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RECORD ID: 9905408
RECEIVED: 15 JUL 99 12

TO: DAVIES

FROM: KELLY, R

DOC DATE: 14 JUL 99
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: EUROPE EAST KOSOVO
PRESIDENTIAL TRAVEL

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: CUSTOMS REPLY TO TASKER FOR POSSIBLE POTUS TRIP TO SOUTHEASTERN
EUROPE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

ACTION: OBE / STATUS OF ORIGINAL UNKNOWN DUE DATE: 21 JUL 99 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: VON LIPSEY LOGREF: 9905138

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9905408

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CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

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X 00010413 OBE / STATUS OF ORIGINAL UNKNOWN
Z 99071512 APPROPRIATE ACTION

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SUSPENSE

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D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION
VON LIPSEY

FOR CONCURRENCE
BREMNER
FLANAGAN
HURLEY
SCHULTE

FOR INFO
CLARKE
GORDON
HILLIARD
MALINOWSKI
MCCARTHY
SCHWARTZ

COMMENTS:

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5408



Staff

THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS

July 14, 1999

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. Glyn T. Davies
National Security Council
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Mr. Davies:

Thank you for your correspondence dated July 8, 1999, wherein you request briefing materials for the possible visit of President Clinton to the Southeastern Europe Leaders Conference, tentatively scheduled for July 30, 1999, in Sarajevo. Enclosed please find the background material on our activities in that region. As can be seen, U.S. Customs has conducted and continues to conduct a wide range of training and technical assistance programs aimed at strengthening border control operations throughout that area. I call your attention in particular to U.S. Customs involvement in the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative where we have several advisors currently working on-site.

As requested, all the information is contained on a virus-scanned diskette that is enclosed for your use. I trust you will find this material to be helpful and informative. Please contact Mr. Samuel Snyder, Office of International Affairs, if you have any questions. He can be reached by phone on (202) 927-2176 or by fax at (202) 927-0460.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond W. Kelly".

Raymond W. Kelly
Commissioner

Enclosures

U.S. Customs Service Activities in Southeast Europe

Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI)

- U.S. Customs is working with the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) to provide advisory and technical assistance to the region.
- Special Assistant to the Secretary of State and Special Coordinator for the Southeast Europe Initiative, Ambassador Richard Schifter, leads SECI activities.

Improvements to Border Crossings/Services

- Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Romania and Turkey have applied for World Bank loans (estimated total of 70 million U.S. dollars) to complete improvements to border crossings and services.
- U.S. Customs is taking the lead in providing technical assistance to SECI countries with State Department funding.
- Goal is to improve integrity, proficiency, and operational effectiveness of border services through long-term technical assistance efforts.
- Advisory team to Romania led by USCS includes three USCS personnel (Chief of Party, Special Agent, Senior Inspector), FBI agent, Italian Customs Officer, and a member of Austrian Border Police.
- Team working since October 1998 has redesigned import process at International Airport and will be expanding nationwide in the fall.
- Planned Advisory Missions to Moldova and FYROM will begin during late summer of 1999.

Regional Anti-Crime Center

- Romania is leading a SECI working group to establish an International Anti-Crime Center in Bucharest focusing on trans-border crime and corruption.
- U.S. Customs has hired a short-term advisor to assist SECI working group with its work on Center Charter, Multinational MOU on Information Sharing, and Center operational plans.
- MOU and Charter signed June 22, 1999 (only exceptions are Croatia and Slovenia).
- Center should open in October or November 1999.

Training

- Basic Drug Interdiction Courses were conducted in Bulgaria, FYROM, and Romania, training a total of 125 officers during 1997-99.
- Money Laundering Seminars have been held in Bosnia and Romania for over 172 officers.
- Nearly 300 officers from Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, FYROM, Montenegro, Romania, and Slovenia have participated in training sessions conducted at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Budapest since November 1997.
- Export Control: Training programs in the field of Counterproliferation and Export Control, including the Radiation Academy course for mid-level officers taught at the Pacific Northwest Laboratories in Washington State, were held for participants from Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovenia. More are planned for FY 2000.