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DE WTE #0841 0541204  
O 231145Z FEB 74  
FM THE SITUATION ROOM //TOHAK28//

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

TO PETER RODMAN FOR SEC. KISSINGER

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State Dept. & NSA reviews  
completed

VIA BLACK PATCH

FEBRUARY 23, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY  
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM  
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ITEMS

TURKISH OPIUM: AMBASSADOR MACOMBER HAS HAD A LONG DISCUSSION WITH TURKEY'S NEW PRIME MINISTER, BULENT ECEVIT, ON THE SUBJECT OF OPIUM. ECEVIT, ALONG WITH ALL TURKISH POLITICAL PARTIES AND MUCH OF THE PUBLIC, HAS BEEN UNHAPPY OVER TURKEY'S BAN ON OPIUM PRODUCTION. YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE BAN WAS IMPOSED BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IN 1971 AS A RESULT OF CONSIDERABLE U.S. PRESSURE, AND THAT IT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A \$35.7 MILLION U.S. GOVERNMENT GRANT FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE 70,000 OR MORE AFFECTED FARMERS. ECEVIT TOLD MACOMBER THAT THE BAN SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IMPOSED; THAT THE LOSS OF INCOME HAD BEEN VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE IMPROVERISHED FARMERS DESPITE U.S. ASSISTANCE; THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS NOW CONCLUDED THERE IS A WORLDWIDE MEDICINAL OPIUM SHORTAGE WHICH WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE MET BY INCREASED PRODUCTION IN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN TURKEY (MAINLY INDIA); THAT THE TURKISH PUBLIC WOULD NEVER ACCEPT THIS, NO MATTER WHAT OUR REASONS MIGHT BE; AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL FINISH WORKING OUT ITS POLICY POSITIONS ON THIS ISSUE DURING THE NEXT TWO OR THREE WEEKS. MACOMBER REPLIED THAT WE STRONGLY HOPE THAT TURKEY WILL NOT EASE THE BAN; THAT GIVEN TURKEY'S NEARNESS TO ILLICIT EUROPEAN HEROIN TRAFFICKING OPERATIONS AND THE HIGH COST OF ESTABLISHING EVEN PARTIALLY EFFECTIVE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS, WE DO NOT SHARE THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONFIDENCE THAT LEAKAGE INTO ILLICIT CHANNELS CAN BE AS EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED IN TURKEY AS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN

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INDIA; THAT A RESUMPTION OF PRODUCTION WOULD BENEFIT TURKISH FARMERS ONLY marginally; THAT THE MAIN BENEFICIARIES WOULD BE CROOKED TRAFFICKERS AND THE MAIN VICTIMS WOULD BE THE WORLD'S YOUTH; AND THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO CONSIDER FURTHER ASSISTANCE UNDER NORMAL AID CRITERIA.

MACOMBER REPORTS THAT DESPITE ECEVIT'S RELATIVELY TOUGH LINE ON THIS ISSUE, ECEVIT APPARENTLY ENVISAGES U.S.-TURKISH TALKS ON THE MATTER RATHER THAN ANY SUDDEN UNILATERAL TURKISH DECISION. MACOMBER BELIEVES ECEVIT PERSONALLY WOULD PREFER TO AVOID RESUMPTION OF OPIUM CULTIVATION BUT DOES NOT BELIEVE THE U.S. IS GOING TO OFFER SUFFICIENT ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO GIVE HIM A DOMESTIC POLITICAL "OUT." MACOMBER ALSO BELIEVES ECEVIT FEELS THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT REACTION TO A LIMITED TURKISH RESUMPTION UNDER IMPROVED CONTROLS WOULD BE MANAGEABLE AND WOULD NOT SERIOUSLY HURT OUR OVERALL BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

WE SENT YOU A LONGER INFORMATION MEMO LAST WEEK DISCUSSING THIS PROBLEM AND OUTLINING SOME POSSIBLE POLICY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. (APPELBAUM/SAUNDERS)

ISRAELI POLITICAL SITUATION: THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ISRAEL REMAINS FLUID ALTHOUGH, FOLLOWING MRS. MEIR'S DECISION TO FORM A MINORITY GOVERNMENT, STEPS HAVE NOW BEEN SET IN MOTION FOR CONSULTATIONS ON ALLOCATING CABINET POSTS. AS OF NOW, MRS. MEIR IS SCHEDULED TO PRESENT HER NEW CABINET TO PRESIDENT KATZIR ON FEBRUARY 27 AND TO THE KNESSET ON EITHER FEBRUARY 28 OR MARCH 4. IN THE MEANTIME:

