

Exchange Mail

Declassified Under Authority of the
 Interagency Security Classification Appeals
 Panel, E.O. 13526, sec. 5.3(b)(3)
 ISCAP Appeal No. 2017-191, document 46
 Declassification Date: May 2, 2022



DATE-TIME 08/01/2000 4:12:44 PM
 FROM Harris, Grant T. (AF)
 CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~
 CLASSIFICATIONREASON 1.5(c)(d)
 DATECLASSIFIEDON 07/26/2000
 DECLASSIFYON 07/27/2010
 SUBJECT RE: Victor Butt/diamonds [~~SECRET~~]
 TO Wolosky, Lee S. (TNT)

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY

Thanks, Lee. I am going to cut and paste and will show you the product.

-----Original
 Message-----
 From: Wolosky, Lee S. (TNT)
 Sent: Tuesday, August
 01, 2000 3:59 PM
 To: Harris, Grant T. (AF)
 Subject: FW: Victor
 Butt/diamonds [~~SECRET~~]

-----Original Message-----
 From: Wolosky,
 Lee S. (TNT)
 Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2000 7:50 PM
 To: Shapiro,
 Daniel B. (LEGIS); Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)
 Cc: Feldman, Daniel
 F. (MULTI); Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); @CRIME; @LEGISLAT -
 Legislative
 Affairs; @AFRICA - African Affairs
 Subject: RE: Victor Butt/diamonds
 [~~SECRET~~]

Dan: Please keep us in the loop. Per previous emails,
 in addition to banning the diamonds, one of our objectives should
 be to create a statutory basis for attacking the international crime
 groups engaged in this activity. LW

-----Original Message-----

From: Shapiro,
Daniel B. (LEGIS)
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2000 7:14 PM
To: Wilcox,
Richard M. (MULTI); Wolosky, Lee S. (TNT)
Cc: Feldman, Daniel
F. (MULTI); Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); @CRIME; @LEGISLAT -
Legislative
Affairs; @AFRICA - African Affairs
Subject: RE: Victor Butt/diamonds
~~{SECRET}~~

The Wolf amendment was removed from the bill in the House. A similar measure is in the Senate CJS bill, which won't be considered until September. Our attitude toward both is "support the intent, but disagree with the method". State believes these provisions as drafted would undermine our international efforts to crack down on the trade in conflict diamonds, while Customs believes they are unenforceable.

We've said we are willing to keep discussing with them ways to accomplish our shared objective, but have not settled on any alternative language yet.

-----Original Message-----

From: Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)

Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2000 5:54 PM
To: Wolosky, Lee S. (TNT);
Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)
Cc: Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI); Dempsey,
Nora B. (AF); @CRIME
Subject: RE: Victor Butt/diamonds ~~{SECRET}~~

I would think it is. I suppose that ensaring him in US domestic law may allow us to put pressure on the UAE or other potential "host" governments to disallow people like Butt from using their countries as bases. I may also allow us to put pressure on the Russian government which I understand from 1.4(c) maintains some contact with Butt. Other views?

-----Original Message-----

From: Wolosky, Lee S.
(TNT)
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2000 5:46 PM
To: Wilcox, Richard
M. (MULTI); Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)
Cc: Feldman, Daniel F.

(MULTI); Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); @CRIME
Subject: Victor Butt/diamonds
~~[SECRET]~~

Richard, Dan:

Transnational is looking at various options to frustrate the work of Victor Butt, the international arms trafficker who is fueling conflict in Sierra Leone, DROC and Angola, and who, in his spare time, occasionally helps out the Taliban. Butt often receives diamonds in exchange for arms -- all of which has required us to get smart on recent efforts to prevent conflict diamonds from entering the stream of commerce.

Is the Wolf diamonds amendment dead? Do we care? Here is my specific issue: would be good to be able to ensnare people like Butt in the US law enforcement web by criminalizing trafficking in blood diamonds.

LW