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DECISION, AS LAST YEAR, IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO EXERCISE THAT PREROGATIVE IN THE FUTURE IF WE SO DESIRE. WE BELIEVE THAT WHATEVER TACTICAL ADVANTAGES MIGHT ACCRUE TO US AS TC PRESIDENT WOULD BE OUTWEIGHED BY:

-- THE INHIBITIONS TO OUR FREEDOM OF ACTION WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM THE NEED FOR OUR STRICT IMPARTIALITY IN THE EXERCISE OF THE PRESIDENCY;

-- AWKWARDNESS FOR US IN EXERCISING THE PRESIDENCY DURING THE 44TH TC SESSION WHEN ISSUES PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO THE USG WILL BE DISCUSSED;

-- UNDERMINING THE CREDIBILITY OF THE TC BY HAVING A US OFFICER PRESIDING OVER EXCLUSIVELY US CONCERNS;

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5. ACTION REQUESTED: INSTRUCTIONS ARE REQUESTED.

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