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FM THE SITUATION ROOM //TOHAK 11//

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

TO PETER RODMAN FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

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FEBRUARY 21, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: EVENING NOTES

CIVIL DISTURBANCE IN ETHIOPIA: SMALL BANDS OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS ARE ROAMING THE CAPITAL AND STONING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND FOREIGN VEHICLES BEARING DIPLOMATIC LICENSE PLATES. LATE YESTERDAY A U.S. MAAG BUS WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED BY THROWN ROCKS WHILE RETURNING PERSONNEL HOME FROM WORK. TWO U.S. PERSONNEL RECEIVED MINOR INJURIES. THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL HAS CLOSED AND U.S. PERSONNEL ADVISED TO KEEP OFF STREETS. ALTHOUGH THE DEMONSTRATION IS OSTENSIBLY IN SUPPORT OF A COUNTRY-WIDE TEACHERS STRIKE CALLED ON FEBRUARY 18 IT REFLECTS THE GENERAL DISCONTENT OF THE POPULACE OVER GOVERNMENT INABILITY TO STEM THE RISING COST OF LIVING AND DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH OTHER RELATED PROBLEMS. POLICE ARE REPORTED ACTIVE IN DISRUPTING THE RIOTERS AND SOME KEY MILITARY UNITS ARE ON ALERT TO PROTECT VITAL INSTALLATIONS. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IS ALSO MEETING ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS. THERE IS NO APPARENT IMMEDIATE DANGER TO THE SOME 4,400 U.S. PERSONNEL IN-COUNTRY. HOWEVER, IF THE GOVERNMENT FAILS TO REACT SOON THE DETERIORATING SITUATION COULD BECOME SERIOUS.

GRENADA'S TAWU END STRIKE: ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MEMBERS OF THE TECHNICAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION (TAWU), WHO STAFF

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GRENADA'S ELECTRICITY AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, VOTED ON FEBRUARY 20 TO END THEIR FOUR-WEEK PROTEST STRIKE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER ERIC GAIRY. WHILE SIGNIFICANT, THE TAWU DECISION WILL HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON THE SITUATION UNLESS THE WATERFRONT WORKERS SIMILARLY DECIDE TO END THEIR STRIKE AND TO WITHDRAW THEIR REQUESTS TO UNIONS IN OTHER CARIBBEAN STATES TO BOYCOTT GRENADA BOUND-GOODS. CURRENT STOCK OF DIESEL FUEL IS SUFFICIENT TO RUN LOCAL POWER PLANTS FOR TEN DAYS ONLY. THE SUPPLY OF FUEL ALREADY BROUGHT IN BY SCHOONER BY THE GRENADA GOVERNMENT IS NOT ADEQUATE TO MAINTAIN OPERATIONS OF ELECTRICITY AND OTHER ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

HIROHITO VISIT TO U.S.: IN A STATEMENT BEFORE A DIET COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 20, FOREIGN MINISTER OHIRA SAID, IN EFFECT, THAT THERE IS NO AGREEMENT BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE U.S. ON WHETHER AND WHEN AN IMPERIAL VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE. OHIRA DENIED CATEGORICALLY THAT HE HAD EVEN TOUCHED ON THE QUESTION OF THE TIMING OF A VISIT DURING HIS RECENT WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU. A JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL PRIVATELY REQUESTED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT NOT PUBLICLY CONTRADICT THE STATED OHIRA POSITION.

THE WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS: THE HEADLINE ITEM TODAY IS "KISSINGER WILL QUIT IF NIXON IS IMPEACHED". (FULL TEXT OF THE ITEM SENT SEPARATELY.)

HENRY S. BRADSHAW WRITES THAT THE POLITICAL STORM IN CHINA IS CAUSING: WIDESPREAD DISRUPTION, PROBLEMS IN FOREIGN COMMERCIAL DEALINGS AND SUSPICION OF FOREIGNERS. HE ALSO SAYS THAT THERE ARE SIGNS CHOU EN LAI IS THE TARGET OF THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN.

A STAR-NEWS EDITORIAL SAYS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA WILL NOT BE EASILY ACHIEVED BECAUSE OF THE DEMANDS ON BOTH SIDES. YOUR FORMIDABLE DIPLOMATIC TALENTS COULD ONCE AGAIN TURN THE TRICK.

CROSBY S. NOYES WRITES THERE IS A NEW AND DANGEROUS ARMS RACE -- ON A SCALE NEVER BEFORE SEEN -- IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE POINTS OUT IT IS NOT JUST AN ARAB-ISRAELI RIVALRY BUT ALSO INVOLVES DEADLY RIVALRIES BETWEEN ARABS.

MILTON VIORST NOTES THAT THE YOM KIPPUR WAR REMOVED THE SMUG CONVICTION THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE SECURE. HE SAYS THEY ARE "WORRIED" AND PERCEIVE THAT THE SENSE OF SECURITY HAD BEEN A DELUSION -- THIS WORRY IS A HEALTHY SIGN.
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