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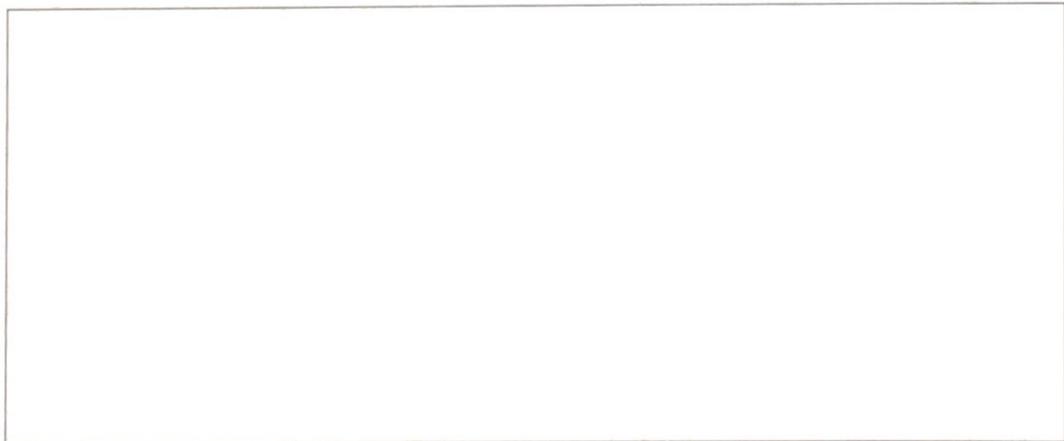
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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INFO IRAN COLLECTIVE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 PARIS 05900

DEPT ALSO FOR NEA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 14 MARCH 2002
TAGS: PREL, ETTC, EAIR, IR, FR
SUBJECT: FRANCE AND THE CRITICAL DIALOGUE WITH IRAN



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END SUMMARY.

CHIRAC'S POLICY: FULL SUPPORT FOR CRITICAL DIALOGUE

3. (U) IN AN INTERVIEW THE EVENING OF MARCH 13, FRENCH PRESIDENT CHIRAC STRONGLY DEFENDED THE EU'S CRITICAL DIALOGUE AND PUT HIS FULL SUPPORT BEHIND IT. HE SAID:

- THE CRITICAL DIALOGUE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED;
- IT WOULD BE VERY DANGEROUS TO ISOLATE IRAN TOTALLY;
- EXPERIENCE PROVES THAT THE (U.S.) EMBRAGO BENEFITS ONLY THE EXTREMISTS;
- THE CRITICAL DIALOGUE PERMITS THE EU TO RAISE ISSUES THAT IRAN DOES NOT ALWAYS WANT TO HEAR;
- AS A RESULT OF THE CRITICAL DIALOGUE, SEVERAL IRANIAN

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JEWS (SIC: ONE JEW, SEVERAL BAHAI) SENTENCED TO DEATH
HAVE BEEN REPRIEVED.

HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT WHILE HE COULD UNDERSTAND THE U.S. AND ISRAELI REACTION TO THE RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS, HE DID NOT FIND ANY REASON FOR FRANCE OR THE EU TO ALIGN ITSELF WITH THE U.S. AND ISRAEL.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR FRENCH POLICY

