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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

CDS

RTTCZYUW RUEKJCS1432 1540041-CCCC--RHEFLGX.

ZNY CCCCC

HEADER

R 030041Z JUN 03

FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC

INFO RUEKMDT/USDP:ESC

RHEFLGX/SAFE

R 030034Z JUN 03

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0000

RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0000

RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 0000

RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 0000

BT

CONTROLS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148706

GENEVA FOR RMA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/28/13

BODY

TAGS: PREF, PHUM, **ICRC**, IQ, AF, IS

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH **ICRC** PRESIDENT

KELLENBERGER: IRAQ; DETAINEES; AND MDA

CLASSIFIED BY PRM A/S DEWEY FOR REASON 1.5 (B) AND (D)

1. (U) THE MEETING TOOK PLACE ON MAY 27, 2003 AT 11:30
A.M. IN THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

2. (U) PARTICIPANTS:

U.S.

THE SECRETARY

PRM A/S DEWEY

LA TAFT

PA A/S BOUCHER

PRM NOTETAKER

ICRC

PRESIDENT JAKOB KELLENBERGER

JEAN-LUC BLONDEL, SPECIAL ASSISTANT

CHRISTOPHE GIROD, WASHINGTON HEAD OF DELEGATION

FRANK SIEVERTS, ASSISTANT TO WASHINGTON HEAD OF DELEGATION

3. (C) SUMMARY. INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE **RED CROSS**
(**ICRC**) PRESIDENT KELLENBERGER BRIEFED THE SECRETARY ON MAY
27 ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO BAGHDAD, INCLUDING THE NEED FOR

INCREASED SECURITY. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND THE STATUS OF EFFORTS TO SECURE MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT FOR ISRAEL'S NATIONAL SOCIETY, MAGEN DAVID ADOM (MDA). END SUMMARY.

IRAQ

4. (U) THE SECRETARY THANKED ICRC FOR ITS IMPORTANT WORK IN DIFFICULT TIMES AND RECOGNIZED THAT ICRC STAFF OPERATED AT GREAT PERSONAL RISK INSIDE IRAQ. HE ASKED FOR KELLENBERGER'S ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN IRAQ, BASED ON KELLENBERGER'S TRIP TO BAGHDAD, MAY 5-6. KELLENBERGER EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE GOOD COOPERATION BETWEEN ICRC AND THE COALITION AUTHORITIES AND THE WARM RECEPTION HE RECEIVED IN BAGHDAD.

5. (SBU) KELLENBERGER DESCRIBED HIS PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS OF BAGHDAD. FIRST, HE SAID THAT THE CITY LOOKED "MORE NORMAL" THAN HE EXPECTED. SECOND, HE SAW MORE TRACES OF DESTRUCTION DUE TO LOOTING, RATHER THAN BOMBING. THIRD, ALTHOUGH THERE TURNED OUT TO BE NO DRAMATIC HUMANITARIAN CRISIS, SECURITY CONTINUES TO BE A KEY PROBLEM AND ITS ABSENCE COULD LEAD TO A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE FUTURE. HE NOTED THAT SOME OF THE MAIN ROADS IN BAGHDAD ARE NOT SAFE FOR TRAVEL. HE ALSO NOTED ICRC'S NEED TO HAVE STABLE INTERLOCUTORS FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO CONTINUE CLOSE COOPERATION. PRM A/S DEWEY NOTED THAT PRM'S REFUGEE COORDINATOR WOULD SOON ARRIVE IN BAGHDAD AND COULD SERVE AS A POINT OF CONTACT FOR ICRC. KELLENBERGER REPORTED THAT ICRC'S WORK WOULD NOW FOCUS ON ITS "TRADITIONAL PROTECTION" WORK (VISITS TO DETAINEES, FAMILY REUNIFICATION), AS WELL AS ASSISTANCE TO HOSPITALS, AND REHABILITATION OF THE WATER AND SANITATION SYSTEMS.

