

121

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

OP IMMED

DE WTE #2635 140142Z

O 201446Z MAY 75

FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 20//

TO GOMPERT/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

UNCLAS VIA 06970 WH50854

TOHAK 20

MAY 20, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BERNARD GWERTZMAN WRITES THAT PHAM HUNG, NORTH VIETNAM'S FOURTH-RANKING POLITBURO MEMBER, WHO FOR THE LAST EIGHT YEARS SECRETLY COORDINATED ACTIVITIES AGAINST SAIGON, WAS REPORTED TO HAVE EMERGED AS THE APPARENT POLITICAL LEADER IN SOUTH VIETNAM FOLLOWING THE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER. (A-1)

ACCORDING TO PHILIP SHABECOFF, QUESTIONS ABOUT CASUALTY REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT PERSISTED TODAY DESPITE NEW EXPLANATIONS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE PENTAGON. (A-1)

NICHOLAS M. HORROCK WRITES THAT THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION HAS LEARNED OF DOCUMENTS SUPPORTING THE CHARGE THAT THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY CONTRACTED WITH THE MAFIA IN A PLOT IN 1961 TO KILL CUBAN PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO, AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES REPORTED YESTERDAY. (A-1)

STEVEN ROBERTS WRITES THAT ATHENS HAS BERATED WASHINGTON FOR HELPING THE TURKS, AND YOU ARE PROBABLY THE MOST DESPISED MAN IN GREECE. YET GREEK DIPLOMATS SAY THAT ONLY YOU CAN SOLVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEMS, EVEN SUGGESTING THAT YOU PRODUCE A SPECIFIC PLAN -- SOMETHING YOU ARE RELUCTANT TO DO. (3)

LESLIE GFLB SAYS THAT YOU AND YOUR ASSOCIATES DO NOT EXUDE OPTIMISM ABOUT A BREAKTHROUGH IN VIENNA. THEIR STATED AIM IS TO

*****WHISR COMMENT*****

SEC FLE

PSN:047248

PAGE 01

TOR:140/14:227

DTG:201446Z MAY 75

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

00000088888800000 L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

BEGIN THE PROCESS OF SENDING SOVIET AND AMERICAN DELEGATIONS BACK TO GENEVA IN JUNE WITH NEW INSTRUCTIONS. (8)

THE KREMLIN'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE SOVIET PRESTIGE THROUGH A SUCCESSION OF FORUMS ABROAD APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN STALLED DESPITE SOME ADVANTAGES OFFERED BY RECENT AMERICAN SETBACKS. THE SITUATION, IN WHICH MOSCOW IS BEING FRUSTRATED BY A TIMETABLE OF ITS OWN OPTIMISTIC MAKING, FIGURES IN SOVIET CONCERN AT A TIME WHEN GROMYKO IS BELIEVED TO BE RAISING SOME OF THE MORE PRESSING PROBLEMS WITH YOU AT YOUR TWO-DAY MEETING IN VIENNA. (9)

THE LAOTIAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED A SERIES OF REGULATIONS RESTRICTING TRAVEL WITHIN THE COUNTRY AND ABROAD AND REQUIRING EVERY LAOTIAN TO REGISTER WITH THE NATIONAL POLICE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT ASKED ALL NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES NOT TO GRANT ASYLUM TO ANY LAOTIANS -- A DEMAND AIMED DIRECTLY AT THAILAND, WHERE MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE LEFT LAOS HAVE SOUGHT SANCTUARY. (16)

