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ACTION: NCNE INFO: JWPB-5; OPA/RO; RAD/RAF; RAD/RAU; USSR/E;
USSR/F; USSH/1; USSR/M; USSR/SHA; WEN/BC; WES/SA; FILE; HF; ODPN-N;
OPA/II-2; CI/FL; CR/E; D/FBIS-2; EPS/EG-2; EUN-3; IAD/CAS-3; NIC/A6;
NIO/ISSR; NIU/WE; SE-3. (22/0)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUDKFMG/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY 0000
INFO RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY 0000
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 0000
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 0000
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MADRID FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 11/14/00 (BARRY, ROBERT L.)

TAGS: PEPR, SHUM, CSCE, UR, US, SD

SUBJECT: **WALLENBERG CASE**

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 5047 (B) STATE 265039 (C) 79 STOCKHOLM
3485 (D) 79 STATE 216676

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. A CLAIM SIMILAR TO THAT REPORTED IN PARA 2
OF REPTEL A RECENTLY APPEARED IN AN ARTICLE IN
ATLANTIC MAGAZINE, ATTRIBUTED TO SWEDISH GOVERNMENT
SOURCES. PUBLISHED IN THE NOVEMBER 1980 ISSUE, THE
ARTICLE BY KATI MARTON ENTITLED "THE WALLENBERG
MYSTERY" CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:
"THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT SAYS WALLENBERG'S CURRENT
TRAIL LEADS TO THE MORDVINIA PRISON COMPLEX IN
THE WESTERN RUSSIAN AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF MOLDAVIA.
IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, PRISONERS COMING OUT OF THIS

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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

FOR COORDINATION WITH *State*

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COMPLEX HAVE REPORTED SIGHTING HIM THERE IN A SPECIAL PRISON FOR THOSE INMATES WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE OFFICIALLY DEAD. NEITHER THE SWEDES NOR THE WALLEBERG COMMITTEE ARE WILLING TO DISCLOSE THE NAMES OF NEW WITNESSES. TOO MANY OTHERS, LIKE JAN KAPLAN AND

PERHAPS THE KGB AGENT, HAVE BEEN LOST BECAUSE OF EARLY DISCLOSURES." (WE ARE POUCHING COPIES OF THE MARTON ARTICLE TO EMBASSIES MOSCOW AND STOCKHOLM.)

3. THE "KGB AGENT" REFERRED TO IN THE ARTICLE IS PRESUMABLY THE SAME ONE DESCRIBED BY THE SWEDISH MFA TO EMBASSY STOCKHOLM AND REPORTED IN PARA 4 OF REF C, ALTHOUGH THE ARTICLE DOES NOT GO INTO THE SAME DEGREE OF DETAIL. THE ARTICLE DOES DISCUSS RATHER FULLY THE KAPLAN CASE, INCLUDING THE LETTER FROM KAPLAN'S WIFE TO HIS DAUGHTER, ANNA BILDER, IN ISRAEL WHICH STATED THAT KAPLAN WAS REIMPRISONED BECAUSE OF HIS ASSOCIATION WITH WALLEBERG. AS EMBASSIES WILL RECALL, THIS LETTER HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED (REF D), AND ON THE BASIS OF IT THE SWEDES REQUESTED PERMISSION TO INTERVIEW KAPLAN IN THE "SECRET" LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER ULLSTEN TO KOBYGIN IN AUGUST 1979 (REF C).

4. IN THE LIGHT OF THE ATLANTIC ARTICLE AND THE RENEWED PUBLIC INTEREST WHICH IT WILL INEVITABLY GENERATE, EUR/SOV DIRECTOR USED THE OCCASION OF A RECENT CALL BY ISRAELI MINISTER-COUNSELOR YANAI TO ASK WHETHER YANAI OR THE ISRAELIS HAD ANY NEW INFORMATION OR THEORIES ON THE WALLEBERG CASE. YANAI HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A SHORT VISIT TO ISRAEL BUT SAID HE HAD HAD NO RECENT DISCUSSIONS OF THE CASE AND NO CONTACTS WITH MRS. BILDER SINCE LAST YEAR. HE REPEATED WHAT HE HAD TOLD THE DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR (REF D), TO THE EFFECT THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT WALLEBERG WAS NOT STILL ALIVE. WHILE HE DID NOT DOUBT THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE LETTER TO MRS. BILDER, HE INDIRECTLY CAST DOUBT ON KAPLAN'S CREDIBILITY BY OBSERVING THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS FULL OF CRANKS.

