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CONF: 06/PCD-7 INFO: ODPD-U, RF, FILE, DORECORD, (10/P)

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TO: C J INFO C J C J C J

FROM: EUR/CA INFO E/G, E/SC

SUBJECT: MNINTEL C J C J - BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON RAOUL WALLEMBERG CASE

REF: C J 2828692

1. MOS RELAYING REF WHICH REPORTS THAT DANISH SAKHAROV COMMITTEE WILL HOLD HEARING ON WALLEMBERG CASE.
2. PARA THREE BELOW BEGINS TEXT 22 JULY STATE DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM TO AMEMBASSY/MOSCOW AND STOCKHOLM WHICH WILL BE USEFUL BACKGROUND MATERIAL TO C J C/O.
3. DAS BARRY CALLED IN SOVIET CHARGE VASEV ON JULY 21 TO DISCUSS RAOUL WALLEMBERG CASE. BARRY HANDED VASEV FOLLOWING NON PAPER.
4. "DURING WORLD WAR II THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION WERE UNITED IN THEIR EFFORTS TO DEFEAT THE NAZIS AND TO HALT THE SPREAD OF NAZI ATROCITIES IN EUROPE.
5. "MR RAOUL WALLEMBERG, WORKING IN HIS CAPACITY AS A SWEDISH DIPLOMAT IN WARTIME BUDAPEST, DID A GREAT DEAL TO ASSIST EAST EUROPEAN JEWS IN FLEEING NAZISM. THE UNITED STATES, AS WELL AS HIS NATIVE LAND, SWEDEN, TOOK A DEEP AND ACTIVE INTEREST IN MR. WALLEMBERG'S COURAGEOUS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THREATENED JEWS DURING WORLD WAR II. FOR A TIME, THE UNITED STATES PROVIDED FUNDS TO SUPPORT HIS HUMANITARIAN TASK.
6. " THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS EMANATING FROM PERSONS WHO LEFT THE SOVIET UNION IN RECENT MONTHS AND YEARS THAT MR. WALLEMBERG MAY STILL BE ALIVE. THESE REPORTS INCLUDED ACCOUNTS OF PERSONS WHO CLAIM TO HAVE SEEN HIM. HE WOULD BE IN HIS LATE SIXTIES NOW AND HIS FAMILY IN SWEDEN IS MOST ANXIOUS TO CONFIRM THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE MAY STILL BE ALIVE AND, IF SO, TO BE REUNITED WITH HIM. OUT OF

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CONSIDERATION FOR MR. WALLEMBERG'S UNCHALLENGED CONTRIBUTION TO THE LESSENING OF HUMAN SUFFERING, AND BECAUSE OF OUR SUPPORT OF HIS WARTIME EFFORTS, WE REQUEST, ON AN EXCEPTIONAL BASIS, THAT WE BE PROVIDED WITH COMPLETE DETAILS ABOUT HIS FATE."

7. BARRY ADDED THAT US HAD AN INTEREST IN CASE FOR TWO REASONS:

(A) WALLEMBERG UNDERTOOK ASSIGNMENT TO BUDAPEST PARTLY AT BEHEST US OFFICIALS IN PURSUIT OF AN OBJECTIVE OF GREAT CONCERN TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND,

(B) THE FUNDING FOR WALLEMBERG'S ACTIVITIES WAS IN PART US FUNDS.

8. BARRY EXPLAINED THAT WALLEMBERG'S RELATIVES WERE CURRENTLY IN WASHINGTON SEEKING US ASSISTANCE IN RAISING WALLEMBERG MATTER WITH SOVIETS. RELATIVES ARGUED THAT SINCE US WAS INVOLVED IN WALLEMBERG'S HUMANITARIAN MISSION IN BUDAPEST, WE SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN HIS FATE.

9. VASEV SAID HE HAD READ REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN APPROACHED PRESIDENT CARTER ON THIS MATTER, AND SPECULATED THIS WAS WHY WE WERE BRINGING IT UP. VASEV SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD PROVIDED THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT WITH A REPORT ON WALLEMBERG IN 1957 STATING HE HAD DIED IN PRISON IN 1947. VASEV SAID THERE WAS NOTHING NEW TO ADD.

10. BARRY REPLIED THAT IT WAS NOT BECAUSE OF PM BEGIN'S INTEREST IN THE CASE THAT WE WERE RAISING IT, BUT BECAUSE US SAW AN INTEREST OF ITS OWN IN THE MATTER. BARRY SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE SOVIET REPORT OF 1957, BUT STATED VARIOUS PEOPLE HAD CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN HIM ALIVE SINCE THEN.

11. VASEV SAID HE HAD READ THOSE REPORTS WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS THIRD HAND, AND ASSERTED SOVIETS WOULD NOT SAY HE WAS DEAD IF HE WAS NOT. VASEV SAID HE KNEW OF THIS CASE IN THE 1950'S WHEN HE WAS AN AIDE TO GROMYKO, AND MENTIONED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD WANTED TO ACCOMMODATE THE SWEDES SINCE THEY WERE WELL AWARE OF THE WALLEMBERG FAMILY'S PROMINENCE, BUT THERE WAS NO MORE INFORMATION. WHILE VASEV AGREED TO REPORT MEETING TO MOSCOW, HIS PERSONAL ASSESSMENT WAS THAT THERE WOULD BE NOTHING NEW.

12. BARRY SAID IT WOULD BE REASSURING IF WE COULD RECEIVE A

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MORE DETAILED REPORT ON MR. WALLEMBERG'S FATE.

13. FOR [] CHARGE MAY INFORM MFA SVG LEIFLAND OF ABOVE APPROACH AND THAT MRS. LAGERGREN AND SWEDISH CHARGE HAVE ALSO BEEN INFORMED (BY EUR/WE DIRECTOR FUNBETH).

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