

the contract that -- and it is part of the obligatory standard operating procedures. So there are -- the Regional Security Officer -- Office already receives all the reports of the use of force and conducts an internal review already.

And so we are just saying that in -- two things. Really, in order to make sure that you have fuller -- fuller oversight and accountability, we're adding a State Department-trained special agent, a Diplomatic Security Office special agent to every convoy, every motorcade so that he or she is an onsite officer in charge and observer and to be able also to report. The review panel will review those reports, any -- will review any incidents. As I mentioned, we'll look at those. They're already now being looked at by the Regional Security Office, but we've decided that in the interest of greater oversight and transparency, we'll just -- we'll have a wider represented -- wider membership on the panel.

As to the question about reporting, the panel would recommend to the ambassador that the ambassador forward their work on to the Department of Justice if they believe that malfeasance or misfeasance had occurred. And I am not a lawyer, so I'm just using those terms as -- in the common parlance.

As to the issue now, we believe that the State Department has -- as you know, has already referred two -- made two referrals, in effect, to the Department of Justice: one that took place at the end of 2006 and one that took place in September. So the State Department has already made referrals to Justice.

QUESTION: Can I just follow up really quickly?

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: Sean, your call. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Real quickly, I'm sorry. Are you expanding the -- so you're expanding the regional security office that already exists? You're not creating a new tier. And secondly, has the Department of Justice to date ever taken action against a contractor?

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: The regional security -- we are in effect -- now all the reports reviewed by the staff of the regional security office. We're saying that if there is an incident that involves the use of deadly force, we are going to have the incident reviewed by the regional security officer and this joint incident review board, which will be composed of two State Department officers, a civilian from another government agency out there --

QUESTION: Okay. So it's a second body.

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: -- and a military officer. So it -- one could say it's another layer. It's a wider review.

QUESTION: Okay.

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: And any questions about what the Department of Justice may or may not have done would have to be asked of the Department of Justice.

QUESTION: Okay, thanks.