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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

CONTROLS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TIRANA 002424

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR EUR/EE AND D/EEA

VIENNA FOR DAO - LTC GREATHOUSE

BRUSSELS FOR USEC - MARGOT SULLIVAN

LONDON FOR TREASURY - EMILY WALKER

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TEXT

TAGS: PREL, ECON, AL, UK, FR, US

SUBJECT: ALBANIAN GOLD AND U.S. CLAIMS

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUEST: MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR (ASSISTANT SECRETARY EQUIVALENT) DEMI SUMMONED AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 30 AND REQUESTED OPENING OF DISCUSSIONS LOOKING TO THE SETTLEMENT OF U.S. CLAIMS AGAINST ALBANIA AND THE RETURN OF ALBANIAN GOLD HELD BY THE TRIPARTITE GOLD COMMISSION. ACTION REQUEST: SEE PARA 7. END SUMMARY
3. THE DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT III (THREE) OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, LEONARD DEMI, SUMMONED AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 30 AND SAID HE HAD BEEN CHARGED BY HIS MINISTER TO REQUEST THE OPENING OF TALKS WITH THE U.S. ABOUT U.S. CLAIMS AGAINST ALBANIA AND ABOUT THE RETURN OF ALBANIA'S GOLD. DEMI SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT TO PURSUE THE MATTER, AND NOW CHAIRS A SMALL WORKING GROUP WHICH INCLUDES A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY.
4. IN REVIEWING THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT FILES, HE SAID, HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE UNITED STATES, IN 1984, REBUFFED A REQUEST FOR RETURN OF THE GOLD AT THAT TIME, CITING SOME SEVEN POINTS. THE BURDEN OF THE THEN-STATED U.S. POSITION WAS THAT WE WOULD NOT CONSIDER RETURN OF THE GOLD PRIOR TO ALBANIA AGREEING TO PAY SOME TWO MILLION DOLLARS IN CLAIMS FOR PROPERTIES CONFISCATED/NATIONALIZED BY THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT AFTER WORLD WAR II.
5. AMBASSADOR RECALLED FOR DEMI THE FACT THAT THE U.S. FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION HAD ISSUED A CALL EARLY IN 1992 FOR PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST ALBANIA TO STEP FORWARD (WE INFORMED THE MFA AT THE TIME THAT F.C.S.C. WAS MAKING SUCH A PUBLIC CALL). DEMI INDICATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBANIA WOULD NOW LIKE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE DISCUSSIONS, AND ASKED IF THE EMBASSY HAD ANY REPORT ON THE STATUS OF F.C.S.C. PROCESSING OF THE PRELIMINARY CLAIMS. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED SUCH A REPORT.
6. AMBASSADOR INQUIRED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBANIA PREFERRED TO DISCUSS THE CLAIMS/GOLD ISSUE IN TIRANA OR WASHINGTON. DEMI SAID THEY HAD NOT YET ADDRESSED THE ISSUE OF

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LOCUS OF THE TALKS, BUT WISHED FOR THEM TO BEGIN "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE". AMBASSADOR PROMISED TO REPORT REQUEST AND SEEK INSTRUCTIONS ON THE MATTER.

7. ACTION REQUEST: REQUEST STATUS REPORT ON F.S.C.S. DEVELOPMENT OF U.S. CLAIMS, AND ON WHAT WE MIGHT CONVEY TO THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT ON THE GOLD CLAIMS ISSUE. RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT MOVE TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN THE NEW YEAR.

RYERSON

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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