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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOSCO 88//

TO GENERAL SCOWCROFT

UNCLAS WH52411

TOSCO 88

PART 1 OF 2

DECEMBER 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM
SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

THE WASHINGTON POST

GEORGE WILSON SAYS THAT PRESIDENT FORD WILL TRY TO PUT A LID ON CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PAY INCREASES AND PUSH 85,000 PEOPLE OFF THE PENTAGON PAYROLL TO BRING THE NATION'S MILITARY BUDGET DOWN TO \$110 BILLION IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR. HE ALSO HAS TENTATIVELY DECIDED TO PUT OFF BUYING A NEW AIRCRAFT CARRIER AND TO DELAY OR CANCEL A NUMBER OF WEAPONS PROGRAMS -- INCLUDING FIGHTER PLANES, THE MINUTEMAN III ICBM AND THE LANCE BATTLEFIELD MISSILE. MR. FORD MADE HIS CHOICES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET IN MEETINGS THAT EXCLUDED DEFENSE OFFICIALS -- INCLUDING NEWLY APPOINTED SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DONALD RUMSFELD. (A-1)

SENATOR HUGH SCOTT ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT HE WON'T RUN FOR A FOURTH TERM IN THE 1976 ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, HE IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN THE SENATE AND KEEP HIS LEADERSHIP POST UNTIL HIS TERM EXPIRES. (A-1)

LAURENCE STERN REPORTS ON DETAILS OF A "MASSIVE" CAMPAIGN OF CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS OVER A TEN-YEAR PERIOD TO BLOCK THE ELECTION AND THEN TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LATE SALVADOR ALLENDE IN CHILE REVEALED YESTERDAY BY THE

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SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE. (A-1)

ACCORDING TO MURREY MARDER, SECRETARY KISSINGER PLAN TO GO TO MOSCOW LATER THIS MONTH IN A NEW ATTEMPT TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK IN THE U.S. SOVIET NUCLEAR STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS. PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO ADD MOSCOW TO KISSINGER'S ITINERARY FOR A TRIP TO BRUSSELS, LONDON, AND PARIS THAT STARTS WEDNESDAY. IT WOULD TAKE VIRTUALLY A LAST-MINUTE DECISION TO RULE OUT THE PROJECTED MOSCOW VISIT. MAJOR POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS SURROUND THE NUCLEAR STALEMATE. (A-1)

YUVAL ELIZUR SAYS THAT MONDAY'S ISRAELI AIR STRIKE IN LEBANON EVOKED ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED CRITICISM AMONG ISRAELI EDITORIAL WRITERS AND COMMENTATORS. GOVERNMENT JUSTIFICATIONS OF THE RAID, INCLUDING REPORTS THAT INTELLIGENCE SHOWED NEW GUERRILLA ATTACKS BEING PLANNED, HAVE FAILED TO PERSUADE ALL ISRAELIS. MOST OUTSPOKEN WAS THE INFLUENTIAL DAILY HAARETZ WHICH ACCUSED PRIME MINISTER RABIN OF NOT WEIGHING CAREFULLY ENOUGH THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF THE AIR STRIKE. EVEN YEDIOT AHARONOT, WHICH USUALLY SUPPORTS HARDLINE GOVERNMENT POLICIES, QUESTIONED THE WISDOM OF THE ACTION, CLAIMING "MUCH IS STILL UNCLEAR ON THE MOTIVES THAT LED TO THE DECISION TO ATTACK." MEANWHILE, THE SECURITY COUNCIL DECIDED LAST NIGHT TO GRANT THE PLO THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ONE OF ITS MEETINGS. THE GROUP WAS TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNCIL UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS AS A UN MEMBER-STATE. THE VOTE WAS NINE TO THREE IN FAVOR WITH THREE ABSTENTIONS. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE VOTE THE PLO DELEGATE TOOK A SEAT AT THE COUNCIL TABLE UNDER THE NAMEPLATE OF THE ORGANIZATION. THE ISRAELI DELEGATION RECEIVED FIRM INSTRUCTIONS TO BOYCOTT ANY SECURITY COUNCIL MEETINGS THE PLO ATTENDS AND WERE NOT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER. FOR THE PRESENT THE POLITICAL ISSUE WAS NOT THE RAID OR WHAT THE COUNCIL WOULD DO IN RESPONSE, BUT THE PRECEDENT-SETTING MOVE BY EGYPT TO BRING THE PLO INTO THE COUNCIL, MOVING ANOTHER STEP TOWARD INTERNATIONAL LEGITIMIZATION OF THE PLO. (A-1)