GERALD TANNERBAUM WRITES THAT THERE IS A CHORUS IN OUR MASS MEDIA MISREPRESENTING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TWO IMPORTANT MEETINGS IN CHINA IN JANUARY, THE SECOND PLENARY SESSION OF THE 10TH CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE LONG-DELAYED FOURTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS. THE IMPLICATION IS THAT THINGS ARE STILL NOT SETTLED, THAT WITHIN CHINA THERE IS INSTABILITY, AND THAT ITS EXTERNAL POLICIES MUST BE WATCHED WARILY. SHARP DEBATE HAS ALWAYS BEEN PRESENT WITHIN THE COMMUNIST PARTY, AND THERE WILL BE SUCH CONFLICTS IN THE FUTURE. BUT THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND MR. CHOU'S PROGRAM ARE STRAIGHT OUT OF MR. MAO'S BOOK, AND THAT THERE IS MAJORITY AGREEMENT IN THE PARTY AND THE COUNTRY ON THEM. (37)

ROBERT KLEIMAN SAYS THAT DESPITE FOUR SOVIET-AMERICAN SUMMIT MEETINGS IN THIRTY MONTHS, DETENTE CLEARLY IS IN TROUBLE. A FIFTH SUMMIT IS BEING DELAYED. YOU AND GROMYKO IN VIENNA SAY YOU WANT DETENTE TO CONTINUE. BUT ARE YOUR AIMS THE SAME? THE U.S. HOPES FOR A MORE STABLE WORLD. THE SOVIET OBJECTIVE IS "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE," WHICH IS SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN. (37)

THE BALTIMORE SUN

AP REPORTS COMMUNISTS IN LISBON SEIZED CONTROL OF THE SOCIALIST NEWSPAPER REPUBLICA YESTERDAY. THOUSANDS OF SOCIALISTS WHO GATHERED OUTSIDE TO TRY TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THE PAPER HAD THEIR WAY BARRED BY ARMED PARATROOPERS. THE THREAT OF A CONFRONTATION DEVELOPED AS THE NATION'S MILITARY LEADERS GATHERED IN A SPECIAL ASSEMBLY UNDER PRESSURE FROM HARD-LINERS TO DO AWAY WITH STRIFE BETWEEN THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL PARTIES AND

PSN:047248

PAGE 02

TOR:140/14:22Z

DTG:201446Z MAY 75

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

BYPASS CIVILIAN POLITICIANS ALTOGETHER. ACCORDING TO A REPORT PREPARED FOR DELIVERY AT THE 240-MAN ARMED FORCES ASSEMBLY THAT BEGAN YESTERDAY MORNING, THE ARMY WAS PREPARED TO DISCOUNT THE RESULTS OF THE APRIL 25 ELECTIONS. A THREAT RUNNING THROUGH ANOTHER REPORT WAS A FRANK DISENCHANTMENT WITH PARTY RIVALRIES AND A CLEAR DESIRE FOR THE ARMY TO RUN THE COUNTRY ALONE. THERE WAS AN EXPECTATION BY SOME MILITARY SOURCES THAT THE ASSEMBLY WOULD OUST PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES OR SO WEAKEN HIS POSITION BY DISMISSING HIS SUPPORTERS THAT HE COULD NOT CONTINUE LONG IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. (A-1)

IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL, THE SUN CONTENDS THAT OBVIOUSLY A MAYAGUEZ POST-MORTEM WILL HAVE ITS MILITARY USES IN PINPOINTING FLAWS IN INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS AND THE DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES. BUT BOTH THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS HAVE A GREATER OBLIGATION TO EXAMINE THE DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE AFFAIR AS THE NATION MOVES UNCERTAINLY INTO THE POST-VIETNAM ERA. YOU AND SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAVE ALREADY STARTED THIS PROCESS WITH SOME VERY TOUGH PRONOUNCEMENTS. SCHLESINGER SAID "ONE OF THE LESSONS OF THE VIETNAMESE CONFLICT IS THAT RATHER THAN SIMPLY COUNTER YOUR OPPONENT'S THRUSTS, IT IS NECESSARY TO GO FOR THE HEART OF THE OPPONENT'S POWER: DESTROY HIS MILITARY FORCES RATHER THAN SIMPLY BEING INVOLVED ENDLESSLY IN ANCILLARY MILITARY OPERATIONS." BUT WHAT CONGRESS MUST CONSIDER CAREFULLY IS WHETHER THE ONLY LASTING ALTERNATIVE IS THE QUINTESSENTIAL PENTAGON STRATEGY ENUNCIATED BY MR. SCHLESINGER. IF THE NATION IS TO HAVE A "GREAT DEBATE" ON FOREIGN POLICY AND SECURITY THAT MEANS SOMETHING, ITS LEGISLATORS SHOULD SEE WHETHER OTHER ALTERNATIVES ARE AVAILABLE THAT WOULD PROVIDE MORE HOPE OF A PEACEFUL WORLD. (A-22)

