

UNCLASSIFIED
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Date Printed:
06-May-2003

DOC_NBR: 1996TIRANA01730

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PTQ7182

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PTQ7182

ER35

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	OASY-00	SRPP-00	EB-00	FBIE-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	JUSE-00	L-01	ADS-00
	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	USIE-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PMB-00	PRME-01	PRMC-01	DRL-09
	G-00	/017W					

-----5787F9 082044Z /64

O 081430Z AUG 96
FM AMEMBASS TIRANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0105
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEBASSY BELGRADE 1328
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SKOPJE
USMISSION USVIENNA

RELEASED IN PART
B6

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 06 TIRANA 001730

STATE - EUR/SCE FOR TOM UNDERWOOD, DRL FOR JI
BIGUS

STATE PASS NSC FOR DAN FRIED

USDP: ISA-EUR

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PAGE 02 TIRANA 01730 01 OF 06 082044Z

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/08/96
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, EAID, MARR, KJUS, KDEM, AL
SUBJECT: GOA RESPONSE TO DEPUTY SECRETARY
TALBOTT'S LETTER

REF: STATE 154258 ✓

1. (U) CONFIDENTIAL -- CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE
ROBERT F. CEKUTA. REASON: 1.5 B AND D.

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2. (C) [REDACTED] CALLED
CHARGE TO HIS OFFICE AUGUST 8 TO DISCUSS GOA
RESPONSE TO DEPUTY SECRETARY TALBOTT'S LETTER
(REFTEL). [REDACTED] POLOFF
(NOTETAKER) ALSO PARTICIPATED.

B6

3. (C) [REDACTED] THOUGHT IT WOULD BE
USEFUL FOR THE SENIOR WASHINGTON OFFICIALS TO HAVE
A COPY OF THE RESPONSE IN PRIOR TO DEFENSE
MINISTER ZHULALI'S ARRIVAL. AN ADVANCE COPY
WOULD ALSO ELIMINATE QUERIES ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS
AND TIMING OF THE ANSWER. [REDACTED] ALSO STATED THAT
ZHULALI WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE LETTER
AND CLARIFY ANY POINTS.

3. (C) WE UNDERSTAND FROM SUBSEQUENT
CONVERSATION [REDACTED] THAT ZHULALI MAY CARRY
THE ORIGINAL IN ALBANIAN ALONG WITH THE COURTESY
TRANSLATION.

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4. (C) FOLLOWING IS THE GOA TRANSLATION OF
[REDACTED] LETTER:

THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
[REDACTED]

TIRANA, AUGUST 7, / 1996

DEAR MR. ACTING SECRETARY,

THIS IS TO CONFIRM RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER DATED
JULY 25, 1996 AND TO THANK YOU INDEED FOR THAT.
IT IS ACTUALLY REGRETTABLE THAT YOUR FIRST
COMMUNICATION [REDACTED] TALKS ABOUT AFFECTED U.S.-
ALBANIAN RELATIONS DUE TO 26 MAY PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS IN ALBANIA AND THE NOISE ABOUT THEM.

LET ME START OFF BY SAYING THAT THE ELECTORAL
CAMPAIGN IN ALBANIA WAS THE MOST CIVILIZED THAT
THE COUNTRY HAS EVER KNOWN. SIXTEEN POLITICAL
PARTIES PARTICIPATED IN THIS CAMPAIGN, 14 OF WHICH
WERE OPPOSITION PARTIES. THERE WERE 115 ELECTORAL

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ZONES WITH 1.174 CANDIDATES WHO STOOD FOR THESE PARTIES OR INDEPENDENTLY. ALL THE POLITICAL FORCES, TAKEN TOGETHER, ORGANIZED ABOUT 400 RALLIES AND MEETINGS BOTH IN PUBLIC PLACES AND IN THE OPEN AIR. ALL THE 1.174 CANDIDATES ORGANIZED THOUSANDS OF OTHER SMALLER-SCALE MEETINGS. ONLY A COUPLE OF INSIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE DURING THIS WHOLE CAMPAIGN.

