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DOCUMENT_ID: 179276684
DOCNO: 068759
PRODUCER: WASHDC
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: OUT
DOR: 19980418
TOR: 072638
DOCPREC: O
ORIGDATE: 199804162130
MHFNO: 98 1194774
DOCCLASS: U

HEADER

OO RUEAIIA
ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH
MPE8759
OO RUEHC
DE RUEHC #8759 1081121
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O P 162130Z APR 98
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU IMMEDIATE 1617-1619
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE 3565-3567
RUEHSL/AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA IMMEDIATE 7704-7706
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY IMMEDIATE 5543-5545
RUEHCH/AMEMBASSY CHISINAU IMMEDIATE 0091-0093
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KIEV IMMEDIATE 1046-1048
RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA IMMEDIATE 2423-2425
RUEHMR/AMCONSUL MARSEILLE IMMEDIATE 5017-5019
RUEHRS/AMEMBASSY MINSK IMMEDIATE 3609-3611
RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA IMMEDIATE 4288-4290
RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO IMMEDIATE 4417-4419
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN IMMEDIATE 1672-1674
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT IMMEDIATE 2330-2332
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI IMMEDIATE 1679-1681
RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS IMMEDIATE 3835-3837
RUEHYE/AMEMBASSY YEREVAN IMMEDIATE 6188-6190
RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB IMMEDIATE 9932-9934
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHLZ/AMCONSUL LEIPZIG PRIORITY 0786-0788
RUEHMZ/AMCONSULMUNICH PRIORITY 2169-2171
RUEHSR/AMCONSUL STRASSBOURG PRIORITY 1714-1716
RUFGNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//PRIORITY
INFO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 7407-7409
BT

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UNCLAS STATE 068759

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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TEXT

TAGS: OPRC

SUBJECT: EUR DAILY PRESS GUIDANCE - APRIL, 1998

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED AND APPROVED BY THE BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AND CANADIAN AFFAIRS AND OTHER SELECTED BUREAUS HANDLING ISSUES OF INTEREST TO EUR POSTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING. QUESTIONS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO DAVID EVANS, EUR POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

STATUS OF DINKO SAKIC, SUSPECTED WORLD WAR II WAR CRIMINAL
TURKEY: DESECRATION OF GREEK GRAVES
CONSULTATIONS WITH LATVIAN STATE SECRETARY OF THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY

STATEMENT BY JAMES P. RUBIN, SPOKESMAN: LATVIAN GOVERNMENT
PROPOSES LEGISLATION TO FACILITATE INTEGRATION OF
NATIONAL MINORITIES

STATEMENT BY JAMES P. RUBIN, SPOKESMAN: U.S. CONDEMNS
MURDERS IN DRVAR

2. STATUS OF DINKO SAKIC, SUSPECTED WORLD WAR II WAR
CRIMINAL

Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF DINKO SAKIC, THE CROATIAN LIVING
IN ARGENTINA WHO IS ACCUSED OF WAR CRIMES IN WORLD WAR
II?

A: -- TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, DINKO (AKI) (SHAH-
KICH) IS STILL AT LARGE IN ARGENTINA. THE ARGENTINE
GOVERNMENT HAS SAID THEY WOULD ASK THEIR FEDERAL COURTS
FOR A WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST, BUT WE HAVE NOT HEARD
WHETHER AN ARREST WARRANT HAS BEEN ISSUED.

Q: DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BELIEVE DINKO SAKIC CAN BE
FAIRLY TRIED IN CROATIA GIVEN ITS HISTORY OF NAZI
COLLABORATION?

A: -- THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT SUPPORT ANYTHING OTHER
THAN A VIGOROUS PROSECUTION AND A FAIR TRIAL FOR DINKO
(AKI), NO MATTER WHERE HE IS TRIED.

-- CROATIA IS ONE OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES WHERE (AKI) COULD
LEGALLY BE PUT ON TRIAL. THE GOVERNMENT OF CROATIA HAS
TOLD US THAT THEY WILL SEEK (AKI)'S EXTRADITION FROM
ARGENTINA FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRYING HIM FOR WAR CRIMES.

-- THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS MADE IT CLEAR AT THE HIGHEST
LEVELS OF THE CROATIAN GOVERNMENT THAT IF IT PUTS (AKI) ON
TRIAL, NOTHING LESS THAN A VIGOROUS PROSECUTION AND A FAIR
TRIAL WILL DO. (AKI) IS ACCUSED OF COMMANDING A DEATH
CAMP WHERE TENS OF THOUSANDS, IF NOT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS
OF PEOPLE WERE KILLED. (AKI) MAY BE ONE OF THE MOST
SIGNIFICANT WAR CRIMINALS FROM WORLD WAR II AT LARGE
TODAY. THERE IS A LOT OF ATTENTION THAT IS GOING TO BE
PAID TO HOW THIS CASE IS HANDLED.

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3. TURKEY: DESECRATION OF GREEK GRAVES

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE DESECRATION OF A GREEK ORTHODOX GRAVEYARD IN ISTANBUL ON MARCH 31? HAVE YOU DISCUSSED IT WITH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT?

