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FM THE SITUATION ROOM WHP 621 TDMHAK 161

TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

UNCLAS WH37728

VIA YELLOW PATCH

TDMHAK 161

DECEMBER 20, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

THE WASHINGTON POST

ACCORDING TO RONALD KOVEN, SAUDI ARABIA HAS TOLD THE U.S. THAT IT HAS DECIDED TO INCREASE OIL PRODUCTION TO LEVELS SOUGHT BY THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD AS SOON AS THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE IS SETTLED. THE BASIC POLICY DECISION TO EXPAND OUTPUT TO 20 MILLION BARRELS A DAY WAS MADE KNOWN TO THE ARABIAN-AMERICAN OIL COMPANY AND TO TOP U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. (A-1)

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, ACCORDING TO MURREY HARDER, INDICATED THAT THE SOVIET UNION CONTENDS THAT IT TRIED IN VAIN TO ALERT THE U.S. TO THE DANGER OF AN OUTBREAK OF WARFARE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE MONTHS BEFORE THE OUTBREAK ON OCTOBER 6. A SOVIET DIPLOMATIC SOURCE SAID YESTERDAY THAT WARNINGS THAT ARAB-ISRAELI TENSION WAS "EXPLOSIVE" AND THAT PRESSURE WAS MOUNTING IN EGYPT TO RECOUP LOST TERRITORY WERE PASSED TO THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION AS LATE AS SEPTEMBER. SUBSEQUENT WARNINGS OF AN URGENT NEED FOR DIPLOMATIC MOVEMENT TOWARD A PEACE SETTLEMENT TO HEAD OFF A CONFLICT WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN PASSED BY THE RUSSIANS TO YOU. (A-4)

ROBERT KAISER NOTES THAT THE SOVIET UNION, PRODDED BY SLUGGISH

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PRODUCTION FIGURES AND A CHRONIC INABILITY TO ELIMINATE INEFFICIENT MANAGEMENT METHODS, IS AGAIN CONSIDERING ECONOMIC REFORMS. (A-23)

MARILYN BERGER REPORTS THAT WITH YOUR 12TH STOP IN AS MANY DAYS, YOU BROUGHT YOUR AIRBORNE DIPLOMACY TO PARIS YESTERDAY FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON VIETNAM. (A-26)

MIGUEL AGDOCA REPORTS THAT YOU AGREED TO PUT U.S. RELATIONS WITH SPAIN ON THE SAME LEVEL AS WITH OTHER EUROPEAN ALLIES. BUT YOU REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO A DISPUTE BETWEEN SPAIN AND BRITAIN OVER GIBRALTAR. (A-26)

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JOSEPH KRAFT CONCLUDES THAT THE PROBLEM WHICH GIVES RISE TO THE HIJACKINGS ENDURES ONLY BECAUSE THE ARAB LEADERS WANT IT TO ENDURE. THE GENEVA CONFERENCE OUGHT TO FORCE A CHOICE BETWEEN PEACE OR A PALESTINE STATE. GIVEN SUCH A CHOICE, IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH SAME, ANTI-COMMUNIST LEADERS AS PRESIDENT SADAT OF EGYPT AND KING FAISAL OF SAUDI ARABIA WOULD NOT GO FOR THE OBVIOUS SOLUTION -- WHICH IS A PALESTINE ENTITY WITHIN THE KINGDOM OF JORDAN. (A-31)

CHAMBERS ROBERTS, IN DISCUSSING SENATOR JACKSON'S VIEWS ON SALT, ASSESS THAT IT IS CONCEDED ALL AROUND THAT YOU ARE TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHER MORE PRESSING ISSUES TO PAY SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO SALT. ROBERTS CONCLUDES THAT FOR THE TIME BEING, SALT SHOULD BE PUT ON THE SHELF. THE TIME IS NOT NOW RIPE FOR STRIKING BARGAINS IN ORDER TO GET A SALT IN ACCORD. (A-30)

MARILYN BERGER FEELS THAT YOUR COURTSHIP OF CONGRESS IS PAYING OFF IN DECLARATIONS OF ADMIRATION FOR THE NEW SECRETARY OF STATE. (G-1)

THE NEW YORK TIMES

THE KUNAKI GOVERNMENT SAID TODAY THAT IT HAD NO PLANS "AT THE PRESENT MOMENT" TO BRING TO TRIAL THE FIVE ARAB HIJACKERS OF THE LUFTHANSA JETLINER THAT LANDED THERE LAST NIGHT. (A-1)

RANKING IDEOLOGICAL SPECIALISTS FROM NINE COUNTRIES' COMMUNIST PARTIES TODAY CONCLUDED A PRIVATE MEETING THAT SIGNALLED A MORE COORDINATED COUNTERATTACK TO WESTERN PRESSURES FOR FREER HUMAN CONTACTS AND A FREER FLOW OF PEOPLE AND IDEAS AS PART OF EAST-WEST ACCOMMODATION. (A-5)

AN AUTHORITATIVE SOVIET JOURNAL HAS INDICATED THAT MOSCOW'S

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PROPOSAL FOR A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT WITH WASHINGTON CALLS FOR REDUCTIONS IN SOME PARTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES' STRATEGIC ARSENALS. (A-6)

TERENCE SMITH COVERS THE ARRIVAL OF VARIOUS FOREIGN MINISTERS IN GENEVA AS THE GENEVA CONFERENCE BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE. SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO SAID AS HE ARRIVED AT THE AIRPORT THAT THE MIDDLE EAST CONFERENCE WAS "AN EVENT OF GREAT INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE." (A-16)

BERNARD GWERTZMAN SAYS THAT SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD TOLD YOU TO INFORM THE ISRAELIS THAT THEIR PRISONERS WERE BEING "WELL-TREATED." GWERTZMAN INDICATES THAT NEWSMEN WERE TOLD ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT THAT YOU BELIEVED DOMESTIC PRESSURES WITHIN SYRIA LED ASSAD TO CHANGE HIS MIND ABOUT THE CONFERENCE. YOUR UPCOMING ITINERARY WITH THO, JOBERT, E'ESTAING, AND PRESIDENT

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POMPIDOU IS FULLY COVERED AS WELL. REFERRING TO THE THO TALKS, YOU WERE QUOTED AS SAYING: "I EXPECT THAT THE TALKS WILL BE HELPFUL, BUT WE WILL NOT SIGN ANY NEW ACCORD." (A-19)

THE BALTIMORE SUN

PRESS REPORTS FROM JERUSALEM INDICATE THAT PRIME MINISTER MEIR TOLD AN ELECTION MEETING YESTERDAY THAT ISRAEL'S BORDERS SHOULD BE DEFENSIBLE AND SHOULD BE "SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE PRE-1967 BORDERS AND THE PRESENT CEASE-FIRE LINES."

NICK THIMMESCH ENTITLES HIS COLUMN "ISRAEL USED WEAPONS DOVES DEPLORED IN VIETNAM." THIMMESCH ASSERTS THAT WHILE THE SAME WEAPONS WERE BEING USED IN VIETNAM, CONGRESSIONAL DOVES WERE SCREAMING AND NOW THAT THE SAME WEAPONS WERE USED DURING THE OCTOBER WAR, THERE IS SILENCE TO THE ROLE OF SUCH CONTROVERSIAL WEAPONS TO ISRAEL. "IF THEY (WEAPONS) ARE NOT INTRINSICALLY EVIL, THE DOVES HAD NO BASIS TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THEIR USE IN VIETNAM." THIMMESCH CONCLUSIVELY SAYS THAT THIS IS A CONGRESS WITH SMALL PORTITUDE.

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