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PREC: PRIORITY

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EO 13526 3.3(b)(1), 1.4c

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
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SUBJ: NPIC HIGHLIGHT CABLE 26 SEP 95

THIS IS NPIC HIGHLIGHT CABLE 95-8591 FOR 26 SEPTEMBER 1995.

EO 13526 3.3(b)(1), 1.4c

TEXT:

~~SECRET~~ NOFORN

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1. BALKAN HIGHLIGHTS

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: PROBABLE MASS GRAVE NEAR KARAKAJ AND ZVORNIK (E/ 3.3(b)(1))

TEXT:

1. BALKAN HIGHLIGHTS (E/ 13526 3.3(b)(1), 1.4c

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: PROBABLE MASS GRAVE NEAR KARAKAJ AND ZVORNIK (E/ 3.3(b)(1))

ANOTHER PROBABLE MASS GRAVE SITE AND TWO SUSPECTED GRAVE SITES ASSOCIATED WITH THE BOSNIAN SERB ARMY SIEGE OF THE FORMER SREBRENICA UN SAFE AREA HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN EASTERN BOSNIA NEAR THE TOWNS OF KARAKAJ AND ZVORNIK.

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CONTINUING ANALYSIS OF U-2 IMAGERY AND NUMEROUS SURVIVOR REPORTS OF THE ALLEGED MASS EXECUTIONS OF MEN FROM SREBRENICA SUGGEST THAT EXECUTIONS MAY HAVE OCCURRED NEAR TWO SEPARATE BRIGADE GARRISONS OF THE DRINA ARMY CORPS AFTER THE FALL OF SREBRENICA. THIS MOST RECENT DISCOVERY IS NEAR A GARRISON AND FIELD DEPLOYMENT AREA OF THE 1ST ZVORNIK LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE NEAR LAZETE (E/ 3.3(b)(1), 1.4c) AND THE ZVORNIK RESERVOIR 4 KM TO THE NORTH. ALL THREE AREAS OF DISTURBED SOIL NEAR SAHANICI AT 44-25-29N 019-02-55E (UTM 345T CQ446209) WERE THE SAME IN APPEARANCE AS FOUR POSSIBLE MASS GRAVES AT KASABA AND TATAR, AND A FIFTH SUSPECTED SITE AT SANDICI NEAR THE FORMER UN SAFE AREA OF SREBRENICA. KASABA IS A GARRISON TOWN ASSOCIATED WITH THE 1ST MILICI LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE. (E/ 3.3(b)(1))

TWO AREAS OF DISTURBED SOIL NEAR SAHANICI HAD BEEN PREPARED (E/ 3.3(b)(1)) AND APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN EXCAVATED BY HEAVY EQUIPMENT SUCH AS A BULLDOZER OR TRACKED BACKHOE. A LARGE PROBABLE GRAVE SITE IS ABOUT 800 SQUARE METERS IN SIZE, AND A SMALLER SUSPECTED SITE IS ABOUT 100 SQUARE METERS IN SIZE. A TRAIL CREATED BY A TRACKED VEHICLE ALSO WAS NEWLY IDENTIFIED (E/ 3.3(b)(1)) LEADING TO THE LARGE PROBABLE GRAVE SITE FROM A HIGHWAY IN THE DIRECTION OF KARAKAJ AND ZVORNIK. (E/ 3.3(b)(1))

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ANOTHER AREA OF ABOUT 20 SQUARE METERS OF RECENTLY DISTURBED SOIL WAS IMMEDIATELY SOUTHEAST OF THE EARTHEN DAM OF THE ZVORNIK RESERVOIR, 5 KM TO THE NORTH. A PROBABLE UNIT OF THE 1ST ZVORNIK LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE HAS BEEN DEPLOYED NEAR THE RESERVOIR SINCE AT LEAST 1993. (S/ 3.3(b)(1))

THE SAHANICI PROBABLE MASS GRAVE SITE IS ALSO 1,200 METERS NORTHWEST OF A GARRISON OF THE 1ST ZVORNIK LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE OF THE BOSNIAN SERB ARMY-S DRINA CORPS. THE BUILDINGS IN THE GARRISON, SIMILAR TO THOSE DESCRIBED BY ONE REFUGEE, MAY HAVE BEEN USED IN THE PAST AS AN INN, SCHOOL, OR GYMNASIUM, AND COULD HAVE BEEN USED FOR DETENTION OF MUSLIM MEN FROM SREBRENICA PRIOR TO THEIR REPORTED MASS EXECUTIONS ON OR ABOUT 3.3(b)(1) ONE SURVIVOR OF THE ALLEGED MASS EXECUTIONS REPORTED THAT SUBJECTS WERE TRANSPORTED BY TRUCK FROM SANDICI AND BRATUNAC TO A SCHOOL (IN THE DIRECTION OF KARAKAJ, (THEN AT NIGHT TO A FIELD WHERE ALLEGEDLY HUNDREDS OF MUSLIM MEN WERE SHOT. OTHER REPORTS CLAIMED THAT A MASS GRAVE WAS DUG AND BODIES WERE COVERED BY A BULLDOZER. (S/ 3.3(b)(1))

SOLDIERS, TANKS AND ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS OF THE 1ST ZVORNIK LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE WERE VERY LIKELY USED IN THE SIEGE OF THE FORMER SREBRENICA SAFE AREA IN EARLY JULY 1995, AND PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH ANY EXECUTIONS THAT MAY HAVE OCCURRED NEAR THEIR GARRISON AFTER THE SIEGE. THESE SOLDIERS AND VEHICLES (THREE M-84 TANKS AND THREE M60 APC-S) HAD RETURNED TO THEIR GARRISON 3.3(b)(1) ACCORDING TO ANALYSIS OF U-2 IMAGERY. (S/ 3.3(b)(1))

SURVIVORS OF ALLEGED MASS EXECUTIONS THAT REPORTEDLY OCCURRED IN THE AREAS OF KASABA AND KARAKAJ SAID THAT THEY WERE DETAINED IN A SCHOOL BUILDING, OPEN FIELDS, AND SOCCER STADIUMS ACCORDING TO VARIOUS US, MEDIA, AND UN DEBRIEFINGS CONDUCTED AT REFUGEE LOCATIONS NEAR TUZLA. SIMILAR REPORTS OF MASS EXECUTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BY DUTCH UN SOLDIERS WHO WERE DETAINED IN THE SREBRENICA AREA WHILE MUSLIMS WERE BEING FORCIBLY REMOVED AND EXECUTED BY THE BOSNIAN SERBS, ACCORDING TO DUTCH PRESS. THE REPORTED MASS EXECUTIONS AND POSSIBLE MASS GRAVES AT KASABA AND TATAR WERE ALSO NEAR ONE OF THE GARRISONS OF A DRINA CORPS BRIGADE, THE 1ST MILICI LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE. THE PROXIMITY OF PROBABLE MASS GRAVES AND ALLEGATIONS OF MASS EXECUTIONS WITHIN 1 KM OF SEPARATE BRIGADES OF THE SAME ARMY CORPS STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT THERE WAS HIGH-LEVEL BOSNIAN SERB ARMY PLANNING AND COORDINATION OF MASS EXECUTIONS. (S/ 3.3(b)(1))
3.3(b)(1)

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COLLATERAL REFERENCES:
031610Z AUG 95, FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB, HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES - SREBRENICA, (S/)

IMAGERY REFERENCE:

EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)

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EO 13526 3.3(b)(1), 1.4c, 3.5c