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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(B)

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	INLB-01	AID-00	ACQ-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-01
	OASY-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00	ED-01	FBIE-00
	HHS-01	H-01	SSA-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SS-00
	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	SA-01	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PMB-00
	PRM-10	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/034W		

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R 281224Z AUG 96
FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0262
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USMISSION USVIENNA
AMEMBASSY SKOPJE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 TIRANA 001900

STATE FOR EUR/SCE - T. UNDERWOOD AND DRL - J. BIGUS

ROME ALSO FOR ARSO - L. FAIRCHILD

USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE

E.O 12958: DECL: 08/28/06
TAGS: SOCI, PHUM, PINS, AL

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PAGE 02 TIRANA 01900 01 OF 02 281735Z
SUBJECT: INTERIOR MINISTER SPEAKS ON CHANGES IN THE
POLICE FORCE IN ALBANIA

REF: TIRANA 1743 N

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

2. (C) SUMMARY: DURING A LUNCH WITH THE NEW MINISTER
OF INTERIOR HALIT SHAMATA AUGUST 23, SHAMATA ASSURED
THE CHARGE HE IS WORKING HARD TO REEDUCATE ALBANIA'S
POLICE TO MAKE THEM MORE AWARE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO
COMBAT CORRUPTION. HE INDICATED CERTAIN HIGH LEVEL AS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: HANS HOLZAPFEL
DATE/CASE ID: 4 JUN 2002 200100875

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WELL AS STREET OFFICERS WERE DISMISSED OR DEMOTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAY 28 VIOLENCE. THE POLICE WILL WORK TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER DURING THE LOCAL ELECTIONS, BUT ONLY IN FRONT OF THE POLLING STATIONS UNLESS THE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REQUESTS ASSISTANCE. SHIKU AGENTS WOULD NOT BE PRESENT AT THE POLLING STATIONS, THE MINISTER SAID. SHAMATA EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN WHATEVER ASSISTANCE THE U.S. COULD PROVIDE TO HELP HIS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE INTERIOR MINISTRY OPERATIONS AND TO REFORM THE POLICE. END SUMMARY.

3. (C) CHARGE AND POLOFF (NOTETAKER) HAD LUNCH AUGUST 23 WITH RECENTLY-APPOINTED MINISTER OF INTERIOR HALIT SHAMATA TO PURSUE DISCUSSIONS BEGUN AT HIS AUGUST 9 COURTESY CALL (REF). SHAMATA WAS PROUD OF THE REFORMS HE IS INITIATING THROUGHOUT THE POLICE STATIONS IN ALBANIA. FIRST STEPS INCLUDE SENDING A COPY OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO ALL THE POLICE

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STATIONS AND PUBLIC DIRECTORATES. THE POLICE CHIEFS WERE DIRECTED TO MEET WITH THEIR OFFICERS TO DISCUSS THE CONVENTION AND HELP THEM UNDERSTAND HOW IT APPLIES TO THEIR WORK. SHAMATA ADMITTED THAT ONE OF HIS MOST IMPORTANT TASKS WILL BE CHANGING THE MENTALITY OF THE POLICE AND THAT THIS EFFORT COULD TAKE TIME. IN THIS CONNECTION, MORE POLICE WILL ATTEND FORMAL TRAINING AT ACADEMIES WHERE THIS NEW MENTALITY WILL BE TAUGHT AND REINFORCED. HE ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CRIME PREVENTION.

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AS A FIRST STEP TO COMBAT CORRUPTION, THE MINISTRY ISSUED AN ORDER THAT THE FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE LAW (PARLIAMENT APPROVED IN SPRING, 1996) WILL APPLY TO ALL POLICE AND MILITARY OFFICERS AND ALL MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIALS EVEN IF THEY WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE ORIGINAL PROVISIONS OF THE LAW. IN ADDITION, THE MINISTRY DRAFTED A NEW ETHICS CODE FOR POLICE. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS DECLARED THAT IF SOMEONE IS DISMISSED FOR CORRUPTION FROM ONE MINISTRY THEY CANNOT TAKE ANOTHER GOVERNMENT JOB. SHAMATA ASSURED CHARGE HE WOULD DISMISS FROM HIS MINISTRY ANYONE CONVICTED OF CORRUPTION. HE ADDED IT IS IMPORTANT TO SET EXAMPLES TO DEMONSTRATE THE NEW

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BEHAVIOR OF POLICE DURING ELECTIONS

