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(U) Full text of the Sunday Star-Times article can be found at: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/sundaystartimes/> Burnett date:2006-01-26T01:51:00 source:Embassy Wellington origin:06WELLINGTON67 destination:This record is a partial extract of the original cable

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classification:CONFIDENTIAL reference:06SECSTATE4745|06SECSTATE4746 C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 000067 SIPDIS STATE FOR IO/UNP, EAP/ANP-DRICCI E.O

12958: DECL: 01/25/2016 TAGS: PREL, ADCO, PHU..

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 000067 SIPDIS STATE FOR IO/UNP, EAP/ANP-DRICCI E.O

12958: DECL: 01/25/2016 TAGS: PREL, ADCO, PHUM, KUNR, NZ, UNGA SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND SUPPORTS MOST U.S GOALS FOR UN REFORM REF: A

(A) SECSTATE 4746 B

(B) SECSTATE 4745 (U) Classified by: Charge d'Affaires David R Burnett

Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d)

1

(SBU) New Zealand concurs with most U.S objectives for UN reform

Charge delivered refs A and B on January 25 to Caroline Forsyth, deputy secretary of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Forsyth said that reforming UN management was a key priority for New Zealand, that all UN mandates should be reviewed, and that the new Human Rights Council should have the ability to consider country-specific resolutions

But New Zealand does not want to specify that a two-thirds vote be required to pass such resolutions, and it does not support automatic P-5 membership on the council

Management reform -----2

(C) Forsyth said giving the Secretariat the authority to shift staff positions and to redeploy resources to meet the UN's goals is in line with how New Zealand manages its public services

New Zealand was pleased to contribute to the compromise that set both a spending cap and a deadline for implementing the management reforms

Forsyth saw the extended deadline as providing time to encourage the Secretariat to sort out personnel and budget regulations and SIPDIS achieve c

ompromises on reforms

But she predicted that the G-77 would hamper progress on the reforms

3

(SBU) All UN General Assembly mandates should be reviewed, Forsyth said

While the issue needed to be handled sensitively, she added, the "deadwood" needed to be cleared away

Forsyth pointed out that some member states portray management reform and mandate review as attacks on the UN

She also noted the U.S.

need for these reforms to be implemented to ensure Congressional support for the organization.

Human Rights Council -----4

(SBU) Forsyth cited progress on forming a Human Rights Council, but expected its creation would entail difficult tradeoffs

New Zealand prefers a smaller council

Forsyth said her government did not support the automatic inclusion of the Security Council's permanent members on the Human Rights Council, which, if the council were smaller, would "crowd out the rest of us." The Charge said that a smaller group would improve efficiency

He added that, while the United States is not seeking guarantees that it or other P-5 members be elected to the council, it wants members to have strong human-rights records

Forsyth said consensus had not yet formed, even among like-minded countries, on whether a two-thirds "supermajority" should be required to elect council members, and she warned that such a requirement could be a "two-edged sword" by not letting some members in

5

(SBU) Forsyth said New Zealand wants the council to be able to address country-specific situations

But it opposes requiring a two-thirds majority for the passage of country-specific resolutions and instead would leave the issue to the council to resolve

The Charge expressed concern that if the council set its own rules for voting, the bar might be placed so high that no country could be taken to task for human rights abuses

Other issues -----6

(C) New Zealand was disappointed that the Outcome Document did not include nonproliferation and disarmament goals, but it remained committed to building on the World Summit and improving the UN's operations, Forsyth said

Like the United States, New Zealand was pleased with the effort to establish a Peacebuilding Commission

While continuing to oppose the veto in the Security Council, New Zealand supports Japan's membership in an expanded council

But Forsyth did not expect council reform to occur anytime soon, and she predicted that the process of selecting a new Secretary-General would "not encourage boldness." Burnett