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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186091 TOSEC 200123

FOLLOWING SARAJEVO 003256 DATED SEP 06 SENT ACTION
SECSTATE WASHDC IFOR COLLECTIVE BEING REPEATED FOR
YOUR INFO

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N I T A L SARAJEVO 003256

STATE PLEASE PASS TO A/S KORNBLUM AND AMBASSADOR
GLASSMAN

NSC FOR VERSHBOW

E.O:12958: DECL: 9/3/2006
TAGS: PREL, MARR, BK, HR
SUBJECT: PARDEW PUSHES BOSNIANS, CROATS ON DEFENSE LAW
1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JOHN MENZIES, REASON
1.5 (D).

2. (C) SUMMARY: DURING A 90-MINUTE MEETING WITH SENIOR
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BOSNIAN FEDERATION MILITARY OFFICIALS, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR STABILIZATION PARDEW EXPRESSED GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE LACK OF PROGRESS TO DATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW DEFENSE LAW, AGREEMENT ON MPRI TRAINING SITES, AND PROVISION OF LOGISTICS SUPPORT FOR MPRI. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THERE WAS "NO EXCUSE" FOR THESE DELAYS, [REDACTED] PROMISED PARDEW THAT HE AND [REDACTED] WOULD BEGIN THE PROCESS OF FORMALLY INTEGRATING THE DEFENSE MINISTRY BY SEPTEMBER 9. IN ADDITION, [REDACTED] PRAISED MPRI'S PROFESSIONALISM AND RECENTLY COMPLETED MILITARY LEADERSHIP SEMINAR, AND PROPOSED THAT PARDEW WORK WITH THE FEDERATION TO RE-ESTABLISH BOSNIA'S PRE-WAR HELICOPTER TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY.

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3. (C) THE MEETING WAS DISRUPTED BRIEFLY BY AN EMOTIONAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN [REDACTED] OVER PROVOCATIVE NATIONALISTIC BEHAVIOR BY HVO TRAINEES PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE FOR INTEGRATED TRAINING IN TURKEY. END SUMMARY.

REPORT FROM [REDACTED]: "WE'RE GETTING THERE"

4. (C) SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MILITARY STABILIZATION PARDEW MET FOR 90 MINUTES WITH FEDERATION

[REDACTED] SENIOR FEDERATION MILITARY OFFICIALS AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ON AUGUST 30, 1996. THE MEETING BEGAN WITH A SHORT PRESENTATION
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BY [REDACTED] IN WHICH HE PRAISED THE MPRI TRAINING PROGRAM AND PERSONNEL, WHOM HE CALLED "VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND HELPFUL TO US." HE SAID THAT MPRI'S 3-DAY LEADERSHIP SEMINAR FOR TOP FEDERATION MILITARY OFFICIALS HAD BEEN OUTSTANDING, BOTH IN TERMS OF ITS EDUCATIONAL CONTENT AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL TIES BETWEEN SENIOR HVO AND BOSNIAK OFFICERS.

5. (C) WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT AN INTEGRATED MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW DEFENSE LAW HAS NOT YET BEEN BROUGHT INTO EXISTENCE, [] ASSURED PARDEW THAT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE, AND PROMISED THAT THE PROCESS OF FORMAL CREATION OF NEW, INTEGRATED STRUCTURES WITHIN THE MOD WOULD BEGIN NLT SEPTEMBER 9. [] WAS SOMEWHAT LESS UPBEAT ON EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE MPRI TRAINING SITE, SIMULATION CENTER, AND LANGUAGE LAB LOCATION ISSUE, CITING IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIM AND [] REGARDING THE FUTURE LOCATION OF THESE FACILITIES. NONETHELESS, [] EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT AN AGREEMENT ON LOCATION OF THESE FACILITIES, BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT OF EACH SIDES' POLITICAL AND SECURITY NEEDS AND MPRI'S PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT, COULD ALSO BE REACHED BY SEPTEMBER 9.

