

## Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE  
 CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
 LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHANA1456 0890436-CCCC--RHEHAAX.  
 LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
 LINE3: O 300436Z MAR 99  
 LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO  
 OSRI: RUEHAN  
 DTG: 300436Z MAR 99  
 ORIG: AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO  
 TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2490  
 INFO: RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 8722  
 RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 0253  
 RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
 RUCNEAE/EAST AFRICAN ESC POST COLLECTIVE  
 SUBJ: MADAGASCAR'S REACTION TO NATO KOSOVO STRIKES

DECLASSIFIED  
 PER E.O. 13526  
 2020-0080-M (1.01)  
 KBH 6/22/2023

CLASSIFIED BY DCM JUNE CARTER PERRY. REASON 1.5(A).

## TEXT:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ANTANANARIVO 001456

STATE FOR AF/E - DUNN, YAMAMOTO, PATCHELL; AND  
 EUR/WE - MERANTE/SULLIVAN

PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT

BRUSSELS FOR ROBYN HINSON-JONES

E.O. 12958: DECLASSIFY 03/04/09

TAGS: PREL, NATO, MOPS, SR, MA

SUBJECT: MADAGASCAR'S REACTION TO NATO KOSOVO STRIKES

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1. (SBU) SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR BARNES ACCOMPANIED BY DCM CALLED ON MALAGASY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LEILA RATSIFANDRIHAMANANA MARCH 25 TO BRIEF ON NATO STRIKES IN KOSOVO. THE MINISTER EXPRESSED HER DESIRE FOR A DIPLOMATIC SETTLEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DURING A MFA MORNING FAREWELL EVENT FOR THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR, THE MINISTER VOICED PUBLICLY DURING TELEVISED REMARKS THE TRAGEDY OF KOSOVO AND THE NEED FOR A SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF THE CRISIS. ALTHOUGH THE MINISTER EXPRESSED GENERAL ACCORD WITH NATO'S ACTION, WE DO NOT EXPECT A STRONG PUBLIC DECLARATION OF SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. (S) AMBASSADOR BARNES CALLED ON THE MINISTER LATE ON MARCH 25. ALSO ATTENDING WERE DCM PERRY AND MFA SECRETARY GENERAL COLONEL JACKY RAKATOBÉ. THE AMBASSADOR BEGAN HER PRESENTATION BY ALLUDING TO THE MINISTER'S PUBLIC STATEMENT OF CONCERN DURING A CEREMONY HONORING

THE RETIRING ITALIAN DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. ARTICULATING THE HISTORY OF NEGOTIATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY NATO TO RESOLVE THE KOSOVO PROBLEM, AMBASSADOR BARNES CITED THE SPECIFIC REASONS BEHIND THE STRIKES. SHE CITED SERBIAN OPPRESSION AND THE NEED TO AVOID A HUMAN CATASTROPHE, THE THOUSANDS OF DISPLACED KOSOVAR, THE REFUSAL OF PRESIDENT MILOSEVIC TO ACCEPT PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS, AND THE NEED FOR NATO TO MAINTAIN ITS CREDIBILITY.

3. ~~(C)~~ THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THE NECESSITY TO PREVENT MORE EXTENSIVE OPERATIONS BY MILOSEVIC AND TO DEMONSTRATE THE MILITARY IMPERATIVE OF REVERSING COURSE IN KOSOVO. SHE FURTHER DESCRIBED THE POTENTIAL FOR WIDESPREAD DESTABILIZATION OF THE REGION, INCLUDING IN NATO MEMBER COUNTRIES. THE AMBASSADOR CITED IN PARTICULAR THE POSSIBLE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF A SPREADING CONFLICT IN TURKEY AND GREECE. IN CLOSING, AMBASSADOR BARNES RELATED THE DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS THAT HAD OCCURRED AT RAMBOIULLET AND OBSERVED THAT MILOSEVIC'S OBSTINACY HAD LED TO THE CURRENT MILITARY ACTION.

4. (U) THE MINISTER RESPONDED THAT MADAGASCAR WAS "SEIZED" WITH THE KOSOVO MATTER. SHE STATED THAT SHE HAD FOLLOWED CLOSELY THE EVOLUTION OF EVENTS THERE. THE MINISTER EXPRESSED HER DESIRE TO SEE A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION PERHAPS FOLLOWING NATO'S INTERVENTION. THE AMBASSADOR INTERJECTED THAT SHE HAD NOTED THE MINISTER'S PUBLIC COMMENTS EARLIER THAT DAY (AT A RECEPTION FOR THE RETIRING ITALIAN AMBASSADOR) FOCUSED ON THE CRISIS IN KOSOVO. THE MINISTER AGAIN EXPRESSED HER HOPES FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

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COMMENT  
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5. ~~(C)~~ WE HAVE FOUND THE GOVERNMENT OF MADAGASCAR GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. AND NATO POSITIONS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, FORCEFUL DECLARATIONS OF PUBLIC SUPPORT ARE UNUSUAL. THE MINISTER'S DECISION TO VOICE ANY OPINION AT ALL ON THE KOSOVO CRISIS BEFORE THE MEDIA WAS A DISTINCT AND WELCOME DEPARTURE FROM PAST PRACTICE. AN EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT IN THE UN BY MADAGASCAR MAY NOT OCCUR BUT THE GOM'S SENTIMENTS TOWARD THE NATO ACTION THUS FAR APPEAR POSITIVE. END COMMENT.

