

UNCLASSIFIED

DOCUMENT_ID: 179245121
DOCNO: 064934
PRODUCER: WASHDC
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: OUT
DOR: 19980410
TOR: 140806
DOCPREC: P
ORIGDATE: 199804101806
MHFNO: 98 1123497
DOCCLASS: U

HEADER

PP RUEAIIA
ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH
MPH4934
PP RUEHC
DE RUEHC #4934 1001807
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P R 101806Z APR 98
FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY 0000
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0000
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY 0000
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY 0000
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0000
RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY 0000
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY 0000
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0000
RUEHPU/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY 0000
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 0000
INFO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0000
RUEHMT/AMCONSUL MONTREAL 0000
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0000
RUEHSD/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 0000
RUEHCD/AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ 0000
RUEHNL/AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO 0000
RUEHTM/AMCONSUL TIJUANA 0000
RUCBCLF/USCINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA
RUERFCP/CDR 193RD INF BDE (PAN) FT CLAYTON PN AFZU-PO
RUWMEGA/24TH WING HOWARD AFB PA
RHFJXP/NAVSTA PANAMA CANAL RODMAN PN/PAO
RUWSMXI/USCINCTRANS INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL
RUMIAAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL
BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS STATE 064934

ALL POSTS PLEASE PASS PAO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TEXT

TAGS: OPRC

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000
CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT: ARA GUIDANCES, APRIL 9, 1998

1. ARA PRESS GUIDANCE, APRIL 9, 1998:

-- ARGENTINA: NAZI WAR CRIMINAL --

BACKGROUND: DINKO SAKIC HAS BEEN REPORTED BY AN ARGENTINE TELEVISION PROGRAM TO BE LIVING OPENLY IN THE TOWN OF SANTA TERISITA, NEAR BUENOS AIRES. FROM 1942-44, SAKIC REPORTEDLY WAS COMMANDANT OF A CONCENTRATION CAMP IN JASENOVAC, WHICH WAS MAINTAINED BY THE PRO-AXIS CROATIAN GOVERNMENT THEN IN POWER. AT JASENOVAC SERBS, JEWS AND OTHERS WERE MASSACRED. CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATES PUT THE TOLL AT 80,000. TO PUT THIS IN PERSPECTIVE, THE TWO BOSNIAN SERBS APPREHENDED BY SFOR ON WEDNESDAY WERE COMMANDERS AT THE OMARSKA CAMP, WHERE ROUGHLY 4000 PEOPLE WERE KILLED. MORE THAN 20 TIMES THAT NUMBER WERE KILLED AT JASENOVAC. PRESS REPORTS SAY THAT SAKIC ENTERED ARGENTINA IN 1947, DURING THE GOVERNMENT OF JUAN PERON.)

Q: WHAT IS SAKIC ACCUSED OF?

A: SAKIC (SHAH-KICH) IS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE CAMP COMMANDERS AT THE JASENOVAC (YAH-SIN-OH-VATS) CONCENTRATION CAMP IN WHAT IS NOW CROATIA. CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATES BY INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS SAY 80,000 PEOPLE WERE KILLED THERE. MOST OF THEM WERE SERBS, JEWS, AND ROMA (GYPSIES). THE FACTS SURROUNDING SAKIC'S ROLE AT JASENOVAC ARE SERIOUS AND DESERVE TO BE PROVED IN COURT.

Q: WHAT IS THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT DOING?
THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAS ASKED A FEDERAL JUDGE TO ORDER THAT SAKIC BE DETAINED FOR QUESTIONING.

WE APPLAUD THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE TAKING THIS MATTER AND URGE IT TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO ASSURE THAT SAKIC IS BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

Q: WHERE WOULD SAKIC BE TRIED?

A: THERE ARE A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES THAT COULD TRY SAKIC. WHILE WE HAVE NO PLANS TO TRY HIM HERE, WE EXPECT THAT HE WILL FACE A VIGOROUS PROSECUTION AND A FAIR TRIAL IN A COURT OF LAW.

Q: COULD HE BE TRIED AT THE YUGOSLAVIA WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL IN THE HAGUE?

A: NO. THE YUGOSLAVIA WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL CAN PROSECUTE CRIMES THAT TOOK PLACE AFTER JANUARY 1, 1991.

2. INL PRESS GUIDANCE, APRIL 9, 1998:

UNCLASSIFIED

-- COLOMBIA: RETORT TO ROBERT NOVAK'S COLUMN --

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE ROBERT NOVAK ARTICLE THAT APPEARED IN TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST?

A: THE GUERRILLA INSURGENCY IN COLOMBIA HAS INCREASED IN INTENSITY IN THE LAST YEAR. WE KNOW THAT SOME OF THE GUERRILLA MOVEMENTS FUND THEIR CAUSE THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN THE DRUG TRADE BY PROTECTING COCA FIELDS AND COCAINE LABS.

THE US HAS A NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST IN COLOMBIA TO STOP THE CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF COCAINE AND HEROIN WHICH LANDS ON THE STREETS OF THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE WORKING DILIGENTLY WITH ELEMENTS OF THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT TO STOP THE DRUG TRADE AND HAVE BEEN FOR ALMOST 20 YEARS.

US POLICY IN COLOMBIA IS TO ASSIST IN FIGHTING NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING IN COLOMBIA. OUR COUNTERNARCOTICS ASSISTANCE IS FOR THE PURPOSES OF DEFENDING OUR COUNTERNARCOTICS PROGRAMS. WHEN OUR PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT ARE ATTACKED DURING COUNTERDRUG OPERATIONS, THEY WILL RETURN FIRE. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR OFFENSIVE, COUNTERGUERRILLA OPERATIONS.

OUR ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA WAS OVER \$100 MILLION DOLLARS LAST YEAR, THE LARGEST SINGLE COUNTERNARCOTICS PROGRAM IN THE WORLD. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH NARCOTRAFFICKING RESTS SQUARELY WITH THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT.

IF ASKED:

ON THE ISSUE OF BLACKHAWKS, WE BELIEVE THAT PURCHASING AND MAINTAINING THREE BLACKHAWKS IS NOT THE BEST EXPENDITURE OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS -- THEY ARE EXTREMELY COSTLY TO BUY, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE (\$36M TO PURCHASE THREE). WE ARE PLANNING TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF RANGE AND MOBILITY AT ALTITUDE THROUGH ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE UPGRADING OF EXISTING HELICOPTERS TO SUPER-HUEYS.

THE ADMINISTRATION IS ON BOARD WITH THIS SOLUTION.
TALBOTT

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED