

PTQ4525

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PAGE 01 LUANDA 02751 050900Z
ACTION SS-00
INFO LOG-00 OASY-00 ADS-00 /000W
-----E144E1 050952Z /38
O 040858Z SEP 97 ZDK HSD0056W VOL OTHERS
FM AMEMBASSY LUANDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6205
INFO AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ LUANDA 002751

~~EXDIS~~

DECAPTIONED

DEPARTMENT FOR U/S PICKERING, IO/AS LYMAN, P/M AND AF
FROM AMBASSADOR

NSC FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS AND AFRICA DIRECTORATES
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PAGE 02 LUANDA 02751 050900Z
E.O. 12958: DECL: 9/3/07
TAGS: PARM, MOAP, PREL, AO
SUBJ: DISSENT AGAINST U.S. POSITIONS ON LANDMINES
AT OSLO APL CONFERENCE
REF: (A) STATE 161413 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 118024
CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR DONALD STEINBERG FOR
REASON 1.5 D.
1. ~~(C)~~ MY POLECON OFFICER AGREED TO MAKE THE
DEMARCHE ON USG POLICY ON LANDMINES IN REF A --
SEE RESPONSE SEPTTEL. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY
MORE THAN TWO DECADES IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE, I

DECLASSIFIED BY: S. WORREL, SENIOR REVIEWER
US DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RELEASE DECISION: RELEASE IN FULL
DATE: 01/16/2020

UNCLASSIFIED
Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CANNOT CARRY OUT A VALID INSTRUCTION. I FIND OUR GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON LANDMINES INDEFENSIBLE, FILLED WITH CONTRADICTIONS, AND INCONSISTENT WITH TRUE U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS.

2. ~~(C)~~ THIS IS A DEEPLY PERSONAL VIEW. I RECOGNIZE THAT THE U.S. POSITION WAS DEVELOPED BY CONSCIENTIOUS PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL AND HUMANITARIAN SPIRIT. STILL, A LARGE PART OF MY REASON FOR COMING TO ANGOLA RELATES TO ELIMINATING LANDMINES. IN DECEMBER 1994, I ACCOMPANIED TONY LAKE TO ANGOLA, FOUR WEEKS AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE LUSAKA PEACE ACCORDS. WE SAW THE VAST DEVASTATION OF WAR, INCLUDING THOUSANDS OF AMPUTEES FROM LANDMINE ACCIDENTS. AT A HOSPITAL IN THE DESTROYED CITY OF KUITO, WE SAW A PREGNANT WOMAN WHO HAD VENTURED INTO A MINEFIELD TO GET FOOD FOR

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HER UNBORN CHILD; A MINE EXPLOSION HAD INDUCED LABOR, AND SHE WAS GIVING BIRTH AND HAVING HER SHATTERED LEG REMOVED AT THE SAME TIME. IT WAS A SIGHT THAT WILL REMAIN WITH ALL OF US THE REST OF OUR LIVES. IT WAS CLEAR TO US THEN THAT ONE TYPE OF WAR IN ANGOLA WAS ENDING, BUT ANOTHER -- THE WAR TO RID THIS COUNTRY OF MILLIONS OF MINES PLANTED BY A DOZEN ARMIES -- WAS JUST BEGINNING.

3. ~~(C)~~ OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, THIS EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF THAT BATTLE. WE HAVE GOTTEN THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT AND UNITA TO DESTROY PART OF THEIR LANDMINE HOLDINGS IN PUBLIC CEREMONIES, INCLUDING DURING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S VISIT HERE LAST OCTOBER. WE HAVE HELPED PERSUADE THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT TO GET OUT-FRONT ON INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE THESE WEAPONS. WE HAVE FUNDED EXTENSIVE MINE AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS, DEMINING ACTIVITIES IN FIELDS AND ON ROADS, TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR DEMINERS, PROSTHETICS DEVICES AND REHABILITATION CENTERS FOR LANDMINE VICTIMS, AND MAPPING ACTIVITIES TO LOCATE AND CORDON OFF MINEFIELDS. WE HAVE SPOKEN OUT AT THE JOINT PEACE COMMISSION AGAINST RE-MINING ACTIVITIES. I HAVE PERSONALLY GIVEN MORE THAN A DOZEN SPEECHES HIGHLIGHTING THESE EFFORTS AND DEFENDING THE U.S. POSITION ON LANDMINES AS "A POLICY IN EVOLUTION."

4. ~~(C)~~ AFTER ALL THESE EFFORTS, I CANNOT NOW GO TO THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT IN DEFENSE OF A POLICY THAT I BELIEVE PUTS US ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THIS STRUGGLE. I DO NOT INTEND IN THIS CABLE TO ENTER INTO A LENGTHY

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DEBATE OF THE SPECIFICS OF U.S. POLICY. I WOULD ONLY
POINT OUT THAT THE USG INSISTENCE ON EXCEPTIONS FOR
KOREA, ANTI-TANK MINES, AND OXYMORONIC "SMART MINES";
THE LABORIOUS CONDITIONS FOR U.S. ADHERENCE TO A
TREATY; AND SEVERAL OTHER SIGNS OF WEAK USG RESOLVE
OPEN THE DOOR BROADLY FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TO MAKE
SIMILAR EXCEPTIONS AND THUS UNDERCUT THE WHOLE
PROCESS. I UNDERSTAND THAT RECALCITRANT COUNTRIES ARE
ALREADY ASKING, "IF THE UNITED STATES WITH ITS VAST
MILITARY CAPACITY CANNOT IMMEDIATELY ELIMINATE THESE
WEAPONS, HOW CAN WE BE EXPECTED TO DO SO?" I WOULD
ASK A RELATED QUESTION: HOW CAN AMERICA'S GLOBAL
RESPONSIBILITIES AND FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS DICTATE
THAT WE PROTECT FOR ANOTHER DECADE WEAPONS SO HORRIBLE
AND BARBARIC THAT VIRTUALLY ALL OUR CLOSEST ALLIES ARE
SEEKING A GLOBAL TREATY TO ELIMINATE THEM WITHOUT
DELAY?

SARAJEVO MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. STEINBERG

