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ACTION SS-00

INFO LOG-00 OASY-00 ADS-00 /000W  
-----D64374 011528Z /38

O 011529Z AUG 97  
FM AMEMBASSY YEREVAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6509  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BAKU PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TBILISI  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 YEREVAN 003116

EXDIS CEDAR **DECAPTIONED**

ALSO PASS NSC PIFER, MATERA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/01/07  
TAGS: PREL, AM, AJ  
SUBJECT: ARMENIANS COMPLAIN ABOUT ALIYEV LEAKS OF  
MINSK GROUP CO-CHAIR DRAFT SETTLEMENT DOCUMENT; AGAIN  
ASK FOR CO-CHAIR INTERVENTION

REF: YEREVAN 3004

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR PETER TOMSEN. REASONS 1.5 B,  
D.

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**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Perez, Senior  
Reviewer**

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1. (C) PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR LIBARIDIAN CALLED  
AMBASSADOR LATE AUGUST 1 AND HANDED HIM RUSSIAN  
LANGUAGE COPY OF JULY 31 RADIO LIBERTY INTERVIEW WITH  
AZERI PRESIDENT ALIYEV (EMBASSY TRANSLATION AT PARA 3  
BELOW). LIBARIDIAN CHARGED THAT ALIYEV HAS NOW CARRIED  
THE AZERI LEAKS OF THE CO-CHAIR DOCUMENT MUCH FURTHER

BY DESCRIBING THE PLACEMENT OF STATUS, LACHIN AND SHUSHA IN THE SECOND PART OF THE CO-CHAIR PLAN. LIBARIDIAN FURTHER OBSERVED THAT, AS IN HIS GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY SPEECH, ALIYEV ALSO WENT INTO DETAIL ON THE FIRST PART OF THE PLAN REGARDING WITHDRAWAL OF ARMENIAN FORCES FROM SIX OF THE OCCUPIED REGIONS AND THE RETURN OF THE REFUGEES. LIBARIDIAN REITERATED HIS EARLIER REQUEST (REFTEL) THAT THE CO-CHAIRS' ASK THE AZERIS TO CEASE BREAKING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE CO-CHAIR DOCUMENTS. THE AZERI PUBLIC STATEMENTS WERE CREATING SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR THE GOAM IN ARMENIAN DOMESTIC POLITICS AND THE DIASPORAN AND ARMENIAN PRESS, HE STATED. AMBASSADOR TOLD LIBARIDIAN HE WOULD REPORT TO WASHINGTON. AMBASSADOR REPEATED EARLIER CO-CHAIR ADVICE (REFTEL) THAT THE ARMENIANS NOT OVERREACT BUT RATHER RESPOND IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT DAMAGE THE PEACE PROCESS.

2. (C) COMMENT: ALIYEV'S, HASANOV'S AND GULUZADE'S STEADY LEAKS OF THE CO-CHAIR DOCUMENTS' CONTENTS ARE OBVIOUSLY DELIBERATE AND PURPOSEFUL. THEY ARE HAVING A NEGATIVE EFFECT HERE, EXPLOITED BY THOSE ELEMENTS OPPOSED TO A KARABAKH AGREEMENT AND SOWING DOUBTS AND SUSPICION GENERALLY. PER REFTTEL SUGGESTION, PUT  
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FORWARD BY RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR URNOV, THE CO-CHAIRS COLLECTIVELY SHOULD WEIGH IN WITH THE AZERIS ON THEIR BREACH OF CONFIDENTIALITY. WE SHOULD CERTAINLY INDICATE TO ALIYEV IN WASHINGTON THAT HIS PUBLIC COMMENTS ARE DAMAGING THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS OF THE KARABAKH PEACE PROCESS.

