

From: "Miers, Harriet"
To: "Kavanaugh, Brett M."
Subject: Fw: let me know when you get this...thx
Received(Date): Sat, 12 Jun 2004 18:10:14 -0500

Brett, fyi.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Wilkinson [P6/(b)(6)]
To: Miers, Harriet <Harriet_Miers@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Sat Jun 12 19:08:40 2004
Subject: let me know when you get this...thx

These were written by WH Counsel and NSC legal (approved by both)...they have also been approved by Wilkinson, Bartlett, Rove...Steve Hadley also wanted Harriet, Brett, and Andy to see them...I am on my cell at [P6/(b)(6)] [P6/(b)(6)]...these are for use by Condi and Powell for tomorrow's Sunday shows...

Ã* The President believes we must do everything possible to protect the American people from terrorism. Gathering intelligence about the plans of terrorists is critical to defending America.

Ã* In all aspects of our nation's war on terror, including the conflict in Iraq, the President has insisted our government must comply with U.S. laws and treaty obligations.

Ã* He has repeatedly made clear that torture of detainees is not permitted under U.S. policy, and he has never considered the possibility of authorizing torture.

Ã* The abuses of Abu Ghraib are a violation of the President's policies â** not a result of them - and these violations are being investigated and will be punished. The President has been and remains firmly committed to our military's observance in Iraq of the Geneva conventions and our other international agreements.

Ã* To help ensure our government follows the law, the executive branch receives legal opinions. The Department of Justice in a legal analysis discussed the possibility that under some circumstances could be legally defensible. The lawyers were considering a situation in which the information gained from an interrogation

might prevent future attacks by foreign enemies. However, the President has never considered authorizing torture under any circumstances.

Ã* Interrogation techniques must be kept confidential so we do not give away information that would signal to our adversaries what they could anticipate if captured, allowing them to prepare for it and potentially counter it. As required by law, we brief the appropriate Congressional leadership on authorized interrogation techniques.

Ã* While our actions in the War on Terror are governed by rules, the terrorists do not respect any rules. They are an enemy that hides among civilian populations and seeks to inflict large-scale civilian casualties by surprise attack. We have an obligation to aggressively and lawfully interrogate captured detainees to obtain information that may help us prevent future attacks.

<<detainee message pts.doc>>

