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INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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DE WTE #1122 0680003  
O 090411Z MAR 75  
FM THE SITUATION ROOM //TOHAK 42//

DOS Review  
Completed.

TO BORG/ADAMS/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

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TOHAK 42

MARCH 9, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY  
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM  
SUBJECT: SUNDAY CARLE SUMMARY

SUBJECT: INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN CAMBODIA  
AN UNTIDY SITUATION IS DEVELOPING ON THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL FRONT IN PHNOM PENH. ON FRIDAY, PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION TO PRESIDENT LON NOL EARLY NEXT WEEK. BORET CLAIMED THAT HE HAD NO REAL INTENTION OF STEPPING DOWN BUT THAT TENDERING HIS RESIGNATION WAS THE ONLY WAY OF GETTING LON NOL TO FOCUS ON THE NEED FOR INCREASING CIVILIAN CONTROL OVER THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. BORET APPARENTLY HAS THE BACKING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND SENATE; EARLIER THIS WEEK THEY PASSED TWO RESOLUTIONS ASKING FOR INCREASED POWERS FOR THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. UNCONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS FROM PHNOM PENH CLAIM THAT LON NOL HAS ASKED BORET TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT SUGGESTING THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ALREADY BROUGHT THE ISSUE TO A HEAD.

BORET'S IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE IS ALMOST CERTAIN, THE REMOVAL OF CAMBODIAN ARMY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ, WITH WHOM BORET HAS BEEN FEUDING FOR SOME TIME. WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF A MORE COMPATIBLE ARMY COMMANDER, BORET HOPES TO COMBINE THE OFFICES OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND DEFENSE MINISTER IN ORDER TO MAKE THE MILITARY LESS INDEPENDENT AND IMMUNE FROM CIVILIAN POLICY DECISIONS.

IN NORMAL TIMES, BORET'S EFFORTS TO EFFECT SUCH FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT AND THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE RESULTED IN A MAJOR POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE TWO SECTORS. FERNANDEZ, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO HAVE BECOME A SCAPEGOAT FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S STEADY

\*\*\*\*\* WBSR COMMENT \*\*\*\*\*

SCONCROFT, MCFARLANE, JANKA, SDO, SECFLF

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MILITARY SETBACKS. THE GROUNDSWELL AMONG MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LEADERS FOR HIS REMOVAL HAS OVERSHADOWED THE LARGER ISSUE OF CIVILIAN CONTROL OVER THE MILITARY.

THUS, BOTH BORET AND LON NOL PROBABLY VIEW THE RESHUFFLING THAT IS APPARENTLY UNDER WAY AS A PRO FORMA EXERCISE TO EASE OUT FERNANDEZ AND TO EFFECT OTHER MINOR CHANGES WHICH WILL SPARK LITTLE CONTROVERSY AND WHICH CAN BE ACHIEVED RELATIVELY SMOOTHLY. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE RISK, HOWEVER, THAT UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS THE MOVE COULD BACKFIRE. BORET, FOR EXAMPLE, MIGHT FIND IT DIFFICULT TO FIND WILLING OR ACCEPTABLE REPLACEMENTS FOR FERNANDEZ OR ANY OTHER OFFICIAL WHO DEPARTED, AND HIS POSITION AS PRIME MINISTER COULD BE JEOPARDIZED. THE CURRENT THREAT THAT COMMUNIST ARTILLERY FIRE WILL HALT THE VITAL US AIRLIFT HAS ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY INCREASED THE CONVICTIONS OF MANY INFLUENTIAL CAMBODIANS THAT THE IMPASSE ON NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE BROKEN BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT'S MILITARY POSITION CRUMBLES COMPLETELY. THESE ELEMENTS MIGHT TRY TO EXPLOIT EVEN A MINOR RESHUFFLING TO FORCE MORE DRAMATIC CHANGES--SUCH AS THE DEPARTURE OF LON NOL HIMSELF--THAT THEY BELIEVE ARE NECESSARY TO BRING THE FIGHTING TO AN END.

