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July 02, 2004

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TELEGRAM

To: SECSTATE WASHDC - ROUTINE
Action: WHA
From: AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ (CIUDAD JUA 9245 - ROUTINE)
TAGS: ASEC, CASC, PHUM, PREL, MX
Captions: None
Subject: SENATOR BINGAMAN DISCUSSES CYNTHIA KIECKER AND JUAREZ MURDERS
Ref: CDJ 8892 AND PREVIOUS

1. At a June 30 meeting hosted at New Mexico State University, Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) addressed a small group of people interested in the Ciudad Juarez/Chihuahua cases of murdered and disappeared women. Other participants included Carol Kiecker, mother of detained Amcit Cynthia Kiecker; representatives of Amigos de las Mujeres de Juarez, a U.S.-based NGO that has been active in the murdered women issue; representatives of Casa Amiga, a Juarez NGO and rape counseling center; members of the local press corps; and post's Public Diplomacy Officer and ACS Chief.

2. Sen. Bingaman spent about half of the meeting discussing the case of Amcit Cynthia Kiecker, who is currently on trial in Chihuahua for the murder of 16 year old Viviana Rayas (reftel). Carol Kiecker discussed recent developments in her daughter's case, and detailed the events of the last two weeks, when the Mexican Embassy erroneously told Senator Coleman (D-MN) and President Fox that murder charges against Cynthia and her husband would be dropped. Sen. Bingaman was particularly interested in efforts of the USG on Cynthia's behalf; and we discussed our liaison with Chihuahua state authorities, the SRE, and the Mexican Embassy. He promised Mrs. Kiecker that he would personally address this case with Ambassador de Icaza and notify her of the outcome of their conversation.

3. Regarding the Juarez murders, Sen. Bingaman was primarily gathering basic information about the history of the murdered and disappeared women over the last ten years. Discussion focused on Senate resolution 392, which he introduced and was co-sponsored by Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison (D-TX) and Mary Landrieu (D-LA). Sen. Bingaman felt that simply introducing the bill and raising it as an item of discussion in the Senate was a worthy goal, and indicated that he is not optimistic that the bill will be passed. There was also frequent mention of the Chihuahua state elections taking place this Sunday, July 4. All participants were hopeful that the new governor, regardless of political party, who takes office in October, will make changes in the state's procedures in handling the cases of murdered and disappeared women. Comment: Both gubernatorial candidates have run on platforms that include increasing security in the state and resolving outstanding law enforcement issues; polls indicate that the PRI candidate, Jose Reyes Baeza Terrazas, is likely to

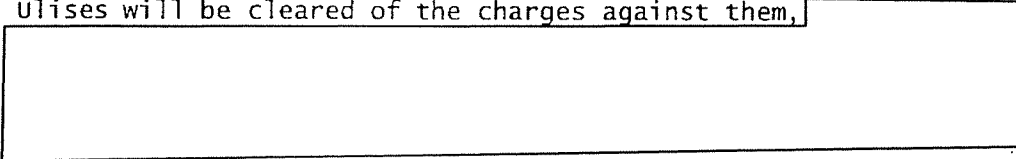
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win the election. End comment.

4. ACS Chief spoke at length with Carol Kiecker following the meeting. She remains quite upset and frustrated after the confusion that arose out of the meeting between Pres. Fox and Senator Coleman. Although both Cynthia's lawyer and the state court's secretary of projects remain optimistic that Cynthia and Ulises will be cleared of the charges against them,



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