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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	H-01
	MSC-01	NEA-06	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	LAB-04
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R 101355Z APR 89 ZDK
 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0670
 INFO EASTERN EUROPEAN POSTS
 AMEMBASSY ANKARA
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 09230

ROME ALSO FOR INS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PGOV, PINR, UR
 SUBJECT: ABKHAZIA FIRST SECRETARY REMOVED;
 TBILISI DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE

REF: MOSCOW 8922

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

SUMMARY
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2. ON APRIL 6, ABKHAZIA FIRST SECRETARY ADLEYBA WAS
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REMOVED FROM OFFICE AMID REPORTS OF RISING ETHNIC
 TENSION BETWEEN GEORGIANS AND ABKHAZIS THERE SPARKED
 BY CALLS FOR ABKHAZIA'S SECESSION FROM GEORGIA. THE
 REMOVAL OF ADLEYBA MAY HAVE BEEN AIMED AT EASING THE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ROBERT O HOMME
 DATE/CASE ID: 17 MAR 2010 200902056

SITUATION AND AT DEMONSTRATING THE OPPOSITION OF THE GEORGIAN AUTHORITIES TO A CHANGE IN ABKHAZIA'S STATUS. MEANWHILE, LARGE SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS IN TBILISI AGAINST ABKHAZIA'S SECESSION AND FOR GEORGIAN INDEPENDENCE FROM THE USSR CONTINUED THROUGH APRIL 7.

END SUMMARY

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AKHAZIA FIRST SECRETARY SACKED

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3. AN APRIL 6 OBKOM PLENUM REMOVED ABKHAZIA FIRST SECRETARY ADLEYBA, REPORTED "PRAVDA" (APRIL 7). ADLEYVA'S REMOVAL CAME AMIDST THE POLITICAL TURMOIL HE SPARKED BY SIGNING A PETITION MARCH 15 CALLING FOR UNION REPUBLIC STATUS FOR ABKHAZIA (SEE REFTEL). V.F. KHISHBA, THE FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE GEORGIAN COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY MANAGEMENT, WAS ELECTED TO REPLACE ADLEYBA. THE "PRAVDA" REPORT GAVE NO REASON FOR ADLEYBA'S REMOVAL. GEORGIAN FIRST SECRETARY PATIASHVILI SPOKE AT THE PLENUM. AN ABKHAZI WRITER TOLD A WESTERN CORRESPONDENT THAT PATIASHVILI HAD DECIDED TO SACK ADLEYBA BECAUSE OF THE LATTER'S SUPPORT FOR ABKHAZIA'S SECESSION (REFTEL). ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCE, LESS THAN 100 ABKHAZI'S STAGED A PUBLIC PROTEST APRIL 7 IN SUKHUMI OVER ADLEYBA'S REMOVAL.

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4. ADLEYBA'S REMOVAL COINCIDED WITH PUBLIC CALLS BY RADICAL GEORGIAN DEMONSTRATION LEADERS IN TBILISI FOR A MASS INFLUX OF GEORGIAN'S TO ABKHAZIA ON APRIL 9 TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST SECESSION. HIS FIRING MAY HAVE BEEN PART OF AN EFFORT AT TAMPING DOWN ETHNIC STRIFE IN THE AREA. AS OF APRIL 6, TRANSPORTATION WORKERS (REPORTEDLY MOSTLY NON-ABKHAZI) IN SUKHUMI, THE ABKHAZIA CAPITAL, WERE STILL ON STRIKE, ACCORDING TO DISSIDENT GEORGIAN SOURCES.

5. WHILE ADLEYBA HAD BEEN ABKHAZIA FIRST SECRETARY SINCE 1978, HE WAS NEITHER A CC MEMBER NOR A CANDIDATE CC MEMBER. HE WAS ELECTED, HOWEVER, TO THE CONGRESS OF PEOPLE'S DEPUTIES (REFTEL).

DEMONSTRATIONS IN TBILISI

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6. MEANWHILE LARGE-SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS IN FRONT OF THE TBILISI GOVERNMENT HOUSE CONTINUED APRIL 6 AND 7. AN OFFICIAL AT "GRUZINFORM", THE OFFICIAL GEORGIAN NEWS AGENCY, ESTIMATED THE NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATORS AT 100,000. MOST TBILISI FACTORIES AND SCHOOLS WERE REPORTEDLY CLOSED. GEORGIAN DISSIDENT SOURCES GAVE A COMPARABLE ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATORS. NEWLY-ELECTED GEORGIAN SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDUM CHAIRMAN CHERKEZIYA ADDRESSED THE DEMONSTRATORS ON APRIL 4, AND CALLED THE SITUATION IN ABKHAZIA "DANGEROUS FOR GEORGIA," REPORTED GEORGIAN DISSIDENT SOURCES. STRIKE ORGANIZERS REPORTEDLY HAVE SET UP A FUND FOR STRIKING WORKERS.

SPLIT AMONG DEMONSTRATION LEADERS

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7. DEMONSTRATIONS ORGANIZERS HAVE SPLIT OVER THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF GEORGIAN INDEPENDENCE AND THE ABKHAZIA ISSUE. MODERATES IN THE IL'YA CHAVCHAVADZE SOCIETY AND RUSTAVELLI SOCIETY, AS WELL AS RADICALS IN THE SAINT IL'YA SOCIETY, HAVE SOUGHT TO FOCUS PUBLIC ATTENTION ON ABKHAZIA. WHEREAS RADICALS IN THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY (NIM) INVOLVED IN ORGANIZING THE DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE REJECTED CALLS FOR A MASS INFLUX OF GEORGIANS TO ABKHAZIA AND HAVE EMPHAZIZED THE GOAL
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OF GEORGIAN INDEPENDENCE FROM THE USSR. MODERATE GEORGIAN NATIONALIST ZURAB CHAVCHAVADZE, ADDRESSING DEMONSTRATORS APRIL 5, REPORTEDLY CALLED FOR ADLEYBA'S REMOVAL. HUNGER STRIKERS IN FRONT OF THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE NUMBERED 170 ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 7, ACCORDING TO GEORGIAN DISSIDENT SOURCES. IN ADDITION, HALF OF THE GEORGIAN TV STAFF REPORTEDLY HAD GONE OUT ON STRIKE, LIMITING TV PROGRAM BROADCASTS.

8. LENINGRAD MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. JOYCE

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