

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
 CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
 LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHTIA1742 1321831-CCCC--RHEHNSC.
 LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
 LINE3: O 121831Z MAY 98
 LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
 OSRI: RUEHTI
 DTG: 121831Z MAY 98
 ORIG: AMEMBASSY TIRANA
 TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5570
 INFO: RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
 RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
 RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
 RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
 RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
 RHDLCNE/CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 RUFGNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 RUFRRJQ/COMSIXTHFLT
 SUBJ: KOSOVO: NANO TO HOLBROOKE AND GELBARD:
 TEXT:

DECLASSIFIED
 PER E.O. 13526
 2020-0079-M (1.01)
 KBH 10/11/2024

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 TIRANA 001742

STATE ALSO FOR EUR/SCE - LUNDBERG AND DRL - BIGUS

USVIENNA FOR US MISSION OSCE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/12/08
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, AL, SR
 SUBJECT: KOSOVO: NANO TO HOLBROOKE AND GELBARD:
 ZERO SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE; RUGOVA
 HAS OUR FULL BACKING; OUR BORDER IS
 DEFINITELY CLOSED, BUT...

(U) CLASSIFIED BY AMB. M. R. LINO FOR REASONS 1.5
 (B) AND (D).

SUMMARY

1. ~~(S)~~ THE HOLBROOKE/GELBARD DELEGATION
 DISCUSSED KOSOVO WITH PM NANO MAY 10, FOCUSING ON
 THE DETERIORATING SITUATION ON THE GROUND THERE
 AND WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT. THE CONVERSATION
 COVERED THE INTERDICTION OF WEAPONS MOVING ACROSS
 THE ALBANIA-FRY BORDER, SUPPORT FOR RUGOVA, THE
 ROLE OF THE KOSOVAR ALBANIAN DIASPORA, THE NEED
 FOR NATO AND/OR U.S. ASSISTANCE, AND THE KOSOVO
 LIBERATION ARMY (UCK). HOLBROOKE PRESSED NANO
 HARD TO SHOW MORE LEADERSHIP ON KOSOVO AS WELL AS
 TO DO MORE TO INTERDICT MOVEMENT OF MEN AND ARMS
 INTO THE REGION.

2. (S) NANO COUNTERED, SAYING HE WAS DOING ALL HE COULD. THE GOA HAD MADE CLEAR ITS "ZERO SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE," HE ADDED, AND FULLY BACKED RUGOVA EVEN THOUGH RUGOVA WAS PERHAPS LOSING TOUCH WITH THE REALITY OF THE INCREASING RADICALIZATION OF THE POPULATION. "THE BORDER," NANO STATED DEFINITELY, "WAS CLOSED," ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED A LACK OF CONTROL OVER MOUNTAIN TRAILS AND THE CONTINUATION OF THE STEADY MOVEMENT OF INDIVIDUALS AND SMALL-SCALE WEAPONS SMUGGLING INTO KOSOVO. NANO ASKED FOR HELP FROM U.S. AND NATO EXPERTS TO REBUILD ALBANIA'S POLICE, SECURITY AND ARMED FORCES. END SUMMARY.

3. (S) AT A WORKING DINNER MAY 10, AMBASSADORS HOLBROOKE AND GELBARD TOLD PRIME MINISTER NANO THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE STOP IN TIRANA WAS TO DEMONSTRATE PUBLICLY USG SUPPORT FOR ALBANIA AT A CRITICAL MOMENT AS WELL AS TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF ISSUES INVOLVING KOSOVO. HOLBROOKE ASKED NANO WHAT THE USG COULD DO TO HELP ALBANIA AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT. NANO SAID THE GOA NEEDED EXPERTS TO HELP WITH TRAINING, WEAPONS DESTRUCTION, PROTECTION OF DEPOTS, AND OTHER ISSUES CONCERNING THE REBUILDING AND REFORM OF SECURITY, POLICE AND DEFENSE FORCES. AMBASSADOR GELBARD NOTED THE NATO TEAM VISITING TIRANA CONCURRENTLY WOULD BE LOOKING AT THE ALBANIAN MILITARY'S NEEDS ACROSS THE BOARD.