ISRAELI'S AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, DINITZ, SAID YESTERDAY THAT UN ACCEPTANCE OF THE PLO "WILL ONLY INCREASE THEIR LUST FOR MURDER AND RADICALIZE THEIR STAND." SPEAKING AT THE NPC, DINITZ SAID THAT THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION HAS STARTED USING UN RESOLUTIONS AS JUSTIFICATION FOR ITS ACTIVITIES. DINITZ JUSTIFIED ISRAEL'S RETALIATORY RAIDS ON GUERRILLA BASES IN LEBANON BY SAYING THAT IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS HIS COUNTRY HAD SUFFERED 25 ACTS OF TERROR AGAINST AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS, POPULATION CENTERS AND CITIES. THERE WERE 68 CASUALTIES, HE SAID, MOSTLY CIVILIAN. (A-15)

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LOU CANNON REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT FORD DEPARTED FOR JAKARTA AFTER FOUR DAYS OF TALKS WITH CHINESE LEADERS THAT HE TERMED "FRIENDLY, CANDID, SUBSTANTIAL, AND CONSTRUCTIVE" BUT THAT PRODUCED NO NEW AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND. MR. FORD LEFT WITH ONE SMALL CONCESSION FROM THE CHINESE -- THE NAMES OF SEVEN MISSING NAVAL FLIERS WHO WERE SHOT DOWN OVER CHINA OR IN CHINESE WATERS BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND WHO HAD BEEN LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION. THESE NAMES WILL BE RELEASED IN WASHINGTON AS SOON AS NEXT-OF-KIN ARE NOTIFIED. ON THE BASIC ISSUES THAT DIVIDE THE U.S. AND CHINA -- DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND FORMAL RECOGNITION OF THE PEKING GOVERNMENT INSTEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT ON TAIWAN -- NEITHER THE PRESIDENT NOR KISSINGER MADE ANY CLAIM OF SUCCESS. (A-18)

ACCORDING TO LOU CANNON, "ALL THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTS LOOKED BACKWARD UNTIL NIXON," A CHINESE OFFICIAL SAID THE OTHER DAY. "PRESIDENT NIXON LOOKED FORWARD. PRESIDENT FORD IS JUST LOOKING." THIS FRANK APPRAISAL OF MR. FORD AS A RATHER TENTATIVE PRESIDENT WAS MADE TO A EUROPEAN, NOT TO AN AMERICAN. IT REFLECTS THE CHINESE UNDERSTANDING THAT MR. FORD MAY WELL BE EITHER AN INTERIM PRESIDENT OR THE AMERICAN CHIEF EXECUTIVE THE CHINESE WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH IN THE TROUBLED YEARS AHEAD. (A-19)

JOSEPH KRAFT SAYS THAT HE HAS BEEN HIGHLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE CHINESE ARGUMENT, PUT AGAIN APPARENTLY BY CHAIRMAN MAO, THAT THE U.S. SHOULD ABANDON DETENTE WITH RUSSIA BECAUSE, AS FIRST VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING PUT IT TO PRESIDENT FORD, "THE FACTORS FOR WAR ARE CLEARLY INCREASING" AND "EUROPE IS THE FOCUS OF THIS CONTENTION." MR. CHOU WEI-CHANG SAID: "THE CENTER OF THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE SUPER POWERS IS IN THE WEST, BUT WE HAVE TO DEFEND OURSELVES. WE HAD A TRIAL WITH THE RUSSIANS IN 1969 ON THE NORTHERN FRONTIER, AND THEY WERE DEFEATED. NOW IF THE RUSSIANS TRY TO COME IN AGAIN, THEY WILL HAVE MORE TROUBLE. THEY MAY BE ABLE TO INVAD, BUT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET OUT." THAT STATEMENT MUST EXPRESS THE INDOCTRINATION WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF CHINESE WHO HAVE LABORED HARD, USING SCARCE MATERIALS TO BUILD THOUSANDS OF SHELTERS, SO WHAT THE CHINESE ARE NOW SAYING IS NOT PURE RHETORIC. PEKING CLEARLY DOES EXPECT TROUBLE FROM THE RUSSIANS. MERELY BECAUSE THE CHINESE HAVE AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE, TO BE SURE, DOES NOT QUEER THEIR ARGUMENTS. THE SOVIET MILITARY BUILD-UP DOES NEED TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, VERY SERIOUSLY IN FACT, BUT THE CHINESE ARGUMENT, PARTICULARLY IN THE HIGHLY RHETORICAL AND IMPRECISE FORM IT IS USUALLY EXPRESSED, IS FAR FROM BEING THE ULTIMATE GOSPEL ON WORLD AFFAIRS. CERTAINLY, THE U.S. SHOULD NOT BE DETERRED FROM TAKING STEPS TOWARD DETENTE IN

