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PAGE 01 USVIEN 01299 01 OF 03 081438Z
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PAGE 02 USVIEN 01299 01 OF 03 081438Z
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: THEODORE SELLIN
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SUBJECT: OSCE AND CHECHNYA: OSCE ASSISTANCE GROUP REPORTS ON
PROGRESS PRIOR TO MAY 9

1. SUMMARY: THE OSCE ASSISTANCE GROUP HAS FORWARDED TO DELEGATIONS A REPORT ON ITS ACTIVITIES WITH A VIEW TO THE MAY 9 MEETINGS IN MOSCOW OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT. THE HEAD OF THE ASSISTANCE GROUP, AMBASSADOR MESZAROS, REPORTS THAT MILITARY ACTIVITIES CONTINUE TO TAKE PLACE DESPITE THE MORATORIUM. THIS INCLUDED SHELLING AND BOMBARDMENT BY FEDERAL FORCES. MESZAROS ALSO REPORTS RUMORS THAT DUDAYEV'S FORCES ARE PREPARING MILITARY ACTION TO COINCIDE WITH VICTORY DAY CELEBRATIONS 9 MAY. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

SUMMARY:

1. MILITARY ACTIVITIES ARE TAKING PLACE DESPITE THE MORATORIUM PROCLAIMED BY PRESIDENT YELTSIN, IN OUR OBSERVATION. THESE INCLUDE SHELLING AND AERIAL BOMBARDMENT BY FEDERAL FORCES OF TOWNS HELD BY THE DUDAYEV SIDE AND HEAVY ARTILLERY AND SMALL ARMS FIRE AUDIBLE IN GROZNY. AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE 30 APRIL TO ASSASSINATE UMAR AVTURKHANOV, HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL ACCORD. RUMORS ABOUT THAT DUDAYEV'S FORCES ARE PREPARING MILITARY ACTION TO COINCIDE WITH VICTORY DAY CELEBRATIONS 9 MAY.

2. THE ASSISTANCE GROUP IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO FACILITATE ROUND-TABLE TALKS AMONG ALL CONCERNED PARTIES. WHILE ALL WELCOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 USVIEN 01299 01 OF 03 081438Z
OUR EFFORTS, OBSTACLES REMAIN. WE ARE RECEIVING CONTINUED COMPLAINTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, INCLUDING DETENTION OF YOUTHS. A VISIT TO SAMASHKI INDICATED THAT THE DESTRUCTION COMMITTED THERE ON APRIL 7-8 WAS NOT PART OF A MILITARY ACTION BUT WAS INSTEAD DELIBERATE DESTRUCTION OF CIVILIAN HOMES. THERE ARE STILL MANY UNMET HUMANITARIAN NEEDS INSIDE GROZNY.

SECURITY SITUATION

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3. MILITARY ACTIVITIES WE HAVE OBSERVED FALL INTO TWO CATEGORIES. THE FIRST INVOLVES SHELLING AND AERIAL BOMBARDMENT OF AREAS HELD BY THE DUDAYEV SIDE. WE HAVE OBSERVED SHELLING AND AERIAL BOMBARDMENT OF BAMUT, OREKLOVO, SERZHEN-YURT, AVTURI AND IN THE VICINITY OF VEDENO. ON 5 MAY WE SAW AT CLOSE RANGE 4 FIXED WING GROUND ATTACK AIRCRAFT BOMBING NEAR SERZHEN-YURT. DUDAYEV FORCES SHOT DOWN ONE OF THEM, WHOSE WRECKAGE WE WERE ABLE TO INSPECT THE NEXT DAY ON THE ROAD BETWEEN BENEY AND TSA-VEDENO.

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4. THE SECOND CATEGORY, AT NIGHT, INVOLVES SMALL ARMS FIRE WHICH IS FOLLOWED BY HEAVY ARTILLERY, ILLUMINATION SHELLS AND HEAVY MACHINE GUNS. FEDERAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES CLAIM THAT IN GROZNY MUCH OF THE SMALL ARMS FIRE IS DIRECTED AT THE BUILDING WHICH HOUSES THEM BOTH, BUT THERE ARE INCIDENTS ALSO IN DISTRICT REGIONAL COMMANDS AND THE AIRPORT. FEDERAL MILITARY COMMANDERS TOLD US ON MAY 3 THAT THERE WERE TO THAT DATE 33 INCIDENTS PROVOKED BY DUDAYEV'S FORCES SINCE THE MORATORIUM BEGAN. OUTSIDE GROZNY, FEDERAL FORCES HAVE SET UP STRONGPOINTS OUTSIDE TOWNS AND VILLAGES AND AT ROAD JUNCTIONS; AND HAVE TOLD US THAT FIRING TAKES PLACE AT NIGHT AT THESE POINTS AS WELL. APPARENTLY, FEDERAL FORCES OFTEN FEELING THREATENED AT NIGHT, REACT STRONGLY.

