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Date Printed:
26-Nov-2001

DOC_NBR: 1992STATE134006

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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RELEASED IN FULL

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ORIGIN EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AGRE-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	DODE-00
	CISA-02	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01
	SNP-01	SP-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00

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DRAFTED BY: EUR/EEY:OGDESOTO:OGD
 APPROVED BY: THE SECRETARY
 EUR:TNILES, EUR:RJOHNSON
 P:CVANVOORST
 C:RWILSON
 S/S-O:DORTBLAD

D/EEA:JMENZIES, EUR/EEY:MJHABIB
 D:JWARLICK/KJUSTER
 S/S:WRPEARSON

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O 281754Z APR 92
 FM SECSTATE WASHDC
 TO AMEMBASSY TIRANA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 134006

E.O. 12356: NA
 TAGS: PREL EAID PGOV ODPC AL
 SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S LETTER TO ALBANIAN PRESIDENT BERISHA
 - SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE PACKAGE

1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE
 FROM SECRETARY BAKER TO ALBANIAN PRESIDENT SALI BERISHA AT
 AN APPROPRIATE TIME. THERE WILL BE NO ORIGINAL. THE
 DEPARTMENT DOES NOT PLAN TO RELEASE THE TEXT BUT HAS NO
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 OBJECTION IF THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBANIA WISHES TO DO SO.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

PLEASE ACCEPT ONCE AGAIN MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS FOR
 YOUR HARD FOUGHT AND WELL EARNED VICTORY IN THE ALBANIAN
 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT VICTORY
 NOT ONLY FOR YOU AND YOUR PARTY, BUT FOR DEMOCRACY, THE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: HANS HOLZAPFEL
 DATE/CASE ID: 29 MAY 2002 200100838

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RULE OF LAW IN THE BALKANS, AND THE NEW EUROPE.

ALBANIA HAS JOINED OTHER COUNTRIES IN EAST AND CENTRAL EUROPE IN CHOOSING A PATH OF HISTORIC CHANGE. I DO NOT NEED TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE ENORMOUS RESPONSIBILITIES THE

ALBANIAN PEOPLE HAVE PLACED ON YOU. THE UNITED STATES IS PLEASED THAT YOU ARE MOVING QUICKLY TO MEET THE MAJOR CHALLENGES AHEAD. WE UNDERSTAND WHAT THESE CHALLENGES AND DIFFICULTIES MEAN FOR YOUR CITIZENS, BUT THE PEOPLE OF ALBANIA, AND PEOPLES THROUGHOUT THE REGION, CAN ONLY BENEFIT FROM YOUR SUCCESS.

THE UNITED STATES ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO YOUR SUCCESS. WE ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST BY CONTINUING OUR SUPPORT FOR THE COUNTRY'S REFORM EFFORTS. I WANT TO PERSONALLY INFORM YOU THAT WE ARE ABOUT TO ANNOUNCE A SUPPLEMENTARY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE TOTALLING 35 MILLION DOLLARS, INCLUDING A 23 MILLION DOLLAR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, A 10 MILLION DOLLAR FOOD FOR PROGRESS PROGRAM AS WELL AS TWO MILLION DOLLARS IN OTHER TECHNICAL

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AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. AS YOU KNOW WE HAVE ALREADY DELIVERED ABOUT 26 MILLION DOLLARS IN ASSISTANCE TO ALBANIA SINCE AUGUST.

IN ADDITION, I AM PLEASED THAT WE RECENTLY ENGAGED THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN DISCUSSIONS REGARDING REQUIREMENTS FOR A JACKSON-VANICK WAIVER AND NEGOTIATIONS FOR A BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT TO FACILITATE THE NORMALIZATION OF U.S.-ALBANIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. I HOPE WE CAN MOVE AHEAD SOON ON MOST FAVORED NATION STATUS FOR ALBANIA.

I AM ALSO SENDING DEPUTY SECRETARY LAWRENCE EAGLEBURGER, THE COORDINATOR OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO EASTERN EUROPE, TO TIRANA IN LATE MAY TO REVIEW FIRST HAND ALBANIAN ASSISTANCE NEEDS. MR. EAGLEBURGER'S VISIT WILL UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE WE PLACE IN SUPPORTING MARKET DEMOCRATIC REFORM IN ALBANIA.

YOU ASSUME YOUR OFFICE NOT ONLY AT A CRUCIAL MOMENT FOR ALBANIA BUT ALSO FOR THE REGION. WE MUST NOT LET THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE, STABILITY, AND DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT BE SET BACK BY THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEMS ACROSS

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BORDERS. WE SHARE YOUR CONCERNS FOR THE DEMOCRATIC AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF KOSOVAR. WE KNOW YOU WILL UNDERSTAND OUR VIEW THAT A PRUDENT APPROACH IS CALLED FOR IN THIS REGARD. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENGAGE THE SERBIAN LEADERS ON THE RIGHTS OF ETHNIC ALBANIANS IN KOSOVO.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AND THE NEW DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT ON ENSURING THAT ALBANIA SUCCEEDS IN ITS VITAL
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AND HISTORIC TRANSFORMATION. ONCE AGAIN, PLEASE ACCEPT MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS.

SINCERELY, JAMES A. BAKER, III BAKER

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