNTRY1: France

olding before him a list of the 2006 Tier rankings during the discussion, Colombani appeared astounded by the relative assessments of some of the countries with which he has direct experience in the fight against trafficking. He compared French activism with the passivity of several other European countries, citing the UK, Germany, and especially the Netherlands. On one hand, he noted

amazement that Germany, which has received numerous calls from activists to close down the sex village in Berlin during the World Cup, should be ranked Tier One, along with the Netherlands, which refused to cooperate with France on trafficking. Pointing to Tier-Two Nigeria, he affirmed the importance of working with Nigeria, given because of the large number of Nigerian trafficking victims present in France, but said authorities there are so corrupt that he is unable to find a willing partner to work with France. "You're telling me that France could easily be in Tier Two, with Nigeria?" he asked, incredulous.

CASE: 10/15/2005

CODE: Comparison

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait

CABLEID: 05KUWAIT4425

CABLEDATE: 10/15/2005

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: AMBASSADOR PROVIDES GOK WITH STEPS TO IMPROVE TIP STATUS

COUNTRY1: Kuwait

1. (C) As a follow-up to an October 1 meeting during which Ambassador committed to providing examples of actions taken by Qatar and the UAE to permit their reclassification to the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Tier 2 Watch List (reftel), Ambassador presented a letter outlining these steps to Foreign Minister Shaykh Dr. Mohammed Al-Salem Al-Sabah on October 15. Ambassador asked that the FM share the letter with the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of Interior. Once again, the Ambassador emphasized that the GOK should be a model in the region, not simply strive to move up a notch in TIP rankings. The Ambassador also included with the letter another copy of the action plan previously provided to the GOK. (The text of the letter was cleared by G/TIP, NEA/ARPI and Embassies Abu Dhabi and Doha.) 2. (C) Begin text: Your Excellency: Following our October 1 meeting regarding President Bush's determination to maintain Kuwait's Tier 3 trafficking in persons ranking, I offered to provide you with concrete steps that the Governments of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates took to contribute to their Tier 2 Watch List reclassification. First, the Governments provided proof of trafficking-related prosecutions. Second, both enacted laws that criminalize the use of children younger than 18 years as camel jockeys. While Kuwait has a ministerial decree banning the practice, the other countries implemented laws penalizing offenders with fines and/or imprisonment. Third, both established shelters for trafficking victims, and rescued and repatriated victims to their home countries in coordination with those Governments. Fourth, both Governments outlined public awareness campaigns, scheduled to debut this fall, to educate expatriate workers about their labor rights. These steps satisfied the action plan guidelines delivered to the two Governments in June, which were similar to those presented to your Government including: commence prosecution of trafficking-related crimes, develop a mechanism to identify and protect victims, establish shelters and conduct an anti-trafficking public awareness campaign. As I have mentioned before, I believe Kuwait should not only compare itself to others in the region, but it should be a model of enlightened labor relations. I have attached a copy of the action plan previously passed to your Government. I look forward to continuing to work together on these important issues. Please be assured of my highest consideration. Sincerely, Richard LeBaron Ambassador End text.

CASE: 6/11/2007

CODE: Comparison

ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo

CABLEID: 07CAIRO1776

CABLEDATE: 6/11/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN

HEADING: EGYPTIAN RESPONSE TO 2007 TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Egypt

) MFA's working-level official responsible for Trafficking in Persons, First Secretary Amira Fahmy, told poloff in a June 11 meeting that the GOE was displeased that the 2007 TIP report (reftel) said that some Egyptian cities may be "sex tourism" destinations. Poloff explained that this statement was based on the widely accepted phenomenon whereby adult male tourists from the Gulf states visit Cairo for the purpose of contracting temporary marriages, which are reported to be a cover for prostitution, sometimes involving females under age 18. Fahmy agreed that by this definition, Egypt did have a problem requiring attention by the GOE, but said that the TIP report will likely generate significant and negative media attention locally. "After all," she said, "Egypt is not Thailand."

CASE: 10/2/2005
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 05KUWAIT4279
CABLEDATE: 10/2/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSS WAY AHEAD TO COMBAT
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

FM Shaykh Dr. Mohammed told the Ambassador that Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Faisal Al-Hajji was very upset by the presidential determination. Calling Al-Hajji a "true believer," the FM said Al-Hajji led the GOK effort to improve working conditions for expatriate laborers. He asserted that Kuwait was "superior" to its neighboring countries on labor issues and was implementing new programs for domestic reasons. The FM restated Kuwait's commitment to protecting its foreign labor force and welcomed a copy of the action plan (which we passed to him) to review areas of immediate concern to the U.S. (ref e).

CASE: 10/2/2005
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 05KUWAIT4279
CABLEDATE: 10/2/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSS WAY AHEAD TO COMBAT
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

During an October 1 meeting, the Ambassador reviewed with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Dr. Mohammed Al-Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah the President's September 21 determination to maintain Kuwait's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) ranking as a Tier 3 country, but to waive applicable sanctions for U.S. national interests. The Ambassador acknowledged the progress Kuwait has made since the report's June release, but emphasized the need for more concrete action and encouraged Kuwait to set an example for the region. Responding to the FM's questions about measures implemented by the United Arab Emirates and Qatar in order to be ranked on the Tier 2 Special Watch List, the Ambassador said that the circumstances of each country differed and direct comparisons were not productive. He did, however, cite, the establishment of shelters and legal protections for domestic servants as positive advancements in both countries and improvements needed in Kuwait. He noted the GOK had proposed a new labor law and encouraged the Government to work closely with Parliament on passage of the bill.

CASE: 7/2/2008
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 08BUENOSAIRE920
CABLEDATE: 7/2/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: ARGENTINA: VISITING G/TIP AMBASSADOR PRESENTS ANTI-TIP ACTION PLAN AND HAS
"PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATION"
COUNTRY1: Argentina

Taiana reiterated GOA "dissatisfaction with the TIP report, adding that it was hard to believe that the report was not 'political' when Argentina, Suriname, and Venezuela are all on the Department's Tier 2 Watch List.

CASE: 7/12/2007
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Yerevan
CABLEID: 07YEREVAN888
CABLEDATE: 7/12/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: NEW CDA CALLS ON DFM KIRAKOSSIAN: RADIO LIBERTY, TIP, TURKEY, NAGORNO-

KARABAKH, AND BILATERAL/SECUR
COUNTRY1: Armenia

Kirakossian agreed, and said his ministry was preparing a detailed action plan to submit to the prime minister and cabinet to re-energize Armenia's efforts to combat TIP. Americas Director Yeganian spoke up to describe the detailed report he and his staff had prepared that analyzed the country reports for Armenia (T2WL), Azerbaijan (T2), Turkey (T2), and Georgia (T1), highlighting differences in the three countries' performance which seemed decisive in Armenia's neighbors being graded higher than Armenia.

CASE: 6/18/2007
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers
CABLEID: 07ALGIERS859
CABLEDATE: 6/18/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: MFA REACTION TO TIP TIER 3 RATING
COUNTRY1: Algeria

Selmane complained that Algeria had been pooled with countries that did nothing to address the issue at all. Differences between Algeria and the United States on trafficking, she said, were differences of semantics.

CASE: 5/26/2009
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 09TOKYO1185
CABLEDATE: 5/26/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JAPAN, THE U.S., AND TIP: AT A TIPPING POINT?
COUNTRY1: Japan

Every TIP report since 2004 has praised Japan for making "significant progress" in its anti-TIP efforts. In 2005 the report went so far as to state, "The foundations that the Government of Japan has laid offer promises of results that would place Japan in a leadership role in fighting trafficking." Takeshi Hiramatsu, Director of MOFA's International Organized Crime Division, has become increasingly critical of the TIP process and the United States handling of TIP reporting. He stated to Embassy Tokyo, "I have never seen the Japanese government undertake such a concerted effort across so many different bureaucracies and agencies. And frankly, after sending teams to look at TIP efforts in other countries, we have concluded that the rankings are simply not objective.

CASE: 6/22/2007
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Minsk
CABLEID: 07MINSK541
CABLEDATE: 6/22/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: USG Defends Belarus TIP Ranking Despite GOB Disappointment
COUNTRY1: Belarus

Taranda insisted that the TIP report did not fully take into account the measures taken by the GOB to combat trafficking. Noting the UN resolution introduced by Belarus and the GOB's monetary contributions to the UN's interagency coordination group, Taranda asked, "What other eastern European country has done as much as Belarus in this field?"

CASE: 6/18/2003
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Zagreb
CABLEID: 03ZAGREB1399
CABLEDATE: 6/18/2003
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: CROATIA REACTION: 2003 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

COUNTRY1: Croatia

Besides challenging us on the data, she also questioned where Bosnia and Serbia and Montenegro were on the report, and wanted to know why Macedonia was a tier 1 country "when they have a much bigger problem than we do."

CASE: 7/2/2007
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers
CABLEID: 07ALGIERS931
CABLEDATE: 7/2/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: CONTINUING TO ENGAGE NGOS AND MFA ON TIP
COUNTRY1: Algeria

SUMMARY: Following the June 12 release of the 2007 Trafficking in Persons report, we are continuing to engage NGOs and the Algerian government on TIP. The GOA feels it has been unfairly lumped into Tier 3 status with countries whose TIP problem it considers to be more severe.

CASE: 6/24/2009
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Brussels
CABLEID: 09BRUSSELS865
CABLEDATE: 6/24/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: BELGIUM'S JUSTICE MINISTRY REACTS TO 2009 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Belgium

He said Belgium had done more than most countries would in the same situation.

CASE: 7/12/2007
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 07TOKYO3186
CABLEDATE: 7/12/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: G/TIP AMBASSADOR LAGON'S JULY 2 MEETING WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT
COUNTRY1: Japan

Fear that Japan will never be assessed fairly is "stronger than ever," added MOFA International Organized Crime Division Director Akihiko Uchikawa. After the 2006 Report, then-MOFA Director-General for Global Issues Takahiro Shinyo wrote a letter to Ambassador John Miller, then-G/TIP Director (attached in Ref B). In the letter, DG Shinyo claimed that Japan was held to a different standard than countries ranked in Tier 1.

NOTE: Applies to 2006 report

CASE: 7/2/2007
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers
CABLEID: 07ALGIERS931
CABLEDATE: 7/2/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: CONTINUING TO ENGAGE NGOS AND MFA ON TIP
COUNTRY1: Algeria

Ramtane Lamamra and MFA representatives reiterated to use their surprise and dismay at Algeria's Tier 3 status in the 2007 TIP report. They claimed that the Algerian legal framework and enforcement was no worse than that in Morocco and Tunisia and yet only Algeria had landed on Tier 3.

CASE: 7/12/2007
CODE: Comparison

ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 07TOKYO3186
CABLEDATE: 7/12/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: G/TIP AMBASSADOR LAGON'S JULY 2 MEETING WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT
COUNTRY1: Japan

These inconsistencies remain in this year's report, asserted Uchikawa, citing that even though one G-8 country was criticized in the Report for suspending sentences in all but 31% of its trafficking convictions, it was still ranked at Tier 1. Japan will continue its efforts to fight human trafficking regardless of its evaluation in the TIP Report, but if the United States cannot clearly explain its Tier ranking criteria and give Japan assurances that meeting those criteria will result in a Tier-1 ranking, MOFA will no longer cooperate with the U.S. Embassy in compiling data for the report, said Uchikawa.

CASE: 6/14/2006
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Belmopan
CABLEID: 06BELIZE533
CABLEDATE: 6/14/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: BELIZE: 2006 TIP REPORT DEMARCHE DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Belize

D. On the Wednesday, June 7, the Prime Minister addressed the issue on the Channel Five evening news. Giving his thoughts on why Belize was ranked Tier 3, the PM stated: "That Belize is now lumped and almost put in a box, so to speak, with Venezuela and Cuba; I don't think its pure coincidence. Because, when you analyze the issue of human trafficking, we have done a lot in this country to address the issue. Police, the immigration, people have raided constantly in addressing this issue of prostitution for instance and the whole question of human trafficking we've done a lot. But those who seek to judge us should perhaps examine their own decadent societies before they come and pass judgment on us."

CASE: 8/17/2007
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 07TOKYO3817
CABLEDATE: 8/17/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JAPAN'S FIRST RESPONSE TO TIP ROADMAP
COUNTRY1: Japan

Embassy Tokyo Political Officer met August 17 with MOFA International Organized Crime Division TIP Officer Hiroko Sasahara to discuss Japan's reaction to the "Roadmap to Tier 1," presented to the Japanese government July 2 (reftel). Sasahara said that the government needed clarification of the roadmap before it would be able to determine what action to take. First, Japan would like to know whether the other Tier 1 countries were in compliance with all nine action items. Japan understands that countries are evaluated based on their capacity, she noted, adding that "it is okay" if some of the other countries were not in compliance. She passed a list of questions, keyed to the roadmap, for the U.S. government's review. Post sent the questions to slugged addressees by unclassified email. Sasahara asked that the United States respond to the questions within a month, if possible

CASE: 6/27/2005
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 05KUWAIT2869
CABLEDATE: 6/27/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: GOK OBJECTS TO TIP "COMPARISON" TO OTHER GULF STATES; PDAS CHENEY OUTLINES STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE RA
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

NEA Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Cheney began her visit to Kuwait with a call on Kuwait's

first female minister, Dr. Maasouma Al-Mubarak, Minister of Planning and Administrative Development. Following a discussion on women's political participation and strategies to prepare women for the 2007 parliamentary elections (septel), Dr. Maasouma changed the subject and expressed her deep disappointment with the 2005 Trafficking in persons (TIP) Report. She acknowledged problems in Kuwait in treating expatriate workers, especially domestic staff, but strongly objected to Kuwait being "lumped in with other states" and said the report did not take into account ongoing efforts to improve labor conditions. In particular, in her assessment, the report did not address steps by individuals and NGOs to address trafficking issues. She said, "things are different in Kuwait" and the Department's report did not reflect the Kuwaiti system for "identifying and rectifying mistakes." She referred to the recent ban on outside work between noon and 4:00 PM and said the GOK was determined to make working conditions more humane for the approximate 450,000 domestics in Kuwait. She reported court cases filed against several companies which violated the ban and lamented that a few abuses would sully the image of Kuwait. She further advised that reform of the labor law was underway and commented that as a cabinet minister, she now had greater access and influence and would press for positive changes. 3. (C) Similarly, Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister Dr. Yousef Al-Ebrahim, objected to being compared to neighboring states and questioned the methods and sources used in preparing the report. He asserted that Kuwait was "not like the rest of the Gulf" and was committed to treating South Asians resident in Kuwait well. He said the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor had banned the use of child camel jockeys, a practice he said was nonexistent in Kuwait, but was limited in taking action against those who use their own children in camel races. In response to a comment by the Ambassador on non-payment of some workers, he claimed Kuwait had 1.5 million foreign workers and only a small number of them were not being paid, and firms were being sanctioned. Blaming the media for the negative image, he said Kuwait's free press was quick to report on worker complaints and such news was often repeated, suggesting a widespread problem. He asserted that many reports of abuse were "blown out of proportion" or simply false, and complained that retractions and corrections never made the papers. 4. (C) In a separate meeting, Foreign Minister Shaykh Dr. Mohammed Al-Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah also expressed his disappointment with the TIP report and restated that Kuwait was very different from its neighboring countries. He reported the GOK, NGOs, Parliament's Human Rights Committee, and individuals were all working to improve the status of Kuwait's expatriate labor force. He asserted the GOK's resolve to respond to the report's criticisms and said the Prime Minister would likely raise the issue while in Washington. 5. (C) PDAS Cheney responded to all three interlocutors that the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act was very specific and countries were evaluated independently and objectively, not against others. She emphasized that the goal of the report was to identify areas for improvement, and thus Kuwait's ranking could be improved. She added that progress on TIP was essential to continued progress toward a free trade agreement. She stressed that following the Tier 3 ranking, Kuwait has 60 days to take immediate action so that ranking could be reconsidered by the President. She suggested as possible measures shutting down stables that use child camel jockeys or prosecuting individuals who exploit foreign workers. She further informed the GOK officials of the interest of Department officials from the G/TIP office in visiting Kuwait to discuss these issues. She said the Prime Minister's July 1 visit to the U.S. presented an opportunity to elaborate on concrete steps to combat TIP. The Ambassador said the U.S. appreciated the additional attention the GOK paid to TIP issues, but stressed the need for action, not the formation of committees and issuance of reports. He encouraged better coordination among the involved ministries -- Social Affairs and Labor, Foreign Affairs, and Interior -- and suggested that Kuwaiti Ambassador to the U.S. work closely with Department officials.

CASE: 6/10/2008

CODE: Comparison

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur

CABLEID: 08KUALALUMPUR481

CABLEDATE: 6/10/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: TIP REPORT DELIVERED TO MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT

COUNTRY1: Malaysia

The Deputy Chief of Mission met on June 6 with Hussein bin Haniff, the Deputy Secretary-General, Multilateral Political Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to present the TIP report and receive the government's response. Hussein stated Malaysia is committed to combating trafficking and is taking a number of steps to prosecute suspected traffickers. He expressed disappointment Malaysia is on the watch list, comparing Malaysia's ranking to other ASEAN member-states. He informed the DCM that Malaysia intends to ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in

Persons, Especially Women and Children (TIP Protocol). The Cabinet is considering the TIP Protocol's ratification. Hussein acknowledged that illegal foreign workers in Malaysia are vulnerable to becoming trafficking victims and said the government is working with source countries to minimize illegal workers.

CASE: 11/1/2004
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Abuja
CABLEID: 04ABUJA1839
CABLEDATE: 11/1/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: NIGERIA: REPORT ON TIP DEMARCHE
COUNTRY1: Nigeria

In a subsequent one-on-one meeting, the Minister thanked the Ambassador for the specificity of both the questions for the interim assessment and the recommended actions of the longer-term strategy. He said, "We thought we were doing so much, and we could not figure out what we still needed to do." The minister was fascinated by the list of Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 countries from the State Department website. He said Nigeria could certainly reach Tier 2 for the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report. He added that his goal was for Nigeria to be a Tier 1 country by the time the Ambassador left Post.

CASE: 6/4/2008
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 08TOKYO1528
CABLEDATE: 6/4/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JAPAN REACTS NEGATIVELY TO TIP REPORT TIER RANKING
COUNTRY1: Japan

5. (C) Japan is being held to a different standard than Tier 1 countries, Shimbo continued. The Japanese government has raised the question of fairness with the United States several times,

CASE: 9/18/2008
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 08TOKYO2577
CABLEDATE: 9/18/2008
CLASSIFIC: SECRET
HEADING: JAPAN CONSIDERING WITHDRAWING COOPERATION ON TIP
COUNTRY1: Japan

DVM Bessho deferred to DDG Nakajima to discuss Japan's reaction to the trafficking-in-persons report and Japanese ranking in tier two. Nakajima, newly delegated to MOFA from the Ministry of Defense, explained he had no background in TIP before meeting with his MOFA staff. He indicated they had told him they were deeply dissatisfied with the TIP process, disagreed with Japan's tier two ranking, and believed Japan would be best served by refusing further cooperation. Nakajima said he had not made a decision, but sympathized with the view that Japan had been held to a higher standard than a number of countries that had been ranked in tier one.

CASE: 5/23/2003
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 03ANKARA3409
CABLEDATE: 5/23/2003
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR RAISES SECURITY, TIP, CHILD ABDUCTION WITH INTERIOR MINISTER
COUNTRY1: Turkey

Ambassador noted Department is preparing the 2003 TIP Report for Turkey. Embassy will continue to pass along information from the GOT on TIP to the Department for consideration. Aksu averred

that Turkey should not be ranked in Tier III in the TIP Report. He said the GOT takes the issue very seriously; Tier III is designated for countries that are not making serious efforts to combat human trafficking. Aksu said throughout his career, whenever he has participated in international conferences, he has called for international cooperation in three areas: drug trafficking, terrorism, and TIP. He argued that the GOT is focusing intensely on all three areas, and Turkey should be removed from the TIP Report altogether. It appears that the USG wants to rank Turkey in Tier III to create a balance among Turkey and other regional countries, but Turkey is far more advanced on this issue than its neighbors, he claimed

CASE: 6/17/2009
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 09BUENOSAIRES706
CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: (C) ARGENTINA: FOREIGN MINISTER "VERY UPSET" ABOUT TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Argentina

He said that Argentina does not deny the existence of a trafficking problem in Argentina, but to put it in a lower category than countries like Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, and Central American countries, he said, was "unbelievable" and "objectively false."

CASE: 8/2/2004
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Lilongwe
CABLEID: 04LILONGWE723
CABLEDATE: 8/2/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: GOM TAKES ISSUE WITH MALAWI'S TIP RANKING
COUNTRY1: Malawi

Turning to a regional perspective, Chaponda said he, as a lawyer, had examined the laws in other SADC nations and found Malawi's TIP laws to be comparable to those of other countries. He specifically noted Botswana's TIP laws were very similar to those of Malawi.

CASE: 6/13/2006
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 06CARACAS1736
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: VENEZUELA RESPONDS TO TIER 3 PLACEMENT
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

In fact, Arocha expressed incredulity that the BRV could possibly be a Tier 3 country, while countries such as Mexico and Guatemala - two countries with clearly high volumes of people movement - could be ranked higher

CASE: 6/12/2008
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Maseru
CABLEID: 08MASERU174
CABLEDATE: 6/12/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: LESOTHO: DEMARCHES ON TIP, MARITIME ISSUES, AND FAO CANDIDATE
COUNTRY1: Lesotho

On June 12, Poloffs met with Mr. Yengane from the Europe and Americas Desk in the Lesotho Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In response to a demarche on the 2008 trafficking in persons report (Ref A), Mr. Yengane appeared unfazed by Lesotho's continuing classification as a "special case" country. He was aware of U.S. methodology regarding TIP rankings, and was eager to know the ranking of other African states in this year's report.

CASE: 6/19/2007
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 07CARACAS1218
CABLEDATE: 6/19/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: S/C MCCARTHY'S MEETINGS WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND VICE MINISTER JORGE VALERO
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

2. (C) Special Coordinator for Venezuela Deborah McCarthy, accompanied by Political Counselor and Poloff (note-taker), met July 13 with National Assembly (NA) First Vice President Desiree Santos Amaral and NA Foreign Relations Committee head Saul Ortega. Santos Amaral began by blasting Venezuela's Tier 3 designation in the recently released Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report noting that it put Venezuela in the same category as Cuba (Ref A).

CASE: 6/12/2008
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Maseru
CABLEID: 08MASERU174
CABLEDATE: 6/12/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: LESOTHO: DEMARCHES ON TIP, MARITIME ISSUES, AND FAO CANDIDATE
COUNTRY1: Lesotho

On June 12, Poloffs met with Mr. Yengane from the Europe and Americas Desk in the Lesotho Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss the 2008 TIP report, the Global Maritime Partnership, and the U.S. FAO candidate. Regarding the TIP report, Mr. Yengane appeared more interested in Lesotho's relative standing to other African countries than the meaning of Lesotho's continuing "special case" status.

CASE: 7/2/2008
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 08BUENOSAIRE920
CABLEDATE: 7/2/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: ARGENTINA: VISITING G/TIP AMBASSADOR PRESENTS ANTI-TIP ACTION PLAN AND HAS "PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATION"
COUNTRY1: Argentina

Taiana stated that the GOA was "very dissatisfied" with the U.S. assessment, adding that it was hard to believe that the report was not "political" when only Argentina, Suriname, and Venezuela are the only countries in the Western Hemisphere (WHA) that are on the Department's Tier 2 Watch List. (Note: He was mistaken. There are seven WHA countries, including Argentina, on the Tier 2 Watch List in the 2008 TIP Report; Suriname is ranked on Tier 2. End Note.) He wondered out loud if practice and problems regarding TIP were really better in places like the Dominican Republic or Mexico compared to Argentina. He said he found this hard to believe. He stated emphatically that Argentina is a country that respects human rights and that is very open about its problems.

CASE: 10/19/2007
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Tashkent
CABLEID: 07TASHKENT1806
CABLEDATE: 10/19/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UZBEKS PROMISE POST-ELECTION PROGRESS ON TIP ISSUES
COUNTRY1: Uzbekistan

2. (C) MFA Americas Chief Ismat Fayzullaev said that TIP is a global problem, and added "with great regret, I must announce that the US is the biggest global trafficking destination and we hope the USG

will take greater steps" to combat TIP. He noted the GOU was "very surprised" by the Tier 3 designation this year and considered this "a politically motivated decision" since the TIP situation is "almost the same, or even worse, in other CIS countries." He stated other countries were rated higher than Uzbekistan despite "the enormous efforts of the GOU on this issue". The GOU is particularly upset that Georgia is Tier 1 even though "many Uzbek victims are using Georgian passports and passing through Tbilisi". Fayzullaev also cited Kyrgyzstan's better rating despite being a major source for false passports and a departure point for overseas-bound Uzbek victims. He added that the USG "does not take this into account" in compiling the report. (Note: Earlier in the day, poloff and G/TIP visitor heard the same information from the anti-TIP NGO "Istiqbolli Avlod" and interviewed an Uzbek victim who was indeed trafficked through Tbilisi, where she received Georgian documents en route to the United Arab Emirates. The same NGO also previously informed poloff that the Kyrgyz city of Osh is a major embarkation point for Uzbek victims. See reftel C. End note

CASE: 6/13/2003
CODE: Comparison
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 03ANKARA3843
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2003
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: TURKS VIEW TIER III TIP RATING AS UNFAIR, THREATENING
COUNTRY1: Turkey

She said the GOT researched all the countries in Tiers I and II, and none has done as much as Turkey to fight trafficking. Topcuoglu said there have been only a few cases opened against alleged traffickers because TIP is not a large-scale problem in Turkey.

CASE: 6/25/2003
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 03ANKARA4066
CABLEDATE: 6/25/2003
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: GOT EXPRESSES DETERMINATION ON ANTI-TIP EFFORTS
COUNTRY1: Turkey

Apaydin stated he would leave 6/24 to attend the Stability Pact's meeting in Bucharest as the GOT national coordinator for TIP. After attending many of these meetings, he stated he found them to be a useful tool for learning about TIP and, more important, learning how Turkey fits as a destination country. He emphasized the GOT's dialogue with all source and transit countries, including Ukraine, was a broad exchange of ideas and underscored that the GOT was in regular contact with all relevant countries. Apaydin noted the GOT and IOM were in frequent communication regarding a wide spectrum of anti-TIP efforts, including a repatriation program. Some of the USG recommendations, most notably a public awareness campaign aimed at end-users, he added, were very useful.

CASE: 7/21/2008
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Valletta
CABLEID: 08VALLETTA303
CABLEDATE: 7/21/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: MALTA INVESTIGATES TRAFFICKING CLAIMS AMONG MIGRANT POPULATION
COUNTRY1: Malta

The tone of the meeting improved remarkably over the course of its hour and a half duration, and at its conclusion all present agreed that all reports of victims of trafficking among the immigrants, from any source, would be immediately investigated, and that if they were found to be credible, the victims would be released from detention and protected/assisted. New Working Group

CASE: 6/8/2005
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Amman
CABLEID: 05AMMAN4574

CABLEDATE: 6/8/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JORDAN: TIP DEMARCHE DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Jordan

Poloff delivered the trafficking in persons (TIP) demarche to Foreign Ministry Legal Advisor Bishar Khassawneh on June 7 (refs A and B) and a suggested work plan for improving Jordan's performance on TIP issues. Khassawneh engaged poloff in a candid discussion about the challenges the GOJ will need to overcome in order to carry out several of the suggested improvements.

CASE: 7/6/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Chisinau
CABLEID: 09CHISINAU525
CABLEDATE: 7/6/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: NEW DEPUTY PM ROSCA PROMISES ACTION ON TIP, IMPROVED COLABORATION WITH U.S.
COUNTRY1: Moldova

5. (C) Although the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons has met infrequently in the past, Rosca demonstrated his promised activism on TIP by calling a meeting for June 25 to discuss the TIP situation in general and the USG TIP Report in particular.

CASE: 6/9/2008
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Rabat
CABLEID: 08RABAT524
CABLEDATE: 6/9/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: MOROCCO: 2008 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS DEMARCHE DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Morocco

azourh concluded that the GOM looked forward to working with the USG on developing regional cooperation and transparency in the fight against trafficking in persons.

CASE: 9/11/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 09KUALALUMPUR753
CABLEDATE: 9/11/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: MALAYSIA: DELIVERY OF DOL DEMARCHE ANNOUNCING RELEASE OF TVPRA LIST
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

) Radzi concluded by stating that the GOM is trying to take all of the U.S. reports constructively and that the GOM wants to work with the U.S. to improve its enforcement efforts against all forms of human trafficking, to include forced labor.

CASE: 6/19/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Astana
CABLEID: 09ASTANA1042
CABLEDATE: 6/19/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: KAZAKHSTAN TIP REPORT -- ONLY FRIENDS CAN TELL EACH OTHER THE TRUTH
COUNTRY1: Kazakhstan

Per reftel, on June 16, Post delivered the 2009 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report for Kazakhstan to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director of the Department of International Law of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Elvira Azimova, and Deputy Chairman of the Criminal Police Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) Beket Aimagambetov. We provided copies of the Kazakhstan narrative and

the non-paper on the overall report. INL Officer complimented the Ministries of Justice and Internal Affairs for their efforts to improve victim assistance, trafficking prevention, and investigations and convictions of traffickers. He also underlined the recommendations made in the TIP Report. 3. (SBU) At the MVD, Deputy Chairman Aimagambetov thanked the Embassy for its continued cooperation with the Criminal Police Committee. He expressed appreciation for the Embassy's positive assessment of police efforts to investigate human trafficking cases. Referring to the TIP Report, Aimagambetov acknowledged that only friends can tell each other the truth. He said that the MVD and INL have been friends for many years and are working together to achieve common goals. 4. (SBU) Aimagambetov also proposed further cooperation. A career police officer, Aimagambetov stressed the importance of victim cooperation during investigations. He said that he knows from his own experience that victims cooperate only when they feel safe and protected. Therefore, he suggested implementing a victim advocacy program to train advocates who would be assigned to victims from the very beginning of the process. 5. (SBU) The MVD would also like to establish an anti-trafficking interagency working group in South Kazakhstan oblast. Armabek Khakimbekovich Baimurzin, Chief of the Organized Crime Division, proposed this idea after attending an IVLP in Houston and seeing a similar group. During the IVLP, he had the opportunity to meet with the Harris County Sheriff's Office and the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance (HTRA), which is made up of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies working together with social service organizations to identify and assist victims of human trafficking and to arrest and prosecute traffickers. Baimurzin found the alliance to be an extremely effective structure and expressed interest in implementing such a program in Kazakhstan. 6. (SBU) Director Azimova of the MOJ thanked the Embassy for its patience and accuracy in submitting statistical and other data for the TIP report. She recognized that it is not easy to convert statistical data into a unified report because of the differences in criminal codes. She reported that the MOJ has done much to improve victim assistance in the past year. In particular, the new social services law was adopted and the law on the protection of participants in the criminal process was amended to allow government funding prior to the initiation of a criminal case. The government's 2009-2011 plan has been adopted and includes funding for shelters. Under this plan, the MOJ will be allocated 8 million tenge (approximately \$50,000) a year for the next three years for shelter assistance. Most likely, the MOJ will fund the newly-established TIP NGO Korgai Fund, which is chaired by a former police officer with experience in establishing a drug treatment facility. The MOJ also plans to develop recommendations for victim identification by police and victim assistance recommendations for shelter personnel.

CASE: 10/19/2007

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Tashkent

CABLEID: 07TASHKENT1806

CABLEDATE: 10/19/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: UZBEKS PROMISE POST-ELECTION PROGRESS ON TIP ISSUES

COUNTRY1: Uzbekistan

The representatives from these three key GOU agencies seemed genuinely interested in further engagement with the United States on the anti-TIP issue, which is consistent with the recent positive steps noted by our main NGO contacts.

CASE: 6/6/2006

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Vilnius

CABLEID: 06VILNIUS520

CABLEDATE: 6/6/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: 2006 TIP REPORT DELIVERED

COUNTRY1: Lithuania

We delivered Lithuania's 2006 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) narrative and tier ranking to Lina Gubreviciute of the MFA's Americas Section on June 5. Gubreviciute thanked us for the courtesy copy and reiterated Lithuania's commitment to combat trafficking in persons. She said that Lithuania's Interior Ministry continues to improve both law enforcement and victims' assistance efforts. 2. (U) The Embassy also issued a press release June 6 congratulating Lithuania for its effort to combat TIP. Lithuanian news outlets reproduced much of the press statement, as well as information reporting the results for other countries of interest to Lithuania. 3. (SBU) We will meet Lithuania's TIP coordinator,

Igoris Bazylevas of the Interior Ministry's Public Safety Department, when he returns from abroad during the week of June 12 and report any further substantive reaction to the TIP report

CASE: 7/17/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 06MUSCAT1119
CABLEDATE: 7/17/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: OMAN REACTS POSITIVELY TO SUGGESTED ANTI-TIP ACTIONS
COUNTRY1: Oman

5. The Under Secretary responded positively to the suggestions and agreed that outreach and public awareness campaigns are vital components in educating the public regarding their rights and responsibilities. He said that the government wants to ensure Oman complies with its international commitments and will review the suggestions for possible areas of improvement. GRAPPO

CASE: 7/15/2003
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Guatemala
CABLEID: 03GUATEMALA1815
CABLEDATE: 7/15/2003
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: BILATERAL TIP WORKING GROUP FORMED
COUNTRY1: Guatemala

The assembled group of GOG officials had copies of the translated TIP report, which we provided in an earlier demarche to MFA, and appeared to be familiar with the difference between trafficking and alien smuggling. Their responses, however, described efforts to combat the latter more than the former. While there is obviously substantial overlap, we will need to continue to emphasize the need for concrete steps focused on trafficking. 18. (SBU) Nevertheless, we are encouraged by the GOG's commitment to coordinate its anti-TIP efforts and collaborate with us to address this problem. This is a good first step and offers possibilities for future collaboration which we hope to capitalize on over the coming year. By tapping the talents of the Embassy's anti-TIP agencies we hope to achieve concrete progress on the legal regime, law enforcement, victims assistance, and public awareness to combat this scourge. For example, the Embassy will help focus Congress on ratification of the UN Protocol to Combat TIP. We will press the Public Ministry (the Attorney General was invited, but absent at this meeting) to step up investigations of trafficking in the border region (where at least two convictions of traffickers were reported several years ago). The Social Welfare Secretariat's shelters, which G/TIP has supported in the past, offer a good infrastructure for child victims, and the Secretariat has requested our help to create a new center in Coatepeque (strategically located on the main highway route to Mexico) specially geared to helping trafficking victims of all ages. We will evaluate this proposal and report further on these possibilities and others under discussion with IO and NGO partners in the fight against TIP.

CASE: 6/13/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Amman
CABLEID: 07AMMAN2537
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: GOJ BRIEFED ON 2007 TIP REPORT; PLANS CONTINUED
COUNTRY1: Jordan

Acting PolCouns briefed Thamer Adwan, Director of the Foreign Minister's private office, and separately Dr. Waleed Al-Saadi, Senior Advisor to the Foreign Minister on Human Rights, on the Jordan portion of Trafficking in Persons report on June 12. They agreed to review the report and provide comments as they did for the 2006 report. 2. (SBU) EconCouns and poloff also briefed Secretary General of the Ministry of Labor Majed Habashneh on June 13. Habashneh welcomed reports such as TIP, saying they "opened his eyes" to some of the problems workers faced, and inspired him to improve working conditions for foreign laborers and protect Jordan's reputation.

CASE: 6/27/2005
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 05KUWAIT2863
CABLEDATE: 6/27/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: COORDINATED GOK ANTI-TIP EFFORT UNDERWAY
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

During a June 26 meeting with Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MOSAL) Acting Undersecretary Mohammed Al-Kandari, the DCM presented the ref B action strategy and reiterated the 60-day grace period for Tier 3 countries like Kuwait. In reference to the strategy's first point, Al-Kandari said that the GOK had formed an inter-ministerial committee headed by MOSAL and composed of representatives from Commerce, Interior, Justice, and the Municipality of Kuwait to address specifically the treatment of domestics, one of two areas of concern highlighted in the 2005 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. Al-Kandari admitted that "we (the GOK) have to act very fast" to combat trafficking, recognizing the August 3 deadline to be considered for possible reclassification to Tier 2 Watch List. 2. (C) Also in attendance, Assistant Undersecretary Adnan Al-Omar addressed the underage camel jockey issue, the second of two TIP problem areas. According to Al-Omar, the use of child jockeys became more prevalent in Kuwait three years ago with many of the underage jockeys being family members of camel owners. He added that although the Public Authority for Youth and Sport has direct responsibility over camel racing, the Ministry has repeated its threat to dissolve the Kuwait Camel Racing Club if children are found to be racing. Al-Omar said that on June 24 he had been the guest on a local television program on the subject of child camel jockeys. 3. (C) The DCM asked that the GOK provide a comprehensive list of on-going, anti-TIP actions and advised that an official from G/TIP may visit in July; a meeting with the inter-ministerial committee would be useful. He suggested expanding the worker hotline established in May (ref D) to include complaints from domestics facing lack of payment or abuse. The DCM added that the U.S. can provide assistance in training the Kuwaiti judiciary and police in the necessary techniques to improve the GOK's ability to investigate and prosecute trafficking-related offenses. The need for a media campaign to increase Kuwaitis' awareness of the domestic labor exploitation problem was another DCM suggestion. 4. (C) The DCM requested that a follow-up meeting be scheduled in one week to assess progress on anti-TIP actions. Al-Kandari advised that more time would be needed and suggested a meeting after two weeks. The Ministry officials and DCM scheduled a July 10 meeting to discuss the committee's progress.

CASE: 12/13/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Cotonou
CABLEID: 06COTONOU1212
CABLEDATE: 12/13/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: BENIN: GOB DIP NOTE ON GOB EFFORTS TO COMBAT CHILD TRAFFICKING
COUNTRY1: Benin

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Benin presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America in Cotonou and, referring to its diplomatic note N:103 dated June 14, 2006, has the honor of bringing to its attention the following: Beninese authorities reviewed with great interest the sixth annual report on trafficking in persons made public by the Secretary of State of the United States of America on June 5, 2006. In the report Benin was ranked in tier (II) Category (2), whereas it was on the watch list last year. This progress may be attributed both to suppression efforts made by Benin to combat TIP and the passage of a bill outlawing child trafficking. Though U.S. authorities have recognized the continued efforts of Beninese authorities to curb this scourge, they have declared that Benin has not yet fully complied with the required minimum standards to stop the scourge. In response to various concerns expressed in the report by U.S. authorities, the Ministry would like to provide some elements of clarification in the attached document, which details actions implemented within the framework of fight against TIP. Therefore, the Ministry would like to request that the Embassy pass the comments and observations in the attached documents to the U.S. authorities so that they may be taken into account during work on the next annual report. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Benin thanks the U.S. Embassy in Cotonou for its kind cooperation and avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration

CASE: 7/25/2007

CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Jakarta
CABLEID: 07JAKARTA2007
CABLEDATE: 7/25/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP REPORT'S POSITIVE IMPACT
COUNTRY1: Indonesia

2. (SBU) SUMMARY: The Department's 2007 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report has prompted a positive reaction in Indonesia. Local governments have expressed greater willingness to improve protections for migrant workers. The GOI is also pushing to revise key sections of its MOU with Malaysia re such workers, resulting in a recent meeting in Surabaya. END SUMMARY. 3. (SBU) REACTION TO TIP REPORT: In a June 25 meeting with DCM, Wahyu Susilo of Migrant CARE described two positive developments that resulted from the June 12 release of the Department's Trafficking in Persons Report, which noted Indonesia's progress in countering trafficking as it moved from a &Tier 2 Watch List8 to &Tier 28 status. The first was that local governments in Indonesia have expressed greater willingness to improve protection for migrant workers and have increasingly called on Migrant Care for technical advice to enhance protections against trafficking. 4. (SBU) The other result was the GOI's interest in renegotiating the terms of its bilateral MOU with Malaysia on migrant workers. The TIP report criticized the MOU, which was signed in Bali on May 13, 2006, for failing to protect the basic rights of Indonesian workers in Malaysia, including by not providing them the right to control their own passports and the freedom to return home at will.

CASE: 6/17/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 09KUALALUMPUR491
CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: MALAYSIA'S INITIAL REACTION TO TIP REPORT, TIER 3 DESIGNATION
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

In preparation for a news conference, the office of Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein reached out to Polcouns for further background on the TIP report and Tier ranking. A special officer for the Minister emphasized the Minister's desire to take meaningful actions and cooperate with the Embassy. The Home Minister held a press conference late on June 17, in which he said he would seek clarification from Embassy officials regarding the reasons for listing Malaysia as Tier 3, and take actions to address such criticism. "We will do whatever it takes, whatever possible, but of course there are limitations," he told reporters. Hishammuddin also downplayed criticism in the U.S. report and the threat of sanctions.

CASE: 6/5/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Yerevan
CABLEID: 06YEREVAN761
CABLEDATE: 6/5/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: 2006 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Armenia

2. (SBU) DCM presented reftel points and the TIP Report summary for Armenia to Deputy Foreign Minister Arman Kirakossian and Valery Mkrtumyan, head of Armenia's interagency Anti-TIP Commission, during a June 5 meeting. DCM informed Kirakossian and Mkrtumyan that Armenia had remained on the Tier 2 Watch List because of several issues, including victim-blaming and the fact that Armenians convicted of trafficking-in-persons crimes rarely serve their full sentences. Kirakossian was interested in Azerbaijan's rating, and DCM explained that, because the GOAJ had demonstrated increased efforts to combat trafficking in persons, particularly in assigning strict penalties to those convicted of this crime, it had moved from the Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 2. We also passed a copy of an op-ed piece to be published over the Ambassador's signature on June 6.

CASE: 6/6/2006
CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Vientiane
CABLEID: 06VIENTIANE512
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: LAO MFA ON TIP REPORT FOR LAOS
COUNTRY1: Laos

Southam told us he welcomed further dialogue between the two governments on TIP, and said his ministry would gladly facilitate discussions between Embassy or the G/TIP office and the relevant ministries in order to seek ways to improve Laos' performance on anti-trafficking. He welcomed the upcoming visit of G/TIP Senior Coordinator Mark Taylor (ref C), and suggested the two sides might wish to use that occasion to organize a roundtable to discuss Laos' TIP-related activities and ways forward. 4. (C) Comment: We are pleased to see the MFA's receptivity to discussing the TIP action plan. As suggested by DG Southam, we intend to use the upcoming G/TIP visit to take the first steps toward implementing the Action Plan. End comment. HASLACH

CASE: 6/16/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Wellington
CABLEID: 09WELLINGTON157
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: NEW ZEALAND -- 2009 TIP REPORT DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: New Zealand

1. (SBU) On Tuesday June 16 (New Zealand time), Charge' and Econoff delivered the pre-release copy of the 2009 TIP Report to Peter Rider, Director for UN, Human Rights, and Commonwealth (UNHRC) and Paul Roberts, Policy Officer UNHRC at the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The NZ officials said that they were grateful to have an opportunity to review the report prior to its official release. Mr. Roberts said they would brief their Minister of Foreign Affairs, Murray McCully on the contents of the Report and discuss its recommendations with him and the NZ inter-agency governmental working group. While both MFAT officials gave the report a cursory review, they were familiar with the TIP process and prior years' survey of New Zealand. Rider and Roberts said they would provide a more considered response to the recommendations once they had an opportunity to study and discuss internally. In their initial response they felt there was some disagreement between U.S. and NZ on the correct definition of specific elements of enumerated criminal activity. Charge said that the Embassy would welcome the opportunity to meet with the GNZ inter-agency working group. 2. (SBU) Charge' also offered the possibility of more focused press briefings and the possibility of a DVC between Washington officials and the New Zealand press to better explain the contents of the 2009 TIP Report. MFAT officials expressed appreciation for the offer but wished to postpone their response so as to better ascertain the media interest in the topic. If as in previous years the annual report receives cursory mention in the newspaper then MFAT officials felt it may be more productive for both governments to work cooperatively in private on the recommendations rather than debate publicly differences publicly thus drawing unwanted media attention. GNZ officials would prefer not to give the press an opportunity to exaggerate perceived criticism of NZ by the U.S. Embassy will coordinate with Washington on media guidance and relay the official response by the GNZ to the recommendations in the report. KEEGAN

CASE: 8/9/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Phnom Penh
CABLEID: 06PHNOMPENH1424
CABLEDATE: 8/9/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: AMBASSADOR DELIVERS TIP TIER 2 WATCH LIST ACTION PLAN TO DPM SAR KHENG
COUNTRY1: Cambodia

The DPM thanked the Ambassador for his remarks and acknowledged that Cambodia needed to continue its efforts to graduate from Tier 2 Watch List status. He agreed with the recommendations and the worry that Cambodia could become less vigorous in fighting trafficking in persons. The DPM noted that a recent law enforcement report showed the number of offenders caught for TIP-related crimes is much less in the first half of 2006 than during the first six months of 2005. Sar Kheng added

that MOI has received a request for cooperation with International Justice Mission (IJM) and is examining it.

CASE: 6/1/2005
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Manama
CABLEID: 05MANAMA789
CABLEDATE: 6/1/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: BAHRAIN: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT DELIVERED TO MFA
COUNTRY1: Bahrain

Sheikh Abdul Aziz said he was not surprised that Bahrain moved down to the Tier 2 Watch List. He pledged to transmit the TIP report to the inter-ministerial TIP taskforce and include a cover letter recommending that the GOB move quickly on implementing anti-TIP measures.

CASE: 6/10/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Manama
CABLEID: 06MANAMA1013
CABLEDATE: 6/10/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: BAHRAIN: 2006 TIP REPORT AND TIER 2 WATCH LIST ACTION PLAN
COUNTRY1: Bahrain

Poloff delivered reftel demarches June 5 to MFA Human Rights Coordinator Ali Al Aradi, including Bahrain's 2006 TIP Report and the Tier 2 Watch List Action Plan. Al Aradi expressed optimism that two key items would be accomplished by year's end:

CASE: 11/7/2008
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Chisinau
CABLEID: 08CHISINAU1100
CABLEDATE: 11/7/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: PRIME MINISTER GRECEANII POSITIVE ON TIP AND NEC, WORRIED ABOUT MCC
COUNTRY1: Moldova

Responding to the TIP Action Plan demarche (ref A), the Prime Minister agreed that the lifting of Moldova's TIP status from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watchlist was not a signal that problems were ended. She noted that former Interior Minister Valentin Mejischi, now a Deputy PM, had assumed overall responsibility for Moldova's anti-TIP (and anti-corruption) efforts (ref B). Other ministers with social responsibilities, she said, would contribute to improving the prevention and protection aspects of the program. She promised that she would personally monitor all efforts to ensure a successful GOM response to the anti-TIP Action Plan.

CASE: 8/16/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 06KUWAIT3322
CABLEDATE: 8/16/2006
CLASSIFIC: SECRET//NOFORN
HEADING: NEW SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR MINISTER LISTS CHARITY OVERSIGHT AND WORKER PROTECTION AS PRIORITIES
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

6. (C/NF) The Ambassador further informed the Minister of the need to maintain momentum on efforts to combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP). Kuwait had made progress and was ranked as a Tier 2 Watch List country in the 2006 TIP Report; the U.S. and GOK had a shared interest in seeing further improvement in Kuwait's ranking. He provided the Minister with a copy of the TIP Action Plan, stressing the need for prosecution of those who exploit foreign workers. He also left with the Minister copies of Project FALCon (Fostering Awareness of Labor Conditions), a post-initiated and ESF-

funded project to inform Kuwait's expatriate working class of their rights. (The nine-language brochure, made possible with the support of source-country embassies, addresses salary, residency, and law enforcement issues.) Shaykh Sabah Al-Khalid commended the effort and said the GOK had begun designing a similar five-language brochure and had bolstered efforts to work with source-country and GOK embassies to educate workers before they arrive in Kuwait. He said MOSAL was also strengthening collaboration with the Ministry of Interior.

CASE: 6/18/2007

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait

CABLEID: 07KUWAIT938

CABLEDATE: 6/18/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: KUWAITIS DEFENSIVE ABOUT TIER 3 TIP RANKING, THOUGH SOME ACKNOWLEDGE PROBLEMS

COUNTRY1: Kuwait

They reiterated that there are laws in Kuwait to ensure workers rights and that workers can go to the courts if they face any problems. They also criticized the report for taking exceptional cases as the rule. Despite their disappointment with the demotion to Tier 3, they expressed their willingness to cooperate with the USG on the issue.

CASE: 9/30/2009

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Chisinau

CABLEID: 09CHISINAU750

CABLEDATE: 9/30/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES U.S. CONCERNS AND MCC COMPACT WITH NEW PM FILAT

COUNTRY1: Moldova

) The Ambassador advised Filat that the new GOM could take several steps that would send a positive message to the U.S. and Europeans. For example, the GOM needed to continue efforts to reduce and solve the TIP problem. It was imperative that Moldova work to improve its Tier 2 Watch List ranking. The lack of substantial progress in this area hurt Moldova's image and two consecutive years at a Tier 2 Watch List ranking would automatically relegate Moldova to Tier 3. 4. (C) Filat responded that Moldova must accept the responsibility to combat trafficking, and promised that his government would work to solve the problem in Moldova. He said his government would also approach the destination countries for victims to jointly develop strategies to eliminate trafficking. The Ambassador noted that the Department of State had developed an action plan for Moldova on trafficking and the Embassy would like to work with his designee for fighting trafficking to provide assistance. Filat responded that the assistance would be gratefully appreciated.

CASE: 6/26/2009

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Phnom Penh

CABLEID: 09PHNOMPENH419

CABLEDATE: 6/26/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES 2009 TIP REPORT; FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

COUNTRY1: Cambodia

The DPM accepted the news of the lower tier placement. He noted that Cambodia has been on the Watch List before, that the trafficking issue has been evaluated extensively, and that the RGC has done its best to combat the problem. He believes that the RGC and USG have very good cooperation on anti-trafficking in general, and welcomed assistance from the Embassy to continue the fight. He said that the RGC commitment to combating trafficking has not diminished, illustrating this with a presentation about the RGC's efforts to reduce and control marriages between Cambodian nationals and foreigners that have been a source of trafficking concerns in the past. He pledged to encourage law enforcement officers and the courts to increase arrests and prosecutions. But he stated repeatedly that many of areas of recommendation contained in the report are beyond his control -- particularly prosecutions and convictions, which fall under the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme

Council of the Magistracy

CASE: 6/6/2008
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Berlin
CABLEID: 08BERLIN750
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: TIP REPORT DELIVERED TO KEY GERMAN MINISTRIES
COUNTRY1: Germany

On June 4, Global Affairs Officer and Embassy Legal Advisor delivered ref A points informing regarding the TIP Report's release and Germany's tier ranking to key officials in the German MFA, Family Ministry, Interior Ministry, Labor Ministry, and Justice Ministry. Post also shared the text of Germany's country narrative, including a German translation. Post is scheduled to follow up with these ministries in a July 1 interagency roundtable meeting to be hosted by the MFA. A German translation of the country narrative has been posted on the Embassy's website at <http://amerikadienst.usembassy.de>, along with links to the entire TIP Report on the Department's website. 3. (SBU) ACTION REQUEST: In advance of the July 1 meeting with German officials, post requests G/TIP guidance to respond to previous German thoughts on potential ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the international fight against TIP (ref B). Specifically, in a February 25 meeting to review G/TIP's Action Plan for Germany, German officials noted the success of a 2006 DOJ visit focused on the U.S. T-Visa and suggested that a further exchange of best practices on victim identification techniques and efforts to fight labor trafficking would be useful for both countries. German officials have also expressed interest in improved information sharing between German and U.S. law enforcement on the structure and practices of criminal organizations engaged in trafficking. Finally, both the MFA and Justice Ministry reiterated interest in receiving information about U.S. efforts to educate and sensitize judges on TIP (ref C). TIMKEN JR

CASE: 7/15/2003
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Guatemala
CABLEID: 03GUATEMALA1815
CABLEDATE: 7/15/2003
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: BILATERAL TIP WORKING GROUP FORMED
COUNTRY1: Guatemala

MFA Human Rights Advisor Mario Rene Cifuentes said the GOG takes the problem of trafficking, which is really a modern form of slavery, very seriously. He proposed that this meeting be considered the start of a bilateral process or dialogue on TIP. In a formal presentation, Cifuentes described the GOG's efforts to address the problem bilaterally and regionally

CASE: 9/21/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Phnom Penh
CABLEID: 09PHNOMPENH709
CABLEDATE: 9/21/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES NEW CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORKING GROUP
COUNTRY1: Cambodia

In June, during the rollout of the 2009 TIP Report, Ambassador and the DPM discussed the problem of inconsistencies in data reporting and difficulties tracking cases from the initial police investigation phases into judicial proceedings phases.

CASE: 6/25/2004
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Guatemala
CABLEID: 04GUATEMALA1573
CABLEDATE: 6/25/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: TIP BILATERAL MINISTERIAL MEETING RESULTS

COUNTRY1: Guatemala

Summary: The Ambassador and Embassy anti-TIP team met with the Government of Guatemala inter-institutional group to combat TIP on June 22 to formally present the 2004 TIP report and urge continued progress combating TIP. The GOG's reaction to the release of the 2004 Trafficking in Persons Report was generally positive

CASE: 6/12/2003

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Rangoon

CABLEID: 03RANGOON696

CABLEDATE: 6/12/2003

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: COM PRESSES HOME MINISTER TO RELEASE DETAINEES AND MOVE FORWARD ON RECONCILIATION

COUNTRY1: Burma

She also provided the Minister a copy of the Trafficking in Persons report, noting that the government's failure to make progress on forced labor was the primary reason Burma was still on Tier 3. The Minister said his government "takes U.S. views very much to heart," and asked the COM to keep in close communication with him.

CASE: 9/20/2007

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Guatemala

CABLEID: 07GUATEMALA1906

CABLEDATE: 9/20/2007

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: DEMARCHE ON TIP TIER 2 WATCH ACTION PLAN (2007-08)

COUNTRY1: Guatemala

Poloff delivered Ref A demarche and non-paper to Alma de Migoya, Chief of the Prosecutor's Office for Women, Unit of Adolescent and Child Victims, and Alexander Colop, prosecutor in charge of Trafficking in Persons (TIP), in the Attorney General's Office. Migoya said that her office as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been actively collaborating with civil society to address the problem of TIP. 2. Migoya said they have collaborated with civil society in public awareness campaigns and efforts to assist victims. They have a mechanism in place for identifying trafficked victims and for referring such victims to appropriate protective services. Their Standard Operating Procedures, publicly available on the website of the Attorney General's Office, provides instructions on how to handle sex crimes, including specific provisions on TIP victims. The Guatemalan government has also collaborated with Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Honduras to address the TIP problem, especially in the border areas. 3. Migoya noted, however, the many challenges faced by her office, in particular the lack of formal complaints filed by trafficked victims who fear retaliation, the shortage of prosecutors and investigators, and the decentralization of the functions of her office to regional offices. She attributed the lack of raids this year to the lack of legal complaints filed by trafficked victims, explaining that her office, unlike the National Civil Police, is authorized to participate in a police raid against an alleged trafficker only if a formal complaint has been filed. 4. She agreed that Guatemala's current anti-trafficking law, Article 194 of the Penal Code, needed to be reformed but asserted that Congress would not likely reach consensus on proposed reform during this transition year. However, she hoped that Congress would take action early in the next session, which begins in January 2008. She noted that she has approached various congressional benches to press for legislative reform to strengthen the government's ability to prosecute TIP cases. 5. Migoya expressed appreciation for the list of recommended measures for moving Guatemala to a more favorable tier placement and our offer to collaborate on a strategy, and promised to provide statistics on TIP training for prosecutors and other measures undertaken by the government for our interim assessment.

CASE: 10/4/2002

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Rangoon

CABLEID: 02RANGOON1291

CABLEDATE: 10/4/2002

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: BURMESE GOVERNMENT REPORTS TO THE USG ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

COUNTRY1: Burma

In a report presented to the Embassy in August, the GOB acknowledges the problem facing Burma and lays out the legislative, enforcement, training, and preventive measures it has taken to deal with trafficking.

CASE: 6/19/2009

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Ouagadougou

CABLEID: 09OUAGADOUGOU485

CABLEDATE: 6/19/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: BURKINA FASO'S 2009 TIP REPORT.

COUNTRY1: Burkina Faso

On June 18, Pol/Mil Officer delivered reftel demarche to Mr. Saidou Ouedraogo, Trafficking in Person Director at the Ministry of Social Action. Pol/Mil officer shared the 2009 country narrative on Burkina Faso, discussed points in the non-paper, and explained that while the Government of Burkina Faso does not yet fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; it is, according to the report, making significant efforts to do so despite limited resources. 2. Mr. Ouedraogo thanked us for the report and said he would share its contents with his supervisor and ultimately the Minister of Social Action. He opined that this would allow the GOBF to see how its programs to combat TIP were perceived from the "outside" and what additional communications efforts they might have to engage in. Finally, he offered that the USG recommendations for areas of improvement would be looked at carefully.

CASE: 7/9/2005

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Ndjamena

CABLEID: 05NDJAMENA1077

CABLEDATE: 7/9/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: ERODING PRESS FREEDOMS IN CHAD SENSITIVE REF: NDJAMENA 864, 946

COUNTRY1: Chad

He expressed his "personal concern" with the problems discussed in the TIP report, and assured the Ambassador that he is working on solutions to improve childhood welfare in Chad

CASE: 6/9/2006

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Ndjamena

CABLEID: 06NDJAMENA821

CABLEDATE: 6/9/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: CHAD: GOC UNDERSTANDS TIP TIER TWO AND WATCH LIST RANKING

COUNTRY1: Chad

Ambassador and POL/ECON Officer on June 6 informed GOC Ministers of Justice, and of Family and Social Action of the publication of the 2006 Trafficking in Persons report, and of Chad's Tier Two Watch List ranking. Ambassador again raised the issue on June 7 with Minister of Foreign Affairs and African Integration Ahmad Allam-mi; POL/ECON Officer reinforced the message on June 9 with MFA North Americas Desk Director Adoum Mahamat Yahya. 2. (SBU) GOC Ministers assured us they understood that continued progress must be made in combatting trafficking in persons.

CASE: 6/7/2006

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Jakarta

CABLEID: 06JAKARTA7216

CABLEDATE: 6/7/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: INDONESIA RESPONDS CONSTRUCTIVELY TO TIP DEMARCHE, FOCUSES ON TASKS AHEAD

COUNTRY1: Indonesia

INDONESIA RESPONDS CONSTRUCTIVELY TO TIP DEMARCHE, FOCUSES ON TASKS AHEAD

CASE: 6/15/2009

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Ndjamena

CABLEID: 09NDJAMENA230

CABLEDATE: 6/15/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: GOC INFORMED OF NEW TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS TIER III RANKING

COUNTRY1: Chad

Secretary General Dogo thanked the Charge for informing the GoC prior to the official release of the report and asked for clarification on what Chad could do to change its new ranking.

CASE: 6/7/2006

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Jakarta

CABLEID: 06JAKARTA7216

CABLEDATE: 6/7/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: INDONESIA RESPONDS CONSTRUCTIVELY TO TIP DEMARCHE, FOCUSES ON TASKS AHEAD

COUNTRY1: Indonesia

The GOI's constructive response to this year's critical country narrative and tier ranking reflects the strong relationship the U.S. Mission has built with senior Indonesian officials on the trafficking issue. It also highlights the multi-dimensional efforts underway in Indonesia to make further headway against this serious crime.

CASE: 8/11/2006

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Jakarta

CABLEID: 06JAKARTA10135

CABLEDATE: 8/11/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: TIER 2 WATCH LIST ACTION PLAN FOR INDONESIA

COUNTRY1: Indonesia

) On August 7, we met with Maswita Djaya, Deputy Minister for Women's Empowerment in the Coordinating Ministry of Social Welfare, and on August 8 we met with Sumarni Dawam Raharjo, the Deputy Minister for Child and Welfare Protection at the Ministry of Women's Empowerment to deliver the demarche contained reftel and discuss the GOI's preparations for the interim assessment. Both Maswita Djaya and Sumarni Dawam Raharjo enthusiastically welcomed the short and long-term action plans and thanked the USG for its continued support for the GOI's anti-trafficking efforts.

CASE: 10/13/2009

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Tunis

CABLEID: 09TUNIS758

CABLEDATE: 10/13/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: TUNISIAN JUSTICE MINISTER ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

COUNTRY1: Tunisia

The Ambassador raised the issue of trafficking in persons with Justice Minister Bechir Tekkari during his October 5 introductory call. Noting Tunisia's debut in the annual TIP report, and its placement on the Tier II Watchlist, the Ambassdor urged the GOT to increase its focus on this compelling transnational problem. It would be particularly important for the GOT to name a central point of

contact with whom the Embassy could discuss concrete steps Tunisia could take to strengthen its anti-TIP regime and improve its standing in the TIP report. Tekkari named Ministry of Justice "Coordinator General Khemakhem" as an interlocutor for the Embassy on the issue. The Embassy will be following up with the GOT to discuss implementation of the workplan conveyed reftel. GRAY

CASE: 8/8/2005
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 05ANKARA4618
CABLEDATE: 8/8/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: DELIVERANCE OF TIP STRATEGY FOR TURKEY
COUNTRY1: Turkey

1. We met August 2 with MFA Asylum and Migration deputy directorate officer Ozlem Kural to deliver the reftel Trafficking in Persons Strategy for Turkey. Kural welcomed the strategies and assured us that Turkey was working diligently on the trafficking issue. MCELDOWNEY

CASE: 6/5/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 06ANKARA3268
CABLEDATE: 6/5/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TURKEY: 2006 TIP REPORT DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Turkey

Ulueren expressed appreciation for the bilateral work done to fight what he termed "modern-day slavery." In a constructive tone, he said the GOT understands very well the problems remaining with Turkey's ability to identify victims properly and to prosecute traffickers effectively, which he said in part stems from confusion on the part of police and prosecutors about under which penal code statute to charge and prosecute traffickers. To that end, the MFA is pushing with other ministries to get a legislative fix that will clarify the issue and increase awareness.

CASE: 6/18/2003
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 03ABUDHABI2943
CABLEDATE: 6/18/2003
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: ELATED BY TIER 1 RANKING, UAEG PROMISES TO REDOUBLE ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

Hamdan thanked the Ambassador and the U.S. Mission for its assistance in making the Tier One jump possible. In line with the adage that it's easier to get to the top than stay there, he agreed that the UAEG would need to work even harder now to maintain its good record, noting that this achievement was "a big responsibility." He looked forward to working together and welcomed the mission's input of recommended next steps. 6. (SBU) Later that day, Hamdan's Office Director, Sultan Al-Romaithi, advised Poloff that Hamdan is determined to increase UAEG efforts to monitor and combat TIP. He stated that this week Hamdan will send letters to the other six emirates' rulers, formally notifying them of the UAE's Tier 1 placement and the necessity to continue UAEG efforts against TIP. Mission's Engagement Plan for 2003-2004 ----- 7. (U) UAEG reaction to our ongoing engagement on TIP has been very positive, as evidenced by Hamdan's personal commitment to this issue and its placement on the U.S.-UAE Strategic Dialogue agenda in November 2002. The news of the UAE's Tier 1 ranking gives us an excellent opportunity to redouble our efforts with various ministries and emirates to ensure that we continue to move forward in combating this transnational crime. 8. (U) In rolling out the 2003 Report, we are emphasizing the importance of this issue in our bilateral relationship by forwarding copies of the Report and Next Steps Strategy under cover of letter signed by the Ambassador to the Ministers of Information, Interior, Justice, Labor and Health. We are also forwarding similar packages to the Dubai Crown Prince, Dubai Deputy Ruler, Dubai Police Commander, Dubai Prosecutor General, Abu Dhabi General Health

Authority Chairman, and the Interior Ministry Undersecretary (who also serves as Head of the Abu Dhabi Police Directorate). We will follow-up the delivery of the Report and Next Steps Strategy with working-level meetings to maintain the momentum created by the release of the 2003 Report and encourage the UAEG to sustain and, where possible, increase its efforts on TIP. Next Steps Strategy for the UAEG -----

CASE: 6/21/2004
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 04ABUDHABI2034
CABLEDATE: 6/21/2004
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UAE - REACTIONS TO TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

1. (C) Summary: UAE Government officials have responded relatively positively to the annual Trafficking in Persons report despite the fact that the UAE was dropped from Tier 1 to Tier 2. The prevailing sentiment has been that the demotion - a year after the UAE's unprecedented jump from Tier 3 to Tier 1 - will encourage government authorities to tackle the trafficking problem more energetically and persuade international monitors, including the USG, to raise the UAE to Tier 1 again. End Summary.

CASE: 9/18/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Dushanbe
CABLEID: 09DUSHANBE1094
CABLEDATE: 9/18/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TAJIKISTAN - AMBASSADOR'S INITIAL MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIFI.
COUNTRY1: Tajikistan

10. (C) Ambassador raised Trafficking in Persons (TIP), noting that Tajikistan had barely avoided a Tier 3 ranking in 2009, and that Tajikistan needed to take concrete measures to avoid Tier 3 next year. Forced labor in the cotton sector was a particular problem, but he was encouraged by recent statements by the Ministers of Agriculture and Education against requiring students to pick cotton. Zarifi replied that Tajikistan was doing much to fight TIP, the President was personally interested in the subject and the Ministry of Interior was engaged too, but Tajikistan needed more assistance in this area.

CASE: 6/10/2008
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kathmandu
CABLEID: 08KATHMANDU659
CABLEDATE: 6/10/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: NEPAL: MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS RELEASE OF 2008 TIP REPORT; INTERNAL TRAFFICKING A GROWING PROBLEM
COUNTRY1: Nepal

n meetings on June 4 with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MWCSW), Emboff delivered talking points and the final text of Nepal's country narrative from the 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. Emboff drew attention to the areas of improvement identified in the 2008 report, in particular, the passage of a comprehensive anti-trafficking law criminalizing all forms of trafficking. However, Emboff also expressed concern about the lack of effective prosecutions of trafficking crimes in Nepal to date. GON official stressed the global nature of the problem and noted that it was difficult for any one government to combat all aspects of the problem. Emboff also highlighted concern over the expanding internal trafficking trade and growing domestic sex industry. This came as a surprise to the MFA Under Secretary for UN and International Organizations, Rudra Nepal, who was apparently unaware of this growing domestic issue. MWCSW officials emphasized the GON's recent allocation of government funds, in the amount of NRs 60 million (approximately USD 896,000), to support shelters for victims of trafficking in three districts, but admitted that they needed better procedures to track trafficking arrest and prosecutions

CASE: 8/14/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Dhaka
CABLEID: 07DHAKA1321
CABLEDATE: 8/14/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO 2007 TIP REPORT: THE WAY FORWARD
COUNTRY1: Bangladesh

GOB officials were receptive to our concerns, and expressed a commitment to improve efforts against sexual trafficking and to combat better the exploitation of migrant workers, though they are looking to us for assistance and guidance.

CASE: 6/26/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Rabat
CABLEID: 09RABAT544
CABLEDATE: 6/26/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: EMBASSY DELIVERS TIP REPORT TO KEY MOROCCANS
COUNTRY1: Morocco

) On June 15, PolOffs delivered the 2009 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report to Ambassador Nasser Bourita, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Chief of Staff and Director General for Multilateral Relations and Global Cooperation. On June 17, Charge delivered it to Minister of Social Development, Family and Solidarity Nouzha Skalli, and on June 24, Charge delivered it to Consultative Council on Human Rights (CCDG) Chairman Ahmed Herzenni. Local media provided factual coverage, and Parliament asked Minister Skalli about the report and the government's efforts to address trafficking. She and Herzenni said the Government and CCDH, respectively, have made human trafficking a top priority and are working on legislation to protect trafficking victims. They would welcome anti-trafficking assistance. 2. (C) Herzenni, in particular, welcomed the Charge's support for Morocco's attempts to strengthen legislation that distinguishes between trafficking victims and illegal economic migrants. Herzenni emphasized that with the Instance d'Equite et Reconciliation, (IER or Equity and Reconciliation Commission, s) legacy finishing, trafficking issues would become the priority for the CCDH, especially with many Moroccan victims of trafficking in the Gulf states. "I can promise you that trafficking will now be the major issue of the Commission," he said, vowing to help victims by closing the gaps in legislation, which date back to the time of the French protectorate. He predicted that by the end of the year the new legislation would meet international standards on trafficking issues. This activity has not been obvious, he noted, but emphasized that it has been moving forward and will soon become more prominent. 3. (C) Herzenni told Charge that the CCDH also plans to sensitize people to trafficking issues, learning accepted practices from other countries around the world, and developing a program that Moroccan authorities can implement. He noted that the CCDH has also been collecting information on Moroccan trafficking victims in the Gulf States in order to improve their situation. The CCDH would welcome training or partnerships that can help with these goals, he emphasized. 4. (C) Comment: The Mission believes that key Moroccan actors are sensitive to the Tier 2 rating and are making a sincere effort to address some of the shortcomings identified in the 2009 TIP Report. End Comment. ***** Visit Embassy Rabat's Classified Website; <http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Moro> cco ***** Jackson

CASE: 6/6/2005
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1444
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: GOJ OFFERS MIXED RESPONSE ON TIP, CONCERNED ABOUT SANCTIONS
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

On June 2, poloff met with Pamela Ingleton at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) to deliver the Jamaica country narrative of the 2005 TIP Report, Ref A talking points, and

suggested Action Plan. Poloff added that a Department team would visit Jamaica in July to meet with government and NGO representatives, and that the GOJ should be prepared to discuss its progress toward fighting TIP at that time. Ingleton, who has responsibility for the MFAFT's TIP portfolio, accepted the Tier 3 rating as the consequences of an administration that, while it has always cared deeply about the exploitation of its women and children, has only recently begun to take significant steps toward combating the problem. She added that she is pleased with the GOJ's recent efforts to address trafficking and hopes to make significant progress in coming months. 8. (SBU) Ingleton took the opportunity to explain that the GOJ's National Task Force on TIP, created in April (Ref B), has held two meetings since its formation, and has spun off specialized subcommittees in an effort to act quickly on the matter. The Ministry of National Security has been designated the national authority on TIP, and is coordinating the efforts of the Task Force, which also includes representatives from the Immigration Department, the Child Development Agency, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Development, the Cabinet Office, the Attorney General's Office, the Bureau of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Industry & Tourism, the Jamaica Information Service, and the MFAFT. Ingleton added that the Task Force is now preparing to engage NGOs to assist in the fight against TIP, and that poloff would also be invited to participate. When asked, she agreed to prepare for poloff a written record of the Task Force's activities to date. 9. (SBU) Near the end of the meeting, Ingleton was called briefly from the room by her supervisor, Sheila Sealy-Monteith, Director of the Caribbean and Americas Department at MFAFT and ambassador-designate to Mexico. When she returned, Ingleton explained that the Task Force was preparing a response to the TIP Report for Jamaica's Ambassador to Washington, Gordon Shirley, and that Prime Minister Patterson wished to clear on the document before it was sent. Ingleton explained that the Prime Minister had recently taken an interest in the issue, and that his involvement had prompted much urgency within the Task Force. She cited as another positive development the publication in the June 2 issue of the Jamaica Observer of an article titled "Report child abuse or face prosecution." Ingleton explained that the article, which highlighted a series of seminars to educate the public on the year-old Child Care and Protection Act, was published by the Jamaica Information Service and was run without charge by the newspaper as a public service announcement.

CASE: 7/17/2009

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong

CABLEID: 09HONGKONG1315

CABLEDATE: 7/17/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: CONSUL GENERAL'S FAREWELL CALL ON HK CHIEF EXECUTIVE TSANG

COUNTRY1: China

CE Tsang then turned to Hong Kong's unhappiness that Hong Kong was downgraded from Tier One to Tier Two in this year's TIP report. The CE said Hong Kong welcomed G/TIP Ambassador CdeBaca to visit Hong Kong. He said HK authorities have been "scratching their heads" to try and understand the reason for the downgrade, and stressed that Hong Kong will continue to protect human rights and take strenuous action against human trafficking. The HKG, he added, does not believe it has reduced its efforts "one iota" over the past year. Tsang said he understood from the TIP report that Hong Kong's downgrade was based on the lack of trafficking-related prosecutions in 2008, but added that the courts cannot prosecute offenders if there are no cases. The CG responded that trafficking was a difficult problem worldwide, including in the United States. He expressed appreciation for the strong record of law enforcement cooperation between the United States and Hong Kong, particularly on immigration issues. The CG agreed it would be a good idea to have G/TIP Ambassador CdeBaca visit Hong Kong at an early date, and promised to follow up on his return to Washington.

CASE: 7/24/2008

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo

CABLEID: 08CAIRO1566

CABLEDATE: 7/24/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: EGYPT: REACTION TO TIP TIER 2 WATCH LIST ACTION PLAN

COUNTRY1: Egypt

On July 22 we delivered reftel trafficking-in-persons (TIP) action plan to MFA Deputy Assistant Minister for Human Rights Wael Aboulmagd, emphasizing that the GOE needs to make measurable

progress in victim protection and in prosecutions of, and a comprehensive legal framework to prosecute, traffickers in order for us to raise Egypt from the Tier 2 Watch List in the 2009 TIP report. Aboulmagd said that "we have the same goals" and affirmed Egypt's commitment to fighting TIP, noting that the GOE inter-ministerial anti-TIP committee - which the MFA chairs - has a draft comprehensive anti-TIP law that it will begin discussing throughout the GOE interagency "soon" before presenting it to parliament in the future

CASE: 6/10/2008
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Colombo
CABLEID: 08COLOMBO568
CABLEDATE: 6/10/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: SRI LANKA: TIP REPORT DELIVERED TO MFA
COUNTRY1: Sri Lanka

On June 4, Charge and Poloff delivered the 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report on Sri Lanka and reftel talking points to Foreign Secretary Palitha Kohona. Charge emphasized the need for Sri Lanka to make progress over the next year in the areas of securing convictions for trafficking offenses and improving assistance available to victims. Kohona expressed disappointment that Sri Lanka continued to be on the Tier Two Watchlist. He acknowledged that there were areas for improvement, but said the GSL was working hard to investigate corrupt recruitment agents and prosecute those involved in child sex tourism. He expressed his hope that Sri Lanka, working with the USG, might be able to get off the Watchlist next year. Post will deliver the report to and follow up with the Ministry of Foreign Employment and the Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment in the coming days.

CASE: 6/26/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Islamabad
CABLEID: 09ISLAMABAD1408
CABLEDATE: 6/26/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: PAKISTAN COMMITS TO GETTING OFF TIP WATCH LIST
COUNTRY1: Pakistan

1. (C) Summary: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Director General Tariq Khosa called in A/PolCouns and PolOff June 17 -- the day after the 2009 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report placed Pakistan on the Tier 2 Watch List (WL) -- to commit Pakistan to those measures which would result in a better ranking next year. Similar statements of resolve were earlier given when PolOff delivered June 15 reftel demarche to MFA U.S. Affairs Director Imran Ali and repeated said points June 16 to FIA Immigration Additional Director General Mohammad Manzoor and Director Captain (ret) Zafar Iqbal. End summary. 2. (C) Speaking with A/PolCouns, Khosa noted Pakistan had come off the WL in 2005 during his own tenure as Immigration Additional Director. He pointed to the achievement as one of the reasons for his rise to lead the respected FIA. Though his organization was dealing with growing terrorist challenges and high-profile cases -- its offices being attacked as well -- he insisted TIP was "still a high priority" for the GOP. The FIA had "failed to convey" its successes (e.g., establishing FIA provincial- and district-level anti-TIP offices), Khosa believed; the FIA would "renew its efforts," he promised. 3. (C) Khosa noted the FIA was the national rapporteur (quasi-coordinator) for Pakistan's federal and provincial interagency on TIP. He had been informed only the evening before about the WL ranking and had already dispatched to the interagency his marked up copy of the Report. FIA would continue to chair a quarterly meeting of stakeholders, and further committed to collect from both federal and provincial authorities monthly updates. The minutes of these meetings and the data from monthly reports would be shared with Embassy, he added. 4. (C) Khosa was certain Pakistan's progress would be borne out with a more detailed analyses of the law enforcement information. He welcomed any suggestion from the USG on what data fields would be most demonstrative. He welcomed the USG's mid-year report on Pakistan's efforts and offered to provide information on a quarterly basis instead, noting the first quarter was about to conclude. PolOff said Embassy would provide a list of questions that would likely be the basis for that mid-year and next year's reports. Khosa focused on the Report recommendations; he offered additional areas in which the GOP hoped to improve. 5. (C) Comment: Pakistan's response -- by MFA and FIA -- to the WL ranking has thus far been completely professional, demonstrating political will and commitment. However, the task at hand is difficult, particularly in light of the other grave challenges Pakistan faces.

Post will follow-up on FIA's offer of quarterly reports and areas for improvement. Post additionally recommends an early Fall visit by the appropriate Washington offices to provide clear, detailed guidance to GOP interlocutors on our expectations for Pakistan to be removed from the WL. End comment. PATTERSON

CASE: 10/12/2004
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 04ABUDHABI3613
CABLEDATE: 10/12/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: UAE TIP DEMARCHE DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

1. Ambassador delivered refel recommendations on ways to combat and eliminate trafficking in persons to MFA Under Secretary Abdullah Rashid Al Noaimi on October 11. The SIPDIS Ambassador also shared a letter from G/TIP Director Miller to UAE Ambassador Al Dhahri outlining the measures the Emiratis could implement to help the UAE receive a positive assessment in next year's TIP report. Abdullah Rashid said he was pleased to receive the USG's suggestions, noting that it is in the UAEG's interest to demonstrate that the camel jockey ban is being implemented. The Ambassador told Abdullah Rashid that she would be following up with him to obtain his views on the recommended steps. Abdullah Rashid acknowledged that he was still trying to gather the statistics Ambassador requested a month ago.

CASE: 6/10/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Manama
CABLEID: 06MANAMA1013
CABLEDATE: 6/10/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: BAHRAIN: 2006 TIP REPORT AND TIER 2 WATCH LIST ACTION PLAN
COUNTRY1: Bahrain

In public reactions to the report June 7, Shaikh Abdul Aziz said that Bahrain is committed to making progress in the fight against trafficking before the end of the year.

