

SECRET PTQ2578

RELEASED IN PART  
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

PAGE 01 STATE 236146 151121Z  
ORIGIN NODS-00

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

DRAFTED BY: SARAH DREW  
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DESIRE DISTRIBUTION: NODIS NOT FOR ADS  
-----1B86E6 151121Z /38

O 151117Z DEC 99 ZFF5  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
INFO AMEMBASSY LUANDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 236146

NODIS

DECAPTIONED

BIRCH, PLEASE PASS U/S PICKERING PARTY TOPOL 13100

FOLLOWING BAKU 5300 DATED 15 DECEMBER 1999 SENT ACTION  
SECSTATE YEREVAN BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO  
QUOTE:

S E C R E T BAKU 005300

Classification Extended ~ Class: SECRET ~  
Reason:  B1 1.4 (B), 1.4(D) ~ Declassify on:  
12/15/2024

NODIS BIRCH

PLEASE REPEAT TO DEPUTY SECRETARY'S PARTY  
FROM CAVANAUGH

SECRET

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E.O. 12958; DECL;1.6X6

TAGS: PREL, OSCE, AM, AJ, TU

SUBJECT: N-K LEADER GHUKASYAN SUPPORTS PEACE DEAL

(U) CLASSIFIED BY SPECIAL NEGOTIATOR CAREY CAVANAUGH;  
REASON: 1.6 (X) 6.

1. (S) SUMMARY: IN AN AMICABLE MEETING WITH A RELAXED  
AND JOVIAL NAGORNO-KARABAKH "PRESIDENT" GHUKASYAN  
DECEMBER 12, I STRESSED TO HIM THAT THE CO-CHAIRS  
STAND BY THEIR ASSURANCES THAT NO DEAL IS POSSIBLE  
WITHOUT THE ASSENT OF THE N-K ARMENIANS AS WELL AS  
ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN. I NOTED THAT ALIYEV HIMSELF  
HAD ASKED THAT WE CONFIRM KARABAKH'S SUPPORT FOR THE  
DEAL. GRATIFIED, GHUKASYAN CONFIRMED THAT HE FULLY  
SUPPORTS THE KOCHARIAN-ALIYEV PLAN, DEEMING IT N-K'S  
"DREAM."

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Martin McLean, Senior Reviewer

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[REDACTED] GHUKASYAN  
FAITHFULLY ECHOED KOCHARIAN'S PLEA FOR DELAY, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
(YEREVAN SEPTTEL). END SUMMARY.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

2. (S) THE BROAD MEETING DECEMBER 12 IN STEPANAKERT  
BEGAN WITH AN EXCHANGE OF PLATITUDES IN THE PRESENCE  
OF THE "PRIME MINISTER," SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT,  
"DEFENSE MINISTER," "FOREIGN MINISTER" AND OTHERS,  
"PRESIDENT" GHUKASYAN STRESSED [REDACTED] THAT  
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1.4(D)  
B1

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N-K'S GOAL REMAINED INDEPENDENCE. I MADE CLEAR THAT A  
NEW PROPOSAL WAS COMING, AND THAT WE WERE MEANWHILE  
WORKING WITH A SYMPATHETIC INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO  
MAKE SURE THAT RECONSTRUCTION/RESETTLEMENT NEEDS OF  
ALL THE PARTIES WERE WELL UNDERSTOOD AND WOULD BE  
ADDRESSED AS FULLY AND QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SHOULD A  
SETTLEMENT BE REACHED.

1.4(D)  
B1

3. (S) ONCE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS WITH MY FELLOW CO-  
CHAIRS [REDACTED] I  
REAFFIRMED STRONGLY WHAT PREVIOUS GENERATIONS OF CO-  
CHAIRS HAVE PLEDGED, THAT NO DEAL IS VIABLE IF IT DOES  
NOT REFLECT THE CONSENT OF THE PEOPLE OF NAGORNO-  
KARABAKH AS WELL. I SAID THAT ALIYEV UNDERSTOOD THIS  
POINT, AND HAD ASKED THAT WE CONFIRM THE KARABAKHI  
ATTITUDE. GHUKASYAN IMMEDIATELY CONFIRMED THAT HE  
FULLY SUPPORTS KOCHARIAN'S PROPOSED DEAL WITH ALIYEV.

[REDACTED] I  
PLEDGED TO CONVEY THIS MESSAGE OF FIRM SUPPORT TO  
ALIYEV.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

4. (S) HAVING BEEN BRIEFED EARLIER BY TELEPHONE FROM  
YEREVAN, GHUKASYAN REPEATED KOCHARIAN'S ARGUMENTS ON  
THE NEED FOR A DELAY WHILE ARMENIA ATTEMPTS TO  
PERSUADE TURKEY TO MEET ITS CONCERNS ON RECOGNITION OF  
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE. I NOTED THAT, WHILE OSKANIAN  
WOULD MEET CEM IN BRUSSELS, IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO  
EXPECT THE TURKS TO OFFER MUCH MORE AT THIS STAGE THAN  
THE ALREADY SOLID PLEDGE OF A FULLY OPEN BORDER AND  
THE SPEEDY RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

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5. (S) I RECOUNTED HOW WHEN WE HAD MET VAZGEN  
SARGSIAN ON OCTOBER 27, HE HAD BEEN VERY SUPPORTIVE OF  
THE AGREEMENT AND WAS CLEARLY SORTING OUT HOW TO SELL  
THE DEAL POLITICALLY. GHUKASYAN BEMOANED THE LOSS OF  
SARGSIAN AND KAREN DEMIRCHIAN. [REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
B1

[REDACTED] AND THE

PEOPLE WILL ULTIMATELY BE PERSUADED TO ACCEPT IT, WITH SOME HELP FROM THE CO-CHAIRS AND ASSISTANCE GROUPS. ASKED BY THE FRENCH WHEN THE WORLD BANK SHOULD MAKE A NEEDS ASSESSMENT VISIT, GHUKASYAN STRESSED THAT THE SOONER THE BETTER, AND THAT WE COULD NOT AFFORD TO WAIT FOR A SETTLEMENT TO BE REACHED. I MADE CLEAR THAT ASSISTANCE COULD FLOW ONLY WITH A SETTLEMENT IN PLACE, AND THAT THERE WOULD BE ENORMOUS NEEDS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. STILL, WE WOULD DO OUR UTMOST OVER THE COMING WEEKS TO BEGIN THE WORK OF IDENTIFYING NEEDS AND MOBILIZING RESOURCES TO MAKE A SETTLEMENT VIABLE.

6. (S) GHUKASYAN PLEDGED TO DO EVERYTHING HE COULD TO SHORE UP KOCHARIAN'S POSITION.

[REDACTED]

HE SAID HE WOULD ENFORCE COMPLETE CONFIDENTIALITY, WHICH HE RECOGNIZED TO BE ESSENTIAL TO THE OUTCOME. HE CONCLUDED BY STRESSING THAT THE STATUS QUO IN N-K IS NOT ACCEPTABLE OR INDEFINITELY SUSTAINABLE, AND THAT PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT ARE NEEDED.

SECRET

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ESCUDERO UNQUOTE: ALBRIGHT

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1