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ACTION EAP-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	AF-01	AID-00	AMAD-01	ARA-01
	CIAE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01	FBIE-00	H-01
	IM-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-01	ADS-00	NEA-01
	NRC-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-01	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	SA-01	EPAE-00	SSD-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-04
	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/028W			

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R 020123Z JUL 98
 FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0869
 INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
 AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA
 AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
 AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
 AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
 USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA
 AMEMBASSY MEXICO
 SECDEF WASHDC
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
 USIA WASHDC 4733
 DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CANBERRA 002445

USCINCPAC FOR FPA TEARE
FOR USDEL CD, FOR UNVIE

E.O. 12958:DECL 07/01/03

TAGS: PARM, KNNP, MNUC, NPT, IN, PK, AS

SUBJECT: GOA RESPONSE TO "MILLENNIAL DECLARATION"

REF: A) STATE 116622: B) STATE 108813

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY STEPHEN ENGELKEN, POLITICAL
COUNSELOR. REASON: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

2. (C) SUMMARY: DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
TRADE (DFAT) SUPPORTS THE U.S. IN ITS DESIRE TO
MAINTAIN THE FOCUS ON INDIA AND PAKISTAN IN
DISARMAMENT ISSUES. DFAT BELIEVES USG NEEDS TO
COUNTER INDIAN PROPAGANDA MORE ACTIVELY. DFAT
PROPOSES AN OPEN, NON-NEGOTIATING FORUM IN THE CD TO
GRANT NON-NUCLEAR STATES THE ABILITY TO BE BOTH
INVOLVED AND INFORMED IN THE DISARMAMENT PROCESS WHILE
ALSO DISCREDITING INDIAN PROPAGANDA. END SUMMARY.

3. (C) DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE (DFAT)
DIRECTOR FOR CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT JOHN
GRIFFIN TOLD POLOFF ON 1 JULY THAT THE GOA WILL HAVE
NO OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE EIGHT NATION "MILLENNIAL
DECLARATION" (REF A). WHILE GRIFFIN SAID THAT THE GOA
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AGREES WITH THE BULK OF THE DECLARATION URGING GENERAL
DISARMAMENT, HE DESCRIBED IT AS "A BIT SILLY" AND
SUMMED UP THE DECLARATION'S INTENT AS DISARMAMENT
SHOULD JUST GO "A BIT FASTER." AS THE DECLARATION HAS
NO FOLLOW-UP, GRIFFIN SAW THE DECLARATION AS HAVING NO
REAL EFFECT. HE AGREED THAT THE DECLARATION'S TIMING
WAS VERY BAD AND THAT IT WOULD ULTIMATELY SERVE TO
SHIFT ATTENTION UNFORTUNATELY AND UNFAIRLY FROM INDIA
AND PAKISTAN (I/P) TO THE P-5 STATES. GRIFFIN ASSURED

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POLOFF THAT THE GOA WILL NOT SUPPORT THE DECLARATION AND THAT IT IS NOT BUYING THE INDIAN PROPAGANDA IN THE CD.

4. (C) GRIFFIN STATED THE GOA WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE U.S. TAKE A MUCH MORE ACTIVIST POSITION IN THE CD AND ELSEWHERE IN COUNTERING THE INDIAN PROPAGANDA DIRECTED AT THE P-5 IN ORDER TO EXPOSE THE INDIAN LINE AS THE "SELF-SERVING SHAM" THAT IT IS. WITH THE NAM CURRENTLY VERY DISORIENTED FROM ONE OF THEIR OWN BETRAYING THE COMMON ANTI-NUCLEAR MINDSET, GRIFFIN BELIEVES THIS IS AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT FOR THE U.S. TO MOVE. THE GOA IS ATTEMPTING TO ROUND UP THE NAM TO MAKE A CONCERTED STATEMENT AGAINST I/P. GRIFFIN EXPRESSED OPTIMISM AT THIS OCCURRING, AS MEXICO AND MALAYSIA--TWO LEADERSHIP NAM STATES--HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED SEVERE DISAPPROVAL OF THE TESTS.

5. (C) GRIFFIN WORRIED THAT THE US HAS BECOME A BIT SHELL-SHOCKED AT THE INDIAN ATTACKS ON THE P-5 AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT USG HAS RESORTED TO "CIRCLING THE WAGONS." GRIFFIN SAW THIS AS HURTING USG

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INTERESTS, PLAYING INTO THE INDIANS' HANDS, AND DERAILING THE (LARGELY POSITIVE) PROGRESS THAT DISARMAMENT IS CURRENTLY MAKING. GRIFFIN STATED THAT THE GOA WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE USG "GET ON THE FRONT FOOT AND BE MORE CREATIVE." IN THIS RESPECT, HE WAS HEARTENED TO LEARN FROM AUSEMBASSY WASHINGTON THAT U/S PICKERING WOULD BE CHAIRING A TASK FORCE ON THIS ISSUE TO EXAMINE STEPS THE USG MIGHT TAKE.

