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NO 1378842

WHO
FLEW TO LAOS SOLELY TO SEEK A REVERSAL ON THE VISA REFUSALS,
SOUGHT THE ASSISTANCE OF "HIS CLOSE FRIEND" AND
MET WITH THE "SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ADVISER" IN THE OFFICE
OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,
AT REQUEST, REPORTEDLY RECONSIDERED AND RECOMMENDED
APPROVAL OF THE BBC VISA "IF THE MPA WOULD TAKE
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE VISIT."

6. ENDOFF HAS ALSO LEARNED [] THAT THE LPOR HAS
TURNED DOWN A REQUEST FOR VISAS FROM A GROUP OF SCIENTISTS.

HAD
PLANNED TO UNDERTAKE AN "OBJECTIVE INVESTIGATION" OF THE
USE OF CBW IN LAOS.

7. COMMENT: THE LPOR APPROVAL OF THE BBC VISIT IS TO OUR
KNOWLEDGE THE FIRST TIME THAT IT HAS PERMITTED THE ENTRY
INTO LAOS OF A NON-COMMUNIST, WESTERN GROUP SOLELY FOR THE
PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATING CBW CHARGES. WE DO NOT BELIEVE,
HOWEVER, THAT IT REPRESENTS A PERMANENT CHANGE IN THE LPOR
POLICY OF DENYING ENTRY INTO LAOS OF GROUPS LOOKING INTO CBW
USE.

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END OF MESSAGE

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