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MIPT:ARAB/ISRAEL: US POLICY ON AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
 1. DURING HIS TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
 TODAY (6 DECEMBER), SECRETARY BAKER MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

WE HAVE NOT IN ANY WAY, OR TO ANY EXTENT, OR TO ANY DEGREE,
 SHIFTED OUR POLICY REGARDING THE QUESTION OF AN
 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

FIRST OF ALL WE HAVE TAKEN THE POSITION FOR A LONG TIME
 THAT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, PROPERLY STRUCTURED AT AN
 APPROPRIATE TIME, MIGHT BE USEFUL. THAT HAS BEEN THE POLICY
 OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A LONG TIME. WE ARE NOT NOW
 RECOMMENDING THAT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ARAB-
 ISRAEL CONFLICT BE HELD, NOR ARE WE SUPPORTING A RESOLUTION
 IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL THAT WOULD SEEK TO CONVENE SUCH A
 CONFERENCE. PRECISELY BECAUSE OF OUR CONSISTENT POSITION
 THAT WE WILL NOT LINK THE GULF CRISIS AND THE ARAB-ISRAELI
 DISPUTE, THIS IS CERTAINLY NOT AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR AN
 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. UNQUOTE

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CABINET OFFICE DIO
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 RESIDENT CLERK

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