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TO RUEHTI/AMEMBASSY TIRANA PRIORITY 5965
INFO RUFHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0557
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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TEXT

TAGS: EFIN, PREL, AL

SUBJECT: ALBANIAN CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: A. STATE 059587; B. LONDON 03972; C. PARIS 05369

1. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE. SEE PARAGRAPH 3.

2. DEPT. IS NOW READY TO PROCEED WITH CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS WITH ALBANIA. AS INDICATED IN REF A, AN AGREEMENT SETTling CLAIMS AGAINST ALBANIA WOULD ELIMINATE U.S. CLAIMS AS AN OBSTACLE TO TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT TO RELEASE OF GOLD HELD FOR ALBANIA BY THE TRIPARTITE GOLD COMMISSION IN LONDON.

3. EMB IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH APPROPRIATE ALBANIAN AUTHORITIES CONCERNING THE NEGOTIATIONS, MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CLAIMS AGREEMENT WITH ALBANIA.

-- THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WOULD BE PLEASED TO COME TO TIRANA FOR THE FIRST ROUND, OR TO INVITE THE ALBANIAN

DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON, D.C. SHOULD NEGOTIATIONS BE HELD IN ONE OF OUR CAPITALS, WE WOULD SUGGEST ALTERNATING CAPITALS FOR THE VARIOUS ROUNDS. ALTERNATIVELY, THE UNITED STATES SIDE WOULD BE WILLING TO HOLD THE TALKS IN A NEUTRAL VENUE, SUCH AS LONDON, PARIS, OR BRUSSELS.

-- THE UNITED STATES SIDE WOULD PROPOSE THAT THE FIRST ROUND BE HELD IN MID-TO-LATE APRIL -- PERHAPS APRIL 21-22 OR 28-29 -- BUT WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS FROM ITS ALBANIAN COUNTERPARTS.

-- THE UNITED STATES GOALS IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE TWOFOLD: TO ACHIEVE A CLAIMS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WHICH WILL PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND EFFECTIVE COMPENSATION TO UNITED STATES CLAIMANTS (THE UNITED STATES HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED A SURVEY OF CLAIMS BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND UNITED STATES NATIONALS AGAINST ALBANIA); AND TO ACHIEVE AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL PROVIDE FOR PAYMENT AT THE SAME TIME AS RELEASE OF THE GOLD.

-- THE US DELEGATION WILL BE LED BY MARY BETH WEST FROM THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL CLAIMS AND INVESTMENT DISPUTES, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE U.S. DELEGATION WILL BE: DAVID JOY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL AND POSSIBLY DAVID BRADLEY, CHIEF COUNSEL OF THE FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION.

4. SHOULD THE ABOVE DATES NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR EMBASSY TIRANA (IF TALKS ARE TO BE HELD THERE), EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PROPOSE ALTERNATE DATES. DEPT WOULD

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APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S REPORTING BACK ALBANIAN REACTION
SOONEST.
CHRISTOPHER

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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