RELEASE IN FULL

~~SECRET/NOFORN~~
~~DECL: 12/20/2016~~

Previously Approved Policies to Scrutinize and Generally Deny Visas

There is ample precedent for policies to scrutinize and generally deny visas to classes of persons under the Secretary's foreign policy authority. For example, visa denial policies for the following classes of persons have been adopted pursuant to the Secretary's authority to deny visas under INA 212(a)(3)(C):

Belarus (July 1998 – December 2004, all in concert with the EU):

- ~~(C)~~ Senior Belarusian officials, to respond to the eviction of the U.S. ambassador from his residence in violation of international law. Two formal foreign policy determinations were made pursuant to this policy, which was in effect from July 1998 until September 1999.

- ~~(SBU)~~ Senior Belarusian officials, in response to the government's obstruction of the OSCE Assistance Monitoring group in Minsk. No formal foreign policy determinations have been made pursuant to this policy, which was in effect from November 2002 until April 2003.

- ~~(SBU)~~ Senior Belarusian officials implicated in politically motivated disappearances. No formal foreign policy determinations have been made pursuant to this policy, which was approved September 2004.

- ~~(SBU)~~ Belarusian officials responsible for election fraud or other efforts to subvert the democratic process or to violate internationally recognized human rights in Belarus. No formal foreign policy determinations have been made pursuant to this policy, which was approved December 2004.

~~(SBU)~~ **Moldova (February 2003, in concert with the EU)**: Top leaders of the illegitimate and internationally unrecognized regime in Moldova's breakaway region of Transnistria, to counter their obstruction of political settlement negotiations in Moldova and of Russian military withdrawal from Moldova as mandated by the 1999 Istanbul summit. No formal foreign policy determinations have been made pursuant to this policy.

~~SECRET/NOFORN~~
~~Classified by: EAP A/S Kathleen Stephens, Acting~~
~~E.O. 12958, Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d)~~

~~(C)~~ **Indonesia and East Timor (August 2003)**: Persons indicted by the UN Serious Crimes Unit (East Timor) and Ad Hoc Tribunal (Indonesia) for human rights abuses committed in East Timor in 1999 and their immediate family members, to reinforce our statements regarding the inadequacy of the tribunal process and our credibility on related human rights issues. No formal foreign policy determinations have been made pursuant to this policy.

~~(C)~~ **Cuba (March 2004)**: Persons who participated on behalf of the GOC in its summary trials of 75 dissidents arrested in March 2003, and their immediate family members, in order to hold those persons accountable and discourage others from taking part in such trials in the future. No formal foreign policy determinations have been made pursuant to this policy.

~~(S/NF)~~ **Syria (September 2005)**: High-level SARG officials and their immediate family members, to increase pressure on Damascus to comply with its international obligations, including to expel leaders of Palestinian rejectionist groups, stem the flow of foreign fighters into Iraq, cease interference in Lebanese domestic affairs, and end support for terrorist groups such as Hezbollah. No formal foreign policy determinations have been made pursuant to this policy.