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CONTROLS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VILNIUS 00720

NSC FOR FLANAGAN

DEPT PASS TO DOJ/OSI MACQUEEN
GUATEMALA FOR SPAKAUSKAS

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TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, CJAN (LILEIKIS, ALEKSANDRAS), LH
SUBJECT: PROSECUTOR GENERAL COMMENTS ON LILEIKAS CASE

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR KEITH SMITH. REASONS 1.5 (B)
AND (D).

REF: A) VILNIUS 688 B) WILNIUS 662

1. (C) AT A MARCH 10 MEETING, AMBASSADOR ASKED
LITHUANIA'S PROSECUTOR GENERAL KAZYS PEDNYCIA FOR HIS
ANALYSIS OF THE RECENT DECISION TO POSTPONE THE TRIAL OF

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Date: 2003 2005

FOR COORDINATION WITH

STATE

OSI

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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ACCUSED NAZI WAR CRIMINAL LILEIKAS. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE USG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER AN EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO FURTHER DELAY A CASE ALREADY TOO LONG PUT OFF. PEDNYCIA REPLIED THAT WHILE HE CANNOT READ THE MIND OF THE JUDGE, HE BELIEVES THAT THE JUDGE'S INTENT IS NOT DELAY, BUT TO ACCEPT TO A SOMEWHAT REASONABLE REQUEST FROM THE DEFENSE ATTORNEY FOR MORE INFORMATION. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE POSTPONMENT WILL RESULT IN A CHANGED OUTCOME -- PRESUMABLY A GUILTY VERDICT.

2. (C) PEDNYCIA WENT ON TO STATE THAT AN OUTSIDE OBSERVER MIGHT LEGITIMATELY QUESTION WHETHER HIS OFFICE DID AN ADEQUATE JOB OF PREPARATION, BUT ONE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT THIS IS THEIR FIRST PRESENTATION OF CRIMES AGAINST LITHUANIAN JEWS. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THEY HAVE NOW ACCUMULATED MORE EXPERIENCE AND HE HOPED THAT THE CASE OF KAZYS GIMZAUSKAS, LILEIKAS' DEPUTY, WILL MOVE FASTER ONCE IT GETS ON THE COURT DOCKET.

3. (C) HE ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO REITERATE TO WASHINGTON THAT THE GOL INTENDS TO PURSUE THE LILEIKAS AND GIMZAUSKAS CASES AS FAST AS POSSIBLE, AND THAT THEY WILL TRY TO TURN ASIDE DEFENSE REQUESTS FOR FURTHER POSTPONMENT. HIS OFFICE IS OBLIGED TO HONOR A DECISION OF THE COURT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

4. (C) THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR ALL OF THE HOLOCAUST CASES AND WILL REPORT ANY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

SMITH

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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