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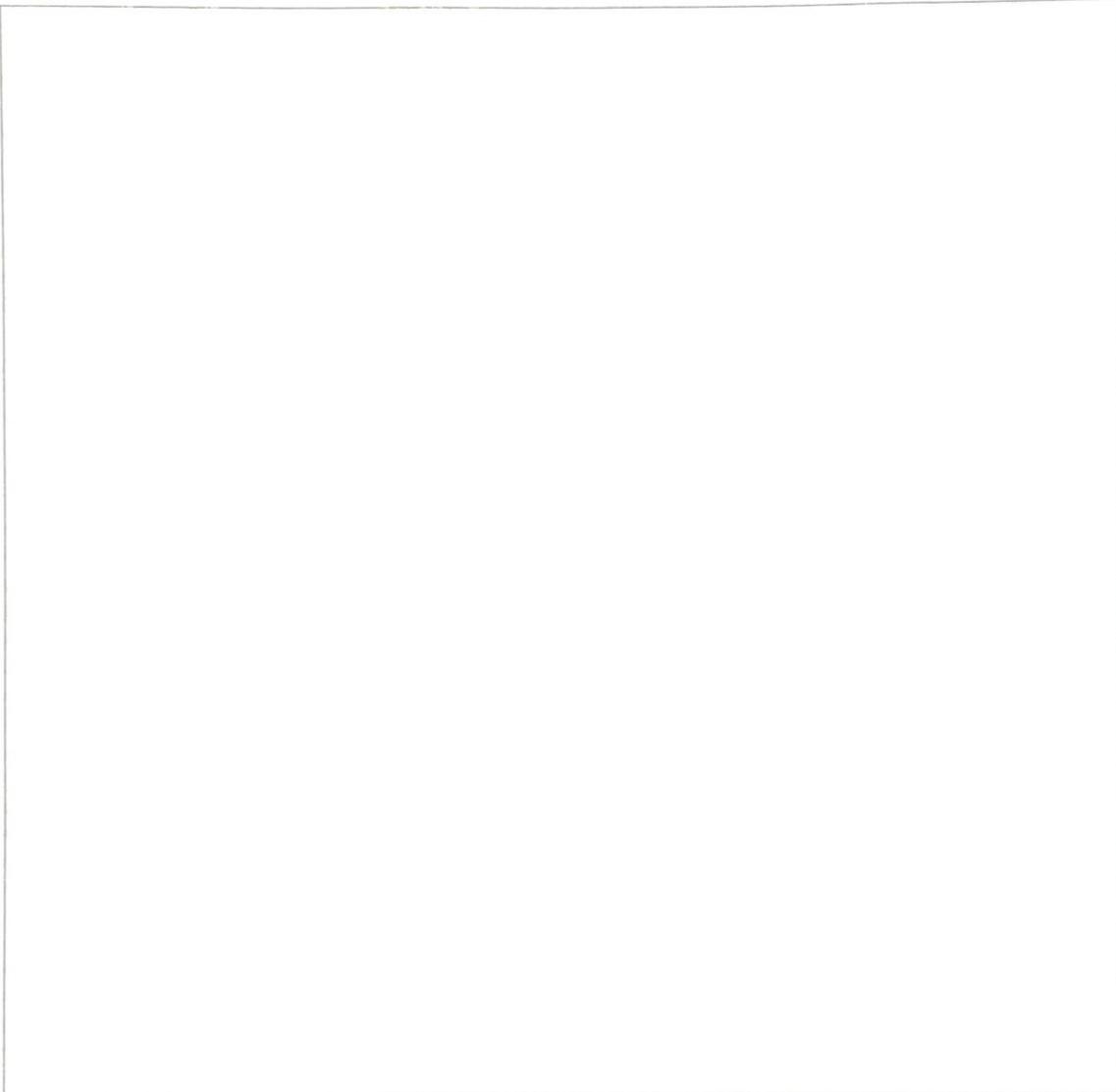
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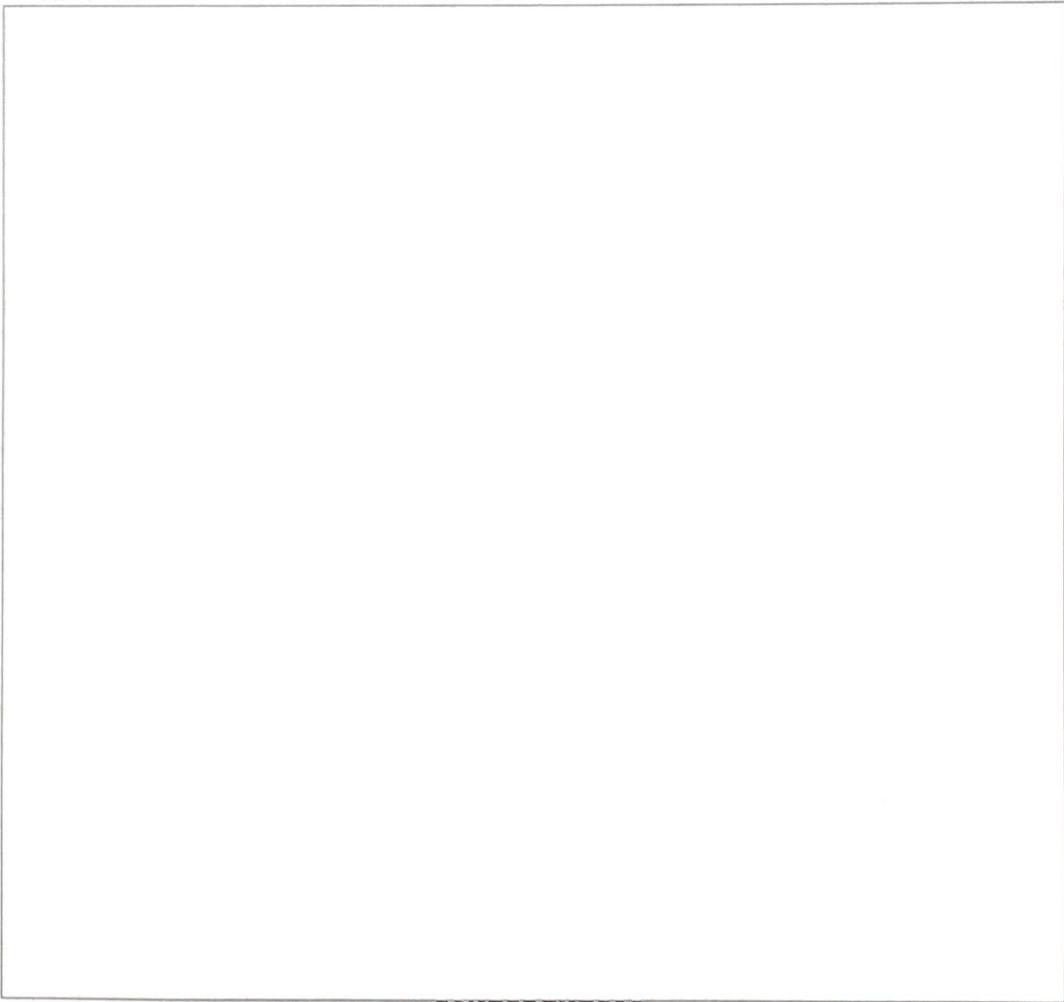
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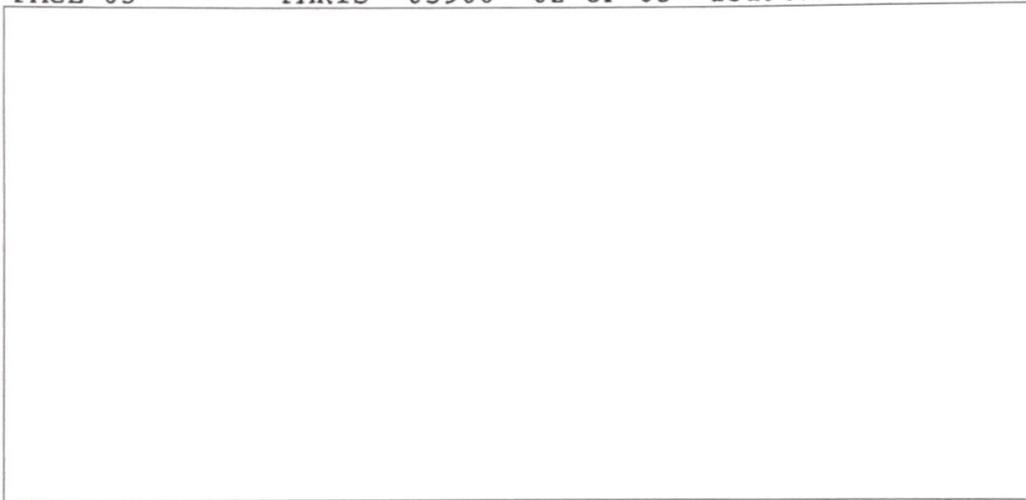
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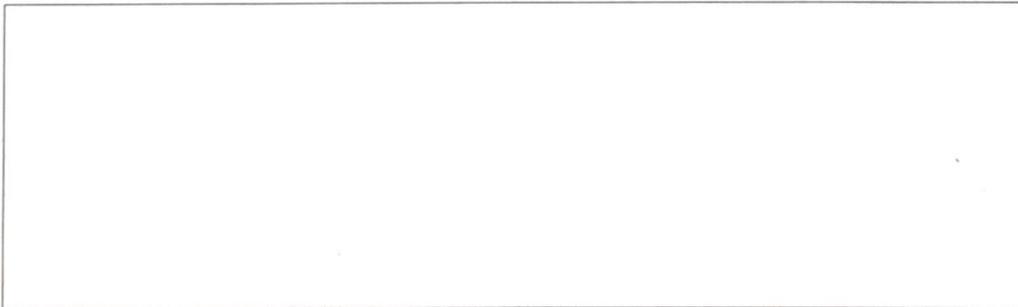
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DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS



COMMENT

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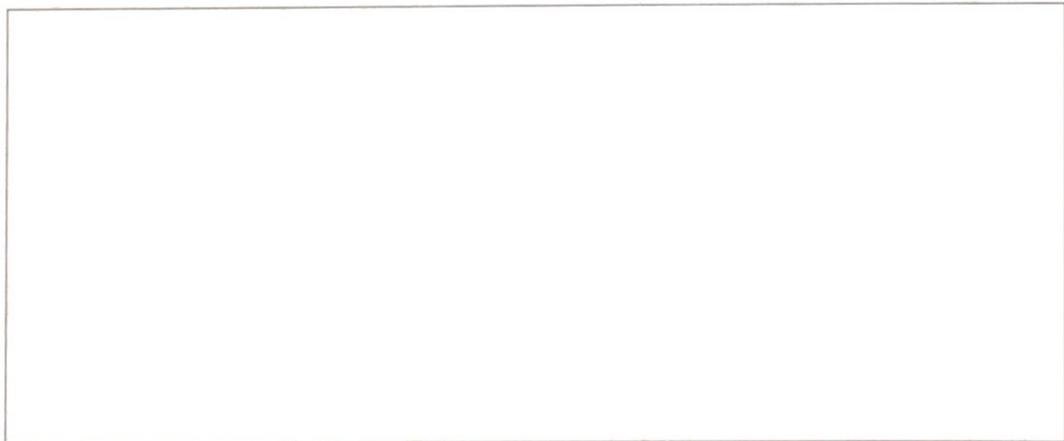
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