

NODIS-NODIS-NODIS-NODIS



Wed Oct 15 15:28:35 1997 [STATE 194695] D COPY 3 OF 10 Page 1 OF 3

PTP5976

~~SECRET~~

PTP5976

RELEASE IN FULL

PAGE 01 STATE 194695 151902Z

DECLASSIFIED

@INFO: C(01) D(01) EUR(01) P(01) S(01)  
SNIS(01) SP(01) SS(01) SSO(01) SSX(01)  
===== 151528L OCT 97 PGN (TOTAL COPIES:010)

@INFO: SWO(00)  
===== 152017Z OCT 97 STePS (TOTAL COPIES:000)

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO LOG-00 CCOE-00 OASY-00 /000R

194695  
SOURCE: KODAKA.150108  
DRAFTED BY: SNIS:LPASCOE/SSO:DCBAYLEY/CASHUMANN/KMM -- 10/15/97; EXT.7  
APPROVED BY: S/S:WJBURNS  
S/S-O:SAHUBLER/JFMCNAMARA/PNG  
S:DHAE  
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION:  
NODIS - NOT FOR ADS

-----EF9256 151920Z /38  
O 151902Z OCT 97 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY YEREVAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BAKU IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

~~SECRET~~ STATE 194695

DECLASSIFIED

NODIS

MERCURY EYES ONLY FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE EXEC SEC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/14/27  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, FR, RS, AM, AJ  
SUBJECT: (C) ACTING SECRETARY TALBOTT'S CONVERSATION WITH  
FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY POLITICAL DIRECTOR JACQUES BLOT

1. (U) NODIS MERCURY. CLASSIFIED BY: WILLIAM J. BURNS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, S/S, DEPARTMENT OF STATE. REASON 1.5(D), 1.6(X5) AND (X6)
2. (C) THIS CABLE CONTAINS A MEMORANDUM OF THE ACTING SECRETARY'S TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY POLITICAL DIRECTOR JACQUES BLOT ON OCTOBER 14, 1997. BLOT INITIATED THE CALL. THEY DISCUSSED NAGORNO KARABAKH. I ASK THAT YOU NOT PERMIT COPIES TO BE MADE OF THIS MESSAGE, AND THAT YOU NOT DISTRIBUTE IT OUTSIDE OF THE MISSION'S EXECUTIVE OFFICE.
3. (NOTE: THE NODIS SUBCATEGORY, NODIS MERCURY, HAS BEEN CREATED FOR TRANSMISSION TO OVERSEAS POSTS OF MEMORANDA OF THE SECRETARY'S AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS' TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS. THIS NODIS SUBCATEGORY IS DESIGNED TO FURTHER HIGHLIGHT THE SENSITIVITY OF THESE CABLES. NODIS MERCURY CABLES MAY ONLY ORIGINATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OR AS SECTO MESSAGES, AND MAY NOT BE TRANSMITTED Laterally IN THE FIELD.)

4. BEGIN TEXT:

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

DATE: OCTOBER 14, 1997

Declassification Authority: Geoffrey W. Chapman, Senior Reviewer, A/GIS/IPS  
10/8/2019

NOV-2019



Wed Oct 15 15:28:35 1997 [STATE 194695] D COPY 3 OF 10 Page 2 OF 3

TIME: 1133 EDT

(C) PARTICIPANTS: ACTING SECRETARY STROBE TALBOTT AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY POLITICAL DIRECTOR JACQUES BLOT.

5. (S) FRENCH POLITICAL DIRECTOR BLOT STATED PRESIDENT CHIRAC AND PRESIDENT YELTSIN DID NOT FOCUS ON NAGORNO KARABAKH DURING THEIR MEETING IN MOSCOW. BLOT SAID, HOWEVER, THERE WERE SEVERAL MEETINGS RECENTLY IN STRASBOURG ON THE MARGINS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE: PRESIDENT CHIRAC MET WITH BOTH PRESIDENT YELTSIN AND PRESIDENT ALIYEV, AND ALIYEV MET WITH TER PETROSSIAN. BLOT REPORTED ALIYEV HAD CALLED CHIRAC THE DAY BEFORE, CHIRAC MET TER PETROSSIAN FOR A LENGTHY SESSION TODAY, AND CHIRAC CALLED ALIYEV BACK AFTER THE MEETING. BLOT SAID PRESIDENT CHIRAC ASKED HIM TO CALL THE ACTING SECRETARY TODAY TO PASS ON WHAT TRANSPIRED SO HE COULD INFORM PRESIDENT CLINTON.

6. (S) BLOT REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT YELTSIN PROPOSED IN STRASBOURG THAT YELTSIN, CHIRAC, AND CLINTON MEET IN MOSCOW WITH PRESIDENTS ALIYEV AND TER PETROSSIAN TO GIVE NEW IMPULSE TO THE PEACE PROCESS. YELTSIN AND CHIRAC CONCLUDED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO USE SUCH A MEETING TO MAKE PROGRESS. ALIYEV TOLD CHIRAC IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ORGANIZE SUCH A SUMMIT WITHOUT FIRST REACHING AN AGREEMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE. CHIRAC THEN SPOKE WITH HIM ABOUT THE RESERVED NAGORNO KARABAKH POSITION AND THE QUESTION OF THEIR PRESENCE AT A SUMMIT. ALIYEV SAID THE ISSUE COULD BE DISCUSSED IF AGREEMENT WAS REACHED. CHIRAC SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH TER PETROSSIAN.

7. (S) BLOT SAID TER PETROSSIAN TOLD CHIRAC THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF A NEW CONFRONTATION; NOW WAS THE TIME FOR A COMPROMISE, AND ARMENIA WAS READY TO NEGOTIATE A SOLUTION. ACCORDING TO TER PETROSSIAN, THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT PEACE AND IT WAS IN ARMENIA'S INTEREST TO REACH AN AGREEMENT. IT WAS NECESSARY TO CONVINCE NAGORNO KARABAKH AND THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE MORE GUARANTEES. THE UNSC GUARANTEE CURRENTLY IN THE CO-CHAIR DOCUMENT WAS INSUFFICIENT. IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE THE

CO-CHAIRS' GUARANTEE ALTHOUGH NAGORNO KARABAKH GAVE A NEGATIVE ANSWER TO THE CO-CHAIRS, THIS WAS NOT IMPORTANT AT THIS STAGE. THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY NAGORNO KARABAKH COULD BE CONVINCED TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS. THEY WOULD PREFER A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT. THERE WAS A NEED TO HAVE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS IN PARALLEL WITH OTHER NEGOTIATIONS, BUT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO HAVE AGREEMENT ON ONE WHILE NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONTINUING ON THE OTHER.

8. (S) BLOT STATED CHIRAC TOLD TER PETROSSIAN THAT FRANCE COULD HELP MORE THAN IT WAS DOING NOW. HE SUGGESTED THEY INVITE PRIME MINISTER KOCHARIAN AND OTHER KARABAKHIS TO PARIS TO PRESS FOR AN AGREEMENT. TER PETROSSIAN AGREED KOCHARIAN COULD THEN PAY A VISIT TO MOSCOW WHERE HE WOULD HEAR THE SAME MESSAGE AND PERHAPS ALSO TO WASHINGTON. TER PETROSSIAN SAID A MOSCOW SUMMIT WOULD ONLY MAKE SENSE IF THERE WERE FIRST AGREEMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE. HE ALSO SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO DECIDE ON NAGORNO KARABAKH'S ROLE AT THE SUMMIT. CHIRAC SAID THIS WOULD BE A DIFFICULT ISSUE FOR ALIYEV. TER PETROSSIAN RESPONDED THAT IF THERE WERE AN AGREEMENT ON SUBSTANCE, THE MODALITIES OF NAGORNO KARABAKH PARTICIPATION WOULD NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT. PERHAPS A NAGORNO KARABAKH LEADER COULD PARTICIPATE AS PART OF THE ARMENIAN DELEGATION.

9. (S) BLOT STATED IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO NEGOTIATE A VISIT OF THE MINSK GROUP CO-CHAIRS TO FOLLOW UP ON THE REPLIES FROM THE PARTIES. FROM HIS RECENT CONVERSATIONS, PRESIDENT CHIRAC WAS RATHER OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS. TER PETROSSIAN HAD ALSO MADE QUITE MODERATE STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS. FINALLY, CHIRAC HAD CALLED ALIYEV BACK OCTOBER 14 TO REPORT ON HIS MEETING WITH TER PETROSSIAN. ALIYEV SAID HE WAS ALSO RATHER OPTIMISTIC AFTER THE REPORT. HE AGREED TO THE IDEA OF A KOCHARIAN VISIT TO PARIS, COMMENTING THAT HE WAS THE ONLY PERSON WITH REAL INFLUENCE



Wed Oct 15 15:28:35 1997 [STATE 194695] D COPY 3 OF 10 Page 3 OF 3

OVER NAGORNO KARABAKH. CHIRAC TOLD ALIYEV THAT NOW WAS THE TIME TO SEE IF THEY COULD MOVE ON THE SUBSTANCE, THEN TO SEE ABOUT A SUMMIT MEETING. ON NAGORNO KARABAKH PARTICIPATION, HE RAISED TER PETROSSIAN'S IDEA ABOUT A NAGORNO KARABAKH REPRESENTATIVE IN THE ARMENIAN DELEGATION. ALIYEV SAID THAT WOULD BE PERMISSIBLE IF THEY HAD THE SUBSTANCE. CHIRAC SAID HE WOULD INFORM PRESIDENTS CLINTON AND YELTSIN OF HIS CONVERSATIONS. HE WOULD TELL KOCHARIAN WHEN HE CAME TO PARIS THAT THE TIME FOR COMPROMISE WAS NOW.

10. ~~(S)~~ THE ACTING SECRETARY THANKED BLOT FOR HIS CALL. HE NOTED THAT OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS, THERE HAD BEEN MANY QUESTIONS IN WASHINGTON ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON. BLOT

INTERJECTED THIS WAS THE REASON PRESIDENT CHIRAC WANTED HIM TO CONVEY THE DETAILS TO THE ACTING SECRETARY.

11. ~~(S)~~ THE ACTING SECRETARY SAID THE YELTSIN PROPOSAL WITHOUT CONSULTATION DID NOT PLAY WELL HERE. HE SAID LYNN PASCOE WOULD BE IN VIENNA TOMORROW FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADORS VAUGIER, YUKALOV, AND LOZINSKIY. THE ACTING SECRETARY STATED THERE WERE A NUMBER OF PROMISING ASPECTS IN BLOT'S REPORT. HE NOTED THEY HAD SPOKEN DURING LUNCH IN NEW YORK ABOUT A KOCHARIAN VISIT TO PARIS. THE ACTING SECRETARY SAID, WITH RESPECT TO A KOCHARIAN VISIT TO WASHINGTON, THE U.S. WAS POSITIVE, IN PRINCIPLE, IF IT WOULD HELP MAKE PROGRESS. THE ACTING SECRETARY STRESSED THAT SINCE TER PETROSSIAN ALSO DESPERATELY WANTED TO COME, THE TIMING OF SUCH A VISIT WAS A SENSITIVE QUESTION. THE U.S. DID NOT WANT TO REWARD KOCHARIAN FOR CONDUCT WHICH HAS NOT PRODUCED ANYTHING YET. THE ACTING SECRETARY SAID THE NAGORNO KARABAKH RESPONSE WAS CERTAINLY NEGATIVE, ALTHOUGH THAT WOULD NOT BE AN ARGUMENT AGAINST KOCHARIAN GOING TO PARIS OR ELSEWHERE. HE SAID HE DISAGREED WITH TER PETROSSIAN ON ONE POINT -- THE NEGATIVE ANSWER WAS IN FACT IMPORTANT AND WE NEEDED TO THINK THROUGH HOW THE U.S. WOULD RESPOND.

12. ~~(S)~~ THE ACTING SECRETARY SAID HE WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT A SUMMIT MEETING. HE NOTED THE IDEA OF USING THE PRESIDENTS' PRESTIGE TO PROVIDE A STIMULUS, AS WAS DONE IN DENVER OR AS PRESIDENT CHIRAC DID IN STRASBOURG AND PARIS, BUT IT DID NOT MAKE SENSE TO ASSEMBLE THEM THIS EARLY IN THE GAME. HE STATED IT WOULD BE BETTER TO DO SO, IF THE LOGISTICS COULD BE WORKED OUT, AT THE END OF THE PROCESS.

13. ~~(S)~~ BLOT RESPONDED THE TIMING WOULD BE BETTER IF DONE AFTER THE AGREEMENT ON A PARTIAL SETTLEMENT. AT THE END OF PHASE I, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO CELEBRATE THAT ACCOMPLISHMENT AND GIVE AN IMPULSE TO PHASE II. BLOT SAID THIS WOULD MINIMIZE POLITICAL RISK FOR OUR PRESIDENTS.

14. ~~(S)~~ THE ACTING SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDING SUCH A MEETING IF THE MANY LOGISTICAL AND SCHEDULING PROBLEMS COULD BE WORKED OUT. HE SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO CONSIDER THIS NOW. HE STATED OUR MINSK GROUP CO-CHAIRS SHOULD REVIEW ALL THESE ISSUES IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND REPORT BACK.

15. (U) THE CALL ENDED AT 1156 EDT.

16. (U) END TEXT  
PICKERING

~~SECRET~~