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THE ALBANIAN RADIO AND TELEVISION GAVE GENERALLY ADEQUATE COVERAGE TO THE PARTIES ACTIVITIES IN CONFORMITY WITH THE LAW - TWO HOURS FOR THE POSITION AND TWO HOURS FOR THE OPPOSITION. THE TV TRANSMITTED 80 BROADCASTS MORE IN FAVOR OF THE OPPOSITION AND GAVE 20 MINUTES MORE TIME TO THE POSITION.

MAY I RECALL THAT ALL OPINION POLLS CONDUCTED BY US AND EUROPEAN PROFESSIONALS DURING THE EIGHT MONTHS PRECEDING THE ELECTIONS HAVE CONFIRMED A 2:1 AND 2.5:1 RATIO BETWEEN THE DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIALIST PARTIES; THE OPINION POLL CONDUCTED BY US INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE IN THE ELECTION DAY GIVES THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY A VICTORY OF 56 PER CENT OF THE VOTE AS AGAINST 22 FOR THE SOCIALIST PARTY.

THE ELECTION DAY WAS WITHIN NORMAL ELECTION STANDARDS. THERE WERE ONLY 4 CASES OF LIGHTLY INJURED PERSONS AND NO GRAVE INCIDENT. THAT DAY, AT 18.00 HOURS, WITH THE CALL "PULL OUT BECAUSE WE

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	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00

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PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
USIE-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PMB-00	PRME-01	PRMC-01	DRL-09
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O 081430Z AUG 96
FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0106
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SKOPJE
USMISSION USVIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 06 TIRANA 001730

STATE - EUR/SCE FOR TOM UNDERWOOD, DRL FOR JIM
BIGUS

STATE PASS NSC FOR DAN FRIED

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TALBOTT'S LETTER

HAVE LOST DEEPLY", THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SOCIALIST
PARTY ORDERED ITS COMMISSION MEMBERS TO WITHDRAW
FROM THE POLLING STATIONS. DESPITE THE PULLOUT OF
THE SOCIALIST PARTY COMMISSIONERS, MORE THAN TWO-
THIRDS OF THE OTHER COMMISSIONERS REMAINED IN
PLACE AND MORE THAN HALF OF THEM BELONGED TO
OPPOSITION PARTIES.

AFTER THE BOYCOTT OF THE VOTE COUNTING BY THE
FORMER COMMUNISTS AND THEIR ALLIES, THE PRESIDENT,
THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION
MADE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO AVOID THE LIMITED
IRREGULARITIES OBSERVED DURING THE ELECTION. IN
THE EVENING OF 26 MAY, THE PRESIDENT STATED THAT

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EVERY. COMPLAINT FOR IRREGULARITIES WOULD BE ANALYZED BY SHOWING THE BALLOT PAPER AND VOTING PROTOCOL TO THOSE WHO RAISED THE COMPLAINT. DESPITETHE REPEATED PROMISES TO THE CHIEFS OF THE US AND EU EMBASSIES, FROM 26 MAY TO DATE, THE OPPOSITION PARTIES THAT BOYCOTTED THE ELECTIONS HAVE FAILED TO PRESENT ANY CONCRETE COMPLAINT FOR IRREGULARITIES TO THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION OR THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT.

THE SECOND ROUND, OR BALLOTING FOR 9 ZONES, TOOK
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PLACE ON 2 JUNE 1996. THERE WAS A 67 PERCENT
TURNOUT AND NO INCIDENT WHATSOEVER.

THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION, UPON THE SUGGESTION OF THE PRESIDENT, ANALYZED EVERY SINGLE BALLOT PAPER AND VOTING PROTOCOL IN OVER 60 ZONES ABOUT WHICH COMPLAINTS WERE RAISED BY THE ELECTORAL SUBJECTS. IT COULD FIND UNACCEPTABLE IRREGULARITIES IN ZONE 12 AND DUBIOUS IRREGULARITIES IN ZONE 67. IT TOOK INUNEDIATE STEPS TO INVALIDATE ELECTIONS IN THESE ZONES. IN ITS ANALYSIS OF THE BALLOT PAPERS IN OTHER ZONES, THE CENTRAL ELECTION CONUNISSION DECIDED TO APPLY THE PRINCIPLE "IN DUBIO PRO REO". ACCORDING TO THIS PRINCIPLE, FAVORING THE SOCIALIST CANDIDATES, ALL VOTES CONSIDERED NONVALID AS A RESULT OF HAVING ALL CANDIDATE NAMES CROSSED OUT BUT WITH LINE FACES - WIDTH, BOLDNESS OR LENGTH, SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT ON THE NAME OF SOCIALIST CANDIDATES AS COMPARED TO THE OTHERS, WERE COUNTED AS VALID VOTES FOR THEM (THE @ SOCIALISTS). FAMOUS INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS WHO CAME TO WORK WITH THE COMMISSION STATED THAT THIS CRITERION IS TECHNICALLY UNACCEPTABLE BUT CONSTITUTES A POLITICAL SOLUTION.

