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FM THE SITUATION ROOM  
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

30 Oct 74 01 02

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[REDACTED] DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS WH42978

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SECTION 01 OF 02

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PLEASE PASS TO GOMPERT/BREMER FOR THE SECRETARY

OCTOBER 29, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

DOS, Army, NAVY Reviews Completed

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

SOVIET SHIP ACTIVITY: THE TWO GUIDED MISSILE FRIGATES THAT HAVE BEEN IN HAVANA SINCE LATE SEPTEMBER MOVED TO CIENFUEGOS ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF CUBA OVER THE WEEKEND. THE SHIPS WILL PROBABLY SPEND MOST OF THEIR TIME IN PORT, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE LIMITED OPERATIONS WITH CUBAN NAVAL UNITS IN THE CARIBBEAN. THE SOVIET HELICOPTER CARRIER LENINGRADR HAS RETURNED TO THE ATLANTIC ENROUTE TO THE BLACK SEA FOLLOWING SEVERAL MONTHS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE RED SEA. THE SHIP IS CURRENTLY OFF THE WEST COAST OF SOUTH AFRICA, AND IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A PORT CALL AT DAKAR, SENEGAL EARLY NEXT MONTH.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

PHILIPPINE COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATION: A FOUR-BATTALION COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATION IS UNDERWAY IN CENTRAL MINDANAO. THIS MAJOR SEARCH AND DESTROY MANEUVER, WHICH BEGAN ON OCTOBER 15 FOLLOWING THE DOWNING OF A UH-1H HELICOPTER NEAR PARANG, IS ONE OF THE LARGEST UNDERTAKEN IN THIS AREA. IT INVOLVES ONE CONSTABULARY AND THREE INFANTRY BATTALIONS SUPPORTED BY TACTICAL AIRCRAFT AND NAVAL GUNFIRE. REBEL FORCES ARE POSING STIFF RESISTANCE AND "HEAVY FIREPOWER" FROM FORTIFIED POSITIONS, AND SO FAR THE GOVERNMENT HAS SUSTAINED 31 CASUALTIES AND CLAIMS 87 REBELS DEAD. THE OPERATION FEATURES AN UNUSUALLY RAPID RESPONSE TIME BY A MAJOR GOVERNMENT FORCE, SUGGESTING A MORE AGGRESSIVE MILITARY POSTURE. THE AREA IS A LONG-TIME REBEL STRONGHOLD AND MUSLIM WILLINGNESS TO RESIST TENDS TO CONFIRM REPORTS THAT IT IS A MAJOR ARMS STORAGE OR INFILTRATION SITE. THE REBELS ARE LIKELY TO WITHDRAW IN THE FACE OF SUPERIOR GOVERNMENT FIREPOWER RATHER THAN SUSTAIN HEAVIER LOSSES. NEVERTHELESS, EVEN LIMITED GOVERNMENT SUCCESS WOULD TEND TO IMPROVE MORALE AND DENY REBEL ACCESS TO THIS IMPORTANT COASTAL AREA.

ENVY CASUALTIES IN MILITARY REGION 1 OF SOUTH VIETNAM: FIGHTING INTENSIFIED IN MR 1 BEGINNING IN MID-JULY, WHEN THE NVA BEGAN MAJOR ATTACKS IN CENTRAL QUANG NAM PROVINCE. BOTH SIDES REINFORCED THIS AREA, BUT THE COMMUNISTS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF ARVN DEPLOYMENTS AND LAUNCHED NEW ASSAULTS IN NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN MR 1. THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE HAVE IDENTIFIED 15 NVA INFANTRY REGIMENTS AS WELL AS SUPPORTING ARMOR, ARTILLERY, AND REAR-SERVICE UNITS INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT OPERATIONS. TEN REGULAR ARVN INFANTRY REGIMENTS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE HEAVY FIGHTING. OF THESE, SIX ARE SAID TO BE PRESENTLY CONSIDERED MINIMALLY COMBAT EFFECTIVE AND THREE OTHERS QUESTIONABLE DUE TO HEAVY CASUALTIES. THREE OF THE FOUR RANGER GROUPS WERE ALSO ENGAGED. THREE BATTALIONS HAVE ALMOST BEEN DESTROYED. SEVERAL REGIONAL FORCE UNITS SUFFERED INTENSIVE LOSSES, AND SEVERE MORALE PROBLEMS HAVE DEVELOPED IN OTHERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE SOUTH. THE AIRBORNE

