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ACTION AF-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-01 INR-05 EUR-01 SS-01 CIAE-00
H-01 NEA-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 HA-09 L-03 TRSE-00
PM-01 PA-01 OMB-01 INRE-00 RP-10 USIE-00 SP-01
SR-01 SNP-01 PRS-01 P-02 T-01 /043 W

---------------------- 307421 301018Z /12

P 300930Z SEP 90
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISHU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0083
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RIYADH
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANA'A
AMCONSUL JEDDAH
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCENT MACDILL AFB FL//POLAD/CCJ2//
DIA WASHINGTON DC
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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DEPT FOR AF, AF/E, RP/AFR
DEPT PASS AID/AFR
BRUSSELS FOR USEC

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV, SO
SUBJ: VIEWS OF AN OLD AFRICA HAND

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1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.
OVER LUNCH SEPTEMBER 26 I ASKED HIS VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN THIS COUNTRY AND PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE.

3. [Name] took his family out of Somalia in August because he decided the Siad regime could not last much longer and that its demise probably would be chaotic. He closed down Conoco’s field operations in northern Somalia at the same time, because insurgent activity in the country side made it impossible to transport necessary supplies to the site where the company was preparing to drill its third well. He believes he made the right decisions, as he feels the current government will be overthrown by the end of the year, and the road to the north is now definitively cut. While the overturn of the regime is unlikely to expose foreigners to hostile fire, he opined, there could be widespread looting, including expat homes. Moreover, Siad’s downfall is as likely to unleash continuing rounds of tribal violence as it is to produce a new political equilibrium, he believes.

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4. On the basis of his contacts with the opposition, [name] doubts its members will accept any reconciliation or succession scenario which leaves Siad occupying even a ceremonial presidency. On the other hand, he does not think the SNM will boycott the Cairo Roundtable, because such obstinate behavior would erode sympathy for the movement in Cairo, Rome and London.

5. On the USG’s position in Mogadishu, [name] professed himself appalled by the total absence of physical security at the embassy residence and by the lack of armed guards on the compound. He suggested it reflected a “catch up” mentality which, he asserted, has proved dangerous in the past (______) carries a sidearm.

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HAS ARMED GUARDS AT HIS OFFICE AND HOUSE, AND KEEPS A LOADED AK-47 IN HIS HOME). IN TERMS OF POLICY, CLAIMED THAT THE OPPOSITION WILL REMAIN WELL DISPOSED TO THE UNITED STATES, PROVIDED THE USG DOES NOT GRANT SIAD ADDITIONAL FUNDS IN ORDER TO RETAIN ACCESS TO BERBERA.

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SR-01 SNP-01 PRS-01 P-02 T-01 /043 W
--------------307423 301018Z /12

P 300930Z SEP 90
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISHU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0084
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLASSIFIED
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DEPT FOR AF, AF/E, RP/AFR
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AS FAR AS DOING BUSINESS IN THE COUNTRY, [redacted] DESCRIBED HIS TECHNICAL INTERLOCUTORS AS COMPETENT AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS GENERALLY STRAIGHTFORWARD. HE PROFESSED TO HAVE NO DIFFICULTY DEALING WITH EITHER RURAL DWELLERS OR GUERRILLAS IN THE FIELD BUT FOUND THE LEVEL OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN MOGADISHU RISING RAPIDLY. HE PUT THE BLAME ON THE GROWING NUMBER OF UNPRINCIPLEDE YOUNG MEN ARRIVING IN THE CAPITAL AND ON SIAD HIMSELF, CLAIMING THAT THE PRESIDENT FOMENTS MUCH OF THE VIOLENCE IN MOGADISHU AS A TACTIC TO DIVIDE HIS OPPONENTS. BISHOP