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GENERAL

1. Implications of Mao's prolonged stay in Moscow--  
 Commenting on the recent statement by Chinese Communist leader Mao Tse-tung that he expected to remain in the USSR for "several weeks," US Embassy Moscow considers it odd that Mao would absent himself from China for an extended period at this critical time. The Embassy cites previous reports of the "nationalistic" flavor of Mao's leadership and suggests that: (a) Mao's return to Peiping is being delayed by failure to reach agreement in negotiations with the USSR; and (b) strongly pro-Kremlin elements in the Chinese Communist Party may be expected to take advantage of Mao's absence to strengthen their position at the expense of the "nationalistic" faction in the Party.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that Mao's return to China may be delayed by an inability to reach agreement on certain provisions of a revised Sino-Soviet treaty. CIA has no evidence, however, that Mao is out of favor with the Kremlin or that an anti-Mao coup is being planned in China. )

State Dept. review completed

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NO CHANGE in Class.

DECLASSIFIED

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