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PAGE 01 SARAJE 03185 01 OF 03 311435Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	INLB-01	AID-00	ACQ-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-01
	OASY-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
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O 311428Z AUG 96
FM AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3785
IFOR COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 SARAJEVO 003185

STATE PASS TO A/S KORNELUM AND AMBASSADOR GLASSMAN

NSC FOR VERSHBOW

E.O. 12958: DECL: 8/30/2006
TAGS: PREL, MARR, BK, HR, SR
SUBJECT: TRAIN AND EQUIP BRIEFING IN PALE SPARKS
MORE CURIOSITY THAN CONFRONTATION

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JOHN MENZIES, REASON 1.5
(D) .

2. (C) SUMMARY: U.S. SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE PARDEW MET
WITH A GROUP OF SENIOR SERB OFFICIALS IN PALE AUGUST 30
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PAGE 02 SARAJE 03185 01 OF 03 311435Z

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TO BRIEF THEM ON THE TRAIN AND EQUIP PROGRAM. HIS RECEPTION WAS CORDIAL, CORRECT, AND BUSINESSLIKE. THE OFFICIALS DISPLAYED GREAT CURIOSITY AND INTEREST IN THE PROGRAM.

3. (C) PARDEW EMPHASIZED THAT THE PROGRAM IS NOT "OFFENSIVE" IN NATURE, AND IS NOT INTENDED TO THREATEN ANY ONE WHO WANTS PEACE IN BOSNIA. PARDEW SCOLDED THE SERBS FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO AVOID COMPLIANCE WITH DAYTON AND THE REGIONAL ARMS AGREEMENT; HOWEVER, HE CONCLUDED THE MEETING ON A HOPEFUL NOTE, OUTLINING FOR THE SERBS THE WAY TO A FUTURE IN WHICH THEY TOO WOULD BE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN TRAIN AND EQUIP. END SUMMARY
THE "DEVIL" COMES TO PALE

4. (C) U.S. SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MILITARY STABILIZATION PARDEW AND POLMILOFF MET FOR 90 MINUTES WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE BOSNIAN SERB LEADERSHIP AT THE PALE GOVERNMENT BUILDING ON AUGUST 30. THE BOSNIAN SERB ATTENDEES INCLUDED RS PRIME MINISTER GOJKO KLINKOVIC; RS PRESIDENT POLITICAL ADVISOR JOVAN ZAMETICA; AND COL. ZELJKO INDJIC, POLITICAL ADVISOR TO GENERAL TOLOMIR.

5. (C) AMBASSADOR PARDEW BEGAN THE MEETING BY EXPLAINING THAT HIS PURPOSE IN COMING TO PALE WAS TO BRIEF RS OFFICIALS ON THE PRECISE STATUS OF THE TRAIN AND EQUIP PROGRAM, TO PROVIDE THEM WITH A PAPER DETAILING EQUIPMENT TO BE DELIVERED TO THE FEDERATION ARMED FORCES, AND TO ANSWER ANY AND ALL OF THEIR QUESTIONS ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THIS EFFORT. HE THEN SUMMARIZED THE BACKGROUND AND
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PAGE 03 SARAJE 03185 01 OF 03 311435Z
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--THE DAYTON AGREEMENT CALLS FOR THE CREATION OF A MILITARY BALANCE. THE TRAIN AND EQUIP PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO OFFSET SERB ADVANTAGES, AND WILL GIVE THE FEDERATION THE CAPABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF. THE MILITARY CONDITIONS WHICH EXISTED FROM 1991-1995 WILL BE CHANGED.

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--IFOR AND THE U.S. MILITARY HAVE NO CONNECTION WHATSOEVER TO OR ROLE IN TRAIN AND EQUIP.

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PAGE 01 311435Z
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PAGE 01 SARAJE 03185 02 OF 03 311435Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 SARAJEVO 003185

STATE PASS TO A/S KORNBLUM AND AMBASSADOR GLASSMAN

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ARMS CONTROL

9. (C) ZAMETICA THEN INTERJECTED THAT THE SERBS, UNLIKE OTHER PARTIES, RESPECT THEIR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. PARDEW TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF PALE'S CURRENT NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT. HE ESPECIALLY EMPHASIZED U.S. CONCERN WITH SERB UNDER-REPORTING OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS (E.G., CLAIMING 2,000 FEWER ARTILLERY PIECES THAN THEY ARE BELIEVED TO HOLD), AND CONSISTENT EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF HEAVY WEAPONS EXEMPTIONS (FOR R&D, EXPORT SET ASIDE, CONVERSIONS, ETC.) THEORETICALLY ALLOWED TO THEM.

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13. (C) ZAMETICA ASKED WHY THE PRESENCE OF U.S. MILITARY TRAINERS IN BOSNIA SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A VIOLATION OF ARTICLE THREE OF THE MILITARY ANNEX TO THE DAYTON AGREEMENT, WHICH STATES THAT "ALL FOREIGN FORCES AND ADVISORS SHALL BE WITHDRAWN" FROM BOSNIA. PARDEW ANSWERED THAT, FIRST OF ALL, THE CLAUSE CITED BY ZAMENICA SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO FORCES IN BOSNIA AT THE TIME THE DAYTON AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED; THUS, THE RECENT INTRODUCTION OF MPRI PERSONNEL IS NOT A VIOLATION.

