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FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK180

TO AMEMBASSY GENEVA

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DECEMBER 22, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

THE WASHINGTON POST

MORI/CDF
C03343537

MARILYN BERGER AND JONATHAN RANDAL REPORT ON THE OPENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, WHERE YOU SOUGHT TO SET THE TONE OF THE CONFERENCE IN YOUR OPENING SPEECH. SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO FOLLOWED YOUR THEME. INDEED, YOU BOTH, IN A SMOOTH DISPLAY OF DETENTE POLICY IN ACTION, STEERED CLEAR OF ANY INVECTIVE. ONLY A PASSING REFERENCE BY FOREIGN MINISTER ERAN RECALLED THAT THE MIDDLE EAST BELLIGERENTS HAD BEEN ARMED BY THE RIVAL SUPERPOWERS. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, THE BEIRUT NEWSPAPER AN-NAHAR PUBLISHED A COMMUNIQUE, ATTRIBUTED TO THE GUERRILLA GROUP THAT CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAST WEEK'S HIJACKING AND FIREBOMBING IN ROME, THREATENING ATTACKS ON AMERICAN INTERESTS AND ON ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THAT ARE HOLDING PALESTINIANS IN JAIL. (A-1)

STAFF REPORTERS O'TOOLE AND CANNON WRITE THAT IN A MEETING ON DECEMBER 13, PRESIDENT NIXON TOLD 17 GOVERNORS THAT HIS HIGHEST PRIORITY IN THE ENERGY CRISIS ARE JOBS AND AN END TO THE ARAB OIL BOYCOTT, AHEAD OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ISRAEL. HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD NOT TURN HIS BACK ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT OR ISRAEL, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THE EN-

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RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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VIRONMENTALISTS AND THE ISRAELIS MUST RETREAT FROM THEIR POSI-
TIONS IF THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD IS TO GET THROUGH THE FUEL
SHORTAGE. (A-1)

THE HOUSE EARLY TODAY REFUSED TO ACCEPT A SENATE COMPROMISE
ENERGY EMERGENCY BILL, DEFEATING ON A ROLL-CALL VOTE THE MEAS-
SURE THAT WOULD GIVE THE PRESIDENT TEMPORARY POWERS HE WANTED
TO DEAL WITH THE ENERGY CRISIS. (A-1)

THE U.S. AND CHILE HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON REPAYMENT OF PART
OF CHILE'S DEBT TO U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. THE AGREEMENT WAS
BASED ON ASSURANCES BY CHILE'S RULING JUNTA THAT IT WOULD NEGOTI-
ATE WITH TWO MAJOR U.S. COMPANIES ON COMPENSATION FOR LARGE
COPPER MINES NATIONALIZED BY THE SOCIALIST-LED ALLENDE GOVERN-
MENT. (A-3)

-2-

SECRETARY SHULTZ YESTERDAY SAID THE U.S. IS SHIELDING THE SOURCES
OF ITS PETROLEUM IMPORTS AS A RESULT OF THE OIL EMBARGO TO PER-
MIT COUNTRIES TO IGNORE THE EMBARGO IF THEY WISH. HE ALSO NOTED
THAT CHANCES ARE SLIM THAT WAGE AND PRICE CONTROLS WILL CONTINUE
IN THEIR PRESENT FORM BEYOND APRIL 30. (A-6)

SOURCES IN SAIGON SAY THEY SAW LITTLE CHANCE THAT YOU AND LE
DUC THO HAD SETTLED ANY MAJOR ISSUES BLOCKING PEACE IN VIETNAM.
THE VIET CONG DELEGATION WALKED OUT OF A MEETING WITH SAIGON
NEGOTIATORS TO PROTEST SAIGON'S "CONTEMPTIBLE AND IGNORILE
ATTITUDE." AT THE MEETING, THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE TRIED TO
DISCUSS THE AMBUSH LAST WEEK OF THREE HELICOPTERS OF THE
JOINT MILITARY TEAM. (A-10)

MURREY MARDER WRITES A NEWS ANALYSIS OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE
AND ITS IMPACT ON DETENTE. HE NOTES THAT WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW
ENTER THE GENEVA TALKS WITH THEIR OWN STAKE IN GLOBAL DETENTE
ENTRAPPED IN THE OUTCOME. BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE
SUBJECT, NEITHER SUPERPOWER WANTS TO FOCUS PUBLIC ATTENTION
ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DEADLOCK OR FAILURE OF THIS ATTEMPT
TO RESOLVE THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. HOWEVER, STRATEGISTS IN
BOTH CAPITALS RECOGNIZE THAT IT CAN BE A COLD WINTER FOR DETENTE
IF THE GENEVA TALKS FOUNDER. (A-16)

IN HIS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ADDRESS TO THE COLLEGE OF CARDINALS,
POPE PAUL VI ASKED THAT "THE VOICE OF THE VATICAN BE HEARD"
AT GENEVA WHEN JERUSALEM IS DISCUSSED. HE ALSO NOTED THAT
THE CAUSE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE DEMANDS A "JUST AND GEN-

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ERDUS RESPONSE" FROM THE WORLD. (A-16)

JIM HOAGLAND WRITES THAT SAUDI PETROLEUM MINISTER YAMANI IS PRESSING FOR AN END TO THE OIL EMBARGO AGAINST THE U.S. HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE EMBARGO HAS ACCOMPLISHED AS MUCH AS IT CAN POLITICALLY AND THAT CONTINUING IT WILL COURT A STRONG ANTI-ARAB BACKLASH, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONGRESS. HE IS CONCERNED THAT AN ANGRY CONGRESS COULD UNDERCUT YOUR EFFORTS IN GENEVA. (A-16)

CLAYTON FRITCHEY NOTES THAT EVEN YOUR SEVEREST CRITICS WOULD CONCEDE THAT YOU HAVE DONE BRILLIANTLY IN MANY CAPITALS, BUT TOKYO IS NOT ONE OF THEM. THE JAPANESE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RESIST BOTH YOUR CHARM AND YOUR BILL OF GOODS, AND THAT RESISTANCE IS GROWING. THIS SAME FAILURE CAN BE OBSERVED ELSEWHERE IN ASIA, NOTABLY TAIWAN, THAILAND, SOUTH KOREA, THE PHILIPPINES, AND SOUTH VIETNAM. ALONG WITH JAPAN, ALL THESE COUNTRIES HAD ONE THING IN COMMON. THEY WERE LONG-TIME JUNIOR PARTNERS AND SATELLITES OF THE U.S. IN ITS PROTRACTED COLD WAR CRUSADE TO ISOLATE AND CONTAIN THE PRC, AND ALL WERE LEFT HOLDING THE BAG WHEN THE NIXON-KISSINGER COMBINE SUDDENLY AND SECRETLY MADE PEACE WITH PEKING BEHIND THE BACKS OF AMERICA'S OLDEST FRIENDS. (A-23)

THE NEW YORK TIMES AND BALTIMORE SUN DID NOT ARRIVE IN TIME TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MORNING NEWS SUMMARY.
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