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ACTION NODS-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ZAGREB 005041

DECAPTIONED

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/11/10
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, BK, HR
SUBJECT: CROATIA REWARDS SHOULD DEPEND ON HUMAN RIGHTS
PERFORMANCE

REF: STATE 284745

1. CLASSIFIED BY PETER W. GALBRAITH, AMBASSADOR, REASON:
1.5(D)X6.

2. (C) AS THE PARIS SIGNING APPROACHES, CROATIA LOOKS
FORWARD TO IMPROVED TIES WITH EUROPE AND THE U.S. AS ITS
REWARD FOR COOPERATION IN THE PEACE PROCESS. I AM
CONCERNED THAT WE NOT DO TOO MUCH FOR CROATIA WHILE IT
CONTINUES TO FLOUT BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS.

3. (C) CROATIA CONTINUES TO BAR KRAJINA SERBS FROM
RETURNING TO THEIR HOMES AND HAS ARBITRARILY CONFISCATED
CONFIDENTIAL

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THEIR PROPERTY. FAR FROM BEING APOLOGETIC, TUDJMAN
YESTERDAY TOLD VISITING CONGRESSMEN THAT IT WOULD BE
IMPOSSIBLE FOR THESE SERBS TO RETURN TO THE PLACE WHERE
THEIR FAMILIES LIVED FOR CENTURIES. THE BURNING OF SIPOVO
-- FOR WHICH YOU RIGHTLY CALLED TUDJMAN ON THE CARPET --
WAS PART OF A BROADER STRATEGY TO CREATE A SERB-FREE
CORDON SANITAIRE AROUND THE CROATIAN HEARTLAND. THE SAME
SYSTEMATIC BURNINGS OF SERB HOMES FOLLOWED CROATIA'S
AUGUST CAPTURE OF KRAJINA AND SEPTEMBER CAPTURE OF SERB
TOWNS IN WESTERN BOSNIA. NONE OF THIS WAS, AS TUDJMAN
CLAIMED TO YOU, THE ISOLATED ACTS OF ANGRY MEN.

4. (C) IN MY CONVERSATIONS WITH TUDJMAN AND OTHER GOC
OFFICIALS, I DETECT ONLY WAFFLING ON THE QUESTION OF

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM J GEHRON
DATE/CASE ID: 15 FEB 2007 D200700004

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WHETHER INDICTED CROAT WAR CRIMINALS WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE HAGUE. IF CROATIA REAPS REWARDS (IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION) IN SPITE OF NON-COOPERATION WITH ICTY, WE CAN ABANDON HOPE OF FORCING THE SERBS TO HAND OVER THEIR INDICTEES. AND, WE CAN WRITE OFF THE WHOLE WAR CRIMES PROCESS.

5. (C) I URGE THAT FUTURE TANGIBLE PROGRESS IN U.S.-CROATIA RELATIONS (INCLUDING A PROPOSED FULL-SCALE BILATERAL MILITARY RELATIONSHIP, OUR SUPPORT FOR CROATIA'S ADMISSION TO PFP, AND OUR FURTHER LOBBYING ON CROATIA'S BEHALF WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND THE EU) BE LINKED TO ACTUAL PERFORMANCE ON BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, AND IN

PARTICULAR TO:

-- CROATIA'S GRANTING PERMISSION FOR THE RETURN OF
CONFIDENTIAL

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THE KRAJINA SERBS AND THE RESTORATION OF THEIR CONFISCATED

PROPERTY, AND

-- THE HAND OVER TO ICTY OF INDICTED BOSNIAN CROAT WAR CRIMINALS INCLUDING GENERAL TIHOMIR BLASKIC, DARIO KORDIC, AND IVICA RAJIC.

6. (C) IF CROATIA CAN "JOIN THE WEST" WITHOUT BEING HELD EVEN TO THESE MINIMAL STANDARDS, IT WILL NOT AUGUR WELL FOR OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE THE FEDERATION WORK OR TO PRESERVE, OVER THE LONG RUN, THE INTEGRITY OF BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA.

GALBRAITH

CONFIDENTIAL

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