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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAS 13 AND 14)

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TEXT

TAGS: PREL, MARR, PTER, HR, BK
SUBJECT: A DECISIVE TUDJMAN REMOVES SOPTA, PLEDGES
- DEPOLITIZATION OF THE HVO, BUT INSISTS ON A
- PLOCE/SPECIAL RELATIONS LINK

HIS SECOND REQUEST: THAT MEMBERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES BE FORBIDDEN TO HOLD HVO COMMISSIONS. PRESIDENT TUDJMAN ARGUED THAT PARTY MEMBERSHIP WAS A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT, EVEN FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY. CLARK THEN ASKED TO HAVE POLITICAL PARTY OFFICEHOLDERS EXCLUDED FROM HVO RANKS, AND VICE VERSA. PRESIDENT TUDJMAN ACCEPTED THIS FORMULA. FINALLY, GENERAL CLARK CLOSED BY ASKING THE PRESIDENT TO HELP TO ASSURE THAT THE CROAT CONFRONTATIONS WITH SFOR, OF THE KIND THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE NEAR THE IEHL AT CAPLINA AND WHERE SFOR HAD TO USE THE MSU TO RESOLVE, WOULD CEASE. TUDJMAN AGREED TO SUPPORT PEACEFUL, POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THE

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UNDERLYING CAUSES OF THE CONFRONTATION. AT THAT POINT, GENERAL CLARK TOOK LEAVE OF THE PRESIDENT TO RETURN TO BRUSSELS.

CONFRONTATIONS WITH SFOR

12. (C) AMBASSADOR GELBARD PICKED UP ON THE THEME OF BOSNIAN CROAT AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS AGAINST SFOR. (NOT ACTIONS - INCIDENTS, INSISTED TUDJMAN IN ENGLISH.) THOSE INCIDENTS WERE INCREASING, CONTINUED GELBARD, SPURRED BY THE KIND OF RHETORIC USED BY JELAVIC IN CAPLINA. THAT RHETORIC WAS CREATING A MOOD IN THE AREA WHICH FEEDS ANTI-SFOR SENTIMENT. HE CITED FURTHER EXAMPLES OF ATTACKS ON SFOR AND THE IPTF IN STOLAC, AND REPORTS OF TWO SFOR PATROLS BEING FIRED ON IN CROAT AREAS. THOSE INCIDENTS MUST STOP, DECLARED GELBARD, AND HE WILL TELL JELAVIC THAT THE RHETORIC MUST STOP. IN ADDITION, BOSNIAN CROATS MUST STOP BOYCOTTING FEDERATION INSTITUTIONS LIKE THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. GELBARD NOTED THAT HIS EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH JELAVIC HAD YIELDED MANY PROMISES, BUT FEW RESULTS FROM THOSE PROMISES.

13. (C) CLAIMING THAT HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF JELAVIC'S REMARKS AT CAPLINA, TUDJMAN CITED IN RESPONSE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO FEDERATION PRESIDENT EJUP GANIC IN WHICH GANIC ALLEGEDLY SAID THAT THE BOSNIAKS ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF THE IC - OF SFOR, OHR AND THE IPTF, AMONG OTHERS. PRESIDENT TUDJMAN RETURNED TO THE THEME OF UNEQUAL TREATMENT OF BOSNIAN CROATS AND TO BROKEN PROMISES OF THE IC, INCLUDING THE U.S., CITING AGAIN THE PLEDGE THAT BOSNIAN CROATS INDICTED FOR WAR CRIMES WHO HAD SURRENDERED VOLUNTARILY HAD NOT RECEIVED THE PROMISED SPEEDY TRIAL. TUDJMAN FURTHER EMPHASIZED THAT, WHILE CROATIA HAD DONE A GREAT DEAL FOR OTHERS, THE USG HAD DONE LITTLE OR NOTHING FOR CROATIA SINCE DAYTON.

U.S. SUPPORT FOR CROATIA

14. (C) SR GELBARD FIRST ACKNOWLEDGED THE PROMISE FOR SPEEDY TRIALS, BUT NOTED THE REASONS FOR THE DELAY. IN THE CASE OF KORDIC, HIS LAWYER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR 75 PERCENT OF THE DELAY, BY FILING MOTION AFTER MOTION ON FRIVOLOUS GROUNDS. SR GELBARD THEN USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE KINDS OF PROMISES MADE - AND KEPT - BY THE U.S. TO CROATIA: ON ACCUSED NAZI-ERA WAR CRIMINALS DINKO AND NADA SAKIC, TO ASSURE THEIR EXTRADITION FROM ARGENTINA TO CROATIA AND NOT TO THE FRY; ON PFP, IN

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RESPONSE TO THE LATE DEFMIN SUSAK'S REQUEST FOR A PLAN FOR CROATIAN ACCESSION, WHICH WE STAND READY TO HELP YOU IMPLEMENT, ON EASTERN SLAVONIA, WHERE THE U.S. WAS THE ACKNOWLEDGED LEADER IN ASSURING PEACEFUL REINTEGRATION UNDER CROATIAN SOVEREIGNTY. SR GELBARD FURTHER NOTED U.S. EFFORTS TO HELP CROATIA TRAIN AND REFORM ITS MILITARY, THROUGH MLT AND MPRI, AND HIS OFFER TO THE CROATIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO ENGAGE SENIOR U.S. TREASURY OFFICIALS (SUCH AS UNDER SECRETARY DAVID LIPTON AND DAS MARK MEDISH) TO ADDRESS GROWING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND BANKING-SECTOR PROBLEMS. FINALLY, HE NOTED THAT SECRETARY BROWN'S FINAL MISSION HAD BEEN TO CROATIA TO HELP DEVELOP STRONG COMMERCIAL AND INVESTMENT TIES. TUDJMAN, TAKEN ABACK BY AMBASSADOR GELBARD'S DETAILED AND SWEEPING REBUTTAL OF HIS ASSERTION, ACKNOWLEDGED THE KEY ROLE PLAYED BY THE U.S.

MARTIN BROD: AGGRESSIVE, OFFENSIVE ACTION FURTHER STRAINS OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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