1. UNDER SECRETARY SISCO CALLED INAMB. KIFLE AUGUST 5 TO INFORM HIM OF USG APPROVAL OF IEG REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL DOLS 28 MILLION WORTH OF U.S. ARMS, INCLUDING TOW MISSILE SYSTEMS AND VULCAN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS. HE ADDED THAT DOD, WITH WHOM HE AWARE IEG REPS ARE HAVING ONGOING TALKS, WAS MAKING SPECIAL EFFORT TO EXPEDITE DELIVERY OF ITEMS, INCLUDING IN SOME INSTANCES WITHDRAWING DESIRED EQUIPMENT FROM U.S. UNITS IN JIPLD. IEG WOULD FIND DOD FORTHCOMING AND WILLING TO DO ALL POSSIBLE WITHIN LIMITS TO BE HELPFUL.

2. SISCO STATED THAT EMBASSY NAGADISCO HAS REPORTED CONTINUING ASSURANCES BY PRESIDENT SIAD AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL SOMALI OFFICIALS THAT SOMALIS WILL NOT ATTACK ETHIOPIA. FACT THAT SIAD NOW PRESIDENT OF OAU LIKELY TO HAVE FAVORABLE EFFECT RE SOMALI WILLINGNESS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT AGAINST NEIGHBORS. NEVERTHELESS USG AWARE OF IEG'S CONCERN AT RECENT INCREASE IN SOMALI ARMS, AND FOR THIS REASON WE ARE RESPONDING FAVORABLY TO IEG REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE. IN SO DOING, WE HAVE STRETCHED TO LIMIT OF AUTHORIZATION WHICH ADMINISTRATION HAS, UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION, TO PROVIDE ARMS TO AFRICA.

3. ADDITIONALLY, SISCO WANTED AMBASSADOR TO BE AWARE THAT WE HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED REPORT THAT SAUDIS ARE
WILLING TO DISCUSS WITH IEG ETHIOPIA'S NEED FOR ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE. WE HAVE ASKED OUR EMBASSY IN ADDIS TO
CONVEY THIS INFO TO IEG, BUT KIFLE MAY ALSO WISH TO DO SO.

4. EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR U.S. RESPONSE, KIFLE SAID
HE WOULD COMMUNICATE DECISION TO IEG. HE THEN COMMENTED
THAT GSDR HAD ALREADY MADE CRUCIAL DECISION TO ATTACK
ETHIOPIA; ONLY QUESTION WAS TIMING. SOMALIS MIGHT WISH
TO MOVE IN MORE QUICKLY IF THEY FELT POINT OF STABILIZA-
TION IN ARSENALS OF TWO COUNTRIES WAS APPROACHING.
ALL WEAPONS REQUESTED BY IEG WERE FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES,
AND THEY WERE NEEDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IEG REMAINS
CONCERNED OVER LONG LEAD-TIME IN DELIVERY OF SEVERAL OF
ITEMS NEEDED NOW (E.G. RADAR 3 YEARS, TANKS 4 YEARS).
FURTHERMORE, IEG DOES NOT YET KNOW WHEN IT WILL RECEIVE
F5A AND F5E AIRCRAFT. IEG FONMIN HAS TALKED TO IRANIANS
ABOUT F5E AIRCRAFT BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS. KIFLE REITERATED
THAT IEG PACKAGE WAS AN INTEGRATED REQUEST AND THERE
COULD BE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES FOR PLANNERS IF MATERIAL
RECEIVED IN PIECMEAL FASHION. MOREOVER, DISPARITIES IN
DELIVERY TIME COULD GIVE SOMALIS FURTHER REASON TO ATTACK
SOONER.

5. AS FINAL POINT SISCO EXPRESSED STRONG USG CONCERN OVER
CONTINUING DETENTION BY ELF OF FOUR TENNECO PERSONNEL
AND HOPED IEG MIGHT AGREE TO RELEASE OF AT LEAST TWO
OF THE ELF PRISONERS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY ELF IN
ORDER GET NEGOTIATIONS FOR RELEASE OF HOSTAGES MOVING
AGAIN. KIFLE NOTED THAT EVERYTHING IS BEING DONE TO SE-
CURE SAFETY OF HOSTAGES. A MAJOR PROBLEM IN OBTAINING
RELEASE OF HOSTAGES IS DIFFICULTY IN COMMUNICATING WITH
PROPER ELF OFFICIALS SINCE THERE WERE SO MANY FACTIONS IN
ELF. NEVERTHELESS IEG SHARES USG CONCERN AND AMBASSADOR
WILL CONTINUE TO URGE HIS GOVT TO BE HELPFUL.

6. EMBASSY SHOULD FOLLOW-UP SISCO TALK WITH KIFLE BY CON-
VEYING FAVORABLE US DECISION ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE PACK-
AGE TO FONMIN OR OTHER APPROPRIATE HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL.
KISSINGER