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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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TERREP
JUSTICE FOR CIV/DIV, OFL, D. EPSTEIN

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TEXT
TAGS: PTER, ASEC, IT
SUBJECT: LARF PRISONERS IN ITALY:
- ABDO AND MANSOURI'S CONVICTIONS UPHELD BY
- COURT OF CASSATION

REF: ROME 29484

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
 Retain class'n
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Change/classify to _____
with concurrence of _____
after _____

EO 12958, 25X
IPS/CR/IR, by SI Date: 8/30/01

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE: 2001 2007

FOR COORDINATION WITH ed State

1. (U) THE ITALIAN COURT OF CASSATION HEARD ON
DECEMBER 15 THE APPEALS OF SUSPECTED LEBANESE ARMED
REVOLUTIONARY FACTION (LARF) MEMBERS JOSEPHINE SARKIS
ABDO AND ABDALLAH AL-MANSOURI AGAINST THEIR CONVICTIONS
FOR CONSPIRACY TO IMPORT EXPLOSIVES INTO ITALY. AS
EXPECTED, THE HEARING TOOK ONLY A FEW HOURS. IT WAS
NOTEWORTHY ONLY FOR THE APPEARANCE OF FRENCH

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ATTORNEY JACQUES VERGES, WELL KNOWN IN FRANCE FOR HIS DEFENSE OF LARF LEADER GEORGE IBRAHIM ABDALLAH AND NAZI WAR CRIMINAL **KLAUS BARBIE**, WHO SPOKE ON BEHALF OF ABDO AND MANSOURI.

2. (U) THE COURT OF CASSATION SUSTAINED THE CONVICTIONS OF ABDO AND AL-MANSOURI AND THEIR PRISON SENTENCES (15 AND 16 YEARS RESPECTIVELY). THE PAIR HAVE NOW EXHAUSTED THEIR APPEALS, AND THEIR CASES ARE CONSIDERED SETTLED IN ITALIAN LAW.

3. (C) SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE FOREIGN AND INTERIOR MINISTRIES AND OF SISMI (THE ITALIAN EXTERNAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE) HAVE ALL EXPRESSED SATISFACTION TO EMBOFFS THAT ABDO AND AL-MANSOURI'S CONVICTIONS HAVE BEEN UPHELD. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE ALL WARNED THAT THE COURT OF CASSATION'S RULING HAS INCREASED THE DANGER OF LARF ATTACKS EITHER WITHIN ITALY OR AGAINST ITALIAN EMBASSIES ABROAD. SISMI DIRECTOR MARTINI TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT HE IS ESPECIALLY WORRIED ABOUT THE SECURITY OF THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT WHERE ITALY IS NOW MAINTAINING A GUARD FORCE OF 30 MEN DRAWN FROM THE CARABINIERI, THE ITALIAN PARAMILITARY POLICE FORCE.

4. BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

RABB

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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