CASE: 7/25/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Colombo
CABLEID: 07COLOMBO1031
CABLEDATE: 7/25/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: SRI LANKA: WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT SECRETARY ENGAGES ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING
COUNTRY1: Sri Lanka

On July 10, Charge and Poloff called on Secretary of the Ministry of Child Development and Women's SIPDIS Empowerment Indrani Sugathadasa to brief her on Sri Lanka's Tier 2 Watch List status and discuss Government of Sri Lanka (GSL) efforts to address trafficking of women and children for involuntary servitude and sexual exploitation. Sugathadasa commented that some of the information contained in the 2007 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report overstates the nature of the problems in Sri Lanka, and that the GSL has taken significant measures to address TIP. She acknowledged that recruitment agents often mislead the women they send overseas, but argued that many women actively pursue foreign employment and know the risks. In Sugathadasa's view, the biggest problem with overseas employment of women is not abuse, but the social impact their absence has on families. Charge described the Tier 2 Watchlist status as an opportunity for the U.S. and Sri Lanka to work together to address trafficking and described upcoming U.S. anti-trafficking programs. Sugathadasa was forthcoming in our meeting and will likely be a good partner for future engagement on TIP

CASE: 9/24/2005
CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Manama
CABLEID: 05MANAMA1371
CABLEDATE: 9/24/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: BAHRAIN: TIP TIER TWO WATCH LIST ACTION PLAN
COUNTRY1: Bahrain

PolOff delivered ref tel action plan September 24 to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Coordination and Follow Up Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Mubarak Al Khalifa. Sheikh Abdul Aziz said that the GOB was eager to combat the trafficking problem in Bahrain and had already started to take some of the steps listed in the Short-Term Action Plan

CASE: 6/16/2005
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Manama
CABLEID: 05MANAMA859
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2005
CLASSIFIC: SECRET//NOFORN
HEADING: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES SECURITY ISSUES, DEMONSTRATIONS WITH INTERIOR MINISTER
COUNTRY1: Bahrain

7. (C) The Ambassador raised the Trafficking in Persons Report, noting that Bahrain had been placed on the Tier Two Watch List. One of the issues of concern was shelters for abused women. The Ambassador urged the Minister to move forward on shelters, which would not only address a concern raised in the TIP report but was the right thing to do for abused women. Shaikh Rashid was well briefed on the subject, and said that the MOI and Ministry of Social Affairs will develop a temporary solution using rented space until a permanent structure is built. MOI will donate the land, and provide the center with female police officers, he stated. MONROE

CASE: 6/6/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Singapore
CABLEID: 06SINGAPORE1834
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: DEMARCHE ON 2006 TIP REPORT DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Singapore

Singapore Government officials reiterated their commitment to combating trafficking in persons and expressed satisfaction with Singapore's Tier 1 Ranking in the 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report, in a meeting with Economic/Political Counselor on June 1. EPCouns met with Bambang Sugeng bin Kajairi, incoming head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs North America Branch, as well as representatives of the Ministries of Manpower and Community Development, Youth and Sports to deliver ref A points on the 2006 TIP Report. 2. EPCouns praised Singapore's progress in combating both sex and labor trafficking over the past year. He highlighted the important legal changes Singapore is making -- criminalizing commercial sex with under 18-year olds and overseas child sex tourism -- as important steps forward, and encouraged Singapore to focus on further efforts to screen high-risk populations for victims. EPCouns also thanked Singapore for its assistance in gathering the necessary information on law enforcement, and protection and prevention efforts to prepare the report. Bambang said that the government of Singapore looks forward to continuing to work with the United States against trafficking crimes. 3. Upon receipt of ref B on June 2, we informed Bambang of the new release schedule for the report. He agreed that Singapore would keep all information embargoed until the Secretary officially released the report.

CASE: 6/13/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Freetown
CABLEID: 07FREETOWN376
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: AMBASSADOR DELIVERS TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Sierra Leone

On June 12, the Ambassador delivered reftel points and a copy of the 2007 report to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director General Ambassador Umaru Wurie. The Ambassador explained why Sierra Leone received a Tier Two ranking and encouraged the GOSL to continue its efforts against trafficking. Wurie responded the GOSL is making progress but remains constrained by limited resources. He pledged the GOSL's continuing commitment to combat trafficking. Wurie said the recent passage of the Child Rights Act (septel) will provide additional protection to children who are vulnerable to trafficking. 2. In a separate meeting on the same date, the Ambassador informed Vice President Solomon Berewa and Foreign Minister Momodu Koroma of Sierra Leone's Tier Two ranking and delivery of the report to the Director General of Foreign Affairs.

CASE: 6/27/2007

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Baku

CABLEID: 07BAKU812

CABLEDATE: 6/27/2007

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: AZERBAIJAN: 2007 TIP REPORT DELIVERED

COUNTRY1: Azerbaijan

Separately, the Ambassador delivered the report to Minister of Internal Affairs Ramil Usubov on June 22. She raised reftel concerns with the Minister, who was receptive to most suggestions. The Ambassador and the Minister discussed areas for further bilateral cooperation on TIP; we will report on the entire meeting septel. The Ambassador left the report in English and Azerbaijani, and the reftel background language on the report, as a non-paper

CASE: 6/1/2005

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi

CABLEID: 05ABUDHABI2437

CABLEDATE: 6/1/2005

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: REACTION TO TIP REPORT: UAEG EXPECTED TIER 3

COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

Summary: Ambassador met with MFA Under Secretary Abdullah Rashid Al Noaimi June 1 to deliver the 2005 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, ranking the UAE at Tier 3, and the companion mini-action plan. Ambassador also discussed the TIP report and action plan with director for international affairs at Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed's Court, Yousef Al Otaiba. Both Al Noaimi and Al Otaiba were expecting the Tier 3 rating. Al Noaimi said he was optimistic that the steps suggested in the 60-day action plan were "doable." He said he welcomed USG pressure because it would give the federal government greater leverage with Dubai Deputy Ruler Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid, who has been resistant to changing the practice of using underage camel jockeys in races in Dubai. End Summary. 2. (C) On June 1, Ambassador called on MFA Under Secretary Abdullah Rashid Al Noaimi to deliver the 2005 TIP report on the UAE and the mini-action plan. She explained that the report would be embargoed until the June 3 Washington release, noting that the Embassy nonetheless wished to relay the Tier ranking information before the start of the Thursday-Friday weekend. Ambassador emphasized that the UAEG could be reassessed as having made "significant efforts" to bring itself into compliance with the minimum standards if/when it showed by July 30, 2005, that it has taken immediate steps against trafficking. Al Noaimi noted that the Tier 3 ranking was, in some ways, welcome pressure, and the federal government could use it as leverage to persuade Dubai Ruler Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid, who has resisted changes in the way camel races are conducted in Dubai. Action Plan Appears "Doable" ----- 3. (C) While Al Noaimi was disappointed, he agreed that the six proposed steps in the 60-day action plan were "doable," even within the plan's limited timeframe. Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed's advisor, Yousef Al Otaiba, also welcomed the action plan suggestions as "doable."

CASE: 9/12/2008

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Santo Domingo

CABLEID: 08SANTODOMINGO1439

CABLEDATE: 9/12/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: GODR REACTIONS TO TIP TIER 2 WATCH-LIST PLAN
COUNTRY1: Dominican Republic

Per refel instructions, Poloff delivered demarche and left the Tier 2 watch-list action plan recommendations as a non-paper with key Dominican officials. Our recommendations may be of assistance as the GODR is in the process of developing its own, multi-agency "integrated action plan" to combat trafficking. In seeking to establish a working rapport with these officials, Poloff found that they were quite open about their concerns and complaints. They believe they are working hard to combat trafficking in persons, that previous TIP reports were unbalanced, and that the USG ought to provide additional resources both to conduct more accurate surveys and to address the socio-economic root causes of trafficking. Post expects such candid, but productive, exchanges to continue as preparation of the interim TIP assessment advances in the coming months

CASE: 8/3/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 09KUALALUMPUR632
CABLEDATE: 8/3/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: TIP: GOM INTENSIFIES PUBLIC EDUCATION ON TIP
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

In recent weeks the government-influenced print media has significantly increased both the quantity and quality of its reporting on TIP, which previously had been almost a taboo subject. Following the release of the 2009 TIP Report and news of Malaysia's Tier 3 TIP ranking, local press conveyed the Foreign Ministry's statement that Malaysia "takes a serious view of the drop of its status in the U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report 2009." In the days and weeks following the June 16 release of the TIP report, the press reflected a shift in the government's public stance on trafficking, as additional government agencies weighed in with their own public statements. An article entitled, "Enforcement Agencies Serious in Combating Human Trafficking," quoted the Inspector General of Police. Other articles quoted the Commissioner of Suhakan, Malaysia's government-sponsored Human Rights Commission, and Home Affairs Minister Hishamuddin Hussein, who said his ministry "gives top priority to human trafficking as (Malaysia) is often used as a transit centre and this cannot continue," and announced creation of a task force involving "all relevant ministries" to study the issues laid out in the 2009 TIP Report. On July 9, 2009, BERNAMA quoted Deputy Home Minister Datuk Wira Abu Seman Yusop at the closing of an ASEAN Awareness Course for Judges and Prosecutors, as saying "Malaysia will not hesitate to act against human traffickers whether they are government officers or not."

CASE: 7/15/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 09KUALALUMPUR583
CABLEDATE: 7/15/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ATTORNEY GENERAL STRESSES INCREASED GOM ENGAGEMENT ON TIP
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

In A July 13 meeting with the Ambassador undertake at our initiative, Attorney General Abdul Gani Patail affirmed the GOM was committed to achieving progress on TIP enforcement issues. He welcomed embassy assistance and involvement in the process, exemplified by an invitation for emboffs to participate in an unprecedented July 15 meeting involving AGC (Attorney General Chambers) officials and the leading local NGO dealing with TIP

CASE: 6/23/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Asuncion
CABLEID: 09ASUNCION389
CABLEDATE: 6/23/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: SUCCESSFUL HIGH-PROFILE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS CAMPAIGN

COUNTRY1: Paraguay

The successful collaboration with the Paraguayan government on an anti-Trafficking in Persons campaign was designed to shed light on an ugly problem, help victims (and potential victims), reinforce USG policy goals, and portray the U.S. in a sympathetic light as a country that cares about TIP victims. The campaign also helped preempt the Paraguayan government's reaction to the TIP report and minimize the Paraguayan media's ability to use our Congressional reports to criticize the USG.

CASE: 10/24/2005

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Lima

CABLEID: 05LIMA4574

CABLEDATE: 10/24/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: FOREIGN MINISTRY CONCURS WITH PERU TIP TIER 2 ACTION PLAN (2005-2006)

COUNTRY1: Peru

Polcouns delivered the demarche on the Peru TIP Tier 2 Action Plan for 2005-2006 (Reftel) to the Foreign Ministry's Director of Multilateral Affairs, Julio Garro, and Director of Human Rights Affairs, Carlos Roman, on 10/24. 2. Roman said that the Foreign Ministry concurs with the Action Plan and noted that Peru is already making progress on passage of TIP legislation (approved by congressional committee and awaiting action by the full plenum). Roman stated that he would forward the Action Plan to all GOP agencies dealing with TIP for discussion/adoption at the next meeting of the Interagency Working Group and looks forward to working closely with the Embassy in bringing about its implementation. STRUBLE

CASE: 10/6/2008

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur

CABLEID: 08KUALALUMPUR880

CABLEDATE: 10/6/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: EMBASSY DELIVERS TIP ACTION PLAN TO MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT

COUNTRY1: Malaysia

1. (SBU) Post delivered the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Tier 2 Watch List Action Plan for Malaysia to senior government officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and Ministry of Human Resources in late September, with further meetings pending. On September 24, the DCM and Political Counselor conveyed the action plan to the Foreign Ministry's Senior Undersecretary for the Americas and Europe Zainuddin Yahya. The DCM emphasized the importance of this issue in the bilateral relationship and continued international attention to TIP issues in Malaysia. Zainuddin indicated he welcomed our plan and would look at it carefully. Poloff conveyed the action plan and discussed forced labor and labor trafficking issues with P. Munusamy, Special Officer to the Minister of Human Resources on September 30. Munusamy expressed his ministry's concern about reports of forced labor in Malaysia, and his understanding of USG attention to this issue.

CASE: 7/28/2009

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Riyadh

CABLEID: 09RIYADH974

CABLEDATE: 7/28/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: SAUDI TIP ACTION PLAN

COUNTRY1: Saudi Arabia

(SBU) DCM hand-delivered the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) 2009 Tier 3 Short-Term Action Plan (reftel) to Vice Minister of Labor Dr. Abdulwahed Al-Humaid July 26. Humaid said Saudi Arabia takes trafficking issues seriously, and the United States should revisit the Tier 3 ranking in light of recent progress by the Saudi government, such as the Council of Ministers' passage of anti-TIP legislation July 13, and the Shoura Council's passage of domestic labor legislation the same day (septel).

Humaid asserted that the Labor Ministry was the driving force behind both pieces of legislation. Asked for the final text of the anti-TIP law, Humaid referred the DCM to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

CASE: 6/18/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Nicosia
CABLEID: 07NICOSIA519
CABLEDATE: 6/18/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: POSITIVE REACTIONS TO TIP REPORT; SIDES FOCUSED ON BENCHMARKS
COUNTRY1: Cyprus

In a refreshing change from prior years, Cypriots on both sides of the Buffer Zone reacted constructively to the June 12 release of the 2007 TIP Report. Authorities, faced with a fair and factual report (and ranking), publicly admitted the need to combat trafficking in persons and privately offered us their plans to do so. Press coverage focused on the severity of the island's trafficking problem and the need for authorities to do more, a product of careful Embassy outreach.

CASE: 6/9/2008
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Montevideo
CABLEID: 08MONTEVIDEO345
CABLEDATE: 6/9/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: URUGUAY TAKES TIP REPORT IN STRIDE; WANTS TO DO BETTER
COUNTRY1: Uruguay

Poloffs provided a copy of the 2008 report and discussed trafficking in persons in separate meetings with the MFA Office of Human Rights, the Deputy Minister of Culture and Education and the Director of Immigration. GOU officials were ready for positive dialog about the report, stressed that the GOU takes TIP very seriously, and while the need for more action remains, Uruguay feels it is among the leaders in Latin American for combating TIP. Media coverage on the TIP report was fact-based and included extensive quotes directly from the translated text provided on the Embassy's website and press release. Embassy also distributed translated copies of the report to government, civil society and other interested parties. END SUMMARY. IS THERE A TIER ONE AND HALF? -----
----- 2. (SBU) In separate meetings on June 3 and 4, poloffs met with the Deputy Minister of Education and Culture Filipe Michelini (his ministry has the lead on domestic human rights issues), the Director of Immigration Jesus Roberto de Mello and his deputy Beatriz Pintos, and with Cristina Mansilla from the MFA's human rights office. All of these officials agreed that trafficking in persons was an important issue for the GOU and that while more needs to be done, the government continues to make progress. Michelini and Pintos appreciated the important dialog the annual TIP report offered, although they reiterated the GOU's long-held preference for multi-lateral reports over "unilateral" ones such as ours. Each of the officials highlighted the interagency committee they participated in, the National Committee for the Eradication of Commercial and Non-Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. This committee regularly brings together four ministries, at least three NGOs, and two UN representatives to address and follow this aspect of trafficking. 3. Our interlocutors felt that Uruguay was a leader on anti-TIP issues in South America, with strong national laws, stiff sentences, active prosecutions wherever possible and support of victim protection efforts within the capacity of its limited resources. Michelini also stressed that the GOU actively participated in international fora to combat human trafficking. For example, Uruguay will host the second annual OAS meeting on trafficking in persons later this year, and it embraces training opportunities from the U.S. and other countries with advanced law enforcement and immigration techniques. 4. (SBU) Pintos and de Mello took particular issue with the standard report text for Tier Two countries that states, the GOU "does not fully comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking." While she admitted Uruguay's limitations in combating (due primarily to limited resources) trafficking, this stark language struck her as unfair as the "significant efforts of Uruguay were hardly less than minimum."

CASE: 6/24/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Skopje
CABLEID: 09SKOPJE301

CABLEDATE: 6/24/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: MACEDONIA: INTERIOR MINISTER PLEDGES CONTINUED FIGHT AGAINST TIP

COUNTRY1: Macedonia

Charge met with Interior Minister Jankuloska June 19 to formally present the 2008 Trafficking in Persons report. He congratulated the Minister for remaining in Tier One, commended the continued efforts of the Macedonian government to fight TIP, and presented the Minister with a set of specific recommendations for 2009. Chief among these, we expect the GoM to fund the National Referral Mechanism, get the government-run victims' shelter up and running ASAP, and continue to vigorously prosecute and severely punish traffickers. Jankuloska acknowledged the importance of continuing strong efforts against trafficking and welcomed the Tier One ranking as proof of the results Macedonia has delivered. She understands that Macedonia has "big shoes to fill," but said she remains committed and will follow our recommendations. Jankuloska added that Macedonia is open to anti-TIP cooperation with Montenegrin authorities and is willing to share documents and expertise to help build further regional cooperation in dealing with TIP.

CASE: 6/16/2005

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Manila

CABLEID: 05MANILA2757

CABLEDATE: 6/16/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: TIP: PHILIPPINE REACTION TO THE RELEASE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

COUNTRY1: Philippines

The TIP report carries a great deal of credibility and weight in the Philippines, and the GRP was clearly disappointed that the Philippines remained on the Tier Two Watch List. The government's reaction, however, was basically constructive. It is not exactly clear how the new interagency group created by Malacanang will fit in with all the other GRP offices and groups working on the issue, however. We do not have any further information regarding the Foreign Secretary's mention of the possible creation of special TIP courts. Mission will continue to drive home the points made in the report and encourage concrete action by the GRP. Upcoming events include the June 18-21 visit of G/TIP Senior Coordinator Mark Taylor and a PAS-sponsored "Achieving Trafficking Convictions" conference for law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges that is slated to be held in June or July (Ref C). MUSSOMELI

CASE: 6/18/2007

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Astana

CABLEID: 07ASTANA1666

CABLEDATE: 6/18/2007

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: KAZAKHSTAN: TIP REPORT GARNERS LITTLE ATTENTION BUT STIMULATES NEW THINKING

COUNTRY1: Kazakhstan

Although not pleased with the news of the downgrade of Kazakhstan to Tier II Watchlist, Azimova responded neutrally and focused on the future. She said that the GOK intended to move beyond the previous law enforcement-centered approach to combating TIP and wanted to improve the government's provision of assistance to TIP victims with a focus on social rehabilitation. She noted that the Vice Minister of Justice, Dulat Kustavletov had been in his current position less than half a year and was interested in new thinking and new directions in how to solve the TIP problem. 5. (SBU) Azimova expressed thanks for grants the U.S. had provided for law enforcement training and said she looked forward to future cooperation with the embassy on victim assistance. She remarked that it was important to study the experience of other countries in order to more effectively provide victim assistance in Kazakhstan. Finally, Azimova expressed interest in information that the U.S. might provide on how Kazakhstan could improve its TIP ranking.

CASE: 9/25/2006

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Manila

CABLEID: 06MANILA4053

CABLEDATE: 9/25/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: AMBASSADOR AND VICE PRESIDENT REAFFIRM USG-GRP PARTNERSHIP AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

COUNTRY1: Philippines

2. (U) During the conference, Vice President De Castro pulled Ambassador aside to discuss TIP privately. De Castro told Ambassador his government was pleased that the Philippines had been removed from the Tier 2 Watch List but reiterated that his government had to "do more." He suggested that the Philippines Overseas Employment Administration, the agency charged with oversight of overseas employment opportunities, should expand TIP awareness programs for those workers going overseas who are most at risk, such as young women. Noting the difficulty in prosecuting criminals because victims are reluctant to testify, he requested further USG assistance in training TIP prosecutors. He strongly emphasized the GRP concern for TIP and offered to continue to seek ways to cooperate with USG on the issue.

CASE: 8/5/2007

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Astana

CABLEID: 07ASTANA2113

CABLEDATE: 8/5/2007

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: KAZAKHSTAN: G/TIP ACTION PLAN SEEN AS A (MOSTLY) GOOD ROADMAP

COUNTRY1: Kazakhstan

On July 26 INL Officer delivered the TIP Action Plan demarche providing recommendations for increasing Kazakhstan's conviction and sentencing of traffickers, and improving assistance to victims to Ministry of Justice Office Director Elvira Abilkhasimovna Azimova. INL Officer provided a copy of the action plan as a non-paper. 2. Azimova responded positively, actively proposing ways that Kazakhstan could cooperate with the embassy to address the action points provided in reftel. To prepare for the interim report later this year she agreed to work more closely with embassy to provide complete and accurate data but noted that conviction statistics were somewhat cyclic, not following an annual cal

CASE: 6/13/2008

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Astana

CABLEID: 08ASTANA1111

CABLEDATE: 6/13/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: KAZAKHSTAN: TIP REPORT DELIVED

COUNTRY1: Kazakhstan

On June 4, Post delivered the annual Trafficking in Persons Report to Director of the Department of International Law of the Ministry of Justice Elvira Abilkhasimovna Azimova. A copy of the Kazakhstan narrative and non-paper were provided. The Ministry of Justice was complimented for being upgraded from Tier 2 Watch list to Tier 2 due to positive developments in investigations, prosecutions, and convictions of traffickers. Post recommended that Kazakhstan continue to improve conviction rates, ensure that traffickers serve sufficient time in prison, and provide assistance to victims of trafficking. 2. (SBU) Very pleased with the news, Azimova said that the GOK intends to work to further improve its TIP ranking by enhancing the victim assistance and protection components of the national anti-TIP action plan. Azimova expressed thanks for the assistance that the USG had provided for law enforcement training and said she looked forward to future cooperation with the Embassy on victim assistance as well. Post informed Azimova that improving Kazakhstan's assistance to TIP victims would remain an Embassy priority and that the Embassy will support the Ministry's earlier request to learn more about how other countries have effectively provided victim assistance and what methods the GOK could use.

CASE: 6/2/2005

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Doha

CABLEID: 05DOHA991
CABLEDATE: 6/2/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: QATAR: DELIVERY OF 2005 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT
COUNTRY1: Qatar

Classified By: Ambassador Chase Untermeyer for reasons 1.4 (A) and (B) 1. (U) DCM delivered advance draft of the 2005 TIP report and action plan for Qatar on Thursday, June 2 to Amb. Khalid Al-Mansouri, Director of the Americas and European Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 2. (C) DCM informed Al-Mansouri that Qatar had been placed on Tier 3 based on the lack of significant efforts between March 2004 and March 2005 to address the TIP issues described in the report. DCM described the reassessment process and timeline and reviewed with Al-Mansouri each point of the 60 day action-plan. 3. (C) Al-Mansouri said he was not surprised but was still disappointed at the Tier 3 ranking. He said that there were many significant actions the GOQ has taken that have not been recognized, such as the recent passage of a law banning the use of children as camel jockeys, the improvement of the children's living conditions, and the efforts underway to repatriate them. He noted that Qatar would bear a significant financial burden to compensate over 15,000 Qataris for losses as this practice is brought to an end and to fund the development and purchase of camel-jockey robots to replace the children. 4. (C) Al-Mansouri expressed concern that the lack of recognition of Qatar's efforts was "linked to other issues." (Comment: Without using the words "Al-Jazeera," Al-Mansouri was expressing a view held by many in the Qatari leadership that the U.S. aims to punish Qatar because of the anti-U.S. nature of Al-Jazeera broadcasting.) DCM assured Al-Mansouri that the TIP rating was based only on circumstances in Qatar and of actions taken or not taken by the GOQ to address those issues. DCM also noted that last January the Ambassador proposed to the GOQ several specific measures to improve the conditions of the underage camel jockeys, but no action was taken in response. The important and positive steps taken in recent weeks were laudable but came too late to be factored into the 2005 report. 5. (C) Al-Mansouri said that he hoped G/TIP's Ambassador Miller would make some "good" comments to the press about Qatar's recent efforts when the report is released on June 3. He also said that Qatar hoped to work together with the U.S. to address the TIP issues and to move Qatar from Tier 3 during the upcoming reassessment.

CASE: 7/6/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Djibouti
CABLEID: 06DJIBOUTI798
CABLEDATE: 7/6/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: DJIBOUTI: TIP TIER 2 WATCH LIST ACTION PLAN (2006-2007) DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Djibouti

On July 5, Poloff and Polasst delivered TIP Tier 2 Watch List Action Plan non-paper to Youssouf Aden Moussa, the Deputy Director of Bilateral Relations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Poloff explained that the United States is committed to working with Djibouti to combat trafficking in persons. Poloff gave non-paper to Youssouf and explained that the ideas listed in the Action Plan were recommendations offered to Djibouti for near-term action. Poloff informed Youssouf that an interim assessment will be conducted at the end of 2006, and encouraged Youssouf to communicate regularly with post regarding any steps taken by Djibouti to combat trafficking. Youssouf replied that he will forward the Action Plan accordingly, and agreed that regular contact with post on this issue would be a good idea.

CASE: 6/5/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Hanoi
CABLEID: 06HANOI1369
CABLEDATE: 6/5/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: Vietnam/TIP: DEMARCHE DELIVERED, RECEIVED WELL
COUNTRY1: Vietnam

Poloff delivered reftel demarche and an advance copy of the Vietnam language in the TIP report to Americas Desk Section Chief Le Chi Dzung June 5. Dzung was well briefed on the main TIP issues of concern regarding Vietnam in the report. He said that Vietnam appreciates the overall balance

shown in the report, and provided several specific responses.

CASE: 6/13/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Hanoi
CABLEID: 07HANOI1101
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: 2007 TIP REPORT HANDED OVER
COUNTRY1: Vietnam

Poloff delivered the Vietnam TIP report country narrative and Ref A talking points to the MFA on June 13. Our interlocutor was pleased that the USG acknowledged the GVN's progress on combating TIP during the reporting period, but disappointed that more details on the GVN's strong commitment in this area were not captured

CASE: 8/7/2005
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Djibouti
CABLEID: 05DJIBOUTI755
CABLEDATE: 8/7/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP ACTION PLAN: MEETING WITH DIRECTOR BILATERAL AFFAIRS
COUNTRY1: Djibouti

Hassan continued that Djibouti's main problem stems in immigration controls. He commented that illegal immigration is where all the prostitutes come from. Djibouti is working with the U.S., he said, on its border security, but there is still work to be done. Hassan stated Djibouti already has cooperation with its neighbors to discuss all things related to borders and immigration. Djibouti is working with its neighbors to find a way to regularize the numerous illegal immigrants resident in Djibouti for decades, but, he said, there must be research done to be sure that their claims of long-term residency are true. In addition, Djibouti has bilateral discussions to arrange the legal procedures for extradition with its neighbors. Pol/Econ suggested that since Djibouti already has bilateral commissions with its neighbors, it could easily add Trafficking in Persons as a topic for debate, thus fulfilling one point in the action plan. Hassan said Djibouti was perfectly willing to raise this issue in its bilateral commissions. He added, however, the difficulty would be determining whether its neighbors would in turn be willing to discuss Trafficking and act upon the commissions discussions. 3. (C) Hassan also noted that Trafficking in most senses is not documented to exist in Djibouti. He continued that many times the women working as prostitutes come to Djibouti to find jobs on their own and end up working as prostitutes. This is not an organized thing. Pol/Econ emphasized that this is where trafficking becomes a murky issue, and it is not always clear who is or is not a trafficking victim. She gave Hassan several fact sheets on trafficking and how to identify victims. She added that this particular issue is another excellent opportunity to work against trafficking through a public awareness campaign. By educating the public, the government can help arm the Djiboutian and immigrant women with the knowledge to recognize potential trafficking situations and how to assert their rights. Hassan said Djibouti is of course willing to consider this option. 4. (C) Pol/Econ asked Hassan about the ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which she noticed was on April 20, 2005. She inquired whether this convention was considered law for Djibouti. She said she would ask the Trafficking in Persons office in Washington whether, if this law was in force in Djibouti, it could serve as a national law, one of the steps in the action plan proposed to the Djiboutian government. Hassan said he would look into it and was eager to continue working on this issue.

CASE: 6/13/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Hanoi
CABLEID: 07HANOI1101
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: 2007 TIP REPORT HANDED OVER
COUNTRY1: Vietnam

In conclusion, Thanh stated that the MFA believes the State Department's annual TIP report is "very useful."

CASE: 7/25/2005

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Djibouti

CABLEID: 05DJIBOUTI708

CABLEDATE: 7/25/2005

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: TIP ACTION PLAN: DJIBOUTI'S INITIAL RESPONSE

COUNTRY1: Djibouti

Summary: Ambassador and Pol/Econ presented the demarche and proposed action plan 25 July to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mahamoud Ali Youssouf, and Director of Bilateral Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as requested in reftel. Youssouf was defensive about the statement that Djibouti is not making sufficient efforts to combat trafficking. He presented Ambassador with much of the same information that has been included in Post's reports on trafficking in persons, with some additional points. Youssouf commented the Government currently has a public awareness campaign led by a prominent religious leader, Sheik Abdourahman Bashir, on TV and radio to dissuade Djiboutian women from prostitution for moral and health reasons. He also mentioned the fact that Djibouti has a very politically sensitive agreement with Ethiopia that provides for entry for Djiboutians into Ethiopia without visas, but requires visas for Ethiopians to visit Djibouti. He said this is one way that Djibouti tries to keep trafficking out of Djibouti. End Summary. 2. (C) In a meeting 25 July with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mahamoud Ali Youssouf, and Director of Bilateral Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mohamed Ali Hassan, Ambassador discussed trafficking in persons and the proposed action plan for Djibouti. Ambassador explained that the Trafficking in Persons report for 2004-2005 was released in June and listed Djibouti as a Special Case. She continued that Djibouti was listed as such due to a lack of documentation to prove trafficking existed in Djibouti, but there was a strong suspicion that it was a problem. Ambassador explained the report is a tool to evaluate not whether a country has trafficking problems, but the efforts its government makes to prevent and prosecute trafficking. She explained the three tier rankings given to countries in the report and that Djibouti could in the next review be listed as a Tier 3 Country, if it did not move to comply with the standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). She stated that if evidence is found to document trafficking cases, and Djibouti was placed on the Tier 3 list, it would make Djibouti ineligible for U.S. assistance that was not humanitarian in nature. 3. (C) Youssouf responded that prostitution begins because there is poverty. He agreed that it existed in Djibouti that could not be denied, noting his own experience witnessing such activity on a street near his residence during a pre-dawn morning. Youssouf held the position that Djibouti is making a good deal of effort to combat the issues in the report. He also noted that Djibouti is willing to provide all the documents to prove that Djibouti has these laws and has adhered to the international conventions relating to these issues. Specifically, he mentioned that Djibouti has laws forbidding prostitution and pimping, and a vice-squad - the Brigade des Meurs - to stop prostitutes from working. The government was working to prevent prostitution for health reasons, and caring for prostitutes with HIV/AIDS. He also stated the Ministry of Interior does not deliver residence permits to women working as prostitutes. In addition, residence permits are not given to children under the age of 18 unless sponsored by a business or family member with a justifiable reason for their visit. Youssouf continued saying that Djibouti has a very politically tenuous stand concerning documentation for entry of certain nationals into Djibouti. With respect to Ethiopia and Egypt, Djiboutians can enter both countries without a visa, but Ethiopians and Egyptians must have a visa to enter Djibouti. These are two nations most likely to be problematic for Djibouti in the transit area, according to Youssouf. He said this is one way that Djibouti is working against trafficking. He added that many of the prostitutes are Ethiopian who come for jobs. Since poverty causes them to prostitute themselves, it is very difficult to prevent prostitution. 4. (C) Youssouf also mentioned that Djibouti has an awareness campaign on television and radio led by Islamic Sheik Abdourahman Bashir to dissuade young Djiboutians from prostituting themselves in hopes of marrying a foreign soldier in order to leave Djibouti. He said that this campaign works against prostitution for moral and health reasons. Youssouf continued that Djibouti also was working to stop the large number of small boats that smuggle Ethiopians, Somalians, and sometimes Djiboutians to Yemen. He said Djibouti has been strengthening its efforts in this area with the help of the French military as part of its efforts to counter terrorism, but also to stop trafficking. He felt these actions were a good effort against trafficking. 5. (C) Ambassador expressed appreciation for the efforts Djibouti is undertaking to combat trafficking. The U.S. had some additional recommendations concerning actions Djibouti might take in

this effort. She went over each of the recommended measures provided in Reftel and passed to the Minister a non-paper of the points in French and in English, as well as a copy of the TVPA.

CASE: 5/9/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 07KUWAIT729
CABLEDATE: 5/9/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: MOSAL MINISTER ON TERROR FINANCE, ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE, LABOR ISSUES
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

8, (C) Ambassador noted that Kuwait may revert to TIP Tier 3 status this year. While we have seen high-level engagement on TIP, the results have been weak. Shaykh Sabah agreed, saying "good intentions are not enough." He said TIP concerns had figured in recent cabinet discussions, including aspects of the new labor law and the building of new "labor cities." (Note: these are block housing compounds planned for single male workers, in some cases located far outside of urban areas. Their purpose is largely security-related.) He said the Ministry of Interior is paying more attention to the issue, particularly MOI U/S Shaykh Ahmed Al-Nawaf. He provided samples of a new multi-lingual brochure that will be distributed to arriving workers detailing their rights and responsibilities.

CASE: 6/17/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Sanaa
CABLEID: 09SANAA1122
CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: YEMEN TIP REPORT DEMARCHE: ROYG ACCEPTS RANKING, ACKNOWLEDGES ROAD AHEAD
COUNTRY1: Yemen

(SBU) PolOff delivered reftel demarche to Adil Dabwan, trafficking in persons expert at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor on June 15. Dabwan promised to discuss Yemen's Tier 2) Watch List ranking with the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, and expressed his appreciation for the early notification. Dabwan acknowledged that the ROYG must pass legislation criminalizing trafficking of persons - currently being discussed in Parliament - as well as work to better identify and provide services for victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. He expressed his personal hope that the downgrade in Yemen's ranking would provide the impetus for the ROYG to "finally complete this important action."

CASE: 1/23/2008
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kinshasa
CABLEID: 08KINSHASA62
CABLEDATE: 1/23/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: TIP TIER 2 ACTION PLAN
COUNTRY1: Democratic Republic of Congo

All three officials appeared to accept the recommendations in a positive manner and gave assurances they wanted to work closely with the U.S. in combating trafficking.

CASE: 6/4/2008
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 08KUWAIT637
CABLEDATE: 6/4/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES TIP AND RIHS DESIGNATION WITH NEW MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

Ambassador met June 3 with newly appointed Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Bader Al-Duwaila, to brief him on the June 4 release of the 2008 TIP report and Kuwait's downgrade to a Tier 3 ranking (Ref A). Ambassador noted that the exploitation of human labor capital was a global challenge we all faced; nonetheless the treatment of domestics and others in Kuwait was egregious and did not comport with the compassionate face of Islam she had also experienced throughout a long career in the region. Surely Kuwait did not wish to be known for its abuse of laborers and domestics. Ambassador explained that lack of progress on stated commitments by the GOK led to the latest Tier 3 ranking including establishing a permanent shelter for trafficking victims, enacting already-drafted anti-trafficking legislation, providing trafficking-related training to law enforcement, prosecutors and judges and providing evidence of increased investigations, prosecutions and convictions of TIP-related crimes. 3. (C) Al-Duwaila replied that he and the GOK understood and shared USG concerns.

CASE: 8/25/2009

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Kinshasa

CABLEID: 09KINSHASA786

CABLEDATE: 8/25/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: AMBASSADOR DELIVERS TIP REPORT TO FOREIGN MINISTER

COUNTRY1: Democratic Republic of Congo

Thambwe Mwamba was receptive, expressing total agreement that every effort needed to be made to bring about an improvement in the TIP situation. He asked what specific TIP problems existed in the DRC so that the DRC's effort could be as focused as possible. The ambassador replied that the issue of child soldiers was particularly worrisome. 4. (SBU) Thambwe promised to work with other concerned GRDC entities to effect positive change on TIP. Ambassador left a copy of the recently issued French translation of the 2008 TIP report.

CASE: 12/19/2008

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Kinshasa

CABLEID: 08KINSHASA1137

CABLEDATE: 12/19/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: DRC: 2008 TIP TIER 2 WATCH LIST ACTION PLAN

COUNTRY1: Democratic Republic of Congo

The recommendations given in the non-paper were well received by both ministers. They expressed interest in working closely with the U.S. to help combat trafficking. Poloff gave both ministers a copy of the 2008 Trafficking-in-Persons report along with the corresponding French translation of the introduction and DRC country narrative.

CASE: 11/16/2009

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Kinshasa

CABLEID: 09KINSHASA1013

CABLEDATE: 11/16/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: TIP Action Plan Demarche Delivered

COUNTRY1: Democratic Republic of Congo

Overall, response from most parties was positive. Kalenga and Yande expressed appreciation for the concern and assistance of the USG in recognizing this serious issue. Yande proposed the development of a national strategy to combat the problem of trafficking.

CASE: 6/18/2009

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Hanoi

CABLEID: 09HANOI559

CABLEDATE: 6/18/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: Vietnam TIP Report Delivered to GVN
COUNTRY1: Vietnam

Summary: On June 16, poloff delivered copies of the Vietnam 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report to Mr. Le Van Chuong, Head of the Central Coordination Office of the National Steering Committee Against Trafficking and Mr. Doan The Vinh, Deputy Head of Anti-Women and Children Trafficking Department, Bureau for Combating Social Evils, Ministry of Public Security. For the first time, GVN officials agreed that sending laborers overseas may put these workers at risk for human trafficking and acknowledged that Vietnam does not yet have sufficient mechanisms to deal with this issue. End

CASE: 6/5/2008
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Hanoi
CABLEID: 08HANOI663
CABLEDATE: 6/5/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: VIETNAM - 2008 TIP REPORT DEMARCHE
COUNTRY1: Vietnam

On June 4, Poloff delivered the 2008 TIP Report Country Narrative for Vietnam, as well as reftel talking points, to Mr. Pham Hoang Tung, Chief of the Legal and Consular Affairs Division, Consular Department, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). Poloff reviewed with Tung the recommendations section of the country narrative, focusing on Vietnam's export labor drive, the need for export labor controls, overseas worker protections and victim assistance. Tung noted that his government would have to study the text carefully before having an official reaction, but his initial reaction was positive.

CASE: 6/21/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 09KUWAIT608
CABLEDATE: 6/21/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES TIP WITH NEW MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

Despite his professed shock at the TIP report, the U.S.-educated Al-Afasi was courteous and expressed appreciation for the close U.S.-Kuwait relationship, saying, "Kuwait is your close friend" and, "We appreciate the major role the U.S. played in our liberation." He added that, "It is hard to find a Kuwaiti who doesn't like the U.S." and said this is one reason why Kuwaitis found such open criticism painful.

CASE: 2/20/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Vientiane
CABLEID: 07VIENTIANE137
CABLEDATE: 2/20/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: SEAS-2007 BULLETIN NO. 2 - NOMINATIONS DUE 20 FEB 07
COUNTRY1: Laos

- In a broader sense, within the relatively closed working environment of Laos, all Embassy contacts have to go through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Contacting Ministries such as Public Security as well as the courts, the procuratorate, and the police is especially difficult. DG Southam for the past several years has been more than a gate-keeper for our contacts with the Lao Government; he has been the Embassy's highest-level regular interlocutor. In many cases he personally stepped up to push the bureaucracy to resolve critical problems. When a lack of official information on the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) issue led the State Department to classify Laos as "Tier 3" -- non-cooperating, DG Southam got Lao prosecutors, court officials, and other government agencies to cooperate with the Embassy and provide closely-held information on the TIP issue and prosecutions that had underway without publicity. With the new information, Washington reclassified Laos as "Tier 2 Watch List" -- a much fairer assessment. In another area, DG Southam has been strongly supportive of the careful moves underway to improve our bilateral military-to-military relationship.

CASE: 6/25/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Beirut
CABLEID: 09BEIRUT704
CABLEDATE: 6/25/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: LEBANON: EMBASSY DELIVERS 2009 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Lebanon

On June 23, per reftel instructions, Poloff delivered the 2009 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report to the Surete Generale's (Immigration) Director of the Nationalities, Passports, and Foreigners Department General Siham Harake. We informed Harake that Lebanon had been downgraded to a Tier 2 Watch List country and explained the implications of this, including the possible sanctions and waivers involved if a country moves into Tier 3 status. Poloff described steps the GOL must take to improve its ranking, such as investigate and prosecute trafficking offenses under existing law, convict and punish trafficking offenders, develop and institute formal procedures to identify victims of trafficking among vulnerable populations, consider measures to lessen the abuse of the artist work permit as a conduit for sex trafficking and enforce Lebanese law prohibiting the confiscation of passports of foreign maids. 2. (SBU) Regarding the issue of confiscating foreign maids' passports, Harake said it was within her power to end this practice. She said she would ask for her supervisor's opinion, but said it was a relatively easy problem to correct. Movement on other recommendations would require further interagency talks with the Ministry of Justice and possible technical assistance from the United State on how to develop formal procedures for identifying TIP victims. 3. (SBU) Harake acknowledged that Lebanon needs to do more to solve its TIP problem. She said that the withdrawal of Shia Ministers from the cabinet in 2006, the July 2006 war with Israel, and the 18-month shutdown of Lebanon's parliament 2006-08 all led to a lack of progress regarding Lebanon's TIP problems. Harake added that she personally tried everything she could to get some of the issue solved, but was unsuccessful COMMENT ----- 4. (SBU) Post submitted a request for technical assistance from G/TIP on behalf of the GOL to help develop formal procedures for identifying TIP victims and drafting anti-TIP legislation. In addition, Post will organize a TIP roundtable discussion, composed of civil society leaders, GOL officials, and journalists to highlight and discuss problems and solutions to this problem. The Public Affairs Office posted the report to the Embassy website. We will follow up with the GOL on ending the practice of taking domestic workers' passports and other TIP matters. End Comment. SISON

CASE: 6/16/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Luanda
CABLEID: 09LUANDA367
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: ANGOLA: 2009 TIP REPORT DEMARCHE
COUNTRY1: Angola

Pinto welcomed dialog on this issue and stressed the obligation Angola had to protect its citizens against the scourge of trafficking. P

CASE: 6/22/2004
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Santo Domingo
CABLEID: 04SANTODOMINGO3667
CABLEDATE: 6/22/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: USG REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS HITS DOMINICAN NEWS
COUNTRY1: Dominican Republic

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) was on the front pages and in private discussions last week in the Dominican Republic. On June 14, poloffs delivered the 2003 Trafficking in Persons report and reftel talking points to Ambassador Rogert Espailat, Deputy Director of the Americas Desk at the GODR Foreign Ministry. Espailat noted the importance of the report and thanked us for our efforts to work with the Dominican Republic to improve its record on TIP issues. Poloffs stressed the need for continued efforts to enforce the 2003 anti-TIP law and urged the need for arrests and prosecutions.

Ambassador Espallat agreed that the GODR has taken the first steps to combat TIP, but needs vigorous future efforts.

CASE: 6/26/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Amman
CABLEID: 07AMMAN2757
CABLEDATE: 6/26/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: GOJ PUBLICLY RESPONDS TO 2007 TIP REPORT; PLANS TO BUILD A SHELTER FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING
COUNTRY1: Jordan

Jordanian Minister of Labor Basim Al-Salim downplayed the recently released Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report in an interview with Jordanian daily Al-Ghad published June 21. He did not deny the report's contents, but said the ministry "previously addressed" many issues raised in the report. Salim added that the TIP report "did not come up with anything new about Jordan." 2. (U) The accompanying article covered the contents of the report in detail, widely circulating the facts outlined in the TIP report, its conclusions, and proposed steps. 3. (SBU) During a previously scheduled meeting on June 21, MoL Secretary General Majed Habashneh elaborated to EconCouns on earlier GOJ responses to the report, and how the GOJ plans to address trafficking issues (ref a). He said the MoL is creating an interagency committee that would include representatives from the Ministries of Justice, Social Affairs, Interior, and the General Intelligence Department to deal with trafficking issues. Habashneh further reported that the Ministers of Justice and Labor met June 21 to discuss the possibility of drafting an anti-trafficking law, explaining that the only existing law addressed slavery and was out of date. He asked for training that would instruct employees from Labor, Interior, and Immigration on how to identify signs of trafficking and devise measures to stop it.

CASE: 6/6/2005
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Yerevan
CABLEID: 05YEREVAN986
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: DEMARCHE DELIVERED, ARMENIA ON TIP TIER 2 WATCH LIST
COUNTRY1: Armenia

Mkrtumyan said the National Action Committee met recently and conceded more progress needs to be made.

CASE: 6/5/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Yerevan
CABLEID: 06YEREVAN761
CABLEDATE: 6/5/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: 2006 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Armenia

DCM presented reftel points and the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report summary for Armenia to Deputy Foreign Minister Arman Kirakossian and Valery Mkrtumyan, head of Armenia's interagency Anti-TIP Commission, during a June 5 meeting. Mkrtumyan said the Anti-TIP Commission would take our concerns into consideration as they work on Armenia's new National Action Plan. He said that, given the USG's concern about victim-blaming, the Commission would emphasize victim protection during the formulation of the new plan. Mkrtumyan also agreed with the DCM that the participation of Post's new resident legal advisor in the discussion was a good idea.

CASE: 6/29/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 09KUALALUMPUR521
CABLEDATE: 6/29/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: DCM PRESENTS TIP ACTION PLAN TO HOME MINISTRY

COUNTRY1: Malaysia

1. (C) The DCM presented the trafficking in persons (TIP) action plan for Malaysia in a June 29 meeting initiated by the Home Ministry, which had sought an understanding of the steps Malaysia needs to take to upgrade itself from the current Tier 3 ranking in the U.S. TIP report. Deputy Home Minister Abu Seman and Senior Deputy Secretary General Raja Azahar noted that Malaysia wanted to work constructively with the U.S. on TIP and would welcome U.S. technical assistance, and the DCM emphasized our desire for partnership. The DCM carefully explained the distinction between human trafficking and human smuggling, a distinction that has been blurred during a recent increase in anti-smuggling operations. The DCM emphasized the importance of taking law enforcement action against labor traffickers. In implementing the TIP law, Azahar explained that the GOM had at first concentrated on combating sex trafficking, rather than labor trafficking. However, for gross labor trafficking violations Malaysia now would begin to use the TIP act instead of conventional laws related to labor contract violations. DCM also highlighted the need for a full law enforcement investigation of allegations of trafficking of refugees. In sidebar comments, senior police officials said they had undertaken such an investigation and were following leads in the border area with Thailand. The Deputy Minister informed us that Malaysia ratified the UN TIP Protocol in March 2009.

CASE: 6/8/2008

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Riyadh

CABLEID: 08RIYADH894

CABLEDATE: 6/8/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: SAUDIS ON TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Saudi Arabia

The Saudis responded with an explanation that most of the issues involving human trafficking in the Kingdom result from Hajj overstayers, not SAG policy or collusion. END SUMMARY. 2. (U) The TIP report's conclusion was amicably accepted by Al-Wasel, even though it placed Saudi Arabia in the Tier 3 category - the least favorable. He countered that the SAG does not condone or endorse human trafficking, and that the Kingdom has strict labor laws, claiming what abuses do occur are due to criminal elements, not by the SAG. 3. (U) Al-Wasel explained that the vast majority of human trafficking in Saudi Arabia results not from illegal or forced importation of people to Saudi Arabia, but is due to the hundreds of thousands of Hajj overstayers each year (Note: three million Muslims perform the annual Hajj, MOI estimates that each year 10% - 300,000 - overstay and remain in Saudi Arabia to work in any capacity, legal or illegal). Al-Wasel continued that one of the five pillars of Islam is for all Muslims to perform the Hajj - the annual pilgrimage to Mecca - at least once in their life. The SAG, as the responsible entity for Mecca and Medina, Islam's two most holy sites, can not deny entry to Muslims who want to perform their religious duty. The SAG issues entry visas each year to millions who want to make the Hajj pilgrimage, regardless of the fact that the economic situation in their home countries makes these pilgrims quite likely to overstay their Hajj visas to find illegal employment in Saudi Arabia. It is for this reason that he attributes the incidence of human trafficking in Saudi Arabia. 4. (C) Al-Wasel asked that this fact be considered in future reports. He cordially concluded by saying that the U.S. and Saudi Arabia share many common interests, especially regarding security and energy, and opined that while the TIP report was unfavorable to the Kingdom, it would not adversely impact our relationship if both nations kept it in the context of our broad bilateral interests.

CASE: 7/27/2004

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Santo Domingo

CABLEID: 04SANTODOMINGO4350

CABLEDATE: 7/27/2004

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: EMBASSY PRESENTS TIP ACTION PLAN TO DOMINICAN AUTHORITIES

COUNTRY1: Dominican Republic

On 23 July 2004 Poloffs met separately with Dominican MFA international organizations deputy Rhadys Abreu de Polanco and consular affairs director Dulce Rosario de la Maza to discuss the TIP issues set forth in reftel and to present the Tier 2 Watch List Action Plan for the Dominican Republic.

2. Both officials were receptive to the talking points and action plan and agreed that the Dominican Republic must work harder to combat trafficking, noting especially the need to enforce existing laws. They also pledged to brief the incoming authorities, who will take office on August 16, on the action plan and interim assessment. 3. COMMENT. Although the transition to a new government and expected turnover of many personnel in the MFA and other agencies complicates matters, we believe that both the present and incoming administrations are well aware of the need for action against trafficking. We will continue to press for additional effort and achievements by the GODR in accordance with the action plan.

CASE: 6/16/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Canberra
CABLEID: 09CANBERRA564
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: AUSTRALIA HAS RECEIVED ITS PORTION OF THE 2009 TRAFFICKING-IN-PERSONS (TIP) REPORT
COUNTRY1: Australia

June 16, poloff delivered the portion of the 2009 TIP report detailing the situation in Australia to Anna Garretson, Director of People Smuggling, Refugees and Immigration in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Garretson thanked poloff for the text and said her department would make comments in the coming days. CLUNE

CASE: 6/27/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Baku
CABLEID: 07BAKU812
CABLEDATE: 6/27/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: AZERBAIJAN: 2007 TIP REPORT DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Azerbaijan

Ismayilov and Asgarova were receptive to all suggestions, and expressed their desire for the MFA to be more involved in Azerbaijan's anti-TIP efforts, currently dominated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

CASE: 11/2/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Bamako
CABLEID: 09BAMAKO711
CABLEDATE: 11/2/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: MALI ADDRESSES LOW TIP RANKING
COUNTRY1: Mali

On October 16, the Embassy met with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice, Badou Hasseye Traore, to explain Mali's ranking and the need to prosecute suspected traffickers. Traore welcomed the Embassy's demarche, observing that TIP is an important issue and noting that the Ministry of Justice has designated its own point of contact on TIP, Special Advisor Bouya Dembele. Dembele, with whom we met subsequently on October 21, said he is collaborating closely with MPFEF. He said that, earlier in the same week, he had been called by Konipo to discuss the GOM's statistics on cases of trafficking over the past year as well as to discuss Mali's action plan, provided to Konipo and Dembele by the Embassy. Dembele said the Justice Ministry previously tracked cases of trafficking closely but had failed to do so in the past three years. He said this would be a renewed priority and should result in an increase in prosecutions.

CASE: 6/6/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Nouakchott
CABLEID: 06NOUAKCHOTT686
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2006

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: 2006 TIP REPORT DEMARCHE: GOVERNMENT DISAPPOINTED WITH LOWERED RATING, BUT COMMITTED TO FUTURE PROGR

COUNTRY1: Mauritania

1. (U) ADCM met June 1 with MOFA Secretary General Mohamed Lemine Ould Moulaye Zeine to deliver ref A demarche and English version of the 2006 TIP report. Later that day, Poloff delivered the same information to the Director of Human Rights Mohamedou Ould Tijani of the Commission for Human Rights, Insertion and the Fight Against Poverty, who chairs the government's Inter-Ministerial TIP Committee. 2. (U) Zeine told ADCM that he believed Mauritania should have received a higher rating, but added that "we are grateful for the continued help of the US in this and other areas, and intend to continue partnering with you to fight slavery in all its forms." "We will work to improve the economic, educational and social factors that lead to slavery," Zeine concluded.

CASE: 6/26/2007

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Nouakchott

CABLEID: 07NOUAKCHOTT584

CABLEDATE: 6/26/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: CHARGE MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER ZEINE OULD ZEIDANE

COUNTRY1: Mauritania

----- Trafficking in Persons ----- 8. (SBU) Charge raised the recent TIP report where Mauritania remained on the Tier II Watchlist. The Department would soon provide a proposed action plan, but generally, Mauritania needs to make stronger laws on slavery (which the new government has already committed to do) and to enforce existing trafficking laws better. The Prime Minister responded positively, stating that "we must create an environment that calls for the end of the problem." He demonstrated a clear understanding of the importance of the NGO sector, noting that civil society is weak in Mauritania. Charge noted that with the new government this would be an excellent opportunity to work to remove Mauritania from the Watchlist. Frankly, there was little incentive from either side during the transition period to take more than modest steps; now, a legitimate government can move forward. The Prime Minister stressed that organizations focused on the slavery issue should play a central role sensitizing the public and directing law enforcement officials to cases. When Charge mentioned that regional governors prefer to address cases administratively rather than referring cases to the courts, the Prime Minister stated that he intended to bring an end to this practice. Charge explained that the U.S. Embassy had previously worked on the issue with an inter-ministerial committee and urged the Prime Minister to reconstitute the committee, taking into consideration the changes in ministries' portfolios.

CASE: 6/3/2005

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Manila

CABLEID: 05MANILA2599

CABLEDATE: 6/3/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: TIP: PHILIPPINES BRIEFED ON 2005 REPORT

COUNTRY1: Philippines

1. (U) This message is Sensitive but Unclassified -- Please handle accordingly. 2. (SBU) Acting Polcouns on June 3 reviewed the Philippine portion of the 2005 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report with Ruth Morales Prado, Executive Director of the Office of American Affairs at the Department of Foreign Affairs. He also reviewed Philippine-specific points contained in Ref B, and noted that report and points were under embargo until after the press event at Department on June 3. Per the report, he emphasized the need for enhanced efforts by the GRP to move forward with prosecutions and to obtain convictions, as well as the need for the GRP to address allegations of corruption and fraud in the issuance of documents related to Filipino entertainers working overseas. 3. (SBU) Prado did not have any substantive comments in regard to the continued placement of the Philippines on the Tier Two Watch List. She said she appreciated the briefing, and related that she would share USG points with GRP agencies working on anti-trafficking issues in the law enforcement and social welfare fields. 4. (SBU) Public Affairs Counselor has reviewed key elements of the report with Ignacio Bunye, President Arroyo's Press Secretary. Mission has also briefed Gabby Claudio, the chief SIPDIS

political adviser to Arroyo. 5. (U) Mission will be posting a press statement, as well as the Philippine report, on its website on June 4 and will show the video of the Secretary's briefing at a June 6 press event. An interactive "web chat" on the Virtual Consulate Davao website is scheduled for June 8.

CASE: 6/5/2008

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Chisinau

CABLEID: 08CHISINAU585

CABLEDATE: 6/5/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: Moldova Deputy PM Promises Action and Cooperation on TIP Action Plan

COUNTRY1: Moldova

On June 4, Deputy Chief of Mission Kelly Keiderling presented Ref A TIP Action Plan and Ref B demarche to Deputy Prime Minister Victor Stepaniuc, who chairs the National Committee for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. Stepaniuc promised action and close cooperation with the Embassy on the Action Plan in order to lift Moldova out of its Tier 3 placement.

CASE: 7/30/2008

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Chisinau

CABLEID: 08CHISINAU794

CABLEDATE: 7/30/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: MOLDOVA TAKES STEPS TO REVERSE ITS TIER 3 TIP PLACEMENT

COUNTRY1: Moldova

2. (C) On July 29, the G/TIP team of Mark Taylor and Amy Rofman assessed compliance with the 60-day Tier 3 Placement Action Plan by meeting with Prime Minister Greceanii, Deputy Prime Minister (and Chairman of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons) Victor Stepaniuc, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons (CCTIP), the Ministry of Social Protection, the Prosecutor General's Office, and the Border Guards. The Prime Minister interrupted her crisis management of severe floods in the country to meet the delegation. All interlocutors focused on demonstrating that the GOM was taking seriously USG suggestions on fighting TIP.

CASE: 7/30/2008

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Chisinau

CABLEID: 08CHISINAU794

CABLEDATE: 7/30/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: MOLDOVA TAKES STEPS TO REVERSE ITS TIER 3 TIP PLACEMENT

COUNTRY1: Moldova

-- Deputy Prime Minister Stepaniuc confessed that while the TIP placement had irritated him when it was released on June 4, he now realized that it was accurate and objective. In a blunt mea culpa, he admitted that Moldova "has no tradition of holding public officials accountable," and that the Tier 3 placement "was a good lesson for us." He noted lack of coordination in GOM anti-TIP efforts, and poor data collection and reporting. He said that during the 60-day period the GOM had enacted an additional plan of action on TIP. The Prosecutor General was now reopening criminal investigations on six cases closed last year, and had started five new cases -- all eleven involving government officials. He stated that the new Director of CCTIP, Victor Hincu (former intelligence officer and President Voronin's personal choice for the position), was better prepared than his predecessor. CCTIP was currently involved in vetting all staff, and Stepaniuc expected CCTIP would be more effective in the future. Within this two month period the GOM had also enacted a government decree for creating a shelter for victims of trafficking. Regulations for repatriation of victims would also be enacted. He said that Moldova was drafting a code of conduct for public officials which would be finished and enacted by the end of the year. The Ministry of Interior, Border Guards and Prosecutor General's office had been given a deadline of September 15 to create a centralized data base. Stepaniuc declared that he had learned a great deal about downgrading of cases (from trafficking to pimping) and the involvement of GOM officials in trafficking in persons and illegal migration, but

pledged to improve the GOM's record in both areas. -- Stepaniuc presented an 8-page draft report (condensed from 100 pages of internal reporting) outlining the governments efforts taken during the 60-day period, and specifically focusing on the seven items in the 60-day Action Plan provided by Washington. He asked that the USG review and comment on this draft report before it is finalized.

CASE: 3/17/2005
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Bogota
CABLEID: 05BOGOTA2555
CABLEDATE: 3/17/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: EMBASSY BRIEFS GOC ON USG EFFORTS ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
COUNTRY1: Colombia

GOC representatives were very interested in increasing cooperation with the Embassy.

CASE: 7/3/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Freetown
CABLEID: 06FREETOWN537
CABLEDATE: 7/3/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: TIP TASK FORCE: UP BUT NOT QUITE RUNNING
COUNTRY1: Sierra Leone

2. On June 22, PolOff and Pol Intern met with Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA) Shirley Gbujama to discuss the progress of the TIP Task Force. Gbujama, having read the 2005 TIP report, was prepared to discuss her concerns and plans for the future of the TIP Task Force. She said the Task Force's first meeting would be held on June 27, nominees from several government ministries are expected to serve on the Task Force.

CASE: 9/22/2004
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Quito
CABLEID: 04QUITO2571
CABLEDATE: 9/22/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: ECUADOR COMMITTED TO USG TIP RECOMMENDATIONS
COUNTRY1: Ecuador

1. PolOff delivered reftel talking points including elements of a USG-supported action plan to combat TIP, to Carlos Jativa, the Minister of Government Raul Baca's assistant, on September 16. In a follow-up meeting with PolOff on September 20, Baca and Jativa concurred with the Tier 2 Watch List action plan requirements. PolOff informed the Minister that the Embassy is required to provide the Department a report of Ecuador's actions by November 15.

CASE: 1/12/2005
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Quito
CABLEID: 05QUITO78
CABLEDATE: 1/12/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: EMBASSY MOTIVATES GOE TO MOVE FORWARD ON TIP
COUNTRY1: Ecuador

4. (U) Carlos Polit, high-level advisor to the President, responded very positively to the DCM's call on January 3 explaining the interim assessment report and soliciting his assistance in making trafficking a key item on the GOE's agenda. Polit said President Gutierrez had told him on January 2 that the government should focus on combating TIP. Polit said he would consult with Damerval to move this issue forward.

CASE: 6/23/2009

CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Baghdad
CABLEID: 09BAGHDAD1655
CABLEDATE: 6/23/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: EMBASSY DISCUSSES TIP WITH MFA
COUNTRY1: Iraq

1. (SBU) On June 22, we delivered the 2009 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report to Minister Plenipotentiary Mohamed Alhamaimidi, the head of the North America desk at the MFA. We informed Alhamaimidi that the Department had evaluated and ranked Iraq as it does other countries, not as a special case, as had been done in previous years. We informed Alhamaimidi that Iraq has been ranked as a Tier 2 Watch List country and explained the implications of this, including the possible sanctions and waivers involved if a country moves into Tier 3 status. Deputy Political Counselor described steps that the GOI must take to improve its ranking, such as passing anti-TIP legislation, prosecuting violators, and protecting victims. 2. (SBU) Alhamaimidi acknowledged that Iraq does have a TIP problem and confirmed what the Minister of Human Rights had told us on June 16 (ref A) that the MFA had received a letter from the Government of Syria detailing a group of young Iraqi girls who had been trafficked for the purposes of prostitution and had subsequently been imprisoned. Alhamaimidi said that he was going to raise the issue with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to see if they could provide legal assistance in these types of cases. 3. (SBU) At the same time, Alhamaimidi seemed surprised when we raised the issue of third-country nationals who are trafficked into Iraq for purposes of labor exploitation. He claimed that the GOI had nothing to do with this issue and thus could not be held responsible. We responded that the report did not accuse the GOI of being involved in labor trafficking, but noted that the GOI needed to do more to provide assistance to victims and punish those responsible. We will continue to raise the issue of TIP with the GOI

CASE: 6/7/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Baghdad
CABLEID: 06BAGHDAD1923
CABLEDATE: 6/7/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: HUMAN RIGHTS MINISTER DISCUSSES TRAFFICKING, PRISON ABUSE, AND HADITHA
COUNTRY1: Iraq

On June 1, PolCouns delivered talking points (ref A) on the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report to Human Rights Minister Wijdan Mikhail Salim. Salim expressed interest in the issue as well as in learning more about the data supporting the assessment on Iraq. PolCouns agreed to assist the Minister and to continue further discussion on this issue.

CASE: 1/4/2005
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Asuncion
CABLEID: 05ASUNCION6
CABLEDATE: 1/4/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: G/TIP VISIT REVIEWS PARAGUAY'S EFFORTS
COUNTRY1: Paraguay

Paraguay needs to place emphasis upon law enforcement and prosecutions of traffickers. As Brown noted, other countries have arrested the owners of brothels to which Paraguayan women have been trafficked. Paraguay needs to use the information acquired in these cases to track down and prosecute the traffickers recruiting the girls in their home towns, as happened in Villarica. Nevertheless, that discussion of trafficking in Paraguay has progressed to this level illustrates the higher profile given to trafficking. It is a priority across the GOP, as the creation of an interministerial roundtable indicates. Post is contributing to Paraguayan efforts through its bilateral assistance program. We appreciate GOP efforts to supply us with data on trafficking prosecutions, and are encouraged by the conviction and sentencing of the two traffickers in Villarica

CASE: 6/7/2006

CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Jakarta
CABLEID: 06JAKARTA7216
CABLEDATE: 6/7/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: INDONESIA RESPONDS CONSTRUCTIVELY TO TIP DEMARCHE, FOCUSES ON TASKS AHEAD
COUNTRY1: Indonesia

We delivered the Indonesia TIP report demarche (ref D) to relevant senior GOI officials. Based on the existing strong partnership with the U.S. Mission, the officials responded constructively with a litany of recent and near-term actions. The outlook for passage this year of the anti-trafficking in persons bill remained positive. Senior officials cited President Yudhoyono's personal commitment to better protect Indonesians abroad. End Summary. Senior Officials Receive Demarche ----- 2. (SBU) On June 5 we informed the GOI of Indonesia's Tier II Watch List status. We delivered the Indonesia TIP report demarche (ref D) on June 6-7 to the senior officials who lead the Indonesian Government's national anti-trafficking task force, Deputy Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare Maswita Djaya and Deputy Women's Empowerment Minister Sumarni Dawam Rahardjo. We also provided them with an Indonesian translation of the country narrative. We conveyed the same information to senior officials and advisors at the Attorney General's Office during a June 7 meeting with the Attorney General. We will present this information to the National Police Headquarters in the coming days. Focus on Action Items ----- 3. (SBU) We discussed the report in detail with Maswita and Sumarni, with particular focus on the action items identified in the 2006 TIP report, including passage of the comprehensive anti-trafficking bill. We also emphasized the importance of documenting and accurately reporting law enforcement statistics. Both Maswita and Sumarni, in separate meetings, responded constructively to the demarche. They acknowledged the inclusion of incomplete (underreported) law enforcement data in the GOI's own annual trafficking report for 2006. Maswita and Sumarni expressed optimism regarding passage of the TIP law and increased actions against child prostitution and abusive child domestic labor. They believed anti-corruption measures specifically tied to trafficking constituted the most difficult of the three areas for improvement, but noted progress in Indonesia's larger anti-corruption campaign. Maswita and Sumarni reviewed a number of recent and pending GOI actions.

CASE: 8/30/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Colombo
CABLEID: 07COLOMBO1188
CABLEDATE: 8/30/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: SRI LANKA OPEN TO ENGAGEMENT ON TIP ACTION PLAN
COUNTRY1: Sri Lanka

The GSL seems to have a good grasp of TIP issues and an awareness of its own shortcomings. Most of our interlocutors on TIP seem eager to make improvements and willing to work with the U.S. on this. However, they also are pragmatic about what can be accomplished, at least in the short term, given Sri Lanka's resource and capacity constraints. With several different government ministries and departments sharing responsibility for addressing different aspects of the trafficking in persons issue, effective coordination within the government is lacking. The MFA's proposal, as a result of our presentation of the action plan, to establish a GSL working group on TIP is a positive step.

CASE: 7/20/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Conakry
CABLEID: 07CONAKRY831
CABLEDATE: 7/20/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: Guinea 2007 TIP Report: Demarche to the Minister of Social Affairs
COUNTRY1: Guinea

The Minister welcomed the report and the ongoing engagement of the United States on TIP issues.

CASE: 5/5/2008

CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Islamabad
CABLEID: 08ISLAMABAD1751
CABLEDATE: 5/5/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: DRL ASSISTANT SECRETARY KRAMER'S CALL ON THE MINISTER OF LABOR
COUNTRY1: Pakistan

4. (SBU) Turning to trafficking in persons (TIP), A/S Kramer informed Shah that the USG would like to work with Pakistan on the issue and did not want to see Pakistan drop in TIP rankings from Tier 2 to Tier 3. Shah recognized that TIP remains a concern for Pakistan and pledged that the new government is taking the issue seriously. Hayat remarked that TIP remains mostly in the purview of the Ministry of Interior. However, the Ministry of Labor is taking steps, particularly among brick kilns in Sindh, to combat bonded labor and provide housing and schools for freed laborers.

CASE: 6/12/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Guatemala
CABLEID: 07GUATEMALA1145
CABLEDATE: 6/12/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: DEMARCHE ON 2007 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Guatemala

DCM delivered reftel demarche to Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Marta Altolaguirre, informing her of the June 12 release of the 2007 TIP Report and G/TIP's decision to place Guatemala on the Tier 2 Watch List this year based on criteria outlined in reftel. Altolaguirre acknowledged that enforcement operations have not been optimal during the past year and pledged renewed efforts to secure better cooperation from the Attorney General's office, leading to investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases. 2. (U) Vice Minister Altolaguirre said she would review Guatemala's country narrative and seek a meeting with us in the coming days to outline a strategy for improving Guatemala's performance. Embassy will follow up with the Foreign Ministry, the Attorney General's office, and other key Guatemalan institutions to seek ways to work together to improve Guatemala's anti-trafficking efforts. DCM provided a copy of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), with amendments and ranking criteria. Derham

CASE: 6/16/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Phnom Penh
CABLEID: 06PHNOMPENH1134
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: DCM DELIVERS TIP DEMARCHE TO CAMBODIAN POLICE COMMISSIONER HOK LUNDY
COUNTRY1: Cambodia

On June 16, the DCM delivered the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) demarche to Cambodian National Police Commissioner Hok Lundy. While praising Cambodian actions to earn the upgrade from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List, the DCM noted that arrests and prosecutions for TIP are down this year and urged greater activism by police, including in cooperation with NGOs and in confronting corruption in police ranks. Lundy stressed that anti-TIP work was one of the top three priorities of the Cambodian police force and pledged full cooperation.

CASE: 6/16/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Islamabad
CABLEID: 06ISLAMABAD11365
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES PAKISTAN'S TRAFFICKING EFFORTS WITH MINISTER SHERPAO
COUNTRY1: Pakistan

On June 12, Ambassador met with Interior Minister Sherpao to cover a broad range of issues (other reported septels), including trafficking in persons. Minister Sherpao said he had read the 2006 TIP report and found the section on Pakistan to be encouraging. He also thanked Ambassador for his support of Pakistan's anti-trafficking efforts. 2. (SBU) Minister Sherpao agreed with the report's conclusion that internal trafficking occurs in Pakistan. He said that the problem is getting provincial authorities, who currently have jurisdiction over internal trafficking, to act. He added that he is working to get the provincial authorities to be more aggressive in fighting internal trafficking. Minister Sherpao also said that while currently the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) does not investigate internal trafficking cases, the Ministry will change the FIA's jurisdiction to include internal trafficking. 3. (SBU) Minister Sherpao also detailed two Government of Pakistan (GOP) initiatives that relate to its anti-trafficking efforts. The first is a recently created Public Safety Commission at the federal level. This Commission is intended to foster communication and create a working relationship between federal law enforcement officials and civil society. The second initiative is the recently-created gender crimes unit at the FIA, which is intended to investigate crimes against women, including trafficking. 4. (SBU) Comment. Although Minister Sherpao and Ambassador discussed a broad range of issues in their meeting, Minister Sherpao originally calling the meeting to discuss the 2006 TIP report demonstrates the high-level attention trafficking receives in the GOP. End comment. CROCKER

CASE: 9/6/2006

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Phnom Penh

CABLEID: 06PHNOMPENH1606

CABLEDATE: 9/6/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: TIP MEETING WITH CAMBODIAN POLICE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

COUNTRY1: Cambodia

Savoeun thanked the A/DCM for her recommendations.

CASE: 10/17/2007

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Phnom Penh

CABLEID: 07PHNOMPENH1308

CABLEDATE: 10/17/2007

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: CAMBODIA TIP ACTION PLAN RECEIVED WITH INTEREST, INTENT, DOUBTS

COUNTRY1: Cambodia

Royal Government of Cambodia anti-TIP contacts eagerly received the Cambodia Tier 2 Watch List Action Plan and stated their intent to work towards the goals of the plan's high-priority action items.

CASE: 6/18/2009

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Khartoum

CABLEID: 09KHARTOUM764

CABLEDATE: 6/18/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: GOS INFORMED OF RELEASE OF 2009 TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Sudan

Poloffs met with Government of Sudan (GOS) Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Acting Director of the Americas Desk Ambassador Yassir Mohammed Ali on June 17 to inform him of the release of the 2009 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. Receiving the copies of the TIP Report for Sudan, Ambassador Ali thanked poloffs. He said Sudan is working on improving its performance on TIP-related issues. Polchief noted that despite its Tier 3 ranking, Sudan has made some limited improvements in TIP, including increasing its cooperation with UNICEF on issues of child protection, and passing the 2008 Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) Act. The latter outlaws the recruitment of child soldiers in the SAF. Poloff drew attention to the areas for improvement cited in the report. 2. (SBU) Amb. Ali said that the passage of the 2008 SAF Act will ensure that Sudan follows international conventions by not enlisting children into its armed forces, and reminded poloffs that rebel groups active in Darfur still recruit minors for armed conflict. Regarding both smuggling and trafficking in Eastern Sudan, Amb. Ali said that Sudanese borders with Eritrea, Ethiopia and Egypt are long and

difficult to protect. He maintained that that the GOS views its problems with TIP - both as a source and transit country - as ones that must be solved regionally, especially with the cooperation of Egypt.

CASE: 8/28/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Phnom Penh
CABLEID: 09PHNOMPENH637
CABLEDATE: 8/28/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: CAMBODIA: TIP ACTION PLAN DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Cambodia

Chou acknowledged the Tier 2 Watchlist rating for Cambodia, and stated her belief that it was in part due to the Government's failure to report accurately on the work being done. S

CASE: 7/11/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Dushanbe
CABLEID: 07DUSHANBE1057
CABLEDATE: 7/11/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: TAJIKISTAN PROMISES CONTINUED ANTI-TIP REFORMS
COUNTRY1: Tajikistan

PolOff delivered the Russian translation of the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report to Abdurahmon Azimov, head of the Interagency Commission Against Trafficking in Persons, July 5. (Note: PolOff had previously delivered the Trafficking in Persons report to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the day it was released in English. End Note.) When Azimov questioned Tajikistan's Tier 2 ranking, PolOff explained that although Tajikistan is making efforts to curb trafficking, it still does not meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. PolOff expressed appreciation for the actions already taken by the government and outlined the areas where the government needs to improve, including: amending trafficking legislation to better define trafficking, the need to curb corruption, particularly among government offices, and the need vigorously to investigate, prosecute, convict and sentence traffickers or those involved in trafficking crimes. 2. (SBU) Azimov thanked PolOff for the United States' critique of Tajikistan's anti-trafficking efforts and for the Embassy's support and assistance. He informed PolOff that the interagency commission has submitted draft amendments to Tajikistan's trafficking in persons law and expects parliament will pass it soon. Imbedded in the draft laws are provisions that mandate the government finance and set up an additional five shelters for trafficking victims. In addition, various government ministries and agencies are contributing to a new draft body of law regarding corruption. Azimov said the law will include specific points on corruption related to trafficking in persons. 3. (SBU) Azimov produced a lengthy report and explained that the interagency recently audited the Ministry of Interior to examine its anti-trafficking activities. Azimov commented that the Ministry of Interior is "doing its job," but did not elaborate. The government continues to repatriate victims from the United Arab Emirates and organize seminars to train government officials to fight trafficking in persons. In April, President Rahmon visited the United Arab Emirates and signed five bilateral cooperation agreements which included an agreement between the two countries' Ministries of Interior for increased cooperation to fight organized crime rings and an extradition agreement. In addition, 25 Afghan officials have visited Tajikistan on an exchange to share information and learn from each other's experiences in combating trafficking in persons. 4. (U) The Embassy has posted the TIP report on the Embassy website in English and Russian and will soon post it in Tajiki. PolOff presented the report at a student conversation group at the Bactria Center June 20 and at the American Corner July 3. Post will also host a roundtable discussion and show a film later this month.

CASE: 6/16/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 09MUSCAT635
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: OMAN TIP REPORT DELIVERED: "THE GOAL IS TIER ONE"
COUNTRY1: Oman

Charge' previewed the Oman Trafficking in Persons Report (ref A) with MFA number two SecGen Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al-Humud Al Busaidi June 16, who accepted the news of a Tier 2 ranking graciously and noted that Oman's goal remained a Tier 1 ranking. Sayyid Badr explained that Oman was building an anti-tip system from the ground up and would not resort to short cuts or "cosmetic" steps that might actually damage progress in the longer term. 2. (C) In discussing recommended next steps, Sayyid Badr was confident that both the national anti-trafficking plan and government shelters would be completed soon. Training would also be continued. He asked whether the MFA-provided TIP report had proved helpful. The Charge' noted that it was, but maximum transparency and free access to discuss TIP with appropriate government agencies was also essential. For example, the access to the Attorney General's office to discuss details of the first case tried under the new TIP law (ref B) was vital. Sayyid Badr committed to work closely with the Embassy over the coming year to counter TIP. HURTADO

CASE: 1/15/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Yaounde
CABLEID: 09YAOUNDE38
CABLEDATE: 1/15/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: Human Rights Outreach in Cameroon
COUNTRY1: Cameroon

Ali said his Ministry was working on the TIP issue and had recently met with representatives from the American Bar Association (ABA) on the issue. Note: ABA sources said they had had a productive, hours long meeting with Minister Ali and his staff on TIP. End note.

CASE: 9/19/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Bangkok
CABLEID: 07BANGKOK5011
CABLEDATE: 9/19/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: EMBASSY URGES GREATER RTG EFFORT ON LABOR TRAFFICKING
COUNTRY1: Thailand

Nongnuth said she appreciates having a discussion on TIP at a senior level and welcomes the opportunity to start a dialogue well in advance of the TIP report drafting period. She noted that she leads an annual visit to Washington, usually in February or March, to discuss TIP issues with G/TIP and on Capitol Hill prior to the release of the report each year. She agreed that more progress is needed in the area of labor trafficking and that the TIP report has always been viewed as a "wake-up call" for RTG agencies to address areas where TIP is prevalent. The RTG fully understands the strong interest in TIP matters on Capitol Hill and within the State Department and other USG agencies charged with implementing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA).

CASE: 6/5/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Tunis
CABLEID: 06TUNIS1364
CABLEDATE: 6/5/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: 2006 TIP REPORT - TUNISIA
COUNTRY1: Tunisia

Classified By: AMBASSADOR WILLIAM HUDSON FOR REASONS 1.4 (b) AND (d) 1. (C) On June 5, DCM, accompanied by Laboff, delivered Ref B demarche on the 2006 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report to MFA Director for the Americas Fadhel Ayari. Ayari stressed that, to his knowledge and as various Ministries noted during Laboff's TIP-related meetings, there was no trafficking in persons taking place in Tunisia. Ayari said that, while the GOT would need time to review the narrative, it seemed unjust to include Tunisia in Tier 2, given the country's progressive legislation on TIP and women's and children's issues. Being listed, said Ayari, "is disappointing given our efforts," explaining that Tunisian measures to combat illegal migration to Europe have been recognized by several

European countries. 2. (C) Ayari said that the GOT may have further comments after reviewing the narrative. However, he stressed that the GOT looks forward "to coordinating our efforts and exchanging information." He was also interested in the possibility of working with the USG on anti-trafficking programs and will suggest areas for possible cooperation in the coming year.

CASE: 6/6/2005
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Paris
CABLEID: 05PARIS3896
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: 2005 TIP DEMARCHE DELIVERED - FRANCE
COUNTRY1: France

(U) Per reftel, on June 3, Acting Political Counselor called Jean-Michel Colombani, Chief of France's Central Office for the Repression of Trafficking of Human Beings, to convey to the Government of France the USG 2005 evaluation of France's 2004 performance on combating trafficking in persons. Colombani expressed his appreciation for the advance notice of the report. Acting Pol Couns emphasized to Colombani the importance of continued cooperation on protection, prosecution and victim protection in the coming year. Post will continue working with the GOF to encourage its fight against trafficking in persons.

CASE: 6/14/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Tallinn
CABLEID: 07TALLINN395
CABLEDATE: 6/14/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: ESTONIAN REACTION TO 2007 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Estonia

June 13, we delivered reftel points informing the GOE of the release of the 2006 TIP (trafficking in persons) Report and Estonia's Tier 2 status to Mai Hion, MFA Director for Human Rights. Hion was pleased that the Report acknowledged the progress the GOE has made in combating TIP - principally in implementing its National Action Plan (NAP) to combat TIP and increasing its anti-TIP budget. Hion said the GOE remains committed to the full implementation of the NAP and making new anti-TIP funding permanent. 2. (SBU) In discussion with Poloff, Hion was receptive to suggestions that Estonia improve its regional and international cooperation to identify, repatriate, and assist Estonian TIP victims abroad. Asked whether the GOE intended to introduce trafficking-specific legislation, Hion said the Ministry of Justice plans to re-examine the effectiveness of the 15 articles of the criminal code the GOE uses to prosecute TIP crimes. The GOE will then consider whether a TIP-specific statute is necessary. 3. (U) Hion repeatedly asked for U.S. assistance to improve its anti-TIP program. Specifically, she requested training to improve Estonia's inter-agency coordination and outreach to NGOs. While the GOE has made progress on both counts, Hion admitted that more there is still room for improvement and any assistance from the USG would be greatly appreciated. 4. (SBU) Comment: We found Hion focused on the substance of the fight against TIP, rather than on the nuances of tier classification and cross-country comparisons. This is a positive sign and, we believe, one that reflects the increasing sensitization and growing commitment of GOE officials to anti-TIP efforts

CASE: 8/31/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Tallinn
CABLEID: 06TALLINN794
CABLEDATE: 8/31/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: ESTONIA TIP ACTION PLAN DEMARCHE DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Estonia

On August 29 Poloff delivered talking points (as per reftel) to Riina Pihel, Acting MFA Director for Human Rights, and Karen Tikenberg, Third Secretary, to explain to the GOE specific areas of SIPDIS concern noted in the 2006 TIP Report. Pihel said the GOE was thankful for the "valuable suggestions", as the TIP problem is a relatively new phenomenon, and GOE officials are still relatively

inexperienced combating it. Pihel said the MFA would carefully review and consider the USG's recommendations within the coming month.

CASE: 11/15/2005
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy San Salvador
CABLEID: 05SANSALVADOR3224
CABLEDATE: 11/15/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: DEMARCHE DELIVERED - TIP TIER 2 ACTION PLAN
COUNTRY1: El Salvador

On November 9, 2005, PolOff delivered Reftel talking points to Jorge Santibanez, Director of Migration. Santibanez acknowledged the diffencies, and expressed a real desire to address them. He also noted that his government lacked the financial and manpower resources to fully implement all suggestions for improvement. PolOff pledged Embassy support to assist the GOES in confronting trafficking in persons issues.

