MEMORANDUM TO THE MINISTER

ILLEGAL MIGRATION EVENTS IN TOGO

BACKGROUND:

Mr. Ward Elcock, Special Advisor Human Smuggling (SAHS), visited Benin and Togo to discuss the issue and open the door for ongoing cooperation with local authorities.

On 20 November 2011 and in the days that followed, Togo detained 209 Sri Lankans under Togolese immigration law. These individuals are being held at an open-air field where they are being provided food, water and limited shelter. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Togolese Red Cross and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are engaged and continue to monitor the situation of the detainees.
CURRENT STATUS:

ASSESSMENT:

As of the drafting of this note, there has been no Canadian media coverage of these events. However, regional media coverage in Togo has reported on Canadian resources and influence on the ground in Togo. I will update you as necessary as the matter continues to unfold.

Richard B. Fadden

c.c.: National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister

c.c.: Deputy Minister of Public Safety

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