APPLYING THIS CRITERION, THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION FOUND THAT IN 15 ZONES, THE NUMBER OF VOTES WON BY THE -DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES FELL BELOW THE 50 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALID VOTES CAST. IN VIEW OF THE TIME LIMIT BY THE LAW, THE
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PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC DECLARED THE DATE FOR
THE RERUN OF ELECTIONS IN THESE 17 ZONES - 16 JUNE
1996. THE PROMPT REACTION OF THE OPPOSITION WAS A
STATEMENT THAT IT WOULD BOYCOTT THE ELECTION
RERUN, TOO. ON 14 JUNE, THE CHIEFS OF THE US
MISSION AND OF THE COUNTRY HOLDING THE PRESIDENCY
OF THE EU INFORMED PRIME-MINISTER MEKSI THAT THE
LEADERSHIP OF THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE PARTY AND
THE SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC PARTY WOULD PRESENT TO THE
CONSTITUTIONAL COURT THEIR REQUEST FOR THE
POSTPONEMENT OF THE 16 JUNE ELECTIONS AND THAT IF
THAT WERE THE CASE, THEY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE
ELECTION. THIS DECISION WAS WELCOME BY THE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY. THOSE TWO PARTIES, HOWEVER,
INSTEAD OF PRESENTING A REQUEST FOR THE
POSTPONEMENT OF THE ELECTION DATE REQUESTED THAT
THE COURT DECLARE ILLEGITIMATE THE WHOLE ELECTIONS
AND ILLEGAL THE DECISION OF THE CENTRAL ELECTION
COMMISSION TO RERUN THE ELECTIONS IN 17 ZONES'...
AFTER A CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THESE, PARTIES'
REQUEST, THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT, BY ITS DECISION
NR. 35 DATED 15.06.1996, TURNED IT DOWN.

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ACTION EUR-01

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	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	QIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	USIE-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PMB-00	PRME-01	PRMC-01	DRL-09
	G-00	/017W					

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O 081430Z AUG 96
FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0107
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SKOPJE
USMISSION USVIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 06 TIRANA 001730

STATE - EUR/SCE FOR TOM UNDERWOOD, DRL FOR JIM
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/08/96

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SUBJECT: GOA RESPONSE TO DEPUTY SECRETARY

TALBOTT'S LETTER

THE 16 JUNE ELECTIONS WERE ANOTHER TEST MADE THROUGH THE VOTE OF 350 THOUSAND VOTERS. IT HAD A TURNOUT OF 70 PER CENT. ONLY 16 PER CENT OF THOSE WHO HAD VOTED IN THE FIRST ROUND RESPONDED TO THE CALL OF THE OPPOSITION TO BOYCOTT THESE ELECTIONS.

REGARDING THE RERUN OF ELECTIONS, I WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY THAT ONLY THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT, THE SUPREME ORGAN WITH A SAY ON THE LEGITIMACY OF ELECTED PEOPLE IN ALBANIA CAN, ON THE BASIS OF INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS OF CANDIDATES FOR MP WHO HAVE COMPLAINTS ON IRREGULARITIES IN THEIR ZONES, TAKE A DECISION TO REPEAT ELECTIONS IN RESPECTIVE ZONES, PRIOR TO THE EXPIRY OF THE PARLIAMENT'S MANDATE IN THE YEAR 2000. ALL THE CANDIDATES OF THE POLITICAL FORCES WHO POSSESS FACTS, HAVE CLAIMS OR ARGUMENTS TO RAISE ON IRREGULARITIES ARE ENTITLED BY LAW TO PRESENT THEM TO THIS INSTITUTION.

