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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 022731

E.O. 12958: DECL: 1/30/2006
TAGS: MASS, MARR, PREL, US, ID
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO PRESIDENT SOEHARTO ON
PEACE GATE F-16'S

REF: JAKARTA 757

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1. CLASSIFIED BY ACTING DAS MICHAEL P. OWENS; REASON:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES E LAHIGUERA
DATE/CASE ID: 09 AUG 2011 200704817

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1.5(D).

2. DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH AMBASSADOR'S RECOMMENDATION (REFTEL) THAT THE PRESIDENT SEND A LETTER TO INDONESIAN PRESIDENT SOEHARTO URGING THAT INDONESIA PURCHASE THE PEACE GATE (PAKISTANI) F-16'S. WITH THE DECISION NOW ON PRESIDENT SOEHARTO'S DESK, AND OTHER COUNTRIES LURKING IN THE WINGS WITH THEIR OWN AIRCRAFT TO SELL, WE AGREE THAT NOW IS AN OPPORTUNE TIME FOR HIGH LEVEL ADVOCACY. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING LETTER (PARA 3) TO SOEHARTO FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNED ORIGINAL.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS AGAIN MY SATISFACTION THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO ATTEND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ADD INDONESIA'S VOICE IN SUPPORT OF THIS VITAL GLOBAL INSTITUTION. I WAS ALSO PLEASED THAT WE WERE ABLE TO HAVE A USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE MEETING IN WASHINGTON FOLLOWING YOUR UNITED NATIONS APPEARANCE. I NOW HAVE THE PLEASURE OF FOLLOWING UP ON ONE OF THE IMPORTANT DEFENSE-RELATED TOPICS WHICH WE DISCUSSED AT THAT TIME.

I AM WRITING YOU CONCERNING OUR OFFER TO ACT AS AN AGENT IN THE SALE TO INDONESIA OF SOME OR ALL OF THE 28 PEACE GATE F-16 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT BELONGING TO PAKISTAN. RECENTLY, AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS AND MILITARY EXPERTS, WE PROVIDED PRICE

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INFORMATION FOR THESE F-16 AIRCRAFT TO YOUR ARMED FORCES HEADQUARTERS.

INDONESIA IS WELL AWARE OF THE QUALITIES OF THE F-16 SINCE YOUR INITIAL ACQUISITION OF 12 IN 1989. THROUGH YOUR HOSTING OF THE COPE WEST SERIES OF EXERCISES, BOTH OF OUR AIR FORCES HAVE BENEFITTED FROM THE USE OF INTEROPERABLE SYSTEMS. THESE EXERCISES, MADE POSSIBLE BY THE INDONESIAN AIR FORCE'S DEPLOYMENT OF F-16'S, HAVE CONTRIBUTED MATERIALLY TO CLOSER BILATERAL MILITARY

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COOPERATION.

THE 28 PEACE GATE AIRCRAFT ARE UNUSED AIRCRAFT IN EXCELLENT CONDITION. THEY ARE COMPATIBLE WITH YOUR CURRENT FLEET OF F-16'S, THEY CAN BE SUPPORTED BY YOUR PRESENT LOGISTICS SYSTEM, AND THEY ARE AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY. WE ARE CURRENTLY EXPLORING WITH YOUR OFFICIALS OPTIONS FOR LOW-COST, COMMERCIAL FINANCING FOR THIS ACQUISITION.

OUR OFFER TO SELL THE PEACE GATE F-16'S TO INDONESIA IS A DEMONSTRATION OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF THE REGION AND OF OUR RECOGNITION OF INDONESIA'S NEEDS IN DEFENDING ITS VAST TERRITORY. WE REMAIN COMMITTED BOTH TO THE SECURITY OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AND TO THE MANY ELEMENTS OF OUR IMPORTANT AND GROWING BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, INCLUDING OUR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TIES. I HOPE WE WILL HAVE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS IMPORTANT PURCHASE.

SINCERELY

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BILL CLINTON

END TEXT.
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