

CG-PREL US

DEPT OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARP)

Mon Apr 18 1994 KINSHA

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PTP3445 Exemptions: ARP Action Cert CONFIDENTIAL Date 4/22/94

PAGE 01 KINSHA 02174 00 OF 02 181554Z

ACTION: AF(01)

INFO: C(01) CIAE(00) D(00) DODE(00) E(01) L(01) MR(00) NSAE(00) NSCE(00) P(01) SP(00) SSO(00) SSS(00) T(00) UNW(00) USIE(00)

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INFO: AF(01) EAO(00) EUR(01) INR(00) S(00) SS(00) X(00)

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INFO LOG-00 OASY-00 ADS-00 /000W -30245B 181619Z /38

P 181554Z APR 94 FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6326 INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS AMEMBASSY PARIS

Handwritten notes: 'C-1', 'C-2', 'C-3', 'C-4', 'AF/C', 'File'.

CONFIDENTIAL KINSHASA 02174

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E.O.12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PREL, CG SUBJECT: FORMER A/S COHEN MEETS MOBUTU

1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT

2. FORMER AF A/S HERMAN COHEN (HJC) TRAVELED TO GBADOLITE APRIL 17 TO MEET WITH MOBUTU AT MOBUTU'S INVITATION. HE GAVE ME A BRIEF READOUT AT BREAKFAST APRIL 18, BEFORE TRAVELING TO BRAZZAVILLE FOR A MEETING WITH LISSOUBA. HJC PLANS TO CONTINUE ON TO PARIS APRIL 19 AND TO WASHINGTON THE NEXT DAY.

3. COHEN ARRIVED KINSHASA FROM PARIS APRIL 17 IN THE COMPANY OF ROBERT BOURGI WHO HAS TIES BOTH TO PARIS MAYOR CHIRAC AND MOBUTU, FORMER FRENCH MINISTER AURIAC WHO IS DOING LEGAL WORK CONCERNING MOBUTU'S PROPERTY PROBLEMS IN EUROPE AND MAX OLIVIER CAHEN, SON OF THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE. ALL WERE WHISKED TO GBADOLITE VIA MYSTERE JET IMMEDIATELY UPON ARRIVAL. AURIAC'S MEETING WITH MOBUTU WAS SEPARATE FROM THAT OF COHEN, CAHEN AND BOURGI WHO SERVED AS A GO-BETWEEN FOR THE HJC-MOBUTU MEETING.

4. HJC SAID THAT DURING A EUROPEAN TRANSIT FOLLOWING ONE OF THE SUB-COMMISSION MEETINGS OF THE WORLD BANK'S GLOBAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (FOR WHICH HE CONSULTS ON A THREE-QUARTERS TIME PAID BASIS) BOURGI PASSED A MESSAGE SAYING MOBUTU WANTED HJC TO CALL BOURGI WHO COHEN SAID PROBABLY WAS BEING PAID BY MOBUTU, SUPPLIED THE NUMBERS. MOBUTU ASKED HJC IF HE WOULD COME TO GBADOLITE AND THIS TRIP WAS THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY HE HAD TO DO SO FOLLOWING THAT CONVERSATION SOME TWO MONTHS AGO.

5. DURING THEIR SUNDAY MORNING MEETING YESTERDAY, MOBUTU SPOKE FIRST OF THE TRAGEDY IN RWANDA AND FEELERS HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE RPF IN BELGIUM. HE TOLD HJC (AND MAYBE THE RPF, THIS WASN'T CLEAR) THAT THE RPF COULD NEVER GOVERN ALL OF RWANDA--THEY WOULD HAVE TO KILL A MILLION HUTUS A YEAR FOR THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS--AND THAT THEY SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN RESTARTING THE ARUSHA PROCESS. MOBUTU HAS AGREED TO MEET WITH AN RPF DELEGATION.

