

SUBJECT: UNITED STATES PROVIDES LOST/STOLEN PASSPORT DATA
TO INTERPOL

1. International border control authorities are seeking timely and accurate information concerning the validity of travel documents presented at their borders. One key element in determining validity is having access to data relating to lost, stolen and invalid travel documents. Countries are able to identify the use of their own lost or stolen travel documents when presented at their national borders; however, without a system for international sharing of this data, it has not been possible to access information on other countries'

documents. Such a system is now in process of being developed. This is important in that global interchange inherently limits the value and use of lost, stolen or invalid documents for illegal purposes.

2. In our continuing efforts to counter attempts by individuals to obtain fraudulently issued U.S. passports, the Department has entered into a partnership with Interpol and will provide that agency with information on lost and stolen passports reported to the Department. The following is the text of a Press Statement that the Department has released through the Spokesman.

3. Begin Text. In association with the U.S. National Central Bureau of Interpol and Interpol General Secretariat in Lyon, France, the U.S. Department of State announces a new program that will contribute substantially to worldwide travel document security and our ability to impede the movement of terrorists and other criminals.

To accomplish this end, the United States is joining other countries in providing current information on issued passports that have been reported lost or stolen to the Interpol's lost and stolen document database, which is available to border authorities worldwide.

Issued U.S. passports reported lost or stolen are immediately invalidated, added to an electronic database, and may not be used for travel. Only the passport number, country of issuance and document type will be provided to Interpol. To protect the passport holder's privacy, the name and biographical data from the passport will not be given to Interpol. Should a hit occur against the Interpol database, the hit will be verified with U.S. authorities before action is taken against the bearer of such a passport.

We believe this is a significant step toward curbing not only terrorism but also crimes of many types including identity theft.

U.S. citizens are encouraged to notify the Department of State's Passport Office of the loss or theft of their passport at the earliest possible moment in order to prevent misuse of the document and identity theft. This can be accomplished via the Department's website <http://www.travel.state.gov> or by calling 202-955-0430. For U.S. citizens traveling or residing abroad, this can

also be accomplished by notifying the nearest Embassy or Consulate abroad. END TEXT. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED POWELL

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