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THE ARMS CONTROL FIELD SIMPLY BECAUSE IT RUBS CHINA THE WRONG WAY. (A-23)

ACCORDING TO GEORGE WILL, ANOTHER TIGER OF EXTREMISM IS LOOSE IN THE UN, THIS TIME WITH THE CONSENT OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, WHICH COULD HAVE PREVENTED IT. IN A LAST MINUTE POLICY SWERVE, THE U.S. DASHED ISRAELI HOPES FOR A VETO -- HOPES THE ISRAELIS FELT WERE FIRMLY BASED ON U.S. ASSURANCES -- AND VOTED FOR A RESOLUTION THAT THE U.S. KNEW WOULD GUARANTEE PARTICIPATION BY THE PLO IN NEXT MONTH'S UN DEBATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST. THE INVITATION TO THE PLO WAS ATTACHED TO A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE MANDATE OF THE UN OBSERVER FORCE ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, BETWEEN ISRAELI AND SYRIAN FORCES, ON THE EVE OF EXPIRATION OF THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, ISRAEL AGREED TO RENEWAL, BUT SYRIA, AWARE OF THE BRITTLINESS OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, OPPOSED RENEWAL UNLESS IT INCLUDED THE INVITATION TO THE PLO. THE U.S. VOTED THE WAY IT DID FOR THE REASON THAT EVERYTHING HAPPENS IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY; SECRETARY KISSINGER COMMANDED IT. AS LATE AS SATURDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 29, THE ISRAELIS WERE ASSURED THAT THE U.S. WOULD VETO THE RESOLUTION. SUNDAY MORNING KISSINGER CALLED THE UN AND ORDERED THE U.S. TO SIDE WITH SYRIA AND ITS CHIEF SPONSOR, THE SOVIET UNION, AGAINST ISRAEL. THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE U.S. POLICY OF PREEMPTIVE CONCESSION. KISSINGER REPORTEDLY WAS TOLD BY OTHER DIPLOMATS BEFORE SUNDAY THAT U.S. FIRMNESS COULD GET THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION DELETED FROM THE RESOLUTION, AND IT IS HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT IF SYRIA HAD NOT BACKED DOWN, AND THE MANDATE HAD NOT BEEN RENEWED, NOTHING MUCH WOULD HAVE HAPPENED. THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT A FEAST OF REASON, BUT IT IS NOT CRAZY ENOUGH TO CONTEMPLATE A FAIR FIGHT, ALONE, AGAINST ISRAEL. THE U.S. VOTE WAS A GIANT STEP IN A DEPLORABLE DIRECTION: IT CONFERS LEGITIMACY ON A DICTATORIAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, THE PLO, AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LONG-SUFFERING PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, PERHAPS THE PLO'S RUTHLESSNESS, AND THE SUPPORT OF ITS TATALITARIAN ALLIES HAS MADE INEVITABLE THE ASCENDENCY OF THE PLO. BUT THE U.S. VOTE WAS NEEDLESS COMPLICIT IN THAT ASCENDENCY. (A-23)

PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG, THE "RED PRINCE" AND TITULAR HEAD OF THE PROCOMMUNIST PATHET LAO FORCES, WAS NAMED PRESIDENT OF THE NEW LAOTIAN PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC YESTERDAY. THE LAOTIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS ALSO NAMED KAYSONE PHOMVITHARN, A VETERAN POLITICAL AND MILITARY STRATEGIST IN THE PATHET LAO AS PRIME MINISTER. THE APPOINTMENTS FOLLOWED YESTERDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ABOLITION OF THE 600-YEAR-OLD MONARCHY AND THE CREATION OF A REPUBLIC IN THE LANDLOCKED NATION OF THREE MILLION PEOPLE. (A-24)

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ACCORDING TO JACK ANDERSON AND LES WHITTEN THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE WAS UNABLE TO PIN DOWN ANY PROOF THAT PAST PRESIDENTS AUTHORIZED THE CIA TO ASSASSINATE FOREIGN LEADERS. TOP CIA OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, HAVE NOW BROKEN THEIR SILENCE ON THIS SUBJECT. THEY HAVE TOLD ANDERSON AND WHITTEN CATEGORICALLY THAT ALL THE ASSASSINATION PLOTS HAD WHITE HOUSE APPROVAL. TO AVOID EMBARRASSING A PRESIDENT, NO WRITTEN RECORD WAS KEPT. THIS PROVIDED THE PRESIDENTS WITH WHAT THE SENATE REPORT CALLS "PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY." BUT THE CIA OFFICIALS HAVE GIVEN THEM THIS RUNDOWN:

- EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION -- THE LATE CIA CHIEF ALLEN DULLES PERSONALLY CONSULTED PRESIDENT EISENHOWER ABOUT THE PLOT TO POISON THE CONGO'S PATRICE LUMUMBA.
- KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION -- THE LATE ROBERT F. KENNEDY, ACCORDING TO ANDERSON AND WHITTEN'S SOURCES, TOOK A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE EFFORT TO ELIMINATE CUBA'S FIDEL CASTRO.
- JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION -- PRESIDENT JOHNSON, UPON BEING ADVISED OF THE CIA PLOTS TO ASSASSINATE FOREIGN LEADERS, MADE IT CLEAR HE DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THEM. THERE WERE SOME ACTIVITIES, HE INDICATED, THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULDN'T BE TOLD ABOUT.
- NIXON ADMINISTRATION -- PRESIDENT NIXON WAS GIVEN AN ORAL BRIEFING ON THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS, A BRIEFING WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN RECORDED ON THE SECRET WHITE HOUSE TAPES.

ANDERSON AND WHITTEN'S SOURCES SAY NIXON WAS "GUNG HO" ABOUT COVERT ACTIVITIES, THAT HE PERSONALLY ORDERED CIA CHIEF RICHARD HELMS TO PROMPT A COUP AGAINST CHILE'S LATE PRESIDENT SALVADOR ALLENDE. BUT NIXON GAVE NO ASSASSINATION ORDERS. CLEARLY, NOT ONLY THE CIA BUT THE WHITE HOUSE MUST BE RESTRICTED AGAINST USING MURDER AS AN INSTRUMENT OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. (D-18)

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BERNARD GWERTZMAN WRITES THAT AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS HAVE REPORTED TO THE FORD ADMINISTRATION THAT THE SOVIET UNION RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED A LARGE-SCALE RADAR STATION ON THE KAMCHATKA PENINSULA, RAISING NEW QUESTIONS ABOUT POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF THE 1972 TREATY LIMITING STRATEGIC ARMS. (1)

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KENNETH BRIGGS WRITES THAT AN AFRICAN ECUMENICAL ORGANIZATION IS EMERGING AS AN INFLUENCE NOT ONLY IN THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES BUT ALSO IN THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL STRUGGLES OF THIS CONTINENT. (2)

A SPECIAL TO THE TIMES REPORTS THAT ARABS AND ISRAELIS CLASHED FOR THE FIRST TIME OVER AN ATTEMPT BY JEWISH SQUATTERS TO SETTLE AT BIBLICAL SEBASTIA IN THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK OF JORDAN. (2)

TERENCE SMITH REPORTS THAT AN UNUSUAL PUBLIC DEBATE HAS ERUPTED IN ISRAEL OVER THE TIMING, WISDOM, AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ISRAELI AIR STRIKES AGAINST LEBANON ON TUESDAY. (3)
MARGARET THATCHER WON REELECTION AS LEADER OF BRITAIN'S CONSERVATIVE PARTY. (3)

