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NAO-87-3



TO: Robert M. Nelson, Jr., Exercise Mighty Derringer Controller
FROM: Jack Campbell, Public Information

The only objective for public information controllers is to make exercise players at the highest levels (On-scene Commander and above) "play." Predictably we had little success but more than in previous operations. We were unable to have meaningful play OCONUS because the primary players, the Department of State, left following the assault. We had created a repressive foreign State Government whose actions we had expected the U.S. to try to soften, especially when the lives of American correspondents were in jeopardy, but this did not play out. The one direct response from players came when the OSC requested his PIO to meet with the OCONUS information chief to elicit a promise not to mention NEST, this after the U.S. had revealed enough information that only the most naive newspaper person would not know this.

It was not clear to this controller that the OSC utilized the expertise of the PIO to inform him of what was going on in the outside world or to use his advice on how to handle contingencies. The OSC relied completely on the ability of the State Department to handle everything and to maintain the "stonewall." It is unfortunate that State did not remain so that we could see if the OSC would require close coordination between his PIO and State. To me, the most glaring deficiency was that DOE/NEST did not establish, even notionally, a public affairs function in Las Vegas. In any deployment, especially overseas, this would be the most heavily involved element of the DOE public affairs complex. This should have been brought home by the strong pressure brought by Bill Barrett, intrepid adversarial correspondent for the International Wire Service in Las Vegas.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Campbell".

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