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 INFO RUMJDK/AMEMBASSY DHAKA IMMEDIATE 5034
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 RUMJHT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE 5949
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E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: MASS, PREL, CE, IN, US
 SUBJECT: NEWS ARTICLE ON US MILITARY AID TO SRI LANKA

REF: STATE 040049 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL REPORTED THAT CONGRESSMAN JOSEPH ADDABBO SPOKE WITH A JOURNALIST IN WASHINGTON ABOUT U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA, REPEATING SOME STATEMENTS MADE BY THE CONGRESSMAN TO A JOURNALIST IN SRI LANKA IN JANUARY AND REPORTED IN THE PRESS THERE. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES THE COMPLETE TEXT OF AN ARTICLE IN THE U.S. PUBLICATION "ASIAN MONITOR" ABOUT THE CONGRESSMAN'S STATEMENTS HERE. SEPTEL PROVIDES BACKGROUND AND PRESS GUIDANCE ON ISSUES RAISED IN THE CONGRESSMAN'S STATEMENTS.

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2. PUBLICATION "ASIAN MONITOR", WEEKLY, NEW YORK CITY, U.S. MAIL DISTRIBUTION, ISSUE OF FEBRUARY 10, PAGE 6. ARTICLE TITLED "REQUEST FOR ARMS AID CONFIRMED", REPORTER AZIZ HANIFFA. BEGIN TEXT:

- WASHINGTON - REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH ADDABBO CONFIRMED LAST WEEK A REPORT IN THE SUN, A COLOMBO NEWSPAPER, THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS IMMEDIATELY RELEASE \$350,000 IN MILITARY FUNDS TO SRI LANKA (A.M. JAN 27).

- ADDABBO, CHAIRMAN OF THE DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WHO RECENTLY LED A DELEGATION OF FIVE CONGRESSMEN ON A VISIT TO SRI LANKA, SAID THE FUNDS WOULD BE ALLOCATED BY THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND NOT BY THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

- ADDABBO TOLD ASIAN MONITOR THAT THE FUNDS ALLOCATED TO SRI LANKA WOULD BE \$200,000 FOR FISCAL 1984 AND A FURTHER UNUSED \$150,000 THAT SRI LANKA WAS ENTITLED TO UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY AND EDUCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM.

- ASKED WHY SRI LANKA NEEDED THESE FUNDS SO URGENTLY, ADDABBO SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY FOREIGN MINISTER A.C. SHAHOL HAMEED AND GEN. SEPALA ATTYGALLE, SECRETARY

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TO THE DEFENSE MINISTER, THAT THE MONEY WAS ESSENTIAL TO PROTECT SRI LANKA AGAINST EXTERNAL ASSAULTS AND FOR ITS INTERNAL SECURITY.

- (FISHING PATROLS) "ALSO," THE CONGRESSMAN SAID, "THEY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SUCH FUNDING FOR ARMED PATROLS TO PROTECT SRI LANKA'S FISHING INDUSTRY AGAINST POACHING IN ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS."

- HOWEVER, HE DECLINED TO SPECIFY WHEN ASKED WHAT THE EXTERNAL ASSAULTS MIGHT BE AND WHETHER THE SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT ENVISAGED ANY PARTICULAR THREAT TO ITS SECURITY.

- HE SAID HE WOULD PUSH FOR COLOMBO'S REQUEST FOR A NAVAL VESSEL AND MODERN TRAINING FOR SRI LANKAN PERSONNEL. "UNDER AN OLD FOREIGN MILITARY SALES AGREEMENT, THERE IS ABOUT \$2 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR SRI LANKA FOR A SHIP, AND I AM SURE WE CAN FIND SOMETHING," HE SAID.

- (PEACE CORP UNIT DUE) ADDABBO SAID THE U.S. WOULD SOON ESTABLISH A 30-TO-40-PERSON PEACE CORPS UNIT IN SRI LANKA. HE SAID SUCH A UNIT HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY PRESIDENT JUNIUS JAYAWARDENE TO HELP IN THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH IN STATE-RUN SCHOOLS, AND ADDED THAT ONE GROUP HAD ALREADY BEEN SWORN IN LAST MONTH.

- HE CALLED HIS DELEGATION'S VISIT TO SRI LANKA ESSENTIALLY A GOODWILL VISIT TO CEMENT THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS WASHINGTON HAS WITH COLOMBO, WHICH HE CALLED "A CLOSE FRIEND AND ALLY."

- HE SAID THE DELEGATION HAD BEEN TOLD ABOUT THE CAUSES OF THE ETHNIC RIOTS LAST JULY THAT LEFT ALMOST 400 PEOPLE DEAD AND 70,000 HOMELESS. HE SAID THE DELEGATION HAD BEEN ASSURED IT WAS NOT A CONTINUAL PROBLEM AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN THE NECESSARY STEPS TO AVERT A REPETITION.

- "WE ARE ASSURED THAT DEMOCRACY IS ALIVE AND WELL IN SRI LANKA," ADDABBO SAID WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON INDIAN PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI'S RECENT EXPRESSION OF SERIOUS CONCERN FOR DEMOCRACY IN SRI LANKA.

- ADDABBO'S DELEGATION MET GANDHI JUST AFTER THE VIOLENCE OF JULY. "SHE WAS EXPRESSING HER CONCERN OVER THE ETHNIC PROBLEMS," HE SAID. "BUT POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE GOVERNMENT SURVIVE AND THE UNITY OF SRI LANKA BE MAINTAINED."

END TEXT. SHULTZ
END OF MESSAGE

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