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DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS

NOFORN-	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
NOCONTRACT-	Not Releasable to Contractors or Contractor/Consultants
PROPIN-	Caution-Proprietary Information Involved
ORCON-	Dissemination and Extraction of Information Controlled by Originator
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Page 1 of 1

Attachment to

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9 NOVEMBER 1983

PREPARATIONS FOR MAJOR SALVAGE OPERATION
YALUNG NAVAL BASE, CHINA (SWN)

[Redacted]

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1. SIGNIFICANCE: THE CHINESE ARE PREPARING FOR A MAJOR SALVAGE EFFORT OF THE GLOMAR JAVA SEA DRILLING SHIP WHICH WENT DOWN IN THE GULF OF TONKIN. (SWN)
2. REMARKS: AN UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF SALVAGE AND RESCUE VESSELS HAVE BEEN ASSEMBLED EITHER OFFSHORE OR AT THE QUAY. THE VESSELS PRESENT INCLUDED TWO RIGA-CLASS FRIGATES (FF), BOTH KAN CHA SUBMERSIBLE SUPPORT VESSELS, THE XYH-21 OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH SHIP (AGOR), THE DALANG SUBMARINE RESCUE SHIP (ASR), A TUZHONG OCEAN TUG (ATA), AND A CIVILIAN OILER. THESE VESSELS REPRESENT ALL OF THE MAJOR SALVAGE CAPABILITY IN THE SOUTH SEA FLEET, AND PROVIDE THE NECESSARY CAPABILITIES TO CONDUCT A SALVAGE OPERATION OF THE GLOMAR JAVA SEA. EACH OF THE KAN CHA VESSELS NORMALLY CARRIES THE FRENCH-BUILT SN-358-2 SUBMERSIBLE, ONE OF WHICH IS PARTLY VISIBLE ON ONE OF THE SHIPS. THE SN-358-2 SUBMERSIBLE IS EQUIPPED WITH EXTERNAL MANIPULATOR ARMS CAPABLE OF ATTACHING CABLES OR LINES TO A SUBMERGED VESSEL. THE TUZHONG ATR AND THE DALANG ASR HAVE AT LEAST SEVEN SPOOLS OF CABLE OR LINE ON DECK WHICH WOULD BE USED DURING THE OPERATION. (SWN)

THE GLOMAR JAVA SEA, A U.S. REGISTERED OIL DRILLING SHIP UNDER LEASE TO CHINA, REPORTEDLY SANK IN THE GULF OF TONKIN DURING A TYPHOON [Redacted]

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[Redacted] THE CHINESE HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS SINCE THAT TIME IN THE WATERS OFF HAINAN ISLAND. THE ASSEMBLY OF THE VESSELS INDICATES A HIGH-LEVEL CHINESE INTEREST IN SALVAGING THE GLOMAR JAVA SEA. (SWN) [Redacted]

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3. [Redacted] COORDINATES 18-15-09N 109-41-44E (S)

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These notes have been prepared for briefing purposes only and should not be used for detailed analytical work. Their use should be restricted to the particular briefing board(s) they were prepared for and must be considered valid only for the reporting period as indicated by the date of issue.

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