A WORSENING SITUATION IN KOSOVO

4. (S) HOLBROOKE STATED THE USG'S CONCERN FOR THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN KOSOVO, NOTING THE SITUATION WAS SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE THAN IT HAD BEEN EVEN IN MID-APRIL WHEN DEPUTY SECRETARY TALBOTT AND AMBASSADOR GELBARD HAD VISITED TIRANA. THE DELEGATION, ADDED HOLBROOKE, WAS GATHERING INFORMATION TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT SOLUTIONS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TIRANA STOP WOULD GO TO WASHINGTON, WHERE THERE WAS CONCERN AND INTEREST AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE USG.

5. (S) HOLBROOKE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE FACT IT WAS CLEAR THE GOA DID NOT EXERCISE GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL OVER THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IN THE NORMAL SENSE OF THE WORD. NANO AGREED. THAT SAID THE POINT, HOLBROOKE CONTINUED, WAS THAT INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION IN BOTH ALBANIA KOSOVO WAS INADEQUATE. THE DELEGATION WAS HERE TO HELP, HE ADDED.

CROSS-BORDER ARMS FLOWS

6. (S) NANO STATED THE ALBANIA-FRY BORDER IS

"DEFINITELY CLOSED." HOWEVER, IN THE ENSUING DISCUSSION OF SMALL-SCALE FLOW OF ARMS ACROSS THAT PORTION OF THE BORDER, NANO ADMITTED "THAT MOUNTAINOUS AREA IS UNCONTROLLABLE, BUT NOT FOR ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 04 TIRANA 001742

STATE ALSO FOR EUR/SCE - LUNDBERG AND DRL - BIGUS

USVIENNA FOR US MISSION OSCE

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HUGE QUANTITIES." NANO SAID THAT YOUNG MEN WALKED ACROSS MOUNTAIN PATHS WITH A FEW KALASHNIKOVs STRAPPED TO THEIR BACK. WHAT WAS CLEAR WAS THAT THIS WAS A MATTER OF "TENS OF WEAPONS, NOT ARMING LARGER NUMBERS OF INDIVIDUALS."

7. (e) AMBASSADOR GELBARD NOTED A NUMBER OF THINGS COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION. IN ADDITION TO REINFORCING INTERDICTION EFFORTS, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE GOA TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SAFEGUARD WEAPONS DEPOTS. GELBARD ADDED NATO EXPERTS CAN ASSIST IN THIS REGARD, OR EVEN A GROUP OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. THERE NEEDS TO BE BETTER MANAGEMENT OF THE PORT FACILITIES/CUSTOMS TO ENSURE THAT WEAPONS COMING IN FROM THE OUTSIDE, WHICH WE UNDERSTOOD WAS BEGINNING TO HAPPEN, WERE BLOCKED.

SUPPORT FOR RUGOVA

8. (e) PRESSED ON THE POINT OF GOA SUPPORT FOR DR. RUGOVA, NANO STATED DEFINITELY THE POSITION OF THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT IS IN COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR RUGOVA AND HIS NON-VIOLENT PHILOSOPHY. NANO NOTED "THE POLITICAL OPTION IS CLEAR, THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO RUGOVA. HOWEVER, I AM CONCERNED HE IS LOSING GROUND; THAT SOME OF THE DESPERATE PEOPLE AROUND HIM MAY BE JOINING (FORCES WITH) UCK. NO ONE CLOSE TO RUGOVA IS TRYING TO SENSITIZE PEOPLE TO THIS NEGATIVE OPTIC."

9. (e) RUGOVA, THE PM CONTINUED, LAST CAME TO TIRANA IN SEPTEMBER. THEY DISCUSSED "OPEN BORDERS AND NEGOTIATED SOLUTIONS," SAID NANO, BUT RUGOVA'S RESPONSE TO HIS INITIATIVES WAS COOL, PARTICULARLY WHERE THE SUBJECT OF BORDERS WAS CONCERNED. NANO SAID HE TOLD RUGOVA THAT ONE HAD TO "BUILD BORDERS BEFORE WE CAN DESTROY THEM."

10. (e) TALKING ABOUT HOW OUT OF TOUCH KOSOVAR

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

ALBANIAN POLITICIANS ARE, NANO MENTIONED WHAT SANT'EGIDIO'S DON VINCENZO PAGLIA HAD DESCRIBED FOR HIM: THE SCENE AT THE OPENING OF THE ALBANOLOGY INSTITUTE IN PRISTINA, WHERE "THE STUDENTS HAD TEARS OF JOY IN THEIR EYES, BUT THE POLITICIANS HAD TEARS OF ANGER IN THEIRS." SOME OF THE KOSOVAR POLITICIANS, HINTED NANO, AND LOOKING OUT FOR THEIR OWN PAROCHIAL INTERESTS, RATHER THAN SEEKING THE GREATER GOOD FOR ALBANIANS IN KOSOVO.

