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Political-Military Affairs
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FAX COVER SHEET

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MESSAGE: A few points on Chip's paper (which we liked):

- Generally, the Geneva Conventions confer broad authority to detain military personnel and civilians for reasons related to an armed conflict.
- POWs are to be "released and repatriated without delay after the cessation of active hostilities," Article 118, GC III.
- Protected persons (e.g., civilians) may be interned by an occupying power "for imperative reasons of security." Article 78, GC IV. Such persons are to be released "as soon as the reasons which necessitated [their] internment no longer exist." Article 132, GC IV. In any event, "Internment shall cease as soon as possible after the close of hostilities." Article 133, GC IV.
- In the case of both POWs and internees, the duration of captivity may be extended if such persons are convicted of crimes, including war crimes. Such penalties could involve a term of years or death.

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