GTMO

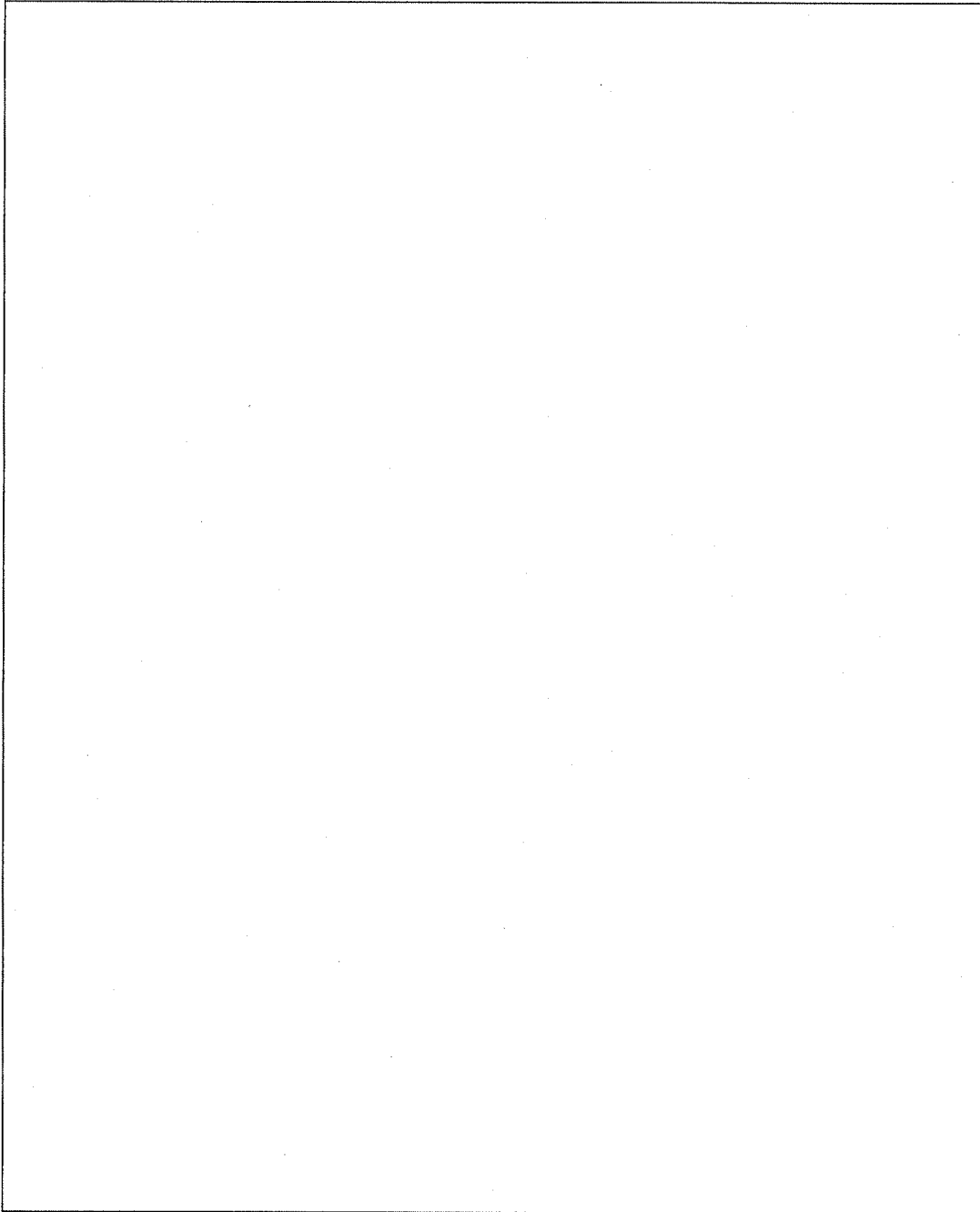
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MDA

9. (SBU) KELLENBERGER RAISED THE ISSUE OF MDA AND REPEATED HIS PROMISE, MADE TO THE SECRETARY IN 2001, TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE OF MDA'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL **RED CROSS** AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT. HE HAD MADE A

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COMMITMENT TO TAKE THE FIRST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO RESTART THE PROCESS, AFTER THE VIOLENCE BEGAN AGAIN IN 2000. WITH THE NEW "ROADMAP" FOR THE MIDDLE EAST, KELLENBERGER ASKED THAT POLICYMAKERS TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE ADDITIONAL THIRD PROTOCOL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS, AND MDA'S INCLUSION IN THE **RED CROSS**/RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT, AS A POSSIBLE CONFIDENCE-BUILDING STEP. IF THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IMPROVES, ESPECIALLY WITH THE ARAB STATES, THERE MAY BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADOPT THE PROTOCOL AND WORK TOWARD MDA MEMBERSHIP. KELLENBERGER BELIEVES THAT IF THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT WERE ON BOARD FOR THE ADDITIONAL THIRD PROTOCOL, THE CHANCES WOULD INCREASE TREMENDOUSLY OF GETTING MDA MEMBERSHIP. THE SECRETARY AGREED AND SAID THAT IF WE SEE PROGRESS ON THE ROADMAP IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE TO INTRODUCE THE THIRD PROTOCOL AND THE MDA ISSUE ONTO THE ROADMAP DIALOGUE.

POWELL

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