6. (C) PARDEW TOLD THE ASSEMBLED MILITARY LEADERSHIP THAT HE WAS EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE SLOW PROGRESS TO DATE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEFENSE LAW. IN ADDITION TO NOT ORGANIZING AN INTEGRATED MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, THE FEDERATION HAS NOT CREATED A JOINT
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MILITARY COMMAND, OR CARRIED OUT ANY OTHER OF THE SPECIFIC ACTIONS REQUIRED UNDER THE NEW LAW. SPEAKING BLUNTLY, PARDEW REMINDED THE BOSNIANS THAT THE U.S. EXPECTS THE DEFENSE LAW TO BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT HESITATION. WE HAVE ALREADY EXHAUSTED NEARLY A MONTH OF THE MPRI CONTRACT, AND THE CLOCK IS RUNNING.

7. (C) AN EMBARRASSED [] ADMITTED THAT THE FEDERATION'S SLOWNESS IN GETTING OFF THE GROUND COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT HE AND [] RECOGNIZED THEIR DUTY, AND WERE NOW PREPARED TO MOVE QUICKLY. PARDEW ASKED [] TO RAPIDLY AGREE ON THE LOCATION OF THE THREE MPRI TRAINING FACILITIES, THE "HEART AND SOUL" OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM. PARDEW ADDED THAT THE KEY ELEMENTS OF A JOINT AGREEMENT ARE OBVIOUS - ALL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED "FEDERATION FACILITIES," JOINTLY OWNED BY

BOTH SIDES; AT LEAST ONE TRAINING FACILITY SHOULD BE LOCATED ON BOSNIAN CROAT TERRITORY; SAFE INTRA-FEDERATION ACCESS TO THE CENTERS SHOULD BE GUARANTEED; AND THE CENTERS SHOULD BE PLACED IN SECURE AREAS WHERE LOCAL ETHNIC TENSIONS ARE NOT AN ISSUE.

BOSNIAN HELICOPTER TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY

8. (C) TURNING TO THE PLANNED PROVISION OF HELICOPTERS TO THE FEDERATION FORCES UNDER THE TRAIN AND EQUIP PROGRAM (15 AH- TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS WILL BE PROVIDED AS PART OF THE U.S. DRAW DOWN GRANT), [] ASKED PARDEW TO CONSIDER WORKING WITH THE FEDERATION TO
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REHABILITATE THE MAJOR HELICOPTER TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY WHICH EXISTED IN BOSNIA BEFORE THE WAR. IN ADDITION TO REDUCING FUTURE HELICOPTER TRAINING DEPENDENCE ON GERMANY AND OTHER FOREIGN DONORS, AND REDUCING ASSOCIATED OPERATIONAL COSTS, [] ARGUED, A REHABILITATED BOSNIA FACILITY WOULD PROVIDE NEEDED EMPLOYMENT FOR LARGE NUMBERS OF BOSNIAN CITIZENS, MANY OF WHOM HAVE PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN HELICOPTER MAINTENANCE.

9. (C) PROMISING TO STUDY THE MATTER, PARDEW ASKED [] TO PREPARE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING FACILITY, AND FORWARD IT TO WASHINGTON THROUGH THE EMBASSY POLMILOFF. MEANWHILE, PARDEW TOLD [] [] THE SENIOR COMMANDERS THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE FEDERATION AGREE SOON ON THE ORGANIZATION OF AN INTEGRATED AIR UNIT, AND ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE LOGISTICS STRUCTURES FOR RECEIVING AND SUPPORTING THE HELICOPTERS AND RELATED AVIATION EQUIPMENT.