ORE THAN No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/10/28 : LOC-HAK-550-2-59-4 IN  
JULY 18 AND OCTOBER 15. THE MAJORITY OF THE CASUALTIES WERE  
WOUNDED, AND HALF OF THESE AND MANY OF THE MORE THAN 2,000  
MISSING SHOULD EVENTUALLY RETURN TO THEIR UNITS. DURING THIS  
PERIOD, OVER 5,000 REPLACEMENTS WERE ASSIGNED TO MR 1. ARVN  
UNITS CAN BE REBUILT IN TIME, ALTHOUGH REPLACING FIELD-EXPERIENCED  
OFFICERS WILL BE A MAJOR PROBLEM. THE GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES OVER  
7,000 NVA-VC HAVE BEEN KILLED SINCE THE OFFENSIVE BEGAN. WHEN  
WOUNDED AND MISSING PERSONNEL ARE CONSIDERED, THE 15 ATTACKING  
NVA-VC REGIMENTS HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES. THE  
EXACT STATUS OF THE UNITS INVOLVED CANNOT BE DETERMINED. BUT  
SOME ELEMENTS ARE NO LONGER IDENTIFIABLE ON THE BATTLEFIELD  
BECAUSE OF THEIR FAILURE TO RECEIVE REPLACEMENTS. WHILE THE  
SIZE OF THE PREFIGHTING REPLACEMENT POOL IS NOT KNOWN, 6,000  
NVA PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN INFILTRATED INTO NORTHERN MR 1 SINCE  
THE ATTACKS BEGAN, THREE TIMES THE NUMBER DURING THE SAME  
1973 PERIOD, AND THE WEAKENED NVA FORCES CAN BE REBUILT WITH  
LITTLE DIFFICULTY. LOSS OF COMBAT-TESTED LEADERS IS ALSO A  
PROBLEM FOR THE COMMUNISTS. BOTH SIDES APPARENTLY NEED THE  
UPCOMING RAINY SEASON FOR REGROUPING AND THE TRAINING OF NEW  
PERSONNEL. RVN OFFICERS HAVE INDICATED SUCH A DESIRE AND  
THE INCREASED NVA EMPHASIS ON SAPPER ATTACKS AND LOC INTER-  
DICTIONS INDICATES A DESIRE TO AVOID MAINFORCE CONFRONTATIONS.  
GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNIST FORCES, HOWEVER, STILL RETAIN THE  
CAPABILITY FOR STRONG REACTIONS TO INCURSIONS INTO AREAS CON-  
SIDERED VITAL TO THEIR RESPECTIVE INTERESTS.

ASHINGTON STAR-NEWS: CROSBY NOYES WRITES THE CHARGE THAT  
A LOPSIDED DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS COULD BE A THREAT TO WORLD  
PEACE HAS BEEN DISMISSED AS BOILERPLATE POLITICAL RUBBISH  
AND MAYBE IT IS. BUT THERE ALSO IS AN ELEMENT OF REAL CONCERN  
ON THE PART OF PRESIDENT FORD AND YOU THAT A HOSTILE AND  
ASSERTIVE CONGRESS CAN SERIOUSLY HAMPER THE CONDUCT OF AMERI-  
CAN FOREIGN POLICY IN THE FUTURE. WHAT TROUBLES THE ADMINI-

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FINAL SECTION OF 02  
STRATION LEADERS A GOOD DEAL MORE IS A GROWING TENDENCY IN CONGRESS TO CLAIM A KIND OF ONGOING OVERSIGHT IN THE DAY-TO-DAY CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY. GIVEN LARGE ENOUGH MAJORITIES AND SUFFICIENT DETERMINATION, THE CONGRESS COULD, IN FACT, FRUSTRATE AN EFFECTIVE FOREIGN POLICY. THE TROUBLE IS THAT THE MORE FORD SAYS ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE COURSE OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, THE WORSE HIS RELATIONS WITH THE NEXT CONGRESS ARE LIKELY TO BE.

STAR EDITORIAL ON "HOPE FOR SALT" SAYS THE MAJOR CHANGE IS THAT THE LATEST RUSSIAN IDEAS ON THE SUBJECT OF NUCLEAR LIMITATIONS ARE NOT AS COMPLETELY ABSURD AS THEIR EARLIER ONES. THIS MAY NOT BE THE CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGH THAT YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR IN YOUR TALKS WITH THE SOVIET LEADERS. BUT, IT IS ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU THINK THAT THERE IS NOW A "REASONABLE CHANCE" OF A SECOND STAGE ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT SOMETIME NEXT YEAR AND A GOOD BASIS FOR THE FORTHCOMING MINISUMMIT BETWEEN BREZHNEV AND PRESIDENT FORD IN VLADIVOSTOK NEXT MONTH. JUST POSSIBLY, THE SOVIET LEADERS NOW REALIZE THAT IF IT COMES TO AN ALL-OUT RACE THEY ARE LIKELY TO LOSE IT. IF YOU SUCCEED IN CONVINCING THE SOVIET LEADERS THAT THEIR OWN SALVATION AND THAT OF MANKIND LIES IN THIS DIRECTION, IT WILL RATE AS ONE OF THE GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS IN AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC HISTORY. A CARTOON OF BREZHNEV AND YOU ACCOMPANIES THE EDITORIAL. YOU ARE SEATED AROUND THE SALT TALKS TABLE. YOU HAVE JUST LIT A CIGAR FOR BREZHNEV. THE SMOKE FROM THE MATCH READS "JACKSON AMENDMENT." A TATTERED BREZHNEV SITS AT THE TABLE, THE CIGAR HAVING EXPLODED IN HIS FACE.

PA QUOTING DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN SANTIAGO, SAID THAT CHILE'S RULING JUNTA SOON WILL RELEASE ABOUT 2,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS. THE SOURCES SAID ABOUT 500 WILL BE DEPORTED.

ENTER REPORTS THAT THE PALESTINIAN COMMANDO MOVEMENT TODAY DENIED REPORTS THAT IT HAD AGREED AT AN ARAB SUMMIT IN RABAT TO THE FORMATION OF A JOINT JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN DELEGATION TO THE GENEVA PEACE TALKS.

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