

US embassy cable - 02ROME4424**HUNGARIAN PM ASSURES HOMELAND SECURITY DIRECTOR RIDGE OF CONTINUING GOH SUPPORT**

Identifier: 02ROME4424
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Classification:

Tags: MOPS PREL HU IT PREL HU IT PREL HU IT IZ IZMOPS IZMOPS

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

S E C R E T ROME 004424

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/12/2012

TAGS: MOPS, PREL, HU, IT, PREL, HU, IT, PREL, HU, IT, IZ, IZMOPS, IZMOPS
SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN PM ASSURES HOMELAND SECURITY DIRECTOR
RIDGE OF CONTINUING GOH SUPPORT

CLASSIFIED BY: DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION EMIL SKODON, REASON 1.5 (B & D)

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SUMMARY
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1. (S) HUNGARIAN PRIME MINISTER MEDQYESSY ASSURED HOMELAND SECURITY DIRECTOR RIDGE OF GOH SUPPORT FOR THE WAR ON TERROR, INCLUDING ITS CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO STEMMING FINANCIAL
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2. (U) GOVERNOR TOM RIDGE, ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY, MET ON 7 SEPTEMBER WITH HUNGARIAN PRIME MINISTER PETER MEDQYESSY TO DISCUSS BILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE WAR ON TERROR. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE IN CERNOBBIO, NORTH OF MILAN, WHERE BOTH RIDGE AND MEDQYESSY WERE ATTENDING THE ANNUAL AMBROSETTI CONFERENCE. ALSO PRESENT WERE CHIEF FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY ADVISOR TO THE PM KLARA AKOTS, A GOH INTERPRETER AND A GOH NOTETAKER, AND CHARGE D'AFFAIRES SKODON.

===== GOH SUPPORT FOR WAR ON TERROR: FINANCIAL CONTROLS, ILEA =====

3. (C) MEDQYESSY BEGAN THE MEETING BY EMPHASIZING THAT THE USG COULD DEPEND ON GOH ASSISTANCE IN THE WAR ON TERROR. THE GOH HAD ASSESSED 9-11 AS AN ATTACK ON THE WORLD COMMUNITY, NOT THE U.S. ALONE. IT WANTED TO COOPERATE AS MUCH AS IT COULD IN THE WORLD'S RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS.

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5. (C) GOVERNOR RIDGE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE ON BEHALF OF THE USG FOR ALL THE GOH HAD DONE TO FIGHT TERRORISM. HE WAS

PLEASED THAT BUDAPEST WAS HOSTING THE ILEA; THERE WAS NO GREATER CHALLENGE FOR THE U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES THAN FINDING WAYS TO INTENSIFY THE INVOLVEMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE BATTLE AGAINST TERRORISM WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE LIBERTIES AND FREEDOMS THAT WE ENJOY. HE WAS ALSO PLEASED TO HEAR OF THE GOH'S COMMITMENT TO MORE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING, SOMETHING NEEDED NOT ONLY INTERNATIONALLY BUT DOMESTICALLY WITHIN THE U.S. AS WELL.

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THE ROOTS OF TERROR: FACT AND FICTION
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9. (U) FOLLOWING THE PM'S COMMENT ABOUT THE SHARP NATURE OF THE CONFERENCE DEBATE ON THE CAUSES OF TERRORISM, GOVERNOR RIDGE POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD TRIED TO HELP COUNTER SOME OF THE MORE DISINGENUOUS PROJECTIONS PUT FORWARD BY MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE, FOR EXAMPLE THE ARGUMENT THAT POVERTY OR SOCIAL INEQUITY WAS THE ROOT CAUSE OF TERROR. THERE WAS NO NEXUS AT ALL BETWEEN USAMA BIN LADEN'S TYPE OF TERROR AND POVERTY; ELIMINATING POVERTY WORLDWIDE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A NOBLE GOAL, BUT IT WOULD NOT NECESSARILY LEAD TO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF TERRORISM.

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IRAQ: GOH APPEAL FOR CONSULTATIONS
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10. (U) IN RESPONSE TO MEDQYESSY'S QUESTION ON USG POLICY TOWARD IRAQ, RIDGE NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD BEGUN CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE PAST WEEK, AND WOULD ADDRESS THE ISSUE IN HIS FORTHCOMING UNGA SPEECH. THESE ACTIONS WOULD HELP DISPEL THE MISTAKEN SPECULATION ABOUT USG PLANS TO ACT UNILATERALLY. RIDGE CAUTIONED THE PM NOT TO READ TOO MUCH INTO MEDIA REPORTS OF DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION. AS SECRETARY POWELL HAD SAID, SOME OF THE REPORTED DIFFERENCES

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U.S. BUT TO THE ENTIRE WORLD.

11. (C) MEDQYESSY SAID HE EXPECTED SADDAM TO TRY AND BUY TIME BY ALLOWING UN INSPECTORS BACK INTO IRAQ, ALTHOUGH HE DOUBTED SADDAM WAS THINKING MUCH BEYOND THAT NEXT MOVE. THE PM STRESSED THAT THE TIMING OF USG CONSULTATIONS WITH ITS NATO ALLIES ABOUT ANY USE OF FORCE WOULD BE AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ISSUE; AKOTS, WHO HAD NOT SAID A WORD UP TO THIS POINT, ADDED EMPHATICALLY, "YOU ASKED HOW YOU COULD HELP US? DON'T TAKE US BY SURPRISE." GOVERNOR RIDGE AND CDA ASSURED MEDQYESSY THAT THE CIRCLE OF CONSULTATION WOULD WIDEN BEYOND THE PERM FIVE. AKOTS SAID THE GOH REALIZED CONSULTATIONS WOULD NATURALLY TAKE PLACE ON MANY LEVELS -- THE UN, NATO, BILATERALLY -- AND HOPED THE USG RECOGNIZED THAT EACH SET OF CONSULTATIONS SERVED A DISTINCT PURPOSE AND SO WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROACHED DIFFERENTLY.

12 (C) THE PM CONCLUDED THE DISCUSSION ON IRAQ BY TELLING GOVERNOR RIDGE "WE ARE AND WILL BE RELIABLE PARTNERS; YOU CAN COUNT ON US." GOVERNOR RIDGE CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THE PM'S MESSAGE THAT THE GOH NEEDED MORE CLARITY ABOUT USG INTENTIONS, AND ASSURED HIM IT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING THROUGH THE U.S. AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY IN BUDAPEST. (FOLLOWING THE MEETING, AKOTS BUTTONHOLED CHARGE TO EXPLAIN THAT THE GOH DESIRE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON IRAQ WAS DRIVEN BY ITS NEED TO EDUCATE AND PREPARE THE HUNGARIAN ELECTORATE, WHERE SENTIMENT WAS CURRENTLY RUNNING AGAINST THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE.)

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SEMBLER

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00
	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/005W
-----E645EE 121153Z /03							

P 120910Z SEP 02
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5783
INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 004424

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SRPP-00 DS-00 UTED-00 VC-00

H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00
NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00
SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	T-00
USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/005W
-----E645FC				121153Z /03		

P 120910Z SEP 02
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5784
INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 004424

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THE ROOTS OF TERROR: FACT AND FICTION

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