

~~TOP SECRET~~

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOMAK 38  
TO AMEMBASSY JERUSALEM

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TOP SECRET SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD  
WH40577

TOMAK 38

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TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SEC. KISSINGER

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE  
CONTAINS CODEWORD

FEBRUARY 26, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER  
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM  
SUBJECT: MORNING INFORMATION ITEMS

DIA & DOS  
review(s) completed.

FRENCH CABINET TO BE ANNOUNCED FRIDAY: REPORTS FROM PARIS YESTERDAY INDICATE THAT THE NEW FRENCH CABINET WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON FRIDAY. PRIME MINISTER MESSMER IS TO SUCCEED HIMSELF AS THE HEAD OF A SMALLER, STREAMLINED CABINET. OUR EMBASSY REPORTS THAT SEVERAL TECHNICAL MINISTRIES ARE LIKELY TO BE COMBINED AND SOME OF THE SECRETARIES OF STATE WILL DISAPPEAR, AND THAT MOST MAJOR MINISTERS PROBABLY WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE.

FOXBATS LEAVING EGYPT? ACCORDING TO THE ROMANIAN MILITARY ATTACHE IN CAIRO, THE SOVIETS HAVE PULLED OUT TWO OF THEIR MIG-25 FOXBATS FROM CAIRO WEST AIRFIELD. THE WITHDRAWAL REPORTEDLY OCCURRED WITHIN THE PAST 10 DAYS. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO CONFIRM THIS REPORT. NO AN-22 TRANSPORTS -- THE ONLY AIRCRAFT LARGE ENOUGH TO TRANSPORT A MIG-25 -- ARE KNOWN TO HAVE FLOWN TO EGYPT SINCE NOVEMBER.

OUR BEST EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT THERE ARE SIX HEXBATS AT CAIRO WEST. THESE AIRCRAFT ARRIVED IN LATE OCTOBER. SINCE THEIR ARRIVAL THEY HAVE FLOWN SEVERAL RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS OVER THE SUEZ CANAL AND HAVE SERVED AS TARGETS FOR EGYPTIAN SAM TRAINING ACTIVITY. THE FOXBATS WERE LAST NOTED IN FLIGHT ACTIVITY TWO WEEKS AGO, WHEN FOUR SERVED AS TARGETS FOR A SAM EXERCISE.

GROMYKO TO DAMASCUS: UPI REPORTS FROM MOSCOW AND DAMASCUS, QUOTING "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES," STATE THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO FLEW TO DAMASCUS YESTERDAY AND WILL GO FROM THERE TO CAIRO. THE SOURCES SAID GROMYKO HOPES TO CONFER WITH YOU. GROMYKO TOLD NEWSMEN UPON HIS ARRIVAL THAT THE AIM OF HIS VISIT IS TO HAVE TALKS WITH SYRIAN OFFICIALS TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. GROMYKO'S TRIP COMES HARD ON THE HEELS OF BREZHNEV'S LETTER TO SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD YESTERDAY. THERE IS NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON

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IRAN-IRAQ DISPUTE AT THE UN: THE SC PRESIDENT HAS CALLED FOR A COUNCIL MEETING AT FOUR PM TODAY WHICH IS LIKELY TO ADOPT A CONSENSUS STATEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES. DISCUSSIONS CONTINUED YESTERDAY IN NEW YORK ON A DRAFT THAT BOTH PARTIES HAVE REFERRED TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION. IRAN HAS ACCEPTED THE DRAFT WITH MODIFICATIONS, AND IRAQ PERMREP HAS ALSO ACCEPTED BUT IS SEEKING CONFIRMATION FROM BAGHDAD. IRAN IS AWARE THAT IRAQ MAY TRY TO PRESS FOR A RESOLUTION BASED ON THE "NEUTRAL" LANGUAGE OF THE CONSENSUS STATEMENT. WE HAVE UN-OFFICIALLY BEEN ASKED BY THE IRANIANS IF WE WOULD BE WILLING TO VETO SUCH A RESOLUTION BUT HOPEFULLY THIS COURSE CAN NOW BE AVOIDED. AMBASSADOR SCALI CONTINUES TO FEEL WE SHOULD TRY TO AVOID BEING PLACED INTO POSITION OF HAVING TO VETO A REASONABLE RESOLUTION, AND THUS HAS BEEN PRESSING FOR AGREEMENT ON A CONSENSUS STATEMENT. (QUANT)

THE FINAL EDITION OF THE WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS HEADLINES THE SYRIAN POW LIST. ALSO ON PAGE ONE IS AN ITEM FROM COLUMBUS, GA. NOTING THAT LT. WILLIAM CALLEY HAS BEEN FREED ON \$1,000 BOND. CALLEY CITED PRESSING FINANCIAL NEEDS AS WELL AS THE NEED TO BE CLOSER TO HIS ATTORNEYS IN HIS APPEAL TO THE COURT.

ETHIOPIAN MILITARY REBELLION: THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY REBELLION CENTERING AROUND ASMARA, ETHIOPIA'S SECOND LARGEST CITY, CONTINUES, ALTHOUGH THUS FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO VIOLENCE OR BLOODSHED. THE REBELS HAVE SUBMITTED TO THE EMPEROR A LIST OF 22 DEMANDS, PRIMARILY ECONOMIC, BUT CALLING FOR SOME SOCIAL REFORMS. THE REBELS ALSO REPORTEDLY HAVE DEMANDED CHANGES IN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY HIERARCHY AND, IN FACT, THE EMPEROR ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION OF THE CABINET FEBRUARY 27. THERE HAS BEEN NO DANGER TO AMERICANS IN ETHIOPIA THUS FAR, AND IN FACT THE REBELS HAVE SEEMED TO GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO BE COURTEOUS AND HELPFUL TO OUR OFFICIALS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.

THE SITUATION IS FLUID AND THE EMPEROR'S PRIMARY TASK WOULD APPEAR TO BE TO ORGANIZE A NEW GOVERNMENT ACCEPTABLE TO THE REBELS AND CAPABLE OF RESTORING ORDER IN THE COUNTRY. THIS WILL BE A DIFFICULT TASK AND THE EMPEROR'S OWN AUTHORITY MAY BE THREATENED.

SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO REACTION EITHER FROM SOMALIA OR THE MOSLEM ERITREAN LIBERATION FORCE, ALTHOUGH A SOMALI DIPLOMATIC REPORT STATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN FIERCE FIGHTING ON THE 25TH BETWEEN THE ARMY AND ELF INSURGENTS. THE REPORT ALSO SAID THE STAFF OF THE OAU WAS PREPARING TO MOVE FROM ADDIS ABABA "FOR SECURITY REASONS."

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