5. (C) WHEN CHARGE INQUIRED ABOUT THE DISPOSITION OF THE CASES OF THOSE POLICE ACCUSED OF BEATING DEMONSTRATORS ON MAY 28, SHAMATA SAID THAT SEVERAL HIGH LEVEL AND STREET OFFICERS HAVE BEEN DISMISSED OR DEMOTED. THE COURTS ARE HANDLING THEIR CASES INDIVIDUALLY. SHAMATA THOUGHT THESE ACTIONS WERE GOOD EXAMPLES OF HOW HIS MINISTRY WAS MOVING FORWARD, BUT HE WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT THE OPPOSITION GATHERING WAS ITSELF ILLEGAL. HE ALSO NOTED THAT APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES WERE INVESTIGATING SOCIALIST PARTY COMPLAINTS OF INTERFERENCE IN CAMPAIGN RALLIES IN TEPELENE, FIER, AND PERMET, BUT ARGUED THAT IN MOST CASES THE POLICE ACTED RESPONSIBLY IN ORDER TO PREVENT BLOODSHED.

6. (C) SHAMATA OFFERED ASSURANCES THAT DURING THE LOCAL ELECTIONS THE POLICE WILL WORK TO MAINTAIN ORDER, BE IN UNIFORM, AND ONLY ACT IN FRONT OF THE POLLING STATIONS UNLESS THE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REQUESTS ASSISTANCE INSIDE. HE ADMITTED SOME INDIVIDUAL POLICE OFFICERS HAVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO OVERSTEP THE BOUNDS OF THEIR AUTHORITY, BUT THE MINISTRY IS DRAFTING A CODE

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POLICE FORCE IN ALBANIA

FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC MEETINGS WHICH THEY
HOPE TO HAVE APPROVED BEFORE THE LOCAL ELECTIONS START
OCTOBER 20. FURTHERMORE, THERE MAY BE CHANGES IN THE
LOCAL ELECTION LAW ITSELF WHICH WOULD MIGHT AFFECT
POLICE ROLES AND AUTHORITY.

ROLE OF SHIK (NATIONAL INFORMATION SERVICE)

7. (C) SHAMATA SAID THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL
INFORMATION SERVICE (SHIK) IS TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SABOTAGE IN THE COUNTRY.
SHAMATA TOLD CHARGE SHIK PERSONNEL WOULD NEVER BE
AROUND THE POLLING STATIONS. THE PARLIAMENT APPOINTED
THE HEAD OF SHIK, SHIK REPORTS TO THE PARLIAMENT, AND
THE PARLIAMENT DETERMINES WHEN TO INVOLVE SHIK IN A
GIVEN SITUATION. SHIK'S CHIEF IS A CIVILIAN, SEPARATE
FROM THE POLICE OR THE MILITARY. (NOTE: THE PRESIDENT
ALSO PLAYS A STRONG ROLE IN SELECTING SHIK'S HEAD AND
IN OVERSEEING THE ORGANIZATION'S ACTIVITIES, ALTHOUGH,
AS SHAMATA NOTES, SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL.
END NOTE.)

8. (C) SHAMATA SAID HE APPRECIATED ANY OUTSIDE
ASSISTANCE THAT WOULD HELP IMPROVE THE STRUCTURE OF THE
MINISTRY AND TO AID IN TRAINING AND EQUIPPING POLICE TO
FIGHT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME. HE PRAISED PAST

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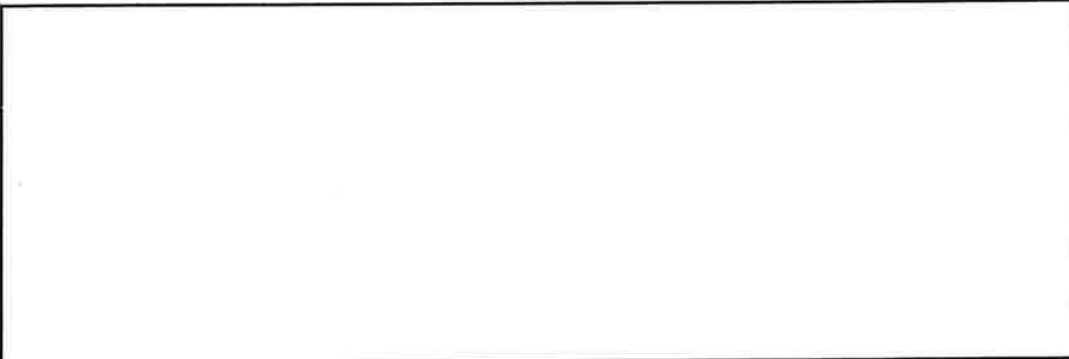
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TRAINING PROGRAMS AND HOPES FOR ADDITIONAL ONES. IN

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THIS REGARD, THE MINISTER SAID HE IS SENDING THE
EMBASSY A NEW LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE OCTOBER
"VITAL INSTALLATIONS SECURITY COURSE" WHICH THE STATE
DEPARTMENT'S ANTI-TERRORISM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL
OFFER.



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