CASE: 6/15/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Ndjamena
CABLEID: 09NDJAMENA230
CABLEDATE: 6/15/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: GOC INFORMED OF NEW TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS TIER III RANKING
COUNTRY1: Chad

Later June 15, Charge took the opportunity also to inform Minister of Human Rights, Abderaman Djasnabaille of Chad's new Tier III ranking. (The Minister had submitted a written request for USG funding to help finance travel by a Chadian delegation to the 96th Session of the UN Committee on Human Rights July 13 - 31.) Charge explained that Chad had demonstrated insufficient effort to combat trafficking and advised the Minister and his staff on ways the GoC could show progress on the issue. Minister Djasnabaille thanked the Charge for her visit, expressed interest in greater collaboration with the USG, and seemed particularly eager to welcome assistance by USG experts on trafficking.

CASE: 10/1/2008
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Guatemala
CABLEID: 08GUATEMALA1232
CABLEDATE: 10/1/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: DEMARCHE ON GUATEMALA TIP TIER 2 WATCH LIST ACTION PLAN (2008-2009)
COUNTRY1: Guatemala

Poloff delivered reftel demarche and non-paper to Erick Maldonado, Director of Consular and Immigration Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Alexander Colop, Chief Prosecutor of the Anti-TIP Unit of the Attorney General's Office; and Ana Maria Mendez, Chief Defender of Immigrants' Rights in the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office. 2. Maldonado, who serves as the GOG point of contact on TIP issues, Colop, and Mendez expressed their appreciation for the action plan and their commitment to strengthen efforts to address trafficking in persons, focusing on protection of victims and prosecution of traffickers. Post will report septel on Guatemala's progress on the recommendations in the action plan for the interim assessment.

CASE: 6/16/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 09KINGSTON478
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: JAMAICA: DELIVERY OF DEMARCHE ON 2009 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) REPORT
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

Per reftel, EmbOff delivered demarche advising Jamaica of its tier ranking and the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report's imminent release to Mr. Samuel Blake, Director of the Office of Organized Crime and Defence in the Government of Jamaica's (GOJ) Ministry of National Security and Chairman of GOJ's TIP Task Force on the afternoon of June 15. 2. (SBU) Mr. Blake expressed thanks for the information, noted that GOJ was pleased that it had retained its Tier 2 ranking, and concurred with the areas of recommended improvement. The Director also advised EmbOff that he looked forward to working with the Embassy on the 2010 TIP Report. Post will report any further response from the G

CASE: 6/15/2009

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait

CABLEID: 09KUWAIT593

CABLEDATE: 6/15/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: TIP REPORT DEMARCHE: GOK WELCOMES CRITICISM, SAYS IT MUST "FINISH ITS HOMEWORK"

COUNTRY1: Kuwait

POLCOUNS on June 15 delivered reftel demarche notifying Kuwait of its Tier 3 ranking in the 2009 TIP report both to Mr. Hamad Sulaiman Al-Mishaan, First Secretary of the Americas Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), and to Mr. Hamad Al-Medhadi, Undersecretary for Co-operative Affairs and Acting Undersecretary at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MOSAL). In response, both GOK officials said they would immediately forward the demarche message to their respective Ministers. 2. The MFA's Al-Mishaan was very welcoming and thanked POLCOUNS for briefing him prior to the June 16 public release of the report. He recognized the GOK's own shortcomings on TIP and expressed a curiosity over how Bahrain and other GCC countries fared in this year's TIP rankings. His final remark on the GOK's TIP efforts was, "We have homework. We should finish our homework."

CASE: 7/22/2009

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Nouakchott

CABLEID: 09NOUAKCHOTT486

CABLEDATE: 7/22/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: MINISTRY OF JUSTICE WOULD WELCOME USG HELP IN COMBATING SLAVERY

COUNTRY1: Mauritania

1. Summary: The Ministry of Justice has been informed of Mauritania's reclassification to Tier 3 in the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report and has been briefed about the process and potential consequences for future USG- Government of Mauritania engagement. Dr. Haimoud Ould Ramadhane, Advisor to the Ministry of Justice, reassured PoOff of the government's commitment to fighting slavery and hoped the USG would help the Ministry with the implementation of any USG-proposed Action Plan to bring Mauritania back to Tier 2. He highlighted the government's latest efforts against poverty that target former slave populations and recognized that despite a solid legal framework, the government had failed at implementation of the anti-slavery law. He cited the disconnect and mistrust between the government and civil society as one of the causes for program failures. Ramadhane stated the USG can help by assisting Mauritania in standing up an anti-slavery brigade to investigate slavery cases in urban and rural areas. End summary. 2. (C) PoOff met on July 21 with Dr. Haimoud Ould Ramadhane, Advisor to the Ministry of Justice, to discuss Mauritania's reclassification to Tier 3 in the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report and underscore how important trafficking issues, particularly slavery, would be for the USG moving forward. Ramadhane stated he was already aware of Mauritania's reclassification and pointed out that the USG, despite its so-called interest in eradicating slavery, "had never given a single penny to the Ministry to help with anti-slavery programs since 2005." He stated he hoped the USG would help the Ministry in the application of any USG-proposed Action Plan to bring Mauritania back to Tier 2. Note: Ramadhane, a descendant of slaves, is the author of the Law on the Exploitation of Individuals, the Children's Code and participated in the drafting of the Law Against Slavery. End Note.

CASE: 6/19/2003

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Ottawa
CABLEID: 03OTTAWA1740
CABLEDATE: 6/19/2003
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH NEW CANADIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER HARDER
COUNTRY1: Canada

On the recent Trafficking in Persons report, the Ambassador explained that Canada had been dropped from Tier 1 to Tier 2 status because of inadequate enforcement and prosecution. We hope that the anti-trafficking legislation Canada enacted in 2002 will make a difference. Harder said that Citizenship and Immigration Canada was puzzled by the lower ranking, and that our official cooperation on this issue has been excellent.

CASE: 6/18/2003
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Ottawa
CABLEID: 03OTTAWA1722
CABLEDATE: 6/18/2003
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH NEW CANADIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER HARDER
COUNTRY1: Canada

On the recent Trafficking in Persons report, the Ambassador explained that Canada had been dropped from Tier 1 to Tier 2 status because of inadequate enforcement and prosecution. We hope that the anti-trafficking legislation Canada enacted in 2002 will make a difference. Harder said that Citizenship and Immigration Canada was puzzled by the lower ranking, and that our official cooperation on this issue has been excellent. The Ambassador said that one area where Canada could help would be removal of South Korea from its visa waiver program, as this is one route for sex trade victims to enter Canada.

CASE: 6/16/2004
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Sanaa
CABLEID: 04SANAA1475
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2004
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP: MINISTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS DISCUSSES ROYG PROGRESS
COUNTRY1: Yemen

The Minister thanked DCM for notifying her of Yemen's place in the TIP report as a special case. She said that trafficking in persons was a new issue for Yemen that was not widely understood. She agreed that, although information was fragmentary on the scope of the problem, actions must be taken to address the issue. She noted excellent cooperation with the Embassy, thanking Post for helping the ROYG understand the problem. She said she was happy that other ROYG ministries took the previously "not known" issue seriously when it was raised in detail in the last year, particularly praising the cooperation of the Ministry of Interior (MOI). DCM noted the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MOI for the INL riot control training program with police, which the Minister welcomed. DCM also emphasized the importance of MOI in the prevention and prosecution of traffickers.

CASE: 6/14/2006
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Minsk
CABLEID: 06MINSK627
CABLEDATE: 6/14/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: EMBASSY MINSK WEEKLY REPORT - June 9, 2006
COUNTRY1: Belarus

On June 8, Belarusian Foreign Ministry spokesman Andrei Popov described the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report of the U.S. Department of State as "balanced and constructive." Popov said that Belarus currently cooperates with other countries and international organizations and welcomed the United

States to join its effort.

CASE: 9/21/2009
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Managua
CABLEID: 09MANAGUA919
CABLEDATE: 9/21/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: NICARAGUA: TIP TIER 2 WATCHLIST ACTION PLAN DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Nicaragua

On September 18, PolOff delivered the action plan in reftel to Eloy Isaba, President of the National Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons (NCATP). The NCATP is an inter-agency organization under the Minister of Government. Isaba appreciated the recommended measures in reftel and said he would pass it to the Minister of Government. He also asked that we formally present the action plan to the Minister in a letter. Isaba stated only the Minister could take the decision on the recommended action plan. CALLAHAN

CASE: 7/18/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kathmandu
CABLEID: 07KATHMANDU1373
CABLEDATE: 7/18/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: NEPAL: TIP REPORT DEMARCHE
COUNTRY1: Nepal

In a series of meetings with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for Women and Social Welfare (MWSW), and the Ministry of Labor and Transport, Emboff delivered talking points and the final text of Nepal's country narrative from the 2007 Trafficking in Person (TIP) Report. Emboff drew attention to the areas of improvement identified in the 2007 report. Each of the Government of Nepal (GON) officials expressed their concern with the persistence of trafficking in Nepal, but stressed that the problem was multi-faceted and based in larger socio-economic problems. The GON officials all emphasized that the open border with India, the absence of livelihood options for rural women, and the promise of lucrative employment abroad made it very difficult to combat TIP in Nepal. Emboff was informed that Parliament was expected to pass an "Anti-Trafficking Act" and a new "Foreign Employment Act" in its next session. The enactment of these laws would support the GON's efforts to combat trafficking. Emboff was also told that Parliament had been declared September 6 "Anti-Trafficking Day." Poverty Core Cause of TIP in Nepal ----- 2. (U) In a June 12 meeting with Hira Bhadur Thapa, Joint Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Emboff delivered SIPDIS the 2007 Trafficking in Person's (TIP) Report and noted Nepal's Tier 2 ranking for 2007. Thapa told Emboff that the GON was committed to fighting TIP, but stressed that one of the core causes of human trafficking was poverty and the GON could not, alone, address this problem. Emboff acknowledged that political instability and lack of resources hindered the GON's efforts, but emphasized that the GON needed to expand its efforts to combat TIP, including vigorously investigating and adequately punishing recruitment agencies and corrupt officials. Emboff also noted that the MFA could increase protection efforts for victims by assisting in their repatriation and adequately training government officials posted in destination countries. Lack of Options Makes Rural Women Vulnerable to TIP ----- 3. (U) In a July 5 meeting with Mahendra Prasad Shrestha, Director General for the Department of Women Development, Emboff highlighted the areas for improvement identified in the TIP Report. Shrestha told Emboff that he expected Parliament to pass much needed amendments to the anti-trafficking law during its next session. Shrestha stated that trafficking would continue to be difficult to control until there were options for employment and rehabilitation for rural girls. He noted that the GON was working on a new project for rural women in cooperation with the UN. The Director General also expressed his support for the women's police cell, but commented that without adequate resources the cell could not accomplish much. He explained that, because the money went through the Ministry of Home Affairs, very little ever reached the women's cell. He suggested that if the funding came directly through the Ministry for Women and Social Welfare, it would be better utilized. Shrestha also announced the GON had declared Bhadra 20 "Anti-Trafficking Day." (Note: This year Bhadra 20 coincides with September 6 in our calendar. End Note) Open Border with India Contributes to TIP ----- 4. (U) In a July 13 meeting Bishnu Prasad Lamsal, Joint Secretary for the Ministry of

Labour and Transport, and SIPDIS Emboff discussed Nepal's expanding migrant labor force and the workers' vulnerability to trafficking. Emboff emphasized that the GON needed to expand its efforts trafficking, but stated that most of the illegal companies operated out of India, making it very difficult for the GON to regulate. The Secretary noted that there was a new "Foreign Employment Act" (FEA) in Parliament that, when passed, would provide increased protection for migrant laborers. In addition, the government had recently entered into labor agreements for the protection of Nepali workers in the United Arab Emirate and Malaysia. Lamsal added the new FEA would provide the necessary "legal basis" for the operation of the Ministry's "labor desk" at the international airport in Kathmandu. The desk provides information to migrant workers before they leave Nepal and, in the future, will facilitate a much needed "official" worker's registration system. The Secretary acknowledged that these efforts only address migrant workers leaving by air and emphasized that the open border with India remains the biggest challenge. Lamsal also told Emboff that the Ministry recognized the need for more public awareness programs and was working with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on an education program for women migrant workers. Comment ----- 5. (U) The GON and the political parties are well aware of Nepal's growing migrant labor force and the importance of remittances to Nepal's economy. However, the GON needs to increase its efforts to educate and protect those most vulnerable to trafficking on the potential dangers of working abroad. The 2007 TIP report gave us an excellent reason to remind officials to do more to combat this vicious pra

CASE: 6/17/2008
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Yaounde
CABLEID: 08YAOUNDE622
CABLEDATE: 6/17/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: CAMEROON: EMBASSY ENGAGES ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
COUNTRY1: Cameroon

Mahouve appeared very interested in the report and said he would send the report to the Minister of Justice. Poloff underscored the importance of GRC action to address trafficking in persons. Boumba was surprised by the report, adding that he was unaware that trafficking was such a pervasive issue. Joe Nzume, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director for American Affairs, later requested a copy of the TIP report from Pol/Econ Chief and said he was very interested in collaborating to combat the trafficking problem.

CASE: 8/14/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Dhaka
CABLEID: 07DHAKA1321
CABLEDATE: 8/14/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO 2007 TIP REPORT: THE WAY FORWARD
COUNTRY1: Bangladesh

5. (SBU) Migrant labor issues fall primarily under the Expatriate Welfare Ministry, and are covered by different legislation. Furthermore, the existing TIP case-tracking framework was created specifically to monitor compliance with the Women and Children's Protection Act and could not simply be expanded to include other types of cases, like labor abuses. They said they would need to discuss the issue in an inter-agency meeting and try to come up with a solution that meets the TIP report's requirements.

CASE: 6/12/2007
CODE: Cooperative
ORIGIN: Embassy Banjul
CABLEID: 07BANJUL306
CABLEDATE: 6/12/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: THE GAMBIA: 2007 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Gambia

On June 11, Ambassador and Poloff met with Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Bai Ousmane Secka to inform him of the TIP Report narrative for The Gambia in advance of the Report's public release June 12. Providing copies of the narrative, points, and press guidance contained in reftel, we

reviewed the highlights, noting The Gambia's placement on the Tier 2 Watch List, down from last year's Tier 2 placement. We outlined the reasons for the Watch List placement and urged steps by the GOTG to strengthen its response to trafficking, drawing from reftel to suggest specific steps. We emphasized that the Embassy would continue to work closely with the GOTG, Gambian civil society, and others to promote expanded efforts to combat TIP in this country. In this regard, we advised the Permsec that Poloff would meet the following day, June 12, with members of the GOTG's task force on TIP (report follows via septel). 2. (SBU) Secka expressed thanks for our presentation and indicated that the TIP Report would receive the GOTG's close attention. While indicating disappointment at The Gambia's placement on the Watchlist, he took Ambassador's point that the placement should not be seen as a punitive measure and that the GOTG had ample opportunity to improve its performance on combatting TIP so as to avoid relegation to Tier 3. We reiterated that, just as the Embassy had worked extensively with the GOTG in its successful effort last year to develop anti-TIP initiatives and move from the Watch List to Tier 2, we would do all we could to be supportive this time as well. The meeting ended with Permsec Secka giving assurances of the GOTG's commitment to increasing its anti-TIP efforts.

CASE: 6/6/2005

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi

CABLEID: 05ABUDHABI2495

CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: UAE LEADERS COMMITTED TO TIP PLAN FOLLOW THROUGH

COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

1. (C) Summary. The UAE leadership has reacted calmly to the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Tier 3 designation and action plan. UAE leaders designated Presidential Affairs Minister Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed to oversee the plan's implementation and have asked two specific questions about the action plan. Interior Minister Saif bin Zayed told the press June 6 that he was confident that the steps the UAE was taking to combat trafficking would lead to a "positive outcome." UNICEF officials, meanwhile, want to ensure that the UAEG not rush the repatriation of child camel jockeys before verifying the identities and parentage of the children and caring for their psychological needs. In contrast to the leadership, lower level police officials, particularly in Dubai, criticized the TIP report as unfair. This message contains an action request, paragraph 6. End Summary.

CASE: 7/2/2009

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Jakarta

CABLEID: 09JAKARTA1126

CABLEDATE: 7/2/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: DVC DIALOGUE PLACES SPOTLIGHT ON INDONESIAN TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS HERO

COUNTRY1: Indonesia

Other aspects of the discussion focused on technical issues of the TIP report which Ambassador CdeBaca explained. Overall, the DVC was notable for the openness of the discussion and the willingness of GOI officials to respond honestly on difficult issues. Prior to this DVC, the Ministry of Manpower has seldom if ever openly admitted the shortcoming of the migrant worker protection system. Clearly, this ministry came prepared to respond to criticisms noted in the report. The Foreign Ministry officials on the panel told Labatt that the Indonesian TIP report is a fair, accurate and in-depth assessment of the trafficking situation. NGO activists told us the dialogue was outstanding, regretting only that there was not more time.

CASE: 7/11/2008

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Berlin

CABLEID: 08BERLIN916

CABLEDATE: 7/11/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: GERMAN RESPONSE TO 2008 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

COUNTRY1: Germany

On July 1, Emboffs met for a roundtable discussion of the 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report with key German officials from the MFA, as well as the Family, Labor and Justice ministries. While the report was well received, a Family Ministry official expressed regret that more attention had not been given to Germany's federal-state interagency working group and to the unique role played by a federally-funded NGO representing all 38 of Germany's anti-TIP NGOs. German officials provided an initial response to the report's recommendations for Germany and briefly reviewed possibilities to strengthen U.S.-German cooperation to combat TIP.

CASE: 6/14/2006

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Athens

CABLEID: 06ATHENS1524

CABLEDATE: 6/14/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: GREECE: GOG AND MEDIA CALL 2006 TIP REPORT "ENCOURAGING"

COUNTRY1: Greece

In the days following the report's release and our press conference, local press published nine straightforward articles, relying heavily on the report narrative and post's press release. Most articles were positive and focused on the improved ranking, but noted the areas (convictions of traffickers, law enforcement complicity) where continued focus is warranted. The daily "Angelioforos" called the report a "Yellow Card" for Greece, and "Eleftherotypia" (leading left-of-center, 61,000 daily circ.) highlighted possible involvement of Greek diplomats in aiding traffickers obtain visas for victims. "Ta Nea" (leading center-left, 70,000 daily circ.) noted with satisfaction that FM Bakoyannis was the first to receive the news that Greece advanced to a higher tier ranking. One article in "Ependitis" (pro-opposition, 150,000 weekly circ.), citing "protected" sources, leaked the new tier ranking Saturday, June 3, and attributed the elevated tier ranking to the work of Greek Ambassador to the U.S., Alexandros Mallias. No other news agencies picked up this early report. Small circulation daily pro-government "Adesmeftos Typos" had a one-on-one interview on the report with Poloff June 9 and plans to run an article the weekend of June 17-18. 5. Reflecting on Greece's humiliation last year at being placed in T2WL, some articles included tongue-in-cheek statements. Eleftherotypia's Washington correspondent wrote, "Greece has managed to reach the level of the other countries in its neighborhood, such as Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Eastern Europe" (Note: Greece funds anti-TIP programs in many of these countries). "Ependitis" said "the result (of Greece's efforts on TIP) was to move out of the category where it had been in the company of...Nigeria and Zimbabwe." 6. COMMENT: Press reports and the GoG reaction this year to the TIP report were responsible and factual, reflecting Greek appreciation for its efforts to combat TIP. Our discussions with working level contacts in the week since the report's release have been productive and positive -- our interlocutors welcome being seen as partners in this global effort. The report has re-energized the GoG in its TIP efforts. We will continue to encourage sustained efforts, especially on convictions, increased victim protection, and cooperation between the GoG and NGOs. COUNTRYMAN

CASE: 6/7/2006

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Oslo

CABLEID: 06OSLO730

CABLEDATE: 6/7/2006

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: NORWAY: TIP REPORT, TRAFFICKING AND SOLICITATION

COUNTRY1: Norway

(U) On June 7 we delivered reftel points to Tobia Svenningsen, Adviser in the MFA's OSCE Affairs Section. Svenningsen thanked us for the points, and discussed possible revisions to Norway's existing treatment of trafficking victims and criminalizing solicitation.

CASE: 6/18/2007

CODE: Cooperative

ORIGIN: Embassy Astana

CABLEID: 07ASTANA1666

CABLEDATE: 6/18/2007

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: KAZAKHSTAN: TIP REPORT GARNERS LITTLE ATTENTION BUT STIMULATES NEW

THINKING

COUNTRY1: Kazakhstan

Responding to a request for specific steps that U.S.-Kazakhstani cooperation could take to improve convictions or victim assistance, Azimova responded that understanding how other countries in Central Asia or elsewhere reported TIP statistical data and how it was analyzed to prepare TIP reports would be very useful. Post suggested that Azimova and others involved in TIP in the government read the TIP reports for relevant countries when they are released in Washington on June 12 and then discuss any specific questions with relevant officers in the embassy. Azimova noted that changes in several articles of the criminal code resulting from the 2006 amendments make it difficult to compare statistics about TIP year-on-year.

CASE: 6/11/2008

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers

CABLEID: 08ALGIERS683

CABLEDATE: 6/11/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: ALGERIA REACTION TO 2008 TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Algeria

Saadi seemed shocked that Algeria had not left Tier 3 and, without reading the report, said Algeria was not getting credit for any of its efforts to address TIP throughout the past year.

CASE: 6/23/2008

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Amman

CABLEID: 08AMMAN1859

CABLEDATE: 6/23/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: JORDANIAN RESPONSE TO G/TIP REPORT: SURPRISED AT DEMOTION, BUT HOPEFUL FOR IMPROVEMENTS

COUNTRY1: Jordan

2. (SBU) Political Counselor delivered Ref A points to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Human Rights Directorate on June 3, but found little reaction to the Tier 2 Watchlist designation. Directorate staff thanked the Embassy for the advance copy of the TIP Report and assured PolCouns that a response was forthcoming. In contrast to the relative silence of the MFA, the press reports sounds of discontent from the Ministry of Labor (MoL). Ambassador discussed the TIP Report with Labor Minister Bassem Al-Salem during his farewell call on June 17, stressing the importance of enacting anti-trafficking legislation, prosecuting those who violate labor laws, and increasing protection for vulnerable workers. Salem commented that the report failed to accurately reflect the strides that Jordan has made, adding that a detailed, formal response was forthcoming. Despite expressing his disappointment, Salem readily agreed on these points for action, noting that comprehensive labor law reform was inscribed on the agenda for Parliament's Extraordinary Summer Session, requiring a vote before the session ended.

CASE: 6/26/2009

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Phnom Penh

CABLEID: 09PHNOMPENH419

CABLEDATE: 6/26/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES 2009 TIP REPORT; FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

COUNTRY1: Cambodia

Despite his disappointment with the ranking, Sar Kheng took a positive approach by focusing on the future, and the desire for continued bilateral cooperation in combating trafficking

CASE: 7/17/2009

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong

CABLEID: 09HONGKONG1315
CABLEDATE: 7/17/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: CONSUL GENERAL'S FAREWELL CALL ON HK CHIEF EXECUTIVE TSANG
COUNTRY1: China

4. (C) CE Tsang then turned to Hong Kong's unhappiness that Hong Kong was downgraded from Tier One to Tier Two in this year's TIP report. The CE said Hong Kong welcomed G/TIP Ambassador CdeBaca to visit Hong Kong. He said HK authorities have been "scratching their heads" to try and understand the reason for the downgrade, and stressed that Hong Kong will continue to protect human rights and take strenuous action against human trafficking. T

CASE: 6/21/2009
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 09KUWAIT608
CABLEDATE: 6/21/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES TIP WITH NEW MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

the Ambassador met newly appointed Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Dr. Mohammad Al-Afasi to discuss the 2009 TIP report and Kuwait's continued Tier 3 ranking (Ref A). The Ambassador noted that while the government had taken steps to address a number of issues, the absence of legislation criminalizing trafficking was a major impediment to the success of those efforts. The Ambassador suggested that the government, in responding to the TIP report, lay the responsibility for such legislation squarely on the shoulders of members of the Kuwaiti National Assembly. In reply, Al-Afasi said he was shocked at the TIP report.

CASE: 6/22/2009
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Accra
CABLEID: 09ACCRA585
CABLEDATE: 6/22/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT DEMARCHE
COUNTRY1: Ghana

Per reftel, Poloff delivered the demarche to Dr. Kojo Assan, Director, International Organizations and Multilateral Bureau at the Ghana MFA. Assan was concerned that Ghana was placed on the Tier II Watch List but understands that this report is Congressionally mandated. He asked what GOG had to do to be removed from the Watch List and said GOG will wait to read the full report before making any policy recommendations.

CASE: 10/19/2009
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Tunis
CABLEID: 09TUNIS775
CABLEDATE: 10/19/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TUNISIAN MFA PIQUED AT SOURCING OF TIP REPORT, BUT READY TO TALK
COUNTRY1: Tunisia

Chtoui again emphasized the GOT's disappointment with the report's "totally unfair" findings. "Our record of caring for our children, for our women, for the elderly, can be compared to that of the world's most developed countries," she underlined. "We know we are not perfect," but Tunisia has a higher awareness and makes greater efforts than any of its neighbors in this regard, Chtoui maintained. 4. (C) Referencing his October 5 discussion with the Minister of Justice (ref A), the Ambassador said the Embassy would be seeking a meeting with a senior MOJ official named as a POC on the TIP issue and hoped the MFA would support and collaborate in a new round of dialogue. "If we have an understanding that we are working together without preconceived ideas and judgments," then the MFA will support more dialogue, Chtoui allowed.

CASE: 5/29/2003
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 03ANKARA3506
CABLEDATE: 5/29/2003
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: DAS PASCOE'S MAY 21-22 POST-WAR TOUR D'HORIZON WITH GOT OFFICIALS
COUNTRY1: Turkey

GOT officials were disappointed that Turkey was included as a Tier III country in the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report and argued that Turkey should be removed from the list.

CASE: 9/1/2009
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 09ABUDHABI871
CABLEDATE: 9/1/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UAE FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS MFA PREPARED TO ENGAGE WITH US ON TIP ISSUES
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

1. (C) During a 31 August meeting with UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed (AbZ), Ambassador pressed the UAE to engage with the US on Trafficking in Persons issues, urging that the issue not be left unaddressed. (NOTE: the UAEG was shocked by the publication of the annual TIP report, and its placement on the Tier II watchlist. Since the Watchlist announcement we have received negative signals about further engagement with the USG on this issue.)

CASE: 6/13/2003
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 03ANKARA3843
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2003
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: TURKS VIEW TIER III TIP RATING AS UNFAIR, THREATENING
COUNTRY1: Turkey

2. Fatma Firat Topcuoglu, DDG of the MFA Consular Affairs Department, told Poloff June 11 the GOT is "extremely disappointed" with the Tier III rating. Topcuoglu argued that the decision was clearly "not made on its merits." The GOT, she said, had made all the most difficult, substantive changes needed to combat TIP, including: 1) adopting an anti-TIP law with strong penalties for violators, and opening cases against alleged traffickers; 2) signing and ratifying all international anti-TIP protocols; 3) amending the law on foreigners to create a centralized system of work permits; and 4) adopting a National Action Plan on TIP. Topcuoglu said the GOT's efforts were not given fair consideration in the report. She said the GOT researched all the countries in Tiers I and II, and none has done as much as Turkey to fight trafficking. Topcuoglu said there have been only a few cases opened against alleged traffickers because TIP is not a large-scale problem in Turkey. She concluded that the USG is biased against Turkey. The MFA June 12 issued a brief statement claiming that Turkey has made "radical changes" to its laws relating to anti-trafficking, which had not been given due consideration. The statement said the GOT is "disappointed and saddened" by the report.

CASE: 6/10/2008
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 08KUALALUMPUR481
CABLEDATE: 6/10/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: TIP REPORT DELIVERED TO MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

The Deputy Chief of Mission met on June 6 with Hussein bin Haniff, the Deputy Secretary-General, Multilateral Political Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to present the TIP report and receive

the government's response. Hussein stated Malaysia is committed to combating trafficking and is taking a number of steps to prosecute suspected traffickers. He expressed disappointment Malaysia is on the watch list, comparing Malaysia's ranking to other ASEAN member-states. He informed the DCM that Malaysia intends to ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (TIP Protocol). The Cabinet is considering the TIP Protocol's ratification. Hussein acknowledged that illegal foreign workers in Malaysia are vulnerable to becoming trafficking victims and said the government is working with source countries to minimize illegal workers

CASE: 6/4/2008

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 08BUENOSAIRE5775

CABLEDATE: 6/4/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: ARGENTINA DISAPPOINTED WITH TIP REPORT, BUT CONTINUES EFFORTS TO COMBAT TIP

COUNTRY1: Argentina

the Ambassador met June 3 with Argentine Minister of Justice Anibal Fernandez to share an embargoed copy of the 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. Minister Fernandez thanked the Ambassador for sharing the report, and immediately launched into a discussion of measures the MOJ will take in the coming months to operationalize Argentina's new trafficking in persons law. Separately, Polcouns met with MFA North America Deputy Director Maria Fernanda Canas to brief her on the report. She expressed disappointment with the ranking but thanked the Embassy for sharing the report in advance of its public release. In addition, post delivered a copy of the report to Chief of Cabinet Minister Alberto Fernandez.

CASE: 7/13/2004

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Rangoon

CABLEID: 04RANGOON882

CABLEDATE: 7/13/2004

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: SENIOR GOB OFFICIAL DISCUSSES TIP AND DRUG ISSUES, THE NLD, AND THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

COUNTRY1: Burma

Col Tin Hlaing said he was "greatly discouraged" to read the TIP report on Burma, complaining that the conclusions were biased and that the global report had placed too much emphasis on countries of origin. He lamented that Burma remained a Tier 3 country while numerous countries with inferior plans of action and legislative efforts had earned Tier 2 rankings.

CASE: 6/4/2008

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo

CABLEID: 08TOKYO1528

CABLEDATE: 6/4/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: JAPAN REACTS NEGATIVELY TO TIP REPORT TIER RANKING

COUNTRY1: Japan

1. (C) Summary: Japan is very disappointed with being ranked Tier 2 in the 2008 TIP Report, DVM Kawai told the DCM June 4.

CASE: 6/18/2007

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait

CABLEID: 07KUWAIT938

CABLEDATE: 6/18/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: KUWAITIS DEFENSIVE ABOUT TIER 3 TIP RANKING, THOUGH SOME ACKNOWLEDGE

PROBLEMS

COUNTRY1: Kuwait

They reiterated that there are laws in Kuwait to ensure workers rights and that workers can go to the courts if they face any problems. They also criticized the report for taking exceptional cases as the rule. Despite their disappointment with the demotion to Tier 3, they expressed their willingness to cooperate with the USG on the issue.

CASE: 6/25/2007

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Consulate Dubai

CABLEID: 07DUBAI411

CABLEDATE: 6/25/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: ANWAR GARGASH OUTLINES ROLE OF NEW UAE HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMITTEE, UNDERSCORES COMMITMENT TO PROGRE

COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

While Gargash said the UAEG was disappointed by the country's 2007 Tier II (watchlist) ranking in the 2007 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report (reftel), the UAE government is looking forward.

CASE: 4/29/2008

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo

CABLEID: 08CAIRO886

CABLEDATE: 4/29/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: EGYPT "DISAPPOINTED" WITH INTERIM TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Egypt

n April 23, Amira Fahmy of the MFA Human Rights office told us that the GOE was "disappointed" that the interim Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report on Egypt states that Egypt has only made "minimal progress" on combating TIP during the reporting period.

CASE: 6/20/2008

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Tirana

CABLEID: 08TIRANA469

CABLEDATE: 6/20/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: GOA REACTION TO 2008 TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Albania

Ambassador Withers demarched Foreign Minister Basha on the 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report findings (Ref A) and DCM and Poloff delivered the same to Minister of Interior Nishani, Deputy Minister Zajmi, and Director of Police Prenci on June 3. Foreign Minister Basha was the first to receive news that the USG had downgraded Albania to Tier II Watch List status; Basha's face went pale when told. Other officials did not openly display shock, likely because they had been warned beforehand by Basha. Disappointment was the initial overall reaction.

CASE: 6/16/2009

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong

CABLEID: 09HONGKONG1103

CABLEDATE: 6/16/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO TIP RANKING DOWNGRADE

COUNTRY1: China

Per reftel instructions, Post met with Principal Assistant Secretary for Security W.H. Chow June 16 to inform him of Hong Kong's TIP ranking downgrade and provide a preview of Hong Kong's narrative in the 2009 Trafficking in Persons report. 2. (SBU) Principal Assistant Secretary Chow was dismayed to

learn that Hong Kong has been downgraded from Tier 1 to Tier 2 in this year's TIP report. After completing a line-by-line comparison of this year's narrative with last year's text, Chow argued the language on Hong Kong's lack of trafficking investigations and prosecutions was "misleading." He noted the language could be misinterpreted to imply the Hong Kong government did nothing when potential trafficking cases are brought to its attention. Chow insisted that is not the case at all. The truth, Chow explained, is that Hong Kong law enforcement "rigorously" follows up on all investigate leads, but there simply has been very little evidence of human trafficking in Hong Kong. Chow also emphasized that Hong Kong law enforcement cannot pursue trafficking cases if foreign consulates do not inform Hong Kong authorities of incidents where their nationals are victims of trafficking, a reference to the report's mention of seven trafficking victims assisted by a foreign consulate.

CASE: 8/9/2006

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Consulate Jeddah

CABLEID: 06JEDDAH531

CABLEDATE: 8/9/2006

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: LABOR MINISTER DISCUSSES TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, SAUDI WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE

COUNTRY1: Saudi Arabia

2. (C) During their August 7 meeting, Minister al-Qusaibi said he was surprised that Saudi Arabia was listed as a Tier 3 country in this year's TIP Report. In his meeting with Amb Miller in January, Minister al-Qusaibi said that Miller had expressed his satisfaction with the SAG.

CASE: 6/10/2008

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Colombo

CABLEID: 08COLOMBO568

CABLEDATE: 6/10/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: SRI LANKA: TIP REPORT DELIVERED TO MFA

COUNTRY1: Sri Lanka

On June 4, Charge and Poloff delivered the 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report on Sri Lanka and reftel talking points to Foreign Secretary Palitha Kohona. Charge emphasized the need for Sri Lanka to make progress over the next year in the areas of securing convictions for trafficking offenses and improving assistance available to victims. Kohona expressed disappointed that Sri Lanka continued to be on the Tier Two Watchlist. He acknowledged that there were areas for improvement, but said the GSL was working hard to investigate corrupt recruitment agents and prosecute those involved in child sex tourism. He expressed his hope that Sri Lanka, working with the USG, might be able to get off the Watchlist next year. Post will deliver the report to and follow up with the Ministry of Foreign Employment and the Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment in the coming days.
MOORE

CASE: 6/1/2005

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi

CABLEID: 05ABUDHABI2437

CABLEDATE: 6/1/2005

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: REACTION TO TIP REPORT: UAEG EXPECTED TIER 3

COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

While Al Noaimi was disappointed, he agreed that the six proposed steps in the 60-day action plan were "doable," even within the plan's limited timeframe. Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed's advisor, Yousef Al Otaiba, also welcomed the action plan suggestions as "doable."

CASE: 6/12/2007

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 07MUSCAT597

CABLEDATE: 6/12/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: TIP DEMARCHE READ OUT- CONCERN OVER TIER 3 SANCTIONS

COUNTRY1: Oman

On Monday morning, June 11, Emboffs delivered ref A, the Trafficking in Person's (TIP) demarche on Oman's Tier 3 designation, to the Director of the Under Secretary's Office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Humaid al-Ma'ani. Al-Ma'ani expressed his disappointment with the lowered ranking - Oman had been placed on Tier 2 Watch List in the 2006 report - and, as MFA officials have been in previous years (ref B), was critical of the U.S. approach toward Oman on TIP. Al-Ma'ani stated that while MFA Under Secretary Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi had been interested in a meeting with U.S. Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky while in Washington for the Gulf Security Dialogue (GSD) (ref B), he now planned to advise Sayyid Badr against it, asking rhetorically, "what's the point?" Emboffs responded that the meeting would provide the Under Secretary with an excellent opportunity to express directly to G Oman's views on and plans for eliminating TIP, gain perspective on U.S. policy, and perhaps explore ways to address the issue.

CASE: 6/13/2007

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston

CABLEID: 07KINGSTON927

CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: JAMAICA: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON 7TH ANNUAL TIPS REPORT: GOJ AND PRESS REACTIONS

COUNTRY1: Jamaica

Privately, GOJ officials were disappointed with their Tier 2 placing. Poloff explained that the reporting period is from March 1-February 28 and the new anti-trafficking law had not come into effect until March 1 and, therefore, the USG had had no effective way to evaluate how well the law will work. Poloff also informed the task force that G/TIP will look for efforts to "convict and punish traffickers" as well as improve victims services during the coming reporting period. 5. (C) GOJ officials raised serious concerns regarding the USG's emphasis on arrests and convictions. One official noted that many times, the GOJ undertakes raids to rescue victims as quickly as possible, but that because they prioritize the removal of a victim from a dangerous situation, arrests and prosecutions are not always possible as they may have acted solely on a tip - and thus not have had time to build an evidentiary case. Additionally, GOJ officials noted that Jamaica, like the US, places the rule of law - and the reliance upon evidence and due process - front and center in the judicial system. Noting that trafficking cases are particularly difficult to prosecute because: 1) witnesses are unreliable, 2) traffickers can provide legitimate employment documents (irrespective of what the victims were actually required to do), and 3) juries don't always return a verdict favorable to the prosecution, GOJ officials are deeply concerned that the emphasis on arrests and prosecutions as the key criterion makes achievement of Tier 1 status unattainable. 6. (C) Poloff also spoke at length

CASE: 7/17/2009

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Bandar Seri Begawan

CABLEID: 09BANDARSERIBEGAWAN172

CABLEDATE: 7/17/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: BRUNEI'S REACTION TO 2009 TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Brunei

On July 13, 2009, Charg and Political Assistant met with Ms. Florence Chong, Director of the International Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). Florence was accompanied by Princess Mansurah, the daughter of Prince Mohammad, Brunei's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Ms. Chong said MFAT was shocked and unsatisfied to find Brunei's ranked as a Tier 2 country, especially since Brunei was not ranked in previous reports. However, MFAT did not lodge an official complaint or otherwise indicate this opinion would be released to the public. Charg noted the changes in the TIP legislation were one of the reasons why Brunei was included and ranked in this year's report.

CASE: 6/15/2009
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 09ABUDHABI603
CABLEDATE: 6/15/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UAEG DISAPPOINTED WITH TIP RANKING
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

In giving advance notification of the TIP Report as instructed Ref A, Ambassador was told by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (and National anti-TIP Committee chair) Dr. Anwar Gargash that the U.S. decision to downgrade the UAE in spite of ongoing and significant efforts to tackle the scourge of TIP was "unfair and disappointing." Ambassador also provided a heads up to UAE Ambassador to the U.S. Yousef Al-Otaiba (who is in Abu Dhabi this week); he expressed similar disappointment. 2. (C) Comment: As noted in Ref B, the UAEG sees its efforts against TIP as significant -- and improving. The UAEG is likely to publicly refute the "watch list" designation upon the report's release, and we should be prepared for a cold shoulder when we attempt to engage on TIP (fallout could impact other USG priorities as well). End comment. OLSON

CASE: 6/10/2005
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Santo Domingo
CABLEID: 05SANTODOMINGO3147
CABLEDATE: 6/10/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CONVICTS TRAFFICKING FELONS, DIFFERS WITH 2005 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Dominican Republic

1. (SBU) Summary: Assistant Attorney General Frank Soto, who coordinates the Dominican Government's anti-TIP efforts, provided details of the Dominican Republic's first convictions of traffickers under a 2003 anti-TIP law, in a May 20 court decision published June 2. Soto expressed disappointment at the continued classification of the Dominican Republic on the Tier 2 Watch List and cited this verdict and other prosecutions and measures now underway. In remarks to the press, Soto took issue with specific information in the report. Editorial reaction, while limited, has concurred with the report's conclusions. End summary.

CASE: 6/16/2005
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Manila
CABLEID: 05MANILA2757
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: TIP: PHILIPPINE REACTION TO THE RELEASE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT
COUNTRY1: Philippines

The TIP report carries a great deal of credibility and weight in the Philippines, and the GRP was clearly disappointed that the Philippines remained on the Tier Two Watch List. The government's reaction, however, was basically constructive. It is not exactly clear how the new interagency group created by Malacanang will fit in with all the other GRP offices and groups working on the issue, however. We do not have any further information regarding the Foreign Secretary's mention of the possible creation of special TIP courts. Mission will continue to drive home the points made in the report and encourage concrete action by the GRP. Upcoming events include the June 18-21 visit of G/TIP Senior Coordinator Mark Taylor and a PAS-sponsored "Achieving Trafficking Convictions" conference for law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges that is slated to be held in June or July (Ref

CASE: 7/3/2007
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Baku
CABLEID: 07BAKU833
CABLEDATE: 7/3/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES TIP, MEDIA CRACKDOWN, AND POLICE ADVISOR WITH MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS RAMI

COUNTRY1: Azerbaijan

Usubov said that he had reviewed the TIP Report, and that he had hoped for a higher tier ranking; regardless, he said the MIA wanted to increase its efforts to combat TIP. According to the Minister, the MIA wants to increase the number of investigations, prosecutions, and convictions of traffickers, but he said that the courts remain biased.

CASE: 6/10/2005

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Santo Domingo

CABLEID: 05SANTODOMINGO3147

CABLEDATE: 6/10/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CONVICTS TRAFFICKING FELONS, DIFFERS WITH 2005 TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Dominican Republic

Deputy AG Soto expressed disappointment that the Dominican Republic had not been taken off the Tier II watch list.

CASE: 12/23/2009

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong

CABLEID: 09HONGKONG2340

CABLEDATE: 12/23/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: G/TIP AMBASSADOR ENCOURAGES REFORM IN HONG KONG

COUNTRY1: China

CS Henry Tang stressed the HKG,s disappointment in the Tier 2 downgrade, asked whether the U.S. was "moving the goal posts," and expressed hope the U.S. and Hong Kong could "put this all behind us in next year's report." Secretary for Security Ambrose Lee and Secretary for Labor and Welfare Matthew Cheung listened intently to Ambassador CdeBaca's presentation, while defending Hong Kong's existing approach to TIP in a two-hour meeting that also included senior HKG labor, immigration and police officials.

CASE: 6/16/2005

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Manila

CABLEID: 05MANILA2757

CABLEDATE: 6/16/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: TIP: PHILIPPINE REACTION TO THE RELEASE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

COUNTRY1: Philippines

Local reaction to the Philippine narrative of the 2005 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report has been mixed, though basically positive. The media response -- aided by Mission's extensive outreach efforts -- has been straightforward and informative. Philippine government reaction has generally been constructive, though there was some disappointment that the Philippines remained on the Tier Two Watch List. On June 5, in direct response to the report, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo announced the creation of a new interagency group to fight TIP. Anti-TIP NGOs have roundly praised the report. Mission continues to drive home the points made in the report and to encourage concrete action by the GRP. End Summary. Media Reaction -----

CASE: 7/27/2009

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong

CABLEID: 09HONGKONG1380

CABLEDATE: 7/27/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: SECRETARY FOR SECURITY DISMAYED ABOUT HONG KONG TIP RANKING DOWNGRADE

COUNTRY1: China

1. (C) In the Consul General's July 27 farewell call, Secretary for Security Ambrose Lee told the CG the Hong Kong government was "deeply puzzled and disappointed" that this year's Trafficking In Persons report downgraded Hong Kong from Tier 1 to Tier 2.

CASE: 7/30/2008

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Chisinau

CABLEID: 08CHISINAU794

CABLEDATE: 7/30/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: MOLDOVA TAKES STEPS TO REVERSE ITS TIER 3 TIP PLACEMENT

COUNTRY1: Moldova

In meetings with the G/TIP assessment team, Government of Moldova officials noted that though originally surprised by the Tier 3 placement, they now acknowledged it as both accurate and as a needed spur to improving their record on trafficking. In each meeting, officials noted the extensive internal deliberations, critical examinations of policy, and additional steps now being implemented by the GOM to try to address TIP concerns. Deputy Prime Minister Stepaniuc presented the team with a draft report that included GOM analysis of their fulfillment to date of the seven items on the 60- Day Action Plan and additional steps envisioned for the rest of 2008. He asked for Washington's review and comment. Prime Minister Greceanii gave her personal commitment that Moldova would implement everything it planned and pleaded that the TIP issue not derail the MCC program and all the other bilateral efforts she had worked on for years. End summary.

CASE: 6/10/2008

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy San Jose

CABLEID: 08SANJOSE490

CABLEDATE: 6/10/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: COSTA RICA RESPONSE: TIP DOWNGRADE TO "TIER 2 WATCHLIST"

COUNTRY1: Costa Rica

On June 3, we informed Vice Minister of Public Security Ana Duran of Costa Rica's placement on the TIP Tier 2 Watch List, and we highlighted the specific recommendations for Costa Rica. Duran also heads the National Anti-Trafficking Coalition, comprised of government and NGO players. She was visibly unhappy and commented that "it's easy to criticize when you're not in our shoes." She said she would work on a Costa Rican press release with the Minister of Public Security (MPS) Janina del Vecchio and Attorney General Francisco Dall'Anese. We reiterated the U.S.'s commitment to working with the GOCCR on trafficking issues, and we offered that the February interim report required for Tier 2 Watch List countries would give the GOCCR an opportunity to show progress by then.

CASE: 2/2/2005

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara

CABLEID: 05ANKARA591

CABLEDATE: 2/2/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: TURKEY: FIFTH ANNUAL TIP REPORT: OVERVIEW

COUNTRY1: Turkey

G. (SBU) The GOT's bid for EU membership and averred disappointment with G/TIP's Tier II Watch List ranking fueled substantial GOT efforts to demonstrate progress in counter trafficking activities at all levels. MFA DG for Consular Affairs and Director of the National Taskforce on Trafficking Murat Ersavci told visiting G/TIP Foreign Affairs Officer Jennifer Donnelly, "I have to admit that we didn't recognize trafficking as a problem, partly out of ignorance and partly out of the idea that it was a passing trend. The government is fully aware now and making tremendous progress in the fight."

CASE: 6/4/2008
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Manama
CABLEID: 08MANAMA363
CABLEDATE: 6/4/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS NARRATIVE AND DEMARCHE DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Bahrain

1.(SBU) A/DCM delivered reftel points and draft TIP report narrative to MFA Undersecretary Sheikh Abdulaziz Al Khalifa on June 3. Al Khalifa expressed some disappointment with the watchlist designation, but remained hopeful that continued progress would see further improvement in the ranking next year. He was very pleased to learn of Marietta Dias' selection as a "Hero," saying, "She really deserves it."

CASE: 7/31/2007
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Accra
CABLEID: 07ACCRA1606
CABLEDATE: 7/31/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: Trafficking in Persons Report Rollout in Ghana
COUNTRY1: Ghana

On June 13 PolChief and Democracy and Human Rights Coordinator met with the Chief Director of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC), Valentine Kuuzume, and the Desk Officer for Trafficking, Marilyn Annan, to discuss Ghana's Tier 2 ranking in the TIP Report this year. The Chief Director appreciated that the country narrative recognized some of Ghana's efforts in combating trafficking. He reiterated the need for funding in the area of victim rehabilitation and was disappointed that the embassy had not done as much as he would have liked to support anti-trafficking activities by MOWAC. 3. (SBU) The Trafficking Desk Officer, Marilyn Annan, said that she was particularly disappointed in the ranking since she believed that the GoG had done more than enough to ensure a Tier 1 ranking. She also requested that future reports remove the portion of the narrative regarding the extradition of Member of Parliament Grace Coleman. Annan thought the Coleman issue had been blown out of proportion. PolChief was firm that Coleman had violated U.S. law and we would not be removing her from our TIP report. He also reminded her that the Embassy had sent several diplomatic notes to the MFA requesting Coleman's extradition but we have received no response.

CASE: 6/16/2009
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Manama
CABLEID: 09MANAMA362
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: BAHRAIN DISAPPOINTED WITH TIER TWO WATCH LIST RANKING
COUNTRY1: Bahrain

A/DCM informed MFA Bilateral Relations Director Dhafer Al Umran on June 15 of Bahrain's Tier Two Watchlist ranking in the trafficking in persons report to be released June 16. Poloff followed up on the morning of June 16, delivering the country narrative (ref A). Umran expressed disappointment with Bahrain's ranking, and was concerned how Bahrain stacked up against its GCC neighbors.

CASE: 1/22/2009
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Rabat
CABLEID: 09RABAT65
CABLEDATE: 1/22/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: MOROCCO HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUE: ATMOSPHERICALLY POSITIVE, BUT DISAGREEMENTS REMAIN
COUNTRY1: Morocco

MOI Director of Migration and Border Security Khalid Zerouali expressed disappointment at Morocco's being downgraded from Tier 1 to Tier 2 on the Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) scale and did not believe that the GOM had been properly consulted in the lead-up to the 2007 TIP report. He said that the MOI launched a new "process-oriented" strategy in 2007 to address migration and TIP issues, but had not had the opportunity to share it with the USG yet. (Note: The MOI subsequently forwarded a copy to Embassy and Zerouali and his team met with EmbOffs for additional presentations and dialogue specific to TIP. It is noteworthy that the MOI is going out of its way to cooperate and put its best foot forward; even though the substance of its TIP policy has not changed. End note.)

CASE: 6/12/2007
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Banjul
CABLEID: 07BANJUL306
CABLEDATE: 6/12/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: THE GAMBIA: 2007 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Gambia

On June 11, Ambassador and Poloff met with Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Bai Ousmane Secka to inform him of the TIP Report narrative for The Gambia in advance of the Report's public release June 12. Providing copies of the narrative, points, and press guidance contained in reftel, we reviewed the highlights, noting The Gambia's placement on the Tier 2 Watch List, down from last year's Tier 2 placement. We outlined the reasons for the Watch List placement and urged steps by the GOTG to strengthen its response to trafficking, drawing from reftel to suggest specific steps. We emphasized that the Embassy would continue to work closely with the GOTG, Gambian civil society, and others to promote expanded efforts to combat TIP in this country. In this regard, we advised the Permsec that Poloff would meet the following day, June 12, with members of the GOTG's task force on TIP (report follows via septel). 2. (SBU) Secka expressed thanks for our presentation and indicated that the TIP Report would receive the GOTG's close attention. While indicating disappointment at The Gambia's placement on the Watchlist, he took Ambassador's point that the placement should not be seen as a punitive measure and that the GOTG had ample opportunity to improve its performance on combatting TIP so as to avoid relegation to Tier 3. We reiterated that, just as the Embassy had worked extensively with the GOTG in its successful effort last year to develop anti-TIP initiatives and move from the Watch List to Tier 2, we would do all we could to be supportive this time as well. The meeting ended with Permsec Secka giving assurances of the GOTG's commitment to increasing its anti-TIP efforts.

CASE: 6/18/2007
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers
CABLEID: 07ALGIERS859
CABLEDATE: 6/18/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: MFA REACTION TO TIP TIER 3 RATING
COUNTRY1: Algeria

In the sometimes tense but cordial meeting, Selmane was genuinely dismayed at Algeria's Tier 3 status

CASE: 6/25/2009
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 09KUWAIT631
CABLEDATE: 6/25/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: SCENESETTER FOR AA/S FELTMAN VISIT TO KUWAIT
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

The GOK has expressed displeasure at finding itself, once again, in Tier III following the recent release of our annual TIP report. At heart, however, and despite its protestations that the report does not reflect Kuwait's recent efforts to step up the fight against TIP the GOK knows (and privately

acknowledges) that it has some homework to do. We have encouraged the GOK to focus on the following areas to improve its performance: passage of a comprehensive TIP law; building a large shelter for victims; step up prosecutions on TIP-type offenses; and training a cadre of law enforcement officials and social workers on TIP issues. While the GOK may be able to meet these requirements over time, there is no likelihood it will be able to take sufficient action within sixty days in order to qualify for a Tier II watchlist.

CASE: 8/7/2005
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Djibouti
CABLEID: 05DJIBOUTI755
CABLEDATE: 8/7/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP ACTION PLAN: MEETING WITH DIRECTOR BILATERAL AFFAIRS
COUNTRY1: Djibouti

Pol/Econ met with Director of Bilateral Relations, Mohamed Ali Hassan, on 28 July to follow up on the Trafficking in Persons action plan demarched to Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mahamoud Ali Youssouf (reftel A). Hassan said he had a chance to review the action plan and demarche submitted to the Minister by Ambassador. He commented that he was distressed by the TIP report because he worries the report indicated there is a chain of trafficking through or ending in Djibouti. He said he did not believe that this is the case. Hassan said he also felt the report implied that the Djiboutian government is involved in this trafficking by doing nothing to stop it.

CASE: 6/9/2006
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Tel Aviv
CABLEID: 06TELAVIV2226
CABLEDATE: 6/9/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: FM LIVNI DISCUSSES FUNDING MECHANISM, PALESTINIAN PRISONERS' DOCUMENT, AND GTIP
COUNTRY1: Israel

Both Livni and Ambassador Ayalon expressed real "disappointment" that Israel had been downgraded by the latest TIP report, despite concrete progress in fighting trafficking in women and ongoing efforts to end trafficking in labor. The Ambassador noted that passage of legislation to criminalize labor trafficking would be a big step forward.

CASE: 2/19/2010
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Wellington
CABLEID: 10WELLINGTON65
CABLEDATE: 2/19/2010
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: DAS Reed Engages on TPP, U.N. Reform, Environmental Cooperation, Fiji, APEC and Bilateral Issues wit
COUNTRY1: New Zealand

(SBU) Regarding the U.S. Human Rights Report and the TIP Report, Kember emphasized his disappointment with how the reports on New Zealand were handled. He said that New Zealand provides a great deal of information and input for the reports, and the results were a "poor reflection of what New Zealand provided."

CASE: 6/22/2007
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Minsk
CABLEID: 07MINSK541
CABLEDATE: 6/22/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: USG Defends Belarus TIP Ranking Despite GOB Disappointment
COUNTRY1: Belarus

During our June 12 demarche (reftel), MFA Department of Humanitarian Affairs Counselor Andrey Taranda relayed the GOB's disappointment with Belarus' placement on the T2WL.

CASE: 6/22/2007
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Minsk
CABLEID: 07MINSK541
CABLEDATE: 6/22/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: USG Defends Belarus TIP Ranking Despite GOB Disappointment
COUNTRY1: Belarus

Following the release of the Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, Ambassador hosted a digital video conference with G/TIP Ambassador Mark Lagon for those involved in combating TIP in Belarus. The participants discussed Belarus' Tier 2 Watch List (T2WL) placement, steps the GOB can take to improve its ranking, the root causes for TIP in Belarus, and the level of cooperation between independent NGOs and the GOB. Given tense nature of U.S.-Belarus relations, Ambassador Lagon stressed that the report is the USG's objective assessment of the GOB's anti-TIP efforts and that Belarus' T2WL placement was not a political vendetta. However, during a demarche to the GOB before the TIP report's release, the MFA expressed its disappointment with Belarus' ranking and highlighted what it considers to be Belarus' significant anti-TIP efforts.

CASE: 6/9/2006
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Tel Aviv
CABLEID: 06TELAVIV2226
CABLEDATE: 6/9/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: FM LIVNI DISCUSSES FUNDING MECHANISM, PALESTINIAN PRISONERS' DOCUMENT, AND GTIP
COUNTRY1: Israel

At the end of the meeting, Livni expressed real "disappointment" that Israel had been downgraded by the latest TIP report. END SUMMARY.

CASE: 6/27/2005
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 05KUWAIT2869
CABLEDATE: 6/27/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: GOK OBJECTS TO TIP "COMPARISON" TO OTHER GULF STATES; PDAS CHENEY OUTLINES STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE RA
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

NEA Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Cheney began her visit to Kuwait with a call on Kuwait's first female minister, Dr. Maasouma Al-Mubarak, Minister of Planning and Administrative Development. Following a discussion on women's political participation and strategies to prepare women for the 2007 parliamentary elections (septel), Dr. Maasouma changed the subject and expressed her deep disappointment with the 2005 Trafficking in persons (TIP) Report. She acknowledged problems in Kuwait in treating expatriate workers, especially domestic staff, but strongly objected to Kuwait being "lumped in with other states" and said the report did not take into account ongoing efforts to improve labor conditions. In particular, in her assessment, the report did not address steps by individuals and NGOs to address trafficking issues. She said, "things are different in Kuwait" and the Department's report did not reflect the Kuwaiti system for "identifying and rectifying mistakes." She referred to the recent ban on outside work between noon and 4:00 PM and said the GOK was determined to make working conditions more humane for the approximate 450,000 domestics in Kuwait. She reported court cases filed against several companies which violated the ban and lamented that a few abuses would sully the image of Kuwait. She further advised that reform of the labor law was underway and commented that as a cabinet minister, she now had greater access and influence and would press for positive changes. 3. (C) Similarly, Economic Advisor to

the Prime Minister Dr. Yousef Al-Ebrahim, objected to being compared to neighboring states and questioned the methods and sources used in preparing the report. He asserted that Kuwait was "not like the rest of the Gulf" and was committed to treating South Asians resident in Kuwait well. He said the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor had banned the use of child camel jockeys, a practice he said was nonexistent in Kuwait, but was limited in taking action against those who use their own children in camel races. In response to a comment by the Ambassador on non-payment of some workers, he claimed Kuwait had 1.5 million foreign workers and only a small number of them were not being paid, and firms were being sanctioned. Blaming the media for the negative image, he said Kuwait's free press was quick to report on worker complaints and such news was often repeated, suggesting a widespread problem. He asserted that many reports of abuse were "blown out of proportion" or simply false, and complained that retractions and corrections never made the papers. 4. (C) In a separate meeting, Foreign Minister Shaykh Dr. Mohammed Al-Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah also expressed his disappointment with the TIP report and restated that Kuwait was very different from its neighboring countries. He reported the GOK, NGOs, Parliament's Human Rights Committee, and individuals were all working to improve the status of Kuwait's expatriate labor force. He asserted the GOK's resolve to respond to the report's criticisms and said the Prime Minister would likely raise the issue while in Washington. 5. (C) PDAS Cheney responded to all three interlocutors that the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act was very specific and countries were evaluated independently and objectively, not against others. She emphasized that the goal of the report was to identify areas for improvement, and thus Kuwait's ranking could be improved. She added that progress on TIP was essential to continued progress toward a free trade agreement. She stressed that following the Tier 3 ranking, Kuwait has 60 days to take immediate action so that ranking could be reconsidered by the President. She suggested as possible measures shutting down stables that use child camel jockeys or prosecuting individuals who exploit foreign workers. She further informed the GOK officials of the interest of Department officials from the G/TIP office in visiting Kuwait to discuss these issues. She said the Prime Minister's July 1 visit to the U.S. presented an opportunity to elaborate on concrete steps to combat TIP. The Ambassador said the U.S. appreciated the additional attention the GOK paid to TIP issues, but stressed the need for action, not the formation of committees and issuance of reports. He encouraged better coordination among the involved ministries -- Social Affairs and Labor, Foreign Affairs, and Interior -- and suggested that Kuwaiti Ambassador to the U.S. work closely with Department officials.

CASE: 6/13/2007
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Hanoi
CABLEID: 07HANOI1101
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: 2007 TIP REPORT HANDED OVER
COUNTRY1: Vietnam

Summary: Poloff delivered the Vietnam TIP report country narrative and Ref A talking points to the MFA on June 13. Our interlocutor was pleased that the USG acknowledged the GVN's progress on combating TIP during the reporting period, but disappointed that more details on the GVN's strong commitment in this area were not captured.

CASE: 6/24/2008
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Dublin
CABLEID: 08DUBLIN379
CABLEDATE: 6/24/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: IRISH JUSTICE MINISTRY ADDRESSES 2008 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT
COUNTRY1: Ireland

Ahern agreed with Aylward's assessment, expressed regret that Ireland had been downgraded, and wryly noted, "People who live in glass houses," Ken O'Leary, the Department's Assistant Secretary, expressed frustration that the TIP report seemed to discount substantial Irish progress, saying, "No matter what we do, we always seem to be downgraded."

CASE: 6/3/2005
CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Quito
CABLEID: 05QUITO1273
CABLEDATE: 6/3/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: ECUADOR COMMITTED TO FIGHTING TIP
COUNTRY1: Ecuador

3. PolChief and PolOff discussed the TIP report with the MFA Human Rights Director Carmen Larrea on June 2. Larrea expressed concern about trafficking and the consequences of a Tier 3 designation. Larrea said she was a personal friend of Minister of Government Mauricio Gandara and would urge the MOG for anti-TIP actions. PolOff emphasized the need for significant law enforcement actions using the new legislation within 60 days and explained the need for progress on various fronts elaborated in the action plan.

CASE: 6/19/2008
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Amman
CABLEID: 08AMMAN1821
CABLEDATE: 6/19/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JORDANIAN RESPONSE TO G/TIP REPORT: SURPRISED AT DEMOTION, BUT HOPEFUL FOR IMPROVEMENTS
COUNTRY1: Jordan

Despite expressing his disappointment, Salem readily agreed on these points for action, noting that comprehensive labor law reform was inscribed on the agenda for Parliament's Extraordinary Summer Session, requiring a vote before the session ended

CASE: 10/19/2007
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Tashkent
CABLEID: 07TASHKENT1806
CABLEDATE: 10/19/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UZBEKS PROMISE POST-ELECTION PROGRESS ON TIP ISSUES
COUNTRY1: Uzbekistan

On October 17 poloffs and visiting G/TIP officer met with GOU officials from MFA, Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD), and the Office of the State Prosecutor to discuss TIP issues. MFA said the GOU was surprised and upset by the recent Tier 3 rating, which it considered "politically motivated".

CASE: 6/2/2005
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Doha
CABLEID: 05DOHA991
CABLEDATE: 6/2/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: QATAR: DELIVERY OF 2005 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT
COUNTRY1: Qatar

Classified By: Ambassador Chase Untermeyer for reasons 1.4 (A) and (B) 1. (U) DCM delivered advance draft of the 2005 TIP report and action plan for Qatar on Thursday, June 2 to Amb. Khalid Al-Mansouri, Director of the Americas and European Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 2. (C) DCM informed Al-Mansouri that Qatar had been placed on Tier 3 based on the lack of significant efforts between March 2004 and March 2005 to address the TIP issues described in the report. DCM described the reassessment process and timeline and reviewed with Al-Mansouri each point of the 60 day action-plan. 3. (C) Al-Mansouri said he was not surprised but was still disappointed at the Tier 3 ranking. He said that there were many significant actions the GOQ has taken that have not been recognized, such as the recent passage of a law banning the use of children as camel jockeys, the improvement of the children's living conditions, and the efforts underway to repatriate them. He noted that Qatar would bear a significant financial burden to compensate over 15,000 Qataris for losses as this practice is brought to an end and to fund the development and purchase of camel-jockey robots to

replace the children. 4. (C) Al-Mansouri expressed concern that the lack of recognition of Qatar's efforts was "linked to other issues." (Comment: Without using the words "Al-Jazeera," Al-Mansouri was expressing a view held by many in the Qatari leadership that the U.S. aims to punish Qatar because of the anti-U.S. nature of Al-Jazeera broadcasting.) DCM assured Al-Mansouri that the TIP rating was based only on circumstances in Qatar and of actions taken or not taken by the GOQ to address those issues. DCM also noted that last January the Ambassador proposed to the GOQ several specific measures to improve the conditions of the underage camel jockeys, but no action was taken in response. The important and positive steps taken in recent weeks were laudable but came too late to be factored into the 2005 report. 5. (C) Al-Mansouri said that he hoped G/TIP's Ambassador Miller would make some "good" comments to the press about Qatar's recent efforts when the report is released on June 3. He also said that Qatar hoped to work together with the U.S. to address the TIP issues and to move Qatar from Tier 3 during the upcoming reassessment.

CASE: 11/22/2009
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 09ABUDHABI1096
CABLEDATE: 11/22/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: G/TIP AMBASSADOR LUIS CDEBACA'S VISIT TO UAE
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

(SBU) Nearly all of CdeBaca's interlocutors expressed disappointment in the State Department's decision to downgrade the UAE to the Tier 2 Watchlist in the 2009 TIP Report.

CASE: 6/17/2009
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 09ABUDHABI622
CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UAE: STATE DEPARTMENT TIP REPORT "DISAPPOINTING AND DISTORTED"
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

UAE: STATE DEPARTMENT TIP REPORT "DISAPPOINTING AND DISTORTED"

CASE: 6/4/2008
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 08TOKYO1528
CABLEDATE: 6/4/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JAPAN REACTS NEGATIVELY TO TIP REPORT TIER RANKING
COUNTRY1: Japan

The Tier 2 ranking is "a very disappointing result, very regrettable," said Kawai. The ranking has sent the signal to Japanese government agencies that cooperation with the United States is in vain. The Japanese government will discuss whether to continue cooperation in the future, Kawai finished, adding that the United States should be reporting its own progress to Japan as well.

CASE: 6/25/2007
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Consulate Dubai
CABLEID: 07DUBAI411
CABLEDATE: 6/25/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ANWAR GARGASH OUTLINES ROLE OF NEW UAE HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMITTEE, UNDERSCORES COMMITMENT TO PROGRE
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

He underscored that while the UAEG was "disappointed for about 24 hours" by the UAE's 2007 TIP report ranking, and that some in the UAEG consider the report "interference in the country's internal

affairs," the government was nonetheless looking to address the issue head on.

CASE: 2/23/2006
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Yerevan
CABLEID: 06YEREVAN267
CABLEDATE: 2/23/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: PROSECUTOR GENERAL LAUNCHES INVESTIGATION OF TRAFFICKING COMPLICITY ALLEGATIONS
COUNTRY1: Armenia

In a meeting with the DCM, Hovsepyan was notably upset about Armenia's Interim TIP Assessment released February 1 and expressed his determination to address these allegations so they would stop overshadowing his office's significant work in combating human trafficking. T

CASE: 6/20/2007
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 07TOKYO2788
CABLEDATE: 6/20/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: MOFA PRESENTS TALKING POINTS FOR UPCOMING G/TIP VISIT OF AMB. LAGON
COUNTRY1: Japan

On June 19, 2007 MOFA Organized Crime Division Director Akihiko Uchikawa presented talking points to Embassy Tokyo Political Officer concerning the upcoming visit of Ambassador Lagon to discuss the 2007 G/TIP report. Though not visibly upset, Uchikawa was clearly frustrated and disappointed with both the results stated in the report and an information gathering process that he said he found sporadic, opaque and, with a set of additional questions submitted shortly before the report, ill-timed. 2. (C) Uchikawa said that Japan was very disappointed with their continued Tier 2 ranking and that official displeasure was expressed at much higher levels in the government this year. He repeatedly stressed the amount of effort expended by MOFA and other agencies of the Government of Japan in collecting information in response to questions posed by the United States. In particular, Uchikawa said that the Japanese Embassy in Washington had informed him that the Department was using "internal criteria" not explicitly stated in the report nor communicated to Japan to arrive at the Tier 2 ranking assessment. Uchikawa expressed frustration on this point and wondered how Japan could adequately address the concerns and assumptions of the United States if they are not communicated clearly to the Government of Japan well in advance of the report's submission deadline.

CASE: 12/9/2009
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 09KUALALUMPUR980
CABLEDATE: 12/9/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES VERVEER'S DECEMBER 3-4 VISIT TO MALAYSIA
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

Shahrizat expressed her disappointment about and disagreement with Malaysia's placement on Tier 3 in the 2009 TIP Report released in June, calling it the result of insufficient engagement between our governments

CASE: 6/6/2006
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Nouakchott
CABLEID: 06NOUAKCHOTT686
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: 2006 TIP REPORT DEMARCHE: GOVERNMENT DISAPPOINTED WITH LOWERED RATING,

BUT COMMITTED TO FUTURE PROGR

COUNTRY1: Mauritania

4. (C) Tijani told Poloff that "while I'm disappointed with Washington's decision, I am not entirely surprised." He said "the embassy has discussed the need to see our anti-slavery law applied for a long time, and we have not done this," adding that "between you and me, I believe the Ministry of Justice has been unwilling to bring a case to trial, regardless of its merit."

CASE: 6/16/2004

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara

CABLEID: 04ANKARA3427

CABLEDATE: 6/16/2004

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: TIP DEMARCHE DELIVERED, TURKISH MFA AVERS DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT

COUNTRY1: Turkey

June 14 Polcounselor delivered reftel points, TIP backgrounder and Turkey TIP Narrative to MFA DDG for Consular Affairs Haldun Otman. DDG Otman averred deep disappointment in Turkey's designation. TIP officer reviewed reasons for Turkey's Tier 2 Watch List ranking, noting that much of Turkey's anti-TIP momentum came late in the reporting period and therefore provided little opportunity to demonstrate measurable progress. TIP officer requested and MFA Consular Affairs assistant accepted follow-up appointment to further review narrative and discuss future efforts to increase the flow of TIP-related information.

CASE: 6/13/2007

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Manama

CABLEID: 07MANAMA548

CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: BAHRAIN: 2007 TIP REPORT AND TIER 3 ACTION PLAN DELIVERED

COUNTRY1: Bahrain

Shaikh Abdul Aziz made clear that even though he is disappointed about the Tier 3 ranking, Bahrain is not making efforts to combat trafficking because of the annual TIP report or merely to avoid Tier

CASE: 6/19/2009

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Manila

CABLEID: 09MANILA1308

CABLEDATE: 6/19/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: PHILIPPINE REACTIONS TO 2009 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

COUNTRY1: Philippines

SUMMARY: Official Philippine reaction to the country's Tier Two Watch List ranking in the 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report has been one of muted disappointment, largely due to effective Mission pre-briefing with a wide range of anti-trafficking stakeholders in the government, from the Foreign Affairs Secretary to the Deputy Presidential Spokesperson at the Presidential Palace. Speaking to the press on June 18, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the government would formally clarify its record against trafficking to U.S. officials, but added the U.S. was "well-meaning in trying to make this report." Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera, who assumed her post June 15, ordered prosecutors to resolve pending trafficking cases within 60 days. The most severe reaction during Post's June 16 demarches came from a Department of Justice undersecretary, who publicly called the Watch List designation a "demoralizing" outcome, though his staff were hopeful they could use the report to justify an increased budget for the government's anti-trafficking council.

NOTE: So disappointed with the tier rating that it was called "demoralizing"

CASE: 6/5/2006

CODE: Disappointment

ORIGIN: Embassy Tunis
CABLEID: 06TUNIS1364
CABLEDATE: 6/5/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: 2006 TIP REPORT - TUNISIA
COUNTRY1: Tunisia

On June 5, DCM, accompanied by Laboff, delivered Ref B demarche on the 2006 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report to MFA Director for the Americas Fadhel Ayari. Ayari stressed that, to his knowledge and as various Ministries noted during Laboff's TIP-related meetings, there was no trafficking in persons taking place in Tunisia. Ayari said that, while the GOT would need time to review the narrative, it seemed unjust to include Tunisia in Tier 2, given the country's progressive legislation on TIP and women's and children's issues. Being listed, said Ayari, "is disappointing given our efforts," explaining that Tunisian measures to combat illegal migration to Europe have been recognized by several European countries. 2. (C) Ayari said that the GOT may have further comments after reviewing the narrative. However, he stressed that the GOT looks forward "to coordinating our efforts and exchanging information." He was also interested in the possibility of working with the USG on anti-trafficking programs and will suggest areas for possible cooperation in the coming year.

CASE: 6/11/2008
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers
CABLEID: 08ALGIERS683
CABLEDATE: 6/11/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ALGERIA REACTION TO 2008 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Algeria

Based solely on our oral summary of the report, Saadi expressed surprise that Algeria's position had not been upgraded "despite all of the efforts made by the Algerian government" in the past year. Since the release of the 2007 report, Saadi noted that the Algerian government had met repeatedly with Embassy Algiers on TIP (ref C) had attended an Embassy-organized DVC on TIP (ref D), had submitted documentation concerning its position on TIP and had begun work on legislative changes so that Algerian laws clearly address TIP.

CASE: 10/19/2007
CODE: Disappointment
ORIGIN: Embassy Tashkent
CABLEID: 07TASHKENT1806
CABLEDATE: 10/19/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UZBEKS PROMISE POST-ELECTION PROGRESS ON TIP ISSUES
COUNTRY1: Uzbekistan

MFA Americas Chief Ismat Fayzullaev said that TIP is a global problem, and added "with great regret, I must announce that the US is the biggest global trafficking destination and we hope the USG will take greater steps" to combat TIP. He noted the GOU was "very surprised" by the Tier 3 designation this year and considered this "a politically motivated decision" since the TIP situation is "almost the same, or even worse, in other CIS countries."

CASE: 9/24/2004
CODE: Funding
ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 04CARACAS3025
CABLEDATE: 9/24/2004
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: MFA RESPONDS TO TIP DEMARCHE
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

4. (C) Guevara asked exactly what programs would be effected by the sanctions, and for clarification on whether the USG would oppose international loans. She noted that the reftel talking points clarified

this question. Guevara insisted that the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 authorized the State Department to send an amended report at any time to Congress. She asked whether the Embassy would consider this, given her contention that the 2003 report was in error due to our not getting the correct information. 5. (C) Guevara pushed for a promise to consider re-classifying Venezuela this year, in return for information from the MFA from 2003 in a subsequent conversation on September 22. She would not commit to cooperation next year, however, insisting that the GOV does not provide information formally to other governments, only to the United Nations.

CASE: 6/17/2009

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur

CABLEID: 09KUALALUMPUR491

CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: MALAYSIA'S INITIAL REACTION TO TIP REPORT, TIER 3 DESIGNATION

COUNTRY1: Malaysia

The Home Minister held a press conference late on June 17, in which he said he would seek clarification from Embassy officials regarding the reasons for listing Malaysia as Tier 3, and take actions to address such criticism. "We will do whatever it takes, whatever possible, but of course there are limitations," he told reporters. Hishammuddin also downplayed criticism in the U.S. report and the threat of sanctions. National television stations broadcast portions of the Minister's remarks.

CASE: 7/30/2008

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Chisinau

CABLEID: 08CHISINAU794

CABLEDATE: 7/30/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: MOLDOVA TAKES STEPS TO REVERSE ITS TIER 3 TIP PLACEMENT

COUNTRY1: Moldova

She gave her personal promise that Moldova would implement everything it planned and pleaded that the TIP issue not de-rail the MCC Program and all the other bilateral efforts she has worked on for years.

NOTE: concern about linkage between TIP report and MCC funding

CASE: 6/29/2005

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston

CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1611

CABLEDATE: 6/29/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: A DEFENSIVE NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER HOSTS TIP MEETING

COUNTRY1: Jamaica

Phillips then presented actions taken to date by the GOJ to combat trafficking, and asked to know definitively what further steps would be required for Jamaica to receive a "passing grade" and avoid Tier 3 sanctions.

CASE: 6/6/2005

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston

CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1444

CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: GOJ OFFERS MIXED RESPONSE ON TIP, CONCERNED ABOUT SANCTIONS

COUNTRY1: Jamaica

Early on May 31, Charge, accompanied by P/E Chief, met with National Security Minister Peter

Phillips at the Minister's request to discuss the imminent release of the Trafficking in Persons report. Phillips was joined by Ministry of National Security (MNS) Permanent Secretary Gil Scott, Immigration/Passport Director Carol Charlton, and Woodrow Smith, MNS Principal Director for Security, Intelligence, and Operations. 3. (SBU) Phillips began by noting Embassy TIP consultations with numerous GOJ ministries and agencies. He said that the GOJ did not wish to ignore the trafficking issue, but professed to be unclear about the existence of "trafficking across our borders." Phillips also expressed concern that a downgrade of Jamaica to Tier 3 could endanger USG security assistance badly needed by the Jamaica Defense Force and the Jamaica Constabulary Force. He and Scott wondered aloud why MNS had not been consulted in the preparation of the TIP report. Like Phillips, Charlton professed to be unaware of a trafficking issue across Jamaica's borders, and she and Scott said that they found confusing the USG's definition of "trafficking" as used in the TIP report.

CASE: 6/17/2005

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston

CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1534

CABLEDATE: 6/17/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: KINGSTON POL/ECON ROUNDUP: MAY 7 - JUNE 16, 2005

COUNTRY1: Jamaica

The GOJ has responded vigorously to the June 3 release of the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, which downgraded Jamaica to Tier 3 status and opened the door to the possibility of sanctions by the USG. Senior GOJ officials, including Prime Minister P.J. Patterson and the Leader of the Opposition, have criticized the report for unfairly labeling Jamaica, but have at the same time vowed to take action against human trafficking to avoid sanctions. The Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, and the Ministry of National Security, which labeled the report "prejudicial," are reported to be spearheading Jamaica's efforts to combat trafficking. Media coverage of the TIP Report and of related issues, including children's welfare, has been extensive in the two weeks since the report was released. Reports are beginning to emerge of planned concrete actions to combat TIP, including raids of massage parlors in Kingston at the behest of Mayor Desmond McKenzie (septel).

CASE: 6/23/2006

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Belmopan

CABLEID: 06BELIZE562

CABLEDATE: 6/23/2006

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: (C) BELIZE: PM MUSA ON GUATEMALA-VENEZUELA UNSC BIDS; KEEN TO MAKE PROGRESS ON TIP RANKING

COUNTRY1: Belize

We realized that the GoB was aware of the negative implications for Belize if it were to remain on Tier 3 and become subject to sanctions, particularly with respect to freezing IMET and FMF. This was an outcome we all hoped to avoid. (D) The focus now should be on implementation of the 60-day mini-plan, with the objective of having Belize removed from Tier 3. The Embassy would assist and support in any way it could, but the GoB would need to take the initiative to move the effort forward. The U.S. recognized that the GoB's resources were stretched thin. However we hoped that, in implementing the mini-plan, the GoB would move ahead and give timely responses. (E) The U.S. hoped that, through implementation of the mini-plan, the GoB and USG could "put things back on an even keel"

CASE: 6/16/2009

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Nouakchott

CABLEID: 09NOUAKCHOTT396

CABLEDATE: 6/16/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: MAURITANIA TIP DEMARCHE CABLE

COUNTRY1: Mauritania

Ambassador delivered refel demarche, leaving the non-paper and the 2009 TIP report country narrative for Mauritania with MFA Secretary General Mohameden Ould Sidi Baba on June 15, 2009.

3. (SBU) After a review of the TIP process and the discussion of the release of the 2009 report in Washington, Ambassador underscored that the timing of the release of this year's report was purely coincidental. He agreed that, from the Mauritanian perspective, it was particularly regrettable as it would very possibly coincide with planned June 16, 2009 ceremonies making the installation of a Government of National Unity and the end to Mauritania's current political crisis. 4. (SBU) Welcoming Ambassador's assurances that no unrelated political message was intended, Secretary General Sidi Baba cautioned that some Mauritians might see things differently and urged the Ambassador to weigh carefully any public remarks and to be vigilant against attempts to use the report and the reduction to Tier III as a political weapon. Ambassador noted that we shared similar concerns and said that the Embassy intended to handle the issue responsibly and had no wish to detract in any way from what promised to be a historic occasion with Mauritania's return to constitutional order. 5. (SBU) Discussing possible sanctions, Ambassador noted that these were not applied automatically and the circumstances of each country would be considered. Secretary General Sidi Baba urged that Mauritania's special situation be taken into account. He acknowledged that the political crisis and the reaction of Mauritania's traditional partners had hampered government action in a number of areas. He insisted, however, that Mauritania remained committed to progress on human rights issues broadly and had "done the best it could" under exigent circumstances, citing the continuing return of refugees from Senegal and the "resolution of the passif humanitaire." Ambassador observed that the Embassy followed all of these matters very closely and would insure that any decisions would be based on a full appreciation of the facts on the ground.

