

OCCASIONALLY, STATES RELEASE OR AGREE TO RELEASE OFFENDERS UNDER THE DURESS OF HOSTAGE-TAKING. IN OUR VIEW, THE VALIDITY OF COMMITMENTS MADE UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES IS QUESTIONABLE UNDER BASIC LEGAL PRINCIPLES. MOREOVER, STATES ARE IN BREACH OF THEIR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS WHEN THEY RELEASE OFFENDERS UNPUNISHED AFTER AN INCIDENT HAS ENDED, OR WHEN THEY GRANT PARDONS TO OFFENDERS AFTER DURESS HAS COME TO AN END. FROM AN INTERNATIONAL POINT OF VIEW, PRISONERS WHO HAVE COMMITTED INTERNATIONAL CRIMES AND ARE PARDONED UNDER DURESS, ARE SIMPLY CRIMINALS WHO HAVE NOT COMPLETED THEIR SENTENCES AND HAVE SUCCEEDED IN ESCAPING THROUGH ILLEGAL MEANS. TO TAKE ANY OTHER POSITION SIMPLY CREATES A LOOPHOLE TOO LARGE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ACCEPT.

THE SIMPLE MESSAGE IS TO APPLY EFFECTIVELY THE CONVENTIONS WE NOW HAVE IN PLACE; IN DOING SO, WE SHALL MAKE GREAT STRIDES IN COMBATTING THE PROBLEM OF TERRORISM. TO DO SO IS TO UPHOLD THE PRIORITY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND IS TO RELY ON THE PEACEFUL AND JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES. WE WERE HEARTENED RECENTLY TO LEARN ABOUT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE USA AND THE USSR TO APPLY THE COMPULSORY JURISDICTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE TO POSSIBLE DISPUTES IN THE REALM OF TERRORISM. APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTIONS WE HAVE IN PLACE AND RELIANCE ON EXISTING MECHANISMS TO SETTLE JUDICIALLY ANY DISPUTES THAT MAY ARISE OUT OF THESE CONVENTIONS, IS THE SIMPLE FORMULA THAT WE ADVOCATE FOR THE YEARS AHEAD.