BARNES

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1456

TOR: 990330110845 M3771992

DIST:

SIT: BABBITT BARKS-RUGGLES SANDERS SCHULTE SMITHG

SIT: NSC

# Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE  
 CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
 LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHPSA0284 0251306-CCCC--RHEHAAX.  
 LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
 LINE3: O 251306Z JAN 00  
 LINE4: FM USOFFICE PRISTINA  
 OSRI: RUEHPS  
 DTG:  
 ORIG: USOFFICE PRISTINA  
 TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1290  
 INFO: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0368  
 RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE VIENNA IMMEDIATE 0784  
 RUFQAAA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//POLAD// IMMEDIATE  
 RUFQAAA/USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAF// IMMEDIATE  
 RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
 RUFDWDH/CDRISTINFDIV WUERZBURG GE//CG// IMMEDIATE  
 RUFDTFA/CDR TASK FORCE FALCON//CG/POLAD// IMMEDIATE  
 SUBJ: KOSOVO: OSCE HUMAN RIGHTS HEAD SATISFIED WITH US  
 KFOR RESPONSE ON VITINA ALLEGATIONS

**DECLASSIFIED  
 PER E.O. 13526**  
 2020-0080-M (1.02)  
 KBM 6/22/2023

CLASSIFIED BY COM LAWRENCE G. ROSSIN, REASONS 1.5 (B) AND  
 TEXT: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ PRISTINA 000284

DEPT FOR S/SA, EUR/SCE, EUR/KI, EUR/RPM AND EUR/PD

NSC FOR AMB HILL AND VON LIPSEY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/19/05  
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, SR, OSCE, UN  
 SUBJECT: KOSOVO: OSCE HUMAN RIGHTS HEAD SATISFIED WITH US  
 KFOR RESPONSE ON VITINA ALLEGATIONS

CLASSIFIED BY COM LAWRENCE G. ROSSIN, REASONS 1.5 (B) AND  
 (D).

REFS: A) USOSCE VIENNA 141 B) PRISTINA 240  
 C) ROSSIN - JOHNSON E-MAILS 1/24

1. (X) HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER BARKIN MET ON 1/24 WITH SANDRA MITCHELL, HEAD OF THE OSCE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION TO DISCUSS STATUS OF OSCE CONCERNS REGARDING ALLEGATIONS OF US KFOR PROBLEMS IN VITINA. SHE SAID:

-- UNMIK HUMAN RIGHTS HEAD BILL O'NEILL'S MEETING IN VITINA (ALB: VITI) ON 1/21 WITH US KFOR AND OSCE HR OFFICER ALLISON JOLLY "WENT VERY WELL," WITH O'NEILL QUITE IMPRESSED WITH US KFOR'S WILLINGNESS TO BE UP FRONT WITH THE UNIT'S PROBLEMS. SHE SAID HE DESCRIBED THIS AS A VERY POSITIVE MEETING AND HE HAS COMMUNICATED THIS TO KOUCHNER BY MEMO.

-- SHE ADDED THAT HER VIEW IS SIMILARLY POSITIVE AND THAT SHE HAS NO PLANS TO MAKE ANY REQUEST TO OSCE HEAD OF MISSION DAAN EVERTS FOR ACTION AT THIS TIME (REF A).

-- SHE IS WILLING TO PASS TO US COPIES OF REPORTS OF SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS MADE SINCE NOVEMBER BY OSCE MONITORS TO US KFOR (INCLUDING TO WHOM IN KFOR THE COMPLAINT WAS MADE). THIS WAS A REQUEST FROM US KFOR POLAD SULLIVAN. Oxo, y\Y DESTRUCTION OR THE USE OF UNNECESSARY FORCE.

2. (c) IAW COORDINATION BETWEEN USOP COM ROSSIN AND USOSCE AMB. JOHNSON REF C, IT IS OUR CONCLUSION THAT AT THIS TIME THE OSCE POSITION ON THIS MATTER IS POSITIVE AND THAT NO FURTHER INTERVENTION BY USOP WITH EVERTS (WHO IS NOT IN PRISTINA THIS WEEK) IS REQUIRED. WE WILL MONITOR THIS AND ADVISE SHOULD DEVELOPMENTS INDICATE A CHANGE IN THE OSCE STANCE THAT REQUIRES FURTHER INTERVENTION.  
ROSSIN

**TOR:** 01/25/00 12:46:22

**DIST:** SIT: ALLEN BINNENDIJK NSC DAVIDSON GUARNIERI HAMMER HILLC HOLTZAPPLE  
K Aidanow Kurtz Muir Sapiro Stromseth VonLipseY  
SIT: ALLEN BINNENDIJK NSC DAVIDSON GUARNIERI HAMMER HILLC HOLTZAPPLE  
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