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DE WTE #4264 3451741  
O 111738Z DEC 73  
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 41

TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SEC KISSINGER

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD WH37533

TOHAK 41

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE  
CONTAINS CODEWORD

DECEMBER 11, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY  
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM  
SUBJECT: NOON NOTES

SOVIET ASSESSMENT OF ARAB MILITARY CAPABILITIES: A SENIOR SOVIET PRESS OFFICIAL IN CAIRO, WHO MAY HAVE BEEN ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT AND WAS AWARE THAT THE INFORMATION WOULD REACH U.S. OFFICIALS, HAS PROVIDED AN ASSESSMENT OF ARAB MILITARY CAPABILITIES. HE CLAIMS THE ASSESSMENT REPRESENTS THE GENERAL OPINION OF SOVIET OFFICIALS IN EGYPT. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL, CAIRO WILL NOT INITIATE MAJOR HOSTILITIES PRIOR TO THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE.

MORI/CDF  
C03342210

THE SOVIETS APPARENTLY BELIEVE THAT EGYPT IS NOT READY TO RESUME FIGHTING AND WOULD SUFFER DEFEATS, AT LEAST IN THE EARLY STAGES OF ANY RENEWED HOSTILITIES. EVEN ON THE WEST BANK OF THE SUEZ CANAL, THE EGYPTIANS ARE NOT CAPABLE OF QUICKLY GAINING THE UPPER HAND. ALTHOUGH THE ISRAELIS WOULD SUSTAIN HIGH LOSSES, THE EGYPTIANS WOULD SUFFER SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER CASUALTIES AND DAMAGE IN THE FIRST WEEK OR TWO OF RENEWED ALL-OUT FIGHTING. IN THE SOVIETS' OPINION, ONLY AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS, WHEN ALL AVAILABLE ARAB MILITARY FORCES WERE COMMITTED TO BATTLE, WOULD THE TIDE START TO TURN, BUT BY THEN NEITHER SIDE WOULD HAVE MUCH WILL OR EQUIPMENT TO CONTINUE THE BATTLE.

State Dept  
Review  
Completed

JCS review completed

STATUS OF NORTH VIETNAMESE RAIL BRIDGE: A DECEMBER 3 PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS THAT THE LANG GIAI RAILROAD BRIDGE WEST THAT WAS STRUCK DURING OPERATION LINEBACKER HAS BEEN REPAIRED. AIR STRIKES AGAINST THE BRIDGE IN MAY 1972 HAD DROPPED SIX OF ITS SPANS AND FORCED TRAFFIC TO USE THE SLOWER EASTERN TRACK AFTER HAIPHONG WAS CLOSED. THIS LATEST RESTORATION INDICATES THAT PRIORITY REPAIRS TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE RAIL SYSTEM HAVE

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JAPAN LIKELY TO RATIFY NONPROLIFERATION PACT: INFORMED GOVERN-  
MENT SOURCES SAID TODAY JAPAN WOULD MOST LIKELY RATIFY THE  
NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY EARLY NEXT YEAR. PRIME MIN-  
ISTER TANAKA INTENDS TO BRING THE TREATY UP FOR RATIFICATION  
IN THE CURRENT DIET SESSION.

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