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FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE: SECRETARY OF STATE'S MEETING WITH JIM BAKER

SUMMARY

1. BAKER RESCUES THE SECRETARY OF STATE FROM CHAOS AND ARAFAT. BRIEFS SECRETARY OF STATE ON HIS THREE HOUR MEETING WITH SHEVARDNADZE. LATTER VERY EXERCISED ABOUT GERMANY.

DETAIL

2. LAST NIGHT'S INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS WERE PRETTY FAIR CHAOS. THE SECRETARY OF STATE WAS RESCUED FROM THE MELEE BY ONE OF BAKER'S PARTY WHO FOUND HIM A SEAT NEXT TO BAKER IN THE STADIUM. BY GOING INTO A HUDDLE, THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND BAKER WERE ABLE TO AVOID A TRIUMPHAL PROGRESS BY ARAFAT. JESSE JACKSON, WHO WAS ALSO WITH BAKER, WAS INSTRUCTED TO KEEP LOOKOUT UNTIL ARAFAT WAS SAFELY PAST, WHILE BAKER KEPT HIS FACE FIRMLY TURNED AWAY MUTTERING QUOTE IF I HAVE TO SHAKE HANDS, JESSE, IT WILL SET BACK THE PEACE PROCESS BY FOUR YEARS UNQUOTE.

3. IN THE ODD GAPS BETWEEN THE SPEECHES AND FIREWORKS, BAKER TOLD THE SECRETARY OF STATE THAT HE HAD HAD THREE HOURS WITH SHEVARDNADZE IN WINDHOEK. HE HAD FOUND SHEVARDNADZE VERY EXERCISED ABOUT GERMANY. HE DID NOT DISTRUST THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP BUT WHO WOULD BE RUNNING THE COUNTRY IN SIX YEARS TIME?

4. THE SECRETARY OF STATE TOLD BAKER THAT THE ROMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAD SAID THAT AT THE RECENT WARSAW PACT SUMMIT FOUR COUNTRIES HAD SPOKEN IN FAVOUR OF GERMAN MEMBERSHIP OF NATO AND THAT SHEVARDNADZE HAD SPOKEN AGAINST, BUT WITHOUT APPARENT CONVICTION. BAKER SAID THAT HE HAD NOT GOT THE SAME IMPRESSION. SHEVARDNADZE HAD APPEARED TO MEAN EVERYTHING HE SAID AND BAKER HAD BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE MUCH IMPRESSION ON HIM.

5. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THAT GERMAN MEMBERSHIP OF NATO WAS

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CRUCIAL. HE WAS WORRIED THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD DRAG OUT THE TWO PLUS FOUR DISCUSSIONS SO THAT THEY GOT ENTANGLED IN THE FEDERAL GERMAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN. THE RUSSIANS MIGHT WELL HOPE THAT THE SPD WOULD WIN, THUS GIVING THEM A NEW HAND TO PLAY NEXT YEAR. WE MUST KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM OF THE TWO PLUS FOUR DISCUSSIONS.

6. BAKER SAID THAT HE WAS AT A LOSS TO KNOW WHY THE FRENCH WERE SO DIFFICULT ABOUT KEEPING NATO ALLIES INFORMED ABOUT THE TWO PLUS FOUR TALKS. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID HE HAD TACKLED DUMAS ABOUT THIS IN MUSCAT, BUT WITHOUT GETTING A SATISFACTORY ANSWER. BAKER TALKED ABOUT REPORTING BACK TO NATO AFTER HIS NEXT DISCUSSIONS WITH SHEVARDNADZE BUT DID NOT MENTION THE DATE.

7. AT THIS POINT GENSCHER APPEARED A ROW OR TWO BEHIND THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND BAKER, WAVING HIS ARMS AND CALLING OUT QUOTE THE COALITION AS BEFORE UNQUOTE. BAKER COMMENTED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE THAT WHILE THE FDP WOULD BE IN THE GDR COALITION, THEY WOULD NOT OF COURSE HAVE A DECISIVE VOICE.

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