

GENERAL READING FOR THE PRESIDENT

21 - 28 August, 1970

REFER TO DOS

Contents

USSR

1. "Voices from the Russian Underground,"  
Transcript of CBS-TV Program Broadcast  
on July 28, 1970.

CBS News Correspondent William Cole took and smuggled out of the USSR these filmed interviews with three dissident Soviet intellectuals: Andrei Amalrik, Piotr Yakir, and Vladimir Bukovsky. At no small risk to themselves, the three young men reaffirm both their condemnation of the repressiveness of the Soviet regime and their hopes for change. Their statements are eloquent and quite moving. (17 pp.)

INDOCHINA

2. Douglas Pike, The Viet-Cong Strategy of Terror,  
Chapter III, "Hue," February 1970.

An account and analysis of the Communist atrocities at Hue' during the Tet offensive of February 1968. Pike, a Foreign Service Officer with USIA in Saigon and an expert on the NLF, documents the background, the rationale, the unfolding, and the scale of the systematic Communist liquidation of South Vietnamese civilians during the month-long battle for Hue'. The targets were civil servants, civic and religious leaders, intellectuals -- and their families. Consolidation of power, "social reconstruction," and, finally, elimination of eyewitnesses, seemed to be the Communist objectives. An excellent piece. (22 pp.)

3. Robert Shaplen, "Letter from Indochina,"  
August 6, 1970, The New Yorker, August 15, 1970.

A moderate critic of our Vietnam policy examines the dilemmas faced by both Washington and Hanoi three months after the Cambodian operation. He proposes a new "peace package" to be offered to Hanoi, including (a) a schedule for regrouping, withdrawal, and a series of regional cease-fires, and (b) a formula for the composition of a mixed electoral commission. He is pessimistic about the ability of the South Vietnamese to hold

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together, to solve their economic problems, and to prevent the disaffection of the young. But the Communists are conscious of their own weaknesses too, and are exhorting their men to persevere. (12 pp.)

4. Lt. Col. Vincent R. Tocci, USAF, "Understanding the War in Southeast Asia," Armed Forces Journal, May 9, 1970.

A military man discusses the elusiveness and ambiguity of events on the battlefield in Southeast Asia. Our statistics, he points out, even to the extent that they are reliable, are only measures of the scale of US effort, rather than measures of real achievement or progress. The political problems at home come partly from this absence of tangible evidence of progress. But the accomplishment is real -- especially if seen in terms of denial of Communist objectives. (8 pp.)

#### CUBA

5. J. H. Huizinga, "Three Faces of Castro's Cuba," Interplay, June 1970.

A Dutch journalist ponders, with restrained admiration, the curious mixture of idealism and hardship that is Castro's Cuba. While Fidel exhorts the masses to further self-sacrifice and loyalty, the author tries to discern whether the people are responding. A great deal of revolutionary spirit survives, he concludes, but the nation's enthusiasm is waning. (5 pp.)

6. "Cuba: Not by Faith Alone," The Economist, August 1, 1970.

The Economist analyzes the recent 3-1/2 hour oration in which Castro blamed his country's economic crisis on his own mistakes and on the party bureaucracy. The 8 1/2-million-ton harvest, though a record, fell short of the 10-million-ton target, and the mobilization it required dislocated the economy in other sectors. The speech was devoted almost entirely to Cuba's economic difficulties; very little was said about the "revolution," and even less about the importance of spreading it in Latin America. (2 pp.)

FOR H.A.K. ONLY

USSR

7. Leopold Labedz, "The Centenary," SURVEY: A Journal of Soviet and East European Studies, Winter-Spring 1970.

The Editor of SURVEY comments sarcastically on the Lenin centenary of this past April and on the whole phenomenon of Lenin worship that has seized the Communist world. Labedz shows the absurdities which the game of competitive quotations from Lenin, as played by earnest Communist schoolmen, can reach. He moves on to discuss Lenin's historical role and significance, and tries to answer the elusive question of what Lenin would think of the Soviet system as it is today. (21 pp.)