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DE WTE #4594 3541550  
O 201547Z DEC 73  
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 163

TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD VIA AIRCRAFT WH37731

TOHAK 163

DECEMBER 20, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: EVENING NOTES

SPANISH PRIME MINISTER DEAD: PRIME MINISTER LUIS CARRERO BLANCO DIED THIS MORNING AS A RESULT OF INJURIES SUSTAINED WHEN HIS CAR WAS CAUGHT IN AN EXPLOSION IN DOWNTOWN MADRID. HE WILL BE REPLACED, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, BY DEPUTY PREMIER MIRANDA. TWO OF THE BODY GUARDS ACCOMPANYING THE PRIME MINISTER WERE ALSO REPORTEDLY KILLED IN THE EXPLOSION. WHILE PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT IT WAS AN ASSASSINATION CAUSED BY A BOMB, THE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS SAY THE CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION IS NOT KNOWN.

SITUATION IN INDOCHINA: THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT REPORTS THAT THE COMMUNISTS STAGED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF INCIDENTS YESTERDAY AND EARLY THIS MORNING SINCE LAST MARCH. THE LARGEST CLASH, ABOUT 30 MILES NORTH OF SAIGON, REPORTEDLY WAS LAUNCHED BY A BATTALION-SIZED COMMUNIST FORCE. MUCH OF THE ACTIVITY -- CHIEFLY SHELLINGS -- WAS IN THE DELTA.

IN CAMBODIA, GOVERNMENT ARTILLERY BEGAN SOFTENING UP KHMER COMMUNIST POSITIONS YESTERDAY ALONG ROUTE 4 JUST SOUTHWEST OF KOMPONG SPEU CITY, AND GOVERNMENT TROOPS ADVANCED BRIEFLY

State Dept Review Completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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AGAINST STIFF COMMUNIST RESISTANCE. ALONG ROUTE 5, INCON-  
CLUSIVE SKIRMISHING CONTINUED SOME TEN MILES NORTH OF PHNOM  
PENH. HELICOPTERS FERRIED REINFORCEMENTS TO THE THREATENED  
GARRISON TOWN OF OUDONG FARTHER NORTH ON THE ROAD. GOVERN-  
MENT COMMANDERS AT THE ISOLATED PROVINCIAL CAPITALS OF TAKEO  
AND KAMPOT REPORTED MINOR SHELLINGS AND GROUND PROBES.

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THO'S RECEPTION IN MOSCOW: LE DUC THO'S RECENT RECEPTION IN  
THE USSR WAS NOT VERY WARM. HE GOT LITTLE ATTENTION IN THE  
MEDIA, AND THE HIGHEST LEVEL OFFICIAL HE MET WITH WAS PARTY  
SECRETARY KATUSHEV. THE TASS REPORT ON THO'S MEETING WITH  
KATUSHEV SUGGESTS THAT AS USUAL THEIR DIFFERENCES RESULT  
MAINLY FROM DIFFERING PERCEPTIONS OF THE U.S. ROLE IN INDO-  
CHINA. THO REITERATED THAT THE NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE  
COMMUNISTS WERE OBSERVING THE PARIS AGREEMENTS AND DEMANDED  
THAT WASHINGTON AND SAIGON DO LIKEWISE. THO ALSO SAID THAT  
THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS RESERVED THE RIGHT TO "PRO-  
TECT THE LIBERATED AREAS FROM HOSTILE ENCROACHMENTS." MOSCOW,  
ON THE OTHER HAND, CONDEMNED ONLY SAIGON FOR ITS VIOLATIONS OF  
THE CEASE-FIRE AND REITERATED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE STRICT OBSER-  
VANCE OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT BY ALL SIDES. MOSCOW ALSO LIMITED  
ITS PLEDGES TO SUPPORT OF VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO BUILD  
SOCIALISM IN THE NORTH AND TO ATTAIN INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY,  
AND NEUTRALITY IN THE SOUTH.

GRANADA INDEPENDENCE: THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT HAS APPROVED  
INDEPENDENCE FOR THE CARIBBEAN-ASSOCIATED STATE OF GRANADA,  
EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 7, 1974. OPPOSITION LEADERS PLAN TO LAUNCH  
A GENERAL STRIKE ON DECEMBER 27 AS THE NEXT STEP IN THEIR CON-  
TINUING EFFORTS TO BRING DOWN PREMIER ERIC GAIRY'S GOVERNMENT  
BEFORE INDEPENDENCE DAY.

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AUTUMN HARVEST BELOW EXPECTATIONS: NORTH VIETNAM'S RECENT RICE HARVEST PROBABLY AMOUNTED TO A DISAPPOINTING 2.5 MILLION TONS. ACCORDING TO NORTH VIETNAMESE PRESS, THIS YEAR'S AUTUMN RICE CROP RANKED FIFTH AMONG THOSE OF THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS, AND THE OUTPUT EXCEEDED ONLY THE 1968 AND 1971 CROPS. THE 1973 CROP SUFFERED FROM DROUGHT AT THE START OF THE GROWING SEASON AND FROM FLOODING CAUSED BY TYPHOONS JUST PRIOR TO HARVEST. THE FALL HARVEST, TOGETHER WITH THE SPRING HARVEST (ABOUT 1.8 MILLION TONS), WILL PROBABLY COVER ONLY THREE-QUARTERS OF NORTH VIETNAM'S CONSUMPTION REQUIREMENTS. TO

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MAKE UP FOR THE DIFFERENCE, FOOD IMPORTS FOR THIS YEAR, ALREADY RUNNING AT RECORD LEVELS, WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY EXCEED THE 1968 PEAK OF ABOUT 800,000 TONS.

SIHANOUK AND THE KHMER COMMUNISTS: THE KHMER COMMUNISTS ARE TAKING A MORE POSITIVE PUBLIC LINE ON SIHANOUK. THE SENIOR KC OFFICIAL IN PARIS SAID ON DECEMBER 8 THAT THE KC HAVE BEEN UNDER PRESSURE FROM "CERTAIN OF OUR ALLIES" TO RESOLVE ALL REMAINING DIFFERENCES WITH THE PRINCE. THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO THIS COURSE, THE OFFICIAL SAID, BECAUSE CHINA, NORTH VIETNAM, THE PRG, FRANCE, AND THE USSR ALL SUPPORT SIHANOUK. THE SAME THEME WAS PICKED UP BY A KC "MINISTER" IN SIHANOUK'S "GOVERNMENT" WHO COMPLAINED THAT ALTHOUGH SOME OF SIHANOUK'S DECLARATIONS HAD UNDERMINED UNITY, THE PRINCE MUST BE PUT IN A FAVORABLE PUBLIC LIGHT AND DIFFERENCES WITH HIM PLAYED DOWN.

CIA COMMENTS THAT THESE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS UNDERSCORE THE KHMER INSURGENTS' CONTINUING PROBLEM OF MAINTAINING A FACADE OF UNITY. SIHANOUK IS NOT LIKELY TO BE TAKEN IN BY KIND WORDS. HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO KEEP MAKING STATEMENTS THAT WILL NOT SET WELL WITH THE KHMER COMMUNISTS. RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY HIM ARE SIMILAR TO THE LINE THAT LED TO A PERIOD OF THINLY VEILED SQUABBLING BETWEEN THE PRINCE AND HIS COMMUNIST ASSOCIATES LAST OCTOBER.

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