1. (SBU) [Redacted] told EmbOff on May 8 that the MWCS suspended adoptions pending the approval of new terms and conditions by the Cabinet. [Redacted] also confirmed the suspension. Both [Redacted] believed that Maoist Minister Khadga Bahadur Bishwakarma planned to restart international adoptions once reforms were adopted by the Cabinet (Ref B).

COMMENT

2. (SBU) The previous Minister's proposed adoption reforms had been returned by the Cabinet after the April 1 change in government for the new Minister's endorsement before cabinet review. At this point, we are unsure whether the new Minister is simply planning to
forward the old proposed reforms or plans to start from the beginning with a new draft. While systemic adoption reform is desperately needed in Nepal, the Embassy will intercede with the Ministry to urge them to continue processing the cases of American adoptive parents already matched with a child to prevent undue delays of cases already in process.

HUGINS

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