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PAGE 04 USVIEN 01299 01 OF 03 081438Z

5. EVIDENCE IS COMPELLING THAT FEDERAL HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS ATTACKED THE VILLAGE OF SHALAZHI, IN WESTERN CHECHNYA, ON MAY 1, WITH THE LOSS OF LIVES AND A NUMBER OF WOUNDED. SHALAZHI WAS A BULWARK OF OPPOSITION TO DUDAYEV DURING HIS TIME IN POWER IN GROZNY AND WELCOMED THE NEW AVTURKHANOV/HAJIYEV GOVERNMENT. THE VILLAGERS WERE THUS AT A LOSS TO KNOW WHY THEY WERE ATTACKED. SHALAZHI IS 2 OR 3 KILOMETERS FROM YANDI ALSO KNOWN AS OREKHOVO. A SEPARATIST STRONGHOLD. IN ANOTHER INCIDENT, ON MAY 5 A FEDERAL ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER ATTACKED A CIVILIAN AUTOMOBILE IN THE KALMIN DISTRICT OF GROZNY, KILLING THREE. A GOVERNMENT "EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE" HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED COMPOSED OF FEDERAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO DEAL WITH SUCH INCIDENTS AND REFER THE CASE TO THE FEDERAL MILITARY PROSECUTOR (AS IN THE SAMASHKI AND GUDERMES INCIDENTS) IF THE FACTS WARRANT IT.

6. THE DUDAYEV SIDE HAS THREATENED MASSIVE MILITARY ACTION IN GROZNY ON 9 MAY, THE HOLIDAY COMMEMORATING VICTORY IN EUROPE. FEDERAL FORCES ARE ENGAGED IN HIGH-PROFILE MILITARY MOVEMENTS TO

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PAGE 01 USVIEN 01299 02 OF 03 081439Z
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PAGE 02 USVIEN 01299 02 OF 03 081439Z
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COUNTER THESE THREATS AND AN OFFICIAL CURFEW WAS ESTABLISHED FROM 9PM TO 6AM. IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE CHIEF STEPASHIN VISITED GROZNY RECENTLY. SENIOR AVTURKHANOV/HAJIYEV OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THEY HAVE RECEIVED DEATH THREATS RECENTLY. AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WAS MADE 30 APRIL ON UMAR AVTURKHANOV, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL ACCORD. HIS CAR WAS AMBUSHED AS IT TRAVELED FROM HIS HOME IN ZNAMENSKOYE TO GROZNY. AVTURKHANOV WAS NOT HOWEVER, IN THE CAR AT THE TIME, HE HAD LENT THE VEHICLE TO HIS BROTHER, THE ACTING HEAD OF CUSTOMS. THREE BODYGUARDS WERE WOUNDED IN THE INCIDENT.

7. AVTURKHANOV INTENDS TO PRESIDE AT A WREATHLAYING CEREMONY IN GROZNY ON 9 MAY TO COMMEMORATE THE ALLIED VICTORY IN EUROPE DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR. RUMORS ABOUND IN GROZNY THAT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE TARGET OF AN ATTACK BY DUDAYEV FORCES.

POLITICAL SITUATION

8. FEDERAL COMMANDER TROSHCHEV DID NOT ATTEND TALKS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN NOVYYE ATAGI 4 MAY WITH DUDAYEV COMMANDER MASKHADOV.

9. THE ASSISTANCE GROUP IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO FACILITATE TALKS BETWEEN THE CONCERNED PARTIES. WE HAVE NOW MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL SIDES. ALL HAVE ENCOURAGED THE GROUPS

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PAGE 03 USVIEN 01299 02 OF 03 081439Z
TALKS, ESPECIALLY IN GAINING DUDAYEV'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE
PARTICIPATION OF THE AVTURKHANOV/HAJIYEV SIDE. THIS SIDE, FOR ITS
PART, STRESSES ITS NEED TO PARTICIPATE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
NONCOMBATANT CIVILIAN POPULATION. THE MAY 12 EXPIRATION OF THE
MORATORIUM, IMPERFECTLY OBSERVED THOUGH IT HAS BEEN, PRESENTS THE
DANGER OF FULL SCALE MILITARY ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD MAKE THE
ACCEPTANCE OF TALKS STILL MORE DIFFICULT.