A: -- WE DEPLORE THIS GROTESQUE AND REPULSIVE CRIME. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS JOINED IN THE WIDESPREAD CONDEMNATION OF THIS CRIME, AND WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE TURKS THAT AN INVESTIGATION IS UNDERWAY. WE HOPE THAT THE INVESTIGATION WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH THE UTMOST VIGOR.

4. CONSULTATIONS WITH LATVIAN STATE SECRETARY OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY -

Q: WHAT WAS DISCUSSED WITH LATVIAN STATE SECRETARY MARIS RIEKSTINS DURING HIS RECENT TWO-DAY VISIT TO WASHINGTON?

A: -- WE DISCUSSED A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES WITH MR. RIEKSTINS. THIS INCLUDED EXCHANGING VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN THE BALTIC REGION AND THE US-LATVIAN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

5. STATEMENT BY JAMES P. RUBIN, SPOKESMAN: LATVIAN GOVERNMENT PROPOSES LEGISLATION TO FACILITATE INTEGRATION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

-- THE UNITED STATES WARMLY WELCOMES THE LATVIAN GOVERNMENT'S APRIL 15 PROPOSAL TO ADOPT MEASURES TO SIMPLIFY ASPECTS OF THE NATURALIZATION PROCESS AND FACILITATE THE INTEGRATION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES.

-- THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION INCLUDES MEASURES TO OPEN THE NATURALIZATION PROCESS TO ALL INTERESTED AND QUALIFIED NON-CITIZENS. IN ADDITION, THE LATVIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED LEGISLATION GRANTING IMMEDIATE CITIZENSHIP TO ALL STATELESS CHILDREN BORN IN LATVIA SINCE INDEPENDENCE IN 1991. ALSO PLANNED ARE AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSED LANGUAGE AND LABOR LAWS IN ORDER TO BRING THESE BILLS INTO CONFORMANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL NORMS.

-- IF ENACTED BY THE LATVIAN LEGISLATURE, THE SAEIMA, THESE PROPOSALS WILL MARK A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN FACILITATING THE INTEGRATION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN LATVIA. ENACTMENT OF THESE MEASURES WOULD ADDRESS KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE), AND THE OSCE'S HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES, MAX VAN DER STOEL.

-- WE CONGRATULATE THE GOVERNMENT OF LATVIA ON THESE PROPOSALS, AND ENCOURAGE THE LATVIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE SAEIMA TO ADOPT THESE IMPORTANT MEASURES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

-- WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE BALTIC CHARTER GOALS OF THE FULL INTEGRATION OF LATVIA INTO EUROPEAN AND TRANSATLANTIC

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INSTITUTIONS, AND CLOSE COOPERATIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE BALTIC NATIONS AND OTHER NEIGHBORING STATES, INCLUDING RUSSIA.

6. STATEMENT BY JAMES P. RUBIN, SPOKESMAN: U.S. CONDEMNS MURDERS IN DRVAR

-- THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE MURDER LAST NIGHT OF AN ELDERLY BOSNIAN SERB COUPLE IN THE TOWN OF DRVAR IN THE LIVNO CANTON OF WESTERN BOSNIA. THE COUPLE HAD JUST RECENTLY RETURNED TO THEIR HOMETOWN AFTER FLEEING MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO DURING THE BOSNIAN WAR. SINCE RETURNING, THEY HAD BEEN HARASSED WHILE LOCAL BOSNIAN CROAT OFFICIALS DID NOTHING. WE HOLD THE LOCAL OFFICIALS IN DRVAR AND IN THE LIVNO CANTON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CLIMATE OF INTOLERANCE AND HARASSMENT IN WHICH THESE MURDERS TOOK PLACE.

-- THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CALLS ON THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES -- IN COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY -- TO FULLY INVESTIGATE THESE MURDERS AND BRING THE RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS TO JUSTICE. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ALSO CALLS ON BOSNIAN LEADERS -- AT LOCAL, CANTONAL, FEDERATION AND NATIONAL LEVELS -- TO CONDEMN THESE BRUTAL MURDERS AND TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO FACILITATE THE RETURN OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PEOPLE TO THEIR HOMES IN SAFETY AND WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS, AS CALLED FOR IN THE DAYTON AGREEMENT.

-- THIS INCIDENT UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF REFORMING AND INTEGRATING ON A MULTIETHNIC BASIS THE POLICE FORCES IN THE LIVNO CANTON, AS REQUIRED BY DAYTON. SO FAR, CANTONAL OFFICIALS HAVE REFUSED TO DO THIS. WE EXPECT ALL BOSNIAN OFFICIALS TO DILIGENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY DISCHARGE THEIR DUTY TO PROTECT BOSNIAN CITIZENS OF ALL ETHNICITIES. WE SUPPORT THE AUTHORITY, UNDER DAYTON, OF THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE TO REMOVE ANY BOSNIAN OFFICIAL WHO REFUSES TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THE DAYTON AGREEMENT.
PICKERING

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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