JAMES J. KILPATRICK APPROVES OF OPERATION MAYAGUEZ AND ARGUES THAT BY HIS RESOLUTE HANDLING OF THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT, THE PRESIDENT BOOSTED THE NATIONAL MORALE, SPIT IN THE COMMUNISTS' EYE, AND INCIDENTALLY PROMOTED HIS OWN POLITICAL FORTUNES. IT IS A TRUISM IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AS IN HUMAN AFFAIRS, THAT STRENGTH INSPIRES RESPECT AND WEAKNESS BREEDS CONTEMPT. IF WE HAVE LEARNED ANYTHING ABOUT THE NATURE OF COMMUNIST AGGRESSION, SURELY WE HAVE LEARNED THAT MUCH AT LEAST. THE INCIDENT ITSELF IS LIKELY TO PASS SWIFTLY FROM THE NEWS, BUT THE IMAGES WILL REMAIN ON THE RETINA MUCH LONGER. (A-23)

THE WASHINGTON POST

SPENCER RICH WRITES THAT THE SENATE VOTED 41 TO 40 YESTERDAY TO LET PRESIDENT FORD RESTORE WEAPONS SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY. MAJORITY LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD, WARNING THAT PROLONGING THE GREECE-TURKEY DISPUTE OVER CYPRUS COULD SEVERELY DAMAGE THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION, MADE CLEAR IN AN IMPAS-

PBN1047248

PAGE 03

TOR:140/141227

DTG:120144Z MAY 75

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

000000SSSSSSSS00000 L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

SIGNED SPEECH THAT THE VOTE HAD BEEN EXPRESSLY SCHEDULED TO ALLAY TURKISH RESENTMENT OF THE U.S. AND THUS STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THE PRESIDENT AND YOU IN FORTHCOMING TALKS ON A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. BUT THE HAIRLINE MARGIN OF SENATE VICTORY FOR THE BILL, AND THE FACT THAT THE HOUSE HAS NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO TAKE IT UP, MAY DIMINISH SOME OF THE HOPED-FOR IMPACT. (A-1)

THE THAI GOVERNMENT TODAY ACCEPTED A U.S. EMBASSY LETTER OF REGRET AS A FORMAL APOLOGY FOR THE RECENT UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THAT TERRITORY TO LAUNCH PART OF THE RESCUE OPERATION FOR THE MAYAGUEZ. LATER, PRIME MINISTER KUKRIT PRAMOJ EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THIS "SORT OF APOLOGY" AND SAID HE HOPED THAI-U.S. RELATIONS COULD RETURN TO NORMAL. "WE SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY MORE TROUBLE," HE SAID. (A-1)

THE CREW OF THE CAMBODIAN PATROL BOAT THAT SEIZED THE MAYAGUEZ CLAIMS TO HAVE LATER OVERWHELMED THE PATROL BOAT'S KHMER COMMUNIST OFFICER, THROWN HIM OVERBOARD, AND SATTLED TO THAILAND SEEKING ASYLUM. (A-1) (INTELLIGENCE REPORTS TEND TO DISCOUNT THESE CLAIMS.)

