

RELATIONS GROUP FILE

[Redacted]

claps

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cc: e/dkd

C O N F I D E N T I A L 081448Z MAY 79 STAFF

CITE FBIS/LONDON 14011

TO: FBIS/VIENNA INFO FBIS.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

... OF WHAT HE HAD TO RELATE WAS OLD NEWS, IT MAY NOT BE TO YOU OR CLAIR SO I THOUGHT I'D PASS IT ALONG TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE WE GET TOGETHER NEXT WEEK.

2. [Redacted] CLAIMS ITS WORK FOR US (AND BBC) IS DONE BY EXPERTS ON VARIOUS AREAS. TAKE GDR FOR EXAMPLE [Redacted] HAS TWO MONITORS WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE EXPERTS ON GDR AFFAIRS. THEY PREPARE SELECTION LISTS WHICH ARE SUBMITTED TO AN EDITOR WHO IS NOT A "GDR EXPERT". IT CAN BE ANY EDITOR, DEPENDING ON WHO IS ON DUTY AND WHO IS LEAST BUSY. WHEN EITHER OF THE TWO GDR MONITORS IS ON LEAVE, GDR STUFF IS HANDLED BY THE ARABIC OR CHINESE MONITORS WHOSE SELECTION LISTS ARE OFTEN DEFECTIVE, THEN THE SAME NON-EXPERT EDITORIAL PROCESS TAKES PLACE.

3. [Redacted] ARE NO GREAT SHAKES, BUT THEIR SELECTION WOULD PROBABLY BE BETTER THAN [Redacted] EDITORS, PARTICULARLY [Redacted] HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SELECT. SINCE THEY ARE NOT [Redacted] EMPLOYEES THEY THEORETICALLY CANNOT SELECT. THEY HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED [Redacted] SO LONG, HOWEVER, THAT UNDER [Redacted] LABOR LAWS THEY COULD PROBABLY GET FULL EMPLOYEE STATUS EASILY IF THEY WANTED IT. FEARFUL OF THIS [Redacted] WILL NOT LET THEM SELECT SINCE, IF THEY CAME ON AS FULL STAFF, THEY THEN WOULD HAVE TO BE PAID AT EDITOR RATES AND EDITOR RATES ARE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN FOR TRANSLATORS. K & B WORK ONLY FROM 0830 TO 1230 EACH DAY, SO ANY LATE BULLETINS ARE HELD OVER UNTIL THE NEXT DAY. IN FACT [Redacted] HAS NO "FLASH" CAPABILITY SINCE EVERYTHING HAS TO GO THROUGH THE DRILL OF MONITOR LISTING, EDITORIAL SELECTION, AND THEN TRANSLATION AND EACH ITEM IS TAKEN AS IT COMES IN--NOTHING BREAKS THE PROCEDURE. [Redacted] LITERALLY HATES BOTH K AND B BECAUSE AT [Redacted] EACH THEY EARN NEARLY AS MUCH AS HE DOES.

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SO THAT'S ANOTHER STRIKE AGAINST USING THEM TO BETTER ADVANTAGE.

4. ANOTHER REASON [] CANNOT DO FLASHES IS THAT THEY DON'T

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KNOW HOW. [] NEWS SERVICE FOR YEARS HAS BEEN HEADED BY A
MAN WHO WAS A MORTAL ENEMY OF [] HE CONSISTENTLY REFUSED
TO USE MATERIALS PRODUCED BY [] THIS
HAS MADE THE EDITORS VERY UNHAPPY. [] BETE NOIR HAS FINALLY
LEFT THE NEWS SERVICE, BUT IT IS YET TOO EARLY TO HAVE SEEN ANY
CHANGE.

5. THE MONITORS ALSO ARE DESPERATELY UNHAPPY AND WANT TO DO
BETTER, BUT THEY HAVE VIRTUALLY NO GUIDANCE AND ARE NEVER CON-
SULTED ON ANYTHING. INDEED THE WHOLE ATMOSPHERE [] IS OF A
PLACE THAT HAS BEEN RUNNING DOWN STEADILY FOR SOME YEARS; []
IS [] APPOINTEE FROM THE SIXTIES AND HAS BEEN STEADILY
UNDERMINED BY [] RIVALS WHO SURROUND HIM. [] WILL BE
RETIERING SHORTLY, END OF THE YEAR ONE HEARS. THERE IS NO HOPE
FOR ANY CHANGE FOR THE BETTER WHILE HE IS THERE. NO WORD ON
HIS SUCCESSOR.

6. AS YOU MAY KNOW, [] HAS BEEN INVESTI-
GATING DUPLICATION BETWEEN [] MONITORING AND THAT OF []
PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICE (MORE ON THIS WHEN I SEE YOU). THEIR
REPORT IS OVERDUE. THEY WILL NOT HAND DOWN A DECISION, BUT WILL
ONLY MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO A COMMITTEE OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY.
I UNDERSTAND THAT BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLI-
MENTING THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS THEY ARE OFTEN QUITE CANDID IN
WHAT THEY RECOMMEND. IF THEY DECIDE THERE IS SIGNIFICANT
DUPLICATION AND THAT SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT IT, WE CAN
ONLY GUESS WHAT EFFECT THIS MIGHT HAVE ON [] FUTURE.

7. AS YOU SEE, CLAIR IS GOING TO HAVE HIS WORK CUT OUT
FOR HIM. ONE OF THE FIRST STEPS MUST BE TO WIN THE CONFIDENCE
OF THE EDITORS AND MONITORS, PARTICULARLY THE LATTER. THEN TO
WORK TO GUIDE AND IMPROVE SELECTION AND ROOT OUT MISTAKES
IN COPY--WRONG NAMES, MISTRANSLATIONS WHICH ARE FAR MORE
DANGEROUS THAN MERELY TANGLED SYNTAX. THE EDITORS AND MONITORS
DO NOT CHECK FOR MISTAKES IN COPY AND DO NO RESEARCH--RECENTLY

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THEY REFERRED TO THE LATE SECRETARY FORRESTAL AS THE "AMERICAN
GENERAL FALSTAFF (QUERY)." THIS WAS FROM RUSSIAN SOURCE MATERIAL
SO I LEAVE IT TO YOUR IMAGINATION WHERE THE FOUL UP TOOK PLACE.
THERE'S PROBABLY A GOOD BIT CLAIR CAN DO TO GET REFERENCE MATERIALS
FROM HEADQUARTERS (WE'VE PROBABLY BEEN REMISS ABOUT THIS),
BUT GETTING [REDACTED] PEOPLE TO USE THEM WILL BE THE CHORE. MAYBE
IN TIME HE CAN EVEN GET THEM TO DO FLASH ITEMS.

8. [REDACTED] ALSO DEVELOPED CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION ON THE
[REDACTED] PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICE WHICH WILL BE SUBJECT OF
SEPARATE CABLE TO HQS. THEY SOUND VERY UP-TO-DATE, CRT DISPLAYS,
ELECTRONIC ROUTING, THE WHOLE MEGILLA. WELL WORTH A VISIT AT
SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE.

9. RVW 8 MAY 85.
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