DISTINGUISHED MR. ACTING SECRETARY,

WITH A WESTERN CIVILIZATION BUT A COMPLICATED HISTORY, ALBANIA CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO CARRY OUT,

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WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD OF 4-5 YEARS, ELECTIONS IN
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STANDARDS EQUAL TO THOSE OF DEVELOPED WESTERN
COUNTRIES. NEVERTHELESS, THE LATEST ELECTIONS IN
ALBANIA HAVE BEEN FREE AND FAIR, AS COMPARED TO
THE 1991 ELECTIONS WHICH WERE DECLARED FREE AND
FAIR, ALTHOUGH DURING THAT CAMPAIGN, 11 ANTI-
COMMUNIST MILITANTS FROM 14-32 YEARS OF AGE WERE
KILLED IN TIRANA AND OTHER CITIES. THE MAY 26
ELECTIONS WERE FREE AND FAIR ALSO AS COMPARED TO
THE 1992 ELECTIONS, WHICH WERE CONSIDERED TO BE
FREE AND FAIR AT A TIME WHEN DURING THAT ELECTION
CAMPAIGN AND ON THE ELECTION DAY, THE ALBANIAN
SECRET POLICE ORGANIZED A GENUINE CIVIL WAR WHICH
BROUGHT ABOUT LOSS OF LIVES, DESTRUCTIONS, BURNING
AND PLUNDERING IN MANY TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF
ALBANIA. THE ALBANIAN 26 MAY ELECTIONS WERE FREE
AND FAIR IN COMPARISON WITH THE OTHER FORMER
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES ELECTIONS, AS THE OSCE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OBSERVERS DECLARED IN
TIRANA.

PROOF OF THE FACT THAT THE 26 MAY ELECTIONS WERE
FREE AND FAIR IS ALSO THE HIGH TURNOUT OF 89 PER
CENT AND, IN GENERAL, THE UNBIASED INTERNATIONAL
REPORTS.

THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY REPORT SAYS THAT
26 MAY ELECTIONS WERE HELD "IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
(ALBANIAN) LAW" WHICH, ACCORDING TO IT, "PROVIDES
CONDITIONS FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS", AND THAT
THE "LAWFULNESS OF THE NEWLY ELECTED ALBANIAN
PARLIAMENT CANNOT BE QUESTIONED".

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ALTHOUGH IT OBSERVED LIMITED IRREGULARITIES, THE
REPORT OF THE BRITISH HELSINKI HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP,
DECLARED THE ELECTIONS TO BE "FREE AND FAIR". THE
IRI REPORT, AFTER QUOTING THE IRREGULARITIES
OBSERVED, SAYS THAT "THEY WERE NOT WIDESPREAD".
THE ODIHR REPORT, WHICH DOES NOT CONSIDER THE

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ELECTIONS UNFREE AND UNFAIR, SPEAKS OF FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT 32 ARTICLES OF THE ALBANIAN ELECTORAL LAW, OF A SERIES OF OTHER IRREGULARITIES AID, GIVES A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH, ON THE WHOLE, WE HAVE FOUND TO BE USEFUL.

LET ME KINDLY REMIND THAT THE ODMRS REPORT HAS BEEN FACED WITH COUNTER-FACT AND ARGUMENTS, OR HAS BEEN CRITICIZED FOR ITS BIASED CHARACTER, BOTH IN ALBANIA AND ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE. FIRST AND FOREMOST, THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION, THROUGH A NUMBER OF FACTS AND A WEALTH OF EVIDENCE, PROVES THAT,

- MANY OF THE ARTICLES OF THE LAW WHICH. THE REPORT CLAIMS NOT TO HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED

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	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	USIE-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PMB-00	PRME-01	PRMC-01	DRL-09
	G-00	/017W					

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O 081430Z AUG 96
FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0108
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SKOPJE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 06 TIRANA 001730

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STATE PASS NSC FOR DAN FRIED

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TALBOTT'S LETTER

HAVE BEEN DONE SO TO THE LETTER AND THAT SOME OF
THE REPORT'S OBSERVATIONS ARE UNTRUE;

- ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE ODIHR TEAM MEMBERS HAD A
DOUBLE STATUS, THEY WERE BOTH SOCIALIST PARTY AND
ODIHR OBSERVERS.