SUBJECT: STRAINS IN GREEK CYPRIOT UNITY

THE TENUOUS UNITY AMONG GREEK CYPRIOTS HAS COME UNDER STRAIN. THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT SAID YESTERAY IT WAS READY TO TAKE "ALL NECESSARY STEPS" TO CRUSH ANY FRESH ATTEMPTS BY EXTREME RIGHTISTS TO OVERTHROW IT. THE STATEMENT WAS APPARENTLY MADE IN RESPONSE TO CHARGES BY VARIOUS PRO-MAKARIOS GROUPS THAT THE REMNANTS OF THE EOKA-B TERRORIST ORGANIZATION WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THE COUP AGAINST MAKARIOS LAST SUMMER WERE PREPARING A NEW CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE. THESE GROUPS CLAIM THAT THE PLOT AGAINST THE GREEK GOVERNMENT BY SUPPORTERS OF THE FORMER JUNTA DISCOVERED ON FEBRUARY 24 WAS ALSO AIMED AT THE MAKARIOS GOVERNMENT. AN EXPLOSION AT THE CHURCH OF CYPRUS OFFICES IN LIMASSOL ON MARCH 4 MAY HAVE BEEN PERPETRATED BY EOKA-B TERRORISTS.

CIA BELIEVES THAT PRESIDENT MAKARIOS WILL COME UNDER INCREASED PRESSURE TO PURGE RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS FROM THE BUREACRACY, AND THIS COULD PROVOKE A VIOLENT REACTION FROM THE EXTREME RIGHT. IT DOES NOT APPEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE EXTREME RIGHT IS IN A POSITION TO MOUNT A SUCCESSFUL COUP AGAINST MAKARIOS AT THIS TIME.

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV MAY TRAVEL ABROAD

THERE IS A RUMOR MAKING THE ROUNDS IN MOSCOW THAT BREZHNEV WILL ATTEND THE HUNGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS THAT OPENS IN BUDAPEST ON MARCH 17.

A ROMANIAN DIPLOMAT, WHO MADE NO CLAIM TO HAVING INSIDE INFORMATION, HAS TOLD THE US EMBASSY THAT BREZHNEV WILL WANT TO ATTEND THE EAST EUROPEAN PARTY CONGRESSES--OF WHICH HUNGARY IS THE FIRST--AS A WARM-UP FOR THE SOVIETS' OWN CONGRESS NEXT YEAR.

THE ROMANIAN'S REASONING MAKES SOME SENSE. AND HIS VIEW IS SHARED BY THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR.

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BREZHNEV HAS NOT BEEN OUTSIDE THE SOVIET UNION SINCE VISITING PARIS EARLY LAST DECEMBER.

SUBJECT: FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS IN PORTUGAL

LEFTIST DEMONSTRATORS YESTERDAY SURROUNDED POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN SETUBAL TO PROTEST POLICE METHODS USED TO BREAK UP AN EXTREME LEFT-WING ATTACK ON A MEETING OF THE CENTER-LEFT POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY. POLICE AND DEMONSTRATORS EXCHANGED GUNFIRE IN FRIDAY NIGHT'S CLASH, RESULTING IN THREE DEATHS, THE FIRST TO OCCUR SINCE ACTIVE PARTY CAMPAIGNING BEGAN SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. THE POLICE ARE KEEPING OUT OF SIGHT, AND PUBLIC SECURITY IS BEING HANDLED BY MILITARY TROOPS RUSHED IN FROM LISBON, FIFTEEN MILES AWAY.

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THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS FEAR THAT THE INCIDENT WILL PROVIDE FUEL FOR LEFTIST MILITARY OFFICERS WHO FAVOR CANCELLING THE APRIL 12 ELECTIONS ON THE GROUNDS THAT PUBLIC ORDER CANNOT BE MAINTAINED. PARTY SOURCES CLAIM THE ISSUE WAS DISCUSSED BY THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT'S SUPERIOR COUNCIL YESTERDAY.

LATEST PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE DEMONSTRATORS IN SETUBAL HAVE DISPERSED PEACEFULLY. A LEFTIST DEMONSTRATION IN OPORTO, PORTUGAL'S SECOND LARGEST CITY, WHICH WAS IN REACTION TO THE SETUBAL DISTURBANCE, ALSO BROKE UP WITHOUT INCIDENT, BUT POLITICAL TENSIONS REMAIN HIGH.

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN INTER-CYPRIOI TALKS  
WELL INFORMED TURKISH SOURCES IN ANKARA HAVE STATED THAT A ROMANIAN PROPOSAL FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF THE BALKAN STATES IN THE INTER-CYPRIOI TALKS HAS BEEN REBUFFED BY TURKEY. THE PROPOSAL WAS CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT KORUTURK BY FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU WHO VISITED ANKARA UNEXPECTEDLY YESTERDAY ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CEAUESCU. MR. MACOVESCU HAD ALSO DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE IN ATHENS LAST WEEK.

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