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Department of State

RELEASE IN  
PART B6

TELEGRAM

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R 200859Z APR 83  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0335

Room 3648

UNCLAS VIENNA 04851

AFSA

DISSENT CHANNEL

E. O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT: SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

REF: STATE AFSA 75499

1. SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS RIGHTLY PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW AND REGULATION. SUCH BEHAVIOR HAS NO PLACE IN AN ORGANIZATION OF ANY SORT. ALL RIGHT-THINKING MEN AND WOMEN SUPPORT THE SUPPRESSION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, IN PARTICULAR, HAVE EXTENSIVE MEANS OF DEALING WITH SUCH ABUSES AND HAVE THE ASSURANCE THAT CORRECTIVE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN.

2. WHY THEN MUST AFSA, WHICH SHOULD BE CONCENTRATING ON LABOR MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS AND DEFEATING THE ASSAULT ON OUR PENSION PLAN, STICK ITS NOSE WHERE IT DOES NOT BELONG? NATURALLY WE ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT, BUT THE AFSA GUIDELINES MAKE IT APPEAR THAT EVEN THE MOST INNOCENT GESTURE IS REPREHENSIBLE AND SUBJECT TO SEVERE DISCIPLINARY ACTION. WITH ITS OPEN INVITATION TO SECRETLY "BLOW THE WHISTLE" ON ANYBODY THAT MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE INTENDED OFFENSE, AFSA HAS CARRIED THE WORKPLACE'S LEGITIMATE CONCERN WITH SEXUAL HARASSMENT TO DANGEROUS AND EXAGGERATED HEIGHTS. ONE IS REMINDED OF THE RUMOURS OF J. EDGAR'S DIRTY LITTLE FILE ON POLITICIANS WHO MIGHT TRY TO UNSEAT HIM. THE INFORMAL DENOUNCING SYSTEM (SHADES OF GEORGE ORWELL'S 1984 - ) SET UP IN PARAGRAPH 8 OF REFTEL SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY AND PUBLICLY RETRACTED. THE POTENTIAL FOR ABUSES OF THIS UNREGULATED SPY SYSTEM IS STAGGERING.

3. AT LEAST THE PERSONAL INFORMATION-GATHERING APPARATUS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS CONTROLLED BY THE PRIVACY ACT AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. WHO CONTROLS AFSA'S FILES? AFSA MUST GET OUT OF THE SPY BUSINESS AND GO BACK TO ITS AREAS OF COMPETENCE -- AS DEFINED IN THE EXECUTIVE ORDER ---NOW.

4. IN TRANSMITTING REFTEL, AFSA EXCEEDED ITS CHARTER. THAT ERROR MUST BE RECTIFIED BEFORE MANAGEMENT USES IT AS AN EXCUSE TO CENSOR AFSA CABLES PRIOR TO TRANSMISSION -- OR TO TAKE OTHER ACTION DETRIMENTAL TO AFSA AS THE SOLE BARGAINING RPT BARGAINING AGENT FOR FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL.

5. LOCAL AFSA REP SAW THIS TELEGRAM PRIOR TO TRANSMISSION.

[Redacted] AFSA MEMBER, AND OTHERS. CHEERS

POLANSKY *Ch...*

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT RPT NOT PASSED AFSA BY OC/T.

4/21  
DB:  
Copy for your records

*Ehrz*  
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OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

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RELEASE IN  
PART B6

DRAFTED BY S/P-OF: EESVENDSEN: MEG  
APPROVED BY-S/P-OF: EESVENDSEN  
S/P: DBANDLER

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R 300612Z APR 83  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS STATE 119475

DISSENT CHANNEL FOR [REDACTED] FROM OPEN FORUM

B6

E. D. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: N/A  
SUBJECT: SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

REF: VIENNA 04581

CHAIRMAN ERIC SVENDSEN

1. YOUR MESSAGE ON "SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE" SLUGGED FOR THE DISSENT CHANNEL HAS RECEIVED LIMITED DISTRIBUTION TO S/P ONLY. THERE IS SOME QUESTION WHETHER THIS IS PROPERLY A DISSENT CHANNEL MATTER, SINCE THE ISSUE INVOLVES A DISPUTE WITHIN AFSA RATHER THAN A SUBSTANTIVE FOREIGN POLICY QUESTION. HOWEVER, I HAVE PROVIDED AFSA PRESIDENT DENNIS HAYES WITH A COPY OF YOUR MESSAGE, AND AFSA IS CURRENTLY PREPARING A COORDINATED RESPONSE TO THE POINTS RAISED. IF THE MATTER IS NOT RESOLVED WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME, WE WILL CONSIDER FURTHER STEPS. REGARDS.

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