CONFIDENTIAL

SERIAL: (U) IIR

/******************** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE ********************/

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) SOMALIA (SO); SWITZERLAND (SZ).

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT
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- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 901004-901009.

(b)(3):10 USC 424
(b)(1):1.4 (c)

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

SUMMARY: SECURITY IN MOGADISHU AND THROUGHOUT SOMALIA REMAINS POOR. ON 4 OCTOBER 1990, FOUR RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT PERSONNEL WERE KIDNAPPED BY SOMALI NATIONAL MOVEMENT REBELS NEAR HARGEYSYA. ON 6 OCTOBER, ONE OF THOSE ABDUCTED, AN EXPAT, WAS KILLED. FOUR ICRC (INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS) AND SRC (SOMALI RED CRESCENT) PERSONNEL HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED NEAR HARGEYSYA WHILE CONDUCTING RELIEF-RELATED PROJECTS. OFFICIALS, TWO SWISS NATIONALS AND TWO SOMALIS, WERE RETURNING FROM DARARWEYNE 30 KILOMETERS NORTH OF HARGEYSYA, WHEN THEY WERE AMBUSHED BY REBELS OF THE SOMALI NATIONAL MOVEMENT (SNM) THAT THE SNM HAD LAUNCHED AN ATTACK ON A SOMALI NATIONAL ARMY (SNA) POSITION AND HAD KILLED 18 SNA SOLDIERS AND WOUNDED 15, COINCIDENT WITH THE CAPTURE OF THE FOUR RELIEF WORKERS. THERE WERE ONLY TWO SNM WOUNDED IN THE ENGAGEMENT AS DID MOGADISHU ICRC OFFICIALS, THAT PETER (ALTWEGG), ONE OF THE TWO EXPATRIATES, DIED OF GUNSHOT WOUNDS ON SATURDAY, 6 OCTOBER. THE REMAINING RELIEF WORKERS, WHICH INCLUDED A SWISS WOMAN, A SOMALI WOMEN, AND A SOMALI MAN, REAPEARED IN ADDIS ABABA ON 9 OCTOBER.

COMMENTS: THE INSURGENCY IN SOMALIA'S NORTHWEST, AS THIS REPORT VIVIDLY INDICATES, CONTINUES. ALTHOUGH TODAY'S GREATEST PROBLEM FOR THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO BE THE UNITED SOMALI CONGRESS (USC), WHICH OPERATES IN THE CENTRAL REGIONS, THE SNM REMAINS A SERIOUS CHALLENGE IN THE NORTH TO THE GOVERNMENT.

12/1/2015
2. (C) THE KIDNAPPING AND KILLING OF THE ICRC EXPATRIATE WILL PROBABLY HAVE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOLLOWING THE RETURN OF THE ICRC DELEGATION HEAD, WHO AS OF 9 OCTOBER, IS IN SWITZERLAND, NOT MORE THAN TWO MONTHS AGO, THE BERBERA [\(\text{(b)(3):10 USC 424} \)] ICRC HOSPITAL STAFF HAD ONE OF THEIR NEW PAJERO FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES STOLEN BY THE REBELS. THAT AND THIS INCIDENT WILL PROBABLY WEIGH HEAVY ON CONTINUED RELIEF EFFORTS BY THE RED CROSS IN THE NORTH. TIME WILL TELL.

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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