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Date Printed:

30-May-2003 DOC_NBR: 1996TIRANA01521

CHANNEL: n/a

1

HANDLING: EXDIS

RELEASED IN FULL

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ACTION SS-00

INFO LOG-00 OASY-00 ADS-00 /000W
-----4F7301 171702Z /38

E5

O 171657Z JUL 96
FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9938
AMEMBASSY ROME
USEU BRUSSELS
USMISSION USVIENNA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TIRANA 001521

DECAPTIONED

EXDIS

GENEVA PLEASE PASS TO U/S WIRTH

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR, EUR/SCE, AND DRL

USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE

E.O. 12958: DECL:07/17/96
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, AL
SUBJECT: BERISHA NOT TO RECEIVE WIRTH DELEGATION

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY DRSMITH, CHARGE, PER 1.5B
AND D.

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2. (C) CHARGE WAS TOLD THE MORNING OF JULY 17 BY
PRESIDENT BERISHA'S CHIEF OF PROTOCOL THAT
PRESIDENT BERISHA COULD NOT RECEIVE THE INTERAGENCY
DELEGATION TO BE HEADED BY TIMOTHY WIRTH.

3. (C) CHARGE AND INCOMING DCM USED AN ALREADY-
SCHEDULED COURTESY CALL ON DEFENSE MINISTER ZHULALI
AND A HASTILY ARRANGED MEETING WITH DEMOCRATIC
PARTY CHIEF AND FOREIGN MINISTER TRITAN SHEHU TO
URGE THEM TO WEIGH IN WITH PRESIDENT BERISHA AND
ENCOURAGE HIM TO RECEIVE THE DELEGATION. BOTH MEN
SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD THE URGENCY OF THE MATTER AND
UNDERTOOK TO INTERVENE WITH THE PRESIDENT.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM J GEHRON
DATE/CASE ID: 28 JUL 2003 200103236

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4. (C) CHARGE AND INCOMING DCM THEN TOOK ADVANTAGE OF AN ALREADY-SCHEDULED COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT BERISHA TO ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE HIM TO RECONSIDER HIS DECISION. BERISHA RESPONDED FIRMLY THAT HE CONSIDERED THIS A "MATTER OF SOVEREIGNTY" AND REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT "INSTITUTIONS MUST BE RESPECTED." HE STATED THAT U/S WIRTH WAS WELCOME IN ALBANIA AND COULD MEET WITH OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS. AT ONE POINT, BERISHA WAIVED OFF CHARGE'S FURTHER PROTEST, SAYING THAT HE WAS SORRY BUT THAT THIS WAS A FINAL DECISION.

COMMENT

5. (C) WE ARE CONVINCED THAT BERISHA'S MIND IS MADE UP ON THIS ISSUE AND WILL NOT BE CHANGED. WE ARE AWARE THAT WASHINGTON HAS RAISED THE MATTER

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WITH AMBASSADOR DILJA, BUT WE DO NOT EXPECT IT TO
HAVE ANY EFFECT.

SMITH

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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