

GOING MESSAGE/ADMIN FORM

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

(ADDRESSES) _____

(PRECEDENCE)

DRAFTED BY:

WSS DUTY OFCR: _____

STAT

ALL BUREAUS (except SA)

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7/23/85

FL _____ NC _____

O _____

CONCURRENCES: COMM. OPERATOR

PA _____ AB _____

P _____

SK _____ GF _____

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BK _____ PY _____

HK _____ SA _____

AU _____ MB _____

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JN _____ DW _____

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BBC _____ PMU _____ MWR _____ TAB _____

NON-FBIS _____

MESSAGE BFN: _____ (COMCENTER USE ONLY)

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WA

SUBJECT: PROPAGANDA ALERTS FOR USIA

1. RE OUR DISCUSSION DURING MY VISIT TO LONDON, WE HAVE NOW HELD TALKS HERE WITH USIA ON THEIR DESIRE FOR PROPAGANDA ALERTS. THE PROCEDURE: ITEMS WOULD BE FLAGGED BY YOUR EDITORS, "PROPAGANDA ALERT." THE ITEMS WILL THEN BE CARRIED ON OUR WIRE SERVICE, WITH THE FLAG, AND WILL BE PULLED BY USIA (AND POSSIBLY OTHER AGENCIES) FOR COUNTER-ACTION. PURPOSE IS TO ALERT USIA AND OTHER RECIPIENTS IN ORDER TO RESPOND MORE QUICKLY TO SIGNIFICANT SOVIET ALLEGATIONS. SUGGEST MATERIAL BE FILED AT LEAST AT PRIORITY PRECEDENCE. THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY USIA; PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU FEEL THERE IS ANYTHING THAT NEEDS CLARIFICATION. IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH USIA, WE AGREED THAT WE SHOULD SIMPLY GO AHEAD AND TRY IT. IF PROBLEMS DEVELOP, WE CAN SORT THEM OUT LATER. THE CRITERIA:

2. GENERAL GUIDELINES:

A. SIGNIFICANT INITIAL COMMENTARY ON U.S. OR SOVIET POLICY INITIATIVES (NOT RPT NOT INITIAL REPORTING THAT THE INITIATIVE TOOK PLACE).

B. SIGNIFICANT SHIFTS IN PROPAGANDA LINE OR IMPORTANT RPT IMPORTANT ISSUES.

C. MAJOR NEW OR RESURRECTED ALLEGATIONS OF U.S. MALEVOLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

D. STATEMENTS WHICH COULD INSPIRE A PHYSICAL THREAT TO USG PERSONNEL OVERSEAS.

E. MAJOR NEW OR RESURRECTED ATTACKS ON U.S. DOMESTIC SOCIETY, CULTURE, OR POLITICS.

3. DEFINITIONS:

A. LIMIT FLAGGING ONLY TO ITEMS THAT APPEAR IN THE CENTRAL MEDIA OR INTERNATIONAL BEAMS.

B. A SIGNIFICANT ITEM IS ONE IN WHICH AN AUTHORITATIVE SOVIET SPOKESMAN MAKES A PRONOUNCEMENT ABOUT A KEY ISSUE IN A MAJOR MEDIUM OR SETTING.

C. A MAJOR SHIFT IS A REVERSAL OF THE PRESENT PROPAGANDA LINE, THE INTRODUCTION OF MAJOR NEW ELEMENTS TO THE CURRENT LINE, OR THE DROPPING OF IMPORTANT ELEMENTS.

D. IMPORTANT ISSUES ARE BASICALLY THOSE THAT MAKE THE FRONT PAGE OF THE N.Y. TIMES OR WASHINGTON POST--E.G., TWA HIJACKING, GENEVA TALKS, SDI.

E. INITIAL COMMENTARY IS THE FIRST ANALYTICAL STATEMENT FROM ANY CENTRAL MEDIA SOURCE ON AN INITIATIVE.

4. SOME EXAMPLES OF ITEMS THAT SHOULD BE FLAGGED:

A. THE GORBACHEV NUCLEAR ARMS MORATORIUM PROPOSAL.

B. SOVIET REACTION TO PRESIDENT REAGAN'S INTERIM RESTRAINTS DECISION.

C. SOVIET INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTS ON TWA HIJACKING.

D. SOVIET ATTACKS ON U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY DURING THE OTTAWA HREM.

E. INITIAL SOVIET CHARGES OF U.S. COMPLICITY IN THE GANDHI ASSASSINATION.

5. WIRE OR CALL ME IF THE ABOVE IS NOT UNDERSTANDABLE. IF AGREEABLE, SIMPLY NOTIFY ME WHEN YOU ARE IMPLEMENTING. USIA ANTICIPATES THERE WOULD ONLY BE ONE OR TWO FLAGGINGS A WEEK. ONLY THE FIRST FILED ITEM NEED BE FLAGGED; FOLLOWUP MATERIAL ON SAME SUBJECT NEED NOT BE FLAGGED.