11. (S) NANO SAID HE HAD BEEN CONTINUALLY INITIATING CONTACT WITH PRISTINA, BUT HE FELT THERE WAS A DEFINITE "LACK OF WILLINGNESS" ON THE PART OF PRISTINA TO RECIPROCATE. THE HEAD OF THE KOSOVO OFFICE IN TIRANA, ILAZ RAMAJLI, SAID NANO, WAS OUT OF TOUCH. HE HAD TALKED TO MEMBERS OF RUGOVA'S NEGOTIATING TEAM, THE G-15, RECENTLY BUT THEY HAD ONLY ACCUSED NANO OF BEING OUT OF TOUCH HIMSELF. "THEY TRIED TO BLACKMAIL ME WITH THIS NEGATIVE OPTIC," SAID THE PM.

DIASPORA AND ITS INVOLVEMENT

12. (S) HOLBROOKE NOTED IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE GOA TO "FOLLOW THE MONEY," WITH REGARD TO CROSS-BORDER ACTIVITIES OF KOSOVAR ALBANIANS. NANO RECALLED A RECENT CONVERSATION FM MILO HAD HAD IN SWITZERLAND, WHERE MILO WAS TOLD THAT USD 4 BILLION WAS BEING COLLECTED TO ASSIST THE KOSOVAR. SOME DONORS, INCLUDING SOME IN THE U.S., ADDED NANO, PROBABLY DID NOT KNOW THAT THEIR MONEY WAS GOING INTO THE PURCHASE OF WEAPONS. HE NOTED THAT AT LEAST ONE DIASPORA GROUP HAS A BANK ACCOUNT IN THE U.S. THAT IS BEING USED TO FUNNEL MONEY INTO KOSOVO.

U.S./NATO ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 04 TIRANA 001742

STATE ALSO FOR EUR/SCE - LUNDBERG AND DRL - BIGUS

USVIENNA FOR US MISSION OSCE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/12/08

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13. (S) NANO STATED HIS GOVERNMENT HAD A CLEAR APPROACH FOR BRINGING ALBANIA "BACK TO NORMALCY." THE GOA PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

-- REBUILD THE ARMY TO A NATO MODEL AND WITH WESTERN STANDARDS;

-- BUILD A PROFESSIONAL, NON-PARTISAN, EFFECTIVE POLICE FORCE;

-- CREATE RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF LAW;

-- GIVE THE POPULATION A "FISCAL EDUCATION," I.E. TEACH THEM THE VALUE OF PAYING TAXES, UTILITIES BILLS, ETC.

14. (e) NANO ADDED THE GOA DID NOT GIVE UP ITS OWN RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS REGARD, BUT THEY WOULD NEED OUTSIDE HELP "TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS," I.E., U.S. AND/OR NATO ASSISTANCE. THE PM CITED GOA EFFORTS TO COLLECT WEAPONS AS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT TASKS, BECAUSE A KALASHNIKOV HAD A CERTAIN MONETARY VALUE AND THERE WAS A GREAT TEMPTATION TO SELL SUCH WEAPONS. THE PRICE FOR ONE KALASHNIKOV WAS NOW AROUND 400 DM (APPROX. USD 235) EACH, BECAUSE OF KOSOVO, SAID NANO.

15. (e) NANO ALSO CRITICIZED THE SLOWNESS OF SOME MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO ARE DRAGGING THEIR HEELS IN RESPONDING TO PRIORITY REQUESTS OF THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS IN POLICE TRAINING. TO SHOW THE NEED, NANO REFERRED BRIEFLY TO THE INCIDENT IN SHKODRA DURING DEC. 97/JAN. 98 AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW A SMALL NUMBER OF CRIMINALS COULD BLOCK THE WORK OF THE POLICE AND USE THE OCCASION TO DESTROY THE CITY. THE SPECIAL INTERVENTION FORCES HAD TO BE SENT IN. UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE MANY DEMANDS ON THE SPECIAL INTERVENTION FORCES, NOTED NANO, AND THERE ARE ONLY 100 OF THEM. HE ADDED: "IT IS NOT ENOUGH."

