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FOR EUR/DOBBINS AND S/KGROOMES FROM EUR/KAMMAN

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: OVIP (BAKER, JAMES A.), AL

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: SCENARIO FOR TIRANA VISIT  
(SS NO. 9111047 )

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TO: THE SECRETARY

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FROM: EUR - CURTIS W. KAMMAN, ACTING

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: SCENARIO FOR TIRANA VISIT

ISSUE FOR DECISION

WHETHER TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO FOR YOUR TIRANA VISIT.

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ESSENTIAL FACTORS  
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THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT IS TO ENCOURAGE THE GOVERNMENT TO MOVE DECISIVELY ON DEMOCRATIC AND MARKET REFORMS, AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AND TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR ALBANIA'S DEMOCRATIC FORCES. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, EUR SUGGESTS THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO FOR YOUR STOPOVER IN TIRANA:

- HALF HOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ALIA, TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED DEMOCRATIZATION AND MARKET REFORM. WE WOULD RECOMMEND A SMALL MEETING TO PERMIT THE MOST OPEN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.
- 45 MINUTE MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER BUFI, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS (ONE OF WHOM GRAMOZ PASHKO,

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IS THE HIGHEST RANKING OPPOSITION PARTY LEADER IN THE CABINET, AND IS ALSO MINISTER OF THE ECONOMY), THE FOREIGN MINISTER, AND OTHER MINISTERS DRAWN FROM THE VARIOUS PARTIES. YOU WOULD DISCUSS THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR ECONOMIC REFORM AND REFORM OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM, INCLUDING PLANS FOR LOCAL AND NEW PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

- ONE HOUR MEETING WITH LEADERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION GROUPS. ROUNDTABLE WILL TAKE PLACE AT A MEETING ROOM IN THE HOTEL DAJTI. OUR REPRESENTATIVE IN TIRANA HAS SUGGESTED THE FOLLOWING LIST OF PARTICIPANTS:
- DR. SALI BERISHA, LEADER, DEMOCRATIC ARTY
- MR. SABRI GODO. LEADER, REPUBLICAN PARTY
- DR. SKENDER GJINUSHI, LEADER, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY
- MR. ARBEN IMAMI, PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTY, DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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-- MR. GEZIM SHIMA, LEADER, INDEPENDENT TRADE UNIONS OF ALBANIA

-- MR. PJETER ARBNORI, PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTY, DEMOCRATIC PARTY, AND FORMER POLITICAL PRISONER (SPENT 28 YEARS IN JAIL FOR POLITICAL OFFENSES)

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-- DR. YLLI POPA, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM

-- MR. FOTOS LUBONJA, SECRETARY, LEAGUE OF FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS (SPENT 17 YEARS IN JAIL ON POLITICAL GROUNDS)

-- MARJETA LJARJA, CHAIRWOMAN, ALBANIANS FOR ALBANIANS (INDEPENDENT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION WHICH WILL HELP DISTRIBUTE EXCESS FOOD FROM THE GULF BEING DONATED BY DOD)

-- WE ALSO INTEND TO INVITE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ETHNIC GREEK MINORITY.

-- YOU COULD UNDERLINE OUR SUPPORT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND OUR ADMIRATION FOR WHAT THEY HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR. THESE GROUPS ESPECIALLY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE TRADE UNIONS, ARE VERY PRO-AMERICAN AND ARE EAGER FOR THE U.S. TO INCREASE ITS INFLUENCE IN ALBANIA.

-- A 10-MINUTE VISIT TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HEADQUARTERS (THIS COULD BE DONE EN ROUTE TO THE AIRPORT). EARLIER HIGH-LEVEL FOREIGN VISITORS TO TIRANA HAVE SPENT THEIR ENTIRE TIME THERE IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES OR THE DAJTI, THE HOTEL RESERVED FOR FOREIGNERS. A VISIT TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HEADQUARTERS WOULD GIVE YOU A BRIEF GLIMPSE OF THE REALITY OF THE OBSTACLES FACING THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION IN ALBANIA, AND WOULD UNDERLINE OUR CONCERN ABOUT UNEQUAL ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO

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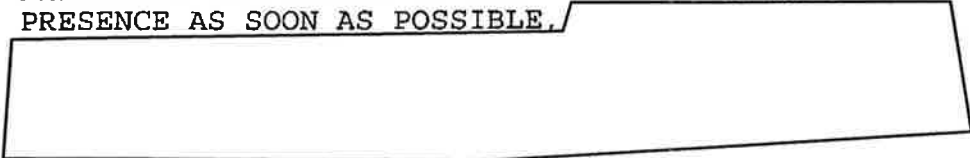
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OPPOSITION PARTIES. IF, AS ANTICIPATED, A LARGE CROWD OF PRO-DEMOCRACY SUPPORTERS ARE GATHERED THERE, YOU MIGHT TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THEM BRIEFLY.

-- ALTERNATELY OR ADDITIONALLY YOU COULD MAKE A FIVE-MINUTE STOP AT OUR EMBASSY COMPOUND, CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY THE ITALIANS. THIS WOULD SERVE TO EMPHASIZE OUR DESIRE TO ESTABLISH OUR PERMANENT PRESENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



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TIRANA IS VERY SMALL. AND TRAVEL TIME BETWEEN MEETINGS WOULD BE FIVE TO TEN MINUTES. TRAVEL TIME FROM THE AIRPORT TO TIRANA IS ABOUT 30 MINUTES.

RECOMMENDATION

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THAT YOU APPROVE THE SCENARIO PROVIDED FOR THE TIRANA STOPOVER, INCLUDING STOPS AT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HEADQUARTERS AND THE EMBASSY COMPOUND.

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

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ALTERNATELY, THAT YOU APPROVE THE SCENARIO INCLUDING A STOP AT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HEADQUARTERS ONLY.

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

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ALTERNATELY, THAT YOU APPROVE THE SCENARIO, INCLUDING A STOP AT THE EMBASSY COMPOUND ONLY.

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

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