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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-01	OASY-00	DODE-00
	ANHR-01	SRPP-00	FBIE-00	INLB-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	MOFM-04	MOF-03	M-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	SCT-00
	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	SA-01	SNIS-00
	NISC-00	PMB-00	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/026W	

-----32B1BE 251430Z /38

O 251424Z APR 96
FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9383
INFO USEU BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USMISSION USVIENNA

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DEPARTMENT FOR G AND FOR EUR/SCE

USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE

E.O. 12958: DECL:04/24/06
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, AL, GR, SR
SUBJECT: U/S WIRTH MEETING WITH BERISHA

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY DRSMITH, CHARGE; REASON 1.5B.

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SUMMARY

2. (C) UNDERSECRETARY TIM WIRTH (G) HAD A MEETING AND
DINNER WITH ALBANIAN PRESIDENT BERISHA, APRIL 22, CAPPING
A VISIT TO ALBANIA.



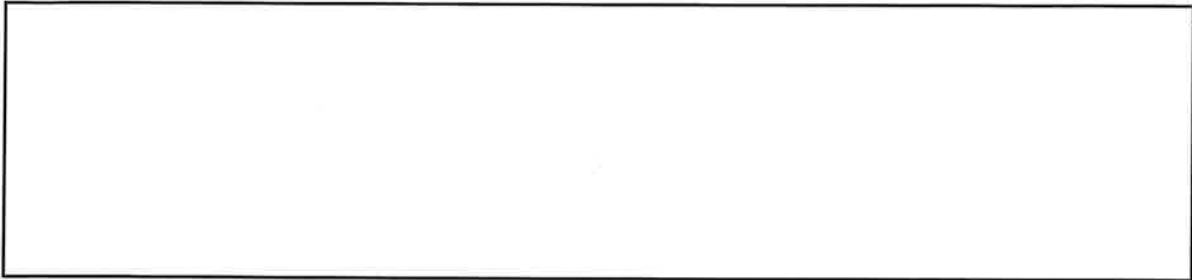
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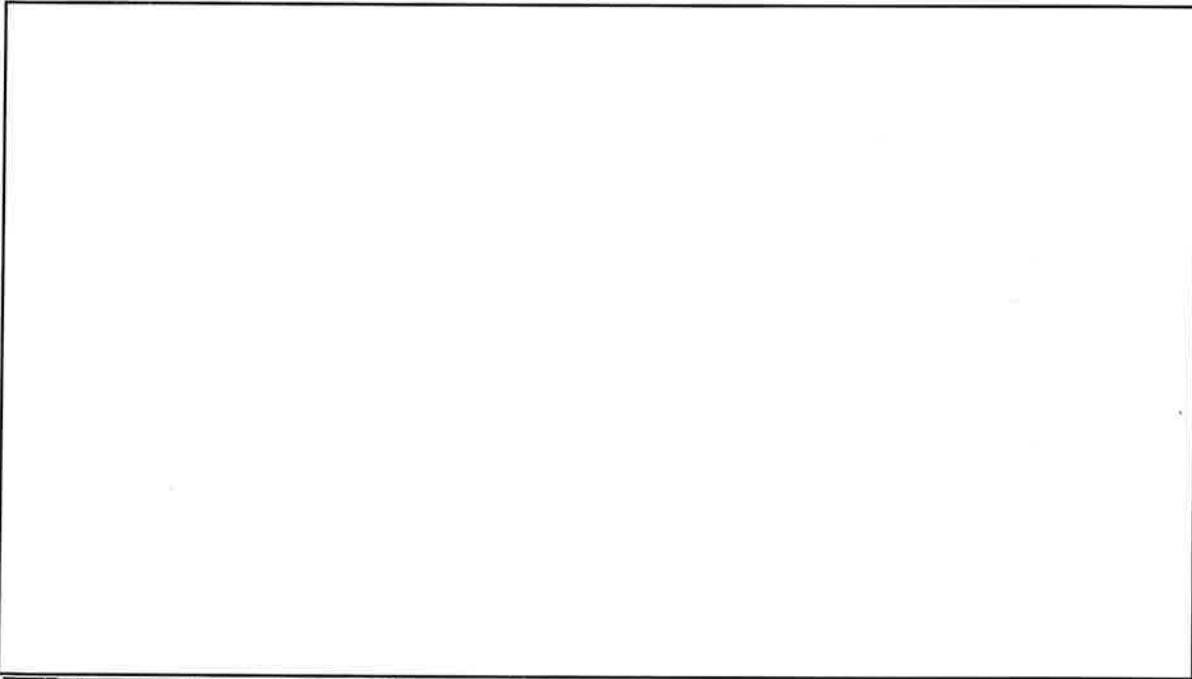
3. (U) UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS, TIMOTHY WIRTH, ACCOMPANIED BY DRL'S JIM BIGUS, VISITED ALBANIA, APRIL 21 AND 22. FOLLOWING ONE AND ONE HALF DAYS OF MEETINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES, U/S WIRTH, MR. BIGUS AND CHARGE MET AND DINED WITH ALBANIAN PRESIDENT BERISHA, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ARJAN STAROVA AND BERISHA'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR, DR. FATOS BEJA.

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RECOVERY SIGNIFICANT; MUCH REORGANIZATION

4. (U) U/S WIRTH CONGRATULATED BERISHA ON HIS COUNTRY'S OBVIOUS SUCCESS IN STIMULATING ITS ECONOMY. BERISHA RESPONDED BY RECITING HIS GOVERNMENT'S SUCCESSES IN THIS AREA, AND IN REORGANIZING THE MILITARY, THE DIPLOMATIC AND THE SECURITY SERVICES, NOTING ALBANIA WANTED TO BE THE FIRST IN THE REGION TO JOIN NATO.



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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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DEPARTMENT FOR G AND FOR EUR/SCE

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BALKAN INTEGRATION

10. (U) BERISHA OFFERED THAT THE BALKANS WERE TROUBLESOME BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS. AFTER THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE COLLAPSED, ONLY A FEW COUNTRIES IN THE REGION HAD BRIEF EXPERIENCES WITH DEMOCRACY. THESE TYPICALLY GAVE WAY TO DICTATORSHIPS, WHICH WERE FOLLOWED BY A "RED NATIONALISM" OF COMMUNIST REGIMES. INTEGRATION AND A DEVELOPMENT OF A SENSE OF COMPROMISE IS WHAT IS NOW NEEDED. THE PROPOSED BALKAN

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TRANSIT CORRIDORS ARE VERY IMPORTANT FOR THIS REASON AND
PURPOSE. HE WAS ALSO PLEASED AT THE SUCCESSFUL SOUTH
BALKAN DEFENSE MINISTERIAL MEETING AND ITS CONTRIBUTION
TO THE CONCEPTS OF INTEGRATION AND COMPROMISE.

ELECTIONS

11. (U) U/S WIRTH SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH REGARDING THE
IMPORTANCE THE U.S. ATTACHES TO THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS.
ELECTIONS WOULD BE WATCHED VERY CLOSELY AS THEY WERE
PERHAPS ALBANIAN'S BIGGEST TEST TO DATE. WE WANTED TO
SEE A FREE AND FAIR PROCESS.

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B1

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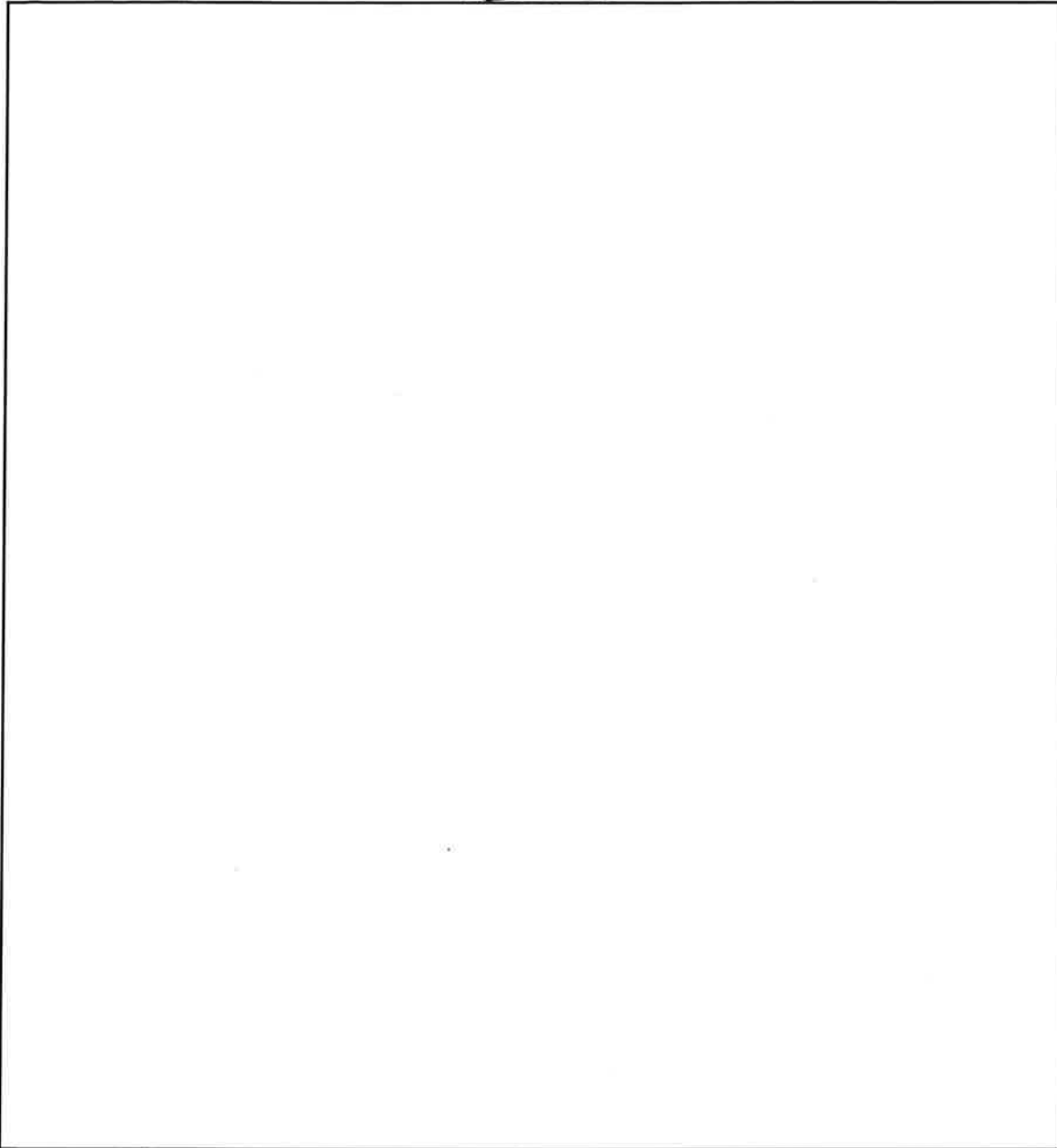
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18. U/S WIRTH DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLEAR THIS
CABLE BEFORE DEPARTURE.

SMITH

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