CASE: 2/19/2004

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara

CABLEID: 04ANKARA959

CABLEDATE: 2/19/2004

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: PRESSING TURKISH MFA ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

COUNTRY1: Turkey

1. (U) Jan. 27 Polcouns and Poloff paid introductory call Haldun Otman, newly-appointed MFA Deputy Director General of Consular Affairs, to press the GOT to follow through on recent efforts to combat trafficking in persons (TIP). Polcouns noted that the USG last year upgraded Turkey from Tier III to Tier II in the annual TIP Report based on a number of late GOT initiatives. The GOT must follow up on these initiatives in order to maintain progress against TIP and remain in Tier II. A return to Tier III could trigger USG economic sanctions. Polcouns noted that the GOT in September 2003 signed an anti-TIP protocol with the Human Resources Development Foundation (HRDF), an Istanbul-based NGO, that included shelters, a voluntary repatriation program, and training. MFA officials have explained to the Embassy (reftel) that neither the GOT nor HRDF have been able to secure funding for the protocol, but the GOT needs to find a way to begin implementing it. In addition, the USG this year will need detailed information about arrests, prosecutions, and sentencing in TIP-related trials.

CASE: 12/1/2006

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Rangoon

CABLEID: 06RANGOON1762

CABLEDATE: 12/1/2006

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: THE GOB'S LONG-WINDED DEFENSE AGAINST UNSC ACTION

COUNTRY1: Burma

hin Yi also described Burma's efforts domestically, bilaterally, and regionally to fight trafficking in persons and complained that the U.S. had given Burma an undeserved Tier 3 ranking. He said that U.S. sanctions deterred Burma's efforts to modernize and develop its economy, and caused 70,000 Burmese garment workers to lose their jobs, making them more vulnerable to human trafficking.

CASE: 6/6/2005

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston

CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1444

CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: GOJ OFFERS MIXED RESPONSE ON TIP, CONCERNED ABOUT SANCTIONS
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

On the afternoon of June 3, Jamaica's downgrade to Tier 3 was featured heavily on the country's popular evening radio programs, with emboffs participating in telephone interviews. Most programs sought clarification of the term trafficking, and all expressed concern over the associated implications of a Tier 3 rating. Weekend newspapers similarly focused on "heavy U.S. sanctions" faced by the GOJ, but generally represented the contents and findings of the report accurately.

CASE: 6/29/2005
CODE: Funding
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1611
CABLEDATE: 6/29/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: A DEFENSIVE NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER HOSTS TIP MEETING
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

Regrettable though the Minister's public posturing has been, however, with little time remaining before the G/TIP visit and the September 2 Presidential Determination, he seems fully seized with the issue. Without prejudging the eventual outcome, at this stage we are cautiously optimistic that the possibility of sanctions has focused the GOJ's attention on fulfilling the TIP Action Plan and establishing and maintaining a viable anti-TIP strategy. If the price for such an outcome is a bit of public ministerial disingenuousness, so be it.

CASE: 3/21/2005
CODE: Funding
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 05ABUDHABI1274
CABLEDATE: 3/21/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UAEG OFFICIALS: "WE WILL SOLVE THE CAMEL JOCKEY PROBLEM QUICKLY."
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

Minister of Labor - If Tier 3 "Kiss FTA Goodbye" ----- 4. (C)
Minister of Labor Ali Al-Kaabi told Charge and Deputy Undersecretary Levine that the UAEG was morally obliged to end the use of underaged camel jockeys, because it was the right thing to do. That said, he also understood the negative impact that this problem was having on key bilateral issues, noting that a fall to Tier 3 would mean the UAEG could "kiss an FTA goodbye." Al-Kaabi emphasized that putting children at risk violated both UAE traditions and Islam. Unfortunately, he noted, camel racing with underaged jockeys was a long-standing practice in the UAE and, for that reason, the UAEG needed to pursue a process of education and consensus building to end it. Al-Kaabi explained that some in the camel racing community had attempted to resist the ban with the argument that they were employing children who might otherwise not have any economic opportunities. He said that his response was to tell people to "use their own kids," which he said no Emirati wanted to do. According to Al-Kaabi, his eventual goal was to raise the minimum age for camel jockeys to 18. He viewed the 16 year age limit in the new law as an interim step. The Minister said that he had seen a number of estimates of the number of underage camel jockeys in the UAE, but had no firm numbers. He questioned the data underlying Pakistani human rights activist Ansar Burney's estimate of 5,000 camel jockeys. When Ministry of Interior Col. Fadel Al-Harmoodi (present for meetings between the UAE labor team and Levine's delegation) estimated that there were between 2,000 and 2,700 camel jockeys in the UAE, most from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sudan, Al-Kaabi pressed him on the source of his estimates. According to Al-Kaabi and MoI Col. Fadel, the UAE has taken steps to curb the influx of child camel jockeys by requiring that all visitors to the UAE have their own passports and not/not be included on a parent's passport.

CASE: 7/21/2003
CODE: Funding
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 03ANKARA4552
CABLEDATE: 7/21/2003
CLASSIFIC: SECRET

HEADING: SCENESETTER FOR TURKISH FONMIN GUL'S JULY 24 VISIT TO WASHINGTON

COUNTRY1: Turkey

23. (C) We have discussed with the GOT at various levels the need to show progress on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) by September in order to avoid facing sanctions as a consequence of Turkey's Tier III ranking in the TIP report. GOT officials have been highly defensive on the issue, insisting that the report is unfair and that they are already taking adequate measures.

CASE: 6/13/2003

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara

CABLEID: 03ANKARA3843

CABLEDATE: 6/13/2003

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: TURKS VIEW TIER III TIP RATING AS UNFAIR, THREATENING

COUNTRY1: Turkey

4. All major dailies carried stories June 13 on the TIP report. Many of the articles noted the importance of IMF loans for Turkey and characterized the possibility of a cut-off of IMF loans and other TIP-related sanctions as a new "threat" against Turkey. Several papers, including the social democrat/intellectual Cumhuriyet and the populist Aksam, described the TIP report as a new "point of tension" in the US-Turkey relationship. PEARSON

CASE: 8/10/2005

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston

CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1904

CABLEDATE: 8/10/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: ASSESSMENT OF RECENT GOJ ACTION ON TIP

COUNTRY1: Jamaica

At least, it is clear that the GOJ is very concerned about avoiding Tier 3 sanctions and hopes to recover its Tier 2 Watch List status.

CASE: 8/18/2007

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 07MUSCAT788

CABLEDATE: 8/18/2007

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: TIP, VISAS TOP LIST OF NEW OMANI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHAIRMAN'S CONCERNS

COUNTRY1: Oman

1. (U) On August 15, the Ambassador discussed with incoming Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) Chairman Khalil bin Abdullah bin Muhammad al-Khunji. Khunji immediately raised his concern that the USG's Tier 3 ranking of Oman in the latest Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report would adversely impact the country's ability to promote trade and investment. He noted that trafficking "happens in the originating countries, not here in Oman, through the actions of recruitment agencies and travel agents." The Chairman stated that since all expatriate employees have contracts with Omani employers, those who feel they are being trafficked have legal recourse to the Omani judicial system.

CASE: 6/26/2009

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Abidjan

CABLEID: 09ABIDJAN391

CABLEDATE: 6/26/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: IVOIRIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO TIER 2 WATCH LIST RANKING

COUNTRY1: Ivory Coast

Herve Kouadio Kra, Deputy Director of the Anti-Trafficking Unit in the Ministry of Family, expressed concern about the possibility of U.S. sanctions if Cote d'Ivoire does not improve its Tier 2 Watch List status. He stated that the Ministry of Family has few resources, no vehicles, and very little tangible means to expand its current activities, which mostly focus on training government officials (particularly security and defense forces) on ways to prevent trafficking.

CASE: 11/2/2009
CODE: Funding
ORIGIN: Embassy Bamako
CABLEID: 09BAMAKO711
CABLEDATE: 11/2/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: MALI ADDRESSES LOW TIP RANKING
COUNTRY1: Mali

In response to Mali's drop to Tier 2 Watchlist status, the Embassy held a series of meetings with GOM officials at the MPFEF and the Ministry of Justice, two of the ministries central to the GOM's anti-TIP efforts. On October 8, the Embassy met with Special Advisor to the Minister of Women, Children and the Family, Colonel Konipo. Konipo said the Minister understands the potential ramifications for U.S. assistance and is committed to improving Mali's ranking.

CASE: 7/25/2005
CODE: Funding
ORIGIN: Embassy Djibouti
CABLEID: 05DJIBOUTI708
CABLEDATE: 7/25/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP ACTION PLAN: DJIBOUTI'S INITIAL RESPONSE
COUNTRY1: Djibouti

She stated that if evidence is found to document trafficking cases, and Djibouti was placed on the Tier 3 list, it would make Djibouti ineligible for U.S. assistance that was not humanitarian in nature.

CASE: 6/6/2005
CODE: Funding
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1444
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: GOJ OFFERS MIXED RESPONSE ON TIP, CONCERNED ABOUT SANCTIONS
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

Charge's meeting with Phillips had positive and negative aspects. Despite extensive Embassy engagement with senior MNS officials, with MFAFT's proactive TIP action officer, and with others, Phillips clearly had been poorly briefed by his staff on the trafficking issue. Scott, Smith, and Charlton were somewhat disingenuous in claiming confusion about the trafficking definition. We have discussed it with them previously, and we waited in vain for them to respond to our repeated requests to receive their response to the 2004 TIP Report. On the positive side, if nothing else Phillips's genuine concern at what Jamaica stands to lose in terms of assistance should ensure that he will throw his ministerial weight behind GOJ efforts to address the TIP Action Plan.

CASE: 6/12/2007
CODE: Funding
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 07MUSCAT597
CABLEDATE: 6/12/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP DEMARCHE READ OUT- CONCERN OVER TIER 3 SANCTIONS
COUNTRY1: Oman

On Monday morning, June 11, Emboffs delivered ref A, the Trafficking in Person's (TIP) demarche on Oman's Tier 3 designation, to the Director of the Under Secretary's Office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Humaid al-Ma'ani. Al-Ma'ani expressed his disappointment with the lowered ranking - Oman had been placed on Tier 2 Watch List in the 2006 report - and, as MFA officials have been in previous years (ref B), was critical of the U.S. approach toward Oman on TIP. Al-Ma'ani stated that while MFA Under Secretary Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi had been interested in a meeting with U.S. Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky while in Washington for the Gulf Security Dialogue (GSD) (ref B), he now planned to advise Sayyid Badr against it, asking rhetorically, "what's the point?" Emboffs responded that the meeting would provide the Under Secretary with an excellent opportunity to express directly to G Oman's views on and plans for eliminating TIP, gain perspective on U.S. policy, and perhaps explore ways to address the issue. 2. (C) Regarding economic sanctions associated with Tier 3, al-Ma'ani expressed some disbelief and confusion that the U.S. might seek to limit military assistance, including Foreign Military Financing (FMF), under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, while at the same time encouraging an increase in bilateral security cooperation through the GSD. Al-Ma'ani stated with irritation that Oman may be inclined not to seek assistance if there were "strings attached." ----- Comment and Recommendation ----- 3. (C) Given security concerns in the Gulf, Post would strongly recommend a waiver of the TVPA's Tier 3 economic sanctions. Post's Office of Military Cooperation (OMC) currently is managing 52 active Foreign Military Sales (FMS) cases valued at \$1.04 billion. In fiscal year 2006, FMF assistance exceeded \$13.86 million, and IMET funding totaled \$1.08 million. USG security assistance and cooperation to bolster the military and defensive capabilities of a stable and stalwart ally advances U.S. national interests, particularly as we seek to expand bilateral cooperation to counter regional threats. 4. (C) The sequencing of the TIP report's release and the start of GSD consultations in Washington may cause some problems with the latter. We therefore recommend that the Department arrange a meeting between under secretaries Badr and Dobriansky to clarify the USG position on TIP in the larger context of regional and national security.

CASE: 7/16/2007

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur

CABLEID: 07KUALALUMPUR1145

CABLEDATE: 7/16/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: EMBASSY SENIOR-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

COUNTRY1: Malaysia

Tan indicated that he did not have authorization to meet with us but felt it necessary to do so for the sake of the bilateral relationship. The U.S. was once again dictating its values to a small country, Tan said. He had reviewed all of our tier rankings and had concluded that the U.S. had focused unjustly on Islamic counties this year and that this impression had filtered out to the Malaysian public. The American TIP decision was extremely sensitive politically in Kuala Lumpur, he explained, especially given PM Abdullah's reputation for being too pro-American and too close to President Bush. An election is coming up, Tan intoned, and this issue is just too sensitive for the GOM to be seen by the public to be caving on to the Americans between now and September. He added that the public reaction will be so negative that if the U.S. imposes sanctions on Malaysia it will be even more difficult for the GOM to move forward on TIP. Tan commented that, like his minister had commented to the press, Malaysia did not care about America's "nonhumanitarian, nontrade related foreign assistance" and that he did not care about our military training assistance and scholarships for Malaysians either. They did not need US assistance.

NOTE: Malaysia argues specifically that it does not care about sanctions on the TIP related kind. that assistance is not needed.

CASE: 6/19/2008

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Amman

CABLEID: 08AMMAN1821

CABLEDATE: 6/19/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: JORDANIAN RESPONSE TO G/TIP REPORT: SURPRISED AT DEMOTION, BUT HOPEFUL FOR IMPROVEMENTS

COUNTRY1: Jordan

The June 4 release of the TIP report garnered a mixed bag of media attention. The opposition daily Al-Ghad ran several stories since its release, giving the issue front-page attention along with the initial government reaction on June 6 and June 8. One article announced that Jordan is threatened with "punishments" for alleged violations against foreign workers, and that the government "was not able to exempt Jordan" from activities related to "trafficking in persons." Another stated that Jordan had agreed under the newly established Better Work Project, which is supported by the International Labor Organization and partly financed by USAID, to allow U.S. "evaluators" to inspect the work environment within the QIZs. Al-Ghad further reported the "Labor Ministry is preparing an official reply to accusations in a new American report that considers Jordan still in violation of foreign workers' rights." 4. (U) Columnist Hashem Kraissat, in the June 10 edition of the independent, opposition daily Al-Arab al-Yawm, asserted that the potential for penalties brought on by the reported incidence of trafficking conditions within QIZs is further evidence that the QIZs may be more trouble than they are worth. The article noted the "receding status" of the QIZs "as well as the headache they cause dictate the need for serious treatment on all levels...The point should be that Jordan benefits from these zones not suffer from their burden."

CASE: 10/29/2004

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas

CABLEID: 04CARACAS3369

CABLEDATE: 10/29/2004

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT URGES WORLD BANK LOANS

COUNTRY1: Venezuela

The Ambassador reminded Rincon of the consequences of the September 2004 trafficking in persons (TIP) sanction which required the U.S. to vote against loans to Venezuela.

CASE: 11/25/2008

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Amman

CABLEID: 08AMMAN3189

CABLEDATE: 11/25/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: GOJ LEADERS TALK AID, REFORM, PALESTINIANS, LEVANT WITH DAS HALE

COUNTRY1: Jordan

Bashir and Ali asked whether the global economic and financial crisis, coupled with transition to a new U.S. Administration, would lead to a decrease in aid to Jordan. Bashir noted that the recent G-20 meeting had affirmed the importance of maintaining aid levels. Ali said the GOJ is "confident our partners will continue to step up to the plate, but the media is skeptical." Hale told both that Jordan in general remains in good standing but that it should keep a couple of issues in mind as it seeks to maintain strong support among American lawmakers: first, Washington wants to see more data showing that U.S. assistance for Iraqi issues has been well spent, and second, that Jordan continues to improve its human rights record. The King has been saying the right things on human rights but concrete steps have not always followed, for example in the areas of trafficking in persons.

CASE: 2/23/2009

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Amman

CABLEID: 09AMMAN511

CABLEDATE: 2/23/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: GOJ ALERTS STAFFDEL GROVE TO IMMINENT SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST, REGIONAL CONCERNS

COUNTRY1: Jordan

MOPIC Minister Ali informed Staffdel Grove that Jordan planned to request \$300 million in supplemental Economic Support Funds (ESF), in addition to the \$360 million in ESF it hoped to receive in FY2010 pursuant to the recently signed MOU, and asked if it was reasonable. The GOJ had originally planned to request a \$500 million supplemental before taking into account the possible

affect of the financial crisis on the U.S. foreign aid budget. The supplemental request would go toward budget support as Jordan battles the destabilizing affects of the economic crisis, pursues reform efforts, and works to meet the needs of the displaced Iraqi population that remains in Jordan. Grove responded that Jordan should fully justify its request and highlight progress on reforms, such as the recently passed anti-trafficking law and the planned amendments to the law governing NGOs. He cited Jordan's ability to spend aid money quickly and efficiently as a positive sign and said it gave credence to the supplemental request.

CASE: 8/7/2009

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur

CABLEID: 09KUALALUMPUR653

CABLEDATE: 8/7/2009

CLASSIFIC: SECRET

HEADING: OVERVIEW FOR MALAYSIA-US STRATEGIC TALKS (MUSST), AUGUST 11-12, 2009

COUNTRY1: Malaysia

Tier 3 carries with it the possibility of U.S. sanctions on non-humanitarian and non-trade related assistance; the USG can also opt to waive such sanction.

CASE: 6/6/2005

CODE: Funding

ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi

CABLEID: 05ABUDHABI2495

CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: UAE LEADERS COMMITTED TO TIP PLAN FOLLOW THROUGH

COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

"Gulf News" reported June 5 that a spokesman for the Human Rights Department of Dubai Police called the report unfair and said that U.S. sanction threats were toothless and would not help solve the problem.

CASE: 7/14/2008

CODE: Harming relations

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 08MUSCAT527

CABLEDATE: 7/14/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: TIP REPORT DISPUTE TAKES TOLL ON EMBASSY ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

COUNTRY1: Oman

1. (C) The placement of Oman on Tier 3 of the 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report has had significant negative repercussions on the Embassy's relations with the Omani government, as well as with non-governmental organizations and certain private individuals. As reported previously, the direct fallout from the dispute over Oman's Tier 3 status includes: -- Immediate suspension of government cooperation with the U.S. on TIP and TIP-related issues (ref D); -- Cancellation of the visit of a U.S. delegation led by Ambassador Jackie Wolcott, Special Envoy for Nuclear Nonproliferation, to discuss nuclear cooperation issues (ref D); -- Withdrawal by the Royal Omani Police of the Embassy's "special access" to criminal statistics and law enforcement information, which could severely compromise post's ability to assess the security situation in Oman (ref A); -- Cancellation of a MEPI-funded parliamentary exchange program visit, implemented by the International Republican Institute (IRI), by staffers of Oman's Majlis al-Shura to Lithuania (ref A); -- Indefinite postponement of all IRI-conducted training previously scheduled for the Majlis al-Shura (ref A); and -- A decision by the Oman Journalist Association to cancel its application for a MEPI local grant to run a junior journalist program (ref A).

CASE: 9/1/2009

CODE: Harming relations

ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 09ABUDHABI871
CABLEDATE: 9/1/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UAE FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS MFA PREPARED TO ENGAGE WITH US ON TIP ISSUES
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

1. (C) During a 31 August meeting with UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed (AbZ), Ambassador pressed the UAE to engage with the US on Trafficking in Persons issues, urging that the issue not be left unaddressed. (NOTE: the UAEG was shocked by the publication of the annual TIP report, and its placement on the Tier II watchlist. Since the Watchlist announcement we have received negative signals about further engagement with the USG on this issue.)

CASE: 3/27/2009
CODE: Harming relations
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 09KUALALUMPUR230
CABLEDATE: 3/27/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: MALAYSIA'S WOMEN'S MINISTRY PROVIDES TIP UPDATE
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

We have come a long way since the Women's Ministry (and other GOM offices) severed substantive contact on TIP issues with the Embassy in the wake of the 2007 Tier 3 ranking, which left us without access during the critical launching period of Malaysia's anti-TIP law.

CASE: 6/13/2003
CODE: Harming relations
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 03ANKARA3843
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2003
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: TURKS VIEW TIER III TIP RATING AS UNFAIR, THREATENING
COUNTRY1: Turkey

: GOT officials said they are "disappointed" by Turkey's Tier III ranking in the 2003 TIP Report. They claimed the report ignores TIP-related reforms adopted by the GOT over the past year, and argued that the ranking was not based on fair, objective analysis. The press focused on the "threat" of TIP-related sanctions and defined the report as a new point of US-Turkish tension

CASE: 6/11/2008
CODE: Harming relations
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT431
CABLEDATE: 6/11/2008
CLASSIFIC: SECRET
HEADING: ADDRESSING OUR TIER 3 TIP DISPUTE WITH OMAN
COUNTRY1: Oman

1. (C) Summary: The dispute over the Oman's Tier 3 ranking in the 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report stems from the government's refusal to accept that there may be a trafficking problem in Oman, as well as its extreme sensitivity to its public image. Oman's threatened reappraisal of "all aspects" of our bilateral relationship unless we retract the tier placement could affect implementation of the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement, our Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) programming, public diplomacy initiatives, and perhaps even renewal of our Base Access Agreement (currently scheduled for 2010). In order to solve this dispute, Post recommends continued high-level contact with the Omanis to reassure them of the importance of our relationship and to work with them to determine an objective mechanism to quantify the level of trafficking into and through Oman. End summary.

CASE: 6/11/2008
CODE: Harming relations

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT431
CABLEDATE: 6/11/2008
CLASSIFIC: SECRET
HEADING: ADDRESSING OUR TIER 3 TIP DISPUTE WITH OMAN
COUNTRY1: Oman

Post is uncertain what aspects of our bilateral relationship the government is willing to sacrifice if the dispute over its tier ranking cannot be resolved. Sayyid Badr's statement that our Free Trade Agreement (FTA) - a personal initiative of the Sultan, which still is awaiting implementation - may be fair game, however, indicates that the reassessment could be far-reaching. While stopping the FTA would hurt Oman's economic interests far more than our own, failure to negotiate the renewal of our Base Access Agreement and Fuels Agreement, which are of high military importance, would deal the U.S. a real blow. (Note: Post believes that this action is unlikely, however, given the important security backstop we represent for Oman. End note.) Oman might even reconsider its moderate stance in support of the Peace Process and its low-key but consistent engagement with Israel. We must also contemplate that Oman may stop or severely limit our more than 30 MEPI programs, cooperation on labor issues, cultural and educational exchanges through our Public Diplomacy section, and other joint programming and agreements. Finally, we would expect that at a minimum Post will lose at least some of its access to government authorities at all levels, including the Ambassador's special access to the Sultan.

CASE: 6/6/2006
CODE: Harming relations
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 06MUSCAT907
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP: OMAN DISMAYED BY TIER 2 WATCH LIST RANK
COUNTRY1: Oman

Al-Maani replied that the timing of the unwelcome report could be particularly disastrous for the Free Trade Agreement ratification proceedings still underway in Congress, fearing that the TIP report's blow to the bilateral relationship may quickly overwhelm whatever impulses there may be to seek further trafficking engagement with the USG.

CASE: 6/13/2003
CODE: Harming relations
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 03ANKARA3843
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2003
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: TURKS VIEW TIER III TIP RATING AS UNFAIR, THREATENING
COUNTRY1: Turkey

All major dailies carried stories June 13 on the TIP report. Many of the articles noted the importance of IMF loans for Turkey and characterized the possibility of a cut-off of IMF loans and other TIP-related sanctions as a new "threat" against Turkey. Several papers, including the social democrat/intellectual Cumhuriyet and the populist Aksam, described the TIP report as a new "point of tension" in the US-Turkey relationship. PEARSON

CASE: 6/10/2008
CODE: Harming relations
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT426
CABLEDATE: 6/10/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: OMAN TAKES ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST TIP REPORT TO THE GCC, ARAB LEAGUE, MEDIA
COUNTRY1: Oman

3. (C) On June 10, the Ambassador spoke again with Sayyid Badr, whose strong feelings of resentment were still clearly evident, after he had briefed "core members" of the Council of Ministers

on our TIP report for Oman. (Note: Many ministers currently are outside of the country, including several who are with the Sultan in Europe. End note.) He informed the Ambassador that although the ministers had decided not to suspend consideration of the draft anti-TIP law, they firmly refused to speed up their action on the legislation to meet our 60-day timeline. In light of the local press reports from the GCC ministerial in Jeddah, the Ambassador counseled caution in airing this matter in the media. "It's too late," he replied. "You did this to us first." Sayyid Badr planned to meet with local journalists today to respond to the report's allegations. While he indicated he would not discuss the government's stated intention to re-appraise "all aspects" of our bilateral relationship unless we retracted the Tier 3 designation, he emphasized that Oman could not remain quiet and "had to defend itself." He also delivered a written rebuttal of claims in the TIP report (see paragraph 6 below.)

CASE: 6/17/2009

CODE: How improve

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur

CABLEID: 09KUALALUMPUR491

CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: MALAYSIA'S INITIAL REACTION TO TIP REPORT, TIER 3 DESIGNATION

COUNTRY1: Malaysia

The Home Minister held a press conference late on June 17, in which he said he would seek clarification from Embassy officials regarding the reasons for listing Malaysia as Tier 3, and take actions to address such criticism. "We will do whatever it takes, whatever possible, but of course there are limitations," he told reporters. Hishammuddin also downplayed criticism in the U.S. report and the threat of sanctions. National television stations broadcast portions of the Minister's remarks.

CASE: 7/12/2007

CODE: How improve

ORIGIN: Embassy Yerevan

CABLEID: 07YEREVAN888

CABLEDATE: 7/12/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: NEW CDA CALLS ON DFM KIRAKOSSIAN: RADIO LIBERTY, TIP, TURKEY, NAGORNO-KARABAKH, AND BILATERAL/SECUR

COUNTRY1: Armenia

The MFA's package would target efforts to focus action on those areas where Armenia was deficient.
(

CASE: 11/2/2009

CODE: How improve

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 09MUSCAT993

CABLEDATE: 11/2/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: USTR/LABOR VISIT TO OMAN FOCUSES ON UNIONS, TIP

COUNTRY1: Oman

6. (C) The group met with one of the Minister's key advisors, Dr. Ali Hassan Ali al Abduwani, who opened the meeting with a discussion of the "heinous crime" of TIP and the shock he felt when Oman was put in Tier 3 in 2008. He noted appreciation for this years Tier 2 ranking and welcomed further U.S. cooperation and assistance. He outlined the improvements made in TIP and has looked at the recommendations in the 2009 report for action. Dr. Ali was interested in forming a joint labor committee under the FTA. When asked about the issue with the GFoTU election, he was surprised, saying that the MoM had granted them their full budget request and that the MoM is not causing any delay. He thought that the ILO wanted to hold the elections in December and believed it would happen toward the end of that month. He acknowledged that tripartite dialogue was not progressing too well, but felt it was due to the lack of engagement in the business community. He noted that there is no issue with child labor in Oman as it does not issue work visas to expatriates under the age of 21 and that more than 89% of Omani children are in school. Dr. Ali acknowledged that forced labor was not well understood by other agencies, employers, and the public and recognized the need for the MoM to make efforts to clarify the issue. He said that new regulations on recruitment agencies, which

would address responsibilities between an agency and employer and between a worker and sending country, were in draft and might be done this year. He did not believe that the MoM has seen any discrimination based on union involvement, but that there was one case before the courts now where the employee maintained the dismissal was because of his union involvement while the employer cited other reasons. When asked about trends being

CASE: 6/20/2005
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 05ABUDHABI2781
CABLEDATE: 6/20/2005
CLASSIFIC: SECRET
HEADING: SCENESETTER FOR PDAS CHENEY'S VISIT TO THE UAE
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

-- note that prompt action on the TIP 60-day action plan could result in the UAE being raised from Tier Three to Tier Two "Watch List"; salute the political decision to abolish practice of using underage camel jockeys (HbZ, MbR, Al Kaabi)

CASE: 8/17/2007
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 07TOKYO3817
CABLEDATE: 8/17/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JAPAN'S FIRST RESPONSE TO TIP ROADMAP
COUNTRY1: Japan

) Embassy Tokyo Political Officer met August 17 with MOFA International Organized Crime Division TIP Officer Hiroko Sasahara to discuss Japan's reaction to the "Roadmap to Tier 1," presented to the Japanese government July 2 (reftel). Sasahara said that the government needed clarification of the roadmap before it would be able to determine what action to take. First, Japan would like to know whether the other Tier 1 countries were in compliance with all nine action items. Japan understands that countries are evaluated based on their capacity, she noted, adding that "it is okay" if some of the other countries were not in compliance. She passed a list of questions, keyed to the roadmap, for the U.S. government's review. Post sent the questions to slugged addressees by unclassified email. Sasahara asked that the United States respond to the questions within a month, if possibl

CASE: 7/20/2004
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Guatemala
CABLEID: 04GUATEMALA1783
CABLEDATE: 7/20/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: TIER 2 WATCH LIST PLAN FOR GUATEMALA
COUNTRY1: Guatemala

On July 16, Charge met with Vice Foreign Minister Marta Altolaguirre to discuss progress in fighting trafficking in persons, and what Guatemala can do to improve its standing on the Tier 2 Watch List. Charge delivered all the points in reftel, and Altolaguirre took careful notes of each. Charge also left a copy of the Watch List Action Plan. Altolaguirre, who chairs Guatemala's interagency anti-TIP working group, was receptive to the actions recommended and noted that they reflected programs the GOG has already begun. She shared with Charge a matrix of specific actions and responsibilities among GOG agencies that is the basis of Guatemala's anti-TIP plan. Altolaguirre assured Charge that the GOG completely shares our goals and is fully committed to working with us and other nations to fight TIP. She noted that lack of resources, especially to care for and protect victims of TIP, remains a serious constraint for Guatemala.

CASE: 6/12/2007
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Guatemala
CABLEID: 07GUATEMALA1145

CABLEDATE: 6/12/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: DEMARCHE ON 2007 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Guatemala

DCM delivered reftel demarche to Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Marta Altolaguirre, informing her of the June 12 release of the 2007 TIP Report and G/TIP's decision to place Guatemala on the Tier 2 Watch List this year based on criteria outlined in reftel. Altolaguirre acknowledged that enforcement operations have not been optimal during the past year and pledged renewed efforts to secure better cooperation from the Attorney General's office, leading to investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases. 2. (U) Vice Minister Altolaguirre said she would review Guatemala's country narrative and seek a meeting with us in the coming days to outline a strategy for improving Guatemala's performance. Embassy will follow up with the Foreign Ministry, the Attorney General's office, and other key Guatemalan institutions to seek ways to work together to improve Guatemala's anti-trafficking efforts. DCM provided a copy of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), with amendments and ranking criteria.

CASE: 10/4/2002
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Rangoon
CABLEID: 02RANGOON1291
CABLEDATE: 10/4/2002
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: BURMESE GOVERNMENT REPORTS TO THE USG ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
COUNTRY1: Burma

In what appears to be a direct response to the Embassy's Trafficking in Persons Report, the Government met with Embassy officials earlier this year to determine what is needed to comply with TIPS criteria.

CASE: 7/26/2005
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Managua
CABLEID: 05MANAGUA2142
CABLEDATE: 7/26/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: DIPLOMATIC NOTE RECEIVED ON GON CONCERNS WITH 2005 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Nicaragua

set up a web page to track all missing persons. Taking all of the above into account, this ministry feels that Nicaragua made important strides during 2004 to fight this crime that affects our societies, despite the fact that the Nicaraguan government has limited economic resources available. While recognizing that these efforts should grow and become more intensive during 2005, this ministry is concerned by the fact that Nicaragua has been placed in the Special Watch List of category two in the State Department's report, on the same level with other countries that present serious problems related to trafficking. The Ministry of Foreign Relations takes the opportunity to reiterate to the honorable Embassy of the United States of America the interest and commitment of Nicaragua to fight against trafficking in persons at the national and international levels. The Foreign Ministry also assures the Embassy of its highest consideration. Managua, 14 July 2005 (Signature of Foreign Minister Norman Caldera and official Foreign Ministry Seal) GARZA

CASE: 10/2/2005
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 05KUWAIT4279
CABLEDATE: 10/2/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSS WAY AHEAD TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

Responding to the FM's questions about measures implemented by the United Arab Emirates and

Qatar in order to be ranked on the Tier 2 Special Watch List, the Ambassador said that the circumstances of each country differed and direct comparisons were not productive. He did, however, cite, the establishment of shelters and legal protections for domestic servants as positive advancements in both countries and improvements needed in Kuwait. He noted the GOK had proposed a new labor law and encouraged the Government to work closely with Parliament on passage of the bill.

CASE: 6/5/2008
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Abuja
CABLEID: 08ABUJA1040
CABLEDATE: 6/5/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: NIGERIA: NAPTIP PLEASED WITH TIP REPORT AND REQUESTS FURTHER ASSISTANCE
COUNTRY1: Nigeria

) Poloff delivered a copy of the eighth annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report to the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP). Director of Investigations and Monitoring, and second in command at the agency, Mr. Muhammad Babandede, was pleased that Nigeria remained a Tier 2 country rather than slipping back to the Tier 2 Watchlist category. Hopeful to someday move to Tier 1, Babandede asked what Nigeria needs to focus on in order to make it to the next level. Highlighting the recommendations listed in the report, Poloff encouraged NAPTIP to continue the hard work they have exhibited, but to focus on increasing prosecutions and convictions, as well as victim care and protection. Babandede was grateful that the report noted the specific achievements made by NAPTIP; and ultimately agreed that Nigeria has a lot more work to do. He was also delighted that the report noted NAPTIP's need for additional funding to carry out its mandate.

CASE: 8/10/2005
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1904
CABLEDATE: 8/10/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: ASSESSMENT OF RECENT GOJ ACTION ON TIP
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

Since Jamaica's downgrade to Tier 3 status in the 2005 TIP Report, the GOJ has made serious efforts to tackle the problem of trafficking in persons. Coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister, and with the participation of senior officials at nearly ten government agencies, the GOJ has formed a National TIP Task Force that has drafted its own action plan to address TIP. The task force, which appears to have stirred the political will that has been lacking on this issue in previous years, has also achieved several of the goals suggested in Department's Tier 3 Action Plan. Significant efforts have been made against TIP in the areas of prosecution, protection, and prevention, including several police raids and the establishment of a specialized police anti-TIP unit. At least, it is clear that the GOJ is very concerned about avoiding Tier 3 sanctions and hopes to recover its Tier 2 Watch List status.

CASE: 9/18/2009
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 09KUALALUMPUR775
CABLEDATE: 9/18/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP AMBASSADOR CDEBACA'S VISIT TO MALAYSIA, AUGUST 25-27
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

16. (C) Minister for Women, Family, and Community Development Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil began the August 27 meeting with Ambassador CdeBaca and Ambassador Keith by raising concerns about Malaysia's recent placement on Tier 3 and asking for clarification as to what types of actions qualify countries for Tiers 1 and 2. The Minister stated that as a country, Malaysia could not condone TIP and expressed her Ministry's firm commitment to working both "hard and smart" with the US to combat TIP. She noted that she was open to suggestions and looked forward to learning from the US

on how to better combat TIP. The Minister indicated the GOM would need to give further study to Ambassador CdeBaca's suggestion that better convictions would arise if victims were allowed to remain in Malaysia for longer and not be kept in detention. She suggested that such a move would represent a major change in how the GOM administers its trafficking victim programs, but said that nonetheless her Ministry would give the proposal consideration.

CASE: 6/13/2007
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Manama
CABLEID: 07MANAMA548
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: BAHRAIN: 2007 TIP REPORT AND TIER 3 ACTION PLAN DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Bahrain

Regarding the action plan, Shaikh Abdul Aziz said that he would convene a core group of the Anti-Trafficking Task Force, including representatives from the Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs, the Public Prosecution, and immigration officials from the Ministry of Interior, on June 21 or 22 to discuss targeted efforts to show progress on items in the action plan in the next 60 days. He pledged to send a copy of the 2007 TIP report to concerned ministries right away so they could begin to generate discussion points in the lead up to next week's meeting.

CASE: 6/13/2007
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Manama
CABLEID: 07MANAMA548
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: BAHRAIN: 2007 TIP REPORT AND TIER 3 ACTION PLAN DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Bahrain

He said that once both of these pieces of legislation are enacted and begin being enforced, Bahrain should have in place all the minimum standards to qualify for Tier 1. Bahrain will do its part to be leaders in the region to defend the rights of expatriate workers, with or without U.S. recognition of Bahrain's accomplishments related to trafficking.

CASE: 12/30/2009
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Riyadh
CABLEID: 09RIYADH1688
CABLEDATE: 12/30/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: TIP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SAG - NEXT STEPS
COUNTRY1: Saudi Arabia

1. (SBU) As a follow-on to TIP training conducted by DHS at Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (ref A) post plans to present SAG officials with a list of steps recommended to implement the U.S. TIP action plan presented to SAG officials in November 2008. As noted in refuels, Human Rights Commission (HRC) President Bandar Al Aiban and other Saudi officials appear eager to implement programs to achieve their removal from the TIP Report's Tier 3 list of countries of concern. Post believes the SAG's new anti-trafficking law and newfound determination to seriously combat trafficking present a window of opportunity for tangible progress on this issue.

CASE: 12/20/2009
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Manama
CABLEID: 09MANAMA719
CABLEDATE: 12/20/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES TIP WITH MFA LEADERSHIP
COUNTRY1: Bahrain

The Undersecretary underscored that the GOB is "sincere" and "genuine" in its efforts to fight TIP, adding that the government is "working very hard to upgrade ourselves" (i.e., from Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 2).

CASE: 6/23/2006
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Belmopan
CABLEID: 06BELIZE562
CABLEDATE: 6/23/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: (C) BELIZE: PM MUSA ON GUATEMALA-VENEZUELA UNSC BIDS; KEEN TO MAKE PROGRESS ON TIP RANKING
COUNTRY1: Belize

His Government took the Tier 3 ranking very seriously: it had been the subject of a "full-blown" discussion in the most recent cabinet meeting. His Government intended to pursue counter-TIP efforts "every way possible." The GoB accepted that there was a TIP problem, and would do "whatever we can" to remedy matters. (C) As a first step, cabinet had agreed to designate the Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Human Development, Ms. Anita Zetina, to head the TIP Task Force; Community Development Officer Bertha Fuentes would assist her. The Immigration Department also would play an important role. With USG assistance, the GoB would "work our way through this"; Belize wanted to be removed from Tier 3

CASE: 6/21/2006
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Yerevan
CABLEID: 06YEREVAN836
CABLEDATE: 6/21/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP RATING CATCHES KOCHARIAN'S ATTENTION
COUNTRY1: Armenia

Armenia's second consecutive ranking on the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Tier 2 Watchlist appears to have spurred President Kocharian to action on the issue. During a June 20 meeting with the Ambassador, Kirakossian confirmed news reports that the president had summoned senior law enforcement officials to discuss trafficking issues in recent days.

CASE: 6/29/2005
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1611
CABLEDATE: 6/29/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: A DEFENSIVE NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER HOSTS TIP MEETING
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

1. (U) On June 24, at the request of National Security Minister Peter Phillips, Charge, USAID Mission Director, and Poloff (notetaker) attended a meeting hosted by Phillips on the subject of trafficking in persons (TIP) at the Ministry of National Security (MNS). Unfortunately, Phillips used the opportunity to criticize the 2005 TIP Report and Jamaica's downgrade to Tier 3, and to lament what he disingenuously termed an unfortunate failure to communicate between Post and the GOJ. Phillips then presented actions taken to date by the GOJ to combat trafficking, and asked to know definitively what further steps would be required for Jamaica to receive a "passing grade" and avoid Tier 3 sanctions. The GOJ also promised working-level engagement with Post on TIP as soon as possible. End Summary.

CASE: 2/4/2004
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Zagreb
CABLEID: 04ZAGREB208
CABLEDATE: 2/4/2004
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: CROATIA HEARS US ON TRAFFICKING

COUNTRY1: Croatia

Bekic expressed concern that Croatia may be moved from Tier 2 to Tier 3 on the annual TIP report. She wanted to know our intentions, as well as what Croatia must do to demonstrate that it is vigorously working to eliminate all forms of TIP. We reviewed with Bekic the benchmarks (Ref A) that we delivered to the MFA and Government Human Rights Office in August 2003 (Ref B), and discussed additional measures -- such as organizational reforms, and additional funding -- that Croatia could take now to begin much needed implementation of the National Action Plan.

CASE: 6/15/2009

CODE: How improve

ORIGIN: Embassy Ndjamena

CABLEID: 09NDJAMENA230

CABLEDATE: 6/15/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: GOC INFORMED OF NEW TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS TIER III RANKING

COUNTRY1: Chad

Secretary General Dogo thanked the Charge for informing the GoC prior to the official release of the report and asked for clarification on what Chad could do to change its new ranking.

CASE: 6/20/2008

CODE: How improve

ORIGIN: Embassy Tirana

CABLEID: 08TIRANA469

CABLEDATE: 6/20/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: GOA REACTION TO 2008 TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Albania

More than two weeks after the demarches there is movement to address a few of the key issues raised in the report, particularly from the Albanian State Police (ASP). The ASP has, with input from our ICITAP office, drafted a short-term action plan. The ASP's anti-trafficking section has told the Embassy that they are motivated to do what they can to avoid the black mark of being named on the Watch List again. The ASP has particularly focused on our message for improved identification of trafficking victims and for training. The GOA's 2008-2010 National Anti-Trafficking Strategy was announced and approved days prior to the TIP announcement

CASE: 6/29/2005

CODE: How improve

ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston

CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1611

CABLEDATE: 6/29/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: A DEFENSIVE NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER HOSTS TIP MEETING

COUNTRY1: Jamaica

5. (U) Responding to Phillips' question on how to "pass the exam," Poloff explained that the GOJ's anti-trafficking efforts would be evaluated according to the Trafficking Victim Protection Act of 2003, which broadly seeks "serious and sustained efforts" in the areas of prosecution, protection, and prevention. Poloff added that the Tier 3 Action Plan delivered to the Foreign Ministry on June 2 contained specific suggestions for action within each of those three areas. For clarification of a concept that appears to remain unclear in the media, Poloff pointed out that any child involved in commercial sex is, by definition, a trafficking victim, and that this area was of particular concern to the Department. Phillips took the opportunity to ask ACP George Williams of the JCF and Allison Anderson of the Child Development Agency to comment on whether they had found any evidence of child trafficking victims in Jamaica. Both replied that they had not. Williams explained that JCF officers had investigated a well-known "sex market" in Culloden, Westmoreland, where many young women are known to be recruited to work in nightclubs, but had found all of the eighty people present to be "adults." He added that no minors had been found at other targeted locations. Anderson contributed that she was unaware of any specific cases of trafficking, though she added that her

agency regularly encountered children who were victims of abuse and exploitation.

CASE: 6/17/2009
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Baghdad
CABLEID: 09BAGHDAD1580
CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: EMBASSY BAGHDAD DELIVERS 2009 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Iraq

Minister Selim thanked the Embassy for the report, stating that the GOI was aware of the issue and expressed strong interest in improving Iraq's ranking

CASE: 2/7/2008
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 08ABUDHABI173
CABLEDATE: 2/7/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: HEAD OF UAE TIP COMMITTEE SHARES PROGRESS REPORT
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

Dr. Gargash emphasized the magnitude of UAE's effort to tackle TIP, acknowledging the great amount of work left to do, by saying they are continually reviewing "are we doing enough?" He said that gaps in the anti-TIP system are "not for lack of wanting" to do a better job, but that it takes long-term effort to get all parties to "buy in" to the goal. In addition to its desire to combat the problem, and with the UAE's slip to last year's "Tier 2 Watch List" designation, the UAE is keen to show progress and to move itself to a higher rating.

CASE: 6/3/2005
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Quito
CABLEID: 05QUITO1273
CABLEDATE: 6/3/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: ECUADOR COMMITTED TO FIGHTING TIP
COUNTRY1: Ecuador

PolChief and PolOff discussed the TIP report with the MFA Human Rights Director Carmen Larrea on June 2. Larrea expressed concern about trafficking and the consequences of a Tier 3 designation. Larrea said she was a personal friend of Minister of Government Mauricio Gandara and would urge the MOG for anti-TIP actions. PolOff emphasized the need for significant law enforcement actions using the new legislation within 60 days and explained the need for progress on various fronts elaborated in the action plan.

CASE: 5/6/2008
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 08BUENOSAIRE589
CABLEDATE: 5/6/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ARGENTINA: A/S SHANNON MEETS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER TAIANA TO DISCUSS BILATERAL COOPERATION
COUNTRY1: Argentina

Espeche-Gil mentioned that the U.S. TIP report faulted the GoA's lack of legislation on the issue. He brought up the recent passage of the TIP law (BA 465) and asked if this would change our coverage of the issue in future reports.

CASE: 6/22/2009
CODE: How improve

ORIGIN: Embassy Accra
CABLEID: 09ACCRA585
CABLEDATE: 6/22/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT DEMARCHE
COUNTRY1: Ghana

He asked what GOG had to do to be removed from the Watch List and said GOG will wait to read the full report before making any policy recommendations.

CASE: 4/16/2008
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 08BUENOSAIRE5493
CABLEDATE: 4/16/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ARGENTINA OFFICIALS EAGER TO STRENGTHEN ANTI-TIP COOPERATION WITH
PASSAGE OF NEW LAW
COUNTRY1: Argentina

They expressed hope that the law's passage would be taken as a sign of the GOA's commitment to fighting TIP and that the Department takes this into consideration when determining this year's TIP report rankings.

CASE: 6/2/2005
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Doha
CABLEID: 05DOHA991
CABLEDATE: 6/2/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: QATAR: DELIVERY OF 2005 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT
COUNTRY1: Qatar

DCM delivered advance draft of the 2005 TIP report and action plan for Qatar on Thursday, June 2 to Amb. Khalid Al-Mansouri, Director of the Americas and European Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 2. (C) DCM informed Al-Mansouri that Qatar had been placed on Tier 3 based on the lack of significant efforts between March 2004 and March 2005 to address the TIP issues described in the report. DCM described the reassessment process and timeline and reviewed with Al-Mansouri each point of the 60 day action-plan. 3. (C) Al-Mansouri said he was not surprised but was still disappointed at the Tier 3 ranking. He said that there were many significant actions the GOQ has taken that have not been recognized, such as the recent passage of a law banning the use of children as camel jockeys, the improvement of the children's living conditions, and the efforts underway to repatriate them. He noted that Qatar would bear a significant financial burden to compensate over 15,000 Qataris for losses as this practice is brought to an end and to fund the development and purchase of camel-jockey robots to replace the children. 4. (C) Al-Mansouri expressed concern that the lack of recognition of Qatar's efforts was "linked to other issues." (Comment: Without using the words "Al-Jazeera," Al-Mansouri was expressing a view held by many in the Qatari leadership that the U.S. aims to punish Qatar because of the anti-U.S. nature of Al-Jazeera broadcasting.) DCM assured Al-Mansouri that the TIP rating was based only on circumstances in Qatar and of actions taken or not taken by the GOQ to address those issues. DCM also noted that last January the Ambassador proposed to the GOQ several specific measures to improve the conditions of the underage camel jockeys, but no action was taken in response. The important and positive steps taken in recent weeks were laudable but came too late to be factored into the 2005 report. 5. (C) Al-Mansouri said that he hoped G/TIP's Ambassador Miller would make some "good" comments to the press about Qatar's recent efforts when the report is released on June 3. He also said that Qatar hoped to work together with the U.S. to address the TIP issues and to move Qatar from Tier 3 during the upcoming reassessment.

CASE: 6/20/2005
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 05ABUDHABI2781

CABLEDATE: 6/20/2005
CLASSIFIC: SECRET
HEADING: SCENESETTER FOR PDAS CHENEY'S VISIT TO THE UAE
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

-- Trafficking in Persons: The Emiratis have indicated to us that they will work diligently on each of the steps suggested in the TIP action plan by August 2 (the end of the allotted grace period). You could reiterate our message that fulfillment of the action plan will demonstrate significant efforts by the UAEG to eliminate trafficking and elevate the UAE to Tier Two Watch List status.

CASE: 6/13/2007
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 07KINGSTON927
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JAMAICA: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON 7TH ANNUAL TIPS REPORT: GOJ AND PRESS REACTIONS
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

GOJ officials asked poloff to explain G/TIP criteria for deciding how many arrests/prosecutions/convictions move a nation into Tier 1 status. Unfortunately, G/TIP has not provided those criteria and their methodology remains veiled; therefore, poloff could only report that "the Trafficking Office in DC makes that determination." Poloff instead recommended that the GOJ meticulously detail each and every case of trafficking for future reports. This necessarily includes detailing each investigation, how many individuals were arrested (if none, the reason why), how many prosecutions, the status of each case at the time of the next TIP report, jury verdicts, and all other details relevant to each case (for example, if a case is dismissed for lack of evidence or because a witness refused to testify).

CASE: 2/23/2006
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Yerevan
CABLEID: 06YEREVAN267
CABLEDATE: 2/23/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: PROSECUTOR GENERAL LAUNCHES INVESTIGATION OF TRAFFICKING COMPLICITY ALLEGATIONS
COUNTRY1: Armenia

) Hovsepyan's initial reaction to the interim report was either to remove Yeremyan from the Prosecutor's Anti-TIP unit or to fire him altogether

CASE: 6/18/2007
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Astana
CABLEID: 07ASTANA1666
CABLEDATE: 6/18/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: KAZAKHSTAN: TIP REPORT GARNERS LITTLE ATTENTION BUT STIMULATES NEW THINKING
COUNTRY1: Kazakhstan

Finally, Azimova expressed interest in information that the U.S. might provide on how Kazakhstan could improve its TIP ranking.

CASE: 6/6/2008
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Phnom Penh
CABLEID: 08PHNOMPENH463
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: CAMBODIA TIER 2 ANNOUNCEMENT: GOVERNMENT PLEDGES TO DO MORE
COUNTRY1: Cambodia

The Charge officially delivered the news of Cambodia's Tier 2 ranking to DPM Sar Kheng on June 5. The DPM said it was with "extreme happiness" that he received the news of being upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List, and that he was pleased that the U.S. Government had recognized Cambodia's hard work to combat TIP. He said that Cambodia's success cannot be disconnected from the cooperation and assistance of the U.S. through which Cambodia has gained experience and ideas that will be the basis for the country's future work. Sar Kheng, who had clearly read the report carefully, remarked that he is not yet satisfied with Cambodia's anti-TIP efforts and agreed with the TIP Report's recommendations. During a joint press conference following the meeting, Sar Kheng was honest in recognizing remaining challenges and told the press that Cambodia will strive over time to reach a Tier 1 rating.

CASE: 10/19/2007
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Tashkent
CABLEID: 07TASHKENT1806
CABLEDATE: 10/19/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UZBEKS PROMISE POST-ELECTION PROGRESS ON TIP ISSUES
COUNTRY1: Uzbekistan

Fayzullaev provided assurances that there will be "major accomplishments" before the March 31, 2008 deadline for data collection for the next TIP Report, and an improved rating is attainable if the GOU follows through

CASE: 6/29/2009
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 09KUALALUMPUR521
CABLEDATE: 6/29/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: DCM PRESENTS TIP ACTION PLAN TO HOME MINISTRY
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

The June 29 meeting with senior Home Ministry officials represented a good step after release of the U.S. TIP report. The officials were attentive, took notes, and kept the discussion focused on the issue of combating trafficking.

CASE: 6/29/2009
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 09KUALALUMPUR521
CABLEDATE: 6/29/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: DCM PRESENTS TIP ACTION PLAN TO HOME MINISTRY
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

The Home Ministry initially had requested the meeting in order to learn more about the reasons for Malaysia's downgrade to Tier 3 in the U.S. TIP report and the steps needed for Malaysia to move out of Tier 3.

CASE: 6/6/2005
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 05ABUDHABI2495
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UAE LEADERS COMMITTED TO TIP PLAN FOLLOW THROUGH
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

B) The UAEG also wanted assurances that the USG would raise the UAE from Tier 3 to the Tier 2 Watch List if the UAE accomplished all six steps suggested in the action plan.

CASE: 6/19/2009
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Manila
CABLEID: 09MANILA1308
CABLEDATE: 6/19/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: PHILIPPINE REACTIONS TO 2009 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT
COUNTRY1: Philippines

The government is already examining ways to position cases so that they can achieve more convictions. Cabinet Secretary Silvestre Bellow convened a June 18 meeting at the Presidential Palace with law enforcement officials and prosecutors to examine ways to improve the outcome of trafficking prosecutions. An announcement by Justice Secretary Devanadera on June 15 -- the day before the TIP report's release -- ordered prosecutors to resolve outstanding human rights cases within 60 days. This "fast track" channel for cases that involve the killing of journalists, human trafficking, and narcotics will help propel these cases through clogged judicial dockets.

CASE: 10/3/2003
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 03ANKARA6233
CABLEDATE: 10/3/2003
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: ISTANBUL POLICE ARREST TRAFFICKERS
COUNTRY1: Turkey

Terzioglu indicated his interest in working with us to improve Turkey's standing from Tier 2 to Tier 1.

CASE: 6/19/2009
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Manila
CABLEID: 09MANILA1308
CABLEDATE: 6/19/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: PHILIPPINE REACTIONS TO 2009 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT
COUNTRY1: Philippines

) Over breakfast June 19 at the Chief of Mission residence, Malacanang Palace Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita expressed the Arroyo Administration's disappointment over the ranking. He asked the Ambassador's advice as to how best to address the problem and, at the least, restore the Philippines to Tier Two status.

CASE: 6/19/2009
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Manila
CABLEID: 09MANILA1308
CABLEDATE: 6/19/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: PHILIPPINE REACTIONS TO 2009 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT
COUNTRY1: Philippines

Separately, in a June 18 meeting, Acting Secretary of Justice Agnes Devanadera told senior Embassy officers that the Department of Justice took the TIP report seriously -- as she held a highlighted copy of the report in her hand -- and readily acknowledged that the Arroyo Administration had much work to do.

CASE: 6/21/2004
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi

CABLEID: 04ABUDHABI2034
CABLEDATE: 6/21/2004
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UAE - REACTIONS TO TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Abdullah asked the Ambassador before her departure from post what she thought the UAE could do to earn Tier 1 status again. The Ambassador said that it was important for the authorities to distinguish trafficking victims from people arrested for immigration violations or prostitution-related offenses, to establish safe houses for women, and provide the USG with more data on what it is doing to battle the trafficking problem. The Ambassador also encouraged the UAEG to allow the IOM to open an office in the UAE. Shaykh Abdullah noted that many deported prostitutes turn around and come back to the UAE. He wanted to know if the U.S. would criticize the UAE for putting long-term bans on deported prostitutes. The Ambassador said the U.S. would not criticize the UAE for deporting and barring the re-entry of persons who had violated UAE laws.

CASE: 6/25/2003
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 03ANKARA4066
CABLEDATE: 6/25/2003
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: GOT EXPRESSES DETERMINATION ON ANTI-TIP EFFORTS
COUNTRY1: Turkey

June 23 DCM delivered refel talking points to Ambassador Umur Apaydin, MFA Director General for Consular Affairs. Apaydin stated GOT would review USG trafficking-in-persons (TIP) recommendations and guide its work as appropriate. Noting strong bilateral cooperation and thorough police investigations, Apaydin emphasized that recent GOT efforts to combat TIP continue to accelerate. He affirmed the GOT's Anti-Trafficking-in-Persons (TIP) Task Force's commitment to fighting TIP remained strong and expressed a desire for further cooperation amongst source and destination countries. Given the GOT's achievements, Apaydin asked for the source of contrary information on Turkey and sought clarification of the benchmarks laid out by G/TIP for the annual report. While the GOT was "disappointed" in Turkey's Tier III ranking and this might be demotivating for some of the officials in the task force, he stated Turkey's commitment to expanding its anti-TIP efforts would continue. -----

CASE: 6/13/2007
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 07KINGSTON927
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JAMAICA: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON 7TH ANNUAL TIPS REPORT: GOJ AND PRESS REACTIONS
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

Privately, GOJ officials were disappointed with their Tier 2 placing. Poloff explained that the reporting period is from March 1-February 28 and the new anti-trafficking law had not come into effect until March 1 and, therefore, the USG had had no effective way to evaluate how well the law will work. Poloff also informed the task force that G/TIP will look for efforts to "convict and punish traffickers" as well as improve victims services during the coming reporting period. 5. (C) GOJ officials raised serious concerns regarding the USG's emphasis on arrests and convictions. One official noted that many times, the GOJ undertakes raids to rescue victims as quickly as possible, but that because they prioritize the removal of a victim from a dangerous situation, arrests and prosecutions are not always possible as they may have acted solely on a tip - and thus not have had time to build an evidentiary case. Additionally, GOJ officials noted that Jamaica, like the US, places the rule of law - and the reliance upon evidence and due process - front and center in the judicial system. Noting that trafficking cases are particularly difficult to prosecute because: 1) witnesses are unreliable, 2) traffickers can provide legitimate employment documents (irrespective of what the victims were actually required to do), and 3) juries don't always return a verdict favorable to the prosecution, GOJ officials are deeply concerned that the emphasis on arrests and prosecutions as the key criterion

makes achievement of Tier 1 status unattainable.

CASE: 2/3/2009
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Tirana
CABLEID: 09TIRANA74
CABLEDATE: 2/3/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: GOA CONSIDERING REGIONAL ANTI-TIP FORUM
COUNTRY1: Albania

Melo said that the GOA has made some large strides over the past year in addressing TIP and recalled how after Albania was placed on the Tier 2 Watch List, the MFA wrote a "strong" letter to the MOI telling it to cooperate fully with the Embassy on this issue. He asked several times if there is any early indication of whether or not Albania would move to Tier 2.

CASE: 9/3/2008
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT634
CABLEDATE: 9/3/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: EMBASSY CONTACT ASSERTS OMAN DETERMINED TO IMPROVE TIP TIER RANKING
COUNTRY1: Oman

) Sultan Qaboos has made it clear that he intends to strengthen Oman's efforts to combat trafficking in persons (TIP) over the next year in order to improve Oman's tier ranking on the USG TIP report, according to Ahmad al-Mukhaini, Assistant Secretary General for the Majlis al-Shura Secretariat. In an August 26 meeting with poloff, Mukhaini explained that although the Sultan was very upset about the report, Qaboos was more concerned about the international image of his country. Mukhaini added that the Sultan has plans to establish a Human Rights Committee in the next few months. Mukhaini also claimed that he had learned that there is currently a small shelter for victims of TIP, although, its existence and location are secret, in order to protect the victims. He said that the GOO plans to create a larger and more easily accessible shelter.

CASE: 1/12/2005
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Santo Domingo
CABLEID: 05SANTODOMINGO153
CABLEDATE: 1/12/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TIP INTERIM ASSESSMENT DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Dominican Republic

On January 6, Charge and poloff delivered reftel text of the Dominican Republic's Interim TIP Assessment to Deputy Foreign Minister Alejandra Liriano and Luisa Vicioso, MFA Director for Women and Children's Issues. Liriano thanked the charge for delivering the text personally and promised a thorough response after further consideration of the findings. 2. Both Liriano and Vicioso expressed concern about the classification of Dominican anti-TIP efforts as "inadequate," pointing to several areas of improvement since the Fernandez administration took power in August, including the formation of a dedicated anti-TIP unit in the Migration Directorate. They pledged to increase efforts, noting in particular the need to address the root causes of trafficking, including "conditions of life" that prompt potential TIP victims to put themselves at risk. They also said the MFA will immediately encourage the authorities to reactivate stalled TIP cases and investigations and will continue the interagency effort to combine resources and share information.

CASE: 6/23/2009
CODE: How improve
ORIGIN: Embassy Tirana
CABLEID: 09TIRANA411
CABLEDATE: 6/23/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: GOA PLEASED WITH TIER 2 RANKING

COUNTRY1: Albania

In a separate meeting with Iva Zajmi, the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator at the MoI, Zajmi was less enthusiastic with the Tier 2 ranking and asked what steps Albania could take to be listed on Tier 1. Post explained to Zajmi some of the improvements that could be made and she pledged to do everything in her power to ensure that the GOA would take the appropriate steps to move forward.

CASE: 6/4/2008

CODE: Ignoring/no comment

ORIGIN: Embassy Yerevan

CABLEID: 08YEREVAN454

CABLEDATE: 6/4/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR FINDS MORE ENTHUSIASM FOR ECONOMIC THAN POLITICAL REFORMS

COUNTRY1: Armenia

While Tom Adams mentioned Armenia's continuing Tier Two Watch List (T2WL) status with regard to Trafficking in Persons, Nalbandian did not respond.

CASE: 6/5/2005

CODE: Ignoring/no comment

ORIGIN: Embassy Sanaa

CABLEID: 05SANAA1516

CABLEDATE: 6/5/2005

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: AMBASSADOR DELIVERS TIP, GTMO, ARAB-ISRAELI DEMARCHES: DISCUSSES IRAN WITH FM

COUNTRY1: Yemen

) Ambassador notified the FM that Yemen had been listed for the first time as a Tier 2 country in this year's Trafficking in Persons report (ref A). Ambassador raised the issue of organized trafficking of Yemeni children to Saudi Arabia for exploitation as beggars and laborers as of Yemen's major TIP problems that the ROYG needs to combat. Ambassador recognized the difficulty in taking on this problem given Yemen's limited resources, but noted the importance of the ROYG building a comprehensive TIP strategy to decrease this and other TIP-related practices in Yemen. Qirbi responded that emigration to KSA is not essentially a trafficking problem, but rather the result of extreme poverty driving youth to seek work across the border. The solution to this problem, said Qirbi, is development and poverty alleviation.

CASE: 6/18/2007

CODE: Ignoring/no comment

ORIGIN: Embassy Astana

CABLEID: 07ASTANA1666

CABLEDATE: 6/18/2007

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: KAZAKHSTAN: TIP REPORT GARNERS LITTLE ATTENTION BUT STIMULATES NEW THINKING

COUNTRY1: Kazakhstan

1. (SBU) Summary: On June 12, drawing on points provided in reftel, Charge delivered the TIP report demarche announcing Kazakhstan's Tier II Watch List ranking to Ministry of Justice Office Director Azimova, receiving a muted response in return. Charge provided a copy of the Kazakhstan TIP report and handed over a copy of the points as a non-paper. The release of the TIP report generated no notice in local press nor a public government response. Azimova said the new Deputy Minister of Justice would be focusing more attention on victim assistance and not rely solely on law enforcement as the solution. End summary.

CASE: 6/12/2007

CODE: Ignoring/no comment

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur

CABLEID: 07KUALALUMPUR1024
CABLEDATE: 6/12/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: MALAYSIA 2007 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

(SBU) Charge d'Affaires a.i. David Shear delivered reftel demarche on June 12 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Secretary General II Ambassador Tan Seng Sung. CDA delivered SIPDIS the TIP report narrative for Malaysia advising Amb. Tan of Malaysia's Tier 3 ranking. CDA also conveyed points of the demarche and asked the MFA to embargo the report until after 10:00 a.m. EDT. We reminded the MFA of the pending visit of G/TIP Director Ambassador Lagon on June 28-29 and encouraged the GOM to take proactive steps to address trafficking in persons prior to the visit. CDA also reminded the GOM of the Tier 2WL Action Plan that we presented last year and informed them that we would work with Washington to develop a short term action plan consistent with the sixty day reevaluation period described in the reftel demarche. Amb. Tan took the information without comment. SHEAR

CASE: 6/19/2006
CODE: Ignoring/no comment
ORIGIN: Consulate Casablanca
CABLEID: 06CASABLANCA675
CABLEDATE: 6/19/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: 2006 TIP REPORT DEMARCHE: MOROCCO GENERALLY PLEASED
COUNTRY1: Morocco

On June 12 poloff met with MFA North American Division Chief Wassane Zailachi to deliver reftel demarche and English version of Morocco's 2006 TIP report. MFA America Desk Officer Alaaddine Benhadi also attended the meeting. Zailachi thanked poloff for the report and had no comment on USG concerns regarding insufficient length of prison sentences for convicted traffickers and lack of screening system to differentiate trafficking victims from smuggling victims. 2. (SBU) Zailachi in turn voiced her concerns about the large number of sub-Saharan Africans transiting Morocco on their way to Spain and other EU countries and the hardships that arise for Morocco from clandestine migration and trafficking. She reminded poloff of the significant financial strain Morocco has faced in the last year repatriating thousands of clandestine migrants caught in Morocco on their way to the EU. She also spoke of Morocco's need for international assistance, both financial and technical, in fighting the problem. "This is not a Morocco specific problem" she said, "Europe and the countries of origin need to take some of the responsibility as well." Zailachi expressed the GOM's high hopes for the upcoming Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development as well as its disappointment at Algeria's decision not to participate. Th

CASE: 6/6/2006
CODE: Ignoring/no comment
ORIGIN: Embassy Sanaa
CABLEID: 06SANAA1675
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: YEMEN: TIP REPORT AND RELATED DEMARCHE DELIVERED TO MHR
COUNTRY1: Yemen

Per reftels a and b, on June 5 poloff delivered to Ismail al-Jabri, Special Assistant to the Minister of Human Rights, the text of the 2006 Yemen portion of the TIP report. Poloff also delivered talking points per ref A. Jabri noted that he would review the report and speak to the minister before making an official comment. He also noted that he would return any official comment directly to poloff. Krajewski

CASE: 6/25/2003
CODE: Moving goal posts
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 03ANKARA4066
CABLEDATE: 6/25/2003
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: GOT EXPRESSES DETERMINATION ON ANTI-TIP EFFORTS

COUNTRY1: Turkey

) While our approach elicited a useful discussion about the USG recommendations, the steps provided in reflet do not represent clear, objective benchmarks - benchmarks that are necessary to provide appropriate guidance to the GOT on what steps are required for Tier II. Apaydin noted, "While the USG report allows TIP to remain at the forefront of government objectives, it is frustrating to implement many anti-TIP steps only to be told later they are not sufficient." If we cannot set and maintain clear goalposts, this process will prove counterproductive to our ability to enhance cooperation against Trafficking-in-Persons and to other interests and objectives in Turkey. PEARSON

CASE: 9/19/2007

CODE: Moving goal posts

ORIGIN: Embassy Bangkok

CABLEID: 07BANGKOK5011

CABLEDATE: 9/19/2007

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: EMBASSY URGES GREATER RTG EFFORT ON LABOR TRAFFICKING

COUNTRY1: Thailand

Nongnuth said she appreciates having a discussion on TIP at a senior level and welcomes the opportunity to start a dialogue well in advance of the TIP report drafting period. She noted that she leads an annual visit to Washington, usually in February or March, to discuss TIP issues with G/TIP and on Capitol Hill prior to the release of the report each year. She agreed that more progress is needed in the area of labor trafficking and that the TIP report has always been viewed as a "wake-up call" for RTG agencies to address areas where TIP is prevalent. The RTG fully understands the strong interest in TIP matters on Capitol Hill and within the State Department and other USG agencies charged with implementing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). 5. (SBU) Nongnuth said there remains an impression among Thai ministries that overall RTG efforts to combat TIP are not fully appreciated in Washington, and that some believed the USG's relatively recent focus on labor trafficking should provide more time for governments to adjust to new benchmarks. She noted that some progress has been made to encourage the Ministry of Labor to better regulate their migrant worker programs, and that high-level MOL employees visited Washington in March along with Nongnuth's MFA delegation to describe current anti-trafficking efforts regarding labor exploitation.

CASE: 11/6/2008

CODE: Moving goal posts

ORIGIN: Embassy Doha

CABLEID: 08DOHA791

CABLEDATE: 11/6/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: SCENESETTER FOR AMBASSADOR MARK LAGON'S VISIT TO QATAR

COUNTRY1: Qatar

7. (C) Second, Qatari officials engaged with us on these issues have the perception that the goal posts move with each passing year. For example, the most recent TIP report contains global language on sex abuse towards children which is tangential to the main TIP problems here and was never raised with the GOQ prior to the report's publication. They are also indignant that we don't give them credit for what they are trying to do on the road toward tangible results. Looking back, Qataris expected applause and respect for its decision to ban juvenile camel jockeys and instead, from their perspective, saw their TIP rating fall and more conditions expected of the government. 8. (C) Qatari officials often tell us that they don't know where our end game lies. In this vein, you should be prepared to discuss the recent decision to upgrade Oman's TIP rating from Tier 3 to Tier 2 watchlist based upon the expected passage of comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation there (see ref B). In our discussions with our Qatari counterparts, we have consistently stressed that Tier rankings are based upon concrete measures, not the promise of future action. The texts of the 2008 TIP Report dealing with Oman and Qatar are virtually identical, and the Qataris may cite the decision as an unfair "moving of the goal posts."

CASE: 6/17/2009

CODE: Moving goal posts

ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi

CABLEID: 09ABUDHABI622
CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UAE: STATE DEPARTMENT TIP REPORT "DISAPPOINTING AND DISTORTED"
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

(U) Summary: Following release of the TIP report in Washington June 16, the UAEG's official news agency WAM issued a sharply-worded statement condemning the UAE text as "disappointing and distorted." The UAEG accused the report of "changing the goal posts", lacking objectivity in evaluating the UAE's "transparent efforts", and relying on "sensationalized media reports". Local media has responded to the report by printing the WAM statement verbatim (text in paragraph 2). End summary.
----- OFFICIAL STATEMENT -----

CASE: 11/22/2009
CODE: Moving goal posts
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 09ABUDHABI1096
CABLEDATE: 11/22/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: G/TIP AMBASSADOR LUIS CDEBACA'S VISIT TO UAE
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

4. (SBU) Gargash told CdeBaca the State Department downgraded the UAE when it "changed the goal posts" by emphasizing labor issues while the UAEG was focused largely on fighting sexual exploitation.

CASE: 6/17/2009
CODE: Moving goal posts
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 09ABUDHABI622
CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UAE: STATE DEPARTMENT TIP REPORT "DISAPPOINTING AND DISTORTED"
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

Changing goal posts has unfortunately become a feature of these trafficking reports and they have thereby lost credibility as a constructive measuring tool of anti-trafficking efforts around the world.

CASE: 6/18/2009
CODE: Moving goal posts
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 09ABUDHABI626
CABLEDATE: 6/18/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT ON UAE
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

Changing goal posts has unfortunately become a feature of these trafficking reports and they have thereby lost credibility as a constructive measuring tool of anti-trafficking efforts around the world.'

CASE: 12/23/2009
CODE: Moving goal posts
ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong
CABLEID: 09HONGKONG2340
CABLEDATE: 12/23/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: G/TIP AMBASSADOR ENCOURAGES REFORM IN HONG KONG
COUNTRY1: China

CS Henry Tang stressed the HKG,s disappointment in the Tier 2 downgrade, asked whether the U.S. was "moving the goal posts," and expressed hope the U.S. and Hong Kong could "put this all behind us in next year's report." Secretary for Security Ambrose Lee and Secretary for Labor and Welfare

Matthew Cheung listened intently to Ambassador CdeBaca's presentation, while defending Hong Kong's existing approach to TIP in a two-hour meeting that also included senior HKG labor, immigration and police officials.

CASE: 12/23/2009
CODE: Moving goal posts
ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong
CABLEID: 09HONGKONG2340
CABLEDATE: 12/23/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: G/TIP AMBASSADOR ENCOURAGES REFORM IN HONG KONG
COUNTRY1: China

Tang maintained that Hong Kong's legal system was "ample and adequate." Tang also asked, based on a report it had received from the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Washington, if the U.S. was "moving the goal posts" on TIP.

CASE: 1/7/2010
CODE: Moving goal posts
ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong
CABLEID: 10HONGKONG39
CABLEDATE: 1/7/2010
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: TIP: HONG KONG WOULD BE "DISAPPOINTED" WITH A CONTINUED TIER 2 RANKING
COUNTRY1: China

(SBU) Contending last year's Tier 2 ranking was unfair, a senior Security Bureau official repeated a question the Chief Secretary had asked Ambassador CdeBaca, i.e. if the U.S. was "moving the goal posts" on TIP (see ref).

CASE: 6/30/2009
CODE: Moving goal posts
ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo
CABLEID: 09CAIRO1222
CABLEDATE: 6/30/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: EGYPTIAN MFA REACTIONS TO 2009 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Egypt

Aboulmagd asked how the report could enumerate the positive steps that Egypt had taken in the past year and still not change the tier ranking. He said that those GOE officials that deal with TIP feel like the USG "moved the goalposts" by highlighting new issues in order to justify keeping Egypt on the watch list. Aboulmagd specifically mentioned the insertion of child labor issues in the 2009 TIP report. He told us that some officials wanted to stop cooperating with the USG on TIP, but he stated that everyone agreed to revisit the issue at a later date to give some time for feelings to subside.

CASE: 6/29/2005
CODE: Moving goal posts
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1611
CABLEDATE: 6/29/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: A DEFENSIVE NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER HOSTS TIP MEETING
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

) Phillips went on to challenge the 2005 TIP Report for what he said was its lack of specificity. Pursuing a line of criticism that has been common in the Jamaican media since the public release of the report on June 3, Phillips demanded "more detail" and evidence on the areas of USG concern, including the internal trafficking of children, outlined in the report. He added that the GOJ would also like more information on how it should respond to the proposed USG action plan, and asked how Jamaica was expected to "pass the exam" without knowing "what the passing mark is." Concluding approximately 15 minutes of opening remarks, Phillips added that Jamaica has always taken child's

rights seriously, and that "if there is anything we can do, we want to do so." -----

CASE: 6/13/2007
CODE: Moving goal posts
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 07KINGSTON927
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JAMAICA: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON 7TH ANNUAL TIPS REPORT: GOJ AND PRESS REACTIONS
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

Both Post and the GOJ remain disappointed in the Tier ranking as the GOJ has made significant gains in countering human trafficking and are facing the reality that they may not be able to move to Tier 1 status due to cultural beliefs about cooperation with law enforcement that are beyond their control. Only 2 years ago, Jamaica was a Tier 3 nation, with no GOJ official even acknowledging the problem. Today, GOJ officials routinely discuss trafficking, the police routinely investigate cases, and the Ministry of Justice has launched a new campaign to crack-down on employment ads that are used to lure women into prostitution. The GOJ is understandably frustrated with what they see as ill-defined objectives and "moving goal posts" which do not acknowledge the ongoing extraordinary work they have undertaken.

CASE: 6/20/2007
CODE: Moving goal posts
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 07TOKYO2788
CABLEDATE: 6/20/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: MOFA PRESENTS TALKING POINTS FOR UPCOMING G/TIP VISIT OF AMB. LAGON
COUNTRY1: Japan

In addition to the items mentioned in the talking points below, Uchikawa said that the United States needs to offer further explanation concerning the inclusion of apparently new criteria into this year's report: 1. Possible forced labor conditions of workers in foreign trainee programs. 2. Use of fraudulent marriage as a vehicle for human trafficking and 3. Child Pornography. Uchikawa noted that the United States did not submit explicit questions concerning these issues in the list of questions submitted to the Government of Japan in February.

CASE: 7/12/2007
CODE: Moving goal posts
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 07TOKYO3186
CABLEDATE: 7/12/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: G/TIP AMBASSADOR LAGON'S JULY 2 MEETING WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT
COUNTRY1: Japan

The United States recognizes Japan's efforts and progress as well as its problems, Ambassador Lagon told the inter-ministerial task force, citing the firm views of Under Secretary of State Dobriansky to that effect. The areas for SIPDIS improvement that the United States has identified for Japan are explained in a roadmap prepared for the meeting with the inter-ministerial task force, explained Ambassador Lagon, promising to "not move the goalposts."

CASE: 6/13/2006
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 06CARACAS1736
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: VENEZUELA RESPONDS TO TIER 3 PLACEMENT
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

he dismissed the report's validity due to what she called its unilateral and politicized nature.

CASE: 6/9/2008
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Montevideo
CABLEID: 08MONTEVIDEO345
CABLEDATE: 6/9/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: URUGUAY TAKES TIP REPORT IN STRIDE; WANTS TO DO BETTER
COUNTRY1: Uruguay

4. (SBU) Pintos and de Mello took particular issue with the standard report text for Tier Two countries that states, the GOU "does not fully comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking." While she admitted Uruguay's limitations in combating (due primarily to limited resources) trafficking, this stark language struck her as unfair as the "significant efforts of Uruguay were hardly less than minimum."

CASE: 6/15/2008
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT443
CABLEDATE: 6/15/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: FUELED BY MEDIA, POPULAR RESENTMENT GROWS OVER TIP
COUNTRY1: Oman

- Government Officials Close Ranks ----- 3. (C) Government officials have closely lined up behind the MFA. Oman's Attorney General, Hussain Ali Zaher al-Hilali, argued in the June 12 edition of the Arabic-language state-run paper "Oman" that "the laws of the Sultanate are sufficient to combat the TIP phenomena," pointing specifically to an ongoing case involving four Asian nationals accused of prostitution and a 1999 case in which the Public Prosecution won convictions against 54 people complicit in a prostitution ring. (Note: The Attorney General referred to the current case in a private conversation with the Ambassador on April 14, during which he stated that the Public Prosecution's case is both against women accused of engaging in prostitution and their alleged pimp (ref B). End note.) Minister of Manpower Juma bin Ali al-Juma, who has been attending the International Labor Organization's (ILO) annual conference in Geneva, was quoted in local press as saying, "The Ministry has not received any complaints regarding TIP from expatriates or their embassies... and the ILO has praised the Omani Labor Law and its enforcement numerous times." 4. (SBU) In a separate press article, the Chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), Khalil al-Khonji, sounded a common refrain in asserting that the report is based on "inaccurate information about a few personal practices." He added, "There are 40 labor unions (currently) protecting the rights of workers in Oman." Khonji offered the OCCI as a reliable source of information about labor conditions for future reports. On June 14, the Majlis al-Shura, the elected lower house of Oman's bicameral advisory body, took an unprecedented leap into the realm of foreign policy by issuing a strong statement "rejecting and condemning the false allegations stated in the report." Post is reporting on the significance of the Majlis al-Shura's statement septel. -----
----- Discussion Enters Blogosphere

CASE: 12/3/2009
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo
CABLEID: 09CAIRO2236
CABLEDATE: 12/3/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ASSERTS TIP PROGRESS TO VISITING AMBASSADOR
COUNTRY1: Egypt

6. (C) Moshira Khattab, Egypt's Minister of State for Family and Population, criticized the continued inclusion of Egypt on the State Department's trafficking-in-persons watch list, arguing that the GOE should be recognized for its "tough fight" in 2008 against Islamists in Parliament to ensure passage of amendments to Egypt's Child Law criminalizing trafficking in children. Khattab said the Child Law amendments are an effective tool against trafficking and Egypt's Public Prosecutor is cooperating

closely with her ministry to implement the law. Khattab said that media attention to Egypt's domestic trafficking problem is now growing, prompted by recent trafficking related prosecutions. While she said some of the reporting may be exaggerated, it is "shocking people" and bringing needed attention to the issue. Khattab noted that civil society is still largely absent from the trafficking fight in Egypt and urged continued international support to strengthen civil society capacity, especially to assist street children.

CASE: 7/31/2008

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 08BUENOSAIRE1055

CABLEDATE: 7/31/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: U.S.-Argentine Bilateral Consultations Promote S&T, Cultural, Military and National Parks Cooperatio

COUNTRY1: Argentina

39. (U) Faillace noted Ambassador Lagon's meetings with FM Taiana, Justice Minister Anibal Fernandez, and Prosecutor General Esteban Righi. She stressed, however, that the GOA continues to disagree with its Tier 2 Watchlist classification in the USG's rankings, arguing that the ranking does not seem to take into account many of the GOA's recent accomplishments: the creation of a National Plan to Assist Trafficking Victims established by Executive Decree in 2007; the passage of federal legislation criminalizing TIP; and the support the MFA and other government agencies gave to IOM's public awareness campaign. She explained that many GOA agencies are involved in the fight against human trafficking, and that she had recently attended a meeting with agencies from the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor General (including the Office of Victim's Assistance- OFAVI), and the Ministry of Social Development, including the Secretariat for Children, Adolescents, and the Family to discuss next steps regarding the development of implementing regulations for the new anti-trafficking law.