16. (e) AMBASSADOR GELBARD NOTED THE USG WAS IN THE PROCESS NOW OF LOOKING AT HOW U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN POLICE TRAINING COULD BE EXPANDED QUICKLY TO MEET ALBANIA'S NEEDS. SOME OF THIS MIGHT BE DONE, HE ADDED, IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES (SUCH AS ITALY), OR SIMPLY BILATERALLY, AS SOME OTHER COUNTRIES ARE ALREADY DOING.

THE KOSOVO LIBERATION ARMY (UCK)

17. (e) ASKED HIS OPINION ABOUT THE UCK, NANO SAID THE GOA WAS TRYING TO IDENTIFY THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ORGANIZATION. THERE WAS NO SINGLE LEADER, ADDED NANO, AND HE NOTED RUGOVA SAID THE SAME THING. SOME DESPERATE PEOPLE MAY BE RECRUITED BY THE SERBS. ALSO, NANO UNDERSCORED THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, IF RUGOVA TURNS AWAY FROM HIS POSITION IN FAVOR OF INDEPENDENCE FOR KOSOVO, WITH THE WAY THINGS STAND NOW, HE WOULD LOSE GROUND TO

THE UCK. HE WOULD BE ADDING TO THE PERCEPTION THAT HE IS GETTING WEAKER AND THE UCK ARE GETTING STRONGER.

18. (C) WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE SERB ACTIVITIES, NANO ALLEGED "THE SAME MAN WHO ASKED BERISHA FOR TRAINING FACILITIES (IN ALBANIA) IN 1993-94 HAS NOW ASKED FOR THEM AGAIN. BERISHA GAVE HIM SOME FACILITIES. A 100 YOUNGSTERS WERE TRAINED NEAR ELBASAN, BUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEY GOT ACROSS THE BORDER THEY SURRENDERED TO THE UDB. WHAT HAPPENED RECENTLY, ALBANIANS IN BORDER VILLAGES SPREAD RUMORS THAT THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD HELP (AND TRAIN). CLOSE TO 2000 YOUNG MEN CAME HERE. THEY FOUND NOTHING, BECAUSE WE WERE BLOCKING (NOT PROVIDING WEAPONS OR ALLOWING TRAINING). BUT
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 04 OF 04 TIRANA 001742

STATE ALSO FOR EUR/SCE - LUNDBERG AND DRL - BIGUS
USVIENNA FOR US MISSION OSCE

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THERE WAS AT LEAST ONE INSTANCE OF ONE PERSON COMMUNICATING WITH WALKIE-TALKIES IN SERBIAN. WHEN THE GROUP WENT BACK, SOME WERE KILLED AS SOON AS THEY GOT ACROSS THE BORDER."

19. (C) THE POINT, ADDED NANO, WAS THAT THE SERBIAN SECURITY SERVICES AND/OR GUN RUNNERS AS WELL AS THE "POLITICAL WING OF THE DIASPORA" COULD ALL BE INVOLVED IN CREATING INCIDENTS FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER. THE KOSOVARS WANT TO INFLAME THE SITUATION, AND TO CREATE MARTYRS FOR THE UCK, THE SERBS WANT AN EXCUSE FOR WHAT THEY ARE ALREADY DOING.

HOLBROOKE: WE NEED YOU TO DO MORE

20. (C) HOLBROOKE PRESSED NANO HARD FOR THE GOA TO DO MORE WITH REGARD TO INTERDICTION OF WEAPONS TRAFFICKING ACROSS THE ALBANIA-FRY BORDER. HE URGED HIM TO SHOW MORE LEADERSHIP IN SUPPORTING RUGOVA, AND ALSO TO MAINTAIN THE GOA POSITION OF MAINTAINING THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF EXISTING BORDERS, I.E., STAYING AWAY FROM ANY SUPPORT FOR THE POSITION IN FAVOR OF KOSOVO INDEPENDENCE. NANO SAID "WE ARE DOING OUR UTMOST, BUT WE NEED MORE MOTIVATION." HE NOTED THAT AN ATTEMPT TO "MOBILIZE THE ARMY (RESERVES/CITIZEN MILITIA) IN THAT (BORDER) AREA HAD ONLY GOTTEN A 17 PERCENT

RESPONSE." REACTING TO HOLBROOKE'S COMMENT ABOUT NO GOA TROOPS ON THE BORDER, NANO SAID THERE WAS A COMPANY OF TANKS IN THAT AREA. WHEN PRESSED, HE ADMITTED THEY WERE NOT DEPLOYED.

