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DE WTE #4195 3421803
O 081756Z DEC 73
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 002

TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SEC KISSINGER

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VIA AIRCRAFT

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DECEMBER 8, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: NOON NOTES

SYRIA WILL BOYCOTT GENEVA IF POW ISSUE IS PART OF CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT: QUOTING AN ISRAELI RADIO BROADCAST WHICH ATTRIBUTES A STATEMENT BY YOU TO THE EFFECT THAT THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT THE RELEASE OF THE POWS IS A SUBSTANTIVE PART OF THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT, SAID TODAY IF THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE IT WOULD CONSTITUTE A ONE-SIDED EXPLANATION OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION UNDER WHICH THE SHOOTING STOPPED. IN THIS CASE, SYRIA WILL REFUSE TO ATTEND THE GENEVA CONFERENCE BECAUSE IT WILL NOT DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF POWS EXCEPT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A PLAN FOR THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL FROM ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. THE POW QUESTION WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH ANY QUARTER AS A QUESTION SEPARATE FROM THE PLAN FOR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL. IF THE TASK OF YOUR VISIT TO SYRIA IS TO DISCUSS THE POW QUESTION IT WILL BE AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK TO IMPLEMENT.

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State Dept. review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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PELP MAGAZINE PREDICTS YOU WILL MEET WITH PALESTINIANS: AL-HADAF MAGAZINE, AN ORGAN OF THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE, PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE TODAY DISCLOSING THAT YOU WILL MEET WITH SOME PALESTINIANS DURING YOUR VISIT TO ONE OF THE ARAB CAPITALS ON YOUR CURRENT TRIP THROUGH THE MIDDLE EAST. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE YOU WILL SURMIT CHOICES TO THE PALESTINIANS FOR SOLVING THEIR PROBLEMS, ADDING THAT THIS PLAN IS BASED ON CHOICES SUBMITTED BY A CLOSE FRIEND OF YOURS -- FISHER -- WHO MAY BE ACCOMPANYING YOU. THE ARTICLE ALSO NOTES THAT YOU WILL ATTEMPT TO ELIMINATE THREE PROMINENT OBSTACLES IN THE PATH OF THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT: FAILURE OF THE KILDMETER 101 TALKS, THE PALESTINIAN'S STAND WHICH REJECTS THE SOLUTION, AND LASTLY THE SUBJECT OF OIL.

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JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN DEVELOPMENTS: KING HUSSEIN IS ACUTELY AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS HE WILL FACE IN THE ARAB WORLD AND WITHIN JORDAN IF HE DECIDES JORDAN SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE. HE FEELS BETRAYED BY EGYPT AND SYRIA BECAUSE OF THE STANCE THEY ADOPTED IN ALGIERS. HE WILL NOT DECIDE ON WHETHER TO SEND A DELEGATION TO GENEVA UNTIL YOUR VISIT, BUT, IF HE DOES, IT MAY BE COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF PALESTINIANS, INCLUDING PERHAPS A PLO MEMBER. IN TOYING WITH THE IDEA OF NEGOTIATING SOME ARRANGEMENT WITH THE PLO, THE KING IS AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF HOSTILE REACTIONS TO SUCH A MOVE WITHIN THE ARMY. SPEAKING PUBLICLY ON THE SAME TOPIC, PRIME MINISTER ZAYD RIFAI STATED THAT JORDAN SHOULD ONLY TAKE PART IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AS PART OF A UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION. EACH ARAB PARTY SHOULD AGREE ON THE ROLE OF THE OTHERS AND THERE SHOULD BE NO PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT JORDAN HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE PLO'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE, PERHAPS AS PART

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OF THE JORDANIAN DELEGATION. THE PLO'S STAND, HE STATED COMPLEMENTS THAT OF JORDAN, SINCE THE PLO HAS THE RIGHT TO DEAL WITH THE PRE-1967 ISSUES INVOLVING THE PALESTINIANS. RIFAT CALLED FOR A DIALOGUE WITH EGYPT, SYRIA AND THE PLO TO FORM A UNIFIED STAND.

FINALLY, THE LEADER OF ONE OF THE SMALL BUT INFLUENTIAL FEYAYEN GROUPS, NAIF HAWATHAH, PUBLICLY STATED YESTERDAY THAT THE PALESTINIANS BECAUSE OF EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES, WILL HAVE TO APPROVE THE CONCEPT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE ON THE WEST BANK AND IN GAZA. THESE STATEMENTS SUGGEST THAT CONTACTS ARE UNDERWAY BETWEEN JORDAN AND THE PLO, AND THAT JORDAN IS SEEKING ARAB BACKING FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA TALKS. IF HE FAILS TO GET THIS, HE COULD WELL DECIDE THAT THE RISKS OF ENTERING NEGOTIATIONS OUTWEIGH THE SLENDER BENEFITS THAT MAY BE OBTAINED BY JORDAN AT GENEVA. KING HUSSEIN IS IN AN EXTREMELY AWKWARD POSITION, AND HIS NEED TO SORT OUT HIS RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB STATES AND THE PALESTINIANS BEFORE MAKING ANY FURTHER DECISIONS IS VERY REAL.

