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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOMAK 053//

TO ADAMS/BARRIAN/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

T O P S E C R E T VIA 86972 SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD WH51645

TOMAK 053

AUGUST 26, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

25X1

MORI/CDF per C03210623

NSA, DIA, NAVY reviews
completed

***** WHSR COMMENT ***** ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MC FARLANE, RODMAN, SDO, SECFLF

RECALLED

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SOVIETS MINIMIZE SIGNIFICANCE OF CURRENT U.S. MID-EAST EFFORTS: THE SOVIET PRESS HAS HAD LITTLE TO SAY ABOUT YOUR CURRENT TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, AND SOVIET DIPLOMATS ARE KEEPING THEIR OWN COUNSEL. WHAT LITTLE THE SOVIETS HAVE PRINTED TENDS TO MINIMIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY NEW DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND TO REITERATE THE STOCK SOVIET THEME THAT AN AGREEMENT SHOULD BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF AN OVERALL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. PRAVDA ON SUNDAY, FOR EXAMPLE, BELITTLED YOUR "TENTH MISSION" TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND SAID IT HAD ONLY LIMITED OBJECTIVES. THE ABSENCE OF DIRECT COMMENT REFLECTS MOSCOW'S AMBIVALENCE ON YOUR TRIP. MOSCOW MAY SEE A NEW AGREEMENT AS REDUCING THE RISK OF WAR AND AS INCREASING THE PROSPECTS FOR A GENEVA CONFERENCE. THE SOVIETS DISLIKE WASHINGTON'S DOMINANCE OF THE DIPLOMATIC PROCESS, BUT PROBABLY THINK DIRECT CRITICISM WOULD DAMAGE THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. IN A SITUATION IN WHICH SOVIET INFLUENCE IS LIMITED ANYWAY. SOVIET PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS TO THE ARABS HAVE BEEN LESS RESTRAINED AND SEEM DESIGNED TO LIMIT U.S. ABILITY TO GAIN POINTS FROM AN AGREEMENT. THE SOVIET BROADCASTS HAVE SAID THAT SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN INTERESTS WILL BE IGNORED IN A NEW AGREEMENT AND HAVE STRESSED THAT THE U.S. WILL GRANT ISRAEL SUBSTANTIAL NEW AID TO REACH AN ACCORD. THE SOVIETS HAVE CHIDED CAIRO FOR FALLING INTO THE "SNARE" OF SEPARATE AGREEMENTS AND HAVE QUESTIONED THE POLITICAL CONCESSIONS EGYPT MUST MAKE TO REGAIN TERRITORY. THE BROADCASTS HAVE SUGGESTED SOVIET UNEASINESS WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT U.S. TECHNICIANS WILL BE STATIONED IN THE SINAI. ONE RADIO COMMENTARY CHARGED THAT THE TECHNICIANS WILL SERVE ISRAELI INTERESTS AND EXPRESSED MISGIVINGS ABOUT THEIR NOT OPERATING UNDER UN SUPERVISION.

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THAI SEEKING QUICK BENEFITS IN CHINA TIES: THAILAND IS WASTING LITTLE TIME IN SEEKING ECONOMIC AND SECURITY ADVANTAGES FROM ITS NEW RELATIONS WITH CHINA. BANGKOK'S COMMERCE MINISTER RECENTLY CONCLUDED THE FIRST FORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS SINCE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED ON JULY 1. IT WAS A TRADE PACT THAT CALLS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF THAI RICE FOR CHINESE CRUDE AND DIESEL OIL. FROM THE THAI POINT OF VIEW, THE DEAL IS A MAJOR SUCCESS. BANGKOK GAINED A SMALL PORTION OF ITS PETROLEUM NEEDS AT FAVORABLE PRICES WHILE IT FOUND AN OUTLET FOR A SIZEABLE PORTION OF ITS EXPORTABLE RICE SURPLUS. A HIGH-RANKING CHINESE TRADE OFFICIAL HAS REPORTEDLY AGREED TO VISIT THAILAND IN NOVEMBER, AND LATER THIS MONTH THE THAI ARE PLANNING TO SEND ANOTHER ECONOMIC DELEGATION TO PEKING. THE DELEGATION, AMONG OTHER MATTERS, REPORTEDLY WILL SOUND OUT THE CHINESE ON THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN THAILAND. ANOTHER PURPOSE OF THE TRIP IS TO DETERMINE IF THE CHINESE ARE PREPARED TO GIVE FORMAL GUARANTEES OF THAILAND'S NEUTRALITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

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