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PEOPLE WITH FANTASIES, AND PEOPLE WHO SEEK PUBLICITY FOR THEMSELVES IN HOPES THAT IT WILL FACILITATE THEIR EFFORTS TO EMIGRATE.

5. AT THE SAME TIME, YANAI SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD NOT GIVEN THE SWEDES ALL OF THE INFORMATION WHICH EXISTS ON WALLEMBERG. YANAI, WHO WAS HIMSELF AN INMATE OF LUBIYANKA AFTER THE WAR ABOUT THE SAME TIME WALLEMBERG WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN THERE, STATED THAT EVERY DETAIL ABOUT EVERY PRISONER WAS METICULOUSLY RECORDED IN FILES STAMPED "KMKHANIT VECHNOM" ("TO BE PRESERVED FOREVER"). HIS OWN THEORY IS THAT THE SWEDES SHOULD

TRY A HUMANITARIAN APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS, NO LONGER APPEARING TO DOUBT THAT WALLEMBERG IS DEAD BUT POINTING OUT THE NATURAL DESIRE OF THE RELATIVES TO HAVE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH, PLACE OF BURIAL, ETC., SO THAT HIS MEMORY COULD BE HONORED.

6. WITH REGARD TO THE KAPLAN CASE, YANAI SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER MRS. WILDER HAD HEARD ANY MORE FROM EITHER OF HER PARENTS IN MOSCOW. HE WONDERED, HOWEVER, WHY THE SWEDISH EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, IF IT HAD NOT ALREADY DONE SO, DID NOT CALL ON MRS. KAPLAN TO ASK HER WHAT MORE HER HUSBAND MAY HAVE SAID ABOUT WALLEMBERG BEFORE HE WAS RE-IMPRISONED. IF THEY DID NOT KNOW MRS. KAPLAN'S ADDRESS, IT WOULD BE SIMPLE ENOUGH FOR A SWEDISH DIPLOMAT IN TEL AVIV TO OBTAIN IT FROM THE DAUGHTER THERE.

7. AT ITS DISCRETION, EMBASSY STOCKHOLM MAY WISH TO RAISE WITH THE MFA THE POSSIBILITY OF ATTEMPTING A DIRECT CONTACT WITH MRS. KAPLAN. WHILE SUCH A CONTACT IS UNLIKELY TO SHED MUCH MORE LIGHT ON WALLEMBERG, REVIVAL OF THE KAPLAN STORY IS BOUND TO PRODUCE FRESH INQUIRIES, BOTH TO THE SWEDES AND TO OURSELVES, ABOUT EFFORTS MADE TO TRACK DOWN THE STORY.

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END OF MESSAGE

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9. FOR STOCKHOLM AND MADRID: PER REF. RE CONTINUE TO AGREE THAT ANY ACTION AT MADRID ON WALLEBERG CASE SHOULD BE BASED ON SWEDISH INITIATIVE.

PLEASE KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF ANY CONSULTATIONS YOU MAY HAVE WITH SWEDEN ON THE SUBJECT. MUSKIE

8. INDEPENDENTLY OF THE MARION ARTICLE, AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED YULI KITAVICH HAS INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT OF A PLAN TO HOLD A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR WALLEBERG IN WASHINGTON, JERUSALEM, STOCKHOLM AND MOSCOW NEXT YEAR. KITAVICH WRITES THAT THE GUBERMAN RESOLVE COMMITTEE IS PART OF THE ORGANIZING GROUP WHICH WILL HOLD CEREMONIES IN THESE CITIES IF THE SOVIETS DO NOT FREE WALLEBERG OR PROVIDE GROUP OF HIS DEATH. IN THE EVENT OF THE LATTER, THE ORGANIZERS WISH TO HOLD THE CEREMONY AT THE CEMETERY IN WHICH WALLEBERG IS BURIED. IT IS NOT CLEAR FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE HOW FAR THE PLANNING FOR THIS MEMORIAL WAS PROGRESSED (A COPY OF THE LETTER IS BEING POUCHED TO MOSCOW AND STOCKHOLM ALONG WITH THE MARION ARTICLE).

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