- MRS. MEIR IS CONTINUING TO MEET RESISTANCE FROM DEFENSE MINISTER DAYAN AND TRANSPORTATION MINISTER PERES (BOTH MEMBERS OF THE RAFI FACTION THAT CONTROLS SEVEN SEATS IN THE PRESENTLY CONSTRUED LABOR ALIGNMENT) ON JOINING THE NEXT CABINET. BOTH HAVE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WILL SUPPORT THE NEW MINORITY GOVERNMENT IN THE KNESSET. PRESS REPORTS HAVE INDICATED MRS. MEIR MAY ASSUME THEIR PORTFOLIOS HERSELF, LEAVING OPEN THE OPTION THEY MIGHT RESUME THEIR POSTS AT A LATER TIME.
- NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY -- WHOSE REFUSAL TO JOIN THE NEW GOVERNMENT FORCED MRS. MEIR'S DECISION TO FORM A MINORITY GOVERNMENT -- HAVE NOT YET RESULTED IN A CHANGE OF POLICY BY THE NRP. THEIR STAND ON THE RELIGIOUS QUESTION OF WHO IS JEWISH HAS BEEN UNYIELDING TO DATE. SHE IS LEAVING THEIR SEATS OPEN FOR THE TIME BEING.
- LABOR IS CONCERNED THAT THE NRP MAY DECIDE TO ENTER INTO ACTIVE OPPOSITION WHICH, TOGETHER WITH LIKUD, COULD CONSTITUTE A POWERFUL FORCE IN KNESSET COMMITTEES. LABOR WILL BE CONSULTING WITH THE NRP TO DETERMINE JUST HOW MUCH SUPPORT IT WILL HAVE FROM NRP EVEN IF IT REMAINS OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT.
- LIKUD IS ACTIVELY DENOUNCING THE MINORITY GOVERNMENT AND

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IS REPORTEDLY INITIATING CONTACTS WITH VARIOUS POLITICAL  
FACTIONS WITH THE AIM OF CREATING A GOVERNMENT OF  
"NATIONAL UNITY." (NIEHUSS/SAUNDERS)

25X1

IRAQI-IRANIAN SITUATION: THE CONTINUING MOVEMENT OF IRAQI  
AND IRANIAN TROOPS AND MATERIEL TOWARD THE BORDER AREAS

ACTIVITY IN THE SOUTHERN BORDER AREA OF KHUZESTAN  
PROVINCE CENTERED AROUND THE CONTINUING MOVEMENT OF TROOPS  
AND MATERIEL INTO THE GENERAL AREA OF AHVAZ. AN ARMORED IN-  
FANTRY BATTALION, AN ARTILLERY BATTALION, AND AN INFANTRY  
BATTALION WERE NOTED BEING DEPLOYED IN THE MEHRAN AREA. ALSO,

WHITLAM GOVERNMENT PLANS TO MOVE ON RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA:  
THE AUSTRALIAN CHARGE HERE INFORMED STATE ON FEBRUARY 21 THAT  
PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM HAD DECIDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD  
APPROACH NORTH KOREA NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS DIPLOMATIC RECOGNI-  
TION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. DEPUTY  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY SNEIDER REITERATED OUR STRONG OBJECTIONS  
TO THE TIMING OF THE AUSTRALIAN MOVE, BUT THE AUSTRALIAN CHARGE  
SAID THE DECISION WAS FINAL. THERE HAD BEEN SOME INDICATION  
THAT CANBERRA MIGHT DELAY APPROACHING PYONGYANG UNTIL NEXT SUMMER  
IN LIGHT OF SEDUL'S THREAT TO RECALL ITS AMBASSADOR.  
AS REGARDS THE UK'S PLAN TO TELL NORTH KOREA SHORTLY THAT IT  
COULD SET UP A TRADE OFFICE IN LONDON, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRE-  
TARY SNEIDER ON FEBRUARY 22 CONVEYED TO THE BRITISH OUR PROBLEMS  
WITH THE TIMING OF THEIR PROPOSED MOVE. THE UK EMBASSY INDICATED  
SYMPATHY WITH OUR OBJECTIONS. SNEIDER, RATHER THAN UNDER SECRE-  
TARY SISCO, MADE THE REPRESENTATION SINCE SISCO WAS INVOLVED WITH  
PREPARATIONS FOR YOUR TRIP NEXT WEEK. (FROEBE)

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COMMUNISTS TO REINFORCE MR-4:

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ALSO, INTERCEPTED MESSAGES HAVE REFERENCED  
AN NVA/VC REQUEST THAT THE KHMER COMMUNISTS PERMIT TRANSIT  
OF SOME 5,000 PERSONNEL THROUGH THE BORDER REGION TO THE  
SOUTHERN DELTA. THIS REQUEST REFLECTS AN EARLIER ARRANGE-  
MENT IN WHICH THE KHMER COMMUNISTS REPORTEDLY AGREED TO PRO-  
VIDE RICE AND ALLOW TRANSIT TO THE NVA IN EXCHANGE FOR A SUB-

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STANTIAL AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT. THESE REPORTS SQUARE WITH A  
RECENT HIGH LEVEL INTELLIGENCE THAT THE VC/NVA ARE CONCERNED  
OVER THAI WEAKNESS IN MR-4 AND WILL CONCENTRATE IN COMING  
MONTHS ON EXPANDING THEIR HOLDINGS IN THIS AREA. (STEARMAN/  
DAMS)

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CONTAINS CODEWORD

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