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PRIORITY

DE WTE #0814 0500124

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 11//

TO BARBIAN/COVEY FOR THE SECRETARY

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EYES ONLY CONTAINS CODEWORD

VIA BLACK PATCH WH60224

TOHAK 11 State Dept. review completed

USAID review completed

MEMORANDUM FOR:  
FROM:  
SUBJECT:

FEBRUARY 19, 1976  
THE PRESIDENT  
BRENT SCOWCROFT  
INFORMATION ITEMS

THE ASEAN SUMMIT: LEADERS OF THE FIVE NATIONS BELONGING TO THE EIGHT-YEAR-OLD ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) WILL MEET COLLECTIVELY FOR THE FIRST TIME FEBRUARY 23-25 IN BALI. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO SIGN A TREATY FOR SETTling INTRA-REGIONAL DISPUTES, SET UP A CENTRAL SECRETARIAT, AND DECLARE THEIR INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE IN POLITICAL, SECURITY, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL FIELDS. A STATE DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS OF THE MEETING CONCLUDES THAT BY HOLDING THEIR FIRST SUMMIT AND AGREEING TO PERIODIC SUMMITS IN THE FUTURE, THE ASEAN LEADERS WILL HAVE INCREASED ASEAN'S VISIBILITY, AND RAISED THE LEVEL OF ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE FOREIGN POLICIES OF ITS PARTICIPANTS. POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION WILL BE MADE MORE EXPLICIT THAN PREVIOUSLY. DESPITE THIS FORWARD MOMENTUM, ASEAN WILL CONTINUE TO BE A LOOSE, LARGELY UNSTRUCTURED ASSOCIATION THAT MOVES ONLY AT THE PACE AT WHICH IT CAN REACH CONSENSUS. ALL THE DIVISIVE FACTORS THAT HAVE HELD IT BACK SO FAR PERSIST, INCLUDING: DISPARATE LEVELS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES, AND BORDER PROBLEMS. THE VERY HOLDING OF THE SUMMIT, HOWEVER, IS INDICATIVE OF A GREATER REALIZATION OF CERTAIN SHARED INTERESTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE POST-VIETNAM ERA.

COMMENTS ON LEE KUAN YEW-MARCOS MEETING---: AMBASSADOR

\*\*\*\*\* W H S R C O M M E N T \*\*\*\*\*

SEC FILE ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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HOLDRIDGE IN SINGAPORE REPORTS THAT PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR GARCIA DISCUSSED WITH HIM THE LEE KUAN YEW-MARCOS MEETING IN SINGAPORE JANUARY 27-29. GARCIA SAID THAT THE TWO LEADERS AGREED:

-- ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE U.S. STAYING ON IN THE REGION AS A STABILIZING INFLUENCE, AND THE NECESSITY OF CONTINUED FOREIGN INVESTMENT FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH.

-- ON TRAINING OF SINGAPORE A-4 PILOTS AT THE U.S. BASE AT CUBI POINT IN THE PHILIPPINES. ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE U.S. WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT.

CATHOLIC RESISTANCE GROUP CAPTURED IN SAIGON: RADIO SAIGON REPORTED THE CAPTURE ON FEBRUARY 13 OF A GROUP OF "REACTIONARIES" WHO HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN PROPAGANDA, TERRORISM, AND COUNTERFEITING. GOVERNMENT FORCES CAPTURED THE GROUP IN A SAIGON CATHOLIC CHURCH AFTER A 13-HOUR SIEGE. THE REBEL GROUP, OF UNKNOWN SIZE, WAS APPARENTLY WELL EQUIPPED. THE GOVERNMENT REPORTED SEIZING MODERN PRINTING EQUIPMENT -- PROOFS, PLATES, AND BANKNOTES -- A RECEIVER-TRANSMITTER, WEAPONS, AND OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT. SAIGON AUTHORITIES HAVE WIDELY PUBLICIZED THE INCIDENT WITH EMPHASIS ON THEIR ATTEMPT TO GET THE REBELS TO SURRENDER AND AVOID DAMAGE TO THE CHURCH AND ITS RELICS. THEY ALSO WARN THEY WILL NOT TOLERATE THE USE OF RELIGION AS A COVER FOR ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES.

KOSYGIN'S HEALTH: EMBASSY MOSCOW REPORTS THAT, ACCORDING TO A MEMBER OF THE TURKISH EMBASSY, AT ONE POINT DURING HIS DECEMBER TRIP TO TURKEY KOSYGIN TOLD PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL THAT HE FELT OLD AND TIRED AND WANTED ONLY TO BE LEFT ALONE TO PLAY WITH HIS GRANDCHILDREN AND ENJOY LIFE. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE HAD SEVERAL TIMES ASKED TO BE ALLOWED TO STEP DOWN, BUT BREZHNEV TOLD HIM THAT HE, KOSYGIN, AND PODGORNYY HAD COME TO POWER TOGETHER AND WOULD ALL LEAVE TOGETHER.

PARKER TESTIFIES ON GUATEMALA: AID ADMINISTRATOR DANIEL PARKER TESTIFIED YESTERDAY ON GUATEMALA. HE ANNOUNCED THAT YOU WOULD BE SENDING UP VERY SOON LEGISLATION PROPOSING \$25 MILLION FOR THE RELIEF AND RECOVERY EFFORT. IN LIGHT OF THAT STATEMENT SENATOR KENNEDY ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD NOT INTRODUCE THE BILL WHICH HE HAD READY TO GO ON THE SAME SUBJECT. PARKER REPORTS THAT CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. ASSISTANCE EFFORT IS STRONG AND THAT THERE IS A DESIRE ON THE HILL TO MOVE THE LEGISLATION

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