CONFIDENTIAL

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E.O.  12356:  DECL:OADR
TAGS:  PINS, PREL, SO
SUBJECT:  SNM TO PROPOSE FEDERATION

REFERENCE:  NAIROBI 14824

1.  CONFIDENTIAL--ENTIRE TEXT.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: HARRY R MELONE
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER:  17 JUN 2016
DATE/CASE ID:  03 JUL 2006  200505183

UNCLASSIFIED
2. ON JUNE 17, POLOFF SPOKE WITH

3. __________ HAD MET WITH

CONFIRMED PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT ALI MAHDI MOHAMED'S REPORT (REFTEL) THAT THE SNM WOULD SOON SEND A LARGE DELEGATION, HEADED BY SILYANO, TO MOGADISHU. THE GROUP IS TO ARRIVE IN THE CAPITAL ON JUNE 20.

4. __________ SAID THE DELEGATION WOULD PRESENT THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WITH CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE NORTH WOULD BE WILLING TO ENTER INTO A FEDERATION WITH IT. IF THE UNSPECIFIED CONDITIONS WERE NOT ACCEPTED, THE NORTH WOULD THEN MAKE ITS SECESSION FINAL.

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5. COMMENT. IT IS GOOD NEWS THAT THE SNM APPEARS TO BE BACKING AWAY FROM ITS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, WHICH IT HAD EARLIER SAID WAS FINAL AND IRREVERSIBLE. IT MIGHT BE THAT LACK OF FOREIGN RECOGNITION, THE SEATING OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AT THE RECENT OAU SUMMIT, AND THE SUCCESS OF THE RECENT DJIBOUTI CONFERENCE COMBINED TO MAKE IT THINK BETTER OF TRYING TO GO IT ALONE.

6. THE POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE EXCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SNM MERELY PLANS TO POSE CONDITIONS IT KNOWS WILL BE REJECTED SO THAT IT CAN ARGUE THAT SOUTHERN "INFLEXIBILITY" FORCED THE NORTH TO MAKE ITS SECESSION FINAL. END COMMENT.

HEMPSTONE

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