6. (C) GRIFFIN REITERATED THE GOA'S PROPOSAL TO CREATE A PERMANENT DISCUSSION GROUP IN THE CD TO DISCUSS NPT ARTICLE VI ISSUES, BUT WITH NO MANDATE TO NEGOTIATE. IT WOULD MERELY BE A FORUM FOR DISCUSSION. GRIFFIN STATED THAT SUCH A FORUM, WHICH HE REFERRED TO AS A "KNITTING CIRCLE," WOULD GIVE NON-NUCLEAR STATES A FORUM TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS. GRIFFIN STATED THAT PROPOSALS SUCH AS THE MILLENIAL DECLARATION SHOW THAT NON-NUCLEAR STATES ARE

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DETERMINED TO "HAVE THEIR SAY" AND THAT IN SUCH A FORUM AT LEAST USG COULD DEFEND ITS RECORD AND POINT OUT THE "RIDICULOUS AND IMPOSSIBLE" NATURE OF PROPOSALS SUCH AS THE RECENT DECLARATION WHILE

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ALLOWING NON-NUCLEAR STATES TO FEEL INVOLVED AND INFORMED (STAYING CONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE VI OF THE NPT). GRIFFIN ADMITTED THAT THERE WOULD BE A GREAT DEAL OF "TABLE THUMPING" WITHIN SUCH A FORUM, BUT THE USG AND GOA COULD ALSO USE THE FORUM TO PUT THE NAM AND INDIA ON THE SPOT ABOUT SPECIFICALLY WHAT MULTI-LATERAL APPROACHES TO DISARMAMENT ACTUALLY ARE. GRIFFIN ASSERTED SUCH A FORUM WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO HINDER USG INTERESTS AS IT WOULD HAVE NO NEGOTIATING OR DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY. HE ARGUED THAT A/S NEWSOM MISINTERPRETED THE AUSTRALIAN POSITION (REF B) ON THIS PROPOSAL AND WISHED TO CLARIFY; GRIFFIN FELT THAT THIS PROPOSAL WOULD HELP TO DISCREDIT INDIA WHILE PROTECTING USG INTERESTS.

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7. (C) NOTING THAT SHE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY, POLOFF DOUBTED STRONGLY THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE ATTRACTED TO A PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD DO NOTHING BUT
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CREATE A FORUM FOR THE NAM TO HURL INSULTS AT THE U.S.
AND OTHER NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES.

8. (C) GRIFFIN ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT UPON RUSSIAN RATIFICATION OF START II THE US AND RUSSIA HOLD A JOINT BRIEFING IN THE CD TO SHOW EXACTLY WHAT PROGRESS HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE AND EXACTLY WHAT START II MEANS FOR DISARMAMENT IN GENERAL.

9. (C) DFAT'S CONTINUING POSITION ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT IS THAT FIRST THE U.S. AND RUSSIA MUST REDUCE THEIR CAPABILITY TO THE LEVEL OF THE OTHER NUCLEAR STATES AND THEN BRING IN THOSE STATES. GRIFFIN FELT THAT REGRETTABLY I/P COULD NOT PROBABLY BE BROUGHT IN UNTIL SUCH A TIME. GOA FEELS THAT A FISSILE MATERIAL CUTOFF TREATY IS THE NEXT LOGICAL--AND INDEED ONLY--STEP TO BE ACHIEVED, BUT THAT THIS WILL NOT SOLVE PROBLEMS SUCH AS INDIA AND PAKISTAN. GRIFFIN STATED THAT AS A STRONG ALLY OF THE UNITED STATES AND AS A COUNTRY THAT BENEFITS FROM UNITED STATES NUCLEAR DETERRENCE, THAT GOA ULTIMATELY COULD NOT SUPPORT RECENTLY PROPOSED INITIATIVES BY BELGIUM AND SOUTH AFRICA IN THE CD. HOWEVER, GRIFFIN FELT THAT THERE WERE IDEAS (SIMILAR TO THE "KNITTING CIRCLE" IN THE BELGIAN INITIATIVE) THAT POSSESSED CONSIDERABLE MERIT, BUT THESE MUST BE WELL THOUGHT OUT AND THE LEGWORK TO BUILD SUPPORT MUST BE COMPLETED FIRST.

10. (C) COMMENT: GRIFFIN'S REMARKS ARE CONSISTENT WITH COMMENTS MADE TO US BY OTHER SENIOR DFAT
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OFFICIALS: THEY FAVOR TAKING A VERY HARD LINE TOWARD
I/P AND BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SUSTAIN
SANCTIONS OVER THE FOUR OR FIVE YEARS IT WILL TAKE FOR
THE PAIR TO REALIZE THE FULL EXTENT OF THEIR FOLLY; ON
THE OTHER HAND, THEY ARGUE WE SHOULD BALANCE THIS BY
THROWING THE NAM A BONE. BASED ON OUR DISCUSSIONS
ELSEWHERE IN THE GOA, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ENLIST
SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT IF DFAT GOES TOO FAR IN TRYING TO
APPEASE THE MODERATE NAM. PRIME MINISTER HOWARD'S
DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR MICHAEL THAWLEY HAS CONSISTENTLY
SHOWN DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN THE U.S. NUCLEAR
DETERRENT. HE DEMONSTRATED HIS FIRM POSITION AGAIN IN
CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR JUNE 30, TELLING HER
THAT HE HAD DIRECTED DFAT IN WRITING TO ENSURE THAT
THE FOCUS OF DISARMAMENT DISCUSSIONS REMAINS SQUARELY
ON I/P AND IS NOT DEFLECTED TO THE P-5.
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