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GENERAL

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1. Tito's reply to USSR held "unyielding"--US Embassy Belgrade characterizes the 23 August reply of the Yugoslav Government to the USSR as "dignified and unyielding" on the real substance of the Yugoslav-Soviet controversy. The Embassy considers that the reply cannot be called conciliatory because it uncompromisingly restates Yugoslav sovereignty and declares concerning the treatment of Soviet citizens that such citizens may leave Yugoslavia if they wish. The Embassy regards the intent of the Soviet note to be an effort to intensify nervous pressure on the Tito Government and particularly to suggest to the western powers that Tito is a poor economic risk. The Embassy expects this campaign to continue and indicates that Yugoslav officials believe their reply will gain them time but not a relaxation of the pressure.

25X1

2. UK considers ways of getting Tito-Kremlin issue before SC--US Embassy London reports that the British Foreign Office is giving serious consideration to the possibility of getting the Yugoslav-Soviet controversy before the UN Security Council. The Embassy indicates that the Foreign Office, which would hope by such action to thwart possible Soviet intentions to take decisive action against Tito, believes the preferable course would be for Yugoslavia to take the issue to the SC.

(CIA Comment: CIA estimates that Tito, fearful that an appeal to the Security Council at this time would be an admission of weakness which might have bad repercussions internally, would consider such a move premature. In any event, Tito would probably prefer to take the initiative himself in requesting SC action because he has already been accused by the Kremlin of being a tool of the West.)

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