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CHANNELS

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DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

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CIA/OEI/WHIZWH 740629

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SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
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TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR. FAZIO.4

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

ITEM NO: WH-1 DATE: JUNE 29, 1974

SUBJECT: MILITARY UNREST IN ETHIOPIA

REF : [REDACTED]

25X1A2g

THE MILITARY HAS NOT YET TAKEN OVER THE GOVERNMENT AS PRESS REPORTS HAVE IMPLIED AND IT IS STILL RELUCTANT TO ESTABLISH A MILITARY REGIME.

MODERATE MILITARY ELEMENTS ARE, HOWEVER, PREPARING TO ARREST SEVERAL HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO ARE SUSPECTED OF THWARTING THE MILITARY'S PROGRAM OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES. THE ONLY CABINET MINISTER ON THE ARREST LIST REPORTEDLY IS DEFENSE MINISTER ABIYBE ABDEDE, ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. OTHERS ON THE LIST INCLUDE AN ADVISER TO PRIME MINISTER ENDALKATCHEW, TWO CLOSE ADVISERS OF EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE, AND SOME MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

DATE:
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THE MODERATES HAVE BECOME IMPATIENT WITH THE GROWING INFLUENCE OF CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS OVER THE GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY THE CONSERVATIVES' SUCCESS IN HOLDING UP THE PROSECUTION OF FORMER OFFICIALS ACCUSED OF CORRUPTION. THE MILITARY'S ACTIONS, HOWEVER, ARE A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO ENDALKATCHEW'S AUTHORITY. THE SUCCESSFUL ARREST OF ABIYE, IN PARTICULAR, WOULD GREATLY INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE ENTIRE CABINET'S RESIGNATION. THE MILITARY MODERATES WOULD PROBABLY THEN ATTEMPT TO HAVE MORE OF THEIR OWN OFFICERS APPOINTED TO MINISTERIAL POSITIONS.

THE MILITARY IS NOT AS UNIFIED AS IT WAS WHEN IT REVOLTED AND OUSTED THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT IN FEBRUARY. MOST UNITS WILL PROBABLY SUPPORT THE ELEMENTS IN ADDIS ABABA THAT INTEND TO CARRY OUT THE ARRESTS, BUT INDISCIPLINE IS WIDESPREAD, AND THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF LOCAL CLASHES BETWEEN ARMED FORCES UNITS.

ARMY TROOPS HAVE TAKEN UP POSITION AROUND KEY POINTS IN THE CAPITAL, BUT MILITARY PATROLS ARE BEING KEPT AT A MINIMUM.

E-2 IMPDET. (SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: MEA DIV AND NIO [REDACTED])

[REDACTED] 25X1A9a
 DATE: JUNE 29, 1974
 ORIG: [REDACTED] /WHSS 25X1A9a
 UNIT: CIA OOPS CTR
 EXT: 9340

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