PARTICIPANTS

21. (e) PARTICIPANTS AT THE WORKING DINNER INCLUDED:

ALBANIAN SIDE:

PRIME MINISTER FATOS NANO
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR COORDINATION KASTRIOT ISLAMI
FOREIGN MINISTER PASKAL MILO
PM'S CHIEF OF STAFF VLADIMIR PRELA
PM'S PRESS SPOKESMAN BEN BLUSHI
MFA AMERICAS DIRECTOR RUDINA MULAI

U.S. SIDE:

AMBASSADOR RICHARD HOLBROOKE
AMBASSADOR ROBERT GELBARD
AMBASSADOR MARISA LINO
AMBASSADOR CHRIS HILL
DEPUTY S/R JAMES SWIGERT

22. (e) THE DELEGATION DID NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLEAR THIS MESSAGE BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE.

LINO

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 04
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 04
<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 04
<^SECT>SECTION: 04 OF 04

SSN: 1742
<^SSN>1742
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TOR: 980512123535 M3283240
<^TOR>980512123550 M3283241
<^TOR>980512123612 M3283242
<^TOR>980512123749 M3283245

DIST: SIT: BANDLER BOUCHARD BRADEN CLARKER COVEY DAVIDSON DOWLING FLANAGAN
MCELDOWNEY RAGAN SAPIRO SUM2
SIT: NSC
PRT: SIT{C2}

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
 CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
 LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHTIA2277 1631606-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
 LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
 LINE3: R 121606Z JUN 98
 LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
 OSRI: RUEHTI
 DTG: 121606Z JUN 98
 ORIG: AMEMBASSY TIRANA
 TO: SECSTATE WASHDC 5882
 INFO: ////
 SUBJ: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

DECLASSIFIED
 PER E.O. 13526
 2020-0079-M (1.02)
 KBH 10/11/2021

(U) CLASSIFIED BY AMB. MARISA R. LINO FOR REASONS

TEXT: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ TIRANA 002277

PASS PEACE CORPS

FOR PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR GEARAN FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/12/08
 TAGS: AMGT, EAID, AL
 SUBJECT: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

(U) CLASSIFIED BY AMB. MARISA R. LINO FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D)

1. (S) AT A TIME WHEN KOSOVAR ALBANIAN REFUGEES ARE COMING INTO ALBANIA AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS HELPING THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT TO COPE WITH THIS LATEST CRISIS, IT MAY SEEM STRANGE TO YOU THAT I ASK THE PEACE CORPS TO CONSIDER RE-ESTABLISHING ITS PROGRAM IN ALBANIA. HOWEVER, I FIRMLY BELIEVE THE PEACE CORPS HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN ALBANIA AND WE NEED TO START PLANNING FOR ITS RETURN, ON A PHASED BASIS, IN 1999 AND BEYOND. I KNOW IT TAKES TIME TO GEAR UP A COUNTRY PROGRAM, AND I WOULD LIKE YOU TO PUT ALBANIA BACK ON YOUR LIST. AS WE WORKED THROUGH OUR MISSION PROGRAM PLAN IN MAY, I PUT DOWN MARKERS FOR THE EVENTUAL RETURN OF THE PEACE CORPS COUNTRY PROGRAM.

2. (S) MY FIRST OFFICIAL ACT IN TIRANA IN AUGUST OF 1996 WAS THE SWEARING-IN OF THE NEWEST PEACE CORPS "CLASS" OF VOLUNTEERS FOR ALBANIA. I HAD BEEN IN COUNTRY FOR LESS THAN 24 HOURS. AT ITS HEIGHT, JUST BEFORE THE UNREST AND EVACUATIONS OF LAST YEAR, WE HAD A PC STAFF OF FIVE AND A GROUP

OF 85 VOLUNTEERS. MANY OF THESE VOLUNTEERS WERE PLACED IN REMOTE VILLAGES, DISTANT FROM POPULATION CENTERS. HAVING JUST TRAVELED TO THE DISTRICTS NEAR THE ALBANIAN BORDER WITH KOSOVO, I CAN TELL YOU THE REMOTE REGIONS OF ALBANIA DESPERATELY NEED WHATEVER ASSISTANCE THE U.S. CAN PROVIDE. THE POVERTY IS STAGGERING.

3. (X) THE DIFFICULTY LIES, HOWEVER, IN ENSURING THE SAFETY OF U.S. CITIZENS AND OUR PERSONNEL. AT THE MOMENT EMBASSY POLICY REQUIRES ANY USG PERSONNEL TO REQUEST PERMISSION TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE TIRANA-DURRES AXES. REMOTE AREAS, AT THE MOMENT, ARE PRETTY MUCH OUT OF THE QUESTION AT LEAST FOR ANY LONG-TERM STAYS.

