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GENERAL

1. Possible Soviet policy regarding Trieste--US Ambassador Kirk in Moscow expresses the view that Soviet policy toward Trieste will be influenced both by the Kremlin's commitment to overthrow Tito and by the effect any action regarding Trieste will have on the advancement of world communism. Kirk points out that over-all Soviet objectives could be achieved if the Kremlin: (a) continued its demands for the appointment by the United Nations of a neutral governor for the Free Territory of Trieste; or (b) suddenly accepted the western proposal of 20 March for restoration of Trieste to Italy. Kirk believes, however, that Soviet acceptance of the western proposal would constitute the greater blow against Tito and that, therefore, there is sufficient danger of the Kremlin's adopting this policy to warrant every effort by the US to promote a compromise agreement on Trieste between Italy and Yugoslavia.

2. Syria to accept Israeli compromise armistice--Syrian Prime Minister Barazi has informed US Minister Keeley in Damascus that the Syrian delegation to the armistice talks with Israel has been instructed to accept the armistice agreement as modified by Israel. Barazi said that unless Israel raises new difficulties, the armistice agreement would be initialed on 18 July and signed later in the week.

[redacted]

Document No. 013
NO CHANGE in Class. ☐
☐ DECLASSIFIED
Class. CHANGED TO: TS S O
DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763
Date: 13/3/78 By:

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State Dept. review completed

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