

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
**Office of the Spokesman**  
**(Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)**

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**STATEMENT BY RICHARD BOUCHER, SPOKESMAN**

MEMORANDUM REGARDING VOA EDITORIAL

The memorandum sent by the Department of State to the Voice of America on October 16 was wrong. The memorandum in no way reflects the views of the Secretary of State, the Department, or the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. It was not vetted or approved through appropriate channels. The Voice of America text entitled "Terrorism Will Fail" has, in fact, been cleared by the Department of State as an editorial expressing the policies of the United States Government.

The President, Secretary Albright, and numerous officials of the Department of State have all expressed their deepest condolences and sorrow on the loss of the 17 American sailors in the USS Cole explosion. As the President said, if this proves to be a terrorist incident, we will not cease in our efforts to bring the individuals responsible to justice.

In addition, our public statements on the Middle East Peace Process have consistently called for both sides to end the cycle of violence, restore calm, and avoid confrontation. Secretary Albright has expressed our deep regret at the loss of life that has resulted from this violence. Our strenuous efforts at Sharm al-Sheikh to prevent future violence are evidence of our profound commitment to peace.