4. (X) WHAT I WOULD PROPOSE IS THE FOLLOWING: FOR PEACE CORPS TO CONSIDER RE-ESTABLISHING ITS PROGRAM IN THE SUMMER OF 1999 OR BEYOND WITH A LIMITED NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS WHO COULD BE PLACED IN THE TIRANA AND DURRES AREA. VOLUNTEERS DID WORK IN TIRANA AND DURRES PREVIOUSLY, AS TEACHERS OF ENGLISH, IN BUSINESS CENTERS, AND IN OTHER FIELDS, SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY.

5. (X) BY 2000, CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN, DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE TIME, TO EXPANDING BEYOND THE INITIAL AREA.

6. (X) THE PEACE CORPS BUILT UP AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF GOODWILL IN ALBANIA WITH THE DEDICATION AND HARD WORK OF THE VOLUNTEERS. THEY PERFORMED A GREAT DEAL OF IMPORTANT AND USEFUL WORK. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE US PLAN TOGETHER FOR AN EVENTUAL RETURN OF THE PROGRAM TO ALBANIA. THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. REGARDS, MARISA LINO

LINO

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 2277

TOR: 980612173145 M3333425

DIST:

SIT: BOUCHARD BRADEN BUTLER CLARKER COVEY DAVIDSON DOWLING FLANAGAN
MCELDOWNEY RAGAN

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
 CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
 LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHTIA1108 0912151-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
 LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
 LINE3: O 012151Z APR 99
 LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
 OSRI: RUEHTI
 DTG: 012151Z APR 99
 ORIG: AMEMBASSY TIRANA
 TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7972
 INFO: RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
 SUBJ: KOSOVO CONTACTS FOR EASTER AND PASSOVER
 HOLIDAYS

DECLASSIFIED
 PER E.O. 13526
 2020-0079-M (1.03)
 KBH 10/11/2024

TEXT:
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ TIRANA 001108

FOR OPS CENTER, KOSOVO TASK FORCE
 AND EUR/EX

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/01/09
 TAGS: AMGT, ASEC, PREL, AL
 SUBJECT: KOSOVO CONTACTS FOR EASTER AND PASSOVER
 HOLIDAYS

REF: STATE 59678

1. ~~(S)~~ ALL FIVE OFFICERS REMAINING AT THIS POST
 LIVE AND WORK IN THE EMBASSY BECAUSE OF THE
 SECURITY SITUATION AND THE TERRORIST THREAT
 AGAINST US THAT GIVES US THE DISTINCTION OF
 HAVING THE HIGHEST COMPOSITE THREAT RATING IN
 THE WORLD. EVERYONE CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE
 EMBASSY SWITCHBOARD, WHICH DOES HAVE AN MSG ON
 DUTY 24-HRS PER DAY. SWITCHBOARD NUMBER IS
 (355)(42) 47285; FAX IS (355)(42) 32222.

2. ~~(S)~~ CELLPHONE NUMBERS - ALL CELLPHONE NUMBERS
 ARE PRECEDED BY COUNTRY CODE (355) AND CELLPHONE
 CODE (38):

AMBASSADOR MARISA LINO	-	202-0233
A/DCM RICK WESTON	-	202-0235
A/RSO MIKE WILKINS	-	202-3048
DATT COL. BOB APPLGATE	-	202-0657
PAO BILL COOK	-	202-3049

THIS POST DOES NOT HAVE POLITICAL OFFICER, AN
 ECONOMIC OR COMMERCIAL OFFICER, OR A CONSULAR
 OFFICER. ALL STATEMENTS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
 ARE DELIVERED BY THE AMBASSADOR, WHO IS ALSO

THE PRIMARY CONTACT ON ALL KOSOVO-RELATED
ISSUES.

3. (e) IN THE COLLECTIVE POST MEMORY, NO ONE
CAN REMEMBER THE LAST TIME ANYONE HAD A DAY OFF,
MUCH LESS A HOLIDAY. HAPPY EASTER!

LINO

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1108

TOR: 990401183404 M3778069

DIST:

SIT: ALLEN BELL BENJAMIN BRADEN BROWN BUSBY BUTLER DAVIDSON FLANAGAN
GUARNIERI HURLEY KAUFMAN SAPIRO SCHULTE VACCARO WEISS
SIT: NSC