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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Schlesinger's Role in Viewing Mao's Remains

1. The extraordinary arrangements that were made for the Schlesinger delegation in the wake of Chairman Mao's death--which occurred only three days after the group arrived in Peking--while confirming the importance Chinese leaders attach to the US connection, strongly suggest a continuing Chinese disapproval of Washington's policies toward the USSR.

2. Peking's placement of the Schlesinger group ahead of the official US mission in China during visits to Mao's bier on September 13 fits into this overall characterization of the Schlesinger visit. Members of the delegation themselves told USLO officers that their treatment was probably intended as a "not-so-subtle snub" of USLO and a rebuke of administration policies. This obviously refers primarily to Washington's Soviet policies since Schlesinger's critical views on "detente" with the USSR have long been welcomed in China.

3. The Chinese assigned one-hour periods during which specific diplomatic missions and other groups were to pay their respects to Chairman Mao's remains at the Great Hall of the People. According to a USLO report, the visiting delegations were divided roughly into four groups and were received in the following order:

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A. China's closest friends, including North Korea, Albania, Romania, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Pakistan and Yugoslavia, along with "special" foreign visitors that included the Schlesinger delegation and a group headed by a Pakistani under secretary for foreign affairs;

B. Third world countries;

C. Second world countries and the industrial democracies, including the USLO delegation;

D. Soviet bloc.

4. Group A was met at the Great Hall by a receiving line made up of Premier Hua Kuo-feng (head); politburo members Wang Hung-wen, Chang Chun-chiao, Chen Hsi-lien and Wang Tung-hsing; National People's Congress (NPC) Vice Chairman Ulanfu; Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua, and Vice Foreign Ministers Wang Hai-jung and Yu Chan.

5. The other groups, which included USLO, were received by a much lesser Chinese lineup including politburo member Hsu Shih-yu (head); alternate politburo members Wu Kuei-hsien and Saifudin; NPC Vice Chairman Yao Lien-wei; Vice Premier Wang Chen; Foreign Minister Chiao and Vice Foreign Ministers Wang Hai-jung and Han Nien-lung.

6. The official New China News Agency (NCNA) account of the ceremonies cited "foreign friends," including the Schlesinger group, immediately after references to China's closest allies. In addition to the Schlesinger and Pakistan delegations, NCNA mentioned an Albanian metallurgical group, a delegation from the Venezuelan National Cultural Council and sports delegations from Japan, Tanzania, and Egypt. The Schlesinger group is the only politically sensitive one in this grouping. The entire list of non-diplomatic groups presumably could have been cited after the official delegations if no message for the US had been intended.

7. Following the list of "foreign friends," NCNA lumped groups B, C, and D together, mixing third and second world countries with the communist states, obscuring the fact that the Soviets and their allies were the last to pay their respects to Mao's remains. The Palestine Liberation Organization and USLO were cited last in this group.