(QUANT/SAUNDERS)

CYPRUS SITUATION: THE CYPRUS PROBLEM QUIETLY DRAGS ON IN THE BACKGROUND OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. AT A MINIMUM, THE TERRORISM SPARKED BY RIGHT-WING FOLLOWERS OF GRIVAS, WHICH ROSE TO A CRESCENDO THIS SUMMER, HAS BEEN REDUCED AND MAKARIOS

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CONTINUES TO CLAMP DOWN, HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS ON THE POLITICAL TRACK. THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS REMAIN STUCK ON THE KEY ISSUE OF LOCAL AUTONOMY FOR THE TURK CYPRIOTS AND HAVE ESSENTIALLY STALEMATED. BUT NO SIDE HAS WANTED TO CALL THEM OFF ENTIRELY. THERE MAY BE A FEW MEETINGS THIS MONTH BUT THE FOCUS NOW IS ON RENEWED SESSIONS IN JANUARY.

TWO DEVELOPMENTS WHICH COULD CONTRIBUTE TO GREATER TENSIONS IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE BEAR WATCHING. FIRST, MAKARIOS IS AGAIN BELIEVED TO BE SEEKING SECRET ARMS SHIPMENTS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO REINFORCE HIS INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES TO COMBAT GRIVAS. CLANDESTINE ARMS SHIPMENTS ARE PRECISELY THE ISSUE WHICH ALMOST LED TO A CRISIS IN FEBRUARY 1972; AT THAT TIME MAKARIOS WAS FORCED TO TURN THE ARMS OVER TO UN INSPECTION. A SIMILAR SCENARIO BUILT AROUND THIS ISSUE CANNOT BE RULED OUT IN THE FUTURE, AND THE TURKS HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED CONCERN. HOWEVER, THIS PROBLEM MAY BE QUIETLY RESOLVED THROUGH PREVENTIVE UN MEDIATION.

SECOND, MAKARIOS CAN ONLY BE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE NEW GREEK GOVERNMENT. STRONGMAN IOANNIDIS, PRESIDENT GIZIKIS AND OTHER MILITARY FIGURES INVOLVED IN THE NEW ATHENS REGIME HAVE OLD AND ENDURING TIES WITH GRIVAS; IN FACT, MAKARIOS TURNED DOWN ATHENS' RECOMMENDATION EARLIER THIS YEAR TO HAVE GIZIKIS AS THE NEW COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ON CYPRUS. IT IS TRUE THAT THE NEW REGIME -- IN A PUBLIC SPEECH BY ITS PRIME MINISTER -- OPENLY ENDORSED THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AS THE BEST ROUTE FOR SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND HAS ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CONTINUED GOOD RELATIONS WITH TURKEY, AN INTEREST WHICH WAS USEFUL IN RESTRAINING POTENTIAL CRISIS SITUATIONS ON CYPRUS UNDER PAPAIOPOULOS. HOWEVER, MAKARIOS WILL PROBABLY REMAIN SUSPICIOUS. THE ONE BUREAUCRATIC DEVELOPMENT UPCOMING ON CYPRUS IS THE SEMI-ANNUAL UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 14 TO RENEW THE MANDATE OF UNFICYP. RENEWAL AND DISCUSSIONS OF PLANS FOR FURTHER PHASED REDUCTION ARE EXPECTED. (NIEHUSS/SAUNDERS)

SOUVANNA ON COALITION GOVERNMENT: LAO PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA TOLD AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE DECEMBER 6 THAT THE UPSURGE OF NVA ATTACKS IN SOUTH VIETNAM HERALDS A DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE IN THAT COUNTRY. HE REASONED THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WILL NEED TO CONTINUE USING THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL AND THEREFORE

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WILL DELAY FORMATION OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT IN LAOS UNTIL MARCH/APRIL WHEN THE RAINS BEGIN IN THE LAD PANHANDLE AREA. SOUVANNA -- WRONGLY, WE BELIEVE -- ASSUMES THAT THE DRV INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT THE WITHDRAWAL PROVISION OF THE AGREEMENT FOLLOWING THE FORMATION OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT. AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE COMMENTS THAT THE INVESTITURE OF A NEW GOVERNMENT ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL NOT IMPEDE NVA USE OF THE TRAIL. (STEARMAN/ADAMS)

KHMER PRIME MINISTER TO RESIGN: GKR PREMIER IN TAM TOLD CHARGE ENDERS DECEMBER 6 THAT HE FIRMLY INTENDS TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON HIS MANY ATTEMPTS TO RESIGN HIS POSITION IN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE HIGH COUNCIL. ALTHOUGH IN TAM CLAIMED HE WOULD NOT ACT IMMEDIATELY, A REUTERS REPORT FROM PHNOM PENH STATES THAT HE SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION ON DECEMBER 7. IN TAM HAS LONG BEEN DISSATISFIED OVER HIS RELATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE MILITARY. HE HAS NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE AS PREMIER. ENDERS COMMENTS THAT WE CAN EXPECT ANOTHER EXTENDED PERIOD OF MANEUVERING, PROBABLY LOW KEY, AMONG THE GKR'S POLITICAL PRINCIPALS OVER THE ISSUE OF FINDING A REPLACEMENT. (STEARMAN/ADAMS)

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