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SECRET

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B1,1.4(B),1.4(D)

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ACTION: NONE

INFO: FILE, STATDICT (2/W)

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OP CENTER PLS PASS EUR A/S HOLBROOKE AND DAS FRASURE
NSC FOR VERSHBOW

E.O. 12356: DECL
TAGS: PREL, SR
COMBINE: COMPLETE

Classification Extended on : 03/19/2013 ~ Class: SECRET ~ Authority: DSCG
11-1 ~ Declassify on: 04/25/2020

SUBJECT: MILOSEVIC'S APRIL 26 MEETING WITH UK CHARGE

REF: BELGRADE 1868

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. UK CHARGE ROBERTS HAS GIVEN US A BRIEF READ-OUT OF HIS APRIL 26 MEETING WITH MILOSEVIC, AT WHICH ROBERTS WAS INSTRUCTED BY LONDON TO SEEK CONFIRMATION OF MILOSEVIC'S INTERPRETATION OF THE PAPER RECEIVED ON APRIL 17 (REFTEL).
3. ROBERTS SAID THAT HE WROTE OUT HIS SPEAKING NOTES (AND PASSED THE PAPER TO MILOSEVIC) SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING BY MILOSEVIC OF WHAT THE UK WAS ASKING. THE FULL TEXT OF THESE SPEAKING NOTES IS TRANSMITTED IN PARA 7 BELOW.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Homme, Senior Reviewer

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4. ACCORDING TO ROBERTS, MILOSEVIC READ THE PAPER CAREFULLY AND THEN RESPONDED THAT HE WAS PUZZLED BY THIS NEED FOR CLARIFICATION, SINCE THE PAPER WAS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH HIS OWN PROPOSAL OF APRIL 17. IN THE DISCUSSION OF MODALITIES, MILOSEVIC SAID HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY EVERYTHING COULD NOT BE HANDLED BY ONE PAPER, BUT DID NOT SEE THIS ISSUE AS A LARGE PROBLEM.

5. THE CONTENTIOUS DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND HOW MUCH SANCTIONS RELIEF WOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE CONTACT GROUP, WITH MILOSEVIC CONTINUING TO INSIST ON "LIFTING" OF ALL SANCTIONS. ROBERTS REPORTEDLY ARGUED THAT THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE, AS HE HAD ALREADY EXPLAINED LAST TIME, BUT THAT SANCTIONS RELIEF COULD BE "SUBSTANTIAL."

[REDACTED]

MILOSEVIC DID NOT RESPOND POSITIVELY BUT INSTEAD ARGUED THAT OIL AND FUEL WERE IN HIS VIEW NON-STRATEGIC, AND THAT SUSPENSION RATHER THAN LIFT WAS IN ANY CASE HUMILIATING AND SUBJECT TO REVERSAL THROUGH FABRICATIONS SUCH AS THE HELICOPTER CHARGES. HE STRONGLY COMPLAINED IN THIS CONTEXT ABOUT UNSCR 988 AND HOW IT AGAIN SHOWED THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE CONTACT GROUP COUNTRIES TO WORK WITH HIM CONSTRUCTIVELY.

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6. IN SUMMING UP THE DISCUSSION, ROBERTS SAID THAT MILOSEVIC CONFIRMED ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL AS OUTLINED ON APRIL 17 BUT MADE CLEAR THAT THE DEGREE OF SANCTIONS RELIEF REMAINED AN UNRESOLVED ISSUE, WITH TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS AHEAD TO FIND COMMON GROUND.

7. BEGIN TEXT OF UK SPEAKING NOTES:

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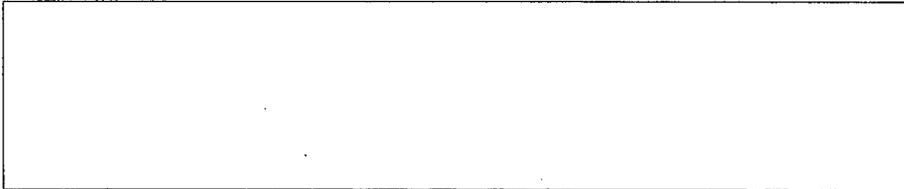
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