AF/E FOR THOMAS AND CHESHES

HA FOR AMB BISHOP

DEPT PASS USAID FOR MICHAEL RUGH

USIA FOR AF: ROBERT GOSENDE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AFSN, AMGT, SO
SUBJECT: FORMER FSNS PAID IN MOGADISHU

1. FROM JUNE 8-11, POLOFF WAS IN MOGADISHU TO MAKE FINAL SALARY AND BENEFIT PAYMENTS TO FORMER FSN EMPLOYEES OF EMBASSY MOGADISHU. DURING THIS PERIOD, WE WERE ABLE TO PAY 125 FSNS, WHO RECEIVED AMOUNTS RANGING FROM USD SEVEN TO MORE THAN USD 5000. AVERAGE PAYMENT WAS AROUND USD 1000.

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2. OSMAN "ATTO" OF THE UNITED SOMALI CONGRESS (USC) WAS MOST HELPFUL IN ARRANGING SAFE PASSAGE OF FSNS ACROSS THE "GREEN LINE" AND INTO THE USC-CONTROLLED SECTOR. FSNS WHO TRAVELED FROM THE ALI MAHDI SECTOR REPORTED NO DIFFICULTIES IN MAKING THEIR WAY TO THE CONOCO COMPOUND, WHERE PAYMENT TOOK PLACE.

3. WORD TRAVELED QUICKLY THAT SALARY PAYMENTS WERE BEING MADE. ONE EMPLOYEE TRAVELED FROM MERCA, APPROXIMATELY 100 KM FROM MOGADISHU, TO CLAIM HIS
4. All employees were significantly thinner than the last time we saw them, in October 1990. Almost all, however, seemed to be in reasonably good health (of course, any who were very weak might not have been able to travel to the payment point). Sadly, one former FSN died of starvation only two weeks before our arrival. We owed him almost USD 2000.

5. USIA Director Catto sent letters to each former employee of USIS Mogadishu. We were able to deliver two of them in Mogadishu and, so far, one more in Nairobi.

6. Approximately 75 former FSNS have not yet received their final payments. We do not know how many of these are still in the Mogadishu area. Another salary payment trip to Mogadishu may be necessary in the future.

7. Miscellaneous personnel and administrative issues raised during visit to Mogadishu will be covered Septels. Hempstone##