[] HAND GRENADE

10. (C) [] CALMLY INTERJECTED THAT NO PROGRESS COULD BE MADE AS LONG AS "UNWANTED INCIDENTS" KEEP OCCURRING. GATHERING STEAM, [] EXPLAINED THAT THE 35 BOSNIAN CROATS WHO HAD DEPARTED BOSNIA FOR

TRAINING IN TURKEY TWO DAYS EARLIER (REFTEL) HAD CARRIED CROATIAN PASSPORTS, AND HAD REFUSED TO 1994, AT A TIME WHEN BOSNIAN CROATS WERE BOYCOTTING PARLIAMENT) AS THEIR OWN, INSTEAD DEMANDING THE CROATIAN ANTHEM. "THIS IS NOT THE WAY TO BUILD A
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FEDERATION," [] CONCLUDED.

11. (C) DESPITE SUCH INCIDENTS, PARDEW CALLED ON THE [] COMMANDERS TO SIT DOWN TOGETHER AND DO SERIOUS PLANNING; FOR MPRI TO DO ITS JOB, A COMMON FORCE STRUCTURE MUST BE DELINEATED, AN INTEGRATED JOINT COMMAND MUST BE CREATED, AND THE PROCESS OF SERIOUS DECISION MAKING MUST BEGIN. IGNORING PARDEW'S COMMENTS, AN OBVIOUSLY FUMING [] RETURNED TO THE SUBJECT OF THE CROAT TRAINEES, STATING IN A RISING VOICE THAT "IT IS NOT GOOD TO SEE FEDERATION SOLDIERS DEMANDING THE CROATIAN ANTHEM, AND USING CROATIAN PASSPORTS. IT IS NECESSARY TO RESPECT THE FEDERATION IN FACT, NOT JUST IN MEETINGS LIKE THIS."

12. (C) PLACING HIS FIST ON THE TABLE, AN ANNOYED [] DECLARED THAT, UNTIL THE FEDERATION EXISTS IN SUBSTANCE AS WELL AS FORM "THERE IS NO BOSNIAN PASSPORT OR NATIONAL ANTHEM FOR US. AFTER THE ELECTIONS, WE WILL VOTE ON ONE... I PERSONALLY WOULD SUPPORT THE CURRENT ANTHEM, WHICH I LIKE VERY MUCH." AN HVO GENERAL ADDED THAT THE MUSIC REQUESTED BY THE CROAT TRAINEES WAS NOT THE "CROATIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM," BUT THE ANCIENT "NATIONAL HYMN" OF ALL CROATIANS (WHICH COINCIDENTALLY, IS ALSO THE CROATIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM).

13. (C) PARDEW SAID THAT THE SECURITY OF THE FEDERATION IS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE LOST IN A FIGHT OVER SONGS AND SYMBOLS; IF THEIR IS DISAGREEMENT OVER AN ANTHEM, DON'T PLAY IT. REMINDING THE BOSNIANS THAT THEY ARE LEADERS OF THE FEDERATION, PARDEW TOLD THEM TO
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CONCENTRATE ON BUILDING IT UP, NOT TEARING IT DOWN
THROUGH GRATUITOUS EFFORTS TO MAKE POLITICAL POINTS AT
THE EXPENSE OF THE OTHER PARTY. NOTING THAT THIS TASK
REQUIRES MATURITY, RESPONSIBILITY, AND A WILLINGNESS TO
RESPECT OTHERS, PARDEW ASSERTED THAT ANY OFFICIAL WHO
IS UNABLE TO PROCEED ON THIS BASIS SHOULD BE REPLACED.

[REDACTED] RESPONDED THAT PARDEW WAS CORRECT:
"WE MUST RESPECT DIFFERENCES...THIS WILL LEAD TO
BALANCED COOPERATION." [REDACTED] FOLLOWED THIS
STATEMENT WITH SIMILAR CONCILIATORY COMMENTS, AND THE
MEETING CONCLUDED ON THIS HOPEFUL NOTE.

14. (U) AMBASSADOR PARDEW WAS UNABLE TO CLEAR THIS
CABLE PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM SARAJEVO.

MENZIES UNQUOTE TALBOTT

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