JUAN DE ONIS REPORTS THAT A WAVE OF POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS IN ARGENTINA CAUSED PRESIDENT PERON TO HOLD AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE SECURITY SITUATION. (7)

PETER KINGS REPORTS THAT AN INITIAL BATCH OF 804 PAGES OF CIA FILES HAVE BEEN RELEASED ON THE 25-YEAR-OLD CASE THAT SENT JULIUS AND ETHEL ROSENBERG TO THEIR DEATHS FOR PLOTTING ATOMIC SPYING IN BEHALF OF THE SOVIET UNION. (9)

DAVID A. ANDELMAN WRITES THAT ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS NATIONS, INDONESIA IS A STUDY IN CONTRASTS. A DECADE AFTER THE COUP THAT OVERTHREW THE COMMUNIST-LEANING SUKARNO REGIME AND INSTALLED THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF GENERAL SUHARTO, IT IS AT ONCE ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST NATIONS IN ASIA, BECAUSE OF ITS OIL RESOURCES, AND ONE OF THE POOREST. (10)

A TIMES EDITORIAL COMMENTS THAT NOW THAT IT IS BACK IN SESSION, CONGRESS NEEDS TO GIVE CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE WARNINGS ISSUED LAST WEEK BY FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER CONCERNING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE. THE POINT THAT NEEDS MOST THOROUGH AIRING IS MR. SCHLESINGER'S CHARGE THAT AMERICANS ARE GUILTY OF AN "OSTRICH SYNDROME," BURYING THEIR HEADS IN THE SAND AND SUBSTITUTING "RHETORIC FOR REALITY WITH REGARD TO FORCE STRUCTURE AND THE MAINTENANCE OF A MILITARY BALANCE" WITH THE SOVIET UNION. A LOOK AT PORTUGAL, COMMUNIST PROSPECTS IN ITALY, INSTABILITY ELSEWHERE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, THE TINDERBOX IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE HUGE SOVIET MILITARY AIRLIFT TO ANGOLA SUGGESTS THAT THE WORLD IS STILL FULL OF DANGERS. WHAT PROSPECTS REMAIN FOR DETENTE DEPEND AT LEAST IN PART ON MAINTAINING A MILITARY BALANCE. A THOROUGH CONGRESSIONAL EVALUATION IS NEEDED. (38)

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JAMES RESTON COMMENTS THAT THE ONLY HAPPY THOUGHT AROUND HERE THESE DAYS IS THAT SO MANY THINGS ARE GOING WRONG THAT MAYBE SOMETHING WILL FINALLY BE DONE ABOUT THEM, BUT ONLY MAYBE. IT'S A WELL-KNOWN RULE IN WASHINGTON THAT NOTHING COMPELS REFORM LIKE SOME IMMINENT DISASTER, OR SPECTACULAR STUPIDITY, AND WE NOW HAVE SO MUCH OF BOTH ON THE NATIONAL AGENDA THAT YOU HAVE TO HAVE SOME HOPE. EACH DAY'S HORROR STORIES ABOUT THE PAST CRIMES OF THE FBI AND THE CIA, FOR EXAMPLE, ADD TO THE PROSPECT THAT THE CONGRESS WILL FINALLY TAKE THESE SECRET AGENCIES BY THE THROAT. (39)

CHARLES BLUMHORN COMMENTS THAT WE SAY THAT WE ARE A WORLD POWER TODAY BUT WE WERE A WORLD POWER IN DECEMBER 1941 AND NOBODY QUESTIONED IT. THERE WAS NO UN IN THOSE DAYS BECAUSE, AFTER ALL, IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT WE WERE THE ORIGINATORS OF THAT WORLD BODY. HE IS HAPPY TO SAY THAT WE HAVE SINCE WATCHED THIS ORGANIZATION GROW TO A MEMBERSHIP OF OVER 100. HE IS SICK TO HIS STOMACH WHEN HE CONTEMPLATES HOW MANY MEMBERS OF THE UN HAVE NOW TAKEN TO A REGULAR DIET OF ABUSING THE ONE NATION THAT MADE THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THAT ORGANIZATION POSSIBLE. (39)

