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GOCAR AND GT&E SIGN NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONTRACT

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Executive Order:	GS
TAGS:	BOKASSA - Jean-Bédel Bokassa (/plusd/?q=&qftags=BOKASSA#result) | CT - Central African Republic (/plusd/?q=&qftags=CT#result) | ETEL - Economic Affairs--Telecommunications and Postal Systems and Equipment (/plusd/?q=&qftags=ETEL#result) | PFOR - Political Affairs--Foreign Policy and Relations (/plusd/?q=&qftags=PFOR#result)
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0059

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ETEL, CT
SUBJECT: GOCAR AND GT&E SIGN NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONTRACT

1. GOCAR AND GENERAL TELEPHONE AND ELECTRONICS SIGNED JANUARY 23 TWO NEW ACCORDS FOR MICROWAVE RELAY SYSTEM NOW BEING CONSTRUCTED IN CAR. FIRST ACCORD IS 2.8 MILLION DLRS ADDITION TO EXISTING CONTRACT WHICH WILL PERMIT COMPLETION OF FIRST PHASE OF PROJECT AND PUT IT INTO FULL OPERATION BY BEGINNING OF 1975 FOR BANGUI ANDWESTERN PART OF COUNTRY. ALSO INCLUDED IS GTE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR MANAGEMENT OF SYSTEM ONCE IN OPERATION. OTHER ACCORD DEALS WITH SECOND PHASE OF PROJECT WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY EXTEND SYSTEM THROUGHOUT MOST OF REST OF COUNTRY. DETAILS OF ACCORDS FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.

2. ACCORDS WERE SIGNED PERSONALLY BY PRESIDENT BOKASSA DN BY MESSRS. EDGAR AND BOGUSLAVSKI FOR GTE IN WELL-PUBLICIZED PUBLIC CEREMONY TO WHICH I WAS INVITED. EVENT CONFIDENTIAL

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TURNED INTO RATHER WARM AND EFFUSIVE DISPLAY OF AMERICAN-CENTRAL AFRICAN FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION.

3. IN BOKASSA'S PUBLIC REMARKS WHICH WERE SUMMARIZED ON RADIO AND BROADCAST IN FULL ON TV, HE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO GTE AND USG. HE PRAISED US AS WORLD'S GREATEST POWER BOTH IN PHYSICAL AND HUMANITARIAN SENSE AND ALSO MENTIONED APPRECIATION FOR US PEACE-MAKING ROLE IN WORLD. BOGUSLAVSKI IN REPLY STRESSED COOPERATION OF GOCAR IN CREATING CONDITIONS FAVORABLE TO OPERATIONS OF PRIVATE FIRMS SUCH AS GTE AND ESSENTIAL ROLE OF EXIM BANK, AN INSTRUMENT OF USG.

4. IN PERSONAL COMMENTS TO ME AT CEREMONY, BOKASSA EXPRESSED PROFOUND GRATITUDE FOR SELF-HELP ASSISTANCE TO PILOT VILLAGE PROJECT AT KM. 22 (WHERE WE HAVE CONSTRUCTED MOTHER-

CHILD CLINIC AND WITH FUNDS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE HAVE SIGNED
AGREEMENT TO FURNISH MATERIAL TO CONSTRUCT POST OFFICE.)

5. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWING SIGNING CEREMONY, BOKASSA EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MAKING PRIVATE VISIT TO US IN SEPTEMBER AS GUESTS OF "HIS FRIENDS" THE ASTRONAUTS, A PROJECT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED WITH GTE OFFICIALS. HE ASLO CRITICIZED INACTIVITY OF FRENCH URANIUM FIRM URBA AT BAKOUMA AND SAID ALUSUISSE HAD OPENED OFFICE HERE 19TH TO BEGIN EXPLORATION OF URANIUM DEPOSIT UNDER ITS NEW CONTRACT.

5. IN ALL HIS COMMENTS BOKASSA EXPRESSED HIS DEEP GRATITUDE TO GTE AND DESCRIBED THEM AS MODEL EXAMPLE OF PRIVATE FIRM IN ITS OPERATIONS IN GOCAR. HE ALSO WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO BE FRIENDLY TO ME AND SHOW APPRECIATION FOR WHAT WE DO HERE.

6. COMMENT: AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, THE PENDULUM IS SWINGINGIN FAVORABLE DIRECTION WITH RESPECT US-GOCAR RELATIONS.
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