TO DIRECTOR.
RYBAT

PLS PASS FOLLOWING FROM MIKLOS TO NAAS:

SUBJECT: P-3 OPERATIONS

1. APPRECIATE YOUR MESSAGE AND CONGRATULATE YOU ON PRODUCING SOME MOVEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. WE BELIEVE COVER STORY SHOULD STICK AS CLOSE TO FACTS AS POSSIBLE. SUGGEST THAT IF ASKED WE TAKE POSITION ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: P-3 AIRCRAFT OCCASIONALLY VISIT BANDAR ABBAS ON A NON-SCHEDULED BASIS, SUBJECT TO GOI AUTHORIZATION AND FLIGHT CLEARANCES. DURING THEIR STOP-OVERS IN BANDAR ABBAS P-3 PILOTS AND CREWS MAKE THEMSELVES AVAILABLE FOR DISCUSSIONS OF OPERATIONS WITH THEIR IRANIAN COUNTERPARTS WHO FLY IIAF P-3'S. ON OCCASION, JOINT USN-IIAF EXERCISES ARE CONDUCTED USING P-3 AIRCRAFT. FLYING TO AND FROM BANDAR ABBAS, USN P-3'S GENERALLY CONDUCT ROUTINE RECONNAISSANCE EXERCISES.

3. IF WASHINGTON COMMUNITY AGREES TO FOREGOING, IT SHOULD BE CHECKED OUT WITH GOI BY US BEFORE PUTTING INTO EFFECT.

HR70-14
(U)

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2008
4. WOULD HOPE THAT NEW ARRANGEMENT WOULD REMOVE NEED FOR CONTINUOUS PRESENCE OF USN PERSONNEL AT BANDAR ABBAS TO SUPPORT P-3'S. WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF U.S. BASE.

5. NO FILE. E2, IMPDET.

SECRET