MICHAEL GETLER WRITES THAT ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS CLOSE TO THE U.S.-SOVIET STRATEGIC ARMS TALKS CLAIM THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE EASED SOME U.S. SUSPICIONS THAT THEY MAY HAVE BEEN VIOLATING OR TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EARLIER JOINT AGREEMENTS ON LIMITING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THESE OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE U.S. MILITARY IS SOMEWHAT LESS CONVINCED THAN CIVILIAN OFFICIALS BY THE SOVIET EXPLANATIONS, BUT INSIST THAT PROGRESS IN PUTTING THESE ISSUES TO REST HAS BEEN MADE. (A-2)

MURREY HARDER SAYS THAT YOU RETTERATED TO GROMYKO LAST NIGHT THE AMERICAN WARNING THAT U.S.-SOVIET DETENTE MUST NOT BE USED AS A COVER FOR "THE EXPLOITATION OF LOCAL CONFLICT." GROMYKO, IN TURN, STRESSED THE SOVIET PRIORITY ON MAKING QUICKER PROGRESS TOWARD ONE OF THE OLDEST SOVIET GOALS, A 35-NATION EUROPEAN SUMMIT CONFERENCE TO HELP CONFIRM THE POST-WORLD WAR II BORDERS IN EUROPE. ACCORDING TO A U.S. SPOKESMAN, THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES STILL CONSIDER IT "PREMATURE" TO SET A FINAL DATE TO CONCLUDE THAT CONFERENCE, IN WHICH THE WESTERN POWERS SEEK TO INCREASE HUMAN CONTACTS ACROSS THE EAST-WEST DIVIDE. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THIS FIRST HIGH-LEVEL U.S.-SOVIET ENCOUNTER SINCE FEBRUARY INDICATES THERE WILL BE CONTINUAL MANEUVERING AND BARGAINING THROUGHOUT THIS SUMMER OVER COMPETING PRIORITIES ON THE WASHINGTON-MOSCOW AGENDA. (A-2)

IN THE LAST OF THREE ARTICLES, LOU CANNON REPORTS THAT THE MORE WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF DONALD H. RUMSFELD TELLS PEOPLE HE IS NOT INTEREST IN BEING PRESIDENT, THE LESS THEY BELIEVE HIM. (A-7)

PSN1047248

PAGE 04

TOR:140/14:227

DTG:201446Z MAY 75

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

000000SSSSSS00000 L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON YESTERDAY CRITICIZED THE U.S. FOR SELLING ARMS TO JORDAN WHILE WITHHOLDING WEAPONS FROM ISRAEL. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE DEAL WITH JORDAN WAS NOT IN LINE WITH WASHINGTON'S REASSESSMENT OF ITS MIDEAST POLICY, DURING WHICH IT DECLARED A HALT TO THE PROCESSING OF ISRAELI ARMS REQUESTS. (A-10)

PORTUGAL'S FEUDING POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE RULING ARMED FORCES APPEAR TO BE LOSING THEIR GRIP ON THE COUNTRY. COMMUNIST LEADER CUNHAL, UP TO NOW A STRONG ALLY OF THE MILITARY, MADE STATEMENTS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THEIR ROLE, AND AN EXTREME LEFT-WING GROUP CLAIMS IT HAS DISCOVERED A NEW PLOT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. (A-10)

THE LEAD EDITORIAL SAYS REPORTS OF THE DEATH OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE ARE DECIDELY PREMATURE. IT MAY YET TURN OUT THAT NO TREATY WILL BE WRITTEN ON NATIONAL TERRITORIAL AND ECONOMIC JURISDICTION, NAVIGATION, AND THE TRANSIT OF SHIPS, FISHERIES, DEEP SEABED MINING, POLLUTION, RESEARCH, AND LIKE ISSUES. ONE CANNOT BE SANGUINE, BUT IT IS UNFAIR TO CONCLUDE THAT THE LACK OF SOLID INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT MAKES IT LEGITIMATE OR NECESSARY FOR EACH NATION TO GO OFF ON ITS OWN. THIS IS THE ONLY CHANCE THE WORLD WILL HAVE TO APPLY THE RULE OF LAW TO ITS OCEANS. AS LAST WEEK'S COSTLY CHASE OVER THE MAYAGUEZ ALL TOO AMPLY DEMONSTRATED, THE ALTERNATIVE IS CHAOS AND CONFLICT. (A-18)

