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ACTION EUR-00

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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 02958

FOR EUR/NE JOHNSON ONLY

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

REF: STATE 37286

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT

2. THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE
QUESTIONS POSED BY THE HFAC HAMILTON SUBCOMMITTEE. HERE
ARE OUR THOUGHTS:

3. LABOR PARTY DEFENSE POLICY:

-- WE HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF RECENT STATEMENTS BY THE
LABOR PARTY EMPHASIZING THAT A FUTURE LABOR GOVERNMENT
WOULD ENGAGE IN CONSULTATIONS WITH US AND OTHER NATO
ALLIES BEFORE IMPLEMENTING THE PARTY'S DEFENSE POLICY,
AS WELL AS INDICATIONS THAT THE TIMETABLE FOR
IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY IS NOT FIXED. GIVEN THE SERIOUS
IMPLICATIONS OF LABOR'S POLICY FOR THE SECURITY OF OTHER
MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE AND FOR THE CREDIBILITY OF
NATO'S CURRENT STRATEGY -- A STRATEGY TO WHICH LABOR
PROFESSES ADHERENCE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ALLIANCE MEMBERS
DECIDE TO MODIFY IT -- THESE STATEMENTS CAN ONLY BE

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WELCOMED.

-- BUT NONE OF THESE STATEMENTS HAS ALTERED THE BASIC
THRUST OF THE LABOR PARTY POSITION: TO SEEK THE
UNILATERAL REMOVAL OF ALL U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM
BRITAIN, AS WELL AS SCRAPPING THE UK'S OWN INDEPENDENT

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 19 MAR 2002 199900407

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NUCLEAR DETERRENT. INDEED, DESPITE THE EMPHASIS ON
CONSULTATIONS, LABOR SPOKESMEN HAVE STRESSED THE END
RESULT OF THOSE CONSULTATIONS IS NON-NEGOTIABLE. IN OUR
VIEW, THIS IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF
COLLECTIVE DECISION-MAKING WITHIN NATO.

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-- STATUS OF HOLY LOCH: WE AGREE YOU SHOULD RELY ON 86
STATE 331858.

4. PLESSEY RADAR SALE: WE AGREE THAT YOU SHOULD STICK
WITH THE EXISTING GUIDANCE.

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THEIR ASSESSMENTS,

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HOWEVER, ARE BASICALLY ON THE MARK: WHILE MOD REFORMS
SUCH AS COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING WILL OFFSET SOME OF THE
DECLINE IN SPENDING, THE LONG-TERM PICTURE IS POOR
UNLESS THE TREND CAN BE REVERSED.

[REDACTED]

PRICE

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