CASE: 3/5/2009

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait

CABLEID: 09KUWAIT195

CABLEDATE: 3/5/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: GOK, FOREIGN LABOR ATTACHES EXCHANGE HARSH WORDS AT IOM WORKSHOP

COUNTRY1: Kuwait

Publicly addressing PoIOff, Al-Awadhi argued that the U.S. "blacklisting" of Kuwait in its Trafficking in Persons report was unfair because the "few" cases of maid abuse among Kuwait's 600,000 foreign maids was statistically insignificant and not due to negligence by the GOK.

CASE: 6/17/2009

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 09BUENOSAIRE706

CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: (C) ARGENTINA: FOREIGN MINISTER "VERY UPSET" ABOUT TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Argentina

1. (C) Summary. On the instructions of Argentine FM Jorge Taiana, MFA Chief of Staff Alberto D'Alotto called CDA June 17 to express the GOA's irritation with the State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report which placed Argentina on the Tier 2 Watch List. D'Alotto said Taiana was "very upset" with the report's "willfully ignorant" criticism of GOA efforts to fight TIP. D'Alotto added that the "excessively critical" USG report will make it more difficult for the GOA to work with the USG to combat TIP. Although the report did not make front-page news, Argentina's two leading dailies focused on the negative aspects of the report and their headlines used the word "harsh" to describe the report. As noted in refels, post remains concerned that failure to recognize the GOA's notable efforts to combat TIP ultimately undermines efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation in this important human rights and law enforcement issue. End summary.

CASE: 6/18/2007
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 07KUWAIT938
CABLEDATE: 6/18/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: KUWAITIS DEFENSIVE ABOUT TIER 3 TIP RANKING, THOUGH SOME ACKNOWLEDGE PROBLEMS
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

The demotion of Kuwait to Tier 3 in the 2007 TIP report garnered a great deal of attention. Kuwaiti officials criticized the TIP report as inaccurate, but pledged to continue working with the U.S. on anti-TIP efforts.

CASE: 8/2/2005
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 05KUWAIT3412
CABLEDATE: 8/2/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP UPDATE: GOK BRIEFS VISITORS ON ACTIONS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Faisal Al-Hajji opened a second MOSAL meeting by telling the delegation that the Tier 3 ranking "was hard to accept. We weren't against it, but it was not totally based on reality." He added that a large part of the TIP Report was formulated on theory and hearsay, not on facts or statistics, echoing comments from MOSAL officials earlier in the day.

CASE: 8/2/2005
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 05KUWAIT3412
CABLEDATE: 8/2/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP UPDATE: GOK BRIEFS VISITORS ON ACTIONS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

Assistant Undersecretary Adnan Al-Omar added that the underage jockey phenomenon spread to Kuwait from other GCC countries in the past three to four years after the sport became more competitive and lucrative prizes, such as new BMWs and cash, introduced. He claimed that the Ministry was not certain from where any underage jockey came and was agitated that the TIP Report listed specific source countries even though that information was unsubstantiated. Al-Omar, in an irritated tone, asked G/TIP what was the number of maid abuse cases used to determine Kuwait's Tier 3 status. "Your report says it, but I am not convinced," he said. "You have no numbers, just like us."

CASE: 1/7/2010
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong
CABLEID: 10HONGKONG39
CABLEDATE: 1/7/2010
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: TIP: HONG KONG WOULD BE "DISAPPOINTED" WITH A CONTINUED TIER 2 RANKING
COUNTRY1: China

4. (SBU) Contending last year's Tier 2 ranking was unfair, a senior Security Bureau official repeated a question the Chief Secretary had asked Ambassador CdeBaca, i.e. if the U.S. was "moving the goal posts" on TIP (see ref).

CASE: 6/17/2009
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 09ABUDHABI622

CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: UAE: STATE DEPARTMENT TIP REPORT "DISAPPOINTING AND DISTORTED"

COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

1. (U) Summary: Following release of the TIP report in Washington June 16, the UAEG's official news agency WAM issued a sharply-worded statement condemning the UAE text as "disappointing and distorted." The UAEG accused the report of "changing the goal posts", lacking objectivity in evaluating the UAE's "transparent efforts", and relying on "sensationalized media reports". Local media has responded to the report by printing the WAM statement verbatim (text in paragraph 2). End summary. ----- OFFICIAL STATEMENT ----- 2. (U) Begin Text of June 16 statement: The UAE on Tuesday termed as "disappointing and distorted" a US State Department report that failed to accurately assess the status of anti-trafficking efforts during the last year. The UAE government is deeply disappointed by the subjective and inaccurate assessment in this report" Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Anwar Gargash said. In contrast to the US report, the Annual Report 2008 released earlier this month by the UAE National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCHT) indicated that over 20 cases of human trafficking were registered last year, compared to 10 cases in 2007, doubling the number of cases prosecuted under Federal Law 51 in a period of 12 months. Similarly, the NCCHT report added that the number of prosecutions and the severity of punishments issued by UAE courts also increased significantly this year, with convictions in six cases and two people receiving life sentences. Citing these figures, Dr. Gargash said, "The UAE made significant progress in its endeavor fight this crime in 2008. In its last report, the State Department identified the UAE as "a model in the region." It is indeed disturbing to note that this year's report has failed to view our transparent efforts and results objectively. The minister, who is also chairman of the NCCHT, criticized the parameters applied to measure human trafficking cases. It appears that the US definition of human trafficking varies every year depending on the nature of debate on this issue in its domestic environment. It is incongruous to equate alleged labor rights violations, which are a critical but separate issue, to the coercive and unacceptable sexual exploitation of women for profit. This report lumps all these issues together in a manner that is generalized and unconstructive. Changing goal posts has unfortunately become a feature of these trafficking reports and they have thereby lost credibility as a constructive measuring tool of anti-trafficking efforts around the world. Citing one of the many inaccuracies, the minister questioned the veracity of the State Department report which alleges that a member of the ruling family was arrested in a Belgian court on criminal charges, a claim the UAE refutes and describes as unwarranted and appalling display of stereotyping Arabs and the Middle East. "This accusation alone indicates that the US prefers to rely more on sensationalized media reports in compiling its report rather than verify its facts." Dr. Gargash said. "The UAE monitors all international reports and assesses them objectively. It welcomes constructive criticism and help, but reserves the right to determine the agenda to tackle its problems in a manner that it deems appropriate. The fact that the report does not take into account the facts on the ground devalues and undermines how seriously it is taken," he added. The government realizes that like in many other countries, the challenges pertaining to human trafficking are numerous. We are committed to fighting this crime and will continue to do so diligently," the minister said. The UAE continues to implement its four-pillar action plan that includes legislation, enforcement, victim support, as well as bilateral agreements and international cooperation. During the last year, the government ratified the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children; and in order to increase the government's effectiveness, the Council of Ministers expanded the size and scope of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking by including public prosecutors and law enforcement officers as its members. Additionally, workshops and training sessions were conducted frequently throughout the year, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, to improve the skills of UAE law enforcement officials. A new website was launched to serve both as an official information source, as well as a forum for interaction between the public and government. In terms of victim support efforts, the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children continues to mature and provide excellent psychological and physical care for victims of trafficking and other forms of abuse - in 2008 43 cases were admitted. The newly established Abu Dhabi shelter handled 15 trafficking victims, who also aided police in the investigations of the criminals who exploited them. The UAE is pursuing traffickers aggressively and they will be severely punished under the UAE's anti-trafficking law. The UAE's commitment to this issue is part of its national agenda as well as a shared responsibility as a member of the community of nations. End Text. 3. (C) COMMENT: The sharp UAEG reaction is not a surprise. Following the UAE's elevation to Tier 2 last year and USG description of the UAE's efforts on TIP as a "a model in the region", there is astonishment that their public campaign to demonstrate progress in anti-TIP efforts resulted in their demotion to the tier 2 watch list. The inclusion of the Belgian case involving a

member of a ruling family is a source of embarrassment, and likely the reason for the immediate silence from local media. End comment. OLSON

CASE: 7/23/2008
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Tel Aviv
CABLEID: 08TELAVIV1578
CABLEDATE: 7/23/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: KNESSET SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN DISCUSSES 2007 STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT ON TRAF
COUNTRY1: Israel

The TIP Report's mention of internal trafficking and Israel as a source country for trafficked women was discussed by Anat Hulata, the State Attorney's Office representative. She took issue with the State Department report on both matters. "We do not recognize the phenomenon of internal trafficking as referred to in the report, and we do not have reports of it from the various bodies and agencies which provide us with information and data," she said. Regarding NGO reports of Israel's status as a "source country" for trafficked women, Hulata said the State Attorney's office only knew of isolated cases and did not have evidence that constituted a phenomenon.

CASE: 7/25/2007
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Colombo
CABLEID: 07COLOMBO1031
CABLEDATE: 7/25/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: SRI LANKA: WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT SECRETARY ENGAGES ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING
COUNTRY1: Sri Lanka

C) Summary. On July 10, Charge and Poloff called on Secretary of the Ministry of Child Development and Women's SIPDIS Empowerment Indrani Sugathadasa to brief her on Sri Lanka's Tier 2 Watch List status and discuss Government of Sri Lanka (GSL) efforts to address trafficking of women and children for involuntary servitude and sexual exploitation. Sugathadasa commented that some of the information contained in the 2007 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report overstates the nature of the problems in Sri Lanka, and that the GSL has taken significant measures to address TIP. She acknowledged that recruitment agents often mislead the women they send overseas, but argued that many women actively pursue foreign employment and know the risks. In Sugathadasa's view, the biggest problem with overseas employment of women is not abuse, but the social impact their absence has on families. Charge described the Tier 2 Watchlist status as an opportunity for the U.S. and Sri Lanka to work together to address trafficking and described upcoming U.S. anti-trafficking programs. Sugathadasa was forthcoming in our meeting and will likely be a good partner for future engagement on TIP.

CASE: 6/27/2005
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 05KUWAIT2869
CABLEDATE: 6/27/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: GOK OBJECTS TO TIP "COMPARISON" TO OTHER GULF STATES; PDAS CHENEY OUTLINES STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE RA
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

NEA Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Cheney began her visit to Kuwait with a call on Kuwait's first female minister, Dr. Maasouma Al-Mubarak, Minister of Planning and Administrative Development. Following a discussion on women's political participation and strategies to prepare women for the 2007 parliamentary elections (septel), Dr. Maasouma changed the subject and expressed her deep disappointment with the 2005 Trafficking in persons (TIP) Report. She acknowledged problems in Kuwait in treating expatriate workers, especially domestic staff, but strongly objected to Kuwait being "lumped in with other states" and said the report did not take into

account ongoing efforts to improve labor conditions. In particular, in her assessment, the report did not address steps by individuals and NGOs to address trafficking issues. She said, "things are different in Kuwait" and the Department's report did not reflect the Kuwaiti system for "identifying and rectifying mistakes." She referred to the recent ban on outside work between noon and 4:00 PM and said the GOK was determined to make working conditions more humane for the approximate 450,000 domestics in Kuwait. She reported court cases filed against several companies which violated the ban and lamented that a few abuses would sully the image of Kuwait. She further advised that reform of the labor law was underway and commented that as a cabinet minister, she now had greater access and influence and would press for positive changes. 3. (C) Similarly, Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister Dr. Yousef Al-Ebrahim, objected to being compared to neighboring states and questioned the methods and sources used in preparing the report. He asserted that Kuwait was "not like the rest of the Gulf" and was committed to treating South Asians resident in Kuwait well. He said the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor had banned the use of child camel jockeys, a practice he said was nonexistent in Kuwait, but was limited in taking action against those who use their own children in camel races. In response to a comment by the Ambassador on non-payment of some workers, he claimed Kuwait had 1.5 million foreign workers and only a small number of them were not being paid, and firms were being sanctioned. Blaming the media for the negative image, he said Kuwait's free press was quick to report on worker complaints and such news was often repeated, suggesting a widespread problem. He asserted that many reports of abuse were "blown out of proportion" or simply false, and complained that retractions and corrections never made the papers. 4. (C) In a separate meeting, Foreign Minister Shaykh Dr. Mohammed Al-Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah also expressed his disappointment with the TIP report and restated that Kuwait was very different from its neighboring countries. He reported the GOK, NGOs, Parliament's Human Rights Committee, and individuals were all working to improve the status of Kuwait's expatriate labor force. He asserted the GOK's resolve to respond to the report's criticisms and said the Prime Minister would likely raise the issue while in Washington. 5. (C) PDAS Cheney responded to all three interlocutors that the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act was very specific and countries were evaluated independently and objectively, not against others. She emphasized that the goal of the report was to identify areas for improvement, and thus Kuwait's ranking could be improved. She added that progress on TIP was essential to continued progress toward a free trade agreement. She stressed that following the Tier 3 ranking, Kuwait has 60 days to take immediate action so that ranking could be reconsidered by the President. She suggested as possible measures shutting down stables that use child camel jockeys or prosecuting individuals who exploit foreign workers. She further informed the GOK officials of the interest of Department officials from the G/TIP office in visiting Kuwait to discuss these issues. She said the Prime Minister's July 1 visit to the U.S. presented an opportunity to elaborate on concrete steps to combat TIP. The Ambassador said the U.S. appreciated the additional attention the GOK paid to TIP issues, but stressed the need for action, not the formation of committees and issuance of reports. He encouraged better coordination among the involved ministries -- Social Affairs and Labor, Foreign Affairs, and Interior -- and suggested that Kuwaiti Ambassador to the U.S. work closely with Department officials.

CASE: 11/12/2009

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 09BUENOSAIRE1223

CABLEDATE: 11/12/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: AMBASSADOR RAISES PRESS FREEDOM, TIP ISSUES WITH ARGENTINE VFM TACCETTI

COUNTRY1: Argentina

Taccetti reiterated his reftel arguments against Argentina's ranking on the Tier 2 Watch list and complained about U.S. scorecard diplomacy.

CASE: 6/13/2008

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Nicosia

CABLEID: 08NICOSIA450

CABLEDATE: 6/13/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: CYPRIOT REACTIONS MIXED TO RELEASE OF TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Cyprus

PolOff June 4 delivered reftel points to TIP liaisons Natassa Economou at the Ministry of Interior and Doros Venezis at the MFA. Economou stated that the Tier 2 Watch List ranking for Cyprus was not fair or reflective of the GOC's efforts. She called the evaluation "discouraging" and argued that the government had taken greater steps than other countries with the same ranking.

CASE: 6/11/2008
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT431
CABLEDATE: 6/11/2008
CLASSIFIC: SECRET
HEADING: ADDRESSING OUR TIER 3 TIP DISPUTE WITH OMAN
COUNTRY1: Oman

2. (C) As Oman's oral and written rebuttals to the 2008 TIP report make clear (refs A, B), Oman and the U.S. have very different perspectives on the need and method to address trafficking in Oman. The government's central argument against its Tier 3 ranking is that Oman does not have a significant trafficking problem and that its existing laws and institutions are sufficient to handle it. This belief likely stems, in part, from a lack of understanding of what constitutes trafficking. 3. (S) Oman highly values its image, both domestic and global. It regularly touts its record on rule of law, respect for human rights, religious tolerance and low rates of crime. A compliant Omani media feeds the public a steady diet of praise for the Sultan and the achievements of the "Blessed Renaissance." Not surprisingly, therefore, Oman is particularly angry that we would impugn its record on human rights publicly, and continues to ask us for specific evidence of trafficking - e.g. number of victims, locations of abuse, and identity of abusers and victims - which we are unable to provide. Oman refuses to accept its Tier 3 ranking without such evidence. Neither does it accept, despite post's best efforts, our explanation that its tier ranking reflects insufficient government action, not the size of the trafficking problem. It is unlikely that Omani authorities will take determined action to combat trafficking or protect victims until convinced that there is a real problem to address. - - - - - What is at Stake - - - - - 4. (C) The top officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) - Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi, the Secretary General, and Yusef bin Alawi, the Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs - have made clear that Oman will not move on our recommended action steps until we first retract the Tier 3 designation. They have been told that this is a step we cannot take, however, without some action from the Omanis. We therefore are caught in a dispute in which there is little common ground, and with a partner that has indicated its willingness to wager the relationship on the outcome of the matter.

CASE: 6/23/2008
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Amman
CABLEID: 08AMMAN1859
CABLEDATE: 6/23/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: JORDANIAN RESPONSE TO G/TIP REPORT: SURPRISED AT DEMOTION, BUT HOPEFUL FOR IMPROVEMENTS
COUNTRY1: Jordan

Salem commented that the report failed to accurately reflect the strides that Jordan has made, adding that a detailed, formal response was forthcoming.

CASE: 11/20/2007
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers
CABLEID: 07ALGIERS1680
CABLEDATE: 11/20/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: SCENESETTER FOR AMBASSADOR SCHULTE'S ALGERIA VISIT
COUNTRY1: Algeria

The problem of trafficking in persons is one of both substance and semantics. The Algerians are not at all pleased about being placed in our Tier 3 status, but they consistently deny that they have a TIP problem

CASE: 6/19/2008
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Amman
CABLEID: 08AMMAN1821
CABLEDATE: 6/19/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JORDANIAN RESPONSE TO G/TIP REPORT: SURPRISED AT DEMOTION, BUT HOPEFUL FOR IMPROVEMENTS
COUNTRY1: Jordan

Salem commented that the report failed to accurately reflect the strides that Jordan has made, adding that a detailed, formal response was forthcoming.

CASE: 6/17/2005
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1534
CABLEDATE: 6/17/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: KINGSTON POL/ECON ROUNDUP: MAY 7 - JUNE 16, 2005
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

. The GOJ has responded vigorously to the June 3 release of the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, which downgraded Jamaica to Tier 3 status and opened the door to the possibility of sanctions by the USG. Senior GOJ officials, including Prime Minister P.J. Patterson and the Leader of the Opposition, have criticized the report for unfairly labeling Jamaica, but have at the same time vowed to take action against human trafficking to avoid sanctions. The Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, and the Ministry of National Security, which labeled the report "prejudicial," are reported to be spearheading Jamaica's efforts to combat trafficking. Media coverage of the TIP Report and of related issues, including children's welfare, has been extensive in the two weeks since the report was released. Reports are beginning to emerge of planned concrete actions to combat TIP, including raids of massage parlors in Kingston at the behest of Mayor Desmond McKenzie (septel)

CASE: 6/30/2009
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo
CABLEID: 09CAIRO1222
CABLEDATE: 6/30/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: EGYPTIAN MFA REACTIONS TO 2009 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Egypt

he GOE's lack of specific objections to the text of the TIP report signals that the main objection to the report is that the country was kept on the Tier 2 Watch List.

CASE: 8/2/2004
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Lilongwe
CABLEID: 04LILONGWE723
CABLEDATE: 8/2/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: GOM TAKES ISSUE WITH MALAWI'S TIP RANKING
COUNTRY1: Malawi

SUMMARY ----- 1. (SBU) Minister of Foreign Affairs George Chaponda told the Charge on July 28 that the GOM is "very concerned" about Malawi's ranking as a Tier Two - Watch List country in the Department's 2004 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. Chaponda said the ranking "did not reflect the situation on the ground" and was "contestable and debatable." Further explaining the government's position, Chaponda said the report's findings were "not substantiated by qualified evidence," and he insinuated that the misinformation may have been the result of a report by an NGO who "had not done thorough research on the matter." In addition to detailing measures the GOM has already taken and will take against TIP, Chaponda commented that an inter-ministerial meeting on the issue concluded

that the GOM will release a press statement contesting the Department's ranking, which it did later in the day. Although challenging the accuracy of the report, Chaponda repeatedly declared the GOM's commitment to fighting TIP and support for USG TIP initiatives at UNGA. Text of press statement begins in paragraph 11. END SUMMARY. CHAPONDA READY TO TALK ON TIP -----
----- 2. (SBU) At a July 28 meeting with the Charge, Minister of Foreign Affairs George Chaponda used the USG's initiative on TIP at UNGA as an entree to officially respond on behalf of the GOM to Malawi's Tier Two - Watch List ranking in the Department's 2004 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. Well briefed and reading from a prepared statement, Chaponda said the GOM "was very concerned" about Malawi's ranking because "it did not reflect the situation on the ground." Chaponda described the report as "contestable and debatable" and asserted that its findings were not "substantiated by qualified evidence." Chaponda indicated that the report had been discussed at an inter-ministerial meeting, where representatives from various branches of government found the ranking "shocking." (NOTE: The Charge later learned that the President, having read the 2004 TIP report, ordered the inter-ministerial meeting to convene. END NOTE.)

CASE: 6/29/2009

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Nassau

CABLEID: 09NASSAU391

CABLEDATE: 6/29/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: BAHAMAS REACTS TO THE 2009 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

COUNTRY1: Bahamas

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement in response to the 2009 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report carried by local media June 24. The MFA said the GCOB "continues to meet its obligations in combating and eliminating human trafficking" under the Palermo Convention and the relevant anti-TIP protocol, which the GCOB ratified in late 2008. The GCOB noted that the 2009 TIP report "fails to acknowledge that the legislation has been enacted in compliance with the country's obligation" under the convention and protocol "and that the provisions of that legislation are entirely informed by the provisions found under those international instruments." 2. (U) The statement questioned the evidence for the finding that The Bahamas is a destination country for TIP. After citing the TIP report's reference to forced labor and certain labor violations, the MFA condemned such acts but asserted that employer coercion alone does not constitute a TIP offense or qualify as evidence of human trafficking. "Consequently, The Bahamas rejects any attempt to define or classify as trafficking in persons conduct which, though reprehensible, does not fit within the criteria set by Article 3 of the Protocol." 3. (U) The statement concluded, "there must be recognition of the fact that even if victims of trafficking are identified, the issue is always whether they will be prepared to provide the evidence necessary to sustain a prosecution." The full text of the statement as released was provided to G/TIP via e-mail. 4. (C) In a separate meeting on human trafficking, senior law enforcement and Ministry of Immigration officials chastised the report for lack of evidentiary basis and the Embassy's "apparent misunderstanding of the difference between human smuggling and trafficking in persons." They indicated that they felt that they were being penalized for addressing the issue, by passing anti-trafficking in person legislation, and stated a reluctance to share information that might lead to it being used as evidence of trafficking. 5. (C) COMMENT: The GCOB's emphasis on international standards and legal criteria reflect the Attorney General's Office's close cooperation with the MFA in ratifying the relevant anti-TIP instruments and drafting comprehensive national legislation in 2008. The statement also reflects the MFA's understanding that the change in ranking this year was based on changes to USG law and criteria (reftel), not on a change in empirical evidence relating to TIP in The Bahamas. Law enforcement authorities were not attuned to these nuances, and reacted sharply to what they viewed as unsubstantiated claims which appeared not to take account of the law enforcement realities with which they are faced, in particular migrant smuggling and illegal labor migration

CASE: 12/18/2008

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo

CABLEID: 08CAIRO2525

CABLEDATE: 12/18/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: EGYPT TAKING STEPS TO ADDRESS AND COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

COUNTRY1: Egypt

However, Egyptian officials were less positive about the report (reftel B). Mahmoud said the U.S. TIP report "does not match the legal and factual realities in Egypt." Aboulmagd expressed his frustration that even though the GOE was devoting time and resources to TIP, at the expense of other issues, Egypt is still on the Watch List.

CASE: 5/26/2009
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 09TOKYO1185
CABLEDATE: 5/26/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JAPAN, THE U.S., AND TIP: AT A TIPPING POINT?
COUNTRY1: Japan

Every TIP report since 2004 has praised Japan for making "significant progress" in its anti-TIP efforts. In 2005 the report went so far as to state, "The foundations that the Government of Japan has laid offer promises of results that would place Japan in a leadership role in fighting trafficking." Takeshi Hiramatsu, Director of MOFA's International Organized Crime Division, has become increasingly critical of the TIP process and the United States handling of TIP reporting. He stated to Embassy Tokyo, "I have never seen the Japanese government undertake such a concerted effort across so many different bureaucracies and agencies. And frankly, after sending teams to look at TIP efforts in other countries, we have concluded that the rankings are simply not objective."

CASE: 8/2/2004
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Lilongwe
CABLEID: 04LILONGWE723
CABLEDATE: 8/2/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: GOM TAKES ISSUE WITH MALAWI'S TIP RANKING
COUNTRY1: Malawi

PRESS STATEMENT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND PROSTITUTION The Government of the Republic of Malawi has noted with concern the report issued by the United States Department of State giving the impression that the human trafficking situation in Malawi, particularly of women and children, and organized prostitution, has escalated to the extent of warranting Malawi to be listed as a Tier 2 Watch List country. The Government of Malawi finds the report debatable, particularly considering that it is not substantiated by a list of identifiable interviewees, credible sources or confirmed incidences and reliable statistics. The facts on the ground show that the Government of the Republic of Malawi has been uncompromising in dealing with the only few reported and known cases of trafficking in human beings and organized prostitution, thereby drawing the wrath of human rights activists and women and children rights groups. Indeed, the few reported and confirmed cases have been vigorously pursued in the courts and in a number of instances perpetrators have been convicted. It is, therefore, disturbing when other agencies claim that Malawi has no laws making human trafficking and organized prostitution criminal offenses. If a number of perpetrators have been arrested and convicted for trafficking women and children, one wonders what laws they may have violated for argument sake. There have been many claims, most of which unconfirmed or unsubstantiated, making it almost impossible for the Malawi Police to arrest or prosecute anybody. No doubt, quite a number of agencies both within and outside the Government could not provide credible information to the Police or the Ministry responsible for women and children affairs, to support the claims in the report. The Malawi Police Force on its own initiative has contacted a number of international enforcement agencies, such as, Interpol and SARPCO, who also could not confirm the findings in the report. There may have been some isolated incidences but certainly not to the extent of the picture painted by the report. The people who compiled this report seem not to have consulted any experts on this subject or the people who could have availed them with accurate information. Our observation is that they may have misdirected themselves on the law governing trafficking and prostitution. We also question their interpretation of the technical terms "trafficking in human beings" and "prostitution." If the report is talking about prostitution and trafficking in international law and under common law jurisdictions, then the findings of the report are an exaggeration of the realities on the ground. The Government of the Republic of Malawi wishes to reiterate its commitment to fight and stamp out trafficking in humans, particularly in women and children and will spare no effort in this

endeavor. Indeed, Malawi has already signed and ratified a number of critical conventions and protocols aimed at addressing this human trafficking and prostitution including: the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, adopted in New York in March 1950 and the Final Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others also adopted in New York in the same year. It has also concluded consultations on the "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Organized Transnational Organized Crimes, 2000" with the aim of signing and ratifying. It is curious to note that despite having legal provisions in our laws i.e., the Constitution and the Penal Code which has an exclusive chapter entitled "Offenses Against Morality" dealing with "prostitution, living on earnings of prostitution, taking people away either within or outside Malawi for prostitution, taking people away to be in brothels whether willingly or against their consent" among other offenses provided for, the report in question paints a very bad picture of Malawi. Further, the Government, on its own initiative, after carrying out consultations on the possible legal complications and technical problems of prosecuting certain permutations of offenses related to human trafficking especially among women and children and taking into contemplation obligations assumed by being parties to treaties, and in solidarity with global efforts to curb the problem in this area, prepared and submitted to Parliament, the Penal Code (Amendment) Bill No: 12. The Bill has never been withdrawn but that Members of Parliament asked for more time to study and appreciate certain concepts about trafficking and prostitution, most of which, novel and inconsistent with traditional notions of prostitution and cultural values as understood. It is, therefore, a misrepresentation to suggest that the Bill was withdrawn or that our Penal Code is so inadequate to an extent that traffickers in human beings would easily slip through the long arm of the law, warranting the conclusion in the report that Malawi has no laws to curb offenses of trafficking and prostitution. Our contention is that the low levels of arrests and prosecutions only vindicate the realities of the problem as it exists on the ground and as confirmed by our own experts. The Government of Malawi is willing and ready to work with any agency which has credible information that could help, if any, in cracking down on any known or identifiable gangs or groups or persons in trafficking or prostitution. Further it also welcomes experts, if any, who have information on the purported inadequacies of its laws other than the way our Penal Code (Amendment) Bill No: 12 proposes to seal perceived technicalities and nuances. The Government of the Republic of Malawi vehemently and categorically rejects the findings in the report painting a picture that human trafficking and organized prostitution have escalated and that it has no legal mechanism to address the few and isolated confirmed cases.

CASE: 8/6/2009

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Damascus

CABLEID: 09DAMASCUS554

CABLEDATE: 8/6/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: EMBASSY DAMASCUS OPENS DIALOGUE WITH MFA ON TIP ISSUES

COUNTRY1: Syria

) Attiyeh observed the MFA's position on the re-engagement process mirrored the Embassy's, adding "the new openness and the new administration are both going in the right direction and we can build on that to discuss regional issues." He stopped short, however, of agreeing a fresh dialogue on TIP-specific issues was needed. Exhibiting a familiarity with the TIP report on Syria, Attiyeh quickly pointed out the report's language was too general and lacked specific examples in support of its "accusations." "Trafficking," he sniffed, is not a historical phenomenon in Syria, but a current one. To address the problem required looking at the "root cause" -- namely, the U.S. occupation of Iraq. The influx of refugees from Iraq into Syria had caused this "new problem." Many Iraqi women and children had come to Syria and out of economic desperation involved themselves in prostitution.

NOTE: Blames US occupation of Iraq for the trafficking problems

CASE: 9/8/2004

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Lilongwe

CABLEID: 04LILONGWE868

CABLEDATE: 9/8/2004

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: GOM DISSATISFIED WITH TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Malawi

. Text of Note Verbale: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honor to refer to the Report issued by the United States of America State Department on the situation of Human Trafficking and Prostitution in Malawi. The Ministry wishes to repeat concerns already conveyed to the esteemed Embassy on the claims made in the Report and reiterate the same does not reflect the reality of the situation in the country. Specifically, the Ministry observes that the Report, which erroneously categorizes Malawi as a TIER 2 Watch List Country, is exaggerated and not professionally done. The Report is debatable and not substantiated by a list of identifiable interviewees, credible sources or reliable statistics. The Ministry has consulted various agencies in the country that are experts on this but failed to find any information that could support the picture painted by the Report. There may have been in the past a few isolated incidences, and there are bound to be some few cases in the future, but it is contended that the situation has not escalated to the extent portrayed by the Report. Malawi has [an] effective legal regime, which is capable of adequately addressing the problem of human trafficking and prostitution. Specifically, the Constitution and Penal Code have a Chapter exclusively dealing with Offences Against Morality. It covers offences such as Prostitution; Leaving [sic] on Earnings of Prostitution; Taking People Either Within or Outside Malawi for Prostitution; Taking People Away to be in Brothels Whether Willingly or Against Their Consent; among other offences. The Ministry also notes that Malawi has signed critical Conventions and Protocols aimed at addressing the problem of human trafficking and prostitution including the following: (i) The Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, adopted in New York, in March 1950. (ii) Final Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, New York 1950. The Ministry further wishes to correct the impression that the Penal Code Bill which was presented to Parliament was withdrawn. Instead, Members of Parliament asked for more time to study the Penal Code (Amendments) Bill No. 12 in order to appreciate certain concepts which they found novel and inconsistent with cultural values. The Bill will be re-introduced at an appropriate time once Members of Parliament have finalized consultations. It is pertinent to mention, however, that the Amendment Bill No. 12 was merely aimed at addressing mutations and permeations of the offence. The Government of Malawi strongly feels it has adequate provisions to prosecute any persons engaging in human trafficking or prostitution. Malawi is committed to stop and stamp out human trafficking and prostitution, and will leave no stone unturned in its quest to fight organized crimes of this nature. The Ministry reiterates that Malawi is ready and willing to work with any agency which has credible information that would help, if any, in cracking down on any known or identifiable gangs or groups of persons in human trafficking or prostitution. Further, the Government welcomes experts, if any, who have information on the purported inadequacies of its laws other than the way it is proposed to improve the efficiency by sealing loopholes and technicalities in the legislation. The Ministry refutes the claim made in the Report which seem to be premised on a single incident, which took place some five or more years ago. If anything, the Government of the Republic of Malawi has been blamed by Human and Women Rights groups for its uncompromising stance against prostitution. It is frustrating and ironic for a country with such determination in its fight against prostitution to be placed in a TIER 2 Watch list. The Ministry would, accordingly, appreciate a review of its case based on the real situation as exists on the ground so that a genuine classification is given. (Standard Complimentary Closing)

CASE: 6/22/2007

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Minsk

CABLEID: 07MINSK541

CABLEDATE: 6/22/2007

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: USG Defends Belarus TIP Ranking Despite GOB Disappointment

COUNTRY1: Belarus

Taranda insisted that the TIP report did not fully take into account the measures taken by the GOB to combat trafficking. Noting the UN resolution introduced by Belarus and the GOB's monetary contributions to the UN's interagency coordination group, Taranda asked, "What other eastern European country has done as much as Belarus in this field?"

CASE: 9/18/2008

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo

CABLEID: 08TOKYO2577
CABLEDATE: 9/18/2008
CLASSIFIC: SECRET
HEADING: JAPAN CONSIDERING WITHDRAWING COOPERATION ON TIP
COUNTRY1: Japan

DVM Bessho deferred to DDG Nakajima to discuss Japan's reaction to the trafficking-in-persons report and Japanese ranking in tier two. Nakajima, newly delegated to MOFA from the Ministry of Defense, explained he had no background in TIP before meeting with his MOFA staff. He indicated they had told him they were deeply dissatisfied with the TIP process, disagreed with Japan's tier two ranking, and believed Japan would be best served by refusing further cooperation. Nakajima said he had not made a decision, but sympathized with the view that Japan had been held to a higher standard than a number of countries that had been ranked in tier one. Meserve explained Japan should not compare itself with other countries since the rankings are based, in part, on the capacity of countries with greatly different levels of development to respond to the TIP challenge.

CASE: 6/24/2009
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Brussels
CABLEID: 09BRUSSELS865
CABLEDATE: 6/24/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: BELGIUM'S JUSTICE MINISTRY REACTS TO 2009 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Belgium

However, they raised questions about the report's narrative for Belgium under recommendations and in the prosecutions section. The Belgians accepted the recommendation to improve data collection. They were skeptical of the implicit link in the narrative between exploitation of Bulgarian women, the claim that Belgian police received sexual favors from the Bulgarians' traffickers, and the need for training of judges. Van den Reeck was amazed that the UAE sheikha case, in which independent Belgian prosecutors investigated trafficking and awarded her victims protected status, was cited in a way that implied Belgium had not done enough. He said Belgium had done more than most countries would in the same situation. He asked that Belgium be evaluated next year on its broad efforts, which he considered as strong, and not on individual cases. He suggested that to reduce Belgium's rating because the U.S. is not satisfied with the outcome of two individual cases would undermine the credibility of the TIP report itself.

CASE: 6/15/2007
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Santo Domingo
CABLEID: 07SANTODOMINGO1426
CABLEDATE: 6/15/2007
CLASSIFIC: SECRET
HEADING: DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT REACTS DEFENSIVELY TO DEMARCHE ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
COUNTRY1: Dominican Republic

DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT REACTS DEFENSIVELY TO DEMARCHE ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

CASE: 6/4/2008
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT409
CABLEDATE: 6/4/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: MINISTER OF MANPOWER RECEIVES INITIAL TIP DEMARCHE
COUNTRY1: Oman

1. (C) On June 4, the Ambassador demarched Minister of Manpower Juma bin Ali al Juma on the 2008 Trafficking In Persons (TIP) report for Oman, providing him with both the country narrative and 60-day action plan (refs A, B). The Ambassador passed similar information to the office of the

Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). As expected, Juma was displeased that Oman would remain on Tier 3 and made the oft repeated claim that Oman does not have a significant problem with labor or sex trafficking, particularly in comparison with other countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

CASE: 11/15/2006
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo
CABLEID: 06CAIRO6868
CABLEDATE: 11/15/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: AMBASSADOR RAISES RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ISSUES, TIP WITH PUBLIC PROSECUTOR
COUNTRY1: Egypt

2. (SBU) Ambassador and Mahmoud also discussed continuing USG-GOE cooperation on TIP-related issues, and the imminent creation of an inter-ministerial GOE committee to coordinate the fight against TIP (reported Ref B). Mahmoud asserted that the placing of Egypt on the TIP Tier 2 Watch List is "unjust" and "unfounded." He also highlighted that Egypt is strictly a transit country, not a country of origin or destination for trafficked persons. RICCIARDONE

CASE: 2/9/2007
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Belmopan
CABLEID: 07BELMOPAN91
CABLEDATE: 2/9/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: BELIZE: ANTI-TIP PROGRAM GETS MORE CASH
COUNTRY1: Belize

Post applauds the GoB's ongoing efforts to raise awareness about trafficking for labor and sexual exploitation as well as its commitment to provide services and assistance to victims. While most government officials may have disagreed with the country's original Tier 3 ranking in the 2006 TIP Report, Zetina and her Committee have acknowledged that it is not the size of the problem but the GoB's response to it that matters most.

CASE: 6/22/2009
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 09CARACAS779
CABLEDATE: 6/22/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP REPORT "AN OBSTACLE TO NORMALIZING RELATIONS"
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

Nevertheless, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs categorically rejected the TIP report in a June 17 press release calling the report "a tool of the political imperialists against independent countries", and said that the U.S. "oppresses and exploits immigrants, especially Latin Americans, divides families, builds border walls, has practiced torture and protects terrorists." The press release concluded by stating that the TIP report "is a serious obstacle to normalizing bilateral relations." Pro-government newspapers have based coverage of the TIP report on this press release. German Saltron, a senior GBRV human rights official, sharply criticized the TIP report in an interview on the government-owned Venezolana de Television station. He said that the problem was a result of world poverty caused by capitalism, and that the U.S. was the driving force behind trafficking in persons world-wide.

CASE: 9/10/2007
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 07KUALALUMPUR1375
CABLEDATE: 9/10/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SYED HAMID ALBAR

COUNTRY1: Malaysia

The U.S. TIP report had been "unfair" to Malaysia, which was taking steps in line with international norms.

CASE: 4/16/2008

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 08MUSCAT286

CABLEDATE: 4/16/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: ATTORNEY GENERAL COMMENTS ON EFFORTS TO COMBAT SEX TRAFFICKING

COUNTRY1: Oman

1. (C) Summary: In a recent meeting with the Ambassador, Omani Attorney General Hussain Ali Zaher al-Helali provided several concrete examples of government prosecution of cases of trafficking in persons (TIP) for sexual exploitation. He expressed his continued willingness to cooperate with the Embassy on TIP and share statistics on TIP-related and other crimes. The Attorney General also expressed his frustration with last year's TIP report, claiming that it did not provide an accurate picture of Oman's actions against TIP, and invited the Embassy to attend a trial for men and women accused of running a prostitution ring. End Summary. 2. (C) During an April 14 meeting with the Ambassador, Attorney General Helali expressed his displeasure with last year's TIP report and asserted that counter to the report's findings, Oman is taking concrete legal steps to combat TIP, particularly trafficking for sexual exploitation. For example, he said, the Public Prosecution Office is currently preparing a case against an expatriate man accused of running a prostitution ring near Muscat and forcing women - most of whom originally entered Oman as housemaids - to work as prostitutes. Helali said that the man and four to five women of Asian descent are facing prostitution charges and are in prison awaiting their court dates. He invited the Embassy to attend the trial -- "This is a case of trafficking," Helali said, "and I reject claims (in the 2007 TIP report) that Oman is not taking steps to combat it."

CASE: 7/21/2003

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara

CABLEID: 03ANKARA4552

CABLEDATE: 7/21/2003

CLASSIFIC: SECRET

HEADING: SCENESETTER FOR TURKISH FONMIN GUL'S JULY 24 VISIT TO WASHINGTON

COUNTRY1: Turkey

23. (C) We have discussed with the GOT at various levels the need to show progress on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) by September in order to avoid facing sanctions as a consequence of Turkey's Tier III ranking in the TIP report. GOT officials have been highly defensive on the issue, insisting that the report is unfair and that they are already taking adequate measures.

CASE: 7/17/2009

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Bandar Seri Begawan

CABLEID: 09BANDARSERIBEGAWAN172

CABLEDATE: 7/17/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: BRUNEI'S REACTION TO 2009 TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Brunei

Starting on June 18, 2009, Bruneian media began coverage of the Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) 2009 report. Front page coverage, as well as subsequent follow up articles, continued throughout June. Particular attention was paid to the issue of domestic servant abuse and forced labor. On June 28, Brunei's Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) issued a press release, stressing there is "No Human Trafficking in Brunei" and insisted that Brunei is not a hub for recruitment of men and women for domestic or low-skilled labor. This has been the only formal response from the Government of Brunei (GoB).

CASE: 6/4/2008
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 08TOKYO1528
CABLEDATE: 6/4/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JAPAN REACTS NEGATIVELY TO TIP REPORT TIER RANKING
COUNTRY1: Japan

Japan is very disappointed with the Tier 2 ranking, Deputy Director General for Foreign Policy Masatoshi Shimbo continued. Japanese agencies are feeling "cooperation fatigue," after having worked so hard to fulfill U.S. requests for information. The report's language about Japanese law not criminalizing labor recruiting through fraud is "completely false," said Shimbo, asserting that the misunderstanding could have been avoided by setting up a DVC between the Ministry of Justice and G/TIP. In addition, it is unacceptable that the report contains references to information obtained from NGOs that was not double-checked with MOFA. The Tier 2 ranking threatens Japan's ability to provide information to the Embassy. "The issue is not whether the United States will work with Japan, the issue is whether Japan will work with the United States," concluded Shimbo.

CASE: 10/16/2006
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo
CABLEID: 06CAIRO6377
CABLEDATE: 10/16/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: EGYPT: GOVERNMENT FORMING INTER-MINISTERIAL BODY TO ADDRESS TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP)
COUNTRY1: Egypt

2. (SBU) Gabr protested Egypt's Tier 2 Watchlist designation, saying "this category doesn't reflect the situation." She pressed the Charge on how the USG determines the estimated number of TIP victims alleged to transit Egypt. The Charge acknowledged that USG estimates, based on anecdotal press reports and Israeli reports, are not exact. The Charge urged Gabr to focus GOE energies on taking action against trafficking regardless of the exact size of the problem. The key, said the Charge, is for the GOE to take credible actions demonstrating its clear commitment to tackle TIP, and get Egypt off the Tier 2 Watchlist. 3. (SBU) Gabr and her deputy, Office Director for Human Rights Ehab Gamal Eldin, repeated familiar complaints about the USG's assessment of TIP in Egypt, including the following: --Egypt is neither a country of origin nor destination and thus cannot be expected to undertake efforts like origin or destination countries; --the GOE strongly doubts that there is significant internal trafficking of minors for the purposes of domestic labor (although the new inter-ministerial committee will assess this issue); and --the GOE wonders if the total number of TIP victims going through Sinai, which Gabr allowed might be 100 per year, truly merited the resources and effort being devoted to the question. 4. (SBU) Charge reminded Gabr that the State Department report listed additional concerns about trafficking internal to Egypt, such as child trafficking. Also, he suggested that a thorough assessment of all these problems might lead to clearer policy choices. Gabr demurred. 5. (SBU) On October 15, Public Prosecutor (Attorney General equivalent) Abdel Meguid Mahmoud confirmed to ECPO Minister Counselor that the Prime Minister's office would issue the decree launching the new TIP committee "within a few weeks." Mahmoud also expressed reservations about the accuracy of USG information on TIP in Egypt, but emphasized the GOE is fully committed to using existing and new mechanisms to combat and eradicate TIP.

CASE: 7/6/2007
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 07BUENOSAIRES1302
CABLEDATE: 7/6/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR'S JULY 3 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
COUNTRY1: Argentina

Taiana agreed that passage was important, that it needed to happen, but did not offer an opinion on when it might occur. He did, however, note that he had some differences with the Department's TIP

report. He said it was hard to believe that Argentina was worse than other countries in the region. Ambassador explained that the report does not compare countries and the report's tier assignments are not based on the extent of the problem in a given country, rather it reflects the extent to which governments are working to combat the problem on a number of fronts. Taiana continued, however, complaining that the report seemed to imply that Buenos Aires was a center for international trafficking. He also stated that the GoA's openness, its recognition that there is a problem, its hosting of seminars with the IOM, all seemed to be used against it.

CASE: 7/13/2004

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Rangoon

CABLEID: 04RANGOON882

CABLEDATE: 7/13/2004

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: SENIOR GOB OFFICIAL DISCUSSES TIP AND DRUG ISSUES, THE NLD, AND THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

COUNTRY1: Burma

Col Tin Hlaing said he was "greatly discouraged" to read the TIP report on Burma, complaining that the conclusions were biased and that the global report had placed too much emphasis on countries of origin. He lamented that Burma remained a Tier 3 country while numerous countries with inferior plans of action and legislative efforts had earned Tier 2 rankings.

CASE: 6/13/2003

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara

CABLEID: 03ANKARA3843

CABLEDATE: 6/13/2003

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: TURKS VIEW TIER III TIP RATING AS UNFAIR, THREATENING

COUNTRY1: Turkey

At a public ceremony June 12, Interior Minister Aksu said human smuggling had become a serious problem across the region, and that the GOT had passed a number of "exemplary" laws and regulations in recent years to combat it. He said he "regrets" that the USG, in its TIP report, accuses Turkey of ignoring the problem, and claimed the TIP report was not based on "objective evidence."

CASE: 6/13/2003

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara

CABLEID: 03ANKARA3843

CABLEDATE: 6/13/2003

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: TURKS VIEW TIER III TIP RATING AS UNFAIR, THREATENING

COUNTRY1: Turkey

Fatma Firat Topcuoglu, DDG of the MFA Consular Affairs Department, told Poloff June 11 the GOT is "extremely disappointed" with the Tier III rating. Topcuoglu argued that the decision was clearly "not made on its merits." The GOT, she said, had made all the most difficult, substantive changes needed to combat TIP, including: 1) adopting an anti-TIP law with strong penalties for violators, and opening cases against alleged traffickers; 2) signing and ratifying all international anti-TIP protocols; 3) amending the law on foreigners to create a centralized system of work permits; and 4) adopting a National Action Plan on TIP. Topcuoglu said the GOT's efforts were not given fair consideration in the repor

CASE: 7/12/2007

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo

CABLEID: 07TOKYO3186

CABLEDATE: 7/12/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: G/TIP AMBASSADOR LAGON'S JULY 2 MEETING WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

COUNTRY1: Japan

ear that Japan will never be assessed fairly is "stronger than ever," added MOFA International Organized Crime Division Director Akihiko Uchikawa. After the 2006 Report, then-MOFA Director-General for Global Issues Takahiro Shinyo wrote a letter to Ambassador John Miller, then-G/TIP Director (attached in Ref B). In the letter, DG Shinyo claimed that Japan was held to a different standard than countries ranked in Tier 1.

NOTE: applies to 2006 report

CASE: 6/21/2006

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Rangoon

CABLEID: 06RANGOON843

CABLEDATE: 6/21/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: BURMA/TIP: MUTED REACTION TO THE 2006 TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Burma

The release expresses regret over Burma's placement on the TIP Report's list of Tier 3 countries and rejects the economic sanctions that accompany Tier 3 as "unjust unilateral measures." As it did last year, the GOB claims the TIP Report's narrative on Burma is contradictory. The article quotes selectively from the report, highlighting mention of its modest, positive steps taken with regard to prosecution of traffickers, protection of trafficking victims, and prevention of new incidents of trafficking. The article concludes with the defiant exclamation that the SPDC will continue "to exert utmost endeavors" to fight trafficking in persons despite negative reports that "blindly refuse" to acknowledge its ongoing efforts to deal with the problem.

CASE: 9/12/2008

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Santo Domingo

CABLEID: 08SANTODOMINGO1439

CABLEDATE: 9/12/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: GODR REACTIONS TO TIP TIER 2 WATCH-LIST PLAN

COUNTRY1: Dominican Republic

Dr. Soto is well known to the Embassy as a friendly, helpful contact. Nevertheless, he feels that TIP reports rigidly copy one another - including errors - year after year. He also spoke candidly about the sensitivity of the TIP Report's discussion of Haitian workers in the Dominican Republic. While lamenting the poor conditions in which many undocumented Haitians find themselves, he stated that as they come voluntarily into the DR and can leave when they wish, they are not "forced or slave" labor in most cases.

CASE: 7/12/2007

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo

CABLEID: 07TOKYO3186

CABLEDATE: 7/12/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: G/TIP AMBASSADOR LAGON'S JULY 2 MEETING WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

COUNTRY1: Japan

1. (C) Summary: The 2007 TIP Report assessment of Japan is unfair, said Foreign Policy Deputy Director-General Shimbo to Trafficking in Persons Ambassador Mark Lagon July 2 during a meeting with the Japanese anti-human trafficking inter-ministerial task force.

CASE: 6/13/2003

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara

CABLEID: 03ANKARA3843

CABLEDATE: 6/13/2003

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: TURKS VIEW TIER III TIP RATING AS UNFAIR, THREATENING

COUNTRY1: Turkey

TURKS VIEW TIER III TIP RATING AS UNFAIR, THREATENING

CASE: 6/20/2007

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo

CABLEID: 07TOKYO2788

CABLEDATE: 6/20/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: MOFA PRESENTS TALKING POINTS FOR UPCOMING G/TIP VISIT OF AMB. LAGON

COUNTRY1: Japan

4. (SBU) Begin GOJ Talking Points: Talking Points (Ambassador Lagon's visit to Japan for the TIP report) 1. Recognizing that trafficking in persons is a grave crime and a serious violation of human rights, Japan has pursued steady implementation under its "Action plan of measures to combat trafficking in persons". Japan has also taken necessary measures on the points where the past TIP reports suggested to be addressed, and/or duly gave explanation to the U.S. Government. Nevertheless, it is regrettable that such efforts were not assessed fairly in this year's TIP report. 2. It has come to the point that we seriously doubt that, no matter how further we cooperates for U.S. TIP report, our efforts never receive a fair assessment. 3. In this respect, we need an explanation as to the reason behind the judgment in this year's TIP report by/at the time we have the consultation in Japan. (see also the point 5) 4. In order for us to continue our cooperation, we need assurance on the following points (without a convincing response to each of them by/at the time we have the consultation in Japan, we would have difficulty in offering full cooperation as before): 1) Since we believe that Japan satisfies the Minimum standards and criteria for Tier 1, if the U.S. thinks otherwise, the U.S. specify and indicate to Japan any standard or criteria (including internal yardstick, if any) that the U.S. think should be satisfied. If Japan meets it, the U.S. assure that Japan be classified as Tier 1 country; and 2) The U.S explain clearly the relationship between the questions that the U.S is going to ask Japan for the next TIP report and a standard and criteria the U.S. think should be satisfied; and 3) If the U.S. finds an issue to be addressed from sources other than the Japanese government, the U.S. inquire the Japanese government on the same issue. 5. While Japan needs to scrutinize this year's report, we have doubts about the following (This list is not exhaustive): 1) The TIP report mentions the "move of more exploitative sex business underground" as one of the reasons that the numbers of victims identified have declined and suggests that "the Japanese government should direct a more proactive law enforcement campaign to investigate suspected sites of commercial sexual exploitation". What is the basis of this assessment? We think there are other reasons that the numbers dropped. 2) TIP report mentions that "it is unclear if the existing legal framework is sufficiently comprehensive to criminalize all severe form of trafficking in persons" If it is unclear, why is Japan not inquired in a timely manner? (We received this inquiry only a month ago, without even being mentioned the deadline.) If it was just a matter of clarity, why is it considered as a negative element in the report? 3) TIP report describes that the Japanese government "referred few victims to dedicated trafficking shelters run by NGO" and "should also cooperate more closely with specialized NGO shelters to provide counseling services to victims". However, Japan has already responded in April 10th in the letter from the Embassy of Japan. Is the response addressed duly in the drafting of the report? (Excerpt from the letter) Q I heard from the Japanese NGO that the government stopped to referring the victims to private shelters. Is this true? A. This is incorrect. Just as in 2005 where we subsidized 52 victims to private shelters and facilities, budget of \$100, 000 was allocated for such purpose in 2006. Compared to 112 victims protected in 2005, the number of protected victim decreased to 27 in 2006. Because of such decrease, we only referred 2 victims to private shelters in 2006 and not because the government has made a policy to stop referring victims to private shelters. (End Excerpt) 4) Following last year's TIP report, it refers to the 2005 penal code and repeats that "Application of these statues, however, has been hindered by the difficulty of establishing a level of documentary evidence required for providing a trafficking crime". Last year we mentioned that this is not true and asked for clarification of such statement. We need to know on what basis such statement in the report relies.

CASE: 5/29/2003

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara

CABLEID: 03ANKARA3506
CABLEDATE: 5/29/2003
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: DAS PASCOE'S MAY 21-22 POST-WAR TOUR D'HORIZON WITH GOT OFFICIALS
COUNTRY1: Turkey

Americas DG Banguoglu said that the GOT was disappointed that Turkey was included as a Tier III country in the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. Using many of the same points the Minister of Interior used with the Ambassador later that same day (ref c), Banguoglu argued that Turkey should be removed from the list altogether

CASE: 6/15/2007
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Santo Domingo
CABLEID: 07SANTODOMINGO1426
CABLEDATE: 6/15/2007
CLASSIFIC: SECRET
HEADING: DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT REACTS DEFENSIVELY TO DEMARCHE ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
COUNTRY1: Dominican Republic

The Charge informed Dominican Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Jose Manuel Trullols and Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Rosario Graciano on June 11 of SIPDIS the decision to place the Dominican government on the Tier 2 Watch List in the Department's Trafficking Report. Graciano reacted defensively to the allegations of high-level official complicity in the smuggling of Chinese nationals, including some apparent trafficking victims, through the Dominican Republic to the United States. She questioned the veracity of the press reports on this issue; when the acting Consul General stated that other Embassy sources had corroborated much of the information that appeared in the press, Trullols requested that the Embassy share all such allegations with them. Graciano also complained that embassy officers had interviewed officials from a wide range of government ministries in compiling the TIP Report; she asked Charge to direct all such inquiries exclusively to her office in the future. Trullols stated that he would communicate to the relevant ministries USG concerns on the lack of government investment in protection resources for trafficking victims. Charge praised the work of the Office of the Attorney General in investigating trafficking cases and pursuing charges against suspects

CASE: 6/15/2007
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 07BUENOSAIRE1185
CABLEDATE: 6/15/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: GOA REACTION TO TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Argentina

In a subsequent conversation with CDA on June 12, Espeche Gil objected to the TIP report's conclusion that the GOA "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking" and the recommendation that the GOA should "curb official complicity in trafficking".

CASE: 12/1/2006
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Rangoon
CABLEID: 06RANGOON1762
CABLEDATE: 12/1/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: THE GOB'S LONG-WINDED DEFENSE AGAINST UNSC ACTION
COUNTRY1: Burma

Khin Yi also described Burma's efforts domestically, bilaterally, and regionally to fight trafficking in persons and complained that the U.S. had given Burma an undeserved Tier 3 ranking. He said that U.S. sanctions deterred Burma's efforts to modernize and develop its economy, and caused 70,000 Burmese garment workers to lose their jobs, making them more vulnerable to human trafficking.

CASE: 7/25/2007
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Colombo
CABLEID: 07COLOMBO1031
CABLEDATE: 7/25/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: SRI LANKA: WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT SECRETARY ENGAGES ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING
COUNTRY1: Sri Lanka

ugathadasa, who serves as a member of the Foreign Employment Bureau, commented that some of the information contained in the 2007 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report is unclear and misrepresents the nature of the problems in Sri Lanka. She argued that women and children are not trafficked to the degree described in the report. Children are not trafficked abroad at all, she claimed, and internal trafficking of children for labor has significantly declined the last several years. She said awareness of laws and regulations concerning child labor is improving, and the International Labor Organization has been working in Sri Lanka to address this issue. She acknowledged that women are sometimes brought to Colombo from other parts of the country for prostitution, but said they were not typically sent overseas. She also acknowledged that Sri Lanka is a destination for Russian and Thai prostitutes.

CASE: 10/19/2009
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Tunis
CABLEID: 09TUNIS775
CABLEDATE: 10/19/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TUNISIAN MFA PIQUED AT SOURCING OF TIP REPORT, BUT READY TO TALK
COUNTRY1: Tunisia

uring an otherwise cordial courtesy call on October 13, Saida Chtoui, Secretary of State for Asia and the Americas (one of two deputies to Foreign Minister Abdallah) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, complained to the Ambassador about Tunisia's placement on the Trafficking in Persons Report's Tier II Watchlist. "We do not like reports that are not right," she exclaimed. Chtoui asserted that a GOT ad hoc interagency committee working in 2008 had provided the USG with a cache of data and facts that had been "completely ignored" in the Department's final product. Chtoui charged that allegations printed in the report were undocumented, such as a story about the trafficking of a seven year old sourced to a journalist based in the Netherlands. (Note: Our subsequent review of the report found no such reference. End note.)

CASE: 6/10/2005
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Santo Domingo
CABLEID: 05SANTODOMINGO3147
CABLEDATE: 6/10/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CONVICTS TRAFFICKING FELONS, DIFFERS WITH 2005 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Dominican Republic

On June 4, mainline daily "El Caribe" published an interview with Soto in which he commented that the 2005 TIP report did not recognize all of the government's actions against TIP. As in the discussion with Embassy officers, he took issue with statistics cited, in particular the estimate that 2,000 Haitian children are trafficked annually into the Dominican Republic to be exploited in various ways. Soto said this figure has been used by OIM and UNICEF for years without being updated. He also objected to the statement that Dominican children are trafficked to various foreign countries. He pointed out that there are "very strict regulations" regarding international travel of minors from the Dominican Republic and challenged the Department of State to find "one example" of a minor that had been removed from the country illegally. Soto asserted that, with the Dominican Government's proactive closing down of brothels in recent months, it would be difficult to find minors being exploited commercially for sexual purposes. He noted that his unit of the Attorney General's office had been

elevated to the status of a department when tPresident Fernandez took office and has units dedicated to combating pedophilia and pornography on the internet as well as prevention and education.

CASE: 6/5/2006

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Tunis

CABLEID: 06TUNIS1364

CABLEDATE: 6/5/2006

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: 2006 TIP REPORT - TUNISIA

COUNTRY1: Tunisia

1. (C) On June 5, DCM, accompanied by Laboff, delivered Ref B demarche on the 2006 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report to MFA Director for the Americas Fadhel Ayari. Ayari stressed that, to his knowledge and as various Ministries noted during Laboff's TIP-related meetings, there was no trafficking in persons taking place in Tunisia. Ayari said that, while the GOT would need time to review the narrative, it seemed unjust to include Tunisia in Tier 2, given the country's progressive legislation on TIP and women's and children's issues. Being listed, said Ayari, "is disappointing given our efforts," explaining that Tunisian measures to combat illegal migration to Europe have been recognized by several European countries. 2. (C) Ayari said that the GOT may have further comments after reviewing the narrative. However, he stressed that the GOT looks forward "to coordinating our efforts and exchanging information." He was also interested in the possibility of working with the USG on anti-trafficking programs and will suggest areas for possible cooperation in the coming year.

CASE: 11/26/2007

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas

CABLEID: 07CARACAS2229

CABLEDATE: 11/26/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: VENEZUELA: VISIT OF G/TIP'S BARBARA FLECK

COUNTRY1: Venezuela

3. (C) Poloff and Fleck met with Yaneth Arocha October 19 to discuss the BRV's efforts to combat trafficking in persons (TIP) and to review the Department's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. (Note: The Department has designated Venezuela as a Tier 3 country in its Trafficking in Person's Report since 2004. End Note.) As she has done in previous TIP-related meetings, Arocha dismissed the report's findings and referred to it as an "unilateral" document, arguing that the report should be undertaken by a multilateral organization and not by the USG (Ref. A). Arcoha expressed frustration over the Department's grouping of Venezuela in the same category as Cuba, saying "we are not as bad as Cuba on this issue." She argued that the BRV has made significant strides in combating trafficking and cited its public awareness campaigns, a victim's assistance hotline, and its alleged prosecution efforts against traffickers.

CASE: 6/10/2005

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Santo Domingo

CABLEID: 05SANTODOMINGO3147

CABLEDATE: 6/10/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CONVICTS TRAFFICKING FELONS, DIFFERS WITH 2005 TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Dominican Republic

Assistant Attorney General Frank Soto, who coordinates the Dominican Government's anti-TIP efforts, provided details of the Dominican Republic's first convictions of traffickers under a 2003 anti-TIP law, in a May 20 court decision published June 2. Soto expressed disappointment at the continued classification of the Dominican Republic on the Tier 2 Watch List and cited this verdict and other prosecutions and measures now underway. In remarks to the press, Soto took issue with specific information in the report. Editorial reaction, while limited, has concurred with the report's conclusions.

CASE: 6/11/2008
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers
CABLEID: 08ALGIERS683
CABLEDATE: 6/11/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ALGERIA REACTION TO 2008 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Algeria

The Justice minister and our MFA interlocutor both rejected the report and highlighted what they saw as Algerian efforts to combat trafficking. These included having greater and more substantive conversations on TIP with the Embassy, conversations which our Algerian interlocutors viewed as progress in and of themselves.

CASE: 6/16/2009
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong
CABLEID: 09HONGKONG1103
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO TIP RANKING DOWNGRADE
COUNTRY1: China

Per refel instructions, Post met with Principal Assistant Secretary for Security W.H. Chow June 16 to inform him of Hong Kong's TIP ranking downgrade and provide a preview of Hong Kong's narrative in the 2009 Trafficking in Persons report. 2. (SBU) Principal Assistant Secretary Chow was dismayed to learn that Hong Kong has been downgraded from Tier 1 to Tier 2 in this year's TIP report. After completing a line-by-line comparison of this year's narrative with last year's text, Chow argued the language on Hong Kong's lack of trafficking investigations and prosecutions was "misleading." He noted the language could be misinterpreted to imply the Hong Kong government did nothing when potential trafficking cases are brought to its attention. Chow insisted that is not the case at all. The truth, Chow explained, is that Hong Kong law enforcement "rigorously" follows up on all investigate leads, but there simply has been very little evidence of human trafficking in Hong Kong. Chow also emphasized that Hong Kong law enforcement cannot pursue trafficking cases if foreign consulates do not inform Hong Kong authorities of incidents where their nationals are victims of trafficking, a reference to the report's mention of seven trafficking victims assisted by a foreign consulate.

CASE: 7/2/2007
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Damascus
CABLEID: 07DAMASCUS665
CABLEDATE: 7/2/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: DEMARCHE DELIVERED TO SARG ON FOREIGN FIGHTERS
COUNTRY1: Syria

. In addition, Sabbagh raised the recent Presidential proclamation restricting entry into the U.S. for persons undermining Lebanon's sovereignty. Raising a separate issue, Sabbagh lifted a copy of the most recent Trafficking in Persons reports, complaining about the critical language on Syria, especially regarding Iraqi refugees.

CASE: 6/29/2005
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1611
CABLEDATE: 6/29/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: A DEFENSIVE NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER HOSTS TIP MEETING
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

e went on to call the report and its findings "untrue, unfair, and unjust in the absence of detailed information."

CASE: 6/25/2008
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Damascus
CABLEID: 08DAMASCUS453
CABLEDATE: 6/25/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: SARG BEMOANS INADEQUATE IRAQI REFUGEE ASSISTANCE, WILLING TO CONSIDER EXPANDED RESETTLEMENT OPS
COUNTRY1: Syria

Diverting the conversation to the subject of trafficking in persons, Mikdad took issue with the 2008 U.S. G/TIP country report on Syria.

CASE: 11/6/2008
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Doha
CABLEID: 08DOHA791
CABLEDATE: 11/6/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: SCENESETTER FOR AMBASSADOR MARK LAGON'S VISIT TO QATAR
COUNTRY1: Qatar

Our Qatari counterparts complain that the annual TIP Report does not accurately reflect the reality here in the country, in particular that it does not reflect their efforts to combat human trafficki

CASE: 10/30/2009
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy New Delhi
CABLEID: 09NEWDELHI2207
CABLEDATE: 10/30/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: SCENESETTER FOR U/S OTERO'S VISIT TO INDIA
COUNTRY1: India

The GOI views our G/TIP Report as flawed and as not sufficiently appreciative of the government's anti-TIP efforts within the Indian context in which a top-down, centrally driven approach to a problem is not feasible in heterogeneous, federal, and democratic India

CASE: 6/16/2006
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Abuja
CABLEID: 06ABUJA1518
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: NIGERIAN RESPONSE TO THE TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Nigeria

Poloffs delivered the TIP demarche (reftel) to Nigeria's National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP). Participants included the agency directors for legal and prosecution, counseling and rehabilitation, and public enlightenment. NAPTIP accepted the report in "good faith" and agreed that its details were largely accurate, but they took issue with the language that Nigeria had not met "minimum standards." They also stressed that meeting minimum standards should be measured against available resources and that they would continue trying to make improvements in the coming year. They claimed that a lack of resources limits their ability to act more aggressively.

CASE: 6/29/2005
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1611
CABLEDATE: 6/29/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: A DEFENSIVE NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER HOSTS TIP MEETING

COUNTRY1: Jamaica

On June 24, at the request of National Security Minister Peter Phillips, Charge, USAID Mission Director, and Poloff (notetaker) attended a meeting hosted by Phillips on the subject of trafficking in persons (TIP) at the Ministry of National Security (MNS). Unfortunately, Phillips used the opportunity to criticize the 2005 TIP Report and Jamaica's downgrade to Tier 3, and to lament what he disingenuously termed an unfortunate failure to communicate between Post and the GOJ. Phillips then presented actions taken to date by the GOJ to combat trafficking, and asked to know definitively what further steps would be required for Jamaica to receive a "passing grade" and avoid Tier 3 sanctions. The GOJ also promised working-level engagement with Post on TIP as soon as possible. End Summary.

CASE: 8/15/2006

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Jakarta

CABLEID: 06JAKARTA10298

CABLEDATE: 8/15/2006

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: INDONESIA WANTS TO ELEVATE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP TO "STRATEGIC LEVEL"

COUNTRY1: Indonesia

10. (U) Cotan expressed confidence the United States and Indonesia could continue as partners on terrorism issues. He urged that bilateral cooperation increase in such areas as maritime security; combating drug smuggling, piracy, trafficking in persons, proliferation of WMD and illegal logging; improving natural-disaster and pandemic response and developing an Early Warning System for tsunamis. Addressing specifically the question of trafficking, MFA Director of International Security and Disarmament Hasan Kleib thanked the USG for its continued assistance on trafficking issues and argued Indonesia's efforts to combat trafficking had not been accurately reflected in the most recent Trafficking in Persons Report for Indonesia (Note: Indonesia was designated as a Tier 2 Watch List country).

CASE: 2/4/2004

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Zagreb

CABLEID: 04ZAGREB208

CABLEDATE: 2/4/2004

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: CROATIA HEARS US ON TRAFFICKING

COUNTRY1: Croatia

The Ambassador raised TIP in his initial meetings with the Prime Minister, who demonstrated a familiarity with the issue and promised to provide us with a point of contact for further discussion. The meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Kosor focused almost exclusively on TIP, and she twice told the Ambassador that she is our point of contact on TIP-related issues, although she had little of substance to say during the Ambassador's January 30 meeting with her. Bekic's eagerness to meet on TIP may indicate an expanded willingness on the part of the MFA to be involved on the issue. Previously only the MFA's Department of Human Rights engaged with us on TIP, and then mostly for the purpose of challenging the basis on which Croatia was included in the Department's annual TIP report

CASE: 4/19/2006

CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Freetown

CABLEID: 06FREETOWN322

CABLEDATE: 4/19/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: Sierra Leoneans React to Human Rights Report

COUNTRY1: Sierra Leone

While most participants were supportive of the report's criticisms (especially women), others, especially the Attorney General, expressed frustration at what they viewed as unfair condemnation.

CASE: 6/6/2006
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Khartoum
CABLEID: 06KHARTOUM1341
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: SUDAN: TIP DEMARCHE DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Sudan

On June 5, Charge and Poloff delivered reftel demarche to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Osman Dirderi, and Poloff delivered it as well to the Rapporteur of the Advisory Council for Human Rights, Dr. Abdelmoniem Taha. Dirderi accepted the demarche, but expressed some unhappiness that this bad news came in the wake of the DPA signing, for which Sudan expects some amelioration in bilateral relations. Taha responded that he expected Sudan to be placed on Tier 3 as usual. Poloff highlighted that in 2005, Sudan was placed on Tier 2 Watchlist; however, in 2006 the government has decreased its efforts to combat trafficking in persons. Taha refuted the camel jockey problem saying it was the responsibility of the family not the government. He also denied the link between abduction and slavery. Taha said that he would study the report and provide feedback to the Embassy.

CASE: 7/27/2009
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong
CABLEID: 09HONGKONG1380
CABLEDATE: 7/27/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: SECRETARY FOR SECURITY DISMAYED ABOUT HONG KONG TIP RANKING DOWNGRADE
COUNTRY1: China

Lee said his government did not think the Tier 2 ranking was justified and rejects the notion that Hong Kong did not have not have any TIP prosecutions in 2008. (Note: Hong Kong convicted several people for sending individuals abroad to work as prostitutes, but the crimes lacked the necessary element of force, fraud, or coercion to be considered TIP. End note.) It also is "simply unreasonable," Lee argued, to imply a small number of prosecutions somehow means Hong Kong tolerates trafficking.

CASE: 6/6/2005
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1444
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: GOJ OFFERS MIXED RESPONSE ON TIP, CONCERNED ABOUT SANCTIONS
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

On June 5, local newspapers reported that the Ministry of National Security issued a statement on behalf of the GOJ that called the 2005 Report "unfair" and "highly prejudicial because it negates the significant actions taken by the Government over the last several months to combat this problem locally." The statement added that "there is no record of these cases being reported to any law enforcement agency in Jamaica," and went on to request that the USG provide additional details of alleged trafficking cases as a first step toward working together on the issue. While apparently denying the problem, the GOJ also stated that "we believe it is extremely important to eradicate and punish those who may be profiting from the unlawful trade of persons, as well as from any other form of exploitation of individuals." The statement added that the GOJ has taken steps to combat trafficking in recent months, including the formation of a national task force, which has proposed a number of anti-trafficking measures.

CASE: 9/24/2004
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 04CARACAS3025

CABLEDATE: 9/24/2004
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: MFA RESPONDS TO TIP DEMARCHE
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

Responding to reftel demarche regarding trafficking in persons, September 21, Venezuelan MFA officials insisted that the TIP report had not accurately assessed Venezuela's anti-trafficking initiatives under its treaty obligations with the United Nations.

CASE: 10/27/2008
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy New Delhi
CABLEID: 08NEWDELHI2801
CABLEDATE: 10/27/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF COURAGE AWARD: GEETHA RAMASESHAN
COUNTRY1: India

Moreover, given GOI indignation at remaining on the Tier Two Watchlist in the 2008 TIP Report, and consequent refusal to discuss trafficking issues with USG officials -- including Ambassador-at-Large Mark Lagon -- recognizing Ms. Ramaseshan's achievements would send the GOI a subtle message

CASE: 6/13/2008
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Nicosia
CABLEID: 08NICOSIA450
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: CYPRIOT REACTIONS MIXED TO RELEASE OF TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Cyprus

Interior and Foreign Ministry officials responsible for combating trafficking called the report "discouraging" and "unnecessarily negative," although they acknowledged its usefulness in fine-tuning anti-TIP tactics and promised to devote additional funds to the fight. Police contacts downplayed allegations of TIP-related corruption in the ranks.

CASE: 6/18/2003
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Zagreb
CABLEID: 03ZAGREB1399
CABLEDATE: 6/18/2003
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: CROATIA REACTION: 2003 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT
COUNTRY1: Croatia

We were called in to the Foreign Ministry on June 13 to discuss the recently released 2003 Trafficking in Persons report. Dubravka Simonovic, Head of the Human Rights section in the Department for UN and Human Rights, asked for an explanation of why Croatia was placed as a tier 2 country in the Department's 2003 Trafficking in Persons report. She observed that to be included in the report a country would have to have a significant number of trafficking victims, defined as not less than 100 victims. She then pointed out that there have been eight victims in Croatia, a number that is agreed upon by NGOs, international organizations, and the GOC. 2. (SBU) We explained that the assessment of a "significant" number of victims was based not just on the number of known victims, but also on the number of women trafficked into Western Europe, the number of women trafficked from source countries, the fact that one of the three known routes from source countries to Western Europe goes through Croatia, and the fact that the police deport many women without ever questioning how they got into Croatia. Based on these factors, we think it is reasonable that a significant number of victims are trafficked through Croatia. Simonovic summarized that our assessment was based on an "assumption," and we need more credible data.

CASE: 7/3/2006
CODE: Objection

ORIGIN: Embassy Freetown
CABLEID: 06FREETOWN537
CABLEDATE: 7/3/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: TIP TASK FORCE: UP BUT NOT QUITE RUNNING
COUNTRY1: Sierra Leone

4. The Task Force's first priority is to examine the new Anti-Trafficking Act and determine a plan of action for enforcement. However, Gbujama argued that the prevalence of trafficking was overestimated in the U.S. report and she did not expect to find a significant number of cases in Sierra Leone. She claimed that child fostering, a long-standing cultural practice, is more prevalent and is misinterpreted as criminal trafficking. She provided several examples of children she cared for personally and asked if her actions constituted trafficking. PolOff encouraged Gbujama to review a UNICEF-sponsored report on trafficking which emphasizes the difference between fostering and trafficking and describes the forms of trafficking occurring in Sierra Leone. Gbujama agreed that it was necessary to gather hard data and statistics in order to fully understand the scope of the trafficking problem. 5. Gbujama was upset by language in the 2005 TIP report implying that a MSWGCA official was involved in trafficking but never prosecuted. Gbujama said that she was familiar with the case and when questioned about the involvement of the official she told police that the suspect was only performing her official duties, not participating in the fraudulent adoption scam. She was sure that this is why the case against the official was dropped and resented any implication of corruption in her ministry. (Note: The MSWGCA official referred to in the report is Chief Social Development Officer Teresa Vamboi, the Ministry's point person on adoptions. Post has seen a 50 percent adoption fraud rate and has been working with Vamboi to improve orphanage oversight procedures. See ref C for a summary of the 2005 police raid on an orphanage in Makeni that never went to court. While we are certain that orphanage staff were misinforming biological parents about the permanent, irrevocable nature of adoptions, we see no evidence that Vamboi was involved in child trafficking. End Note.)

CASE: 6/6/2006
CODE: Objection
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 06MUSCAT907
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP: OMAN DISMAYED BY TIER 2 WATCH LIST RANK
COUNTRY1: Oman

1. (C) Following the June 5 delivery of the 2006 Trafficking in Persons report to the Foreign Ministry, the MFA Under Secretary roundly condemned the U.S. text in a June 6 phone SIPDIS call with the Ambassador. Calling the report "unfair and arrogant," he accused the USG of ignoring Oman's progress on TIP over the past year and questioned the point of any further engagement. The Ambassador succeeded in winning agreement for further discussions in coming weeks. End summary. ----- What Point Further Dialogue? ----- 2. (C) The Ambassador spoke on June 6 with MFA Under Secretary Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi regarding the Department's SIPDIS 2006 Trafficking in Persons report for Oman, which the Embassy delivered on June 5. The normally imperturbable Sayyid Badr reacted harshly to the report, calling its assessment of Oman "unfair, arrogant, discourteous and unfriendly," and charging that it ignored Oman's serious, constructive engagement on TIP over the past year as well as the Sultanate's mature, positive relations with the U.S. He said his ministry is "extremely frustrated" that their efforts have been ignored, and openly wondered whether there was a hidden agenda behind the unfavorable ranking. In light of the results of their engagement since the 2005 TIP report, he questioned the efficacy of any further dialogue with the USG. 3. (C) The Ambassador acknowledged Oman's ongoing efforts to enhance TIP protections, and noted that the scope of trafficking in persons in Oman is clearly not on the par of a major offender. The Ambassador observed, however, that there remained an absence of certain legal and procedural mechanisms. He urged that the Ministry and Embassy continue to engage in addressing those shortfalls. The Under Secretary launched again into a litany of complaints on the SIPDIS TIP report and expressed profound skepticism that anything can be done to receive a fair assessment. He nevertheless consented to a follow-on discussion with the Ambassador later in June to discuss ways of working together and specific actions to address TIP in Oman. ----- Fearing Consequences ----- 4. (SBU) Prior to the Ambassador's discussion with the Under Secretary, Pol/Econ Chief delivered the TIP report on June 5 SIPDIS to Humaid al-Maani,

deputy chief of the Under Secretary's office, conversing at length regarding the points of concern and implications of the report. Al-Maani acknowledged that Oman is still working to perfect its regulatory framework, which will take some time, but criticized the tenor and substance of the TIP report as being the worst way to move the process forward in Oman. Once the report reaches the Council of Ministers, he warned, reactions are likely to be far less diplomatic than those coming from the Foreign Ministry. Whatever polemics or backlash might result, P/E Chief urged that the Ministry remain focused on taking concrete steps to strengthen Oman's defenses against trafficking in persons, an abominable practice that all can agree must be confronted and eliminated. 5. (C) Al-Maani replied that the timing of the unwelcome report could be particularly disastrous for the Free Trade Agreement ratification proceedings still underway in Congress, fearing that the TIP report's blow to the bilateral relationship may quickly overwhelm whatever impulses there may be to seek further trafficking engagement with the USG. P/E Chief underscored the Administration's support for FTA ratification, praised the TIP efforts already underway within the Omani government, and reiterated the Embassy's desire for productive further dialogue on the issue. For examples of other states' efforts to combat TIP, P/E Chief forwarded to al-Maani on June 6 the TIP reports for the GCC states and Yemen, as well as a copy of the September 2005 "Assessment of U.S. Government Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons" report. ----- Comment ----- 6. (SBU) The Embassy is preparing an action plan that the Ambassador will provide to Sayyid Badr when they meet later in the month that will incorporate many of the TIP report's suggestions. GRAPPO

CASE: 12/6/2007

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 07BUENOSAIRE2300

CABLEDATE: 12/6/2007

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: ARGENTINA: CODEL SANCHEZ DISCUSSES ANTI-TIP AND CN EFFORTS WITH INTERIOR MINISTER FERNANDEZ

COUNTRY1: Argentina

Fernandez attributed the fact that the bill has not yet passed in part to the criticism in the State Department's 2007 TIP report of GOA anti-TIP efforts.

CASE: 6/17/2009

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 09BUENOSAIRE706

CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: (C) ARGENTINA: FOREIGN MINISTER "VERY UPSET" ABOUT TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Argentina

D'Alotto added that the "excessively critical" report will complicate the efforts of those within the GOA who want to work with the USG to combat TIP here.

CASE: 7/20/2005

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait

CABLEID: 05KUWAIT3221

CABLEDATE: 7/20/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER SPEAKS OUT ON WOMEN, PARTIES

COUNTRY1: Kuwait

In yet another series of widely-discussed remarks the Speaker made regarding the TIP report in the wake of its issuance in June, he said, referring to the U.S. having issued the report, "that those in glass houses shouldn't throw stones." Referring to those statements, the Abu Dhabi interviewer asked, "Were those the statements of Kuwait or of Al-Khorafi?" "Al-Khorafi the Kuwaiti," was the Speaker's answer. He further added that while no country is perfect, Kuwait remains open to constructive criticism about its human rights record.

NOTE: US should not criticize other countries when it has problems itself

CASE: 7/27/2009
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong
CABLEID: 09HONGKONG1380
CABLEDATE: 7/27/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: SECRETARY FOR SECURITY DISMAYED ABOUT HONG KONG TIP RANKING DOWNGRADE
COUNTRY1: China

The CG assured Secretary Lee that the reasons listed in the report for the Tier 2 ranking are the real reasons for the downgrade, and that there is no ulterior motive behind the report.

