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TAGS: AORC, SENV, UN

SUBJECT: EC IN CSD: EC REACTS TO END-GAME PROPOSAL

TO: IO/T-BURKETTE-78902
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1. DURING DISCUSSIONS MID-DAY FEBRUARY 3 WITH EC REPRESENTATIVES, MISSION BROACHED PROPOSAL THAT BEST WAY OUT OF CURRENT IMPASSE WOULD BE ACCEPTANCE OF UNSYG'S REPORT ON ERC PARTICIPATION IN THE CSD AS A TOTAL PACKAGE, INCLUDING THE LANGUAGE OF THE PROPOSED ECOSOC DECISION IN PARAGRAPH 11 ALONG WITH CLEAR REFERENCE TO PARAGRAPHS 9 THROUGH 13 TO PROVIDE CONTEXT FOR UNDERSTANDING. EC REPS FLATLY DECLARED THE SYG'S LANGUAGE UNACCEPTABLE, ASSERTING THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE NOTHING THAN TO HAVE LANGUAGE GIVING THE FALSE APPEARANCE OF PROVIDING SOMETHING. U.S. SIDE INDICATED THAT NOTHING -- THAT IS, NO CHANGE IN THE STANDARD RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS SPECIFICALLY TO ACCOMMODATE THE EC -- WOULD BE COMPLETELY ACCEPTABLE TO THE U.S., AS RULE 74 WOULD THEN APPLY, WHICH WAS THE ORIGINAL U.S. POSITION.

2. EC REPS ATTEMPTED TO OPEN UP DISCUSSION ON YET

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ANOTHER VERSION OF THEIR PROPOSED LANGUAGE REPORTED REF (B). U.S. SIDE MADE CLEAR IT WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS SUCH AN APPROACH, EVEN INFORMALLY, AND WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE TO CONVEY ANY SUCH PROPOSALS TO WASHINGTON. MEETING CLOSED WITH TENTATIVE SUGGESTION FROM EC REP TO UN THAT HE MIGHT BE WILLING TO TRY TO SELL THE SYG'S PACKAGE TO BRUSSELS, BUT ONLY IF PARAGRAPH 13 DESCRIBING THE PREVAILING PRACTICE ON INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS IS EXCISED (THAT IS, NOT EXPLICITLY REFERRED TO IN THE ECOSOC ACTION).

3. FOLLOWING TELECONS THAT DESCRIBED CONTENTS OF REF (A), MISSION REPS DISCUSSED THE SITUATION WITH AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND JAPAN LATE IN THE DAY ON FEB. 3. ALL WERE PREPARED TO SUPPORT TOTAL SYG PACKAGE APPROACH.

4. SEPARATELY, PRELIMINARY CONTACTS ALSO TOOK PLACE WITH THE G77. THEY HAD SOME DOUBTS ABOUT THE TEXT OF THE ECOSOC DECISION PRESENTED IN PARAGRAPH 11 OF SYG'S REPORT, ESPECIALLY THE GRANT OF APPARENTLY UNRESTRICTED RIGHTS TO INTRODUCE PROPOSALS. G77 WAS STILL CAUCUSING ON THIS AND OTHER CSD ISSUES, HOWEVER, AND MISSION WAS UNABLE TO CONSULT ON DETAILS OF THEIR CONCERNS TO CONSIDER HOW THEY MIGHT BE ADDRESSED.

5. THE EC HAD MEANWHILE INDICATED THAT THE SYG'S REPORT WAS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND FELT THAT U.S. OBJECTIONS TO LANGUAGE ALONG THE LINE PROPOSED BY THE EC WAS "PETTY, FORMALISTIC." EC REPS CLAIMED THAT TROIKA DEMARCHE BY AMBASSADORS AND THE COMMISSION IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON WAS PLANNED.

6. MISSION MET WITH EC, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN MORNING OF FEBRUARY 4. OVER THE COURSE OF SEVERAL HOURS OF DISCUSSION, THE EC REPS (LESS THE EC REP TO THE UN) REVIEWED IN DETAIL THEIR DESIRES, CONCLUDING WITH THE INSISTENCE THAT THEY HAD TO HAVE LANGUAGE ALONG THE LINES OF THEIR PROPOSAL INSTEAD OF THE LANGUAGE IN PARAGRAPH 11 OF THE UNSYG'S REPORT.

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7. FEB. 4 MORNING MEETING THUS ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY, WITH EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET ON LACK OF AGREEMENT AND NEED TO GET CSD UP AND RUNNING SOON -- ESPECIALLY SINCE THE ORGANIZING SESSION WAS SCHEDULED FOR FEB. 24-26. SUBSEQUENTLY, MISSION LEARNED THAT DANES, AS HOLDER OF EC PRESIDENCY, APPROACHED SECRETARIAT TO EXPRESS REGRET THAT NO AGREEMENT APPEARED IMMINENT ON EC PARTICIPATION, AND THAT ACCORDINGLY THERE MIGHT BE NO RULES OF PROCEDURE ADOPTED FOR THE CSD. SECRETARIAT MADE CLEAR THAT, IN ABSENCE OF ANY EXPLICIT ECOSOC DECISION TO THE CONTRARY, THE STANDARD RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS OF ECOSOC WOULD APPLY. (NOTE: THIS, OF COURSE, WOULD BE ENTIRELY ACCEPTABLE FROM THE U.S. PERSPECTIVE, THOUGH WORK WOULD REMAIN TO BE DONE ON THE QUESTION OF "GRANDFATHERING" UNCED-ACCREDITED NGOS ONTO THE ROSTER FOR CONSULTATIVE STANDING WITH ECOSOC AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES -- SPECIFICALLY THE CSD. END NOTE)

8. COMMENT. IT HAS BECOME QUITE CLEAR THAT THE EC IS BENT ON ACHIEVING NEW, SUI GENERIS STATUS FOR THE EC IN THE UN. IT WILL THEREFORE BE IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT ANY EC PROPOSALS ARE VERY CAREFULLY VETTED FOR THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UN SYSTEM. IT FURTHER SUGGESTS THAT WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVELY THE QUESTION OF HOW FAR THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO GO REGARDING THE EC'S ROLE IN THE UN SYSTEM. OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE CLEAR TO EC THIS NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW MAY ARISE IF PROMISED TROIKA DEMARCHE MATERIALIZES. END COMMENT. ALBRIGHT##

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