OF ALL THE REPORTS ON THE ALBANIAN ELECTIONS, THE
ODIHR REPORT IS THE ONLY ONE THAT HAS FOUND IT
CONVENIENT TO KEEP ABSOLUTE SILENCE ON THE
UNPRECEDENTED BOYCOTT OF THE VOTE COUNTING BY THE
FORMER COMMUNISTS. I DO HOPE YOU WOULD AGREE WITH
ME IN MY BELIEF THAT IN THE ODIHR CASE, THIS
MISSING FACT IN THE REPORT COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED
BY PROFESSIONAL REASONS.

IN THEIR MEMORANDUM DATED 18 JUNE 1996, THE CHIEFS
OF MISSIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE UNITED
STATES IN TIRANA PROVE, THROUGH INCONTESTABLE
FACTS AND ARGUMENTS, THAT THE ODIHR REPORT "LACKS
BALANCE". FOR ITS PART, THE BRITISH HELSINKI
HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP SAYS THAT THE ODIHR ACTED
"WHOLLY OUTSIDE THE SPIRIT AND RULES WITH WHICH
THE OSCE OPERATES".

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LET ME ASSURE YOU, HOWEVER, THAT IRRESPECTIVE OF
THE NUMEROUS CRITICISMS TOWARDS THIS REPORT, WE
FIND SEVERAL OF ITS OBSERVATIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE CORRECT.

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I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REFER TO THE CONCERN YOU HAVE RAISED IN YOUR LETTER ABOUT UNDER SECRETARY WIRTH'S VISIT TO ALBANIA. WE ALSO REGRET THAT YOU HAVE CONSIDERED PRESIDENT BERISHA'S IMPOSSIBILITY TO MEET WITH UNDER SECRETARY WIRTH AT THAT PARTICULAR TIME AS UNWILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE HIM AND CANCELLED THE VISIT. WE DO BELIEVE THAT THE VISIT SHOULD HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE WHEN ALL THE OTHER TOP DIGNITARIES OF VERY IMPORTANT FUNCTIONING INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER, SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT, FOREIGN MINISTER, ET AL., WERE ALL WILLING AND READY TO RECEIVE HIM, AS WE HAVE INDICATED TO YOU DURING THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE VISIT. WE HAVE NEVER GONE BEYOND THE LIMIT OF CONSIDERING IT TO BE A SIMPLE POSTPONEMENT OF HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BERISHA. WITHOUT INTENDING TO INTERFERE WITH THE AGENDA OF YOUR DELEGATIONS, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE MORE FRUITFUL IF ALL MAJOR POLITICAL FORCES OF THE COUNTRY ARE MET.

IN THE LAPSE OF FOUR YEARS, WE CANNOT PRETEND TO HAVE ACHIEVED A CONSOLIDATED JURIDICAL SYSTEM. THAT IS WHY WE HAVE SOUGHT THE ASSISTANCE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES. GIVEN OUR HERITAGE IN THIS FIELD, MAJOR PROGRESS HAS

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BEEN MADE AND WE ARE DETERMINED TO KEEP ON WORKING FOR THE CONSOLIDATION AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE JURIDICAL SYSTEM. IN FALL WE ARE GOING TO ADOPT A NEW JUSTICE LAW, WHICH HAS BEEN DRAFTDD WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE EXPERTS. ONE WEEK AGO, THE PARLIAMENT ALSO ADOPTED THE LAW OF THE SCHOOL OF MAGISTRATES FOR THE QUALIFICATION OF JUDGES AND ATTORNEYS, WHICH IS DUE TO BE OPENED IN OCTOBER.

LET ME ALSO ASSURE YOU THAT THE CHIEF JUSTICE WAS DISCHARGED OF HIS DUTIES BY THE PARLIAMENT, IN FIFFL CONFORMITY, WITH ALBANIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, AFTER THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT, BY ITS VERDICT NO.12 DATED 21.09.1995, FOUND HIM GUILTY FOR INVALIDATING AND ANNULLING, MORE THAN ONCE, AT HIS DISCRETION AND WITHOUT A COURT DECISION, MORE

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THAN 200 COURT DECISIONS. THE DECISION BY THE
PARLIAMENT WAS FOUND BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT
TO BE LAWFUL AND FORMALLY CONSIDERED AS SUCH BY
ITS DECISION NR. 2 DATED 14.02.1996.

