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REPORT

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AND THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
U.S. SENATE

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SOMALIA

people in their homes, and summarily executed at least 46 young men, mainly Isaaks, at a nearby beach. In response to the growing political discontent, the President announced that multiple political parties would be allowed to organize and to contest elections to a new People's Assembly within 16 months. He offered to negotiate with dissident organizations, but his initial attempts had been rebuffed at year's end.

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Section 1 Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom from:

a. Political and Other Extrajudicial Killing

During 1989 extrajudicial killing was employed as a method of warfare in Somalia's civil conflict. Government forces were the worst though not the only offenders. While some incidents could be attributed to poor leadership and training, the pattern of raids on civilian villages, reprisal killings, and summary executions suggested that extrajudicial killing had official sanction (see Section 1.g., for details). Following the extensive July disorders and killings, the President formed an investigating committee, but at the end of 1989 the committee had not released its findings, and the Government had not brought those responsible to justice. There have been persistent reports that the perpetrators were members of the Marehan subclan (Rer Koshin) to which the President and his family belong.

b. Disappearance

Disappearances continued to occur in Somalia during 1989. They were hard to distinguish from arbitrary arrests and detentions (see Section 1.d.) and extrajudicial killings, because these are not acknowledged by the authorities. For example, an interpreter employed by the U.S. Office of Military Cooperation has been missing since July 17 and is presumed to have been among the victims of the shootings at the beach.

c. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Torture is forbidden by Article 27 of the Constitution. Senior government officials repeatedly deny that it is practiced as a government policy and, in fact, instances of torture appeared to decrease in response to a governmental reform effort and international pressure. Some recently released short-term detainees complained, however, that they were subjected to forms of torture such as the "Mig," in which their hands and feet were tied together behind their backs with a rope, which was pulled tight so that the body was arched backwards, to resemble the swept-back wings of a Mig aircraft. The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture continued to report seeing torture victims from Somalia.

Harsh prison conditions do not provide sanitation, adequate water, or medical care. Prisoners receive the absolute minimum of food necessary for survival because it is customary for food to be supplied from outside by their families. Amnesty International (AI) stated that the conditions at the maximum security prisons of Lanta Bur and Labatan Jirow, where political prisoners are often held incommunicado, were particularly life-threatening.