6. ON THE DOMESTIC SIDE, MOBUTU SAID HE WANTED TO REASSURE HJC THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT AS PRIME MINISTER ANYONE WHO EMERGED FROM THE PROCESS INCLUDING TSHISEKEDI OR KENGO (ALTHOUGH HE HAD "BETRAYED ME"). BUT, MOBUTU CONTINUED, IT DOES NOT LOOK AS IF THE POLITICAL CLASS WILL BE ABLE TO AGREE ON A CANDIDATE SO THERE PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO BE AN "ELECTION IN THE PARLIAMENT." MOBUTU TOLD COHEN THAT HIS COALITION LED BY NGUZ AND LENGEMA HAD A MAJORITY IN THE HCR-PT. AS FOR HIMSELF, MOBUTU SAID HE WAS ENTIRELY HANDS-OFF. COHEN SAID HE TOLD MOBUTU AGAIN IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL THAT HE NOT INTERFERE WITH THE TRANSITION PROCESS. SPECIFICALLY HE HAD TO GIVE UP CONTROL OF FINANCES INCLUDING ESPECIALLY THE CENTRAL BANK. HJC TOLD MOBUTU THAT IT WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT WHATEVER WAS DONE THAT IT BE CREDIBLE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY: BOTH THE SELECTION OF A PRIME MINISTER AND HIS CLEAR AUTHORITY TO GOVERN UNIMPEDED. MOBUTU PLEDGED ABSTINENCE. COMMENT: FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, MOBUTU'S FRENCH MAITRE D' HOTEL (M. BOUZINE) TOLD HJC THAT PROFESSOR ARTHUR Z'AIDI NGOMA, THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANT AT UNESCO, WAS A GBADOLITE FAVORITE FOR THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP BOTH BECAUSE HE WAS A POLITICAL AND BECAUSE HE HAD A REPUTATION AS A GOOD ADMINISTRATOR.

7. FINALLY, COHEN SAID MOBUTU EXUDED CONFIDENCE ABOUT DOMESTIC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH THE TRANSITION ACT AND HIS NUMERICAL CONTROL IN THE HCR-PT. HE ALSO IMPLIED (OR PERHAPS HJC INFERRED) THAT EVENTS IN RWANDA AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES WORKED TO HIS FAVOR AS A FORCE FOR STABILITY IN PREVENTING THE INEVITABLE POTENTIAL FOR CHAOS BROUGHT ON BY THE DEMOCRATIC RUSH.

8. COHEN SAID HE EXPECTED TO MEET LATER APRIL 18 WITH MOBUTU'S CABINET DIRECTOR VUNDUWE BUT, ALTHOUGH HE HAD CONSIDERED IT, DID NOT EXPECT TO MEET WITH TSHISEKEDI OR THE OPPOSITION BEFORE TRAVELING TO BRAZZAVILLE AT MIDDAY. THAT VISIT, TOO, HE SAID, WAS PRIVATE AND AT THE INVITATION OF LISSOUBA ALTHOUGH HJC IMPLIED IT ALSO HAD BEEN ORGANIZED BY THE FRENCH.

9. COHEN SAID HE HAD SPOKEN WITH AF/C ZAIRE DESK OFFICER MCCULLEY AND WITH A/S MOOSE ABOUT HIS PLANS BEFORE DEPARTING THE UNITED STATES. HE UNDERSTOOD WE WOULD BE REPORTING ON HIS VISIT AND SAID HE WOULD DO THE SAME UPON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON. THUS FAR IT HAS ELICITED NO PUBLICITY LOCALLY EXCEPT FOR THE ADVANCE SPECULATION IN ONE NEWSPAPER A LITTLE OVER A WEEK AGO. IF IT DOES, WE PLAN TO SAY COHEN RETIRED FROM THE USG NOVEMBER 30, 1993 AND SINCE HAS BEEN WORKING IN AN INDEPENDENT CAPACITY. YATES##

CONFIDENTIAL

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir. () Release () Excise (X) Deny () Declassify Date 5/28/98 Exemption (b)(1)

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