GORDON WADE RULE COMMENTS THAT THE MORAL CLIMATE IN OUR GREAT COUNTRY, AND OUR GREAT NAVY, IS SO BROODING TODAY THAT WE ARE HEADED FOR NATIONAL DISASTER. THERE IS ONE BASIC PHILOSOPHY AND ONE BASIC REASON THAT HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT THIS MORAL CLIMATE. THE BASIC PHILOSOPHY WAS ACCURATELY DESCRIBED BY GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR WHEN HE SAID THAT WHAT WAS WRONG IN OUR COUNTRY WAS THAT PEOPLE WERE TRYING TO SEE HOW LITTLE WORK THEY COULD DO FOR HOW MUCH MONEY THEY COULD GET. THE BASIC REASON IS THE AMOUNT OF MONEY AVAILABLE TODAY FOR DEFENSE PROCUREMENT. THE VERY SIZE OF TODAY'S DEFENSE BUDGET IS CORROSIVE AND CORRUPTIVE. (39)

TOM WICKER COMMENTS THAT THE LATEST GALLUP POLL SHOWS A SHARP DECLINE IN PUBLIC ESTEEM FOR THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND THE CIA -- FROM 84 PERCENT "HIGHLY FAVORABLE" TO THE FBI IN 1966, FOR EXAMPLE, TO ONLY 37 PERCENT TODAY. AND ONLY 14 PERCENT OF A SAMPLE WERE ANY LONGER "HIGHLY FAVORABLE" TO THE CIA. THESE FIGURES CLEARLY REFLECT THE LONG, DISMAL SERIES OF DISCLOSURES THAT BOTH AGENCIES HAVE ABUSED THEIR POWERS AND HAD BEEN MISUSED BY THEIR POLITICAL MASTERS. (39)

THE BALTIMORE SUN

ACCORDING TO GILBERT LEHTHWAITTE, THE VATICAN IS ENGAGED IN A BITTER PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN TO HEAD OFF A POSSIBLE COMMUNIST

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PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. REGARDING DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED BY LAW. (A-7)

ACCORDING TO A SUN EDITORIAL, FOR THE TIME SINCE JOHN F. KENNEDY SENT HIS "SPECIAL WAR" SCENARIO ON LOCATION TO LAOS A GOVERNMENT IN VIENTIANE IS PLAYING OUT A MAJOR ACT WITH NO ROLE FOR THE U.S. THE PATHET LAO HAS ENDED THE FORMER THE POWER IT SEIZED IN EFFECT LAST SUMMER. INSIDE THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, WHERE FOR A DECADE BOMBING, FOOD SUPPLY, AND OTHER LIFE-AND-DEATH QUESTIONS HAD BEEN DETERMINED DAILY FOR LAOTIANS, A SKELETON STAFF COULD ONLY HOPE THAT THE CULMINATION OF LAOS COMMUNIST REVOLUTION MIGHT NOT BRING A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. WASHINGTON'S PROMPT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT WILL NOT BREAK RELATIONS WITH THE NEW LAOTIAN GOVERNMENT SEEMS CONSISTENT WITH A SERIES OF SMALL BUT UNMISTAKABLE GOODWILL GESTURES EXCHANGED WITH HANOI IN RECENT WEEKS. BOTH VIETNAMESE AND U.S. GOVERNMENTS SEEM READY TO STRESS CAUTIOUS STEPS TOWARD FORMAL CONTACT, THOUGH REAL PROGRESS MAY REMAIN IN ABEYANCE UNTIL AFTER HANOI UNIFIES VIETNAM'S GOVERNMENT, AND PERHAPS UNTIL AFTER NEXT FALL'S U.S. ELECTION. EVENTUAL NORMAL RELATIONS WOULD GIVE NORTH VIETNAM A COUNTERBALANCE TO HER GIANT COMMUNIST PATRONS AND AMERICA A PRESENCE IN AN AREA NOW DIPLOMATICALLY DOMINATED BY WASHINGTON'S ADVERSARIES. IF BOTH COUNTRIES TRULY WANT NORMAL DIPLOMACY, AN OBVIOUS STEP TOWARD THAT GOAL IS TO KEEP OPEN THE LEAN, 30-MEMBER AMERICAN EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE. (A-10)

FULL TEXT OF THE SUN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "DANGERS TO DETENTE"

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