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. S E C R E T

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MORI C05147256

State Dept. review completed

ROUTINE

#0489 0981650

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R 081559Z APR 74
FM BRUSSELSON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

TO THE WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T 081559Z APR 74

FROM: AMBASSADOR DONALD RUMSFELD, USNATO, BRUSSELS, 489
TO: BRIG. GEN. BRENT SCOWCROFT, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

PLEASE PASS TO HAL SONNENFELD (EYES ONLY FOR SONNENFELD)
SUBJECT: DELAYED BACK CHANNEL OF APRIL 2

1. I HAVE NOW LEARNED WHAT CAUSED THE DELAYED RECEIPT OF YOUR
BACK CHANNEL OF APRIL 2. YOUR MESSAGE WH 40838 ARRIVED AT
EMBASSY BRUSSELS AT 6:15 A.M. APRIL 2. AT 8:20 A.M. IT WAS
DELIVERED TO [REDACTED] ARRIVING AT EMBASSY

BRUSSELS, NOT AT USNATO, WHO GAVE IT TO A SECRETARY AND ASKED
HER TO GET IT TO USNATO. UNFORTUNATELY, THE SECRETARY, WHO WAS
SUBSTITUTING FOR THE REGULAR SECRETARY, WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH
PROCEDURE FOR SUCH MESSAGES FOR USNATO, AND PUT IT WITH THE
OTHER MESSAGES DESTINED TO GO TO NATO WITH THE REGULAR 10:30
TO 11 O'CLOCK CLASSIFIED COURIER RUN.

2. SINCE THE POUCH CONTAINING THE MESSAGES HAD NO SPECIAL
MARKING ON IT INDICATING AN IMMEDIATE MESSAGE WAS INSIDE, THE USNATO
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS UNIT PROCESSED THE POUCH ROUTINELY AND
DID NOT DISCOVER YOUR IMMEDIATE UNTIL AFTER I HAD LEFT FOR THE
PERMREPS LUNCH.

3. FROM NOW ON, WHEN A BACK CHANNEL ARRIVES AT EMBASSY
[REDACTED] WILL CALL THE USNATO DUTY OFFICER AT ONCE, REGARDLESS
OF THE HOUR, SO THAT USNATO CAN IMMEDIATELY WORK OUT THE FASTEST
WAY OF GETTING THE MESSAGE TO ME. IF THE MESSAGE ARRIVES IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, THE USNATO DUTY OFFICER WILL PICK IT UP EARLY
IN THE MORNING AND BRING IT TO ME AT USNATO ON HIS WAY TO WORK.

4. THIS NEW PROCEDURE SHOULD PREVENT DELAYS OF THIS TYPE.

5. WARM REGARDS

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SCOWCROFT, MCFARLANE, RODMAN