CASE: 9/1/2005
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON2059
CABLEDATE: 9/1/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: GOJ LAUNCHES TIP PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

1. Summary: The GOJ on August 30 launched a yearlong public awareness campaign to educate its citizens about the dangers of trafficking in persons (TIP). In a move that appears to indicate the GOJ's determination to make sustained efforts against trafficking, the Cabinet Office organized a public forum at Emancipation Park in Kingston with National Security Minister Peter Phillips as the keynote speaker. With Information Minister Burchell Whiteman, senior police officers, and representatives of international organizations and local NGOs in attendance, the tenor of the event was positive and constructive, and seemed to demonstrate that the GOJ has moved beyond its initial, defensive response to its June 3 downgrade to Tier 3 status (Ref A). End Summary.

CASE: 6/6/2005
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 05ABUDHABI2495
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UAE LEADERS COMMITTED TO TIP PLAN FOLLOW THROUGH
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

5. (SBU) While the Abu Dhabi leadership has reacted to the UAE's Tier 3 ranking by focusing on action plan follow-up, lower level Dubai police officials have criticized the report. "Gulf News" reported June 5 that a spokesman for the Human Rights Department of Dubai Police called the report unfair and said that U.S. sanction threats were toothless and would not help solve the problem. Major Arif Baqer, Deputy Director of Dubai Police's Human Rights Department, told "Gulf News" he was "shocked" by the TIP report, adding that he had addressed all contentious issues with G/TIP Reports Officer Feleke Assefa during his May 7-10 mission to Abu Dhabi and Dubai. "Gulf News" cited a senior official from the Dubai Police Human Rights Department who said, "We do our best to eliminate trafficking (of women for sexual exploitation). We push for these women to be treated as victims, not criminals in the courts and at immigration." The same official said most women working in the sex industry in Dubai were not being forced. "There are very few genuine victims of human trafficking. Many of them came to work as prostitutes and have saved enough money to go home."

NOTE: Objections by Police force

CASE: 3/20/2006
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Nicosia
CABLEID: 06NICOSIA410
CABLEDATE: 3/20/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: GOC REACTS ANGRILY TO THE RELEASE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT; BUT BETTER THAN LAST YEAR

COUNTRY1: Cyprus

Media coverage that followed the release of the report was generally mild. A few papers offered the standard charges of hypocrisy, but official circles remained largely mute. A week after the publication of the report, however, Justice Minister Theodorou (who was mentioned in the document in connection with allegations of nepotism) held a press conference in which he dismissed the report as "prejudiced and pre-decided." He announced that, due to the report's "inaccuracies," the police would "no longer respond to American Embassy questionnaires unless it is given assurances that they (the Americans) will be objective." Theodorou pointed, in particular, to the report's failure to highlight an independent board that had been formed to investigate allegations of police corruption in relation to trafficking in persons. He neglected, however, to mention that the board had only been formed in February 2006. The Cypriot police, he continued, had been instructed to respond to the Embassy's questionnaire because the force operated in a climate of "complete transparency." The police had nothing to hide, since the level of respect for human rights in Cyprus was "indisputably high." On March 17, the police posted a 17-page rebuttal to the human rights report on the web, along with a press release noting the contents that had caused them "grief, bitterness and disappointment." The press release charged that the report was rife with inaccuracies and "misleading references." 4. (C) COMMENT: The official response to the release of this year's report was significantly less intemperate than the firestorm of protest the GOC launched in response to the 2004 report

NOTE: Human rights report reaction, including reaction to TIP assessment within the HR report

CASE: 6/15/2007

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 07BUENOSAIRE1185

CABLEDATE: 6/15/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: GOA REACTION TO TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Argentina

e asserted that the USG does not understand Argentina's political realities in terms of what kind of anti-TIP legislation can be passed in the Argentine Congress.

CASE: 6/24/2009

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Brussels

CABLEID: 09BRUSSELS865

CABLEDATE: 6/24/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: BELGIUM'S JUSTICE MINISTRY REACTS TO 2009 TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Belgium

Though happy Belgium remained in Tier 1, they were concerned that the outcome of two cases mentioned in the narrative might become litmus tests to evaluate Belgium, rather than having the report focus on the global reality that Belgium places a priority on TIP at home and leads on TIP in Europe.

CASE: 6/17/2009

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Beijing

CABLEID: 09BEIJING1631

CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: CHINA -- 2009 TIP REPORT DEMARCHE DELIVERED

COUNTRY1: China

On June 16, PolOff delivered ref A demarche, outlining the publication of the annual TIP report, to An Gang, Director of the MFA's North American and Oceanian Division. An told PolOff that China hoped that the United States would "stop releasing such annual reports." An informed PolOff that he would

instruct his staff to study the report and would contact the embassy with any specific concerns.
PICCUTA

CASE: 8/4/2004
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Lilongwe
CABLEID: 04LILONGWE734
CABLEDATE: 8/4/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: TIP OPEN FOR DISCUSSION IN MALAWI
COUNTRY1: Malawi

None of the GOM or NGO representatives present expressed surprise that TIP occurred in Malawi, and most seemed more interested in the way forward than in the mechanics of the report or of U.S. policy. One senior GOM official who works in a ministry which has been particularly vocal in rejecting the TIP report's findings admitted that as traffickers become more "sophisticated," Malawi's laws need to keep pace and become equally sophisticated.

NOTE: private admission that Malawi has a problem

CASE: 11/26/2008
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Damascus
CABLEID: 08DAMASCUS848
CABLEDATE: 11/26/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: SARG DRAFT LEGISLATION ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS STILL IN REWRITE PHASE
COUNTRY1: Syria

Regarding Syria's tier three status in the Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report (TiP), Tomeh noted that the U.S. ranks the SARG low, but never visits with the relevant SARG offices to discuss trafficking issues and learn details about the government's efforts and their general perspective. As part of Post's International Visitor Program, Tomeh traveled to the U.S. in June 9-27 on a trafficking in persons program for people from NEA and SCA. During her outbrief with a State Department officer, Tomeh explained to us, that she asked why Embassy Damascus officers had not in the past (to her knowledge) directly engaged SARG on trafficking issues, and whether they would in the future. IOM, Tomeh intimated, might play a role in facilitating such an engagement if we were willing. 5. (C) COMMENT: SARG's sloth-like movement of the trafficking legislation is likely to be a product bureaucratic inefficiencies. Our contacts at UNHCR and IOM state that the SARG has been generally cooperative when UNHCR case officers have sought the release of female Iraqi refugees who were arrested for prostitution and slated for deportation. Despite the current SARG freeze on official contacts with Embassy Damascus, post may attempt to present low-level SARG counterparts with the criteria for the TiP ranking system and with recommendations on how better to deter human trafficking

CASE: 11/12/2009
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 09BUENOSAIRES1223
CABLEDATE: 11/12/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR RAISES PRESS FREEDOM, TIP ISSUES WITH ARGENTINE VFM TACCETTI
COUNTRY1: Argentina

Taccetti reiterated his reftel arguments against Argentina's ranking on the Tier 2 Watch list and complained about U.S. scorecard diplomacy.

CASE: 6/16/2006
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Abuja
CABLEID: 06ABUJA1518
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: NIGERIAN RESPONSE TO THE TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Nigeria

Poloffs delivered the TIP demarche (reftel) to Nigeria's National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP). Participants included the agency directors for legal and prosecution, counseling and rehabilitation, and public enlightenment. NAPTIP accepted the report in "good faith" and agreed that its details were largely accurate, but they took issue with the language that Nigeria had not met "minimum standards." They also stressed that meeting minimum standards should be measured against available resources and that they would continue trying to make improvements in the coming year. They claimed that a lack of resources limits their ability to act more aggressively. 2. The interlocutors said they cooperate with the police, but the level of cooperation they receive depends on the person in charge of each particular office. However, NAPTIP said they are receiving particularly good cooperation from Immigration and Customs authorities. 3. NAPTIP has adopted or is planning to adopt a number of "best practices" they believe should entitle them to Tier 1 status.

NOTE: definitely working targeted towards improvement in tier status

CASE: 6/2/2005

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Doha

CABLEID: 05DOHA991

CABLEDATE: 6/2/2005

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: QATAR: DELIVERY OF 2005 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

COUNTRY1: Qatar

Al-Mansouri expressed concern that the lack of recognition of Qatar's efforts was "linked to other issues." (Comment: Without using the words "Al-Jazeera," Al-Mansouri was expressing a view held by many in the Qatari leadership that the U.S. aims to punish Qatar because of the anti-U.S. nature of Al-Jazeera broadcasting.) DCM assured Al-Mansouri that the TIP rating was based only on circumstances in Qatar and of actions taken or not taken by the GOQ to address those issues. DCM also noted that last January the Ambassador proposed to the GOQ several specific measures to improve the conditions of the underage camel jockeys, but no action was taken in response. The important and positive steps taken in recent weeks were laudable but came too late to be factored into the 2005 report.

NOTE: thinks report is partly political

CASE: 12/23/2009

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong

CABLEID: 09HONGKONG2340

CABLEDATE: 12/23/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: G/TIP AMBASSADOR ENCOURAGES REFORM IN HONG KONG

COUNTRY1: China

In his meeting with Ambassador CdeBaca, Chief Secretary (CS) Tang expressed appreciation for the full range of cooperation with the U.S. and stressed the HKG wanted to work together on all fronts. He noted his disappointment that Hong Kong had been ranked under Tier Two and was surprised to hear that Hong Kong had in any way not been cooperative on TIP. He said Hong Kong "welcomes people" but "does not welcome people here illegally," saying that authorities took a robust stance on economic migrants, just as the U.S. did with Mexico. Tang maintained that Hong Kong's legal system was "ample and adequate." Tang also asked, based on a report it had received from the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Washington, if the U.S. was "moving the goal posts" on TIP. He said he didn't want TIP to become a stumbling block for other issues and areas of US-HK cooperation, as the downgrade "left a bad taste in our mouths." He said he wanted the U.S. to know "where Hong Kong was coming from." He hoped the U.S. and Hong Kong could "put this behind us in the next TIP report." Tang asked if the U.S. would rank itself on the Tier Two watch list next year and wondered what that ranking might be. He noted that Hong Kong's ability to work with its friends on mutual problems, such as drug trafficking, was a principle that had served it well over the years. However,

Hong Kong did not like being judged by others who were saying it was not doing a good job.

NOTE: downgrade leaving bad taste in mounths? souring the relationship, concerns about relationship in general? Does not like to be judged

CASE: 6/18/2007
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 07KUWAIT938
CABLEDATE: 6/18/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: KUWAITIS DEFENSIVE ABOUT TIER 3 TIP RANKING, THOUGH SOME ACKNOWLEDGE PROBLEMS
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

Parliament Speaker Jassem Al-Khorafi grabbed the biggest headlines on the TIP report. He told the press the TIP report was laughable coming from a country that keeps detainees without charge or trial at Guantanamo. He quipped that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones. MP Walid Tabtaba'i, one of the most prominent parliamentary critics of the U.S., excoriated the U.S. in a June 16 article in Al-Watan for its human rights violations in secret prisons, in Iraq, and in its exploitation of Latin American workers. While insisting Kuwait was "not in need of moral advice from the Americans about human rights," he conceded Kuwait needs to "review and correct" its policies toward foreign workers.

NOTE: US should not judge others when they have so many problems themselves

CASE: 12/23/2009
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong
CABLEID: 09HONGKONG2340
CABLEDATE: 12/23/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: G/TIP AMBASSADOR ENCOURAGES REFORM IN HONG KONG
COUNTRY1: China

CS Henry Tang stressed the HKG,s disappointment in the Tier 2 downgrade, asked whether the U.S. was "moving the goal posts," and expressed hope the U.S. and Hong Kong could "put this all behind us in next year's report."

NOTE: Moving goalposts

CASE: 6/13/2008
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Nicosia
CABLEID: 08NICOSIA450
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: CYPRIOT REACTIONS MIXED TO RELEASE OF TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Cyprus

Economou then acknowledged that the report was helpful and a tool to spur further progress. The GOC would continue to take measures against TIP, not because of the unfavorable ranking but because it was the right thing to do.

CASE: 6/13/2008
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Nicosia
CABLEID: 08NICOSIA450
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: CYPRIOT REACTIONS MIXED TO RELEASE OF TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Cyprus

NGOs roundly welcomed the report, claiming that coverage of it would raise TIP awareness and thereby help their cause.

CASE: 12/2/2009
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Georgetown
CABLEID: 09GEORGETOWN539
CABLEDATE: 12/2/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN
HEADING: President Jagdeo Discusses Human Trafficking in Guyana
COUNTRY1: Guyana

He also emphasized that ranking Guyana Tier 2 based on the fact that Guyana has not had a trafficking conviction in recent years overlooks the positive actions that the GoG has taken to combat trafficking

CASE: 6/25/2004
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Guatemala
CABLEID: 04GUATEMALA1573
CABLEDATE: 6/25/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: TIP BILATERAL MINISTERIAL MEETING RESULTS
COUNTRY1: Guatemala

In press outreach prior to the meeting TIPCoord and DHSOff credited the Berger government for its new commitments to combat TIP, which merited its inclusion in the Tier II Watch List. Some political sensitivities remain on the GOG side, however, as demonstrated by VP Stein's public statement criticizing unilateral USG judgment of other countries' performance on this and other issues.

CASE: 6/4/2008
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Beijing
CABLEID: 08BEIJING2160
CABLEDATE: 6/4/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: Chilly PRC Response to Delivery of TIP Demarche
COUNTRY1: China

PolOff delivered reftel demarche on China's Tier 2 Watch List ranking and specific TIP language to An Gang, Director, USA Division, Department of North American and Oceanian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Xu Yu, Deputy Division Director, Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Chen Shiqi, Director, Office of Combating Human Trafficking, Ministry of Public Security. All agreed to respond with any questions after reviewing the report in depth. An Gang noted that China would "probably not have any official response, except perhaps to protest some inaccuracies in the language of the report." China would prefer the United States raise its concerns "some other way than a press conference," he added. PICCUTA

NOTE: completely stand offish

CASE: 6/25/2004
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Guatemala
CABLEID: 04GUATEMALA1573
CABLEDATE: 6/25/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: TIP BILATERAL MINISTERIAL MEETING RESULTS
COUNTRY1: Guatemala

The Ambassador and Embassy anti-TIP team met with the Government of Guatemala inter-institutional group to combat TIP on June 22 to formally present the 2004 TIP report and urge

continued progress combating TIP. The GOG's reaction to the release of the 2004 Trafficking in Persons Report was generally positive, although VP Stein publicly differed with the unilateral nature of the report's judgments.

NOTE: Reaction to unilateral nature of report

CASE: 6/19/2007
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Beijing
CABLEID: 07BEIJING4132
CABLEDATE: 6/19/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: JUNE 19 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: SIX-PARTY TALKS, TIP REPORT, HIGH-TECH EXPORT CONTROLS, HUMAN RIGHTS, SU
COUNTRY1: China

The Chinese Government places importance on protecting human rights and countering smuggling, said Qin commenting on the recently released State Department Trafficking in Persons Report. China continues to participate in international law enforcement cooperation and handles the trafficking issue in accordance with international and domestic law and with a humanitarian spirit, he added. China calls on the international community to take joint efforts on this issue and hopes the United States can develop a clearer picture of the situation in China.

CASE: 7/16/2007
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Phnom Penh
CABLEID: 07PHNOMPENH936
CABLEDATE: 7/16/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: CAMBODIA: 2007 2ND QUARTER REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
COUNTRY1: Cambodia

t a May 31 TIP luncheon during EAP/MLS Deputy Director Eleanor Nagy's visit to Post, former IJM Director Kaign Christy posited that the drop in activity may be due to complacency among governmental actors who feel less nervous now that Cambodia is off Tier 3.

CASE: 7/20/2006
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Rangoon
CABLEID: 06RANGOON1012
CABLEDATE: 7/20/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: PROGRESS ON TRANSNATIONAL TIP SLOWING
COUNTRY1: Burma

The NGO speakers offered soft criticism of the Department's TIP Report as they claimed that the Report inhibits cooperation from the committed mid-level GOB officials in the field and reflects a gap between a political and operational levels of government that address trafficking. In an aside with Acting P/E Chief, World Vision project coordinator Dr. Saw Ivan said that some Home Ministry officials appreciated the modest credit given to the GOB in the 2005 TIP Report's Burma narrative, though the prevailing mood among ministry officials was that the Tier 3 ranking would not elicit greater political support among the regime generals for anti-TIP reform.

CASE: 6/21/2006
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Rangoon
CABLEID: 06RANGOON843
CABLEDATE: 6/21/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: BURMA/TIP: MUTED REACTION TO THE 2006 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Burma

In a June 20 meeting, Nikolas Win Myint, project advisor at the UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP), noted that he has not yet received any direct reaction from key GOB anti-TIP interlocutors. He attributed this to the officials' move to Pyinmana and his view of their greater reluctance to meet with international organizations' expatriate staff. Drawing on past discussions with the government, Win Myint claimed that GOB officials, such as Col. Sit Aye fully understand the USG's definition of TIP and its inclusion of forced labor and child soldiering as forms of trafficking. They also perceive a "political element" to the Report and do not expect Burma to be taken off of Tier 3 anytime soon. 4. (SBU) Win Myint opined that an official with anti-trafficking expertise wrote the GOB's measured critique. Accepting a Tier 3 ranking as a given each year, officials working on TIP here may find solace in the Report's few citations that show some progress addressing transnational trafficking, he said. Win Myint recalled a statement made by a senior police official at a March 2006 national seminar in Rangoon; the official called on participants to ignore the perennial Tier 3 ranking and instead to work for improved anti-trafficking efforts motivated by self-determination.

CASE: 7/17/2009
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Bandar Seri Begawan
CABLEID: 09BANDARSERIBEGAWAN172
CABLEDATE: 7/17/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: BRUNEI'S REACTION TO 2009 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Brunei

This is the first time the GoB has given an official response to the TIP Report.

CASE: 7/31/2007
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 07BUENOSAIRE1476
CABLEDATE: 7/31/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ARGENTINA TO WORK CLOSELY ON TIP ISSUES
COUNTRY1: Argentina

Berta stated that while the Argentine government does not appreciate the "paternalistic" nature of the TIP report, it is committed to working with the Department to combat human trafficking.

CASE: 6/14/2006
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Belmopan
CABLEID: 06BELIZE533
CABLEDATE: 6/14/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: BELIZE: 2006 TIP REPORT DEMARCHE DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Belize

On the Wednesday, June 7, the Prime Minister addressed the issue on the Channel Five evening news. Giving his thoughts on why Belize was ranked Tier 3, the PM stated: "That Belize is now lumped and almost put in a box, so to speak, with Venezuela and Cuba; I don't think its pure coincidence. Because, when you analyze the issue of human trafficking, we have done a lot in this country to address the issue. Police, the immigration, people have raided constantly in addressing this issue of prostitution for instance and the whole question of human trafficking we've done a lot. But those who seek to judge us should perhaps examine their own decadent societies before they come and pass judgment on us."

CASE: 9/14/2005
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 05ANKARA5342
CABLEDATE: 9/14/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: TURKS PUT ON POOR SHOW AT ISTANBUL TIP CONFERENCE

COUNTRY1: Turkey

5. (U) Captain Ilker Temel, Chief of the Turkish Jandarma's Counter-Trafficking Unit, mentioned the TIP Report and asserted that though Tier 3 countries were subject to sanctions, he has never seen any implemented, making the rating useless. MFA officials nodded in agreement. Temel listed problems with law enforcement in battling TIP, including lack of training, no database, players not knowing their counterparts in other countries, and the insufficient number of experts. Ambassador N. Murat Ersavci, MFA's Director General for Consular Affairs, lauded Captain Temel and the Jandarma, saying Temel's presentation was the first time Ersavci had seen law enforcement being candid and open. Ersavci also suggested IOM be the contact point for law enforcement agencies.

NOTE: sanctions threat not seen as credible

CASE: 9/24/2004

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas

CABLEID: 04CARACAS3025

CABLEDATE: 9/24/2004

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: MFA RESPONDS TO TIP DEMARCHE

COUNTRY1: Venezuela

The suggested quid pro quo -- making information available if we agree to take Venezuela off the list - strikes us as unacceptable,

NOTE: tries to bargain to be taken off tier 3

CASE: 7/24/2008

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo

CABLEID: 08CAIRO1566

CABLEDATE: 7/24/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: EGYPT: REACTION TO TIP TIER 2 WATCH LIST ACTION PLAN

COUNTRY1: Egypt

However, Aboulmagd emphasized that the GOE will not gear its efforts to the timetable of the USG's TIP report. He said that Egypt is spending a "disproportionate" amount of time on TIP in comparison to "more urgent" human rights issues, such as freedom of expression and women's rights, particularly given that Egypt "likely does not have a big problem" in comparison to other developing countries. He noted that the U.S. TIP criteria "is not universal," and that some in the Egyptian public are accusing the GOE being beholden to a "western-driven agenda" on TIP. He re-affirmed that the GOE will continue its anti-TIP efforts and would like to move off of the Tier 2 Watch List, but said that "this is not a priority for us."

CASE: 8/2/2004

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Lilongwe

CABLEID: 04LILONGWE723

CABLEDATE: 8/2/2004

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: GOM TAKES ISSUE WITH MALAWI'S TIP RANKING

COUNTRY1: Malawi

) At a July 28 meeting with the Charge, Minister of Foreign Affairs George Chaponda used the USG's initiative on TIP at UNGA as an entree to officially respond on behalf of the GOM to Malawi's Tier Two - Watch List ranking in the Department's 2004 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. Well briefed and reading from a prepared statement, Chaponda said the GOM "was very concerned" about Malawi's ranking because "it did not reflect the situation on the ground." Chaponda described the report as "contestable and debatable" and asserted that its findings were not "substantiated by qualified evidence." Chaponda indicated that the report had been discussed at an inter-ministerial meeting,

where representatives from various branches of government found the ranking "shocking." (NOTE: The Charge later learned that the President, having read the 2004 TIP report, ordered the inter-ministerial meeting to convene. END NOTE.)

NOTE: President read the report and reacted

CASE: 11/2/2006
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Yerevan
CABLEID: 06YEREVAN1548
CABLEDATE: 11/2/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: POST'S ANTI-TIP FULL-COURT PRESS
COUNTRY1: Armenia

Both the deputy foreign minister and Mkrtumian were noticeably distressed at the idea that Armenia would remain on the Tier 2 Watch List, or worse. Mkrtumian, who is very invested in Armenia's anti-trafficking fight, but unfortunately is not senior enough to have meaningful influence within the government, pleaded with the CDA several times during the meeting that downgrading Armenia to Tier 3 would be "a very bad signal," given Armenia's progress in regional anti-TIP cooperation, particularly with Turkey.

CASE: 6/21/2006
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Paris
CABLEID: 06PARIS4295
CABLEDATE: 6/21/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: DEMARCHE TO FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON 2006 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT
COUNTRY1: France

Holding before him a list of the 2006 Tier rankings during the discussion, Colombani appeared astounded by the relative assessments of some of the countries with which he has direct experience in the fight against trafficking. He compared French activism with the passivity of several other European countries, citing the UK, Germany, and especially the Netherlands. On one hand, he noted amazement that Germany, which has received numerous calls from activists to close down the sex village in Berlin during the World Cup, should be ranked Tier One, along with the Netherlands, which refused to cooperate with France on trafficking. Pointing to Tier-Two Nigeria, he affirmed the importance of working with Nigeria, given because of the large number of Nigerian trafficking victims present in France, but said authorities there are so corrupt that he is unable to find a willing partner to work with France. "You're telling me that France could easily be in Tier Two, with Nigeria?" he asked, incredulous.

CASE: 11/12/2009
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 09BUENOSAIRE1223
CABLEDATE: 11/12/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR RAISES PRESS FREEDOM, TIP ISSUES WITH ARGENTINE VFM TACCETTI
COUNTRY1: Argentina

This elicited from Taccetti a lengthy exposition on the differences between U.S. common law jurisprudence and Argentina's legal framework derived from the Napoleonic Code. He also recalled his September 24 conversation in New York with U/S for Global Affairs Maria Otero, and reiterated the objections he made in reftel, particularly to the unilateral nature of USG scorecards on an issue which would best be addressed multilaterally.

CASE: 10/28/2008
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT744

CABLEDATE: 10/28/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S MEETINGS WITH OMANI SULTAN QABOOS AND FOREIGN MINISTER BIN ALAWI

COUNTRY1: Oman

1. (C) The Deputy Secretary of State and the Ambassador met on October 19 with Omani Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs Yusef bin Alawi to discuss bilateral relations and regional issues. Bin Alawi welcomed Oman's upgrade from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List in the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report and promised to work with the Ambassador to demonstrate Oman's commitment to combating trafficking. He was pessimistic on the chances for progress in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a result of increased Israeli settlement construction activity and hardened Palestinian views on borders. Bin Alawi also expressed support for Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki and contended that Iran was committed to Gulf security and wanted to work with the international community to find a face-saving way to resolve the dispute over its nuclear activities.

NOTE: Pleased with upgrade

CASE: 6/21/2006

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Paris

CABLEID: 06PARIS4295

CABLEDATE: 6/21/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: DEMARCHE TO FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON 2006 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

COUNTRY1: France

Colombani speculated that differences in the legal systems between France and the U.S. were leading the U.S. to overestimate the importance of victim protection in the context of witness protection. He noted that the U.S. legal system, with its emphasis on testimony, creates a parallel need to protect witnesses. This was not the case in France, he argued, since police and investigating judges worked independently of witnesses and are allowed to keep their testimony secret for much longer. He concluded that, since witnesses were not put in danger, there was less need to protect them.

CASE: 6/30/2009

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo

CABLEID: 09CAIRO1222

CABLEDATE: 6/30/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: EGYPTIAN MFA REACTIONS TO 2009 TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Egypt

ael Aboulmagd, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights, told us on June 28 that the GOE was "frustrated" with the 2009 TIP Report. He stated that Egypt felt like it had done enough in the past year to be moved off the Tier 2 Watch List, and the report "left a bitter taste," especially in light of overall increased U.S.-Egyptian dialogue and cooperation. Aboulmagd asked how the report could enumerate the positive steps that Egypt had taken in the past year and still not change the tier ranking. He said that those GOE officials that deal with TIP feel like the USG "moved the goalposts" by highlighting new issues in order to justify keeping Egypt on the watch list.

CASE: 10/16/2008

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 08MUSCAT728

CABLEDATE: 10/16/2008

CLASSIFIC: SECRET//NOFORN

HEADING: UNDERSTANDING AND MOVING ON FROM OMAN'S HARSH REACTION TO THE TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Oman

Classified By: Ambassador Gary A. Grappo for Reasons 1.4 (b, d) ----- SUMMARY -----

1. (C) There are likely several reasons behind Oman's hypersensitivity and reaction to its Tier 3 ranking in the 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report: its unspoken past involvement in the slave trade, its strong desire to protect and shape its national image, and its devotion to the principle of non-interference in the affairs of other nations. Senior Omanis, the Sultan included, felt betrayed and "stabbed in the back" by the TIP report, in part because they believed political considerations in Washington either motivated the ranking or should have kept Oman off the list of worst offenders. In addition, perceived Omani grievances against the U.S. -- including sharply reduced FMF, the lack of a POTUS or S visit, and delay in implementation of the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement (FTA) -- may have further fueled Omani doubts, suspicions and hard feelings surfaced by the TIP dispute.

2. (C) Fortunately, once Oman is removed from Tier 3, the Sultan and his ministers appear ready to put this uniquely unpleasant but brief chapter in our otherwise strong bilateral relationship behind them (ref A). By taking several concrete steps -- such as increased FMF, a senior official visit, FTA implementation and visa reciprocity -- we can restore and strengthen trust between the U.S. and Oman while continuing to educate the Omanis on their responsibilities to combat TIP. Making TIP more of a multilateral issue by proposing that the Omanis work with a respected international organization/UN agency in addressing trafficking in Oman, as well as elsewhere in the Gulf, would also help overcome Omani defensiveness and further encourage the government to take anti-TIP measures. End Summary.

3. (C) On the surface, Oman's visceral reaction to its placement on Tier 3 in the Department's 2008 TIP report appears extreme (refs D-G). We may understandably ask, "Why would Oman threaten to reevaluate its entire bilateral relationship with the U.S., described as 'strategic' by its most senior officials, over this one issue, especially when other GCC countries on Tier 3 responded in a more tempered fashion?" The answer to this question reflects both Oman's particular sensitivities to criticism in general and specifically related to trafficking, as well as simmering points of contention among some senior Omanis over the Sultanate's relations with the U.S. (Note: Omani officials are becoming increasingly agitated over the delay in the release of the final Tier rankings, suspecting that a dispute over the Sultanate's ranking is behind the postponement. Moreover, the government continues to deny Embassy requests for cooperation on some bilateral issues because of the TIP report. End Note.) ----- A DARK CHAPTER IN OMANI HISTORY -----

4. (C) During its rule of Zanzibar and strong commercial presence in East Africa in the 18th and 19th centuries (which extended as far south as Madagascar and into Central Africa), Oman played a major role in the African slave trade. Slavery was not officially declared illegal in Oman until Sultan Qaboos ousted his father in 1970. While a matter of historical record elsewhere in the world, Oman's slave-trading past remains a strictly taboo subject in the Sultanate today. The government has never acknowledged Oman's participation in the slave trade and it is never discussed in any local fora, including academic circles. Textbooks in Omani schools and universities make no mention of Oman's otherwise well documented role in the African slave trade. Given the direct comparisons frequently drawn by some anti-TIP activists between trafficking and slavery -- the Arabic term for trafficking in persons is "itjar bi MUSCAT 00000728 002 OF 005 al-bashar," which may also be translated as "trading in people" -- the Omani government is accordingly very sensitive to charges that it is tolerant of or has failed to take action against "modern day slavery" on its own soil. ----- IMAGE IS EVERYTHING -----

5. (C) The primary reason the Sultanate has so far refused to come to terms with its slave-trading past is another key factor in Oman's outrage over the Tier 3 ranking -- namely, its near obsession with protecting its public image. The Omani government has worked very hard to establish and maintain an image of a country almost devoid of significant social problems. Justifiably proud of its record of accomplishments since Sultan Qaboos assumed power -- a period now referred to as the "Blessed Renaissance" -- Oman's carefully cultivated image is also closely tied to traditional local notions of honor in the true sense of Arabian Peninsula tribal customs. While Oman seeks to project an idealized picture of itself to the outside world, it is even more vigilant in preserving this image among its own populace. Newspaper, radio and television (all either state-owned or subject to close official supervision) provide a daily diet of, to an outsider, mind-numbingly sunny coverage. Local reporting on controversial subjects and/or topics that expose domestic problems is essentially non-existent, and even reporting that is the staple of local news in most countries -- reports on traffic accidents, fires and petty crimes, for example -- is rare. "Only the good news is fit to print" is, with few exceptions, the guiding policy of all domestic media outlets.

6. (C) Within this context, Oman's Tier 3 TIP ranking pulled back the veil on an ugly aspect of the Sultanate and exposed it for all to see. Omani citizens were presented with an official U.S. report that asserted their harmonious and tranquil society was not as idyllic as the government claimed. Moreover, Oman's inadequate response to its trafficking problem, according to the USG, placed the Sultanate in the ranks of perennial human rights abusers such as North Korea and Cuba. After a steady stream of feel-good news stories that often trumpet the high esteem in which the rest of the world holds Oman, such a bitter pill was hard to swallow for the government and for the Omani public. Besides being

perceived as inaccurate, the ranking was seen by many as a direct affront to Oman's national pride. --

----- UNWELCOME IN PRINCIPLE, AS WELL AS IN TIMING -----

----- 7. (C) In addition to the actual content of the TIP report, the Omani government still bristles at the concept of being graded or ranked in a report by another country. It should be noted that the Omanis also chafe at our annual human rights report. One of the pillars of Oman's foreign policy under Sultan Qaboos has been non-interference and mutual respect in the affairs of other nations (ref H). This guiding principle is long-standing and firmly entrenched in the mind of the Sultan and senior Omanis. Thus to be directly criticized by a foreign government, particularly a friendly one, on an internal matter is seen as particularly offensive and an indication of a distinct lack of respect. A corollary to its principle of non-interference has been Oman's refusal to take action as a result of outside pressure. 8. (C) That the Omani government saw its Tier 3 ranking as a complete surprise -- whether it should have or not -- compounded hard feelings. Both prior and subsequent to last year's Tier 3 ranking and throughout the most recent reporting period, post repeatedly pointed out to our interlocutors anti-TIP steps that the government needed to take, but on which they ultimately failed to comprehensively act. Despite this "notice," however, Oman's TIP ranking was not previewed -- as requested by post -- during the May visit to Washington, D.C. by MFA Secretary General Sayyid Badr al-Busa'idi for the U.S.-Oman Gulf Security Dialogue (GSD). As a result, Sayyid Badr and other officials literally and personally felt ambushed and said so to the Ambassador. -----

"STABBED IN THE BACK" ----- 9. (C) To Omanis in general, and especially the senior leadership, the TIP report/ranking represented a betrayal by the U.S., caused in part by a failure among senior Omanis to understand how Washington works in addressing high-profile public issues such as TIP. In the mind of many Omani officials, the Sultanate is a close friend of the U.S. that has exposed itself to criticism and even potential security threats for the sake of furthering the bilateral relationship. The U.S.-Oman Base Access Agreement, which came under fire from Oman's GCC partners when first signed in 1980, and the critical role that Omani military facilities played in OEF/OIF are two examples post's contacts often cite in describing how Oman has gone to bat for Washington despite anti-American sentiment at home and in the region. That the U.S. would "stab its friend in the back" by placing Oman on Tier 3 after all it has done to help promote U.S. interests caused genuinely hurt and bitter feelings among Omani officials, including the Sultan (ref A). Moreover, in the minds of the Omani public, the government's well known relationship with the U.S. became impossible to understand in the face of such a "public insult." ----- AND THEY JUST DON'T GET IT -----

----- 10. (C) The Ambassador and emboffs have repeatedly attempted to explain to Omanis that Oman's tier ranking was in no way a political decision and primarily reflected the government's inadequate response to trafficking in the Sultanate, rather than the scope of TIP in Oman. Many senior Omanis, however, simply won't accept this explanation. They either refuse to believe that the Department acted solely on set, valid criteria in issuing tier rankings or hold that we could have chosen to keep Oman off the list of worst offenders in recognition of its status as a good friend and ally. As alleged evidence that the TIP rankings are based at least in part on purely political factors, some Omanis interlocutors point to the placement of the United Arab Emirates -- with which Oman maintains a relationship that is simultaneously cordial and strained -- and its enormous expatriate population and potentially huge pool of TIP victims, on Tier 2. ----- POINTS OF

CONTENTION ----- 11. (C) Feeding the belief of some officials that a negative political message lay behind Oman's Tier 3 ranking, as well as reinforcing resentment against the TIP report, is a list of perceived grievances against the United States that are interpreted as indicating Washington's displeasure with the Sultanate. These include: -- REDUCTION OF FMF: From a high of USD 24.85 million in FY04, Foreign Military Financing (FMF) for Oman has since been on a steep downward slope, reaching only USD 4.7 million for FY08. Our explanations of limited funding and Congressional earmarks for other countries have not been well received, particularly as reduced FMF will impede modernization of Oman's military. -- LACK OF SENIOR VISITS: The Omani government has welcomed a steady stream of high-level U.S. military visitors and appreciates meetings with and phone calls from Department officials. The Omanis, however, are not focused on just the number of visits, but also on the nature and rank of the visitor. In this regard, the Omanis have watched the movements of our most senior officials in the region and may feel left out. A few of our interlocutors have quietly commented that the Sultan and other senior leaders are disappointed that neither the President nor the Secretary has come to Muscat despite visiting every other country in the GCC (with the exception of Qatar). Post has assured the Omanis that the Sultanate was not by-passed by design, pointing, for example, to the Vice President's almost annual visits to Muscat. Some remain skeptical, however. -- FTA: Over two years have passed since the President and the Sultan signed the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement (FTA), but the trade deal has yet to enter into force. Causes for the delay primarily lie with Oman, which, in addition to a shortfall in government resources and coordination needed to expeditiously implement the FTA, seriously underestimated the amount of legislative, regulatory, technical and MUSCAT 00000728 004 OF 005 administrative work required

to fully comply with the Agreement's many provisions. Some senior Omanis, however, including Minister of Commerce and Industry Maqbool bin Ali bin Sultan, complain that unending nit-picking and requests for information by USTR, coupled with perceived shifting demands for changes to Oman's laws and regulations, have hampered the FTA while souring the overall mood towards the trade pact, especially in the Cabinet of Ministers. Oman's private sector, initially buoyed by prospects for new business ties with the U.S., has since become disillusioned. ----- HOW TO MOVE FORWARD -----

12. (S/NF) The feud between the U.S. and Oman over the latter's TIP ranking coincidentally occurs during the 175th anniversary of formal U.S.-Omani ties, making our diplomatic relationship with the Sultanate our oldest in the Gulf and second only to Morocco's in the Middle East and North Africa region. The relationship has been remarkable for its "Amity," as the original Treaty of 1833 was titled, absence of conflict or tension, and for some historic acts. The latter include Oman's support for the 1979 Camp David Accords despite broader Arab League opposition, the 1980 Base Access Agreement with the U.S., and Oman's solid support during the first Gulf War and operations OEF and OIF. The quarrel sparked by the TIP ranking, the shocking -- albeit government-inspired -- public and media outcry and, most of all, Omani threat to "conduct a fundamental appraisal" (ref G) of its relations with us mark an unprecedented and potentially seriously damaging step back by one of our strongest and most important friends in the Gulf. Perhaps most important, as interlocutors have underscored, the TIP report was taken personally as an affront by the Sultan, an avowedly pro-Western, pro-U.S. ally throughout his nearly 38-year reign.

13. (S/NF) The U.S. can ill afford degradation in either the tone or substance of our relationship with this vital Gulf ally, especially as we face continuing threats to our interests in the region posed by Iran. Therefore, post believes quick and concrete action is both necessary and essential to reassure the Omanis and Sultan Qaboos of the value of this relationship. Given the depth of local feeling on the TIP issue, and the fact that Oman lacks understanding of how Washington works, verbal assurances from U.S. officials on the importance of U.S.-Oman relations will only go so far to mend the damage resulting from the outcry over Oman's Tier 3 ranking. In this instance, actions may indeed speak much louder than words. Below are several steps that the Department should consider taking to counter negative misperceptions among Omani officials and to strengthen our relations with this long-term, strategic ally.

- INCREASE FMF: Post is encouraged that the FMF targets for Oman for FY09 and FY10 appear to be on an upwards trajectory. Determined advocacy by and within the Department to ensure that the FY09 request of USD 12 million becomes a reality is essential to build further trust and confidence in our bilateral security relationship. It will also aid in the modernization of Omani military forces and bolster future U.S. weapons sales to Oman.
- FACILITATE ATACMS/HIMARS SALE: Oman remains persuaded that asymmetrical, terrorist operations launched by Tehran against Gulf states, including U.S. targets in these countries, pose a more immediate and realistic threat than missile attacks from Iran. Consequently, while the Omanis have little appetite for high-priced Patriot missiles, they have made acquisition of ATACMS/HIMARS a top priority due to its strong deterrent capability. However, due to the Sultanate's limited defense budget, which is small compared to budgets of the rest of the GCC, the Omanis have expressed a need for "creative financing" in purchasing ATACMS/HIMARS. Proactive efforts by the Department and DoD to facilitate Oman's acquisition of this hardware would be sincerely appreciated by Omani officials.
- PUSH FORWARD FTA IMPLEMENTATION: To realize FTA implementation as quickly as is practically possible, post has strongly recommended that USTR identify the most critical outstanding issues for joint action by Omani and U.S. officials in the coming weeks (refs B, C). Once these matters are resolved, post proposes that USTR move forward with implementation under the condition that the Omani MUSCAT 00000728 005 OF 005 government pledges to complete less critical items by a mutually agreed time. A planned visit by Ambassador Schwab to Muscat in October will bolster post's efforts to motivate Oman to finalize all its FTA obligations.
- NESA CENTER FORWARD OFFICE: Omani officials have been active participants in programs offered by the U.S. Department of Defense's Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies. As it moves ahead with plans to establish a forward office in the region, post strongly encourages the NESA Center to select Oman as the venue. Oman would provide an ideal geographic location for the Center in addition to offering a secure and dependable operating environment. Establishing a forward office in Oman would also strengthen our security relationship and broaden overall bilateral ties by increasing the exposure of Omani leaders to U.S. ideas and policies.
- VISA RECIPROCITY: Now is the time for the Department to authorize 60-month U.S. visas for Omani passport holders in tandem with Oman's granting of visas of reciprocal validity to American citizens. Oman has the fewest identified foreign fighters in Iraq and a visa refusal rate of only 1.41% for its nationals, but yet still suffers under the most restrictive reciprocity schedule of any Gulf country. (Indeed, Oman's refusal rate technically makes it eligible for consideration in the visa-waiver program.) Revising the reciprocity schedule would put Oman in line with most of its GCC neighbors and greatly assist post's efforts to promote tourism and business travel to the United States. Post understands that sustained and determined advocacy by the Department would be necessary to

secure Department of Homeland Security (DHS) approval for a new reciprocity agreement. -----
- FINAL THOUGHTS ----- 14. (C) Taking the steps outlined above will not only strengthen U.S.-Oman relations, but will also advance our efforts to address TIP in Oman. As demonstrated in part by the harsh reaction to this year's TIP report, the Omani government does care about trafficking, but will not take action in response to public pressure or the threat of sanctions. Instead, a stronger, broad-based partnership between our two countries will increase Oman's responsiveness to our call for anti-TIP measures. Post believes that Oman is on track to adopt pending anti-trafficking legislation and we will continue to press senior Omani officials to move forward on elements of our TIP action plan. Making TIP more of a multilateral, versus bilateral, issue for Oman, however, would greatly help realize positive change. For this reason, post proposes working with the Omanis to invite a reputable international organization, such as the UN's Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) or International Labor Organization, to help address trafficking issues in Oman. Expanding such an assessment to cover other Gulf states would further check the government's defensiveness and firm its resolve to confront identified TIP problems. 15. (C) On the condition that Oman's tier ranking is moved from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List, the Sultan is ready to leave behind this unfortunate but brief chapter in our otherwise strong bilateral relationship (ref A). While keeping in mind the insights gleaned from the TIP dispute and continuing our efforts to educate Omanis on the global TIP problem, we should likewise prepare to move forward with a keen eye towards preventing potential misunderstandings from ever rising to a similar dramatic level. GRAPPO

NOTE: Oman concern with international image

CASE: 7/2/2008
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 08BUENOSAIRE920
CABLEDATE: 7/2/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: ARGENTINA: VISITING G/TIP AMBASSADOR PRESENTS ANTI-TIP ACTION PLAN AND HAS "PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATION"
COUNTRY1: Argentina

Taiana stated that the GOA was "very dissatisfied" with the U.S. assessment, adding that it was hard to believe that the report was not "political"

CASE: 7/1/2008
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 08BUENOSAIRE911
CABLEDATE: 7/1/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ARGENTINA: VISITING G/TIP AMBASSADOR PRESENTS ANTI-TIP ACTION PLAN AND OFFERS PARTNERSHIP TO JUSTICE
COUNTRY1: Argentina

Fernandez countered that if the USG really understood Argentina's situation, it would never have produced the report on Argentina in the first place.

CASE: 6/4/2008
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 08BUENOSAIRE775
CABLEDATE: 6/4/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ARGENTINA DISAPPOINTED WITH TIP REPORT, BUT CONTINUES EFFORTS TO COMBAT TIP
COUNTRY1: Argentina

10. (C) We believe Minister Fernandez's and MFA's moderate reaction to this year's TIP report is a direct result of post's efforts to develop a constructive working relationship with the GOA on the issue.

CASE: 5/22/2008

CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Athens
CABLEID: 08ATHENS720
CABLEDATE: 5/22/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: GREEK MFA IN SHOCK OVER TIP TIER DOWNGRADING
COUNTRY1: Greece

n May 22, Ambassador met with MFA SecGen Agathocles at the latter's request to discuss Greece's tier ranking on Trafficking in Persons (TIP). Although information on tier classifications for this year has not yet been publicly released, Agathocles was aware that Greece would likely be downgraded from Tier Two to Tier-Two Watchlist. He said this was a shock, since Greece had expected to be upgraded to Tier One. Admitting no wrong-doing in terms of Greece's performance on TIP issues, Agathocles attributed Greece's downgrading to a failure of communications. Greece had good statistics, he argued, but "I would be the first to admit that we have been slow in providing details." Agathocles conceded that it was probably too late this year to change Greece's tier ranking but nevertheless provided Ambassador a non-paper entitled "Actions by the Government of the Hellenic Republic to Combat Trafficking in Persons," which he said Greek Ambassador to the U.S. Mallias had also provided to Department. 2. (C) Agathocles argued that there had been more arrests and convictions than had been reflected in the data provided earlier, saying that rather than two convictions the real number was more than 100. (NOTE: We did not find this reflected in the non-paper. END NOTE.) In any case, Agathocles promised that next year, data would be provided on time.

NOTE: Note, Greece was NOT downgraded after all

CASE: 2/26/2009
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Dublin
CABLEID: 09DUBLIN89
CABLEDATE: 2/26/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: IRELAND - NINTH ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) REPORT
COUNTRY1: Ireland

Comment: Post strongly believes that Ireland's enhanced efforts to combat trafficking in recent years merit a return to Tier 1 status. Prior to 2006, Ireland was not included in the TIP report. In 2006, it was ranked as a Tier 1 country and the statement "The Government of Ireland fully complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking" was included in the text. In 2007, Ireland was defined as a "special case" and in 2008 it was downgraded to Tier 2. Since its initial ranking in 2006, Ireland's anti-trafficking program including legislation, victim support, and awareness raising activities has become more robust each year. Ireland has promptly addressed every action item recommended by the USG, and all levels of the Irish government show a willingness and desire to combat any suspected trafficking activities within its borders or by its citizens. Nonetheless, even as Ireland's counter-trafficking initiatives have markedly improved, its TIP report ranking has worsened. We believe this is counter-productive. Moreover, we fear that a continued Tier 2 ranking in 2009 could have a sustained negative impact on Irish cooperation in other fields. During a recent discussion on the possibility of Ireland accepting detainees from Guantanamo - a top priority of the Obama Administration - a senior Department of Justice official expressed only tentative support and remarked that the 2008 TIP ranking was essentially a slap in the face by the USG given the hard work and political capital expended on implementing Ireland's anti-trafficking programs.

NOTE: Report seen as a slap in the face and concern that continued tier 2 ranking will link to other issues and harm cooperation

CASE: 6/18/2007
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Nicosia
CABLEID: 07NICOSIA519
CABLEDATE: 6/18/2007
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: POSITIVE REACTIONS TO TIP REPORT; SIDES FOCUSED ON BENCHMARKS

COUNTRY1: Cyprus

It was not pressure from the United States or the European Union that had convinced his party to target TIP, but rather the severity of the problem and the moral necessity of tackling it.

CASE: 6/20/2007

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo

CABLEID: 07TOKYO2788

CABLEDATE: 6/20/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: MOFA PRESENTS TALKING POINTS FOR UPCOMING G/TIP VISIT OF AMB. LAGON

COUNTRY1: Japan

After passing the talking points at the conclusion of the meeting, Uchikawa once again said that Japan wants to work together with the United States on this important issue but that continued cooperation on the G/TIP report is going to be difficult if the concerns of the Government of Japan are not adequately addressed.

NOTE: Criticism is straining relations and cooperation on TIP

CASE: 6/17/2009

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 09BUENOSAIRE5706

CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: (C) ARGENTINA: FOREIGN MINISTER "VERY UPSET" ABOUT TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Argentina

As noted in reftels, our critical public reports on TIP and a broad range of other issues have reinforced the view here among the Argentine public that the USG sets itself up unilaterally as police officer, judge, and jury on GOA conduct and that, however much Argentines try, their best is never good enough for us.

CASE: 7/31/2007

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Accra

CABLEID: 07ACCRA1606

CABLEDATE: 7/31/2007

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: Trafficking in Persons Report Rollout in Ghana

COUNTRY1: Ghana

She also requested that future reports remove the portion of the narrative regarding the extradition of Member of Parliament Grace Coleman. Annan thought the Coleman issue had been blown out of proportion. PolChief was firm that Coleman had violated U.S. law and we would not be removing her from our TIP report. He also reminded her that the Embassy had sent several diplomatic notes to the MFA requesting Coleman's extradition but we have received no response.

CASE: 6/21/2006

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Paris

CABLEID: 06PARIS4295

CABLEDATE: 6/21/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: DEMARCHE TO FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON 2006 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

COUNTRY1: France

Finally he hinted that a drop for France into the second tier could have a negative effect on the willingness of some French officials in the trafficking domain -- whether at the local level, at the Justice Ministry, or elsewhere -- to respond to U.S. requests for information.

CASE: 7/16/2007
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 07KUALALUMPUR1145
CABLEDATE: 7/16/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: EMBASSY SENIOR-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

6. (C) DCM engaged Dep Sec Gen II, Ambassador Tan Seng Sung in a discussion of TIP on July 12. DCM explained that he believed the Tier 3 designation had been made because Malaysia had done little to alleviate the TIP problem during the reporting period ending in March; the GOM had told the Embassy little about its plans for the new anti-TIP law during that period; and Malaysia had promised to open a shelter two years ago but had not followed through. The U.S. was not pursuing a hidden political agenda in making the tier ranking designation. We had not made the decision because we had failed to reach agreement on a FTA, for example. Tan asked if we had made the decision "because of the Malaysian Ambassador in Washington," to which question the DCM replied that Ambassador Rajmah was known to speak her mind, but the decision was based solely on an assessment of GOM actions to resolve the TIP problem. (DCM had told Tan in a mid-June conversation that he thought the Malaysian Embassy in Washington could have done a better job explaining Malaysian TIP-related activities to the State Department. Tan at the time replied that he did not know which side his Ambassador in Washington was on with regard to this issue.) 7. (C) Tan indicated that he did not have authorization to meet with us but felt it necessary to do so for the sake of the bilateral relationship. The U.S. was once again dictating its values to a small country, Tan said. He had reviewed all of our tier rankings and had concluded that the U.S. had focused unjustly on Islamic countries this year and that this impression had filtered out to the Malaysian public. The American TIP decision was extremely sensitive politically in Kuala Lumpur, he explained, especially given PM Abdullah's reputation for being too pro-American and too close to President Bush. An election is coming up, Tan intoned, and this issue is just too sensitive for the GOM to be seen by the public to be caving on to the Americans between now and September. He added that the public reaction will be so negative that if the U.S. imposes sanctions on Malaysia it will be even more difficult for the GOM to move forward on TIP. Tan commented that, like his minister had commented to the press, Malaysia did not care about America's "nonhumanitarian, nontrade related foreign assistance" and that he did not care about our military training assistance and scholarships for Malaysians either. They did not need US assistance.

NOTE: Extreme concern about being seen as caving into US pressure

CASE: 10/27/2008
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy New Delhi
CABLEID: 08NEWDELHI2801
CABLEDATE: 10/27/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF COURAGE AWARD: GEETHA RAMASESHAN
COUNTRY1: India

Moreover, given GOI indignation at remaining on the Tier Two Watchlist in the 2008 TIP Report, and consequent refusal to discuss trafficking issues with USG officials -- including Ambassador-at-Large Mark Lagon -- recognizing Ms. Ramaseshan's achievements would send the GOI a subtle message

CASE: 6/17/2005
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1531
CABLEDATE: 6/17/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER DRIVING JAMAICA'S ANTI-TIP EFFORTS
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

He explained that, thanks to the 2005 TIP Report, the GOJ has realized the broad scope and serious

implications of human trafficking in Jamaica, and has escalated the issue internally.

NOTE: Official notes that because of report, the government has realized scope of issue and stepped up response

CASE: 12/12/2006
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Manama
CABLEID: 06MANAMA2030
CABLEDATE: 12/12/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ANTI-TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN COMMENTS ON PROGRESS COMBATING TRAFFICKING
COUNTRY1: Bahrain

4. (C) Regarding the G/TIP interim review, Shaikh Abdul Aziz said going to Tier 3 would be an "unfortunate" outcome because there have been genuine efforts that have led to real progress. He speculated that there might be some backlash from those who have been working hard to bring about change. They may become discouraged and question the value of their contribution, saying to themselves that their efforts and Bahrain's progress are not recognized.

CASE: 10/19/2008
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT732
CABLEDATE: 10/19/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: OMAN PLEASED WITH FINAL TIP TIER RANKING, PROMISES "FAST TRACK" ACTION ON ANTI-TIP LEGISLATION
COUNTRY1: Oman

Sayyid Badr was very pleased with the news and promised to immediately inform Sultan Qaboos of the upgrade. He commented that the government wished the determination would have been issued sooner, but that he understood that the U.S. had "procedures" that needed to be completed first

NOTE: Pleased with "upgrade" in presidential statement

CASE: 7/16/2007
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong
CABLEID: 07HONGKONG1866
CABLEDATE: 7/16/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN
HEADING: G/TIP DIRECTOR VISITS MACAU
COUNTRY1: China

On July 3, MSAR Chief Executive Ho addressed members of the press after the U.S. national day reception in Macau, in response to the "Macau Daily Times" article. He expressed regret over the Tier 2 Watch List ranking, and in passing recited the oft-heard mainland PRC position that such lists constituted U.S. "interference" in the internal affairs of other countries and territories. C

CASE: 6/21/2004
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 04ABUDHABI2034
CABLEDATE: 6/21/2004
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UAE - REACTIONS TO TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

After some initial grumbling about "interference in our internal affairs," Brig. Gen. Dhahi Khalfan told the Consul General in Dubai that he agreed that it would be a good idea for his staff to study the

report carefully and come up with a plan for addressing some of the problems raised. "What we don't want is for you to tell us what we need to do. Let us come up with a plan," he suggested. He said the police had recently begun working closely with the consulates (in Dubai) of countries that were major sources of trafficked persons. He urged that the U.S. share any information it had regarding prostitutes who were being trafficked to Dubai against their will. In his opinion, nearly all of the prostitutes working in Dubai had come voluntarily. The Consul General explained that the U.S. definition of trafficking includes women who might have come to the UAE willingly but are now being coerced into staying, including by having their passports withheld. Khalfan made it clear that he did agree with that broader definition of trafficking. "They can go to their consulate and get a new passport any time they want," he said. However, he did not push back when the Consul General noted that in many cases the women were too fearful and/or otherwise unable to go to their consulates.

NOTE: Does not want to be seen as caving into the US. Wants to devise own plan. "After some initial grumbling about "interference in our internal affairs,"

CASE: 7/1/2009
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Nicosia
CABLEID: 09NICOSIA432
CABLEDATE: 7/1/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: CYPRIOT RESPONSE TO 2009 TIP REPORT BALANCED, PRODUCTIVE
COUNTRY1: Cyprus

The Minister of Interior, Neoclis Sylikiotis, in a June 17 CyBC report, stressed that, while no country should stand in judgment of another,

CASE: 7/16/2007
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 07KUALALUMPUR1145
CABLEDATE: 7/16/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: EMBASSY SENIOR-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

1. (C) Summary: Senior Malaysian officials are still smarting over the U.S. decision to rank Malaysia in TIP Tier 3 but they have expressed much more willingness to discuss the issue quietly than they did in the immediate aftermath of the USG decision of June 12. We have engaged with senior officials fairly intensively over the past week, and, while they reply with pointed complaints about the perceived arrogance of the U.S. decision, they also tell us that the GOM is in the process of gazetting the new anti-TIP law and opening shelters for TIP victims. They nevertheless advise against a visit to Kuala Lumpur by Ambassador Lagon before September on the grounds that it will look like the GOM is caving to the Americans. We have urged the Malaysians to move out smartly in gazetting the law and opening the shelters. Meanwhile, we believe there are opportunities for GOM capacity building in trafficking, and we will be coordinating with our Malaysian counterparts and with Washington on what might be possible. End Summary.

NOTE: while they reply with pointed complaints about the perceived arrogance of the U.S. decision,

CASE: 7/12/2007
CODE: Other comments
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 07TOKYO3186
CABLEDATE: 7/12/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: G/TIP AMBASSADOR LAGON'S JULY 2 MEETING WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT
COUNTRY1: Japan

The TIP Report information collection process was frustrating for the Japanese government, began

Uchikawa. The task force ministries expended considerable time and resources to gather relevant, updated data, but were not given the opportunity to weigh in on many of the issues highlighted in the Report. Uchikawa asked why questions about the comprehensiveness of Japan's anti-TIP laws weren't raised until two months before the report was published. He also protested that the United States used information obtained from NGOs without first double-checking that information with MOFA. Uchikawa requested that any future requests for information be directly linked to specific TIP Report criteria. Uchikawa also asked for more information about how new requirements regarding demand reduction, child labor, and forced labor would be evaluated in the 2008 Report.

NOTE: frustrated at lack of consultation, poorly stated criteria, and reliance on NGOs information without checking with government as well as lack of opportunity to weigh in on issue until two months before report published.

CASE: 7/10/2008

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait

CABLEID: 08KUWAIT782

CABLEDATE: 7/10/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES RIHS AND TIP WITH THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE/AWQAF AND ISLAMIC AFFAIRS

COUNTRY1: Kuwait

The Minister's eagerness to tackle TIP is clearly driven by GOK leadership's concern over Kuwait's sullied reputation as a Tier 3 country.

CASE: 6/22/2004

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Santo Domingo

CABLEID: 04SANTODOMINGO3667

CABLEDATE: 6/22/2004

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: USG REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS HITS DOMINICAN NEWS

COUNTRY1: Dominican Republic

"Hoy" editors acknowledged a problem in the Dominican Republic: "U.S. preaching on (TIP) may be offensive to many Dominicans, but we've been lax and need to tighten up." Left-of-center, independent "El Nacional" took offense to the U.S. role in producing the report, but did not deny the accuracy of its content. "El Nacional" asserted, "No institution or world forum has given the United States the right or authority to condemn or take over other nations . . . (the report) would be valid if it came from an organization such as the United Nations (or other multilaterals)."

CASE: 11/19/2008

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 08MUSCAT796

CABLEDATE: 11/19/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: MAINTAINING FORWARD MOVEMENT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

COUNTRY1: Oman

1. (C) On November 16, the DCM and Pol-Econ Chief paid an introductory call to Ambassador Lyutha bint Sultan bin Ahmad al-Mughairy, the new director of the office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Secretary General, Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi. (Note: As Sayyid Badr is post's senior Omani interlocutor on trafficking-in-persons (TIP), al-Mughairy will continue her predecessor's role as one of our most important contacts on TIP issues. End Note.) The DCM made clear that even though Oman had moved from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List, TIP issues in the Sultanate required continued focus by the Omani government. He further highlighted primary U.S. concerns regarding TIP and the need for Oman to move forward on specific actions against trafficking, including adoption of pending anti-TIP legislation. Al-Mughairy replied that she recognized the seriousness of the subject and looked forward to working with post on addressing TIP issues.

NOTE: Cooperative after upgrade

CASE: 6/20/2007

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo

CABLEID: 07TOKYO2788

CABLEDATE: 6/20/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: MOFA PRESENTS TALKING POINTS FOR UPCOMING G/TIP VISIT OF AMB. LAGON

COUNTRY1: Japan

On June 19, 2007 MOFA Organized Crime Division Director Akihiko Uchikawa presented talking points to Embassy Tokyo Political Officer concerning the upcoming visit of Ambassador Lagon to discuss the 2007 G/TIP report. Though not visibly upset, Uchikawa was clearly frustrated and disappointed with both the results stated in the report and an information gathering process that he said he found sporadic, opaque and, with a set of additional questions submitted shortly before the report, ill-timed. 2. (C) Uchikawa said that Japan was very disappointed with their continued Tier 2 ranking and that official displeasure was expressed at much higher levels in the government this year. He repeatedly stressed the amount of effort expended by MOFA and other agencies of the Government of Japan in collecting information in response to questions posed by the United States. In particular, Uchikawa said that the Japanese Embassy in Washington had informed him that the Department was using "internal criteria" not explicitly stated in the report nor communicated to Japan to arrive at the Tier 2 ranking assessment. Uchikawa expressed frustration on this point and wondered how Japan could adequately address the concerns and assumptions of the United States if they are not communicated clearly to the Government of Japan well in advance of the report's submission deadline.

NOTE: Criteria opaque

CASE: 6/15/2007

CODE: Other comments

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 07BUENOSAIRE51185

CABLEDATE: 6/15/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: GOA REACTION TO TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Argentina

Espeche Gil characterized the TIP report process as "paternalistic", but understood that the report is mandated by the U.S. Congress. Although he acknowledged that the USG's annual reports on similar issues such as human rights helped to highlight Argentina's situation during the military dictatorship of the 1970s, he stressed that the TIP report's criticism of the GOA's anti-trafficking efforts is unfounded now that Argentina is a full democracy.

CASE: 6/14/2006

CODE: Public face saving

ORIGIN: Embassy Belmopan

CABLEID: 06BELIZE533

CABLEDATE: 6/14/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: BELIZE: 2006 TIP REPORT DEMARCHE DELIVERED

COUNTRY1: Belize

On the Wednesday, June 7, the Prime Minister addressed the issue on the Channel Five evening news. Giving his thoughts on why Belize was ranked Tier 3, the PM stated: "That Belize is now lumped and almost put in a box, so to speak, with Venezuela and Cuba; I don't think its pure coincidence. Because, when you analyze the issue of human trafficking, we have done a lot in this country to address the issue. Police, the immigration, people have raided constantly in addressing this issue of prostitution for instance and the whole question of human trafficking we've done a lot. But those who seek to judge us should perhaps examine their own decadent societies before they come and pass judgment on us."

CASE: 6/21/2006
CODE: Public face saving
ORIGIN: Embassy Yerevan
CABLEID: 06YEREVAN836
CABLEDATE: 6/21/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP RATING CATCHES KOCHARIAN'S ATTENTION
COUNTRY1: Armenia

The deputy minister's lack of complaint behind closed doors illustrates a larger phenomenon whereby the government has criticized the TIP Report's methodology in public, but indicated in private that it takes the rating seriously.

CASE: 8/13/2008
CODE: Public face saving
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT576
CABLEDATE: 8/13/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: OMANI MFA SECRETARY GENERAL RECOGNIZES NEED FOR NEW MEASURES TO RECIPROCATATE CHANGE IN TIP STATUS
COUNTRY1: Oman

1. (C) The Ambassador called on MFA Secretary General Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamud Al Busaidi on August 13 to discuss recent developments regarding trafficking-in-persons (TIP), as well as other issues (septel). The Ambassador noted that Washington expected the announcement of the move of Oman from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List would take place sometime after Labor Day in conjunction with changes in the ranking of other countries. Sayyid Badr asked that the announcement not call special attention to Oman other than noting its move in the tier rankings and further requested as much advance notice as possible to set the stage on the Omani side. He added it was important that the announcement not detail any specific conditions for the change in Oman's status, implying that the absence of public conditionality would smooth the way for Oman's next steps to combat TIP.

CASE: 6/15/2008
CODE: Public face saving
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT443
CABLEDATE: 6/15/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: FUELED BY MEDIA, POPULAR RESENTMENT GROWS OVER TIP
COUNTRY1: Oman

- Government Officials Close Ranks - - - - - 3. (C) Government officials have closely lined up behind the MFA. Oman's Attorney General, Hussain Ali Zaher al-Hilali, argued in the June 12 edition of the Arabic-language state-run paper "Oman" that "the laws of the Sultanate are sufficient to combat the TIP phenomena," pointing specifically to an ongoing case involving four Asian nationals accused of prostitution and a 1999 case in which the Public Prosecution won convictions against 54 people complicit in a prostitution ring. (Note: The Attorney General referred to the current case in a private conversation with the Ambassador on April 14, during which he stated that the Public Prosecution's case is both against women accused of engaging in prostitution and their alleged pimp (ref B). End note.) Minister of Manpower Juma bin Ali al-Juma, who has been attending the International Labor Organization's (ILO) annual conference in Geneva, was quoted in local press as saying, "The Ministry has not received any complaints regarding TIP from expatriates or their embassies... and the ILO has praised the Omani Labor Law and its enforcement numerous times." 4. (SBU) In a separate press article, the Chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), Khalil al-Khonji, sounded a common refrain in asserting that the report is based on "inaccurate information about a few personal practices." He added, "There are 40 labor unions (currently) protecting the rights of workers in Oman." Khonji offered the OCCI as a reliable source of information about labor conditions for future reports. On June 14, the Majlis al-Shura, the elected lower house of Oman's bicameral advisory body, took an unprecedented leap into the realm of foreign policy by issuing a strong statement "rejecting and condemning the false allegations stated in the

report." Post is reporting on the significance of the Majlis al-Shura's statement septel. -----
----- Discussion Enters Blogosphere MUSCAT 00000443 002 OF 002

CASE: 6/17/2009
CODE: Public face saving
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 09ABUDHABI622
CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UAE: STATE DEPARTMENT TIP REPORT "DISAPPOINTING AND DISTORTED"
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

1. (U) Summary: Following release of the TIP report in Washington June 16, the UAEG's official news agency WAM issued a sharply-worded statement condemning the UAE text as "disappointing and distorted." The UAEG accused the report of "changing the goal posts", lacking objectivity in evaluating the UAE's "transparent efforts", and relying on "sensationalized media reports". Local media has responded to the report by printing the WAM statement verbatim (text in paragraph 2). End summary. ----- OFFICIAL STATEMENT ----- 2. (U) Begin Text of June 16 statement:

CASE: 9/24/2004
CODE: Public face saving
ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 04CARACAS3025
CABLEDATE: 9/24/2004
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: MFA RESPONDS TO TIP DEMARCHE
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

The suggested quid pro quo -- making information available if we agree to take Venezuela off the list - strikes us as unacceptable, but possibly the GOV will come up with a better offer. For the moment, it appears that the GOV is carrying out a two-pronged strategy: public assertions that it is cooperating with a higher authority, the United Nations, and not responding to Washington; and indications by Venezuelan law enforcement that it is responding to TIPs issue

CASE: 6/16/2008
CODE: Public face saving
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT454
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: OMAN MEDIA REACTION: Ongoing Trafficking Coverage
COUNTRY1: Oman

2. On June 16, private Arabic daily "Az Zamman" ran an exclusive statement by Sayyid Badr, his second statement to the press on TIP, reaffirming Oman's expectation of a response to the June 9 meeting with the Ambassador. "Sayyid Badr stressed that, 'The Sultanate expects a response from the U.S. Administration after it delivered an official protest against the U.S. Department of State report placing the Sultanate among countries that did not exert efforts to combat trafficking in persons.' In a special statement to "Az Zamman", Sayyid Badr remarked that, 'they certainly expressed interest and we do expect a response on this issue. That is what we hope to get from a friendly country.' Replying to a question on the impact of what had happened on the bilateral relations, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, 'We hope that there will be no adverse impact on the relations between our two friendly countries, and that has never been the goal of our protesting. It was rather correcting information for the public opinion. We always seek realism and positivism. What happened was a reaction to the false and baseless report. We have expressed our opinion as it is.'"

CASE: 6/11/2008
CODE: Public face saving
ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers
CABLEID: 08ALGIERS683
CABLEDATE: 6/11/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ALGERIA REACTION TO 2008 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Algeria

According to press reports, Justice minister Tayeb Belaiz said that Algeria "roundly rejects the accusations of the U.S. report."

CASE: 6/13/2003
CODE: Public face saving
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 03ANKARA3843
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2003
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: TURKS VIEW TIER III TIP RATING AS UNFAIR, THREATENING
COUNTRY1: Turkey

The MFA June 12 issued a brief statement claiming that Turkey has made "radical changes" to its laws relating to anti-trafficking, which had not been given due consideration. The statement said the GOT is "disappointed and saddened" by the report.

CASE: 6/15/2007
CODE: Public face saving
ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 07CARACAS1192
CABLEDATE: 6/15/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: BRV DISPUTES 2007 TIER 3 TIP REPORT RANKING
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

In a June 13 press conference, Minister of Popular Power for Interior and Justice Pedro Carreno attempted to discredit the report, saying the Department issues its Congressionally-mandated reports in a "rash" manner, and that the BRV "could not expect the USG to tell the truth" about TIP-related issues Venezuela.

CASE: 6/21/2006
CODE: Public face saving
ORIGIN: Embassy Rangoon
CABLEID: 06RANGOON843
CABLEDATE: 6/21/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: BURMA/TIP: MUTED REACTION TO THE 2006 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Burma

The GOB officially reacted to the 2006 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report through a critique in the state press June 20. Although it was given front-page attention, regime criticism of the Tier 3 ranking was restrained, reflecting the SPDC's expectation to retain Tier 3 rankings, its satisfaction over modest progress acknowledged in the Report, and a growing recognition that rampant, unaddressed incidents of forced labor underpin Burma's Tier 3 ranking.

CASE: 8/29/2007
CODE: Public face saving
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 07MUSCAT822
CABLEDATE: 8/29/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP GETS NEGATIVE PRESS COVERAGE; GOVERNMENT MAKING PROGRESS
COUNTRY1: Oman

-- Comment - - - - 8. (C) It is exceptionally rare for Omanis to hear information critical of their country. Local media are more accustomed to reporting the country's otherwise commendable respect for human rights and rule of law, especially when compared with the records of Oman's neighbors. So, the Tier 3 ranking came as a major embarrassment for Oman, and top officials are feigning surprise.

This is astonishing to Post given the dialogue, sometimes intense, that Post has had with the MFA and other ministries on the trafficking issue. The journalists who interviewed the Ambassador were surprised to hear that U.S. and Omani officials have been discussing TIP, including the need for Oman to move on multiple fronts, for the past two years. 9. (C) According to the MFA's al-Ma'ani, while Oman wants to get off Tier 3 - and is taking action to do so - it does not want to be seen as responding directly to U.S. pressure. Given that sentiment, it is likely that the government is using the press to gain face-saving cover on the issue of TIP before the release of new anti-trafficking legislation and going public with other actions. Allowing nominally independent papers to carry uncharacteristically caustic coverage of the issue also gives the government the appearance of a dignified distance from the criticism. Despite the obviously biased reporting, the media stories nevertheless raise public awareness of trafficking in Oman - a key objective of Post. In any event, the media coverage and government reaction suggest that the USG should proceed carefully in pressing Oman on TIP in order not to halt the momentum we clearly have helped to generate.

CASE: 8/29/2007

CODE: Public face saving

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 07MUSCAT822

CABLEDATE: 8/29/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: TIP GETS NEGATIVE PRESS COVERAGE; GOVERNMENT MAKING PROGRESS

COUNTRY1: Oman

Behind the press, contacts report that Oman is making steady progress toward fulfilling the TIP action plan, as well as taking additional steps not included in the report's recommendations.

CASE: 6/17/2009

CODE: Public face saving

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur

CABLEID: 09KUALALUMPUR491

CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: MALAYSIA'S INITIAL REACTION TO TIP REPORT, TIER 3 DESIGNATION

COUNTRY1: Malaysia

) The Malaysian government reaction to the TIP report emerged slowly on June 17. Poloff and Pol Specialist found few ruling National Front (BN) coalition Members of Parliament initially aware of the U.S. report. Speaking outside Parliament chambers and apparently responding to initial press headlines, Deputy Home Minister Abu Seman Yusop told reporters, "it is unfair to put us back on the list as we are doing our best," and made further comments that did not differentiate between human trafficking and human smuggling.

CASE: 6/24/2008

CODE: Public face saving

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 08MUSCAT480

CABLEDATE: 6/24/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: NEGATIVE TIP COVERAGE SHOWS SIGNS OF A COORDINATED STRATEGY

COUNTRY1: Oman

(C) Summary: Coverage in both the Arabic and English-language local press of Oman's Tier 3 ranking in the 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report has gone through several distinct stages, with an increasing number of official and civil society actors criticizing the report and the USG. Contacts state that this is part of a coordinated strategy, in which the government is using a compliant media to discredit the report and pressure the USG to revise Oman's status. Post expects the current tenor of local media coverage to continue, with the government attempting to expand its campaign regionally, until Oman is either removed from Tier 3 or finds a face-saving way out of the current impasse. End Summary. ----- STAGE 1: Setting the Official Message -----

- 2. (C) On June 11, Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), issued a strongly-worded press statement that established the terminology and themes of the government's criticism of the 2008 TIP Report to date. He rejected the report's "misleading

information" and "incorrect allegations" by calling attention to Oman's "serious cooperation with the international community" in defending human rights and "the tradition, morals and culture of Omani society" that "reject violations of human dignity." In the same message, Badr stressed Oman's "good historical relations with the United States" and stated his hope that "officials at the U.S. State Department would revise the report," implicitly calling for Oman's removal from Tier 3. -----

----- STAGE 2: Shifting to Populist Themes ----- 3. (C) Sayyid Badr's statement set the stage for additional criticism from other government officials and civil society actors, which contacts suggest represents a coordinated media strategy to achieve the government's objectives. By June 15, when the Majlis al-Shura issued its public statement denouncing the TIP report, Oman's message began to assume a more populist tone (ref A). Rhetoric in editorials and statements from civil society organizations like the Oman Journalists Association (OJA) increasingly tied displeasure over Oman's Tier 3 ranking with criticism of the USG's regional policies (ref B). Despite their increased intensity, these statements continued to hue closely to the main points of Sayyid Badr's original message - rejection of the report yet reaffirmation of good bilateral relations. While government officials generally remained silent during this stage, on June 16, Sayyid Badr made an exclusive statement to the Arabic-language daily "Al-Azzamn" to call for "a response from the U.S. administration" to a written rebuttal to specific points in TIP report that he had provided the Ambassador on June 10 (ref C). 4. (C) While coverage of the TIP Report slowed down over the June 19-20 Omani weekend, it picked up again on June 21 with expanded input from different segments of civil society. Local press carried statements from individual Western businessmen - including one American executive based in Oman - questioning the basis of the report (ref D). On June 23, the Acting Chairman of the General Federation of Oman's Laborers (GF) - Oman's national-level worker representative body - issued a statement in Arabic and English papers criticizing the report and supporting the "clear measures" that the government has taken over the past year to combat all forms of labor exploitation and abuse. (Note: The Acting Chairman informed polooff previously that he was considering releasing a statement about TIP, but admitted that he had not read the report. End note.) The June 23 edition of the Arabic-daily "al-Shabiba" carried an article written by the chairwoman of an Oman Women's Association (OWA) chapter near Muscat, which both criticized the report and expressed doubt that Oman could do anything to combat trafficking, including passing anti-TIP legislation, that would "satisfy the arrogance of the U.S. State Department." Criticism of the TIP Report even received coverage in the biweekly entertainment supplement "al-Hayati," which contacts attributed to the government's effort to reach Omanis who do not normally read political commentary. MUSCAT 00000480 002 OF 002 ----- STAGE 3: Expanding Regionally -----

----- 5. (C) In a sign of government efforts to bring its message before a broader regional audience, Reuters carried a June 23 statement by Sayyid Badr reasserting the government's official message that "the (USG's) human trafficking claim is unfounded" because of Oman's strong record of protecting human rights. In addition, Minister of Information Hamad bin Muhammad al-Rashdi made a statement to the Egyptian Daily "al-Akhbar" again rejecting the TIP report while claiming that "the U.S. Administration (has) promised to review the report." Both statements were picked up by the Kuwait News Agency, Arabic Reuters, the UAE News Agency, and Radio Sawa. (Note: The Reuters report blunted Sayyid Badr's comments, however, by combining them with the fact that the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain had taken concrete steps this year to avoid Tier 3, indicating that Oman's tightly-controlled message does not resonate outside the Sultanate. End note.) ----- Comment -----

6. (C) The regularity and conformity of the statements by Omani officials, NGOs, and individuals hint strongly at a calculated campaign directed by the government, most likely the Office of the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to win Oman's removal from Tier 3. Post expects Oman's Tier 3 ranking will continue to receive daily coverage in local media - cycling thro

CASE: 6/22/2009

CODE: Public face saving

ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas

CABLEID: 09CARACAS779

CABLEDATE: 6/22/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: TIP REPORT "AN OBSTACLE TO NORMALIZING RELATIONS"

COUNTRY1: Venezuela

) Nevertheless, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs categorically rejected the TIP report in a June 17 press release calling the report "a tool of the political imperialists against independent countries", and said that the U.S. "oppresses and exploits immigrants, especially Latin Americans, divides families, builds border walls, has practiced torture and protects terrorists." The press release concluded by stating that the TIP report "is a serious obstacle to normalizing bilateral relations." Pro-government

newspapers have based coverage of the TIP report on this press release. German Saltron, a senior GBRV human rights official, sharply criticized the TIP report in an interview on the government-owned Venezolana de Television station. He said that the problem was a result of world poverty caused by capitalism, and that the U.S. was the driving force behind trafficking in persons world-wide. CAULFIELD

CASE: 7/17/2009
CODE: Public face saving
ORIGIN: Embassy Bandar Seri Begawan
CABLEID: 09BANDARSERIBEGAWAN172
CABLEDATE: 7/17/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: BRUNEI'S REACTION TO 2009 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Brunei

)Starting on June 18,2009, Bruneian media began coverage of the Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) 2009 report. Front page coverage, as well as subsequent follow up articles, continued throughout June. Particular attention was paid to the issue of domestic servant abuse and forced labor. On June 28, Brunei's Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) issued a press release, stressing there is "No Human Trafficking in Brunei" and insisted that Brunei is not a hub for recruitment of men and women for domestic or low-skilled labor. This has been the only formal response from the Government of Brunei (GoB)

CASE: 6/22/2009
CODE: Public face saving
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 09ABUDHABI634
CABLEDATE: 6/22/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT ON UAE
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

1. Summary: UAE reaction to the 2009 Trafficking in Persons report was limited to one report and one op-ed piece by a UAE writer. The report, in the Dubai-based English-language daily "Gulf News" 6/21, cited UAE officials in the field of law and welfare describing the report as disappointing and failing to reflect realities on the ground. The op-ed, in Arabic daily "Al-Ittihad," claimed that such reports aimed at vilifying the UAE's image and set obstacles against its efforts in the field of human trafficking. End summary.

CASE: 6/6/2005
CODE: Public face saving
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1444
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: GOJ OFFERS MIXED RESPONSE ON TIP, CONCERNED ABOUT SANCTIONS
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

) On June 5, local newspapers reported that the Ministry of National Security issued a statement on behalf of the GOJ that called the 2005 Report "unfair" and "highly prejudicial because it negates the significant actions taken by the Government over the last several months to combat this problem locally." The statement added that "there is no record of these cases being reported to any law enforcement agency in Jamaica," and went on to request that the USG provide additional details of alleged trafficking cases as a first step toward working together on the issue. While apparently denying the problem, the GOJ also stated that "we believe it is extremely important to eradicate and punish those who may be profiting from the unlawful trade of persons, as well as from any other form of exploitation of individuals." The statement added that the GOJ has taken steps to combat trafficking in recent months, including the formation of a national task force, which has proposed a number of anti-trafficking measures. ----- COMMENT -----

CASE: 6/18/2007
CODE: Public face saving

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 07KUWAIT938
CABLEDATE: 6/18/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: KUWAITIS DEFENSIVE ABOUT TIER 3 TIP RANKING, THOUGH SOME ACKNOWLEDGE PROBLEMS
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

The demotion of Kuwait to Tier 3 in the 2007 TIP report garnered a great deal of attention. Kuwaiti officials criticized the TIP report as inaccurate, but pledged to continue working with the U.S. on anti-TIP efforts. Officials and a number of columnists attacked the U.S. human rights record, especially on the Guantanamo Bay detention center.

CASE: 6/6/2005
CODE: Public face saving
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1444
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: GOJ OFFERS MIXED RESPONSE ON TIP, CONCERNED ABOUT SANCTIONS
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

The first GOJ officials to respond publicly to the report were Minister of Health John Junor and Minister of Information Burchell Whiteman. Junor was quoted on radio and in newspapers as saying that there is "no tangible evidence" of trafficking and that the Tier 3 ranking is unwarranted. Whiteman appeared surprised but less defensive, suggesting that the downgrade to Tier 3 may have resulted from a "difference in terms of reference," and pointing out that there has been a recent increase in convictions for cases of sexual abuse.