14. (C) ADMITTING THAT THIS WAS A "TECHNICAL" POINT,

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PAGE 01 311435Z
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 SUBJECT: TRAIN AND EQUIP BRIEFING IN PALE SPARKS
 MORE CURIOSITY THAN CONFRONTATION

PARDEW STRESSED THAT THE MPRI PROGRAM IS "FULLY IN THE SPIRIT OF DAYTON," NOTABLY BECAUSE IT ASSISTS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MILITARY BALANCE, AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE EXCLUSION OF RADICAL ISLAMIC AND OTHER FOREIGN FORCES, WHICH WOULD THREATEN THE PEACE. HE ADDED THAT THE CLAUSE

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PAGE 02 SARAJE 03185 03 OF 03 311436Z
 ZAMENICA HAD CITED HAD BEEN ADDED EXPLICITLY TO ENSURE THAT SUCH DESTABILIZING FORCES, AND OTHERS FROM CROATIA AND THE FRY, WERE REMOVED FROM THE SCENE.

INTEGRATING THE BOSNIAN SERBS

 15. (C) PARDEW THEN STATED THAT HE FELT OBLIGED TO RAISE ANOTHER ISSUE. OBSERVING THAT THE U.S. HAS NO PROBLEMS WITH OR ANIMOSITY TOWARD THE SERB PEOPLE, PARDEW EXPLAINED THAT OUR INTEREST IN BOSNIA LIES IS FOSTERING A DEMOCRATIC BOSNIAN STATE WHICH RESPECTS AND INCLUDES ALL PARTIES. WE RECOGNIZE THAT OTHERS FEEL WE ARE NAIVE

UNCLASSIFIED

TO STRIVE FOR THIS, BUT LOOKING AT THE LONG TERM, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS GOAL IS ACHIEVABLE. IN THIS CONTEXT, A LONG TERM OBJECTIVE FOR THE TRAIN AND EQUIP PROGRAM IS THAT IT BENEFIT THE SERB PEOPLE.

16. (C) INTERRUPTING, ZAMETICA ASKED PARDEW IF HE WAS REFERRING TO INDIRECT BENEFITS (SUCH AS THOSE ENUMERATED EARLIER), OR SOMETHING MORE DIRECT. PARDEW REPLIED THAT HE MEANT "A DIRECT BENEFIT." THE POINT IS THAT THE SERBS, TOO, CAN ULTIMATELY BE INCLUDED AS BENEFICIARIES OF THE TRAIN AND EQUIP EFFORT. HOWEVER, PARDEW ADDED, THERE ARE SEVERAL CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD NEED TO BE MET BEFORE SUCH A DEVELOPMENT COULD OCCUR, CONDITIONS WHICH HE RECOGNIZED IN THE SHORT TERM WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE BOSNIAN SERB LEADERS TO ACCEPT.

17. (C) AFTER A PREGNANT PAUSE, ZAMETICA ASKED PARDEW TO NAME HIS CONDITIONS. PARDEW CITED THE FOLLOWING FOUR:

--THE REMOVAL OF MLADIC AND KARADZIC, AND FULL
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 SARAJE 03185 03 OF 03 311436Z
COOPERATION WITH THE HAGUE WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL;

--FULL COMPLIANCE BY RS WITH THE REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL AND DAYTON AGREEMENTS;

--FULL PARTICIPATION BY THE RS IN AN INTEGRATED MINISTRY OF DEFENSE STRUCTURE, AND THE JOINT COMMAND AT THE STATE LEVEL;

--SUBORDINATION OF ALL RS FORCES TO THE ABOVE INTEGRATED DEFENSE STRUCTURE, UNDER THE ULTIMATE CONTROL OF THE BOSNIAN STATE PRESIDENCY.

18. (C) SMILING WEAKLY, THE SERB OFFICIALS THANKED PARDEW FOR SPELLING OUT HIS POSITIONS, AND FOR COMING TO PALE. KLIKOVIC TOLD PARDEW THAT THEY WOULD STUDY THE INFORMATION HE HAD PROVIDED, AND WOULD PROBABLY HAVE MORE QUESTIONS LATER; COLONEL INDJIC MENTIONED THAT HE WOULD APPRECIATE MORE TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON THE SPECIFIC WEAPONS TO BE PROVIDED; PARDEW PROMISE TO PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION.

19. (C) COMMENT: PARDEW'S ARRIVAL AT THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING CREATED A NOTICEABLE STIR, AS OFFICE STAFF SCRAMBLED TO THEIR WINDOWS AND INTO THE HALLWAY IN ORDER TO GET A GLIMPSE OF THE NOTORIOUS (ON PALE TV) "MR. TRAIN AND EQUIP." THE PALE SERBS WERE CORDIAL, CORRECT, AND GENERALLY NON-CONFRONTATIONAL DURING THE MEETING. THEY EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN THE DETAILS OF THE U.S. PROGRAM, THE EQUIPMENT, AND TRAINING. THEY WERE UNRESPONSIVE TO THE CALL FOR FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SARAJE 03185 03 OF 03 311436Z
ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT AND POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE. MORE THAN THE U.S. PROGRAM, THEIR CONCERN CENTERED ON IRAN, RADICAL ISLAMIC INFLUENCES, AND TRADITIONAL ENEMIES. THESE POINTS WERE MADE REPEATEDLY.

20. (C) THE CONCLUDING OFFER TO GET A DIRECT BENEFIT FOR THE SERBS FROM THE TRAIN AND EQUIP PROGRAM RECEIVED MORE INTEREST AND LESS HOSTILE REACTION THAN EXPECTED. PAST EXPERIENCE SUGGESTS IT IS PROBABLE THAT A TAPE RECORDING WAS MADE OF THE SESSION. IN ANY EVENT, WE CAN BE SURE THAT KARADZIC WILL BE FULLY BRIEFED BY HIS CRONY ZAMETICA ON THE SUBSTANCE OF PARDEW'S MEETING.

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