HUMAN RIGHTS

10. IN ANTICIPATION OF ACTIONS MAY 9, THERE ARE CLAIMS THAT
FEDERAL FORCES HAVE STEPPED UP THE CAMPAIGN TO DETAIN YOUNG MEN ON
THE GROUNDS THAT THEIR AGE GROUP PROVIDES THE BULK OF THE DUDAYEV
FIGHTERS. SOME OF THESE HAVE TURNED UP IN FILTRATION CAMPS.
THERE SEEM TO BE TWO SUCH CAMPS IN GROZNY. THE ASSISTANCE GROUP
HAS BEEN APPROACHED SEVERAL TIMES TO HELP TO FIND MISSING PERSNS.
FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE ALLEGED BEATING AND INHUMAN TREATMENT OF
DETAINEES. I HAVE REQUESTED ACCESS TO FILTRATION CAMPS FROM
GENERAL SHUMOV, SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF
INTERNAL AFFAIRS IN CHECHNYA. HE AGREED TO MY REQUEST AND I
INTEND TO VISIT CAMPS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

11. MEMBERS OF THE GROUP 7 MAY VISITED SAMASHKI, SITE OF A 28
APRIL ATTACK BY FEDERAL FORCES. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE INDICATED THAT
SOME HOUSES ON THE OUTSKIRT OF TOWN WERE DAMAGED AS A RESULT OF
BOMBARDMENT. HOWEVER, INSIDE THE TOWN WELL OVER A HUNDRED HOUSES
BORE NO EVIDENCE OF DAMAGE ORIGINATING EXTERNALLY. RATHER, THEY
WERE BURNED BY FIRES SET FROM WITHIN. TRACES OF HAND GRENADES
EXPLODING INDOORS COULD ALSO BE OBSERVED IN MANY HOUSES. THE
EVIDENCE IS CONSONANT WITH ALLEGATIONS MADE BY LOCAL RESIDENTS

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PAGE 04

USVIEN 01299 02 OF 03 0014392

THAT FEDERAL TROOPS OCCUPIED THE VILLAGE WITHOUT MEETING RESISTANCE BUT BURNED AND DESTROYED THE HOUSES AFTER LOOTING THEM, WITH GREAT LOSS OF LIFE. A VILLAGE ELDER WE TALKED WITH, WHO PARTICIPATED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH FEDERAL FORCES, SAID NEGOTIATIONS WERE HELD AS LATE AS THE MORNING OF 27 APRIL. HE STATED THAT ON THE INSISTENCE OF THE ELDERS ALL DUDAYEV FIGHTERS - NUMBERING 200 - HAD LEFT THE TOWN IN THE PREVIOUS DAYS.

HUMANITARIAN AIDS

12. THE GROUP HAS RECEIVED A REQUEST FOR URGENT HELP FROM THE FORMER FIRST CITY HOSPITAL WHICH WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED ON DECEMBER 1, 1994. THERE IS A DISPUTE OVER THE BUILDING THE LOCAL AUTHORITY HAS PROMISED THE HOSPITAL, THERE IS NO MEDICINE AND THERE IS NO EQUIPMENT. THE STAFF OF 400 IS ATTEMPTING TO PROVIDE URGENT ASSISTANCE BY MAKING MOBILE ROUNDS OF THE CITY.

13. REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVERAL HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS WE HAVE

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MET WITH CLAIM THEY ARE ABLE TO GET AID SHIPMENTS THROUGH WITHOUT
UNDUE HINDRANCE AND DELIVER THEM TO THE POPULATION. HOWEVER, MANY
LOCAL INHABITANTS WE HAVE TALKED WITH SAY INTERNATIONAL AID HAS
BEEN SPORADIC OR NONEXISTENT. THIS CLEARLY INDICATES THE

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MAGNITUDE OF THE NEED AND THE REQUIREMENT FOR MORE HUMANITARIAN
AID TO REACH THE REPUBLIC. MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES, WHO HAD BEEN
UNDER SUSPICION OF HAVING TRANSPORTED ARMS IN ONE OF THEIR
VEHICLES REPORTED TO US THAT THEY HAVE BEEN CLEARED BY FEDERAL
AUTHORITIES. END OF TEXT.

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