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ACTION SS-01

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO LOG-00 CCO-00 ADS-00 SSO-00 /001W
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O P 291100Z ZFF4 APR 92
FM AMEMBASSY ALMA ATA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0384
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KIEV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MINSK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS **DECAPIED**

STATE FOR U/S BARTHOLOMEW AND A/S NILES; ACDA FOR DIRECTOR
LEHMAN; NSC FOR BRIG GEN GORDON AND DR HEWITT; OSD FOR A/S
HADLEY; JCS FOR LT GEN SHALIKASHVILI; DOE FOR DR ALESSI; CIA
FOR MR. MACEACHIN; GENEVA FOR ARMS CONTROL DELEGATIONS

FROM CHARGE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PARM, MNUC, KZ
SUBJECT: KAZAKHSTAN AND NAZARBAYEV GO PUBLIC ON THE
NUCLEAR ISSUE
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REFS: A) ALMA ATA 260 (NOTAL) B) ALMA ATA 270 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY AND COMMENT

1. (C) AFTER INCUBATING LARGELY OUT OF PUBLIC EYE,
KAZAKHSTAN'S NUCLEAR POLICY BURST FORTH TODAY, APRIL 29, IN
THE NATION'S CONTROLLED PRESS. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL
"KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA," PRESIDENT NAZARBAYEV TOLD A U.S.
NEWSPAPER THAT HE IS CALLING ON THE U.S. TO REGARD KAZAKHSTAN
AS A "TEMPORARY NUCLEAR POWER." NAZARBAYEV SAID THAT, DURING
HIS WASHINGTON VISIT IN MID-MAY, HE WILL BE REA?? TO CONCLUDE
A STRATEGIC ALLIANCE WITH THE U.S. IN AN EARLIER VISIT TO
ALMA ATA, HE CLAIMED, SECRETARY BAKER HAD PLEDGED THAT THE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank
Perez, Senior Reviewer

U.S. COULD GUARANTEE KAZAKHSTAN AGAINST A U.S. NUCLEAR ATTACK.

2. (C) AT THE AIRPORT WELCOMING CEREMONY THIS MORNING FOR PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL, NAZARBAYEV CAME UP TO ME AND ASKED IF I HAD RECEIVED HIS LETTER. "I COULD NOT REACH SECRETARY BAKER BECAUSE OF POOR TELEPHONE LINES," NAZARBAYEV ALLEGED. (HE WAS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE LETTER WAS TO THE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY.) I SAID I HAD NOT SEEN THE LETTER. FOREIGN MINISTER SULEYMENOV THEN INTERJECTED THAT IT WOULD BE GIVEN TO US TOMORROW. THE LETTER WOULD EXPRESS A "NORMAL" POSITION.

3. (C) I TOLD SULEYMENOV, AND THE PRIME MINISTER WITH WHOM I HAD BEEN SPEAKING, THAT WE HOPED THE LETTER WOULD PUT ASIDE
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THE NUCLEAR ISSUE BY PLEDGING KAZAKH WILLINGNESS TO ADHERE TO THE NPT AS A NONNUCLEAR WEAPON STATE. OF COURSE, THE LETTER WILL SAY NO SUCH THING. IT IS A BAD OMEN THAT NAZARBAYEV HAS PUBLICLY EXPRESSED KAZAKHSTAN'S POSITION BEFORE OFFERING THE U.S. THE COURTESY OF A PRIVATE REPLY. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT NAZARBAYEV HAS LEFT ENOUGH OF AN OPENING TO ENABLE QUIET DIPLOMACY TO GET KAZAKHSTAN TO COME OFF OF ITS "TEMPORARY NUCLEAR POWER" TACK BY THE TIME OF HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN MAY.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR INTERVIEW

4. (U) KAZ PRAVDA CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE SUMMARY OF NAZARBAYEV'S RECENT INTERVIEW WITH THE "CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR," SUPPOSEDLY PUBLISHED ON APRIL 27 (REF A). FOLLOWING ARE KEY QUOTES:

O "KAZAKHSTAN CALLS ON THE U.S. TO CONSIDER IT TO BE A TEMPORARY NUCLEAR POWER, ON THE PATH TO DISARMAMENT."

O (NAZARBAYEV) "MADE KNOWN THAT, IN HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON AS CHIEF OF STATE IN MID-MAY, HE IS READY TO CONCLUDE WITH THE U.S. AN AGREEMENT (COGLASHENNIE) ON A STRATEGIC ALLIANCE."

O "I SENT A LETTER TO PRESIDENT BUSH IN WHICH I INFORMED HIM ABOUT OUR DESIRE TO BECOME A NONNUCLEAR STATE, BUT, AS LONG AS NUCLEAR WARHEADS ARE NOT DESTROYED, I ASKED HIM TO CONSIDER KAZAKHSTAN AS A TEMPORARY NUCLEAR POWER."

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O "THE CHIEF OF KAZAKHSTAN ALSO STATED THAT HIS COUNTRY IS READY TO RATIFY THE (START) TREATY. ACCORDING TO THIS DOCUMENT, HE NOTED, A LARGE PART OF THE RELEVANT NUCLEAR WARHEADS ON THE TERRITORY OF KAZAKHSTAN WILL BE DESTROYED."

O "TOGETHER WITH THIS, N. NAZARBAYEV EMPHASIZED THAT, FOR THE PROCESS OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT TO CONTINUE, A STANDARD AGREEMENT IS NEEDED WITH THE UNITED STATES WHICH WILL ENVISION THE CONDUCT OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE QUESTIONS OF DESTROYING THE REMAINING NUCLEAR MISSILES."

O "WE CANNOT SAY WHAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE WITH THE CIS. UNTIL NOW WE DO NOT HAVE A NORMAL BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA."

O "WE WANT TO BECOME FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPANT IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS."

O "I FAVOR AN ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PRESENCE FOR AMERICA ON THE TERRITORY OF KAZAKHSTAN. WE ARE READY FOR LONG-TERM AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION."

O "WE MUST ESTABLISH TIGHT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY TIES."

O (REGARDING THE NPT) "I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY KAZAKHSTAN IS SUBJECTED TO SUCH STRONG PRESSURE. WHY DOES THE U.S. NOT DEMAND FROM CHINA AND INDIA THAT THEY ADHERE TO THIS TREATY?" (NOTE: AT THE AIRPORT TODAY THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED SURPRISE TO ME THAT NAZARBAYEV DID NOT
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KNOW THAT CHINA WAS JOINING THE NPT.)

O "HOWEVER, N. NAZARBAYEV GAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT HE IS READY TO CHANGE HIS POSITION ON THIS QUESTION IF THE USA ENTERS INTO A SECURITY GUARANTEE WITH THE REPUBLIC. 'KAZAKHSTAN HAS A FLEXIBLE POSITION IF THE USA GUARANTEES TO IT THE INVIOABILITY OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY (AND) IF THERE WILL BE PRESENTED GUARANTEES THAT THE REPUBLIC WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO NUCLEAR ATTACK BY THE USA, BY RUSSIA, (AND) BY CHINA.'"

O "DURING HIS VISIT TO ALMA AT SECRETARY OF STATE JAMES BAKER STATED THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNDERSTANDINGS THE USA CAN TAKE UPON ITSELF SUCH OBLIGATIONS AND PRESENT US A GUARANTEE." COURTNEY

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