

CONFIDENTIAL

FBIS TRENDS
25 APRIL 1973

- 17 -

NOTES

MOSCOW ON MIDEAST: Reporting the 21 April UN Security Council resolution, Moscow focused on its condemnation of Israel's "recurrent military attacks" on Lebanon and ignored its general condemnation of "all acts of violence." TASS on the 19th indirectly acknowledged U.S. insistence on even-handed condemnation of all forms of violence in reporting the Cairo AL-AKHBAR's criticism of the U.S. stand in the Security Council debate. Regretting that the resolution failed to call for "effective measures" to end Israeli "acts of aggression," Moscow publicized Soviet delegate Malik's expression of readiness to support sanctions against Israel "up to exclusion" from the United Nations and claimed Arab "satisfaction" with this statement. While routinely complaining that the United States was responsible for "watering down" the resolution, Moscow was more critical of the Chinese for "avoiding the question of a political settlement" in the Middle East, for failing to propose concrete measures against Israel, and particularly for making "slandorous anti-Soviet tirades" against the USSR's position on non-use of force in international relations.

Moscow has taken note of Egypt's "important initiative," approved by the Security Council on the 20th, for a special Council meeting to study the overall Mide st situation but has given the proposal negligible publicity.

CHINA-USSR-HIMALAYAS: Peking and Moscow refrained from injecting their rivalry into the recent disturbances in Sikkim, but their reactions to developments in the Himalayas reflect a sense of the geopolitical implications for their interests. Where the Chinese express sympathy for attempts by local rulers--no matter how "feudal"--to reduce their dependence on India, the Soviets have viewed this affinity as evidence of Peking's effort to exert influence in the region. Reacting mildly to the Sikkim events through selected news reports carried by NCNA beginning 11 April, Peking interpreted the virtual Indian takeover as designed to squelch attempts led by the king to reduce India's "control and oppression." The Chinese made particular use of Nepalese as well as Pakistani comment, including a warning that India's takeover "rings an alarm bell for smaller states lying on India's periphery."

Moscow remained discreetly silent on the Sikkim developments, but recent Soviet comment on the region has included a strong anti-Chinese element. Thus, on 30 March the weekly NEW TIMES