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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	INLB-01	AID-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-01	OASY-00
	DODE-00	SRPP-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	SAL-00	L-01
	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-00	/015W			

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R 200941Z JUL 96
FM AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3172
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY ZAGREB

DEF: 09-0001

C O N F I D E N T I A L SARAJEVO 002488

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/20/06
TAGS: PREL, BK
SUBJECT: IZETBEGOVIC SUPPORTS ACTION ON KARADZIC

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JOHN K. MENZIES PER 1.5 (D).
2. (C) SUMMARY: DURING A MEETING ON 19 JULY, BOSNIAN PRESIDENT IZETBEGOVIC TOLD US "WE WOULD SUPPORT" THE U.S. ACCOMPLISHMENT. END SUMMARY.
3. (C) AMBASSADOR AND POLOFF FOLLOWED UP ON 19 JULY ON THE CONFERENCE CALL THAT OCCURRED EARLIER

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BETWEEN AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE AND PRESIDENT IZETBEGOVIC. WE STRESSED THAT IT HAD BEEN A LONG JOURNEY TO GET TO THE POINT OF BRINGING ABOUT KARADZIC'S RESIGNATION AND DEPARTURE FROM POLITICS BUT NOTED THAT THE USG WILL NOT STOP THERE. WE STILL WANT TO SEE KARADZIC COME BEFORE THE TRIBUNAL IN THE HAGUE, BUT THE AGREEMENT WAS A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD GETTING THE ELECTIONS ON TRACK AND ALLOWING THE SDS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS WITHOUT KARADZIC STILL PULLING THE PARTY

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STRINGS.

4. (C) PRESIDENT IZETBEGOVIC BELIEVED THAT THE ACTION WAS A GOOD ONE. HE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEE MORE AND WOULD PREFER IT IF KARADZIC HAD NOT SIGNED THE DOCUMENT; RATHER, IZETBEGOVIC WAS IN FAVOR OF LOOKING FOR "OTHER WAYS" TO REMOVE HIM FROM POWER. HOWEVER, IZETBEGOVIC STATED WITH ENTHUSIASM THAT KARADZIC RELIQUISHING HIS SDS LEADERSHIP POSITION WAS A POSITIVE STEP FORWARD. HE STATED EMPHATICALLY, "WE WILL SUPPORT IT."

5. (C) AMBASSADOR MENTIONED THE RECENT ARREST IN KISELJAK OF FIVE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ALLEGEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHOOTING OF A U.S. EMBASSY SARAJEVO EMPLOYEE LAST WEEK AND THE PROBABLE REMOVAL OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN KISELJAK. PRESIDENT IZETBEGOVIC HAD NOT HEARD OF THE ARRESTS OR THAT THE CHIEF OF POLICE WOULD LIKELY LOSE HIS JOB. HE BROUGHT UP THAT THE PRESENT HERCEG-BOSNA INSTITUTIONS NEED TO START FUNCTIONING AS PART OF

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THE FEDERATION. PRESIDENT IZETBEGOVIC BELIEVES U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CROATIA PETER GALBRAITH SHOULD PUT PRESSURE ON CROATIAN PRESIDENT TUDJMAN TO DISOLVE OR DISSUADE HERCEZ-BOSNA GOVERNING BODIES FOR OPERATING INDEPENDENT OF THE FEDERATION.

6. (C) COMMENT: WHILE PRESIDENT IZETBEGOVIC WAS GENUINELY ENTHUSED ABOUT THE NEWS THAT KARADZIC HAD GIVEN UP THE REINS OF POWER WITHIN THE SDS, HE STILL WANTED MORE. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT HE WOULD HAVE CLEARLY PREFERRED A NON-CIVILIAN/NON-DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION TO REMOVING KARADZIC FROM POWER. HIS SUPPORT, HOWEVER, WILL GO A LONG WAY IN HELPING ENSURE FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS. THERE IS STILL THE RISK THAT, IF KARADZIC REMAINS IN PALE OR ANY OTHER PART OF THE REPUBLIKA SRPSKA, HE WILL STILL HAVE THE ABILITY TO PULL THE REINS OF THE SDS--GIVEN HIS POPULARITY. RELINQUISHING PARTY LEADERSHIP LIKELY ASSURES THE SDS WILL NOW BE A PART OF THE SEPTEMBER ELECTION, BUT DOES NOT LESSEN KARADZIC'S INFLUENCE OVER SDS PARTY LEADERSHIP OR STRENGTHEN THOSE IN THE REPUBLIKA SRPSKA THAT HAVE DEIFIED HIM. PRESSURE ON

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BELGRADE AND THE REPUBLIKA SRPSKA TO SEND KARADZIC
-- AND MLADIC -- TO THE HAGUE MUST NOT WANE.

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