

67021

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

MFG. 9/69

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HCN040

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19

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 AID-28 EUR-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-07 L-04 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01
SS-20 USIA-12 E-15 RSR-01 /150 W

----- 059930

R 020645Z JUN 70
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7582
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1249

SUBJ: PUBLICITY RE TERMINATION BILATERAL ASSISTANCE SOMALIA

JOINT EMBASSY/USAID MESSAGE

1. AS DEPARTMENT AND AID AWARE, WE ARE NOW ENTERING PERIOD REAL UNCERTAINTY RE APPLICATION OF PHASE-OUT OF BILATERAL AID TO SOMALIA. AMBASSADOR HAS APPOINTMENTS WITH SECRETARIES OF APPROPRIATE MINISTRIES THIS WEEK TO BEGIN DISCUSSION OF IMPLICATIONS OF TERMINATION DECISIONS. WE HAVE NO WAY OF PREDICTING SOMALI REACTION AS YET. HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR PROPOSED TO GENERAL SIAD AND WILL FOLLOW-UP WITH SECRETARIES THAT THERE BE NO RPT NO PUBLICITY DURING THIS PERIOD SINCE PUBLIC DISCUSSION MIGHT MAKE ORDERLY PROCEDURES MORE DIFFICULT.

2. WE STRONGLY URGE THAT WASHINGTON FOLLOW THIS SAME APPROACH. AS WE SEE PROBLEM FROM MOGADISCIO, THERE ARE THREE AREAS WHERE UNFORTUNATE PUBLICITY MIGHT OCCUR:

A. CONGRESSIONAL: WE REALIZE THAT CONGRESS MUST BE INFORMED OF DECISION IN NEAR FUTURE. WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE INFORMATION BE TRANSMITTED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION, IF QUESTION NEEDS TO BE DISCUSSED OFFICIALLY. IT MAY BE POSSIBLE, AND CERTAINLY DESIRABLE, TO TREAT MATTER INFORMALLY, AND THAT EXPLANATION CAN BE GIVEN OF REASON FOR AVOIDING PUBLICITY.

B. USAID DISCUSSIONS WITH NON-OFFICIALS, E.G., EASTERN MICH-

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State Dept. review completed

1440

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IGAN UNIVERSITY AND WYOMING: WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS PRESENTS PROBLEMS, SINCE CONTRACTS AND OTHER PRACTICAL DETAILS MUST BE WORKED OUT IN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. AT THE SAME TIME, IT SEEMS TO US IMPORTANT THAT UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS NOT ACT PRECIPITANTLY AND THAT THEY BE PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE IN LIGHT OF DISCUSSIONS DURING NEXT TWO WEEKS OR SO. HASTY ACTION COULD HAVE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS HERE AND PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES OF DAMAGING PROJECTS WHICH UP TO NOW HAVE RECORD OF POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO SOMALI DEVELOPMENT. AMBASSADOR IS POUCHING TO AFE HOLMES LETTERS TO PRESIDENTS OF THE TWO UNIVERSITIES WHICH DEPARTMENT/USAID MAY BE ABLE TO USE ADVANTAGEOUSLY.

C. DEPARTMENT PRESS INFORMATION: WE ASSUME THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE NO RPT NO INITIATIVE TO RAISE QUESTION OF TERMINATION BILATERAL AID. IN CASE QUESTION IS RAISED, SUGGEST DEPARTMENT DRAW ON INFORMAL TALKING PAPER WHICH AMBASSADOR POUCHED AFE HOLMES TO DEVELOP GUIDANCE. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SUMMARY OF PROPOSED GUIDANCE.

3. BOTH USAID AND EMBASSY SEE THE COMING WEEKS AS "WIDE OPEN" AS FAR AS POSSIBLE CHANGE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GSDR. OBVIOUSLY WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KEEP OPEN WHAT FEW OPTIONS WE MAY HAVE DURING THIS PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY.
HADSFL

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