CASE: 6/10/2008
CODE: Public face saving
ORIGIN: Embassy Khartoum
CABLEID: 08KHARTOUM866
CABLEDATE: 6/10/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: MASS ARRESTS, TORTURE THREATEN DARFURIS IN KHARTOUM
COUNTRY1: Sudan

The GoS has adopted a triumphant tone in the press, promising to root out "all JEM supporters," which observers interpret as a threat to all Darfuris living in Khartoum. Censorship continues, with the newspaper "Al-Wahn" still banned from publication, and independent newspapers forced to excise even uncontroversial articles. When one English-language newspaper attempted to print the Department of State's 2008 Trafficking in Persons report for Sudan, NISS censors removed the article before publication.

NOTE: censoring the media reporting on tip report

CASE: 9/8/2004
CODE: Public face saving
ORIGIN: Embassy Lilongwe
CABLEID: 04LILONGWE868
CABLEDATE: 9/8/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: GOM DISSATISFIED WITH TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Malawi

. Text of Note Verbale: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honor to refer to the Report issued by the United States of America State Department on the situation of Human Trafficking and Prostitution in Malawi. The Ministry wishes to repeat concerns already conveyed to the esteemed Embassy on the claims made in the Report and reiterate the same does not reflect the reality of the situation in the country. Specifically, the Ministry observes that the Report, which erroneously

categorizes Malawi as a TIER 2 Watch List Country, is exaggerated and not professionally done. The Report is debatable and not substantiated by a list of identifiable interviewees, credible sources or reliable statistics. The Ministry has consulted various agencies in the country that are experts on this but failed to find any information that could support the picture painted by the Report. There may have been in the past a few isolated incidences, and there are bound to be some few cases in the future, but it is contended that the situation has not escalated to the extent portrayed by the Report. Malawi has [an] effective legal regime, which is capable of adequately addressing the problem of human trafficking and prostitution. Specifically, the Constitution and Penal Code have a Chapter exclusively dealing with Offenses Against Morality. It covers offences such as Prostitution; Leaving [sic] on Earnings of Prostitution; Taking People Either Within or Outside Malawi for Prostitution; Taking People Away to be in Brothels Whether Willingly or Against Their Consent; among other offences. The Ministry also notes that Malawi has signed critical Conventions and Protocols aimed at addressing the problem of human trafficking and prostitution including the following: (i) The Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, adopted in New York, in March 1950. (ii) Final Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, New York 1950. The Ministry further wishes to correct the impression that the Penal Code Bill which was presented to Parliament was withdrawn. Instead, Members of Parliament asked for more time to study the Penal Code (Amendments) Bill No. 12 in order to appreciate certain concepts which they found novel and inconsistent with cultural values. The Bill will be re-introduced at an appropriate time once Members of Parliament have finalized consultations. It is pertinent to mention, however, that the Amendment Bill No. 12 was merely aimed at addressing mutations and permeations of the offence. The Government of Malawi strongly feels it has adequate provisions to prosecute any persons engaging in human trafficking or prostitution. Malawi is committed to stop and stamp out human trafficking and prostitution, and will leave no stone unturned in its quest to fight organized crimes of this nature. The Ministry reiterates that Malawi is ready and willing to work with any agency which has credible information that would help, if any, in cracking down on any known or identifiable gangs or groups of persons in human trafficking or prostitution. Further, the Government welcomes experts, if any, who have information on the purported inadequacies of its laws other than the way it is proposed to improve the efficiency by sealing loopholes and technicalities in the legislation. The Ministry refutes the claim made in the Report which seem to be premised on a single incident, which took place some five or more years ago. If anything, the Government of the Republic of Malawi has been blamed by Human and Women Rights groups for its uncompromising stance against prostitution. It is frustrating and ironic for a country with such determination in its fight against prostitution to be placed in a TIER 2 Watch list. The Ministry would, accordingly, appreciate a review of its case based on the real situation as exists on the ground so that a genuine classification is given. (Standard Complimentary Closing)

CASE: 6/6/2005

CODE: Public face saving

ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston

CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1444

CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: GOJ OFFERS MIXED RESPONSE ON TIP, CONCERNED ABOUT SANCTIONS

COUNTRY1: Jamaica

Poloff's meeting with Ingleton, and her contrasting response to the downgrade, highlights what appears to be poor coordination between GOJ agencies on this issue. As a result, despite the GOJ's understanding of and commitment to combating trafficking at an official level, the public response to the June 3 release of the TIP Report was predictably inconsistent and somewhat paradoxical. It is no surprise, however, that senior GOJ officials publicly defended Jamaica's record and demanded "tangible evidence" of a trafficking problem in Jamaica, while the GOJ simultaneously professed concern for trafficking victims and cited actions that have and will be taken to combat the problem locally. There remains a clear need to raise the awareness of human trafficking on Jamaica's national agenda. End Comment. ROBINSON

CASE: 6/21/2006

CODE: Public face saving

ORIGIN: Embassy Yerevan

CABLEID: 06YEREVAN836

CABLEDATE: 6/21/2006

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: TIP RATING CATCHES KOCHARIAN'S ATTENTION

COUNTRY1: Armenia

Illustrating again the disparity between the GOAM's public statements on TIP and its private statements, Anti-TIP Unit Senior Prosecutor Boshnaghyan stated in an interview with RFE/RL that Armenian law-enforcement authorities are doing all they can to combat trafficking. In a private conversation with us, however, Boshnaghyan (please protect) raised questions about the quality of the investigation into allegations against Yeremyan, and said that the members of the interagency investigatory committee from outside the procuracy played no role in the investigation.

CASE: 6/29/2005

CODE: Public face saving

ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston

CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1611

CABLEDATE: 6/29/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: A DEFENSIVE NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER HOSTS TIP MEETING

COUNTRY1: Jamaica

The Minister's assertion that he was taken by surprise by the downgrade is patently untrue, and he used the meeting to save face in front of his team and to give himself political cover in the media. Indeed, in a brief private conversation with Charge following the June 24 meeting, Phillips essentially admitted that his remarks were disingenuous, conceding that he had been kept out of the loop on this issue by his own government. We note further that, at a May 31 meeting with Charge to discuss the imminent release of the 2005 TIP Report, Phillips had also claimed ignorance of and surprise at the issues raised in it until Pol/Econ Chief outlined for him Post's repeated and unsuccessful efforts - including in writing to MNS - urging the GOJ to engage with us to ensure that the 2004 TIP report accurately reflected any relevant GOJ efforts. Unfortunately, Phillips' continued public criticisms of the TIP report and his claims that its findings were "untrue" and "unfair" echo the tenor of many public statements made to date by defensive senior GOJ officials.

CASE: 7/31/2007

CODE: US arrogance

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 07BUENOSAIRES1476

CABLEDATE: 7/31/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: ARGENTINA TO WORK CLOSELY ON TIP ISSUES

COUNTRY1: Argentina

Berta stated that while the Argentine government does not appreciate the "paternalistic" nature of the TIP report, it is committed to working with the Department to combat human trafficking.

CASE: 7/16/2007

CODE: US arrogance

ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong

CABLEID: 07HONGKONG1866

CABLEDATE: 7/16/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN

HEADING: G/TIP DIRECTOR VISITS MACAU

COUNTRY1: China

On July 3, MSAR Chief Executive Ho addressed members of the press after the U.S. national day reception in Macau, in response to the "Macau Daily Times" article. He expressed regret over the Tier 2 Watch List ranking, and in passing recited the oft-heard mainland PRC position that such lists constituted U.S. "interference" in the internal affairs of other countries and territories. CE

CASE: 7/1/2009

CODE: US arrogance

ORIGIN: Embassy Nicosia

CABLEID: 09NICOSIA432

CABLEDATE: 7/1/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: CYPRIOT RESPONSE TO 2009 TIP REPORT BALANCED, PRODUCTIVE

COUNTRY1: Cyprus

The Minister of Interior, Neoclis Sylikiotis, in a June 17 CyBC report, stressed that, while no country should stand in judgment of another, h

CASE: 6/6/2006

CODE: US arrogance

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 06MUSCAT907

CABLEDATE: 6/6/2006

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: TIP: OMAN DISMAYED BY TIER 2 WATCH LIST RANK

COUNTRY1: Oman

. The normally imperturbable Sayyid Badr reacted harshly to the report, calling its assessment of Oman "unfair, arrogant, discourteous and unfriendly,"

CASE: 11/26/2007

CODE: US arrogance

ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas

CABLEID: 07CARACAS2229

CABLEDATE: 11/26/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: VENEZUELA: VISIT OF G/TIP'S BARBARA FLECK

COUNTRY1: Venezuela

3. (C) Poloff and Fleck met with Yaneth Arocha October 19 to discuss the BRV's efforts to combat trafficking in persons (TIP) and to review the Department's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. (Note: The Department has designated Venezuela as a Tier 3 country in its Trafficking in Person's Report since 2004. End Note.) As she has done in previous TIP-related meetings, Arocha dismissed the report's findings and referred to it as an "unilateral" document, arguing that the report should be undertaken by a multilateral organization and not by the USG (Ref. A). Arcoha expressed frustration over the Department's grouping of Venezuela in the same category as Cuba, saying "we are not as bad as Cuba on this issue." She argued that the BRV has made significant strides in combating trafficking and cited its public awareness campaigns, a victim's assistance hotline, and its alleged prosecution efforts against traffickers.

CASE: 11/12/2009

CODE: US arrogance

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 09BUENOSAIRES1223

CABLEDATE: 11/12/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: AMBASSADOR RAISES PRESS FREEDOM, TIP ISSUES WITH ARGENTINE VFM TACCETTI

COUNTRY1: Argentina

Taccetti reiterated his reftel arguments against Argentina's ranking on the Tier 2 Watch list and complained about U.S. scorecard diplomacy.

CASE: 6/22/2004

CODE: US arrogance

ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas

CABLEID: 04CARACAS2059

CABLEDATE: 6/22/2004

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: TIP REPORT: GOV REACTS INDIGNANTLY

COUNTRY1: Venezuela

1. (U) NUMEROUS GOV OFFICIALS RESPONDED WITH INDIGNATION AND CONDEMNATION TOWARD THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S 2004 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) REPORT, WHICH

LISTED VENEZUELA AS A TIER 3 COUNTRY. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ACCUSED THE U.S. OF SERIOUS TRAFFICKING AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF ITS OWN. GOV AND PRO-GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ASSAILED THE REPORT AS PART OF A USG ANTI-CHAVEZ CAMPAIGN IN THE LEAD-UP TO THE AGUUST 15 REFERENDUM. WHILE THE REACTION WAS FORCEFUL, IT WAS SOON OVERTAKEN BY THE RELEASE OF THE JUNE 17 HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH REPORT ON THE POLITICIZATION OF VENEZUELA'S JUDICIARY. END SUMMARY.

CASE: 7/16/2007
CODE: US arrogance
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 07KUALALUMPUR1145
CABLEDATE: 7/16/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: EMBASSY SENIOR-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

The Deputy PM replied that as far as he knew, the U.S. was the only country that "passed judgment on and punished" other countries on issues like this. "This is a great source of discomfort in our bilateral relations," he added, "as no country likes to be judged. He continued that the American decision had made Malaysian leaders "very uncomfortable," but he was working to diffuse its effects on the relationship, and he hoped he could limit the spillover. He said he would look further into where the GOM is on implementing the new law but that he had heard that the GOM was now looking at technical issues related to its text.

CASE: 6/14/2006
CODE: US arrogance
ORIGIN: Embassy Belmopan
CABLEID: 06BELIZE533
CABLEDATE: 6/14/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: BELIZE: 2006 TIP REPORT DEMARCHE DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Belize

On the Wednesday, June 7, the Prime Minister addressed the issue on the Channel Five evening news. Giving his thoughts on why Belize was ranked Tier 3, the PM stated: "That Belize is now lumped and almost put in a box, so to speak, with Venezuela and Cuba; I don't think its pure coincidence. Because, when you analyze the issue of human trafficking, we have done a lot in this country to address the issue. Police, the immigration, people have raided constantly in addressing this issue of prostitution for instance and the whole question of human trafficking we've done a lot. But those who seek to judge us should perhaps examine their own decadent societies before they come and pass judgment on us."

CASE: 7/2/2004
CODE: US arrogance
ORIGIN: Embassy Wellington
CABLEID: 04WELLINGTON563
CABLEDATE: 7/2/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: NEW ZEALAND TIP REPORT: LESSONS LEARNED
COUNTRY1: New Zealand

Following the turbulent June 14 release of the 2004 TIP report, which named New Zealand for the first time (ref a), Embassy Wellington would like to add its strong support to the recommendations contained in Embassy Singapore's recent excellent cable (ref b). While the GNZ is hypersensitive to any perceived criticism of its human rights record (and a negative response to the TIP report was fully anticipated), the language used in the New Zealand narrative of the TIP report directly undermined the credibility of the report and negatively affected the USG's image with the NZ public. The report, as released, allowed the GNZ and domestic media to shift off-message from the fight against trafficking. The Prime Minister, other senior government officials and local commentators instead challenged the credibility of the TIP report's NZ-specific narrative.

CASE: 7/16/2007

CODE: US arrogance
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 07KUALALUMPUR1145
CABLEDATE: 7/16/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: EMBASSY SENIOR-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

6. (C) DCM engaged Dep Sec Gen II, Ambassador Tan Seng Sung in a discussion of TIP on July 12. DCM explained that he believed the Tier 3 designation had been made because Malaysia had done little to alleviate the TIP problem during the reporting period ending in March; the GOM had told the Embassy little about its plans for the new anti-TIP law during that period; and Malaysia had promised to open a shelter two years ago but had not followed through. The U.S. was not pursuing a hidden political agenda in making the tier ranking designation. We had not made the decision because we had failed to reach agreement on a FTA, for example. Tan asked if we had made the decision "because of the Malaysian Ambassador in Washington," to which question the DCM replied that Ambassador Rajmah was known to speak her mind, but the decision was based solely on an assessment of GOM actions to resolve the TIP problem. (DCM had told Tan in a mid-June conversation that he thought the Malaysian Embassy in Washington could have done a better job explaining Malaysian TIP-related activities to the State Department. Tan at the time replied that he did not know which side his Ambassador in Washington was on with regard to this issue.) 7. (C) Tan indicated that he did not have authorization to meet with us but felt it necessary to do so for the sake of the bilateral relationship. The U.S. was once again dictating its values to a small country, Tan said. He had reviewed all of our tier rankings and had concluded that the U.S. had focused unjustly on Islamic countries this year and that this impression had filtered out to the Malaysian public. The American TIP decision was extremely sensitive politically in Kuala Lumpur, he explained, especially given PM Abdullah's reputation for being too pro-American and too close to President Bush. An election is coming up, Tan intoned, and this issue is just too sensitive for the GOM to be seen by the public to be caving on to the Americans between now and September. He added that the public reaction will be so negative that if the U.S. imposes sanctions on Malaysia it will be even more difficult for the GOM to move forward on TIP. Tan commented that, like his minister had commented to the press, Malaysia did not care about America's "nonhumanitarian, nontrade related foreign assistance" and that he did not care about our military training assistance and scholarships for Malaysians either. They did not need US assistance.

CASE: 10/19/2007
CODE: US arrogance
ORIGIN: Embassy Tashkent
CABLEID: 07TASHKENT1806
CABLEDATE: 10/19/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UZBEKS PROMISE POST-ELECTION PROGRESS ON TIP ISSUES
COUNTRY1: Uzbekistan

On October 17 poloffs and visiting G/TIP officer met with GOU officials from MFA, Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD), and the Office of the State Prosecutor to discuss TIP issues. MFA said the GOU was surprised and upset by the recent Tier 3 rating, which it considered "politically motivated".

CASE: 6/15/2007
CODE: US arrogance
ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 07CARACAS1192
CABLEDATE: 6/15/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: BRV DISPUTES 2007 TIER 3 TIP REPORT RANKING
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

Santos Amaral said that as a sovereign nation Venezuela strongly rejected its policies being judged by another country.

CASE: 6/13/2006
CODE: US arrogance

ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 06CARACAS1736
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: VENEZUELA RESPONDS TO TIER 3 PLACEMENT
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

She also stated the BRV's view is that these types of reports should only come from multilateral institutions.

CASE: 6/24/2008
CODE: US arrogance
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT480
CABLEDATE: 6/24/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: NEGATIVE TIP COVERAGE SHOWS SIGNS OF A COORDINATED STRATEGY
COUNTRY1: Oman

3. ----- STAGE 2: Shifting to Populist Themes ----- 3. (C)
Sayyid Badr's statement set the stage for additional criticism from other government officials and civil society actors, which contacts suggest represents a coordinated media strategy to achieve the government's objectives. By June 15, when the Majlis al-Shura issued its public statement denouncing the TIP report, Oman's message began to assume a more populist tone (ref A). Rhetoric in editorials and statements from civil society organizations like the Oman Journalists Association (OJA) increasingly tied displeasure over Oman's Tier 3 ranking with criticism of the USG's regional policies (ref B). Despite their increased intensity, these statements continued to hue closely to the main points of Sayyid Badr's original message - rejection of the report yet reaffirmation of good bilateral relations. While government officials generally remained silent during this stage, on June 16, Sayyid Badr made an exclusive statement to the Arabic-language daily "Al-Azzamn" to call for "a response from the U.S. administration" to a written rebuttal to specific points in TIP report that he had provided the Ambassador on June 10 (ref C). 4. (C) While coverage of the TIP Report slowed down over the June 19-20 Omani weekend, it picked up again on June 21 with expanded input from different segments of civil society. Local press carried statements from individual Western businessmen - including one American executive based in Oman - questioning the basis of the report (ref D). On June 23, the Acting Chairman of the General Federation of Oman's Laborers (GF) - Oman's national-level worker representative body - issued a statement in Arabic and English papers criticizing the report and supporting the "clear measures" that the government has taken over the past year to combat all forms of labor exploitation and abuse. (Note: The Acting Chairman informed poloff previously that he was considering releasing a statement about TIP, but admitted that he had not read the report. End note.) The June 23 edition of the Arabic-daily "al-Shabiba" carried an article written by the chairwoman of an Oman Women's Association (OWA) chapter near Muscat, which both criticized the report and expressed doubt that Oman could do anything to combat trafficking, including passing anti-TIP legislation, that would "satisfy the arrogance of the U.S. State Department." Criticism of the TIP Report even received coverage in the biweekly entertainment supplement "al-Hayati," which contacts attributed to the government's effort to reach Omanis who do not normally read political commentary. MUSCAT 00000480 002 OF 002

CASE: 7/1/2008
CODE: US arrogance
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT493
CABLEDATE: 7/1/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: OMAN MEDIA REACTION: MORE TIP COVERAGE
COUNTRY1: Oman

On June 30, Arabic daily "Al Shabibah" (circulation 20,000) commented that readers should ignore the TIP report. "Why Should We Be Outraged by the U.S. Report?" said: "If we have confidence in ourselves and trust our courts and judicial system, why we are so angry [at the report], giving it a weight that it doesn't deserve? That report, given its origin, does not deserve our attention at all, and we should not give it more. Some believe that the public and official responses sent the correct

message to the U.S., which sees itself as the policeman of the world. We should consider such reports as "remarks" rather than truths. We can study these remarks and consider reforms to achieve goals that are far more noble than the goals of the report writers." F

CASE: 6/18/2007
CODE: US arrogance
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 07KUWAIT938
CABLEDATE: 6/18/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: KUWAITIS DEFENSIVE ABOUT TIER 3 TIP RANKING, THOUGH SOME ACKNOWLEDGE PROBLEMS
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

Parliament Speaker Jassem Al-Khorafi grabbed the biggest headlines on the TIP report. He told the press the TIP report was laughable coming from a country that keeps detainees without charge or trial at Guantanamo. He quipped that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones. MP Walid Tabtaba'i, one of the most prominent parliamentary critics of the U.S., excoriated the U.S. in a June 16 article in Al-Watan for its human rights violations in secret prisons, in Iraq, and in its exploitation of Latin American workers. While insisting Kuwait was "not in need of moral advice from the Americans about human rights," he conceded Kuwait needs to "review and correct" its policies toward foreign workers.

CASE: 7/24/2008
CODE: US arrogance
ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo
CABLEID: 08CAIRO1566
CABLEDATE: 7/24/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: EGYPT: REACTION TO TIP TIER 2 WATCH LIST ACTION PLAN
COUNTRY1: Egypt

However, Aboulmagd emphasized that the GOE will not gear its efforts to the timetable of the USG's TIP report. He said that Egypt is spending a "disproportionate" amount of time on TIP in comparison to "more urgent" human rights issues, such as freedom of expression and women's rights, particularly given that Egypt "likely does not have a big problem" in comparison to other developing countries. He noted that the U.S. TIP criteria "is not universal," and that some in the Egyptian public are accusing the GOE being beholden to a "western-driven agenda" on TIP. He re-affirmed that the GOE will continue its anti-TIP efforts and would like to move off of the Tier 2 Watch List, but said that "this is not a priority for us."

CASE: 6/13/2006
CODE: US arrogance
ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 06CARACAS1736
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: VENEZUELA RESPONDS TO TIER 3 PLACEMENT
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

Arocha claimed that in spite of obvious improvements, the Tier 3 placement was simply a part of escalating tensions between the two governments.

CASE: 6/25/2004
CODE: US arrogance
ORIGIN: Embassy Guatemala
CABLEID: 04GUATEMALA1573
CABLEDATE: 6/25/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: TIP BILATERAL MINISTERIAL MEETING RESULTS
COUNTRY1: Guatemala

The Ambassador and Embassy anti-TIP team met with the Government of Guatemala inter-institutional group to combat TIP on June 22 to formally present the 2004 TIP report and urge continued progress combating TIP. The GOG's reaction to the release of the 2004 Trafficking in Persons Report was generally positive, although VP Stein publicly differed with the unilateral nature of the report's judgments.

CASE: 6/25/2004
CODE: US arrogance
ORIGIN: Embassy Guatemala
CABLEID: 04GUATEMALA1573
CABLEDATE: 6/25/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: TIP BILATERAL MINISTERIAL MEETING RESULTS
COUNTRY1: Guatemala

In press outreach prior to the meeting TIPCoord and DHSOff credited the Berger government for its new commitments to combat TIP, which merited its inclusion in the Tier II Watch List. Some political sensitivities remain on the GOG side, however, as demonstrated by VP Stein's public statement criticizing unilateral USG judgment of other countries' performance on this and other issues.

CASE: 6/22/2004
CODE: US arrogance
ORIGIN: Embassy Santo Domingo
CABLEID: 04SANTODOMINGO3667
CABLEDATE: 6/22/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: USG REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS HITS DOMINICAN NEWS
COUNTRY1: Dominican Republic

"Hoy" editors acknowledged a problem in the Dominican Republic: "U.S. preaching on (TIP) may be offensive to many Dominicans, but we've been lax and need to tighten up." Left-of-center, independent "El Nacional" took offense to the U.S. role in producing the report, but did not deny the accuracy of its content. "El Nacional" asserted, "No institution or world forum has given the United States the right or authority to condemn or take over other nations . . . (the report) would be valid if it came from an organization such as the United Nations (or other multilaterals)."

CASE: 6/22/2004
CODE: US arrogance
ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 04CARACAS2059
CABLEDATE: 6/22/2004
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP REPORT: GOV REACTS INDIGNANTLY
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

MENDEZ DESCRIBED THE REPORT AS AN AGGRESSION TOWARD CHAVEZ AND THE GOV, LIKENING IT TO THE USG'S ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE EVENTS OF APRIL 11, 2002. MENDEZ FUMED THAT THE "INSANITY OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS REACHED AN EXTREME."

CASE: 6/25/2008
CODE: US arrogance
ORIGIN: Embassy Damascus
CABLEID: 08DAMASCUS453
CABLEDATE: 6/25/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: SARG BEMOANS INADEQUATE IRAQI REFUGEE ASSISTANCE, WILLING TO CONSIDER EXPANDED RESETTLEMENT OPS
COUNTRY1: Syria

19. (C) Diverting the conversation to the subject of trafficking in persons, Mikdad took issue with the 2008 U.S. G/TIP country report on Syria. Syria had a draft anti-trafficking bill pending in parliament

and had ratified three relevant international protocols on this subject. Syria was working with international organizations and had built its own government-funded shelter to protect vulnerable women and children. Yet the U.S. had singled out Syria for criticism and accused it of condoning torture and mistreatment of Iraqi women when the opposite was true. Syria had taken steps to address these issues; perhaps more could be done, but Syria desired a more cooperative tone, not confrontation, in response to the positive steps it had taken.

CASE: 12/15/2008
CODE: US arrogance
ORIGIN: Embassy Doha
CABLEID: 08DOHA860
CABLEDATE: 12/15/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: QATAR PROPOSES SENDING TIP DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON
COUNTRY1: Qatar

-- Al-Attiyah stated that there are elements in the GOQ that view the annual TIP rankings as an infringement upon Qatari sovereignty. He said that he reminded those elements that the Tier 3 TIP ranking would ultimately hurt Qatar economically, as people grow more aware of abuses and as victims discover ways of initiating litigation in U.S. courts for TIP violations in Qatar.

NOTE: TIP report seen as violation of sovereignty

CASE: 6/17/2009
CODE: US arrogance
ORIGIN: Embassy Beijing
CABLEID: 09BEIJING1631
CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: CHINA -- 2009 TIP REPORT DEMARCHE DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: China

On June 16, PolOff delivered ref A demarche, outlining the publication of the annual TIP report, to An Gang, Director of the MFA's North American and Oceanian Division. An told PolOff that China hoped that the United States would "stop releasing such annual reports." An informed PolOff that he would instruct his staff to study the report and would contact the embassy with any specific concerns. PICCUTA

CASE: 2/17/2005
CODE: embarrassment/reputation
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 05ANKARA903
CABLEDATE: 2/17/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: TIP IN TURKEY: TURKISH MEDIA ATTENTION, Feb 11-15, 2005
COUNTRY1: Turkey

"We, as Turkey, are aiming at becoming a model country in the Caucasus, the Balkans and the Middle East in terms of combating human trafficking," taking the most advanced measures among the countries of the region, said Ambassador Murat Ersavci, the director-general for consular affairs at the Foreign Ministry, who also heads a national task force in charge of coordinating anti-trafficking efforts. "Our efforts towards this goal are very serious." In an annual report examining the situation in world countries in the fight against human trafficking, the U.S. State Department placed Turkey in Tier 3, the worst category of countries that do not comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so in its report in 2003. That assessment improved in the 2004 report, which placed Turkey on the Tier 2 watch list for its determination to make significant efforts at combating trafficking, waiting to see implementation of the pledged steps for a possible upgrade to Tier 2. Ersavci said Turkey hoped to be moved to Tier 2 in the 2005 report, expected to be released in the coming months, with the eventual goal of joining the Tier 1 countries.

CASE: 6/11/2008
CODE: embarrassment/reputation

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT431
CABLEDATE: 6/11/2008
CLASSIFIC: SECRET
HEADING: ADDRESSING OUR TIER 3 TIP DISPUTE WITH OMAN
COUNTRY1: Oman

Oman highly values its image, both domestic and global. It regularly touts its record on rule of law, respect for human rights, religious tolerance and low rates of crime. A compliant Omani media feeds the public a steady diet of praise for the Sultan and the achievements of the "Blessed Renaissance." Not surprisingly, therefore, Oman is particularly angry that we would impugn its record on human rights publicly, and continues to ask us for specific evidence of trafficking - e.g. number of victims, locations of abuse, and identity of abusers and victims - which we are unable to provide. Oman refuses to accept its Tier 3 ranking without such evidence. Neither does it accept, despite post's best efforts, our explanation that its tier ranking reflects insufficient government action, not the size of the trafficking problem.

CASE: 9/10/2007
CODE: embarrassment/reputation
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 07KUALALUMPUR1375
CABLEDATE: 9/10/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SYED HAMID ALBAR
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

Malaysia's implementation of the law would be very important, along with the anticipated opening of victims' shelters later in September. FM Hamid said the latest U.S. report had been "unfair" to Malaysia because it did not take into account the drafting of the new law and steps to open shelters. "We don't want to receive surprises (like the June TIP report)," Hamid said. The report "affects our country's reputation and dignity." The Ambassador urged the GOM to accelerate its anti-trafficking efforts, while Hamid asked rather that the U.S. take into account Malaysia's efforts to date.

CASE: 6/11/2008
CODE: embarrassment/reputation
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT431
CABLEDATE: 6/11/2008
CLASSIFIC: SECRET
HEADING: ADDRESSING OUR TIER 3 TIP DISPUTE WITH OMAN
COUNTRY1: Oman

Feeling that its Sultan has been dishonored and its national honor has been impugned, Oman is responding emotionally to what it perceives as an unwarranted public attack by a friend. The U.S. should avoid a similarly emotional response and, while standing behind our report, continue to explore cooperative ways to address the issues raised by the Omanis while reminding them that our relationship transcends this one dispute.

CASE: 8/21/2008
CODE: embarrassment/reputation
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 08KUWAIT913
CABLEDATE: 8/21/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: MOVING KUWAIT FORWARD ON LABOR STANDARDS
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

One of our principal concerns is to ensure that GOK officials and Kuwaitis themselves take the lead on addressing human rights and TIP concerns, including labor abuses. We note, in this regard, that issuance of our TIP report on June 4 placing Kuwait in Tier 3, together with strikes by Bangladeshi laborers reported Ref B, have sparked a great deal of introspection and soul-searching among GOK

officials, parliamentarians, the media and the public at large. Kuwaitis across the board express shame at seeing their country in the spotlight over labor exploitation and related TIP issues (also reported Ref C). At the same time, the GOK and Kuwaitis in general are prickly about hectoring from the U.S. or other embassies and about perceived interference in domestic affairs. The Ambassador -- alone among her counterparts (including those from the labor-exporting countries) in addressing these issues publicly -- has been explicitly accused in the press of inciting the recent riots and of intervening improperly in Kuwait's internal affairs.

CASE: 6/29/2005

CODE: embarrassment/reputation

ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston

CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1611

CABLEDATE: 6/29/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: A DEFENSIVE NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER HOSTS TIP MEETING

COUNTRY1: Jamaica

Phillips stressed that the actions being taken by the GOJ to fight trafficking are a "reflection of our own standards as a country," and that relegation to Tier 3 status is reflecting badly on Jamaica. He hoped, he said, that the USG appreciated the magnitude of the Tier 3 rating, and repeated that he would have liked to receive news of the downgrade before it happened. He went on to call the report and its findings "untrue, unfair, and unjust in the absence of detailed information.

CASE: 2/3/2009

CODE: embarrassment/reputation

ORIGIN: Embassy Tirana

CABLEID: 09TIRANA74

CABLEDATE: 2/3/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: GOA CONSIDERING REGIONAL ANTI-TIP FORUM

COUNTRY1: Albania

(Comment: Melo seemed to convey some genuine embarrassment at being on the Tier 2 Watch List, as he noted that Albania does not share many attributes with other countries on the list. End comment.)

CASE: 6/19/2007

CODE: embarrassment/reputation

ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas

CABLEID: 07CARACAS1218

CABLEDATE: 6/19/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: S/C MCCARTHY'S MEETINGS WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND VICE MINISTER JORGE VALERO

COUNTRY1: Venezuela

1. (C) Summary: In separate events, Special Coordinator for Venezuela Deborah McCarthy met June 13 with National Assembly (NA) First Vice President Desiree Santos Amaral, NA Foreign Relations Committee President Saul Ortega, Vice Foreign Minister for North American and Multilateral Affairs Jorge Valero and Director of the Office of North American and Multilateral Affairs Yaneth Arocha. The legislators accused the USG of trying to smear the BRV's international image, citing Venezuela's Tier 3 designation in the Trafficking in Persons report as an example. They then moved to discuss their interest in broader exchanges with members of the U.S. Congress. In contrast, Valero described his meeting with WHA Assistant Secretary Shannon during the OASGA as "useful" and thought the BRV had agreed on far more issues with the U.S. delegation than with other countries' delegations. S/C McCarthy emphasized the need for continued dialogue and bilateral cooperation. During the meeting with Valero, the Ambassador suggested visa reciprocity, civil aviation, and extradition as three areas for potential cooperation.

CASE: 8/21/2008

CODE: embarrassment/reputation

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait

CABLEID: 08KUWAIT913
CABLEDATE: 8/21/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: MOVING KUWAIT FORWARD ON LABOR STANDARDS
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

The GOK, embarrassed by the TIP report and ongoing labor unrest, has taken some recent steps to address the labor issue.

CASE: 6/20/2008
CODE: embarrassment/reputation
ORIGIN: Embassy Tirana
CABLEID: 08TIRANA469
CABLEDATE: 6/20/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: GOA REACTION TO 2008 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Albania

The ASP's anti-trafficking section has told the Embassy that they are motivated to do what they can to avoid the black mark of being named on the Watch List again.

CASE: 1/30/2006
CODE: embarrassment/reputation
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 06TOKYO484
CABLEDATE: 1/30/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS 01/30/06
COUNTRY1: Japan

he number of foreign women protected by female consulting centers nationwide totaled 104 from April to December in 2005, a 4.3 fold increase from the 24 in fiscal 2004, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare revealed, based on its calculation. The ministry also has learned that relief measures are lacking with the fact that the government tightened its control after the US State Department put Japan on its watch list in June 2004 in its annual report on trafficking in persons -- placing Japan on the lowest level among the industrialized countries. The report cited that Japan has become the destination for human trafficking as foreign women and children are forced to work at the sex industry. Shocked by the US human trafficking report, the government strengthened regulations in December 2004, by revising the criminal law.

NOTE: Note, comment pertains to 2004 report

CASE: 7/17/2009
CODE: embarrassment/reputation
ORIGIN: Embassy Bandar Seri Begawan
CABLEID: 09BANDARSERIBEGAWAN172
CABLEDATE: 7/17/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: BRUNEI'S REACTION TO 2009 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Brunei

Ms. Chong noted that the MFAT will play an active role in coordinating GoB actions in regard to the TIP report because senior MFAT officials were very concerned about Brunei's ranking in the report.

CASE: 7/21/2005
CODE: embarrassment/reputation
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1784
CABLEDATE: 7/21/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS VISIT KINGSTON TO EVALUATE GOJ PROGRESS ON TIP
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

9. (SBU) Phillips opened the meeting by recounting some of the complaints he had raised at a June 28 meeting with Charge (Ref B), including concern over damage to Jamaica's public image caused by the Tier 3 designation, and so-called communication problems leading up to the downgrade to Tier 3.

CASE: 6/23/2009
CODE: embarrassment/reputation
ORIGIN: Embassy Tirana
CABLEID: 09TIRANA411
CABLEDATE: 6/23/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: GOA PLEASED WITH TIER 2 RANKING
COUNTRY1: Albania

Melo's joy at Albania being moved off the Tier 2 Watch List should come as no surprise, since, as noted in ref B, the GOA was clearly embarrassed by its presence on the Watch List.

CASE: 6/11/2008
CODE: embarrassment/reputation
ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers
CABLEID: 08ALGIERS683
CABLEDATE: 6/11/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ALGERIA REACTION TO 2008 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Algeria

When asked why the TIP report was such a public document, we stressed that Congress mandates the TIP report and that the USG makes it available publicly in an effort to be transparent. Saadi responded, "once it is made public, it is no longer an internal document and countries are free to react and respond."

CASE: 6/13/2007
CODE: embarrassment/reputation
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 07KINGSTON927
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JAMAICA: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON 7TH ANNUAL TIPS REPORT: GOJ AND PRESS REACTIONS
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

2. (U) Both the GOJ and local media reacted favorably to Jamaica's improvement to Tier 2 status. The GOJ issued a press release noting the ranking "...is a testament to the significant effort being made by the country to meet the international standards that are required to effectively combat human trafficking.... Jamaica's improved rating is attributable to several key factors, including the enactment of comprehensive legislation and the increase in the number of cases brought before the courts. The US Government also acknowledged the turnaround in the attitude towards human trafficking activities by government officials and their willingness to address this matter in public fora." The press release also noted, "The Government of Jamaica considers the improved Tier 2 status to be a welcome recognition by the international community in general and the United States Government in particular, of the intense efforts being undertaken by the government to tackle this growing problem affecting the entire international community and specifically the Caribbean." Finally, the GOJ urged "...all sectors of the society to maintain this interest and give active support to all pertinent educational material, as it can only augur well for the detection, prevention and deterring of human trafficking anywhere in the island."

CASE: 7/16/2007
CODE: embarrassment/reputation
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 07KUALALUMPUR1145
CABLEDATE: 7/16/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: EMBASSY SENIOR-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

COUNTRY1: Malaysia

They nevertheless advise against a visit to Kuala Lumpur by Ambassador Lagon before September on the grounds that it will look like the GOM is caving to the Americans.

CASE: 9/3/2008

CODE: embarrassment/reputation

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 08MUSCAT634

CABLEDATE: 9/3/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: EMBASSY CONTACT ASSERTS OMAN DETERMINED TO IMPROVE TIP TIER RANKING

COUNTRY1: Oman

1. (C) Sultan Qaboos has made it clear that he intends to strengthen Oman's efforts to combat trafficking in persons (TIP) over the next year in order to improve Oman's tier ranking on the USG TIP report, according to Ahmad al-Mukhaini, Assistant Secretary General for the Majlis al-Shura Secretariat. In an August 26 meeting with poloff, Mukhaini explained that although the Sultan was very upset about the report, Qaboos was more concerned about the international image of his country. Mukhaini added that the Sultan has plans to establish a Human Rights Committee in the next few months. Mukhaini also claimed that he had learned that there is currently a small shelter for victims of TIP, although, its existence and location are secret, in order to protect the victims. He said that the GOO plans to create a larger and more easily accessible shelter.

CASE: 7/2/2007

CODE: embarrassment/reputation

ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers

CABLEID: 07ALGIERS931

CABLEDATE: 7/2/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: CONTINUING TO ENGAGE NGOS AND MFA ON TIP

COUNTRY1: Algeria

Ramtane Lamamra and MFA representatives reiterated to use their surprise and dismay at Algeria's Tier 3 status in the 2007 TIP report.

CASE: 6/18/2007

CODE: embarrassment/reputation

ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers

CABLEID: 07ALGIERS859

CABLEDATE: 6/18/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: MFA REACTION TO TIP TIER 3 RATING

COUNTRY1: Algeria

1. (C) Ambassador delivered reftel demarche June 16 to MFA Director General for the Americas Fatiha Selmane, who expressed surprise and discomfort that the 2007 Trafficking in Persons report placed Algeria in Tier 3 status.

CASE: 8/7/2005

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Djibouti

CABLEID: 05DJIBOUTI755

CABLEDATE: 8/7/2005

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: TIP ACTION PLAN: MEETING WITH DIRECTOR BILATERAL AFFAIRS

COUNTRY1: Djibouti

Pol/Econ met with Director of Bilateral Relations, Mohamed Ali Hassan, on 28 July to follow up on the Trafficking in Persons action plan demarched to Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mahamoud Ali Youssouf (reftel A). Hassan said he had a chance to review the action plan and demarche submitted to the

Minister by Ambassador. He commented that he was distressed by the TIP report because he worries the report indicated there is a chain of trafficking through or ending in Djibouti. He said he did not believe that this is the case. Hassan said he also felt the report implied that the Djiboutian government is involved in this trafficking by doing nothing to stop it.

CASE: 6/16/2004

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Sanaa

CABLEID: 04SANAA1475

CABLEDATE: 6/16/2004

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: TIP: MINISTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS DISCUSSES ROYG PROGRESS

COUNTRY1: Yemen

The Minister thanked DCM for notifying her of Yemen's place in the TIP report as a special case. She said that trafficking in persons was a new issue for Yemen that was not widely understood. She agreed that, although information was fragmentary on the scope of the problem, actions must be taken to address the issue. She noted excellent cooperation with the Embassy, thanking Post for helping the ROYG understand the problem. She said she was happy that other ROYG ministries took the previously "not known" issue seriously when it was raised in detail in the last year, particularly praising the cooperation of the Ministry of Interior (MOI). DCM noted the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MOI for the INL riot control training program with police, which the Minister welcomed. DCM also emphasized the importance of MOI in the prevention and prosecution of traffickers.

CASE: 6/17/2008

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 08MUSCAT464

CABLEDATE: 6/17/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: OMANI PUBLIC ANGER CONTINUES OVER TIP

COUNTRY1: Oman

In its statement, the OJA "rejected the unfair report," which it claimed "spoils the relations between countries and does not help communication among cultures." The government-owned Arabic-language newspaper "Oman" dedicated three pages to TIP, publishing articles by three Omani and five expatriate writers, several of whom used harsh rhetoric to attack the report and U.S. policies in the region.

CASE: 6/13/2007

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston

CABLEID: 07KINGSTON927

CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: JAMAICA: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON 7TH ANNUAL TIPS REPORT: GOJ AND PRESS REACTIONS

COUNTRY1: Jamaica

PRIVATE REACTIONS LESS POSITIVE ----- 4. (SBU) Privately, GOJ officials were disappointed with their Tier 2 placing. Poloff explained that the reporting period is from March 1-February 28 and the new anti-trafficking law had not come into effect until March 1 and, therefore, the USG had had no effective way to evaluate how well the law will work. Poloff also informed the task force that G/TIP will look for efforts to "convict and punish traffickers" as well as improve victims services during the coming reporting period. 5. (C) GOJ officials raised serious concerns regarding the USG's emphasis on arrests and convictions. One official noted that many times, the GOJ undertakes raids to rescue victims as quickly as possible, but that because they prioritize the removal of a victim from a dangerous situation, arrests and prosecutions are not always possible as they may have acted solely on a tip - and thus not have had time to build an evidentiary case. Additionally, GOJ officials noted that Jamaica, like the US, places the rule of law - and the reliance upon evidence and due process - front and center in the judicial system. Noting that trafficking cases are particularly

difficult to prosecute because: 1) witnesses are unreliable, 2) traffickers can provide legitimate employment documents (irrespective of what the victims were actually required to do), and 3) juries don't always return a verdict favorable to the prosecution, GOJ officials are deeply concerned that the emphasis on arrests and prosecutions as the key criterion makes achievement of Tier 1 status unattainable.

CASE: 7/6/2007
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 07BUENOSAIRE1302
CABLEDATE: 7/6/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR'S JULY 3 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
COUNTRY1: Argentina

Ambassador noted our continued interest in the pending anti-TIP legislation. Taiana agreed that passage was important, that it needed to happen, but did not offer an opinion on when it might occur. He did, however, note that he had some differences with the Department's TIP report. He said it was hard to believe that Argentina was worse than other countries in the region. Ambassador explained that the report does not compare countries and the report's tier assignments are not based on the extent of the problem in a given country, rather it reflects the extent to which governments are working to combat the problem on a number of fronts. Taiana continued, however, complaining that the report seemed to imply that Buenos Aires was a center for international trafficking. He also stated that the GoA's openness, its recognition that there is a problem, its hosting of seminars with the IOM, all seemed to be used against it. The Ambassador said that this was not the case, that we appreciated and recognized (in the report) GoA efforts to confront the problem. Both agreed that it was important to continue working together on the problem

CASE: 6/29/2005
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1611
CABLEDATE: 6/29/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: A DEFENSIVE NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER HOSTS TIP MEETING
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

Unfortunately, Phillips' continued public criticisms of the TIP report and his claims that its findings were "untrue" and "unfair" echo the tenor of many public statements made to date by defensive senior GOJ officials.

CASE: 6/29/2005
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1611
CABLEDATE: 6/29/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: A DEFENSIVE NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER HOSTS TIP MEETING
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

He went on to call the report and its findings "untrue, unfair, and unjust in the absence of detailed information." Before adjourning the meeting, Phillips pointed out that the GOJ had held recent meetings on the subject of trafficking with three United Nations agencies - UNICEF, UNDP, and UNFPA - and had made a request to the Inter-American Development Bank for assistance in developing anti-trafficking programs.

CASE: 6/13/2003
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 03ANKARA3843
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2003
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: TURKS VIEW TIER III TIP RATING AS UNFAIR, THREATENING
COUNTRY1: Turkey

TURKS VIEW TIER III TIP RATING AS UNFAIR, THREATENING

CASE: 11/19/2009
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 09KUALALUMPUR934
CABLEDATE: 11/19/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: MALAYSIA: TIP WORKSHOP FOR JOURNALISTS - A FIRST.
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

Tun Madjid also parried a journalist's question about whether the USG's TIP ranking system, and Malaysia's Tier three ranking, was unfair, given that other countries in the region were not low-ranked, by saying that there was no denying that Malaysia had a TIP problem, was not doing enough on enforcement, and that "we (Malaysians) are to blame

CASE: 6/6/2005
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1444
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: GOJ OFFERS MIXED RESPONSE ON TIP, CONCERNED ABOUT SANCTIONS
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

(SBU) On June 5, local newspapers reported that the Ministry of National Security issued a statement on behalf of the GOJ that called the 2005 Report "unfair" and "highly prejudicial because it negates the significant actions taken by the Government over the last several months to combat this problem locally." The statement added that "there is no record of these cases being reported to any law enforcement agency in Jamaica," and went on to request that the USG provide additional details of alleged trafficking cases as a first step toward working together on the issue.

CASE: 6/5/2006
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Tunis
CABLEID: 06TUNIS1364
CABLEDATE: 6/5/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: 2006 TIP REPORT - TUNISIA
COUNTRY1: Tunisia

On June 5, DCM, accompanied by Laboff, delivered Ref B demarche on the 2006 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report to MFA Director for the Americas Fadhel Ayari. Ayari stressed that, to his knowledge and as various Ministries noted during Laboff's TIP-related meetings, there was no trafficking in persons taking place in Tunisia. Ayari said that, while the GOT would need time to review the narrative, it seemed unjust to include Tunisia in Tier 2, given the country's progressive legislation on TIP and women's and children's issues. Being listed, said Ayari, "is disappointing given our efforts," explaining that Tunisian measures to combat illegal migration to Europe have been recognized by several European countries.

CASE: 6/4/2008
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 08CARACAS771
CABLEDATE: 6/4/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: MFA OFFICIALS 'PLEASED' WITH 2008 TIP DESIGNATION
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

PolCouns and PolOff met with MFA Director for North America and Multilateral Affairs Yaneth Arocha and U.S. Desk Officer Marie Borregales to deliver a courtesy copy of Venezuela's country narrative in the 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report and to inform them of their change in status to Tier 2 Watchlist. (Note: Since 2004, Venezuela has been designated as a Tier 3 country in the TIP Report. End Note). Arocha told us she is "very pleased" with the designation. She stated she would brief Vice Minister Jorge Valero on the designation upon his return from the OAS General Assembly meeting in Colombia. Arocha credited her staff for working diligently to arrange meetings between Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (BRV) and USG officials despite tensions in the bilateral relationship. She also said the visit of G/TIP's Barbara Fleck in October 2007 provided the BRV with an opportunity to showcase its law enforcement efforts and public awareness campaigns (Ref. B). Arocha referred to the change in status as an example that both parties can work together to strengthen the bilateral relationship, particularly on technical issues. She added that greater cooperation was likely in similar issues. 2. (C) Comment. Arocha and Borregales have expended some capital in getting Embassy officials TIP-related information and were thus visibly pleased with this year's TIP designation. By showing that cooperation and information sharing with the USG is duly acknowledged, we have helped create trust among these BRV officials at the working level. We believe this also demonstrates the USG's interest in moving beyond the political rhetoric on technical issues.

CASE: 4/19/2006
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Freetown
CABLEID: 06FREETOWN322
CABLEDATE: 4/19/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: Sierra Leoneans React to Human Rights Report
COUNTRY1: Sierra Leone

While most participants were supportive of the report's criticisms (especially women), others, especially the Attorney General, expressed frustration at what they viewed as unfair condemnation.

CASE: 6/13/2003
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 03ANKARA3843
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2003
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: TURKS VIEW TIER III TIP RATING AS UNFAIR, THREATENING
COUNTRY1: Turkey

----- -- MFA: Report Unfair, USG "Biased" Against Turkey -----
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CASE: 6/24/2008
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Dublin
CABLEID: 08DUBLIN379
CABLEDATE: 6/24/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: IRISH JUSTICE MINISTRY ADDRESSES 2008 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT
COUNTRY1: Ireland

Ahern agreed with Aylward's assessment, expressed regret that Ireland had been downgraded, and wryly noted, "People who live in glass houses," Ken O'Leary, the Department's Assistant Secretary, expressed frustration that the TIP report seemed to discount substantial Irish progress, saying, "No matter what we do, we always seem to be downgraded."

CASE: 7/12/2007
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 07TOKYO3186
CABLEDATE: 7/12/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: G/TIP AMBASSADOR LAGON'S JULY 2 MEETING WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

COUNTRY1: Japan

1. (C) Summary: The 2007 TIP Report assessment of Japan is unfair, said Foreign Policy Deputy Director-General Shimbo to Trafficking in Persons Ambassador Mark Lagon July 2 during a meeting with the Japanese anti-human trafficking inter-ministerial task force.

CASE: 6/26/2009

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Islamabad

CABLEID: 09ISLAMABAD1408

CABLEDATE: 6/26/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: PAKISTAN COMMITS TO GETTING OFF TIP WATCH LIST

COUNTRY1: Pakistan

Pakistan's response -- by MFA and FIA -- to the WL ranking has thus far been completely professional, demonstrating political will and commitment. However, the task at hand is difficult, particularly in light of the other grave challenges Pakistan faces. Post will follow-up on FIA's offer of quarterly reports and areas for improvement. Post additionally recommends an early Fall visit by the appropriate Washington offices to provide clear, detailed guidance to GOP interlocutors on our expectations for Pakistan to be removed from the WL. End comment

CASE: 2/3/2009

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Tirana

CABLEID: 09TIRANA74

CABLEDATE: 2/3/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: GOA CONSIDERING REGIONAL ANTI-TIP FORUM

COUNTRY1: Albania

Melo said that the GOA has made some large strides over the past year in addressing TIP and recalled how after Albania was placed on the Tier 2 Watch List, the MFA wrote a "strong" letter to the MOI telling it to cooperate fully with the Embassy on this issue.

CASE: 6/6/2006

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 06MUSCAT907

CABLEDATE: 6/6/2006

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: TIP: OMAN DISMAYED BY TIER 2 WATCH LIST RANK

COUNTRY1: Oman

Calling the report "unfair and arrogant," he accused the USG of ignoring Oman's progress on TIP over the past year and questioned the point of any further engagement.

CASE: 7/31/2007

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 07BUENOSAIRES1476

CABLEDATE: 7/31/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: ARGENTINA TO WORK CLOSELY ON TIP ISSUES

COUNTRY1: Argentina

hile the Argentine government does not appreciate the "paternalistic" nature of the TIP report

CASE: 6/17/2005

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1534
CABLEDATE: 6/17/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: KINGSTON POL/ECON ROUNDUP: MAY 7 - JUNE 16, 2005
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

Patterson and the Leader of the Opposition, have criticized the report for unfairly labeling Jamaica, but have at the same time vowed to take action against human trafficking to avoid sanctions.

CASE: 6/9/2008
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Montevideo
CABLEID: 08MONTEVIDEO345
CABLEDATE: 6/9/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: URUGUAY TAKES TIP REPORT IN STRIDE; WANTS TO DO BETTER
COUNTRY1: Uruguay

The GOU took the report seriously, and expressed its interest in continuing our dialog on TIP and human rights issues in general. While its resources are limited, it wants to do more. GOU officials consider themselves to be ahead of the curve within the region and want to and they point out that trafficking is a relatively new concept and growing phenomenon. The GOU would likely embrace any assistance or training offered to improve its capacity to eliminate trafficking in persons. Post will continue to seek ways to work with the GOU and civil society to support this, such as the proposal to combat TIP submitted by IOM in ref C. END COMMENT.

CASE: 6/30/2009
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo
CABLEID: 09CAIRO1222
CABLEDATE: 6/30/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: EGYPTIAN MFA REACTIONS TO 2009 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Egypt

Egyptian officials have widely condemned the report as unfair, while civil society activists have praised the report

CASE: 11/6/2008
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Doha
CABLEID: 08DOHA791
CABLEDATE: 11/6/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: SCENESETTER FOR AMBASSADOR MARK LAGON'S VISIT TO QATAR
COUNTRY1: Qatar

The texts of the 2008 TIP Report dealing with Oman and Qatar are virtually identical, and the Qataris may cite the decision as an unfair "moving of the goal posts."

CASE: 7/21/2003
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara
CABLEID: 03ANKARA4552
CABLEDATE: 7/21/2003
CLASSIFIC: SECRET
HEADING: SCENESETTER FOR TURKISH FONMIN GUL'S JULY 24 VISIT TO WASHINGTON
COUNTRY1: Turkey

GOT officials have been highly defensive on the issue, insisting that the report is unfair and that they are already taking adequate measures.

CASE: 9/10/2007
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 07KUALALUMPUR1375
CABLEDATE: 9/10/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SYED HAMID ALBAR
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

TIP report had been "unfair" to Malaysia, which was taking steps in line with international norms

CASE: 12/13/2006
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Cotonou
CABLEID: 06COTONOU1212
CABLEDATE: 12/13/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: BENIN: GOB DIP NOTE ON GOB EFFORTS TO COMBAT CHILD TRAFFICKING
COUNTRY1: Benin

On October 5 the Embassy received a diplomatic note from the Government of Benin, which presented the government's comments on the June, 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report. Post views this note as a positive development, because it demonstrates that the GoB remains attentive to the issue, and is keenly aware of USG interest in it. While in certain aspects (see para 4) the GoB's report puts a positive spin on the situation, it also provides a useful update on Benin's continuing efforts to address trafficking issues.

CASE: 4/13/2007
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 07BUENOSAIRE5726
CABLEDATE: 4/13/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR AND INTERIOR MINISTER REVIEW SECURITY AGENDA
COUNTRY1: Argentina

Fernandez noted that, following last year's TIP report and Argentina's downgrading to Tier II Watchlist, he had become personally involved in the TIP issue, creating a special victims attention unit in his Ministry

CASE: 7/8/2009
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Dublin
CABLEID: 09DUBLIN258
CABLEDATE: 7/8/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: DHS SECRETARY NAPOLITANO MEETS IRISH MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT AND JUSTICE
COUNTRY1: Ireland

Ahern informed the Secretary that the Irish government was in the process of taking two Guantanamo detainees, was working more cooperatively on extradition issues, was interested in the fate of the "undocumented" Irish, and was none too pleased with the latest Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Tier 2 ranking

CASE: 9/10/2007
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 07KUALALUMPUR1375
CABLEDATE: 9/10/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SYED HAMID ALBAR

COUNTRY1: Malaysia

FM Hamid said the latest U.S. report had been "unfair" to Malaysia because it did not take into account the drafting of the new law and steps to open shelters. "We don't want to receive surprises (like the June TIP report)," Hamid said. The report "affects our country's reputation and dignity." The Ambassador urged the GOM to accelerate its anti-trafficking efforts, while Hamid asked rather that the U.S. take into account Malaysia's efforts to date.

CASE: 1/7/2010

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong

CABLEID: 10HONGKONG39

CABLEDATE: 1/7/2010

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: TIP: HONG KONG WOULD BE "DISAPPOINTED" WITH A CONTINUED TIER 2 RANKING

COUNTRY1: China

4. (SBU) Contending last year's Tier 2 ranking was unfair, a senior Security Bureau official repeated a question the Chief Secretary had asked Ambassador CdeBaca, i.e. if the U.S. was "moving the goal posts" on TIP (see ref).

CASE: 7/16/2008

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait

CABLEID: 08KUWAIT799

CABLEDATE: 7/16/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: GOK RESPONSE TO 2008 TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Kuwait

In numerous meetings with Poloff, Kuwaiti interlocutors expressed frustration about Kuwait's demotion to a Tier 3 ranking after it's rise to Tier 2 Watchlist in the fall of 2007. A few officials lamented the constant rise and fall in ranking as "discouraging" to the GOK's efforts to combat TIP. (NOTE: Kuwait has moved between Tier 3 and Tier 2 Watchlist for the past four years. END NOTE) Many also commented that the report was exaggerated and portrayed Kuwait, "a close ally of the U.S.", in an unfair manner. In addition, some officials, including the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor who specifically raised it with Ambassador, expressed their dismay at the inclusion in this year's report statements regarding Kuwaitis traveling abroad for commercial sex acts and the GOK's lack of efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts. As an Islamic country with laws based on the Shari'a (Islamic law), many of our interlocutors feel that these acts are inherently forbidden and that there is no need to codify them in any type of legislation

CASE: 6/15/2007

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 07BUENOSAIRE51185

CABLEDATE: 6/15/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: GOA REACTION TO TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Argentina

Summary. While there has been no public GOA reaction yet, GOA private reaction to the USG's 2007 TIP report was very negative. Vicente Espeche Gil, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Under Secretary for Bilateral Affairs, called the report "unhelpful" and Interior Minister Anibal Fernandez expressed displeasure at the content of the report. Press coverage of our annual TIP report was generally balanced. Negotiations on sending TIP legislation are on-going, and the Interior Minister met with key legislators to hammer out a compromise on June 14. Our contacts report that the Interior Minister committed the Executive branch to signing an executive decree establishing a national anti-trafficking program aimed at prevention and victim's assistance. End Summary. 2. (C) On June 11, CDA Matera and poloff called on Vicente Espeche Gil, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Under Secretary for

Bilateral Foreign Policy, to deliver reftel points and the 2007 Trafficking in Persons report. Espeche Gil thanked the CDA for informing the MFA and sharing the report prior to its release. Espeche Gil characterized the TIP report process as "paternalistic", but understood that the report is mandated by the U.S. Congress. Although he acknowledged that the USG's annual reports on similar issues such as human rights helped to highlight Argentina's situation during the military dictatorship of the 1970s, he stressed that the TIP report's criticism of the GOA's anti-trafficking efforts is unfounded now that Argentina is a full democracy. He offered MFA support to assist the Embassy's efforts in obtaining meetings with other relevant GOA Ministries and agencies to discuss the GOA's anti-trafficking efforts. The CDA welcomed the offer and noted that this would enhance our understanding of GOA efforts to combat the problem and strengthen cooperation on the issue. Espeche Gil closed by asserting that it is in the GOA's interest to improve Argentina's anti-trafficking regime to meet international norms. U/S Espeche Gil was accompanied by Ana Bertha, Deputy Director of International Organizations, Diana Berruhet Office Director of Women's Affairs, Alejandra Morales of Consular Affairs, Soledad Figuera of the Human Rights Directorate, and Hernan Santivanez, U.S. Desk Officer. 3. (C) On June 11, Interior Minister Anibal Fernandez called CDA Matera to express his displeasure with the content of the report. He asserted that the USG does not understand Argentina's political realities in terms of what kind of anti-TIP legislation can be passed in the Argentine Congress. The CDA explained that we understood the political sensitivities surrounding the issue. No one expects a perfect law, he stated, adding that the important thing is to see legislation passed finally after long delays already experienced. 4. (C) In a subsequent conversation with CDA on June 12, Espeche Gil objected to the TIP report's conclusion that the GOA "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking" and the recommendation that the GOA should "curb official complicity in trafficking". CDA pointed out that the report further explains that official complicity is almost exclusively at the provincial and local levels, where it is truly an issue of concern, as reported by the International Organization for Migration and Argentine NGOs. He also noted that the USG publishes a similar report evaluating our own efforts to combat trafficking, and that this is a problem that all countries face and must address. 5. (C) Post and Department officials answered questions from Argentine journalists on the report on the day of its release to provide context and ensure accurate reporting. The result was balanced coverage that prompted no negative public reaction from the GOA. 6. (C) Our contacts have told us that Minister Fernandez met with key legislators including Senator Vilma Ibarra and Deputy Cordoba (authors of the two main anti-TIP bills currently under debate in the Argentine Congress) on June 14. They report that, during the meeting, Minister Fernandez committed the Executive branch to signing an executive decree establishing a national anti-trafficking program aimed at prevention and victim's assistance. They did not have any information on whether or not the issue of victim's consent was discussed. One local NGO representative told poloff that many NGOs are prepared to declare the bill unconstitutional if it does not state that victim's consent is irrelevant regardless of age. Post will continue to report on new legislative developments to pass anti-TIP legislation

CASE: 12/6/2007

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 07BUENOSAIRE2300

CABLEDATE: 12/6/2007

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: ARGENTINA: CODEL SANCHEZ DISCUSSES ANTI-TIP AND CN EFFORTS WITH INTERIOR MINISTER FERNANDEZ

COUNTRY1: Argentina

Fernandez attributed the fact that the bill has not yet passed in part to the criticism in the State Department's 2007 TIP report of GOA anti-TIP efforts. He also recounted his frustration that a May 2007 meeting with Washington agencies on USG efforts to combat human trafficking focused exclusively on a G/TIP officer's criticism that the Senate bill did not adequately address the issue of consent in Argentina's trafficking problem. He specifically cited the G/TIP officer handing him an edited version of draft Argentine legislation and saying, "That just isn't the way to do things." Fernandez said this hurt him deeply because it was a law in which he had a lot of personal interest. He admitted that the Senate bill may not have been perfect, but argued that it could have been strengthened later. He said the key is to make trafficking illegal. Instead, the bill languished in the Chamber of Deputies, and Congressional focus on national elections precluded further progress in passing the law. In response to the Ambassador's questions, Fernandez stated that he has discussed the matter with president-elect Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner (CFK) the previous week, including the issue of consent, and he is confident that a federal trafficking-in-persons law will be passed soon after

she is sworn in as president.

CASE: 6/23/2009
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Tirana
CABLEID: 09TIRANA411
CABLEDATE: 6/23/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: GOA PLEASED WITH TIER 2 RANKING
COUNTRY1: Albania

On June 15, Poloff delivered ref A talking points and information to Ilir Melo, Chief of the Americas Desk at the MFA, who was visibly pleased to learn that Albania had been lifted to Tier 2. He expressed his gratitude for this ranking and, recognizing past mistakes by the GOA in dealing with this issue, said that the GOA will continue to move forward on TIP. He was also quite interested in the fact that Albanian TIP activist Vera Lesko is featured in the report and present in Washington for the June 16 rollout. In a separate meeting with Iva Zajmi, the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator at the Mol, Zajmi was less enthusiastic with the Tier 2 ranking and asked what steps Albania could take to be listed on Tier 1. Post explained to Zajmi some of the improvements that could be made and she pledged to do everything in her power to ensure that the GOA would take the appropriate steps to move forward. The GOA also touted its improved ranking in the media and in a press conference with Zajmi and Minister of the Interior Bujar Nishani. 2. (C) Comment: Melo's joy at Albania being moved off the Tier 2 Watch List should come as no surprise, since, as noted in ref B, the GOA was clearly embarrassed by its presence on the Watch List. The GOA has rightfully claimed credit for its recent successes, and Zajmi's comments about moving to Tier 1 are very encouraging, especially as she is currently the lead official on this issue in the GOA. Over the past year, the GOA has made several positive strides forward: identification of victims is one area, and it seems to have some momentum now as it moves forward to address other aspects such as prosecutions. Regardless of the outcome of the June 28 elections, we expect that the GOA will continue to make progress in anti-trafficking activities. Post will hold an anti-trafficking working group meeting next week to review the recommendations in the report and plan next steps

CASE: 7/1/2008
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 08BUENOSAIRE911
CABLEDATE: 7/1/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ARGENTINA: VISITING G/TIP AMBASSADOR PRESENTS ANTI-TIP ACTION PLAN AND OFFERS PARTNERSHIP TO JUSTICE
COUNTRY1: Argentina

Lagon assured Fernandez that the USG was aware of his "personal commitment" to fight TIP. He further explained that the USG has a political reality at home, too, and that the Congress has mandated that the State Department produce its annual report evaluating the efforts of foreign governments to fight human trafficking. Fernandez interjected by characterizing the report as "terrible!" Lagon acknowledged that he knew the report can be seen as an irritant because it is mandated by Congress to give countries a grade based on performance in protecting victims, prosecuting traffickers, and preventing the crime. "We try to do our job as best we can and offer recommendations on actions we believe would help Argentina in its anti-TIP effort and help the country improve its ranking if completed," he said. He then presented a copy of ref A action plan to Minister Fernandez. 4. (C) Fernandez indicated that he understood, but stated that the USG should "discuss the matter with us first." Lagon noted that every year the USG asks foreign governments to provide information on what they are doing to fight TIP. He stressed that doing so would not only help the GOA track TIP crimes, but also helps the USG better understand what the GOA is doing to fight TIP. Fernandez countered that if the USG really understood Argentina's situation, it would never have produced the report on Argentina in the first place. Recalling his May 2007 meeting with Washington agencies, he argued that the office G/TIP "wanted to legislate on behalf of the United States" in Argentina when its representatives raised concerns over whether Argentina's new anti-trafficking law adequately addresses the issue of victim's consent in the case of adult victims. "Let us put that episode behind us", Lagon suggested, assuring Fernandez that the GOA has "clearly demonstrated its political will" to fight TIP not only to Lagon, but also to Ambassador Wayne and DHS Assistant

Secretary Julie Myers (ref C).

CASE: 6/9/2008

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Montevideo

CABLEID: 08MONTEVIDEO345

CABLEDATE: 6/9/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: URUGUAY TAKES TIP REPORT IN STRIDE; WANTS TO DO BETTER

COUNTRY1: Uruguay

Poloffs provided a copy of the 2008 report and discussed trafficking in persons in separate meetings with the MFA Office of Human Rights, the Deputy Minister of Culture and Education and the Director of Immigration. GOU officials were ready for positive dialog about the report, stressed that the GOU takes TIP very seriously, and while the need for more action remains, Uruguay feels it is among the leaders in Latin American for combating TIP. Media coverage on the TIP report was fact-based and included extensive quotes directly from the translated text provided on the Embassy's website and press release. Embassy also distributed translated copies of the report to government, civil society and other interested parties. END SUMMARY. IS THERE A TIER ONE AND HALF? -----

----- 2. (SBU) In separate meetings on June 3 and 4, poloffs met with the Deputy Minister of Education and Culture Filipe Michelini (his ministry has the lead on domestic human rights issues), the Director of Immigration Jesus Roberto de Mello and his deputy Beatriz Pintos, and with Cristina Mansilla from the MFA's human rights office. All of these officials agreed that trafficking in persons was an important issue for the GOU and that while more needs to be done, the government continues to make progress. Michelini and Pintos appreciated the important dialog the annual TIP report offered, although they reiterated the GOU's long-held preference for multi-lateral reports over "unilateral" ones such as ours. Each of the officials highlighted the interagency committee they participated in, the National Committee for the Eradication of Commercial and Non-Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. This committee regularly brings together four ministries, at least three NGOs, and two UN representatives to address and follow this aspect of trafficking. 3. Our interlocutors felt that Uruguay was a leader on anti-TIP issues in South America, with strong national laws, stiff sentences, active prosecutions wherever possible and support of victim protection efforts within the capacity of its limited resources. Michelini also stressed that the GOU actively participated in international fora to combat human trafficking. For example, Uruguay will host the second annual OAS meeting on trafficking in persons later this year, and it embraces training opportunities from the U.S. and other countries with advanced law enforcement and immigration techniques. 4. (SBU) Pintos and de Mello took particular issue with the standard report text for Tier Two countries that states, the GOU "does not fully comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking." While she admitted Uruguay's limitations in combating (due primarily to limited resources) trafficking, this stark language struck her as unfair as the "significant efforts of Uruguay were hardly less than minimum."

CASE: 6/6/2005

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi

CABLEID: 05ABUDHABI2495

CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: UAE LEADERS COMMITTED TO TIP PLAN FOLLOW THROUGH

COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

In contrast to the leadership, lower level police officials, particularly in Dubai, criticized the TIP report as unfair.

CASE: 7/2/2008

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 08BUENOSAIRE920

CABLEDATE: 7/2/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: ARGENTINA: VISITING G/TIP AMBASSADOR PRESENTS ANTI-TIP ACTION PLAN AND HAS "PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATION"

COUNTRY1: Argentina

On June 19, Ambassador Wayne and visiting Ambassador-at-Large and Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Mark P. Lagon called on Foreign Minister Jorge Taiana to discuss Argentina's efforts to combat trafficking in persons (TIP). Drawing from the TIP action plan in ref A, Lagon presented recommendations on how to strengthen Argentina's anti-TIP efforts, urging implementation and enforcement of Argentina's new federal anti-trafficking law, increased prosecutions of human traffickers and complicit officials, and increased assistance for trafficking victims. Lagon also offered USG cooperation in the fight against TIP. Taiana acknowledged that TIP is a problem in Argentina, but stated that the new federal law will be a valuable tool in investigating and prosecuting human trafficking rings. Taiana reiterated GOA "dissatisfaction with the TIP report, adding that it was hard to believe that the report was not 'political' when Argentina, Suriname, and Venezuela are all on the Department's Tier 2 Watch List. Lagon acknowledged that he knew the TIP Report can be seen as an irritant, but indicated that "clearly Argentina has taken a step forward." Lagon indicated that the USG values Argentina's partnership in the fight against TIP, and stated that "the United States is willing to share best practices on these matters." Taiana thanked him for the "productive conversation" and told Lagon that he "came at the right time to tackle the matter."

CASE: 6/13/2007

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Amman

CABLEID: 07AMMAN2537

CABLEDATE: 6/13/2007

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: GOJ BRIEFED ON 2007 TIP REPORT; PLANS CONTINUED

COUNTRY1: Jordan

EconCouns and poloff also briefed Secretary General of the Ministry of Labor Majed Habashneh on June 13. Habashneh welcomed reports such as TIP, saying they "opened his eyes" to some of the problems workers faced, and inspired him to improve working conditions for foreign laborers and protect Jordan's reputation. He outlined MOL plans for 2007 to improve the situation of foreign workers: implementing changes to the labor law upon passage by the parliament; requiring Jordanian firms recruiting foreign laborers to provide cultural orientation, and encouraging Jordanian labor unions - which foreign workers cannot legally join - to establish offices in all governorates to represent their interests. He also described Ministry efforts to partner with UNIFEM to build a shelter for foreign female domestic workers.

CASE: 6/26/2007

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Amman

CABLEID: 07AMMAN2757

CABLEDATE: 6/26/2007

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: GOJ PUBLICLY RESPONDS TO 2007 TIP REPORT; PLANS TO BUILD A SHELTER FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

COUNTRY1: Jordan

Jordanian Minister of Labor Basim Al-Salim downplayed the recently released Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report in an interview with Jordanian daily Al-Ghad published June 21. He did not deny the report's contents, but said the ministry "previously addressed" many issues raised in the report. Salim added that the TIP report "did not come up with anything new about Jordan."

CASE: 6/4/2008

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 08BUENOSAIRES775

CABLEDATE: 6/4/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: ARGENTINA DISAPPOINTED WITH TIP REPORT, BUT CONTINUES EFFORTS TO COMBAT TIP

COUNTRY1: Argentina

the Ambassador met June 3 with Argentine Minister of Justice Anibal Fernandez to share an embargoed copy of the 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. Minister Fernandez thanked the Ambassador for sharing the report, and immediately launched into a discussion of measures the MOJ will take in the coming months to operationalize Argentina's new trafficking in persons law. Separately, Polcouns met with MFA North America Deputy Director Maria Fernanda Canas to brief her on the report. She expressed disappointment with the ranking but thanked the Embassy for sharing the report in advance of its public release. In addition, post delivered a copy of the report to Chief of Cabinet Minister Alberto Fernandez.

CASE: 7/12/2007

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo

CABLEID: 07TOKYO3186

CABLEDATE: 7/12/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: G/TIP AMBASSADOR LAGON'S JULY 2 MEETING WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

COUNTRY1: Japan

Japan Says the Report is Unfair ----- 2. (C) The Japan country narrative of the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report is "biased and unfair" compared to other Tier 1 countries, said Foreign Policy Bureau Deputy Director-General Masatoshi Shimbo to Ambassador Mark Lagon, Director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP) during a July 2 meeting. Japan treats trafficking in persons as a serious crime and a violation of human rights and human dignity, and has therefore taken "aggressive actions" to fight human trafficking, stated DDG Shimbo. Japan was "not happy, not happy at all," to be ranked Tier 2 in the TIP Report, he complained, noting that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) had already delivered this message to Embassy Tokyo (Ref A). 3. (C) Fear that Japan will never be assessed fairly is "stronger than ever," added MOFA International Organized Crime Division Director Akihiko Uchikawa. After the 2006 Report, then-MOFA Director-General for Global Issues Takahiro Shinyo wrote a letter to Ambassador John Miller, then-G/TIP Director (attached in Ref B). In the letter, DG Shinyo claimed that Japan was held to a different standard than countries ranked in Tier 1. These inconsistencies remain in this year's report, asserted Uchikawa, citing that even though one G-8 country was criticized in the Report for suspending sentences in all but 31% of its trafficking convictions, it was still ranked at Tier 1. Japan will continue its efforts to fight human trafficking regardless of its evaluation in the TIP Report, but if the United States cannot clearly explain its Tier ranking criteria and give Japan assurances that meeting those criteria will result in a Tier-1 ranking, MOFA will no longer cooperate with the U.S. Embassy in compiling data for the report, said Uchikawa.

CASE: 6/6/2006

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Vientiane

CABLEID: 06VIENTIANE512

CABLEDATE: 6/6/2006

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: LAO MFA ON TIP REPORT FOR LAOS

COUNTRY1: Laos

Ambassador briefed MFA's Europe-Americas Department Director-General Southam Sakhonninhom today on the TIP report for Laos, conveying the talking points and Action Plan contained in refs A and B. 2. (C) Southam, who had already read the TIP Report for Laos and ref talking points we had submitted via diplomatic note yesterday, said his government was unhappy with the report, but acknowledged it was "our right" to say what we wanted. He noted, though, that other organizations and agencies interested in Laos' trafficking picture, including the UN, had generally praised the GoL for its anti-trafficking activities.

CASE: 6/6/2006

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 06MUSCAT907

CABLEDATE: 6/6/2006

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: TIP: OMAN DISMAYED BY TIER 2 WATCH LIST RANK

COUNTRY1: Oman

The normally imperturbable Sayyid Badr reacted harshly to the report, calling its assessment of Oman "unfair, arrogant, discourteous and unfriendly," and charging that it ignored Oman's serious, constructive engagement on TIP over the past year as well as the Sultanate's mature, positive relations with the U.S.

CASE: 3/5/2009

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait

CABLEID: 09KUWAIT195

CABLEDATE: 3/5/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: GOK, FOREIGN LABOR ATTACHES EXCHANGE HARSH WORDS AT IOM WORKSHOP

COUNTRY1: Kuwait

Publicly addressing PoOff, Al-Awadhi argued that the U.S. "blacklisting" of Kuwait in its Trafficking in Persons report was unfair because the "few" cases of maid abuse among Kuwait's 600,000 foreign maids was statistically insignificant and not due to negligence by the GOK.

CASE: 10/19/2009

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Tunis

CABLEID: 09TUNIS775

CABLEDATE: 10/19/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: TUNISIAN MFA PIQUED AT SOURCING OF TIP REPORT, BUT READY TO TALK

COUNTRY1: Tunisia

During an otherwise cordial courtesy call on October 13, Saida Chtoui, Secretary of State for Asia and the Americas (one of two deputies to Foreign Minister Abdallah) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, complained to the Ambassador about Tunisia's placement on the Trafficking in Persons Report's Tier II Watchlist. "We do not like reports that are not right," she exclaimed. Chtoui asserted that a GOT ad hoc interagency committee working in 2008 had provided the USG with a cache of data and facts that had been "completely ignored" in the Department's final product. Chtoui charged that allegations printed in the report were undocumented, such as a story about the trafficking of a seven year old sourced to a journalist based in the Netherlands. (Note: Our subsequent review of the report found no such reference. End note.) 2. (C) Responding, the Ambassador underlined the need for a substantive bilateral dialogue that would allow both sides to clear up misunderstandings and put the USG and Tunisia squarely on the same page in the global fight against human trafficking. If the Tunisian government is regularly prosecuting traffickers and making systematic efforts to identify and assist victims, we want to convey the details to Washington and make sure the authors of the report are fully briefed. Establishing a substantive dialogue is the key, the Ambassador repeated. 3. (C) Chtoui again emphasized the GOT's disappointment with the report's "totally unfair" findings. "Our record of caring for our children, for our women, for the elderly, can be compared to that of the world's most developed countries," she underlined. "We know we are not perfect," but Tunisia has a higher awareness and makes greater efforts than any of its neighbors in this regard, Chtoui maintained. 4. (C) Referencing his October 5 discussion with the Minister of Justice (ref A), the Ambassador said the Embassy would be seeking a meeting with a senior MOJ official named as a POC on the TIP issue and hoped the MFA would support and collaborate in a new round of dialogue. "If we have an understanding that we are working together without preconceived ideas and judgments," then the MFA will support more dialogue, Chtoui allowed.

CASE: 6/6/2005

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi

CABLEID: 05ABUDHABI2495

CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: UAE LEADERS COMMITTED TO TIP PLAN FOLLOW THROUGH

COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

"Gulf News" reported June 5 that a spokesman for the Human Rights Department of Dubai Police called the report unfair and said that U.S. sanction threats were toothless and would not help solve the problem.

CASE: 6/27/2005

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait

CABLEID: 05KUWAIT2869

CABLEDATE: 6/27/2005

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: GOK OBJECTS TO TIP "COMPARISON" TO OTHER GULF STATES; PDAS CHENEY OUTLINES STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE RA

COUNTRY1: Kuwait

ummary and comment: During her June 25 visit to Kuwait, NEA PDAS Cheney emphasized the need to make progress in dealing with the trafficking in persons (TIP) issue. Three senior officials voiced GOK disappointment with the 2005 report. The new Minister of Planning, the Foreign Minister, and the senior Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister all complained that Kuwait was unfairly compared to other Gulf countries -- Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE -- and said the report failed to address efforts underway to improve the working conditions for expatriate laborers. PDAS Cheney emphasized that countries were assessed independently and said the goal of the report was to identify areas for improvement, not to punish or embarrass. She highlighted the 60-day period for action and recommended the GOK consider action against stables that use child camel jockeys and take steps to prosecute those who exploit foreign workers. She stated the U.S. commitment to working with Kuwait on TIP issues and advised the officials of G/TIP's interest in visiting Kuwait. The Ambassador reiterated the need for real action not the formation of committees. Post has repeatedly raised TIP issues with senior GOK officials, and the chorus of comments to PDAS Cheney makes clear that the report and U.S. concerns have gotten the Government's attention, although the perceived comparison to other Gulf states is the biggest concern. FM Shaykh Dr. Mohammed said the Prime Minister would discuss TIP issues during his July 1 visit; PDAS Cheney stressed that the visit is an opportunity to elaborate on the measures taken to improve working conditions for expatriate laborers.

