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Jul 3, 1971

Secret

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE:  
25-Nov-2008

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# OUTGOING MESSAGE

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4. USSR: [ ] PROMINENT JEWISH HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY, WHO HAS BEEN UNDER DETENTION SINCE MARCH 15, HAS BEEN FORMALLY CHARGED WITH TREASON. [ ]

[ ]

THE CHARGE CARRIES A PENALTY OF 10 TO 15 YEARS IN A LABOR CAMP OR, IN "EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES," DEATH.4

[ ] SPECULATION THAT SHCHARANSKY WOULD BE CHARGED WITH TREASON HAS BEEN RIFE AMONG SOVIET DISSIDENTS IN RECENT WEEKS. ACCUSATIONS OF ESPIONAGE AGAINST HIM //AND SEVERAL US DIPLOMATS AND NEWSMEN// WERE PUBLISHED IN IZVESTIA TWO WEEKS BEFORE HIS DETENTION AND WERE REPEATED IN DETAIL IN EARLY MAY.4

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UNDER

SOVIET LAW, TREASON INCLUDES ESPIONAGE AND "RENDERING AID TO A FOREIGN STATE IN CARRYING ON HOSTILE ACTIVITY." NO OFFICIAL, PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TREASON CHARGE AGAINST SHCHARANSKY HAS YET BEEN MADE, AND IN ANY EVENT, THE CHARGE COULD BE REDUCED BEFORE ANY TRIAL OPENS.4

[ ] UNTIL HIS ARREST, SHCHARANSKY WAS ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE DISSIDENT GROUP MONITORING SOVIET COMPLIANCE WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS. THE FOUNDER OF THE GROUP, YURY ORLOV, AND HIS COLLEAGUE ALEKSANDR GINZBURG ARE ALSO BEING DETAINED, BUT NO CHARGES HAVE BEEN LEVIED AGAINST THEM. SOVIET ANTI-DISSIDENT MOVES IN RECENT MONTHS HAVE SEEMED TO FOCUS ON ORLOV'S MONITORING GROUP, WHICH HAS REGIONAL BRANCHES [ ]

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[ ]  
 [ ] THEY MAY [ ]

[ ] CALCULATE THAT THEY CAN HOLD THE  
 ARRESTED ACTIVISTS HOSTAGE TO DEVELOPMENTS AT BELGRADE. MOSCOW'S  
 RECENT PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN WARNING THE WEST NOT TO "OVEREMPHA-  
 SIZE" HUMAN RIGHTS OR SEEK TO PUT THE USSR AND ITS ALLIES IN THE  
 DOCK AT BELGRADE CONTINUES TO BETRAY DEEPSEATED CONCERN OVER THE  
 COURSE AND OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE.4

[ ] //SOVIET ORCHESTRATION OF THE SHCHARANSKY CASE SO FAR--  
 PUBLICLY IMPLICATING THE JEWISH AND NON-JEWISH DISSIDENT COMMU-  
 NITY WITH US DIPLOMATS AND NEWSMEN IN ESPIONAGE ACTIVITY AT THE  
 BEHEST OF CIA--COULD THUS BE ANOTHER WAY MOSCOW HOPES TO INHIBIT  
 THE WEST, AND ESPECIALLY THE US, FROM LEVYING CHARGES OF HUMAN  
 RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST THE USSR AT BELGRADE.//4

[ ] THE SOVIETS MAY SEE SEVERAL  
 ADVANTAGES IN PUTTING SHCHARANSKY ON TRIAL. THEY WOULD HOPE THAT THE  
 ESPIONAGE CHARGES AGAINST HIM WILL DISCREDIT THE DISSIDENTS, //BOLSTER  
 SOVIET ALLEGATIONS OF US INTERFERENCE IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS, //

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FURTHER CURB CONTACTS BETWEEN FOREIGNERS AND SOVIET CITIZENS, AND  
DRAMATICALLY DEMONSTRATE THAT SOVIET DOMESTIC POLICIES ARE RESIST-  
ANT TO EXTERNAL PRESSURES.  4

5.

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