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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	A-00	CCO-00	DODE-00	DS-00	EUR-00
	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	M-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OCS-03	PM-00	P-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00
	USSS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	SAS-00	/003W		
				-----4ECED6	020508Z	/40	

R 311424Z MAR 03
FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3406
INFO CIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DAKAR

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BANJUL 000280

NOFORN

TERREP EXCLUSIVE

FOR S/CT, AF, AF/W, INR

FOR CTC

B1

DAKAR ALSO FOR

LONDON ALSO FOR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 1.6X1

TAGS: PTER, PREL, PHUM,

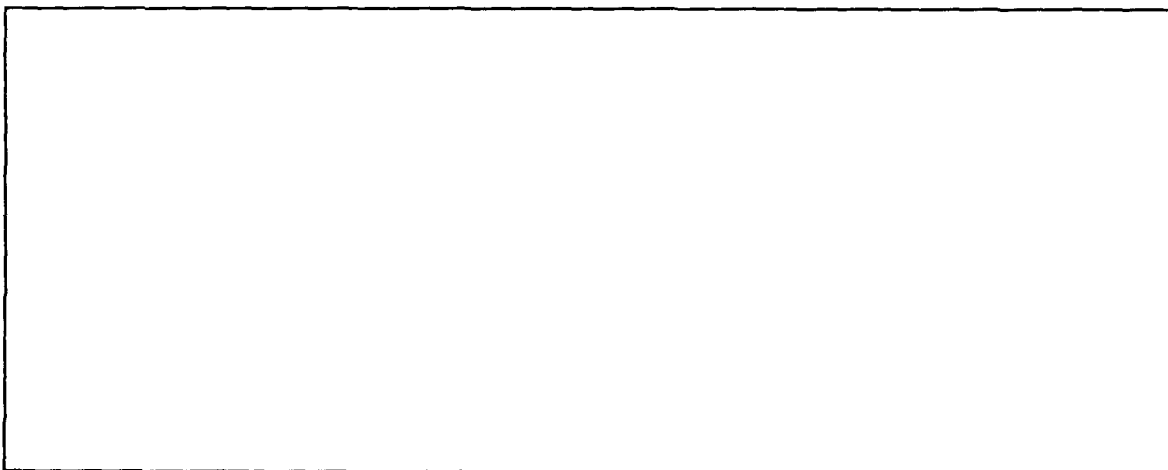
SUBJECT:

REFS: 02 BANJUL 1196 AND PREVIOUS

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JACKSON MCDONALD. REASON 1.6X1

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3. (SBU) ON MARCH 28, AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS OF SILENCE, "THE INDEPENDENT" NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED ANOTHER FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE ABOUT THE FATE OF BISHAR AL-RAWI AND JAMIL EL BANNA. ("THE INDEPENDENT" OFTEN CRITICIZES THE GAMBIAN GOVERNMENT AND, WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY, PUBLISHES ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS CRITICAL OF THE USG AS WELL.) WE ARE PROVIDING BELOW, FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THE FULL TEXT OF THE ARTICLE IN QUESTION.

4. (U) BEGIN TEXT:

"GAMBIA'S AL-QAEDA SAGA STILL UNRESOLVED"

THE UNCERTAIN FATE OF TWO MEN ARRESTED IN THE GAMBIA AS ALLEGED MEMBERS OF AN AL-QAEDA TERRORIST CELL IN WEST AFRICA HAS HEIGHTENED CONCERN FROM A HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN, DETERMINED TO SEE AN END TO THEIR PLIGHT UNDER CONTINUING US CUSTODY.

THE GERMAN BRANCH OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS RENEWED CALLS FOR <<UNITED>> <<STATES>> PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH AND THE GAMBIAN LEADER YAHYA JAMMEH TO EXPLAIN THE FATE OF THE TWO MEN OF MIDDLE EASTERN EXTRACTION, WITH ALLEGED LINKS TO OSAMA BIN LADIN'S AL-QAEDA AND STILL KEPT IN INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION.

BISHAR AL-RAWI AN IRAQI AND JAMIL AL-BANNA A JORDANIAN WERE FLOWN TO A US AIRBASE IN BAGRAM NORTHERN <<AFGHANISTAN>> IN JANUARY AFTER SPENDING MORE THAN A MONTH IN INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION IN THE HANDS OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (NIA) IN THE GAMBIA AND SUBJECTED TO REPORTEDLY GRILLING SESSIONS OF INTERROGATION CONDUCTED BY CIA OFFICIALS.

IN A FEBRUARY 22 LETTER OF PROTEST TO PRESIDENT BUSH AND TO THE GAMBIA GOVERNMENT THE GERMAN CHAPTER OF AI SAYS IT

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CONSIDERS THE TWO MEN AT RISK OF ILL-<<TREATMENT>> OR OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN AND DEGRADING <<TREATMENT>> WHILE AT THE BAGRAM AIRBASE, WHICH IS SUSPECTED TO HOLD 40 TO 60 <<DETAINÉES>> AT ANY ONE TIME.


AI-GERMANY DEMANDED THE RELEASE OF THE TWO MEN IF THEY ARE NOT TO BE PROMPTLY CHARGED WITH A RECOGNIZED CRIMINAL OFFENCE AND BROUGHT TO JUSTICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF A FAIR TRIAL AND WITHOUT RECOURSE TO THE DEATH PENALTY.

THE GERMAN BRANCH OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL QUOTED AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 26TH, 2002, IN THE WASHINGTON POST, ALLEGING THAT SUSPECTED AL-QAEDA <<DETAINÉES>> MAY BE SUBJECTED TO CIA "STRESS AND DURESS" TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING BEING KEPT STANDING OR KNEELING FOR HOURS, IN BLACK HOODS

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L 2002, THE PARENT BODY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SUBMITTED A MEMORANDUM TO THE US GOVERNMENT COPIED TO THE GAMBIAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE US AMBASSADOR TO THE GAMBIA JACKSON MCDONALD ON THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE IN US CUSTODY IN <<AFGHANISTAN>> AND GUANTANAMO BAY. THE MEMORANDUM INCLUDED ALLEGATIONS BY SOME OF THOSE DETAINED THAT THEY WERE ILL-TREATED WHILE IN US MILITARY CUSTODY. ITS GERMAN BRANCH OBSERVED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN FURTHER ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE OR ILL-<<TREATMENT>> BY US MILITARY PERSONNEL SINCE ITS MEMORANDUM WAS ISSUED.

END TEXT.

5. (C) 

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MCDONALD

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