CASE: 6/17/2009

CODE: government reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 09BUENOSAIRE5706

CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: (C) ARGENTINA: FOREIGN MINISTER "VERY UPSET" ABOUT TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Argentina

On the instructions of Argentine FM Jorge Taiana, MFA Chief of Staff Alberto D'Alotto called CDA June 17 to express the GOA's irritation with the State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report which placed Argentina on the Tier 2 Watch List. D'Alotto said Taiana was "very upset" with the report's "willfully ignorant" criticism of GOA efforts to fight TIP. D'Alotto added that the "excessively critical" USG report will make it more difficult for the GOA to work with the USG to combat TIP. Although the report did not make front-page news, Argentina's two leading dailies focused on the negative aspects of the report and their headlines used the word "harsh" to describe the report. As noted in refuels, post remains concerned that failure to recognize the GOA's notable efforts to combat TIP ultimately undermines efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation in this important human rights and law enforcement issue. End summary. MFA Reaction: Ranking Argentina Lower than its Neighbors is "Objectively False" ----- 2. (C) MFA Chief of Staff Alberto D'Alotto called CDA June 17 to express the GOA's irritation with the State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report which placed Argentina on the Tier 2 Watch List. D'Alotto said that he was calling on the instructions of Foreign Minister Jorge Taiana, who was in New York. D'Alotto characterized Taiana as "very upset" with Argentina's ranking on the Watch List and found it "hard to understand" such critical comments on the GOA's efforts. He said that Argentina does not deny the existence of a trafficking problem in Argentina, but to put it in a lower category than countries like Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, and Central American countries, he said, was "unbelievable" and "objectively false." 3. (C) Given that countries like Paraguay were longstanding sources of trafficked women, D'Alotto said that Taiana thought that the rankings indicated "a lack of regional

understanding" of the causes and scope of the problem and a willful ignorance of GOA efforts over the last year to combat trafficking. D'Alotto added that the "excessively critical" report will complicate the efforts of those within the GOA who want to work with the USG to combat TIP here. He added that the USG, in its reliance on press reports, seemed to be punishing Argentina for its tradition of investigative journalism, which excels at uncovering problems. Countries like Bolivia and Paraguay, he asserted, do not have the same tradition, which may be why there is an abundance of stories concerning the trafficking issue in Argentina. 4. (C) D'Alotto also said that more suspicious elements within the GOA will be inclined to interpret the report's release less than two weeks before Argentina's critical June 28 mid-term election as a political provocation. The CDA cautioned against the public airing of this conspiratorial thinking, pointing out that the report is always released at the same time of year and reviews TIP policies all over the world, not just in Argentina. A GOA claim of a USG "operation" against Argentina would offend Washington. D'Alotto took the point and said he did not expect that such a view would be aired.

CASE: 2/3/2009
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Tirana
CABLEID: 09TIRANA74
CABLEDATE: 2/3/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: GOA CONSIDERING REGIONAL ANTI-TIP FORUM
COUNTRY1: Albania

(Comment: Melo seemed to convey some genuine embarrassment at being on the Tier 2 Watch List, as he noted that Albania does not share many attributes with other countries on the list. End comment.)

CASE: 6/21/2008
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT469
CABLEDATE: 6/21/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: OMAN MEDIA REACTION: MORE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON TIP; INDIVIDUALS EXPRESS DISAGREEMENT
COUNTRY1: Oman

The Omani Journalists Association, which is one of the Omani civil society organizations, renews its rejection and condemnation of such unfair report, especially when work is under way to create special legislation on human trafficking, which is an international phenomenon.'

CASE: 6/23/2008
CODE: government reaction
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT474
CABLEDATE: 6/23/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ROYAL OMAN POLICE, MAJLIS AL-SHURA SUSPEND AREAS OF COOPERATION DUE TO TIP
COUNTRY1: Oman

However, Fadel's comments reflect a deep sense of betrayal over the TIP Report, and we cannot rule out the possibility that more ministries or government institutions that share this feeling may make similar decisions to limit cooperation with us.

CASE: 6/15/2005
CODE: media critical of report
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 05ABUDHABI2705
CABLEDATE: 6/15/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

SUMMARY: A UAE COLUMNIST RIDICULES THE TIP REPORT BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAYING THAT THOSE WHO PREPARED THE REPORT "HAVE DEALT ONLY WITH THE MOST EXTREME EXAMPLES OF ABUSES OF HOUSEMAIDS AND IGNORED THE MAJORITY THAT ARE TREATED WELL AND WITH DIGNITY IN OUR HOMES". HE CALLED ON SECRETARY RUMSFELD TO RESIGN, FOLLOWING THE REVELATIONS OF KORAN ABUSE AND THE VIOLATIONS AT THE ABU GHARIB PRISON. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE EXECUTIONER CAN NEVER BECOME A JUDGE AND THOSE WHO ARE VIOLATORS OF THE LAW CAN NOT BECOME PROMOTERS OF IT AT THE SAME TIME. END SUMMARY 2. MUHAMMAD YOUSUF WROTE IN HIS DAILY COLUMN IN DUBAI-BASED ARABIC DAILY "AL-BAYAN" 6/10(CIRCULATION 90,000): "FOLLOWING NEWSWEEK'S RETRACTION OF ITS EARLIER REPORT REGARDING THE DESECRATION OF THE HOLY KORAN AT THE GUANTANAMO BAY, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY HERE THAT TWO WEEKS AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT, THE PENTAGON ADMITTED THAT THERE ARE SEVEN CASES IN WHICH THE KORAN WAS ABUSED. FOUR WERE CONFIRMED, BUT THREE ARE STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION. IT SEEMS THAT NEWSWEEK IS GIVING US A LESSON IN THE FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA. WE ARE ACCUSED OF ABUSING MAIDS, ACCORDING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S TIP REPORT. IT SEEMS THAT THOSE WHO PREPARED THE REPORT MET ONLY WITH THE CORRUPT AND THE PERVERTED TO COME UP WITH SUCH A CONCLUSION. IF THEY HAD INVESTIGATED FURTHER, THEY WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT MAIDS RULE AND CONTROL MANY HOUSES IN THE GULF, AND ARE TREATED WITH DIGNITY BY OUR WOMEN. BY THE WAY, THE U.S., WHICH SEEMS TO BE BUSY WITH THE SITUATION REGARDING OUR MAIDS AND PREPARES REPORTS THAT CONTRADICT REALITY, IS RELUCTANT TO RESPOND TO THE AMNESTY GENERAL WHO ACCUSED THE U.S. OF CONFIRMED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. AS WE ARE TACKLING THIS, WE MUST ASK "WHEN WILL DONALD RUMSFELD SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE?" HE PUSHED THE PENTAGON INTO SCANDALS AND WEEKLY VIOLATIONS. HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO THE JAILERS HAVE BECOME SUBJECT OF RIDICULE, AND THE EVENTS OF ABU GHARIB IN IRAQ REPRESENTS ONLY A TINY PORTION OF WHAT STARTED TO BE REVEALED OF VIOLATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN AND OTHER PLACES.. THE EXECUTIONER CAN NOT BECOME A JUDGE AND THOSE WHO VIOLATE THE LAW CAN NEVER BECOME PROTECTORS OF THE LAW." SISON

CASE: 6/9/2008

CODE: media critical of report

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 08MUSCAT418

CABLEDATE: 6/9/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: OMAN MEDIA REACTION: Trafficking in Persons Report

COUNTRY1: Oman

1. SUMMARY: While the number of Omani papers responding to date to the release of the 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report is to date limited (to wire service material in on English private daily and more targeted coverage in a pair of Arabic and English sister papers), one paper has made the issue the subject of two, by local standards, fiery editorials, and online reaction has been swift and predictably negative. Meanwhile, editorials continue to express discontent with the situation in Iraq. END SUMMARY. ----- TIP: "RANDOM ACCUSATIONS FOR DIRTY PURPOSES" ----- 2. On June 5, private Arabic daily "Al-Watan" (circulation 42,000) lashed out in response to the just-released TIP report, claiming blackmail as the new policy motivating Oman's tier 3 rating and asking, "Why this Blackmail?": "The Sultanate has taken great steps towards protecting human rights and has worked to create an atmosphere in which every individual can exercise his or her rights and practice their religious beliefs freely. Oman made a lot of progress on combating human trafficking and on ending any practice that prejudices the lives, rights, and freedoms of others. The government of Oman participated in the UN conference of the Global Initiative to Combat Human Trafficking. Omani officials understand the need for justice for all people, regardless of color, race, social status, and position. Unfortunately, America, which has declared itself the defender of human rights, insists on releasing reports that undo the tireless efforts of Oman. What makes it worse is that these accusations come from a country that is characterized as an ally and friend, which has deep ties based on mutual interests and economic cooperation, security and mutual respect. However, it seems that there a shift in the U.S. policy with its allies in the region. This shift is towards the practice of blackmail, which Washington resorts to when there is a conflict, or

when it is in its interest to achieve political gains at the expense of the region and its stability, prosperity and security. The United States should have looked at itself and evaluated itself before evaluating others, because corruption emerges in every detail of their lives. In addition, America should distance itself from pursuing such empty and mindless policies and from making random accusations for dirty purposes. At least it would not lose what was left of the respect between her and the people of this region and the world." 3. A June 9 commentary, also in "Al-Watan", "The Sultanate and the U.S. Tip Report", said: "Despite serious and sincere efforts, the U.S. insists on listing the Sultanate as Tier 3 in the TIP Report. Why did the U.S. sign an FTA agreement if Oman is a country that traffics in persons? The U.S. report turns a blind eye to the violations of human rights in the U.S. itself, in Israel and Iraq." ----- ONLINE: PHYSICIAN, HEAL THYSELF -----
 ----- 4. Oman's most active online discussion site, Al Sabla (www.omania2.net), posted strong reaction to the publishing of the TIP report. One discussion thread, titled "U.S. Insists on Placing Oman on the List of Human Trafficking Countries" received 32 comments and 1,235 views, one of the most active threads in the forum. Among the strongest quotes: "Who appointed America to make such a report?" "Ignore them and their reports because it is only lies." "Why they don't look to what is happening inside their country and the corruption that is taking place?" "Our government deserves it because they are submissive to the infidel country like America sacrificing the teaching of our religion."

CASE: 6/24/2008

CODE: media critical of report

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 08MUSCAT480

CABLEDATE: 6/24/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: NEGATIVE TIP COVERAGE SHOWS SIGNS OF A COORDINATED STRATEGY

COUNTRY1: Oman

1. (C) Summary: Coverage in both the Arabic and English-language local press of Oman's Tier 3 ranking in the 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report has gone through several distinct stages, with an increasing number of official and civil society actors criticizing the report and the USG. Contacts state that this is part of a coordinated strategy, in which the government is using a compliant media to discredit the report and pressure the USG to revise Oman's status. Post expects the current tenor of local media coverage to continue, with the government attempting to expand its campaign regionally, until Oman is either removed from Tier 3 or finds a face-saving way out of the current impasse. End Summary. ----- STAGE 1: Setting the Official Message -----

- 2. (C) On June 11, Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), issued a strongly-worded press statement that established the terminology and themes of the government's criticism of the 2008 TIP Report to date. He rejected the report's "misleading information" and "incorrect allegations" by calling attention to Oman's "serious cooperation with the international community" in defending human rights and "the tradition, morals and culture of Omani society" that "reject violations of human dignity." In the same message, Badr stressed Oman's "good historical relations with the United States" and stated his hope that "officials at the U.S. State Department would revise the report," implicitly calling for Oman's removal from Tier 3. -----

----- STAGE 2: Shifting to Populist Themes ----- 3. (C) Sayyid Badr's

statement set the stage for additional criticism from other government officials and civil society actors, which contacts suggest represents a coordinated media strategy to achieve the government's objectives. By June 15, when the Majlis al-Shura issued its public statement denouncing the TIP report, Oman's message began to assume a more populist tone (ref A). Rhetoric in editorials and statements from civil society organizations like the Oman Journalists Association (OJA) increasingly tied displeasure over Oman's Tier 3 ranking with criticism of the USG's regional policies (ref B). Despite their increased intensity, these statements continued to hue closely to the main points of Sayyid Badr's original message - rejection of the report yet reaffirmation of good bilateral relations. While government officials generally remained silent during this stage, on June 16, Sayyid Badr made an exclusive statement to the Arabic-language daily "Al-Azzamn" to call for "a response from the U.S. administration" to a written rebuttal to specific points in TIP report that he had provided the Ambassador on June 10 (ref C). 4. (C) While coverage of the TIP Report slowed down over the June 19-20 Omani weekend, it picked up again on June 21 with expanded input from different segments of civil society. Local press carried statements from individual Western businessmen - including one American executive based in Oman - questioning the basis of the report (ref D). On June 23, the Acting Chairman of the General Federation of Oman's Laborers (GF) - Oman's national-level worker representative body - issued a statement in Arabic and English papers criticizing the report and

supporting the "clear measures" that the government has taken over the past year to combat all forms of labor exploitation and abuse. (Note: The Acting Chairman informed poloff previously that he was considering releasing a statement about TIP, but admitted that he had not read the report. End note.) The June 23 edition of the Arabic-daily "al-Shabiba" carried an article written by the chairwoman of an Oman Women's Association (OWA) chapter near Muscat, which both criticized the report and expressed doubt that Oman could do anything to combat trafficking, including passing anti-TIP legislation, that would "satisfy the arrogance of the U.S. State Department." Criticism of the TIP Report even received coverage in the biweekly entertainment supplement "al-Hayati," which contacts attributed to the government's effort to reach Omanis who do not normally read political commentary. MUSCAT 0000480 002 OF 002 ----- STAGE 3: Expanding Regionally -----
 - - - - - 5. (C) In a sign of government efforts to bring its message before a broader regional audience, Reuters carried a June 23 statement by Sayyid Badr reasserting the government's official message that "the (USG's) human trafficking claim is unfounded" because of Oman's strong record of protecting human rights. In addition, Minister of Information Hamad bin Muhammad al-Rashdi made a statement to the Egyptian Daily "al-Akhbar" again rejecting the TIP report while claiming that "the U.S. Administration (has) promised to review the report." Both statements were picked up by the Kuwait News Agency, Arabic Reuters, the UAE News Agency, and Radio Sawa. (Note: The Reuters report blunted Sayyid Badr's comments, however, by combining them with the fact that the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain had taken concrete steps this year to avoid Tier 3, indicating that Oman's tightly-controlled message does not resonate outside the Sultanate. End note.) - - - - Comment - - - -
 6. (C) The regularity and conformity of the statements by Omani officials, NGOs, and individuals hint strongly at a calculated campaign directed by the government, most likely the Office of the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to win Oman's removal from Tier 3. Post expects Oman's Tier 3 ranking will continue to receive daily coverage in local media - cycling through the stages mentioned above with more government and civil society actors denouncing the report as baseless and inaccurate - until the Sultanate either achieves its goal or finds a face-saving way out of the current impasse. End comment. FONTENEAU

CASE: 9/29/2007

CODE: media critical of report

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 07MUSCAT916

CABLEDATE: 9/29/2007

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: MEDIA REACTION: TIP INTERVIEW, HUMAN RIGHTS AS "AMERICAN BLACKMAIL"

COUNTRY1: Oman

----- COVERAGE ----- 2. On Monday, September 24, Arabic-language, privately owned daily "Al-Shabiba" (circulation 20,000) and its sister English-language paper "Times of Oman" (circulation 25,000) carried an interview with Ambassador Mark Lagon, Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP). The "Times" ran the interview on page four under the headline, "Sultanate Committed to Ensuring Dignity of Workers: U.S. Official" and "Al-Shabiba" front-paged an introduction, with a continuation on page three that featured a large photo of Ambassador Lagon and the headline "Omani-American Agreement to Strengthen Anti-Trafficking in Persons Laws." The interviewer, Mohammed al Balushi, was a 2006 Edward R. Murrow Fellow. 3. The Arabic-language article ran as an interview, while the English text was a shorter summary interspersed with quotes from Ambassador Lagon. Both highlighted Ambassador Lagon's consultations with Omani officials about TIP and presented the issue as a shared concern of both governments that they are working together to address. ----- BLOCK QUOTES: HUMAN RIGHTS IS "AMERICAN BLACKMAIL" ----- 4. On Friday, September 21, Arabic daily "Al-Watan" (circulation 42,000) published editorials about U.S. foreign policy and human rights on a page topped with "Human Rights: American Blackmail." The lead editorial criticized the Trafficking in Persons report and Ambassador Grappo's defense of it (REFTEL). Excerpts of this and the other "Al-Watan" editorials follow: "The U.S. Department of State persists in issuing annual human rights reports that cover all aspects of the issue (whether economic, social, cultural, religious, racial, or political) and that monitor nations' respect for human rights. This U.S. effort could have gained the world's admiration if Washington had detached it from its own political goals and intentions and those of its allies, such as Israel, whose interests take precedence to the interests of America itself. Although there are some countries and governments that have friendly relations with the U.S.A, and America has key interests in these countries, we find that Washington sacrifices these relations on many occasions for the sake of political blackmail. It uses human rights to pressure friendly governments in order to obtain from them political stances in its favor or in the favor of its ally, i.e.

Israel. No country in the world has managed to escape this U.S. political blackmailing, including our country, for which all the world stood as witness for its respect to human rights. The last picture of this blackmailing is the Trafficking in Persons report, which was defended by the U.S. Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, despite the fact that this report was founded on very weak bases, if we ever supposed that it has any bases at all." ----- U.S. "IGNORES CRIMES" IN IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN -----

5. An Iraqi lawyer resident in Oman added a commentary entitled "The Legal Response to American Blackmailing about Trafficking in Persons": "Omani Labor Law occupies a very prominent position among the other laws. This is due to its compliance with the international labor laws. No doubt, this law is considered as one of the most high-ranking laws among its peers, as it always endeavors to meet the interests of both the employer and employee. This could be evidenced in articles 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 18 and 20 of this law. So, has the U.S. Department of State ever viewed these articles? And has it seen the terms and conditions guaranteed by Oman's Labor Law and other Omani laws to prevent any trading in persons or any other such crimes? Don't all these laws prove that the Sultanate of Oman has done its utmost to fight such violations and protect against them as well as against any other crimes? The articles that we have mentioned from Oman's Labor law are just a few examples; there are many others that serve the same purpose. If this paper wants us to write about them, we can supply it with many other examples, but we have tried to give just a summary of them. In fact, the practical realities that we see in the courts of justice are other proofs that support our opinion and the opinion of "Al-Watan" newspaper to counter the U.S. Department of State's report, which ignores the crimes that are committed in Iraq and Afghanistan under the pretext of the hollow democracy that Americans are calling for. The State Department's allegations could be summed up by the Arabic verse that says: Your tongue should never reveal the deficiencies of other people, since you are full of deficiencies and the people have tongues." ----- AMERICA'S "BASELESS ALLEGATIONS" -----

6. Muhammad al Khalig, an Egyptian expatriate on the staff of "Al-Watan" wrote about "Washington and the Humanitarian Game": "The American 'friend' has started to charge its Gulf friends of 'trafficking in persons' although the history of this area is rich in examples of defending humanitarian causes. No one objects to the wish of any expatriate in this area to earn a livelihood so long as he respects the culture, beliefs, and traditions of the peaceful Gulf people, among whom are the Omani people. Each road or street in Oman and each establishment in this country expresses its respect to the whole humanity and gives the chance to every resident to take his or her chance to find a good means of living and exercise his or her beliefs freely. Despite all these clear facts, we are surprised to hear about a report issued by the U.S. Department of State that included the Sultanate with other countries that allegedly traffick in persons. Although whatever is issued by the U.S. Department of State or the U.S. Administration is not generally obligatory to any other country, the Gulf citizen has the right to be surprised for this American venture of baseless accusations... No one in the Gulf region needs to prove this report's discrepancies. It is quite sufficient for the report writers to have a tour of the streets of Muscat or any other Gulf capital to see by their own eyes the spirit of tolerance and forbearance that dominates this area and the respect that all residents get in these countries. Let them also have a look at the rules that regulate the employment of the expatriate laborers to discover the effort of the public institutions in applying the international standards, not the imbalanced American standards, which are connected to pressures that we have no time to mention here." ----- EXCESSES IN OMAN ARE INDIVIDUAL "EXCEPTIONS" -----

7. The head of public relations for the "Omantel" company wrote about "Human Rights in the Sultanate of Oman": "We should not view ourselves as citizens of the 'Virtuous City' of Plato. Excesses might occur here and there sometimes, on individual bases, and this may happen in all communities without exception, due to coexistence between different people. However we can not say that such practices are organized by any official party or institution. It is merely an exceptional behavior and should not be generalized, or fastened on countries that are doing their best and for a long time to protect the rights of others, just as they are protecting the right of their citizens. These countries are facilitating the way to justice to prevail against any excesses regardless of the person who commits them... Any bad practice is also rejected by our sublime religion and our norms and traditions... The Sultanate of Oman's policy in regards to respecting human rights has become a pioneer in recognizing the humanity of every person and respecting his or her rights and dignity. What needs to be documented with great pride and pleasure is that the gains of this blessed renaissance are not restricted to the material development and progress only, but to the high value given to the people and their human rights and dignity." FONTENEAU

CASE: 6/6/2005

CODE: media critical of report

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait

CABLEID: 05KUWAIT2485

CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR CRITICIZED FOR REITERATING U.S. POSITION ON IRAN
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

he criticism of the Ambassador's remarks followed closely the June 3 announcement that Kuwait and other Gulf allies were ranked as Tier 3 countries in the Department's 2005 TIP report, as well as the April 29 re-listing of Kuwait on the USTR's 301 Priority Watch List for IPR infringements. Both announcements and the speech earned criticism from local English daily The Kuwait Times, which published a June 5 article entitled: "With Friends Like These: US policies aggravate relations with Kuwait."

CASE: 6/12/2008
CODE: media critical of report
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 08KUWAIT666
CABLEDATE: 6/12/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION -- TIP and GCC Foreign Ministers' Collective Statement
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

A limited amount of press coverage immediately followed the U.S. Department of State's June 4 release of the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. However, there since has been a plethora of articles, editorials, and op-eds responding to the report's contents. Although most of the articles offer scathing criticisms of the report's contents, some laud the report for bringing to light the problem of human trafficking in Kuwait. Additionally, all local English and Arabic language dailies carried articles about the June 10 GCC Foreign Ministers' joint statement, which characterized the report as "unfriendly" to the GCC countries. This cable highlights some of the subsequent press coverage of the TIP report, as well as the press coverage of the June 10 statement. End Summary and Comment

CASE: 6/23/2005
CODE: media critical of report
ORIGIN: Embassy Yerevan
CABLEID: 05YEREVAN1091
CABLEDATE: 6/23/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: ARMENIA: MEDIA REACTION TO DVC WITH AMBASSADOR MILLER ON THE TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Armenia

On June 17, 2005 U.S. Embassy Yerevan held a digital video conference (DVC) on the 2005 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report with Ambassador John Miller, director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Media coverage of the conference was widespread, with approximately six television stations, one radio station, and six print sources covering the event. Coverage focused on the TIP Report statement that "indications of official collusion and complicity among government officials hampered the government's efforts to adequately tackle Armenia's trafficking problem" and complained that the USG did not provide more concrete evidence to support assertions of official collusion

CASE: 6/18/2009
CODE: media critical of report
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 09ABUDHABI626
CABLEDATE: 6/18/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT ON UAE
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

Headlines: -- Main front-page headline in Abu Dhabi-based Arabic semi-official daily "Al-Ittihad" (circulation 65,000), 06/17: "UAE national Committee for Combating Trafficking in Humans: U.S. human trafficking report is disappointing and lacks objectivity and accuracy" -- Dubai-based English daily Gulf News (circulation 95,000), front-page headline on 06/17: "U.S. report on anti-trafficking efforts 'distorted', says UAE" -- Front-page headline in Sharjah-based Arabic daily "Al-Khaleej"

(circulation 90,000) on 06/17: "UAE: U.S. human trafficking report lacks accuracy" -- Dubai-based Arabic daily "Al-Bayan" (circulation 85,000) and Dubai-based tabloid-like Arabic daily "Emarat Al Youm" (circulation 20,000), headline: "Anwar Gergash: U.S. human trafficking report lacks objectivity and accuracy" -- Front-page headline in Abu Dhabi-based English daily The National (circulation 65,000 on 06/17: "Government calls U.S. criticism over trafficking 'disappointing'; UAE is reinstated to official watch list of rights violators" -- Front-page headline Dubai-based English daily Khaleej Times (circulation 80,000) on 06/17: " Human Trafficking Report by U.S. Distorted and Disappointing: UAE" 3. Under the headline "U.S. report on trafficking appears biased", Dubai-based English daily Gulf News editorialized:

CASE: 6/21/2008

CODE: media critical of report

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 08MUSCAT469

CABLEDATE: 6/21/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: OMAN MEDIA REACTION: MORE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON TIP; INDIVIDUALS EXPRESS DISAGREEMENT

COUNTRY1: Oman

: Press coverage of TIP continued at the same elevated level reported in reftel, with over a dozen articles appearing in English and Arabic since Monday, June 16. On Tuesday, June 17, the Oman Journalist Association (OJA) issued a statement, carried in all dailies, in line with other official and semi-official statements issued to date. Wednesday, the Secretary General of the GCC issued his own statement, saying, "The Sultanate's stand reflects its strong and clear vision... I call upon the U.S. State Department to review its unfriendly policies towards GCC countries." Today, state-owned daily "Observer" and private daily "Times of Oman" ran articles interviewing south Asian and western expats, who add their voices of support to Oman's TIP rejection. END SUMMARY. -----

----- OJA: "The Bright Record of the Sultanate" ----- 2. On Tuesday, June 17, English and Arabic dailies all ran coverage of a statement issued by the Oman Journalist Association voicing its rejection of Oman's tier 3 TIP rating. Private English language daily "The Tribune" (circulation 8,000) said in "Oman Journalists Association Assails US Report": "The Omani Journalists Association issued a statement condemning...the 'false allegation that the Sultanate is not taking enough measures to combat human trafficking.' The statement said that the report did not reflect the bright record of the Sultanate that had been recognized by international prestigious organizations known for their credibility and being away from political blackmailing. The statement also said: 'The basic statue of the state secures dignity for locals as well as expatriates. While the reports are subjective and selective, they spoil the relations between countries do not serve communication and dialogue among cultures. They rather create animosity and hostility. The Omani Journalists Association, which is one of the Omani civil society organizations, renews its rejection and condemnation of such unfair report, especially when work is under way to create special legislation on human trafficking, which is an international phenomenon.'" ----- Al Attiya: The Sultanate's "Strong and Clear Vision" -----

3. On June 17, private Arabic daily "Al Watan" (circulation 42,000) and private English language daily "The Tribune" (circulation 8,000) published an exclusive statement by GCC Secretary General Abd al-Rahman bin Hamad al-Attiya. According to "GCC Backs Sultanates Rejection of US Report": "Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary General Abdulrahman Al Attiyah has supported the rejection letter handed by HE Sayyid Badr al Busaidi to the U.S. ambassador to the Sultanate. In a statement to the Tribune, Attiyah said the GCC supports the Sultanate's rejection of the false allegations made in the report. The Sultanate's stand reflects its strong and clear vision. The unjustified reports have political motives. I call on the US State Department to review its unfriendly practices towards GCC countries." -----

----- "There is nothing like what is cited in the report" -----

4. On Saturday, June 21, state-owned English language daily "Observer" (circulation 20,000) and private English language daily "Times of Oman" (circulation 25,000) ran articles based on interviews with south Asian and western expats stating satisfaction with life in Oman and disagreement over the TIP report. Block quotes as follows: "It is almost 25 years since I first came to Oman. Initial concern over living and working conditions quickly gave way to the realization that the local people are very warm and friendly, respectful to expatriates and have an excellent sense of hospitality." "The wave of resentment unleashed in the Sultanate over the recent US report on human trafficking seems to be strong, with even Americans in the country frowning at the report. 'Oman is a very tolerant country, with proper laws and measures in place to prevent human trafficking,' says an American who has been living in the Sultanate for the last seven years. 'I'm not

sure how and why the U.S. has come up with such a report.'" MUSCAT 00000469 002 OF 002
"Oman is a very fair and free country. There is nothing like what is cited in the report,' says an Indian expatriate who has been living in Muscat for the last 25 years. 'I am really amazed by the report. I don't know what basis they are assessing all these things. I would say this country is

CASE: 6/7/2006

CODE: media critical of report

ORIGIN: Embassy Damascus

CABLEID: 06DAMASCUS2669

CABLEDATE: 6/7/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: Damascus Media Reaction: Syria/Yemen, Syria/Cuba, Lebanon, Palestinian Territories, Iraq, Iran (6/7)

COUNTRY1: Syria

Asaad Abboud, an editorialist in government-owned Al-Thawra stated (6/7): "The U.S. State Department report on human trafficking placed Syria in the third and lowest tier along with, of course, Iran. The same report listed Syria last year in the second tier. So the shift between last year and this year is an indicator of the development of American policy and the U.S. political stand towards Syria. "I don't think there is a visitor in the whole world, including Americans who have visited Syria and stayed for a few days or longer, who does not know the illogicality of what was stated in the Department of State report. It is far removed from the truth, and I think that every American who has known Syria, including members of the diplomatic corps and American Embassy personnel, know that it is fabrication that is drenched in sin up to the neck.... "America is trying to strike all principles of human rights in the world by distorting the situations of human beings and states to subjugate them to political inclinations. Just recently the Pentagon dared to infringe the Geneva Convention on POWs, so it withdrew from a provision in the Geneva Convention to exempt US forces from their hideous acts. "As for us, let us be cautious; the issue is not a game. They are intending to hit us in our best preserved treasure: social and moral security."

CASE: 8/29/2007

CODE: media critical of report

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 07MUSCAT822

CABLEDATE: 8/29/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: TIP GETS NEGATIVE PRESS COVERAGE; GOVERNMENT MAKING PROGRESS

COUNTRY1: Oman

1. (C) Summary: Throughout the summer, Oman's press has given negative coverage to the 2007 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report and Oman's Tier 3 designation, with multiple articles questioning the report's credibility and U.S. motives. Nevertheless, the government continues to make progress on improving its capacity to combat TIP, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) championing comprehensive anti-TIP legislation, and the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) considering new regulations to control and monitor the recruitment of foreign workers. The discrepancy between shock and anger expressed in public and the government's steady, yet quiet action suggests that the government may be trying to save face while attempting to fulfill the recommendations in the TIP action plan. End summary.

CASE: 6/21/2006

CODE: media critical of report

ORIGIN: Embassy Yerevan

CABLEID: 06YEREVAN836

CABLEDATE: 6/21/2006

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: TIP RATING CATCHES KOCHARIAN'S ATTENTION

COUNTRY1: Armenia

In the days following the June 6 TIP Report release, the pro-government press, the procuracy and the police department publicly dismissed it as inaccurate.

CASE: 6/21/2006

CODE: media critical of report
ORIGIN: Embassy Yerevan
CABLEID: 06YEREVAN836
CABLEDATE: 6/21/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP RATING CATCHES KOCHARIAN'S ATTENTION
COUNTRY1: Armenia

In public, pro-government media and law enforcement officials have dismissed the TIP Report as inaccurate. Reports by pro-government newspapers in the days following the June 6 release of the 2006 TIP Report were largely critical of the report's methodology. The Hayots Ashkhar newspaper reported June 8 that NGOs are one source of information for the TIP Report, and questioned the credibility of NGO sources, saying this would not be the first time that NGOs have exaggerated facts. The same day, Hayots Ashkhar quoted the procuracy spokesman as saying that the report was inaccurate and that its sources were unreliable. 7. (C) Law enforcement officials also publicly questioned the validity of the TIP Report's allegations. Almost all Armenian newspapers covered a June 15 press conference held by the deputy head of the police department, Karen Babakekhian, during which he presented statistics of criminal cases related to trafficking and pimping. Haykakan Zhamanak, a gossip-prone tabloid, reported that Babakekhian's press conference was intended to refute the TIP Report. Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian said during a June 8 press conference that Armenian authorities were taking serious steps to solve the trafficking problem. He noted that instances of trafficking appear to have increased despite those serious steps, and did not offer a reason. (Note: Though not presented in an explicitly defensive posture, Oskanian's comments appeared to be intended to demonstrate that Armenia was doing everything in its power to combat trafficking.

CASE: 7/3/2007
CODE: media critical of report
ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo
CABLEID: 07CAIRO2041
CABLEDATE: 7/3/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN
HEADING: JUNE 28 DCM MEETING WITH DR. MOHAMED MATTAR REGARDING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) REPORT
COUNTRY1: Egypt

The Egyptian perception to the trafficking issue in general and the TIP report specifically is extremely defensive, as was made evident by the immediate backlash in the press against it. This has led many Egyptians to view the report as "a set of accusations rather than a diplomatic tool for engagement". Mattar said this was more pronounced in Egypt than in the full Tier 3, where many statistics were found.

CASE: 6/22/2009
CODE: media critical of report
ORIGIN: Embassy Caracas
CABLEID: 09CARACAS779
CABLEDATE: 6/22/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: TIP REPORT "AN OBSTACLE TO NORMALIZING RELATIONS"
COUNTRY1: Venezuela

2. (SBU) Nevertheless, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs categorically rejected the TIP report in a June 17 press release calling the report "a tool of the political imperialists against independent countries", and said that the U.S. "oppresses and exploits immigrants, especially Latin Americans, divides families, builds border walls, has practiced torture and protects terrorists." The press release concluded by stating that the TIP report "is a serious obstacle to normalizing bilateral relations." Pro-government newspapers have based coverage of the TIP report on this press release. German Saltron, a senior GBRV human rights official, sharply criticized the TIP report in an interview on the government-owned Venezolana de Television station. He said that that the problem was a result of world poverty caused by capitalism, and that the U.S. was the driving force behind trafficking in persons world-wide.

CASE: 6/18/2007
CODE: media critical of report
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 07KUWAIT938
CABLEDATE: 6/18/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: KUWAITIS DEFENSIVE ABOUT TIER 3 TIP RANKING, THOUGH SOME ACKNOWLEDGE PROBLEMS
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

ess reactions to the report were critical overall. The most common criticism was of U.S. hypocrisy in criticizing human rights in Kuwait while perpetrating human rights abuses in Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib, secret prisons in Europe, and Iraq. Columnist Khalid Al-Enezi came up with the most creative response by connecting the report to a recent statement by Kuwait's defense minister that Kuwait would not allow the U.S. to use Kuwait's territory to launch an attack on Iran. Al-Enezi speculated that if Kuwait changed its position the 60-day TIP review would grant Kuwait a better ranking. The Embassy held a press conference on June 13 to discuss the report. Reporters focused special attention on the possibility of sanctions, with several reporters noting that the sanctions would have little effect on Kuwait.

CASE: 6/15/2008
CODE: media critical of report
ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat
CABLEID: 08MUSCAT443
CABLEDATE: 6/15/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: FUELED BY MEDIA, POPULAR RESENTMENT GROWS OVER TIP
COUNTRY1: Oman

--- Summary --- 1. (SBU) Local media have stepped up coverage of the Omani government's strong reaction to the 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, with an increasing number of government officials and offices publicly adding their statements to those made initially by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). In addition to the mainstream media, comments on Arabic-language internet discussion sites have shown strong anti-U.S. sentiment. Although somewhat belatedly, regional media outlets have begun to report mostly verbatim accounts of Oman's official reactions to the TIP report. Post expects that intense discussion of the TIP report will persist in the context of a negative discussion of U.S. policy in the Middle East. End summary. ----- TIP: Example of "Malicious" U.S. Policy ----- 2. (SBU) The press conference convened on June 10 by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi, brought the topic of the 2008 TIP report to a new level of attention in the local media, which before the event had run only five articles on Oman's Tier 3 ranking. Following blanket media coverage of Sayyid Badr's remarks (ref A), TIP has remained the lead story on state-owned Oman TV and radio, as well as in almost all Arabic-language papers, which have run daily commentaries that often are highly emotional and defensive. Local press even has begun to place Oman's Tier 3 ranking in the context of what is characterized as a broader, malicious U.S. policy agenda in the Middle East. A recent political cartoon in independent daily "al-Shabiba" presents the figure of a fanged man wearing Uncle Sam's hat and a grass skirt, with bloody hands and a string of skulls around his waist. On his arm, which holds a blood-tipped spear, are the words "Vietnam" and "Afghanistan." "Iraq" is written across his abdomen and a nearby sign points the way to Iran. A bemused man in Omani dress standing nearby queries, "How do they dare be unfair to people and accuse them of TIP?" ----- Government Officials Close Ranks ----- 3. (C) Government officials have closely lined up behind the MFA. Oman's Attorney General, Hussain Ali Zaher al-Hilali, argued in the June 12 edition of the Arabic-language state-run paper "Oman" that "the laws of the Sultanate are sufficient to combat the TIP phenomena," pointing specifically to an ongoing case involving four Asian nationals accused of prostitution and a 1999 case in which the Public Prosecution won convictions against 54 people complicit in a prostitution ring. (Note: The Attorney General referred to the current case in a private conversation with the Ambassador on April 14, during which he stated that the Public Prosecution's case is both against women accused of engaging in prostitution and their alleged pimp (ref B). End note.) Minister of Manpower Juma bin Ali al-Juma, who has been attending the International Labor Organization's (ILO) annual conference in Geneva, was quoted in local press as saying, "The Ministry has not received any complaints regarding TIP from expatriates or their embassies... and the ILO has praised the Omani Labor Law and its enforcement numerous times." 4.

(SBU) In a separate press article, the Chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), Khalil al-Khonji, sounded a common refrain in asserting that the report is based on "inaccurate information about a few personal practices." He added, "There are 40 labor unions (currently) protecting the rights of workers in Oman." Khonji offered the OCCI as a reliable source of information about labor conditions for future reports. On June 14, the Majlis al-Shura, the elected lower house of Oman's bicameral advisory body, took an unprecedented leap into the realm of foreign policy by issuing a strong statement "rejecting and condemning the false allegations stated in the report." Post is reporting on the significance of the Majlis al-Shura's statement septel. -----
 ----- Discussion Enters Blogosphere MUSCAT 00000443 002 OF 002 ----- 5.
 (SBU) Discussions on Oman's "Al-Sablah," an on-line locally based Arabic discussion site, also contained strong reactions to the TIP report. Initial responses following publication of the report on June 4 often directly attacked the U.S., with contributors complaining about what they perceived to be political motivations behind the report - particularly the decision to give the UAE a better ranking than Oman - and the report's alleged lack of proof to support its claims. Others argued that the U.S. lacks the political or moral authority to publish such a report, citing examples of prostitution and labor problems in the U.S. in order to question American authority on trafficking issues. Though some contributors have recognized the existence of prostitution and long working hours for some laborers in Oman, anti-U.S. sentiment continues to dominate most discussion threads. Few acknowledge that trafficking could be a problem in Oman or that the government has a responsibility to address it. 6.
 (SBU) While the Arabic-language chat rooms like "Al-Sablah" burned with anti-U.S. postings, contributions to three of the most prominent English-language blogs have been tempered and even supportive of Oman's Tier 3 ranking. "The only entities surprised by this are the ministries in charge of fixing it and perhaps the courts," wrote an expatriate blogger on the site "Muscatconfidential." "I, personally, am ashamed and embarrassed because I thought Oman was actually going to DO SOMETHING about human trafficking," said another on-line commentator. In a rare and somewhat risky comment about a high-ranking public official, one blogger even characterized Sayyid Badr's press statements on June 10 as "a classic CYA move." ----- Belated Regional Coverage
 ----- 7. (SBU) Media outlets throughout the Gulf initially reported only on the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) June 10 statement dismissing the 2008 TIP report as "unjustified." Although regional media routinely cover statements by high ranking officials such as Sayyid Badr, the broader Arab press was, at the outset, notably quiet in its lack of coverage of Oman's loud protests over the TIP report. Regional media began to take notice on June 15, however, with the UAE's Gulf News reporting the statement of OCCI Chairman al-Khonji, and the UAE News Agency (WAM) carrying on its official web site the Majlis al-Shura's statement in its entirety. ---- Comment ---- 8.
 (C) Post expects media discussion of the TIP report and USG policy to continue, particularly now that regional outlets have started to pick up Oman's anti-U.S. charge. The MFA's initial response accusing the U.S. of insulting the country has touched a national nerve and sparked a larger, popular response that may be gathering its own momentum. One contact informed poloff that even Omanis in the country's interior, normally far removed from foreign affairs, are angrily discussing the report and believe that the U.S. is accusing them of "having slaves." It appears that Oman is willing to stoke this popular resentment in its drive to get the Tier 3 ranking retracted. End comment.

CASE: 6/17/2008

CODE: media critical of report

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 08MUSCAT464

CABLEDATE: 6/17/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: OMANI PUBLIC ANGER CONTINUES OVER TIP

COUNTRY1: Oman

Summary: Widespread press coverage of Oman's anger over its Tier 3 ranking in the 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report continued June 16 and 17, with articles increasingly linking the TIP Report to critiques of broader U.S. policy in the region. The media paid particular attention to a statement by the Oman Journalist Association (OJA), the first Omani non-governmental organization to publicly denounce the report. Some contacts are beginning to suggest, however, that the heated public rhetoric belies the actual intensity of anger among Omanis about the report. In addition, it appears that the dispute over Oman's tier ranking has not yet affected day-to-day relations between the USG and Oman on issues unrelated to TIP. End summary. ----- Public Airing of Outrage Continues ----- 2. (C) Outrage over Oman's Tier 3 ranking in the TIP Report continues to be front page news. On June 17, all of Oman's English and Arabic-language dailies carried a statement by the Oman Journalist Association (OJA) denouncing the report, calling

attention to the fact that through the OJA, Oman's civil society now was joining the widespread condemnation. In its statement, the OJA "rejected the unfair report," which it claimed "spoils the relations between countries and does not help communication among cultures." The government-owned Arabic-language newspaper "Oman" dedicated three pages to TIP, publishing articles by three Omani and five expatriate writers, several of whom used harsh rhetoric to attack the report and U.S. policies in the region. One writer expounded that the U.S. is "submersed in (its) love of blood and addiction of destruction," while continuing to "put pressure on others with 'bright' slogans of democracy and misleading freedom." An editorial in the Arabic daily "al-Shabiba" urged the government "not to bow or yield to U.S. pressure" for "when we bow once, we shall bow forever." - - - - -

----- What's Behind the Anger? ----- 3. (C) Oman's uncharacteristic public display of anger has surprised even some Omanis, who are beginning to develop their own explanations for the reaction. Shahswar al Balushi, CEO of the Oman Petroleum Services Association (OPAL), who also works closely with the Minister of Manpower as an informal advisor on labor affairs, told poloff that it was unfortunate that the USG published its report while the Sultan is outside of Oman on his European trip and therefore more exposed to international scrutiny and criticism. "You likely caught him by surprise," Balushi surmised, forcing the Sultan to defend his country before Western leaders and explain why Oman is not like the other countries on Tier 3. In addition, some Omanis in official circles likely interpreted the Tier 3 ranking as proof that its relationship with the U.S. is not guaranteed, and that friendship with the U.S. depends on doing what it wants - a condition, Balushi continued, that the government cannot appear to accept. - - - - -

- Widespread, but not Deep ----- 4. (C) Some contacts suggest, however, that the angry public response is not necessarily indicative of deep societal anger or a hardening antipathy towards the U.S. Most contacts are sure, for example, that recent statements by the Majlis al-Shura, the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the OJA denouncing the report were directed by the government - specifically the office of Sayyid Badr al Busaidy, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) - and did not reflect the general mood of the organizations' members or constituencies (reffels). Omanis do not deny that some low-skilled workers and maids face exploitative working conditions, a few contacts are beginning to report, but simply do not like the fact that the U.S. - whose Middle Eastern policies remain largely unpopular - called attention to it. OPAL's Balushi told poloff that while the TIP Report has stoked existing negative feelings among Omanis about the USG's global leadership, most of his business colleagues believe that the current dispute ultimately will be resolved without lasting effect. Mohammed al-Rawahi, Human Resources Manager for the cleaning and services company Oman International Group (OIG), bluntly told poloff that he "didn't care" about the findings of the report. "At the end of the day, we know how we are treating our workers and who among us is treating their workers poorly," he stated, waiving off the prospect of any long-term ramifications on the U.S. - Oman relationship. - - - - -

- No Effect on Day-to-Day Relations ----- 5. (C) So far, the dispute over Oman's Tier 3 ranking has not affected Embassy operations or the day-to-day bilateral relationship with Oman. Minister of Manpower Juma bin Ali al-Juma kept his previously scheduled appointment with U.S. Deputy Under Secretary of Labor Charlie Ponticelli in Geneva last week during the International Labor Organization's (ILO) annual conference. According to an unofficial read out of the meeting, Juma did not raise TIP and welcomed continued USG support for his labor reform efforts. The MFA informed the Embassy June 16 that it is going ahead with a training program later this month on strategic trade controls funded by the Department's Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) program, and sent participants to the ongoing Friends of Iraq conference in Abu Dhabi. On June 17, the Ministry of Defense's (MOD) Director of Contracting and Legal Affairs told Post's acting-Office of Military Cooperation chief that the MOD was ready to review and renew the Fuels Agreement. Finally, Omani officials from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority participated in a June 16 digital video conference with their U.S. counterparts regarding reforms to Oman's telecommunication sector under the U.S. - Oman Free Trade Agreement (FTA), during which they made no reference to TIP. - - - -

- Comment ----- 6. (C) Post will continue to look for indications that the MFA intends to follow through on its threatened reappraisal of our bilateral relationship. So far, it does not appear that any Ministry has received instructions from the MFA to stop dealing with us on issues unrelated to trafficking in persons. Post also is heartened by reports that non-official Omanis are responding in a far more measured way to the TIP Report than press coverage and initial discussions on the internet chatrooms suggest. We are concerned, however, that the heated rhetoric in the media may yet arouse public anger, particularly if the government and other segments of society continue to use the Tier 3 dispute to cast Oman as the victim of broader, and largely unpopular, U.S. Middle East policies. End comment. FONTENEAU

CASE: 6/18/2004

CODE: media or opposition backlash

ORIGIN: Embassy Tegucigalpa
CABLEID: 04TEGUCIGALPA1384
CABLEDATE: 6/18/2004
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: MEDIA REACTION ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT, JUNE 18, 2004
COUNTRY1: Honduras

1. Editorial in Tegucigalpa-based moderate daily "El Herald" on June 18 entitled "Trafficking in Persons." "Trafficking in persons is a source of innumerable violations to human rights, a profitable activity for organized crime, and even a means to spread AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases." "In the latest Department of State report, Honduras has been placed in Tier 2, which means that our government doesn't comply with the minimum standards but is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with those standards." "The fight against trafficking in persons, who are used either for sexual exploitation or forced labor, must be addressed by our government, not only because we may lose some of the cooperation we get from the U.S. but because it's their legal and moral obligation."

CASE: 6/11/2008
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers
CABLEID: 08ALGIERS683
CABLEDATE: 6/11/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ALGERIA REACTION TO 2008 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Algeria

While official Algerian government reaction to the 2008 TIP report was negative, press coverage was surprisingly light, with much of it critical of Algeria's inability to get itself out of Tier 3 status

CASE: 6/13/2006
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 06BUENOSAIRE1340
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: MEDIA REACTION AL ZARQAWI'S DEATH US-CUBAN TIES FARM SUBSIDIES ICC ARMAMENT EXPORTS TIP REPORT 06/13
COUNTRY1: Argentina

- "Struggle against trafficking of persons" Leading "Clarín" editorializes (06/13) "The trafficking of persons is an abhorring crime based on socio-economic causes, like poverty and the decadence of some regions in the interior of Argentina and neighboring countries, and on the inefficiency of our institutions. "The US State Department's report on this crime placed Argentina among the countries that were included in a watch list... "Police corruption, judicial inefficiency and the disarticulate functioning of the several jurisdictions facilitate this crime and the impunity of organized gangs. "In view of this, the (Argentine) Government should promote the enactment of the draft bill against TIP, which is now in Congress... as well as take the struggle against the TIP seriously."

CASE: 7/16/2009
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Tel Aviv
CABLEID: 09TELAVIV1564
CABLEDATE: 7/16/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION
COUNTRY1: Israel

The Jerusalem Post quoted Deputy FM Danny Ayalon as saying yesterday that a State Department report lumping Israel together with states like Afghanistan, Jordan, and Botswana regarding its relative success in combating human trafficking has troubling political implications for Israel.

CASE: 6/17/2009

CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 09BUENOSAIRE5706
CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: (C) ARGENTINA: FOREIGN MINISTER "VERY UPSET" ABOUT TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Argentina

5. (SBU) Argentina's two leading newspapers "Clarín" and "La Nación" ran stories by their Washington correspondents on June 17 with headlines that characterized the TIP report as "harsh" on Argentina (which is doubtlessly what precipitated the phone call to the CDA). Both articles carry basically accurate descriptions of the text of the report but concentrate on the negative. Although "Clarín" noted that the report recognized Argentina's efforts to fight trafficking, including passage of anti-TIP legislation and efforts to arrest suspects as well as rescue and protect victims, the article argued that "it appears the U.S. Department of State believes that the Argentine Government is only going through the motions since the report concludes that the government is unable to demonstrate 'evidence of progress.'"

CASE: 6/12/2008
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 08KUWAIT666
CABLEDATE: 6/12/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION -- TIP and GCC Foreign Ministers' Collective Statement
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

A limited amount of press coverage immediately followed the U.S Department of State's June 4 release of the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. However, there since has been a plethora of articles, editorials, and op-eds responding to the report's contents. Although most of the articles offer scathing criticisms of the report's contents, some laud the report for bringing to light the problem of human trafficking in Kuwait. Additionally, all local English and Arabic language dailies carried articles about the June 10 GCC Foreign Ministers' joint statement, which characterized the report as "unfriendly" to the GCC countries. This cable highlights some of the subsequent press coverage of the TIP report, as well as the press coverage of the June 10 statement. End Summary and Comment.

CASE: 6/14/2006
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Belmopan
CABLEID: 06BELIZE533
CABLEDATE: 6/14/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: BELIZE: 2006 TIP REPORT DEMARCHE DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Belize

2. (SBU) The local media has given considerable coverage to the release of the 2006 TIP Report. Utilizing Reftel A press guidance, PolOff has taken numerous press calls from several Belizean media outlets. Local media reports noted that in 2003 Belize had been ranked at Tier 3. Additionally, some local press outlets noted that insufficient action by the Government of Belize had been one reason for the ranking.

CASE: 6/11/2008
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers
CABLEID: 08ALGIERS683
CABLEDATE: 6/11/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ALGERIA REACTION TO 2008 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Algeria

Coverage also aimed at the Algerian government itself. The leading daily, Arabic-language El Khabar, headlined that "for the second time, Algeria on the blacklist of TIP countries". In an editorial,

El Khabar also urged the Algerian government to take concrete action to fight trafficking, including passing new laws.

CASE: 7/24/2008
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 08KUWAIT840
CABLEDATE: 7/24/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: GOK COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RATIFY ANTI-TIP LAW, PARLIAMENT LIKELY TO FOLLOW SUIT
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

In the last week, multiple news articles have expressed indignation at the GOK's perceived inaction on TIP, especially after a series of strikes staged by laborers at cleaning companies. That the government, to the public eye, appeared to allow, or did nothing to stop such egregious actions as the withholding of salaries of laborers, has resulted in journalists and human rights activists accusing the GOK of trafficking complicity. At the same time, Islamist MPs, looking to deliver on campaign promises of anti-corruption, have used TIP and the need for proper anti-trafficking legislation as a rallying cry to gather public and parliamentary support. In a turnabout from a practice of denial, officials at the highest levels, including the Prime Minister and the new Minister of Social Affairs and Labor recently have publicly recognized the existence of trafficking in Kuwait and that some of the large companies play a nefarious role in denying basic rights of workers.

CASE: 7/17/2009
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Bandar Seri Begawan
CABLEID: 09BANDARSERIBEGAWAN172
CABLEDATE: 7/17/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: BRUNEI'S REACTION TO 2009 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Brunei

The release of TIP report opened up a dialogue among the Bruneian public. Many expressed their concerns in online public forums or in the local print media.

CASE: 9/24/2009
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Islamabad
CABLEID: 09ISLAMABAD2301
CABLEDATE: 9/24/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: SEPTEMBER 24, 2009
COUNTRY1: Pakistan

"Corruption Was Bad Enough, Now Human Trafficking As Well; Pakistan Put On Watch List By State Department" "The News" (09/24) "It was a shameful Wednesday for Pakistan, first for being dubbed as one of the most corrupt nations by the Transparency International and then on the same day to be put on the State Department watch list for failing to curb human smuggling. The government's failure to provide the required information to the State Department on the former's efforts to curb human trafficking has led to the Islamabad's inclusion in the State Department's Tier 2 Watch List."

CASE: 6/10/2005
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Santo Domingo
CABLEID: 05SANTODOMINGO3147
CABLEDATE: 6/10/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CONVICTS TRAFFICKING FELONS, DIFFERS WITH 2005 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Dominican Republic

Four major daily newspapers carried stories June 4 of the TIP report's release, and two of them published excerpts from the text on the Dominican Republic. In an editorial June 6 national daily "El Caribe" noted Soto's criticisms, but characterized the report's conclusions as consistent with other investigations by international organizations and NGOs. The newspaper called for redoubled efforts by authorities to combat "networks in this country that profit from commercial sexual exploitation of women and children."

CASE: 6/16/2005
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Manila
CABLEID: 05MANILA2757
CABLEDATE: 6/16/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: TIP: PHILIPPINE REACTION TO THE RELEASE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT
COUNTRY1: Philippines

A sampling of some press reaction follows: -- The Manila Times editorialized that "the report is an eye-opener." The editorial asked readers if they can live with "the notoriety of being labeled a country that abets human trafficking" and stated that there is "no excuse for the government not to take trafficking head-on."

CASE: 6/20/2008
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Tirana
CABLEID: 08TIRANA469
CABLEDATE: 6/20/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: GOA REACTION TO 2008 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Albania

Local media reaction was strongly critical, focusing on Albania's drop in status as a failure on trafficking issues not seen since 2002 (when it was last on the Watch List).

CASE: 6/13/2008
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Nicosia
CABLEID: 08NICOSIA450
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: CYPRIOT REACTIONS MIXED TO RELEASE OF TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Cyprus

while media and NGOs praised the report for highlighting the severity of the island's TIP problem.

CASE: 6/6/2006
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Tel Aviv
CABLEID: 06TELAVIV2157
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION
COUNTRY1: Israel

The Jerusalem Post and Yediot wrote that in its annual Trafficking in Persons Report published Monday, the State Department determined that Israel had not done enough to fight human trafficking and thus designated it a "Tier 2 Watch List" country, the third echelon in a four-level scale, and a one-level drop from last year's Tier 2 rating. The report states: "Israel is placed on Tier 2 Watch List for its failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to address trafficking, namely the conditions of involuntary servitude allegedly facing thousands of foreign migrant workers." The Jerusalem Post said that the report also notes that Israel failed to pass a law, drafted in 2003, which makes all forms of human trafficking a crime. "Israel should extend the scope of its anti-trafficking law to criminalize labor trafficking and establish a shelter for such victims," the report was cited as saying. Israel Radio also

cited the State Department report.

CASE: 6/13/2008
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Nicosia
CABLEID: 08NICOSIA450
CABLEDATE: 6/13/2008
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: CYPRIOT REACTIONS MIXED TO RELEASE OF TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Cyprus

Media greeted the report's release with an unprecedented amount of trafficking coverage, due partly to Embassy backgrounders. Refreshingly, their coverage focused solely on the TIP problem and did not demonize the USG for producing the TIP report. Non-governmental organizations voiced satisfaction with the document's accuracy and recommendations.

CASE: 6/18/2009
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy New Delhi
CABLEID: 09NEWDELHI1272
CABLEDATE: 6/18/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: MEDIA REACTION: INDO-PAK RELATIONS, PALESTINE, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN IRAN, PAKISTAN, 2009 TRAFFIC
COUNTRY1: India

NDIA A BIG SOURCE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING," news article in June 18 Hindi daily DAINIK JAGRAN: "The 2009 Report on Trafficking in Persons, released by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, places India in the Tier 2 watch list, the second-worst category in a blacklist of countries, for not doing enough to combat human trafficking... The report says that India is a base for smuggling men, women and children and also for girls from Nepal and Bangladesh for the purpose of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation. New Delhi may be trying hard to check human smuggling, but it is not being able to meet the minimum standards required to achieve a good record.

CASE: 6/17/2009
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuala Lumpur
CABLEID: 09KUALALUMPUR491
CABLEDATE: 6/17/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: MALAYSIA'S INITIAL REACTION TO TIP REPORT, TIER 3 DESIGNATION
COUNTRY1: Malaysia

Opposition politicians took the Malaysian government to task over Malaysia's Tier 3 ranking

CASE: 6/30/2009
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo
CABLEID: 09CAIRO1222
CABLEDATE: 6/30/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: EGYPTIAN MFA REACTIONS TO 2009 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Egypt

The TIP report has created a firestorm in the Egyptian news media. There have been articles on TIP, numerous editorials, and television talk shows have invited GOE officials and civil society activists to address TIP issues. Egyptian officials have widely condemned the report as unfair, while civil society activists have praised the report.

CASE: 6/17/2005
CODE: media or opposition backlash
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston

CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1531

CABLEDATE: 6/17/2005

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER DRIVING JAMAICA'S ANTI-TIP EFFORTS

COUNTRY1: Jamaica

) Extensive media coverage of the TIP Report, and the reporting of several TIP-related issues in major news outlets in recent weeks appear to indicate that the GOJ is responding seriously to the issue (Ref B). On June 2, the "Jamaica Observer" daily newspaper included an article by the GOJ-run Jamaica Information Service titled "Report child abuse or face prosecution." In some cases, media exposure of the issue may be pressuring the GOJ to take action. On June 16, "The Gleaner" daily newspaper reported that one of four caregivers accused of sexually abusing children in a state-run children's home was charged in court, more than two years after the police reported their findings in the case to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). While neither case qualifies as trafficking in persons, both represent heightened government interest in protecting the rights of children.

CASE: 6/11/2007

CODE: negative

ORIGIN: Embassy Cairo

CABLEID: 07CAIRO1776

CABLEDATE: 6/11/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN

HEADING: EGYPTIAN RESPONSE TO 2007 TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Egypt

MFA's working-level official responsible for Trafficking in Persons, First Secretary Amira Fahmy, told poloff in a June 11 meeting that the GOE was displeased that the 2007 TIP report (reftel) said that some Egyptian cities may be "sex tourism" destinations. Poloff explained that this statement was based on the widely accepted phenomenon whereby adult male tourists from the Gulf states visit Cairo for the purpose of contracting temporary marriages, which are reported to be a cover for prostitution, sometimes involving females under age 18. Fahmy agreed that by this definition, Egypt did have a problem requiring attention by the GOE, but said that the TIP report will likely generate significant and negative media attention locally. "After all," she said, "Egypt is not Thailand."

CASE: 6/15/2007

CODE: negative

ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires

CABLEID: 07BUENOSAIRE1185

CABLEDATE: 6/15/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: GOA REACTION TO TIP REPORT

COUNTRY1: Argentina

While there has been no public GOA reaction yet, GOA private reaction to the USG's 2007 TIP report was very negative. Vicente Espeche Gil, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Under Secretary for Bilateral Affairs, called the report "unhelpful" and Interior Minister Anibal Fernandez expressed displeasure at the content of the report

CASE: 1/16/2003

CODE: negative

ORIGIN: Embassy Ankara

CABLEID: 03ANKARA419

CABLEDATE: 1/16/2003

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: EMBASSY REQUESTS MEETING FOR GOT CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT TOPCUOGLU WITH G/TIP DIRECTOR MILLER

COUNTRY1: Turkey

Following the publication of DOS annual TIP report in April 2002 in which Turkey was placed on Tier III, US-Turkey relations were strained. We think a meeting with G/TIP director would help underscore the range of steps Turkey could take to meet its responsibilities and better protect individuals from trafficking similar to Tier II or I countries. We would hope to highlight the types of steps that would add

weight to the major actions detailed in para 3: e.g., establish a pilot shelter as the first in a nationwide system and start victim-assistance training for police and other relevant GOT officials.

CASE: 6/23/2008

CODE: negative

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 08MUSCAT474

CABLEDATE: 6/23/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: ROYAL OMAN POLICE, MAJLIS AL-SHURA SUSPEND AREAS OF COOPERATION DUE TO TIP

COUNTRY1: Oman

During a June 22 meeting with Post's Regional Security Officer (RSO), high-ranking officials in the ROP's Criminal Investigation Division (CID) stated that Post will no longer enjoy "special access" to criminal statistics or other law enforcement data due to Oman's Tier 3 ranking in the 2008 TIP Report. Brigadier General Suheil Fadel, speaking "in the name of the Inspector General (IG) of the ROP," stated that the ROP felt "stabbed in the back" by the US report, and that while the ROP always has shared statistics and information on criminal trends with the Embassy, including letting emboffs tour the ROP's central prison (ref) and detention facilities, Fadel saw the report as evidence that the US had abused the "privileges of its relationship" by mischaracterizing the ROP's record on human right

CASE: 6/4/2008

CODE: negative

ORIGIN: Embassy Muscat

CABLEID: 08MUSCAT409

CABLEDATE: 6/4/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: MINISTER OF MANPOWER RECEIVES INITIAL TIP DEMARCHE

COUNTRY1: Oman

On June 4, the Ambassador demarched Minister of Manpower Juma bin Ali al Juma on the 2008 Trafficking In Persons (TIP) report for Oman, providing him with both the country narrative and 60-day action plan (refs A, B). The Ambassador passed similar information to the office of the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). As expected, Juma was displeased that Oman would remain on Tier 3 and made the oft repeated claim that Oman does not have a significant problem with labor or sex trafficking, particularly in comparison with other countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The Ambassador focused Juma on Oman's lack of action over the past year to combat TIP or care for its victims, calling the Minister's attention to the fact that Oman had not fulfilled the recommended steps in last year's action plan. As the Ambassador walked Juma through the 2008 plan, Juma asked his note takers to place particular emphasis on the recommendations that Oman "enact already drafted anti-trafficking legislation" and "establish a system of support services and shelters for victims of trafficking." "We are not happy to be on this list," Juma told the Ambassador, "and (the Sultan) and the rest of the government are paying attention." 2. (C) Comment: Juma requested the meeting with the Ambassador after poloff quietly informed the Director General (DG) of Labor Care, a close contact of the Embassy, about the contents of the TIP report on the afternoon of June 3. According to the DG, Juma wanted to hear about the report before leaving on June 4 for the International Labor Organization's annual conference in Geneva. The Embassy plans to send a copy of Oman's country narrative and action plan to the office of Yusef bin Alawi, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs, and will report any substantive response septel.

CASE: 12/17/2009

CODE: negative

ORIGIN: Embassy Georgetown

CABLEID: 09GEORGETOWN636

CABLEDATE: 12/17/2009

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: 2009 Trafficking in Persons Project Assessment - CRS Guyana

COUNTRY1: Guyana

GoG negative reactions to the 2009 G/TIP Report and its Tier 2 Watch list ranking also impacts CRS's ability to work with partner organizations.

CASE: 1/9/2009
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Consulate Sao Paulo
CABLEID: 09SAOPAULO18
CABLEDATE: 1/9/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: BRAZIL MAKES PROGRESS AGAINST TIP
COUNTRY1: Brazil

Despite prickly reactions to U.S. pressure, as evidenced by discussions between U.S. and Brazilian officials during a June G/TIP visit (Reftels A and B), the fight against human trafficking expanded into new areas as a result of growing cooperation on anti-TIP initiatives by federal, state and local governments.

CASE: 7/16/2007
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Consulate Hong Kong
CABLEID: 07HONGKONG1866
CABLEDATE: 7/16/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN
HEADING: G/TIP DIRECTOR VISITS MACAU
COUNTRY1: China

He expressed regret over the Tier 2 Watch List ranking,

CASE: 2/26/2009
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Embassy Dublin
CABLEID: 09DUBLIN89
CABLEDATE: 2/26/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: IRELAND - NINTH ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) REPORT
COUNTRY1: Ireland

Comment: Post strongly believes that Ireland's enhanced efforts to combat trafficking in recent years merit a return to Tier 1 status. Prior to 2006, Ireland was not included in the TIP report. In 2006, it was ranked as a Tier 1 country and the statement "The Government of Ireland fully complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking" was included in the text. In 2007, Ireland was defined as a "special case" and in 2008 it was downgraded to Tier 2. Since its initial ranking in 2006, Ireland's anti-trafficking program including legislation, victim support, and awareness raising activities has become more robust each year. Ireland has promptly addressed every action item recommended by the USG, and all levels of the Irish government show a willingness and desire to combat any suspected trafficking activities within its borders or by its citizens. Nonetheless, even as Ireland's counter-trafficking initiatives have markedly improved, its TIP report ranking has worsened. We believe this is counter-productive. Moreover, we fear that a continued Tier 2 ranking in 2009 could have a sustained negative impact on Irish cooperation in other fields. During a recent discussion on the possibility of Ireland accepting detainees from Guantanamo - a top priority of the Obama Administration - a senior Department of Justice official expressed only tentative support and remarked that the 2008 TIP ranking was essentially a slap in the face by the USG given the hard work and political capital expended on implementing Ireland's anti-trafficking programs.

CASE: 8/8/2006
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Embassy Rangoon
CABLEID: 06RANGOON1124
CABLEDATE: 8/8/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: BURMA: CHARGE MEETS WITH MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
COUNTRY1: Burma

Maung Oo complained that despite its progress on trafficking in persons, Burma still received a Tier 3

ranking in the Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

CASE: 6/15/2007
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Embassy Buenos Aires
CABLEID: 07BUENOSAIRES1185
CABLEDATE: 6/15/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: GOA REACTION TO TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Argentina

On June 11, Interior Minister Anibal Fernandez called CDA Matera to express his displeasure with the content of the report.

CASE: 11/12/2009
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Embassy Abu Dhabi
CABLEID: 09ABUDHABI1070
CABLEDATE: 11/12/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: UAE'S HIGH PROFILE CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING
COUNTRY1: United Arab Emirates

10. (SBU) Comment. When the USG's annual TIP report downgraded the UAE to the Tier II watchlist earlier this year, the government's reaction was unsurprisingly negative. In the five months since, we have been encouraged by the significant efforts undertaken by the Ministry of Labor, the NCCHT, and local entities to foster an integrated anti-trafficking strategy. End Comment.

CASE: 7/8/2009
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Embassy Dublin
CABLEID: 09DUBLIN258
CABLEDATE: 7/8/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: DHS SECRETARY NAPOLITANO MEETS IRISH MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT AND JUSTICE
COUNTRY1: Ireland

Ahern informed the Secretary that the Irish government was in the process of taking two Guantanamo detainees, was working more cooperatively on extradition issues, was interested in the fate of the "undocumented" Irish, and was none too pleased with the latest Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Tier 2 ranking

CASE: 6/29/2005
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1611
CABLEDATE: 6/29/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: A DEFENSIVE NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER HOSTS TIP MEETING
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

On June 24, at the request of National Security Minister Peter Phillips, Charge, USAID Mission Director, and Poloff (notetaker) attended a meeting hosted by Phillips on the subject of trafficking in persons (TIP) at the Ministry of National Security (MNS). Unfortunately, Phillips used the opportunity to criticize the 2005 TIP Report and Jamaica's downgrade to Tier 3, and to lament what he disingenuously termed an unfortunate failure to communicate between Post and the GOJ. Phillips then presented actions taken to date by the GOJ to combat trafficking, and asked to know definitively what further steps would be required for Jamaica to receive a "passing grade" and avoid Tier 3 sanctions. The GOJ also promised working-level engagement with Post on TIP as soon as possible. End Summary.

CASE: 7/21/2005

CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kingston
CABLEID: 05KINGSTON1784
CABLEDATE: 7/21/2005
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS VISIT KINGSTON TO EVALUATE GOJ PROGRESS ON TIP
COUNTRY1: Jamaica

2. (U) Jamaica was downgraded to Tier 3 status in the 2005 TIP Report, eliciting strong negative reactions from senior GOJ officials. Following some posturing and disingenuous finger-pointing, however, the GOJ appears to have begun taking significant steps toward combating trafficking in Jamaica. G/TIP Reports Officer Rachel Owen and WHA/PCC Senior Labor Advisor Michael Puccetti traveled to Kingston on July 14 and 15 to assess recent GOJ actions and to determine whether sufficient effort has been made for the GOJ to be upgraded to Tier 2 Watch List and avoid Tier 3 sanctions. A Presidential Determination will be made in September.

CASE: 6/11/2008
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Embassy Algiers
CABLEID: 08ALGIERS683
CABLEDATE: 6/11/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: ALGERIA REACTION TO 2008 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Algeria

While official Algerian government reaction to the 2008 TIP report was negative, press coverage was surprisingly light, with much of it critical of Algeria's inability to get itself out of Tier 3 status.

CASE: 7/12/2007
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 07TOKYO3186
CABLEDATE: 7/12/2007
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: G/TIP AMBASSADOR LAGON'S JULY 2 MEETING WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT
COUNTRY1: Japan

The Japan country narrative of the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report is "biased and unfair" compared to other Tier 1 countries, said Foreign Policy Bureau Deputy Director-General Masatoshi Shimbo to Ambassador Mark Lagon, Director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP) during a July 2 meeting. Japan treats trafficking in persons as a serious crime and a violation of human rights and human dignity, and has therefore taken "aggressive actions" to fight human trafficking, stated DDG Shimbo. Japan was "not happy, not happy at all," to be ranked Tier 2 in the TIP Report, he complained, noting that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) had already delivered this message to Embassy Tokyo (Ref A).

CASE: 6/21/2006
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Embassy Paris
CABLEID: 06PARIS4295
CABLEDATE: 6/21/2006
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED
HEADING: DEMARCHE TO FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON 2006 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT
COUNTRY1: France

The director of France's Anti-Trafficking Office, Jean-Michel Colombani, discussed with us on June 13 the 2006 TIP report and vigorously defended France's commitment to combat trafficking in persons. It was evident that Colombani found the report's narrative on France quite critical. He characterized France as the European leader in the TIP fight and expressed amazement at the tier rankings of some other countries with which he had direct experience. While Colombani understood the requirement for "appreciable progress," he noted the difficulty of obtaining improving results against ever-more sophisticated criminal networks and argued that U.S. concerns about witness protection did not apply

to the French system, where this was less necessary. He hinted that a tier-two rating for France might make officials such as himself less inclined to cooperate with the U.S. Embassy in the future. END
SUMMAR

CASE: 6/4/2008
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 08TOKYO1528
CABLEDATE: 6/4/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JAPAN REACTS NEGATIVELY TO TIP REPORT TIER RANKING
COUNTRY1: Japan

JAPAN REACTS NEGATIVELY TO TIP REPORT TIER RANKING

CASE: 9/18/2008
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Embassy Tokyo
CABLEID: 08TOKYO2577
CABLEDATE: 9/18/2008
CLASSIFIC: SECRET
HEADING: JAPAN CONSIDERING WITHDRAWING COOPERATION ON TIP
COUNTRY1: Japan

) DVM Bessho deferred to DDG Nakajima to discuss Japan's reaction to the trafficking-in-persons report and Japanese ranking in tier two. Nakajima, newly delegated to MOFA from the Ministry of Defense, explained he had no background in TIP before meeting with his MOFA staff. He indicated they had told him they were deeply dissatisfied with the TIP process, disagreed with Japan's tier two ranking, and believed Japan would be best served by refusing further cooperation. Nakajima said he had not made a decision, but sympathized with the view that Japan had been held to a higher standard than a number of countries that had been ranked in tier one. Meserve explained Japan should not compare itself with other countries since the rankings are based, in part, on the capacity of countries with greatly different levels of development to respond to the TIP challenge.

CASE: 6/19/2008
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Embassy Amman
CABLEID: 08AMMAN1821
CABLEDATE: 6/19/2008
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: JORDANIAN RESPONSE TO G/TIP REPORT: SURPRISED AT DEMOTION, BUT HOPEFUL FOR IMPROVEMENTS
COUNTRY1: Jordan

Government Reaction: TIP Fails to Recognize Improvements -----
----- 2. (SBU) Political Counselor delivered Ref A points to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Human Rights Directorate on June 3, but found little reaction to the Tier 2 Watchlist designation. Directorate staff thanked the Embassy for the advance copy of the TIP Report and assured PolCouns that a response was forthcoming. In contrast to the relative silence of the MFA, the press reports sounds of discontent from the Ministry of Labor (MoL).

CASE: 6/6/2006
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Embassy Khartoum
CABLEID: 06KHARTOUM1341
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: SUDAN: TIP DEMARCHE DELIVERED
COUNTRY1: Sudan

On June 5, Charge and Poloff delivered reftel demarche to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Osman Dirderi, and Poloff delivered it as well to the Rapporteur of the Advisory Council

for Human Rights, Dr. Abdelmoniem Taha. Dirderi accepted the demarche, but expressed some unhappiness that this bad news came in the wake of the DPA signing, for which Sudan expects some amelioration in bilateral relations. Taha responded that he expected Sudan to be placed on Tier 3 as usual. Poloff highlighted that in 2005, Sudan was placed on Tier 2 Watchlist; however, in 2006 the government has decreased its efforts to combat trafficking in persons. Taha refuted the camel jockey problem saying it was the responsibility of the family not the government. He also denied the link between abduction and slavery. Taha said that he would study the report and provide feedback to the Embassy.

CASE: 6/6/2005
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 05KUWAIT2485
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2005
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AMBASSADOR CRITICIZED FOR REITERATING U.S. POSITION ON IRAN
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

The criticism also coincides with the downgrading of Kuwait's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) rank and placement on the USTR's Special 301 Priority Watchlist, decisions that have not been well received by the GOK or the public.

CASE: 6/6/2006
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Embassy Vientiane
CABLEID: 06VIENTIANE512
CABLEDATE: 6/6/2006
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: LAO MFA ON TIP REPORT FOR LAOS
COUNTRY1: Laos

Ambassador briefed MFA's Europe-Americas Department Director-General Southam Sakhonninhom today on the TIP report for Laos, conveying the talking points and Action Plan contained in refs A and B. 2. (C) Southam, who had already read the TIP Report for Laos and ref talking points we had submitted via diplomatic note yesterday, said his government was unhappy with the report, but acknowledged it was "our right" to say what we wanted. He noted, though, that other organizations and agencies interested in Laos' trafficking picture, including the UN, had generally praised the GoL for its anti-trafficking activities.

CASE: 7/8/2009
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait
CABLEID: 09KUWAIT675
CABLEDATE: 7/8/2009
CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL
HEADING: AA/S FELTMAN MEETING WITH AMIRI ADVISOR REVIEWS CHAPTER VII ISSUES, TOPICS FOR AMIR-POTUS MEETING
COUNTRY1: Kuwait

Abulhassan noted that, while it is unlikely the Amir will raise the issue of Kuwait's Tier 3 TIP status, the GOK is not pleased with this finding. AA/S Feltman urged the GOK to seize the initiative on TIP and initiate a relationship with newly-appointed G/TIP Ambassador CdeBaca.

CASE: 7/17/2009
CODE: negative
ORIGIN: Embassy Bandar Seri Begawan
CABLEID: 09BANDARSERIBEGAWAN172
CABLEDATE: 7/17/2009
CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HEADING: BRUNEI'S REACTION TO 2009 TIP REPORT
COUNTRY1: Brunei

)On July 13, 2009, Charg and Political Assistant met with Ms. Florence Chong, Director of the International Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). Florence was accompanied by Princess Mansurah, the daughter of Prince Mohammad, Brunei's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Ms. Chong said MFAT was shocked and unsatisfied to find Brunei's ranked as a Tier 2 country, especially since Brunei was not ranked in previous reports. However, MFAT did not lodge an official complaint or otherwise indicate this opinion would be released to the public. Charg noted the changes in the TIP legislation were one of the reasons why Brunei was included and ranked in this year's report. In addition, the concerns regarding forced labor and the large numbers of immigrant workers were also discussed.

CASE: 6/12/2008

CODE: negative

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait

CABLEID: 08KUWAIT666

CABLEDATE: 6/12/2008

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION -- TIP and GCC Foreign Ministers' Collective Statement

COUNTRY1: Kuwait

A limited amount of press coverage immediately followed the U.S Department of State's June 4 release of the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. However, there since has been a plethora of articles, editorials, and op-eds responding to the report's contents. Although most of the articles offer scathing criticisms of the report's contents, some laud the report for bringing to light the problem of human trafficking in Kuwait. Additionally, all local English and Arabic language dailies carried articles about the June 10 GCC Foreign Ministers' joint statement, which characterized the report as "unfriendly" to the GCC countries. This cable highlights some of the subsequent press coverage of the TIP report, as well as the press coverage of the June 10 statement. End Summary and Comment.

CASE: 6/14/2006

CODE: negative

ORIGIN: Embassy Belmopan

CABLEID: 06BELIZE533

CABLEDATE: 6/14/2006

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: BELIZE: 2006 TIP REPORT DEMARCHE DELIVERED

COUNTRY1: Belize

1. (SBU) Per reftel, post delivered, on June 5, report and talking points to CEO Ambassador Amalia Mai and U.N. Desk Officer Alphonso Gahona of Belize Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Together with the report, PolOff presented the 60- day mini-plan. Mai's reaction was polite but muted; she noted, with reference to the recent USTR Special 301 Watch List demarche, that as of late there had not been much good news from the USG for Belize. Mai said that she would brief the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director of the National Anti-TIP Committee on Wednesday June 7. Director of the Belize National Anti-TIP Committee Ambassador Dolores Balderamos-Garcia has not yet responded to PolOff's requests for a meeting.

CASE: 6/18/2007

CODE: negative

ORIGIN: Embassy Kuwait

CABLEID: 07KUWAIT938

CABLEDATE: 6/18/2007

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: KUWAITIS DEFENSIVE ABOUT TIER 3 TIP RANKING, THOUGH SOME ACKNOWLEDGE PROBLEMS

COUNTRY1: Kuwait

Parliament Speaker Jassem Al-Khorafi grabbed the biggest headlines on the TIP report. He told the press the TIP report was laughable coming from a country that keeps detainees without charge or trial at Guantanamo. He quipped that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones. MP Walid Tabtaba'i, one of the most prominent parliamentary critics of the U.S., excoriated the U.S. in a June 16 article in Al-Watan for its human rights violations in secret prisons, in Iraq, and in its exploitation of Latin American workers. While insisting Kuwait was "not in need of moral advice from the Americans

about human rights," he conceded Kuwait needs to "review and correct" its policies toward foreign workers.

CASE: 6/22/2004

CODE: public reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Santo Domingo

CABLEID: 04SANTODOMINGO3667

CABLEDATE: 6/22/2004

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADING: USG REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS HITS DOMINICAN NEWS

COUNTRY1: Dominican Republic

"Hoy" editors acknowledged a problem in the Dominican Republic: "U.S. preaching on (TIP) may be offensive to many Dominicans, but we've been lax and need to tighten up." Left-of-center, independent "El Nacional" took offense to the U.S. role in producing the report, but did not deny the accuracy of its content. "El Nacional" asserted, "No institution or world forum has given the United States the right or authority to condemn or take over other nations . . . (the report) would be valid if it came from an organization such as the United Nations (or other multilaterals)."

CASE: 6/28/2004

CODE: public reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Kathmandu

CABLEID: 04KATHMANDU1201

CABLEDATE: 6/28/2004

CLASSIFIC: UNCLASSIFIED

HEADING: STATE DEPT. 2004 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

COUNTRY1: Nepal

- Both Nepal's English and Nepali dailies gave prominence to the State Department's "2004 Trafficking in Persons Report." The news-stories quoting the report were published in the front page of the major dailies on June 16. On June 17, five dailies (three English and two vernacular) wrote editorials reiterating the report's articulation of the stale situation in regards to trafficking of persons in Nepal.

CASE: 6/19/2008

CODE: public reaction

ORIGIN: Embassy Amman

CABLEID: 08AMMAN1821

CABLEDATE: 6/19/2008

CLASSIFIC: CONFIDENTIAL

HEADING: JORDANIAN RESPONSE TO G/TIP REPORT: SURPRISED AT DEMOTION, BUT HOPEFUL FOR IMPROVEMENTS

COUNTRY1: Jordan

Garment factory manager Yanal Beasha from the Al Tajamouat QIZ near Amman had not read the TIP Report, but when PoOff informed him about the drop in status, he declared it "pretty annoying" since the GOJ has given such visible attention to labor issues in the past year. While Beasha maintained that any increased government scrutiny or auditing of the QIZs does not worry him, he noted that this may highlight a few problems for some small subcontractors. He is confident that Jordan will not fall further to Tier 3 next year. 6. (SBU) United Garments factory owner and Manager Karim Saifi had also not heard of the report, but expressed some concern about the status change since previous public criticism of labor conditions in QIZs had affected his business. He noted that labor problems in Jordan have been dealt with transparently and promptly so the report may work to the industry's advantage if foreign investors see how well the GOJ and factories handle the criticisms in the repor