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

From: SMART Archive
Sent: 5/24/2013 5:51:37 AM
To: svcSMARTHBTSPOP3
Subject: Cameroon: President Biya Reviews Regional and Bilateral issues and Tells DAS Akuetteh He Wants More ACOTA Training

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

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Reference:	13 YAOUNDE 97
Subject:	Cameroon: President Biya Reviews Regional and Bilateral issues and Tells DAS Akuetteh He Wants More ACOTA Training

1.4(B)
1.4(D)

2. (SBU) On May 23, Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) of State for African Affairs Cynthia Akuetteh and Ambassador Robert Jackson met with President Paul Biya and Minister Paul Atanga Nji, the Permanent Secretary of Cameroon's National Security Council, for an hour. Biya welcomed the visit, noting that it reflects our excellent bilateral relations. He also seized the opportunity to thank President Obama for his national day message and to express his condolences on the loss of life in Oklahoma. DAS Akuetteh, in turn, thanked Biya and congratulated him on Cameroon's national day and on the successful creation of a Senate with 18 opposition politicians and 20 women. Akuetteh then steered the conversation to regional issues.

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Trade and Investment

9. (SBU) DAS Akuetteh noted that General Electric has followed up on its February meeting with Biya in Paris and is very interested in working with ECC to provide potable water to Yaounde through a $50 million emergency project and a $600 million medium-term project that both have ExImBank's interest. She also urged Biya to move quickly to make the required $3.6 million deposit on two Boeing 787 Dreamliners for Camair-Co, the national carrier, if the planes are to be delivered in 2015 vice 2019. Biya said, "We love Boeing," but professed that he was not aware of the urgency and promised to speak with Prime Minister Philemon Yang, who chairs Camair-Co, and Minister of Transport Robert Nkili. Finally, Akuetteh said that we hoped that the Government could resolve its dispute with palm-oil producer Herakles Farms. Biya responded that nongovernmental organizations are adamantly opposed to this project; however, Cameroon has thousands of hectares of forests and there is no reason for this project not to move forward. He asked Minister Atanga Nji to work with Minister of Forests and Wildlife Philip Ngwese Ngole to address the issues that had led the latter to order Herakles to cease operations on May 10. Biya also cited Cameroon's new investment code, which the National Assembly approved in April, and praised American company Hydromine for helping to identify the minerals that are now being developed by Australian, Chinese, German, and South Korean investors. (**Note**: Ambassador Jackson subsequently provided Atanga Nji with extensive documentation on the Herakles investment and dispute. **End Note**.)

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12. (U) DAS Akuetteh has cleared this message.

Signature:	JACKSON
Classified By:	Name: Robert P. Jackson, Title: Ambassador Office: Exec Agency: State
Reason:	1.4 (b), (d)
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