JOHN GOSHKO SAYS IT CURRENTLY SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE IN ISRAEL TO HAVE A CONVERSATION THAT DOES NOT CENTER ON THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPRESSION OF A BOOK DESCRIBING HIGHLY SECRET -- AND ALLEGEDLY HIGHLY INDISCREET -- DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN YOU AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS. THAT'S ALL PEOPLE HAVE TALKED ABOUT SINCE IT BECAME KNOWN EARLY LAST WEEK THAT RABIN HAD INVOKED ISRAEL'S CENSORSHIP LAWS TO PREVENT PUBLICATION OF A BOOK ENTITLED CONFRONTATION AND DISENGAGEMENT AND WRITTEN BY MATTI GOLAN, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT OF HA'ARETZ. GOLAN'S MANUSCRIPT WAS BASED ON TOP-SECRET OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS AND TRANSCRIPTS OF MEETINGS COVERING THE PERIOD AFTER THE OCTOBER 1973 WAR, WHEN YOU WERE NEGOTIATING TROOP DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT AND SYRIA. THE CLASSIFIED MATERIAL REPORTEDLY CONTAINS DISPARAGING REMARKS MADE BY YOU ABOUT THE LEADERS OF EGYPT, SYRIA, THE SOVIET UNION, AND JAPAN. THIS IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS THE REAL REASON WHY THE BOOK WAS BANNED. RABIN REPORTEDLY TOLD HIS CABINET THAT YOUR STATEMENTS WERE POTENTIALLY SO DAMAGING THAT THEIR PUBLICATION COULD HAVE COMPELLED YOU TO RESIGN AND COULD HAVE PREVENTED ANY FUTURE U.S. EFFORTS TO MEDIATE IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. (A-18)

PSN:047248

PAGE: 05

TOR:140/14:227

DTG:201446Z MAY 75

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

ROD MACLEISH QUESTIONS THE REAL MOTIVES BEHIND THE MAYAGUEZ DRDEAL BY ASKING IF IT WAS SIMPLY A DETERMINATION TO RESCUE A HIGHJACKED SHIP AND KIDNAPED CREW. OR WAS THERE ALSO THE DESIRE OF THE ADMINISTRATION WHICH DOUBTS ITS OWN GLOBAL CREDIBILITY IN THE TANDRY AFTERMATH OF VIETNAM TO PROVE THAT THERE IS STILL STING IN THE AMERICAN TAIL, THAT WE STILL TRAIL A VAPOR OF SCARY UNPREDICTABILITY AS WE LUMBER THROUGH THE WORLD? YOU AT LEAST KEPT THAT QUESTION ALIVE WHEN YOU TOLD A PRESS BRIEFING HERE THAT THE MAYAGUEZ EPISODE SHOULD TEACH THE WORLD THAT THE U.S. WILL NOT BE PUSHED AROUND. (A-18)

THE FULL TEXT OF JOSEPH KRAFT'S ARTICLE "BOWING TO THE SHAH" WILL BE SENT THROUGH STATE CHANNELS. (A-19).

JACK ANDERSON REPORTS THAT THE PRESIDENT ORDERED THE RESCUE OF THE MAYAGUEZ AGAINST THE ADVICE OF HIS LEGAL EXPERTS, WHO CAUTIONED HIM THAT THE CAPTURE DID NOT CONSTITUTE PIRACY BE- CAUSE THE VESSEL WAS SEIZED EIGHT MILES FROM AN ISLAND CLAIMED BY CAMBODIA. (B-13)

2307

PSN:047248

PAGE 06

OF 06

TOR:140/14:22Z

DTG:1201446Z MAY 75

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY