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Page: 1

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PAGE 01 STATE 105443 212215Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 105443

FOR CHARGE

E.O. 12958: DECL: OADR
TAGS: AMGT AL
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL NO. 66

TUESDAY 05/21/96 OI NO. 66

SCHIFTER TO ALBANIA? (C)

1. WE JUST RECEIVED A REPORT FROM A GREEK-AMERICAN SOURCE THAT DICK SCHIFTER PLANS TO GO TO ALBANIA FOR THE ELECTIONS. HIS SECRETARY DENIES IT, HOWEVER. SHE MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIM TO TRAVEL ON SECI BUSINESS TO BONN, ROME, SOFIA, BUCHAREST, AND ATHENS, RETURNING TO THE U.S.
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PAGE 02 STATE 105443 212215Z
06/02. STILL, HE PLANS TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF WHILE IN GREECE.... WE HAVE ALSO CLEARED A COUNTRY CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR BOB HAND PLUS ONE FROM THE U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION TO GO AS ELECTION OBSERVERS, ARRIVING THURSDAY, 05/23.

READY PRESS GUIDANCE (SBU)

2. MONDAY IS MEMORIAL DAY. WE WILL NEED TO HAVE PRESS

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: H E BOVIS
DATE/CASE ID: 25 JUL 2003 200103203

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
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Document Number: 1996STATE105443

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

GUIDANCE ON THE ELECTIONS READY TUESDAY MORNING, 05/28. ALTHOUGH OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS WILL NOT BE IN, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE PREPARED TO FIELD QUESTIONS ON THE CAMPAIGN, VOTING PROCEDURES, CONDUCT AND CLIMATE OF THE ELECTIONS, WHO OBSERVED THE BALLOTING, WHEN RESULTS ARE TO BE EXPECTED, AND OTHER ELECTION-RELATED ISSUES. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT POST TAKE THE LEAD ON THIS UNLESS YOU ARE SIMPLY TOO BUSY. PLEASE ADVISE.

VOA ON ELECTIONS (C)

3. FOLLOWING HIS TELCON WITH DOUG YESTERDAY, TOM CALLED ELEZ BIBERAJ OF VOA TO ASK HIM TO SEND TRANSCRIPTS OF BOTH THE EDITORIAL ON THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH SERREQI AND THE WIRTH INTERVIEW BOTH HERE AND TO POST. ELEZ TOLD HIM THAT THERE IS NO ENGLISH TRANSCRIPT OF THE WIRTH INTERVIEW -- IT WAS TRANSCRIBED AND INTERPRETED INTO ALBANIAN FROM THE AUDIO TAPE. TOM ASKED ELEZ TO FAX THE ALBANIAN TRANSCRIPT TO THE EMBASSY (DID HE?) ELEZ READ THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE EDITORIAL, WHICH FAITHFULLY REFLECTED SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES MADE BY EUR AND DRL.

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PAGE 03 STATE 105443 212215Z
4. USIA'S ALLEN DOCAL CALLED TOM 05/21 TO REPORT THAT THERE WERE ALSO QUESTIONS ABOUT A VOA INTERVIEW WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR RYERSON. ACCORDING TO DOCAL, ELEZ ADDED VERBAL COMMENTARY TO BOTH THE WIRTH AND THE RYERSON INTERVIEWS WHICH THE ALBANIAN LISTENER MIGHT REASONABLY ATTRIBUTE TO WIRTH AND RYERSON, RATHER THAN ELEZ. WHILE WE CANNOT HOLD VOA ACCOUNTABLE FOR SUCH LOCAL PRESS TREATMENT AS THE HEADLINE "U.S. SUPPORTS PD IN ELECTION" FOR THE EDITORIAL WHICH SAID NO SUCH THING, IT IS QUITE ANOTHER THING TO PUT WORDS INTO THE MOUTHS OF U.S. OFFICIALS.

PARTY LIST (U)

5. THANK YOU FOR THE SECOND FAX, WHICH WAS LEGIBLE.
CHRISTOPHER

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Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 2

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