

NSA review completed

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DE WTE #1454 0870650  
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FM THE SITUATION ROOM //TQHAK 39//

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

TO PETER RODMAN FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

~~TOP SECRET~~ SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD VIA 86970 WH40803

TQHAK 39

MARCH 28, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER  
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM  
SUBJECT: NOON REPORT

ETHIOPIAN SITUATION: THERE HAS BEEN A RENEWED MUTINY IN ASMARA, ETHIOPIA'S SECOND LARGEST CITY, BY ELEMENTS OF THE MILITARY AND POLICE. THEIR ACTION APPARENTLY STEMS FROM ANNOYANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT ACTING FAST ENOUGH TO CARRY OUT DEMANDS PREVIOUSLY MADE. THE "ARMED FORCES" IN ADDIS ABABA HAS RESPONDED TO THE MUTINEERS OVER RADIO ETHIOPIA, INSISTING THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER ENDALKATCHEW BE GIVEN A CHANCE AND CASTIGATING THE DISSIDENTS FOR MAKING THE NATION VULNERABLE TO ACTION BY ITS EXTERNAL ENEMIES. THE RENEWED ASMARA MUTINY AND THE SPECTACLE OF THE MILITARY FACTIONS PULLING IN VARIOUS DIRECTIONS, UNDERSCORE ONCE AGAIN THE CONTINUED TENSE AND UNPREDICTABLE SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA.

IRAQI-KURDISH SITUATION: PRESIDENT BAKR LATE TUESDAY ANNOUNCED A SERIES OF POLITICAL DECREES DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT HIS VERSION OF THE PLAN FOR KURDISH AUTONOMY ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 11 AND HAS AUTHORIZED A 30-DAY PERIOD IN WHICH URBAN KURDS, WHO HAVE BEEN FLEEING TO THE NORTH, COULD "SURRENDER" TO THE GOVERNMENT AND BE GRANTED AMNESTY. THOUGH PARZANI CAN BE EXPECTED TO RESIST BAGHDAD'S ATTEMPTS TO IMPOSE ITS OWN PLAN, THE IRAQI REGIME APPEARS WILLING TO STRING OUT THE POLITICAL PROCESS A BIT LONGER. THE ALL-OUT IRAQI MILITARY ATTACK EXPECTED ON TUESDAY -- END OF THE REGIME'S LAST DEAD-LINE FOR KURDISH AGREEMENT -- HAS NOT YET OCCURRED THOUGH IRAQI FORCES CONTINUE TO BE POISED FOR ACTION. HOWEVER, MILITARY OPERA-

\*\*\*\*\*WHSR COMMENT\*\*\*\*\*

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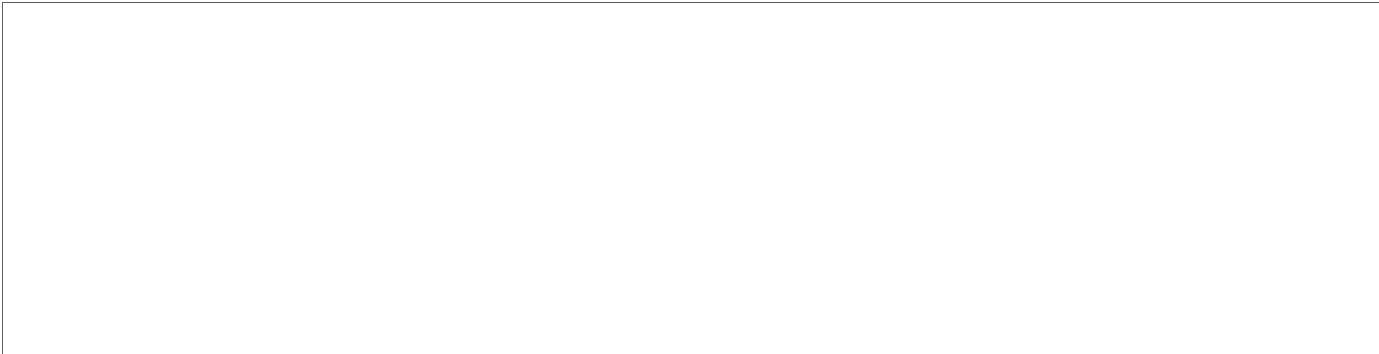
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TIONS AT A LOWER LEVEL, DESIGNED TO PROD KURDS AWAY FROM KEY OIL AREAS AROUND KIRKUK, MAY CONTINUE. MEANWHILE, THE IRAN-IRAQ BORDER HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET. (NIEHUSS/SAUNDERS)

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WINS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE: ITALY'S NEW GOVERNMENT TODAY WON A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE ITALIAN SENATE BY 183 VOTES TO 119, THE LAST PARLIAMENTARY FORMALITY ENABLING THE FORMAL INSTALLATION OF THE THREE-PARTY CENTER-LEFT COALITION. THE COALITION LAST WEEK WON A CONFIDENCE VOTE IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES (LOWER HOUSE) BY A MAJORITY OF 112.

CHINA TO CHALLENGE GVN CREDENTIALS: OUR DELEGATION TO THE CURRENT ECAFE MEETING IN COLOMBO HAS REPORTED THAT THE CHINESE APPARENTLY HAVE INDICATED THEY WILL CHALLENGE GVN CREDENTIALS AT THE CONFERENCE. THE CHINESE REPORTEDLY SO INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA, BUT DID NOT SPECIFY THE FORM THIS CHALLENGE WOULD TAKE. OUR AMBASSADOR PLANS TO TELL THE CHINESE THAT WE CAN TOLERATE A VERBAL CHALLENGE, BUT MUST OPPOSE ANY REQUEST FOR ACTION TO EXCLUDE THE GVN. (STEARMAN/ADAMS)

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