3. (U) BEGIN TEXT OF ALIYEV RADIO LIBERTY INTERVIEW:

RADIO LIBERTY BROADCAST IN AZERI LANGUAGE, AT 0900 HOURS, JULY 31, 1997

ELMIRA AMRAKGYZY FROM WASHINGTON

YESTERDAY, FOR THE FIRST TIME, PRESIDENT ALIYEV DISCLOSED THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE PEACE PLAN PROPOSED TO THE PARTIES OF THE CONFLICT BY THE MINSK GROUP CO-CHAIRS. THE FIRST PART OF THE PLAN PROVIDES FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THE ARMENIAN MILITARY UNITS FROM THE 6 OCCUPIED REGIONS OF AZERBAIJAN, AND THE RE-SETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN THOSE TERRITORIES. THE SECOND PART OF THE PLAN INCLUDES THE ISSUES OF THE STATUS OF KARABAKH,

LIBERATION OF LACHIN AND SHUSHI, AND RETURN OF REFUGEES TO THESE REGIONS. PRESIDENT ALIYEV NOTED THE POSITIVE SIDES OF THE PROPOSED PLAN, SAYING THAT SOME ISSUES NEED TO BE WORKED ON. THERE ARE SOME POINTS AZERBAIJAN CAN NOT AGREE WITH. HOWEVER, ALIYEV DID NOT ELABORATE ON THOSE POINTS. ACCORDING TO HIM, THIS PLAN CAN SERVE AS A BASIS FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND WILL SPEED THE PEACE PROCESS. ACCORDING TO THE SUGGESTIONS OF MEDIATORS, THE OPERATION OF LIBERATION OF THE SIX AZERI  
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REGIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE PEACE-KEEPING FORCES (PKF). AFTER THE LIBERATION OF THESE REGIONS, THE PKF WILL BE PLACED ON THE BORDERS OF ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, AND NAGORNO KARABAKH. THE SECOND STAGE OF THE CONFLICT SETTLEMENT PROVIDES FOR THE RESOLUTION OF THE STATUS OF KARABAKH AS WELL AS OF LACHIN AND SHUSHI. ALIYEV SAID THAT THE LACHIN CORRIDOR IS THE KEY ISSUE OF THE ARMENIAN-AZERI CONFLICT. AZERBAIJAN CAN AUTHORIZE THE USE OF THIS CORRIDOR ONLY UNDER CONTROL OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORCES. ALIYEV SAID THAT THERE ARE CONCRETE OPINIONS ON THE LACHIN CORRIDOR. NOTABLY, HE ANSWERED THE QUESTIONS OF THE JOURNALISTS ON BOARD OF AIRCRAFT DURING HIS FLIGHT FROM NEW-YORK TO WASHINGTON. COMMENTING ON HIS POSITION ON THE CORRIDOR SWAP BETWEEN ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN, ALIYEV CLAIMED THAT, IF ARMENIA AGREES, THIS IDEA MAY BE IMPLEMENTED. PRESIDENT ALIYEV ADDED THAT HE DID NOT MIND TO GIVE LACHIN TO ARMENIA IF ARMENIA AGREED TO GIVE MEGHRI TO AZERBAIJAN. ON THE STATUS OF KARABAKH, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT AZERBAIJAN

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IS READY TO PROVIDE THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF AUTONOMY. AS  
AN EXAMPLE, HE MENTIONED TATARSTAN MODEL AND SAID THAT  
TATARSTAN ENJOYS A HIGH DEGREE OF SELF-RULE IN RUSSIA.  
ALIYEV NOTED THAT AZERBAIJAN WILL NEVER AGREE TO THE

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INDEPENDENCE OF NAGORNO KARABAKH. ASKED TO COMMENT ON  
THE RELATIONS BETWEEN AZERBAIJAN AND RUSSIA, PRESIDENT  
ALIYEV SAID THAT THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED BETWEEN THE TWO  
COUNTRIES ARE VERY IMPORTANT. HE ADDED THAT THERE ARE

SOME UNSOLVED ISSUES BETWEEN AZERBAIJAN AND RUSSIA:  
FIRST OF ALL, IT IS THE ISSUE OF THE ILLEGAL TRANSFER  
OF THE RUSSIAN ARMS TO ARMENIA. (END TEXT)

TOMSEN

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