TODAY THERE ARE 36 POLITICAL PARTIES AND OVER 200

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	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	USIE-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PMB-00	PRME-01	PRMC-01	DRL-09
	G-00	/017W					

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FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0109
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SKOPJE
USMISSION USVIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 05 OF 06 TIRANA 001730

STATE - EUR/SCE FOR TOM UNDERWOOD, DRL FOR JIM
BIGUS

STATE PASS NSC FOR DAN FRIED

USDP: ISA-EUR

USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/08/96
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, EAID, MARR, KJUS, KDEM, AL
SUBJECT: GOA RESPONSE TO DEPUTY SECRETARY
TALBOTT'S LETTER

NGOS IN ALBANIA. THERE ARE MORE THAN 320 PAPERS AND MAGAZINES, MOST OF WHICH ARE PRIVATE. FIVE POLITICAL FORCES ARE REPRESENTED IN THE ALBANIAN PARLIAMENT AND THERE IS A COALITION GOVERNMENT OF FOUR PARTIES. WE THINK THAT ALBANIA IS FAR FROM BEING A ONE-PARTY STATE AND THAT PLURALISM IS AND WILL REMAIN THE MAIN PILLAR OF DEMOCRACY IN ALBANIA.

WE ARE DETERMINED AND OPEN FOR A POLITICAL DIALOGUE WITH THE POLITICAL FORCES OF THE COUNTRY, A DIALOGUE WHICH HAS ALREADY STARTED AT ALL LEVELS. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE SOCIALIST PARTY HAVE CONDUCTED A SERIES OF MEETINGS. SOON, MEETINGS WITH OTHER POLITICAL FORCES WILL START. THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC CALLED IN A MEETING WITH 12 POLITICAL PARTIES TO DISCUSS LOCAL ELECTIONS AND REACHED IMPORTANT CONCLUSIONS. LET ME ALSO CONFIRM THAT NOTHING CAN REPLACE THE LEGITIMATE INSTITUTIONS OF THE ALBANIAN STATE.

CONCERNING THE LOCAL ELECTIONS, WE WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU THAT, FOR US, THEY CONSTITUTE A VERY IMPORTANT EVENT AND THEY WILL BE FREE AND FAIR. IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, WE HAVE

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DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION. THE DATE FOR THESE ELECTIONS WAS SET THREE MONTHS IN ADVANCE. A SERIES OF OTHER MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE MAXIMUM AVOIDANCE OF IRREGULARITIES AS WELL AS ORCHESTRATIONS. THE SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT HAS SENT OUT INVITATIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE OSCE, THE CONGRESS AND SENATE OF THE USA AND TO PARLIAMENTS OF MANY OTHER COUNTRIES. HE HAS REQUESTED THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TO ENSURE, TOGETHER WITH THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION, THE CO-ORDINATION OF THE ELECTION MONITORING.

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CONCERNING THE IMPORTANT QUESTION OF THE CONSTITUTION, I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THERE IS A PACKAGE OF 140 NEW CONSTITUTIONAL LAWS WHICH, ACCORDING TO COUNCIL OF EUROPE DOC. NO. 189, POINT 7, DATED 29 JUNE 1995, LEAVES NO CONSTITUTIONAL VACUUM, ENSURES A PARLIAMENTARY REGIME, DIVIDES POWERS AND GUARANTEES HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS.

DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS, WE HAVE DONE OUR BEST TO PROVIDE THE COUNTRY WITH A CONSTITUTION, INCLUDING ADOPTION THROUGH A REFERENDUM. WE ARE DETERMINED TO WORK WITH THE OTHER POLITICAL FORCES TO DRAFT A CONSTITUTION BASED ON WESTERN STANDARDS, AND WILL COOPERATE WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TO THIS END. HOWEVER, THE DRAFTING COMMISSION, WAYS OF ADOPTION, AS THE

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CONSTITUTIONAL LAWS OF ALBANIA STIPULATE, ARE INALIENABLE ATTRIBUTES OF THE ALBANIAN PARLIAMENT. I AM CONVINCED THAT THE REFERENDUM, HAVING BEEN APPLIED FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE FIRST DRAFT, SHOULD BE ADOPTED ALSO FOR THE SECOND ONE.

MR. ACTING SECRETARY,

THE NEW ALBANIAN DEMOCRACY HAS AS ITS PRIORITY THE CONSOLIDATION OF ITS PROCESSES AND INSTITUTIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT, I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS WOULD CONSTITUTE A PERMANENT PRIORITY.

I WOULD AGAIN WISH TO INFORM YOUR FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT THAT THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT POSSESSES NUMEROUS FACTS WHICH SHOW THAT SEVERAL WEEKS PRIOR TO AND DURING THE ENTIRE ELECTION PERIOD AN UNFAIR ORCHESTRATION WAS OBSERVED WITH THE INTENTION TO DISCREDIT THE ELECTION PROCESS IN ALBANIA. CERTAIN EXTREMIST ELEMENTS OF THE GREEK LOBBY (FOR WHICH I HAVE PARTICULAR RESPECT) AND SOME OF THEIR SUPPORTERS WERE ENGAGED IN THIS ORCHESTRATION.

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	OASY-00	SRPP-00	EB-00	FBIE-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	JUSE-00	L-01	ADS-00
	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	USIE-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PMB-00	PRME-01	PRMC-01	DRL-09
	G-00	/017W					

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O 081430Z AUG 96
FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0110
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SKOPJE
USMISSION USVIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 06 OF 06 TIRANA 001730

STATE - EUR/SCE FOR TOM UNDERWOOD, DRL FOR JIM
BIGUS

STATE PASS NSC FOR DAN FRIED

USDP: ISA-EUR

USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE

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THEY HAVE FOR THREE YEARS BEEN ACTIVELY WORKING TO
UNDERMINE THE FRIENDLY US-ALBANIAN AND ALBANIAN-
GREEK RELATIONS, THEY CONTINUOUSLY SPREAD MIS- AND
DISINFON-NATION ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENTS AND THE
REALITY IN ALBANIA, NURTURE ANTI-ALBANIAN

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GEOPOLITICAL VIEWS AND DESIGNS, ENCOURAGE AND UNDERTAKE ACTIONS WHICH THREATEN THE SOVEREIGNTY OF ALBANIA AND THE STABILITY IN THE REGION AND HAVE NOT FAILED TO PURSUE OMINOUS SCHEMES TO BRING THE CONUNUNISTS BACK INTO POWER AND PROVIDE THEM WITH THESE, SCHEMES. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY RAISED MANY OF THESE CONCERNS WITH OFFICIALS OF YOUR ADMINISTRATION AND DO BELIEVE THAT TAKING THEM INTO CONSIDERATION WOULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR YOU, TOO.

IT IS TRUE THAT ALBANIA AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE DEVELOPED INTENSIV RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND CO-OPERATION DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS. ALBANIA HAS DEMONSTRATED BOTH IN WORD AND DEED THAT IT HAS EMBARKED SUCCESSFULLY ON THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY, RESPECTING DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND HUMAN RIGHTS, RESPECTING HER FRIENDS AND HER OBLIGATIONS. WE VERY HIGHLY APPRECIATE AMERICA'S SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO THAT EFFECT. WE CONTINUE TO

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BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT SPARE ITS EFFORTS TO ASSIST US IN AN ACCELERATED CONSOLIDATION OF OUR NEW DEMOCRACY. IT IS IN THIS LIGHT THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A POSSIBLE REVISION OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS, ALTHOUGH SUCH A REVISION IS THE RIGHT OF ANY SOVEREIGN STATE. SIMILARLY, LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT ALBANIA WILL REMAIN DETERMINED AND UNSHAKEN ON ITS ROAD OF CONSOLIDATING DEMOCRACY BASED ON MARKET VALUES.

IN CONCLUSION, I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY, MR. ACTING SECRETARY, TO CONVEY MY DESIRE TO MEET YOU IN TIRANA OR IN WASHINGTON AT A TIME WHICH WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR YOU.

END QUOTE
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