

**TOP SECRET**

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O 150945Z FEB 73  
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TONAK 177  
TO ROOMAN/LORD FOR DR KISSINGER  
ZEM  
T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD WH36929

TONAK 177

FEBRUARY 15, 1973  
MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER  
FROM: SITUATION ROOM  
SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

PARIS CONFERENCE: THE FRENCH HAVE LEARNED THAT BOTH THE PRC AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HOPE THE PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM WILL BE SHORT, LASTING PERHAPS TWO TO THREE DAYS. THE FRENCH INTERPRET THIS TO MEAN THAT THERE WILL BE NO PROCEDURAL DELAYS AND THE OUTSET AND THAT PEKING DOES NOT INTEND TO EXPLOIT THE CONFERENCE FOR OTHER PURPOSES, E.G., TO SCORE POINTS AGAINST THE SOVIETS.

[REDACTED] MOST NATIONS INVOLVED SEEM TO WANT A SHORT CONFERENCE, LESS THAN A WEEK. DIFFERENCES ARE BEGINNING TO EMERGE, HOWEVER, THAT COULD PROLONG IT. THERE ARE DISAGREEMENTS OVER WHO IS TO BE CHAIRMAN. ALSO, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND CHINESE SEEM OPPOSED TO THE U.S. (AND CANADIAN) INSISTENCE THAT THE CONFERENCE SET UP SOME KIND OF INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY TO WHICH THE ICCS CAN REPORT. (FAZIO)

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[REDACTED]

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MALTA - EFFECTS OF CURRENTLY REALIGNMENT ON SPECIAL PAYMENTS: PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF BELIEVES THAT DEVALUATION OF THE DOLLAR WILL PUT US IN THE SAME POSITION AS THE BRITISH WERE A FEW WEEKS AGO, BEFORE THE NATO ALLIES AGREED TO MAKE UP FOR BRITISH CURRENCY DEVALUATION WITH A SPECIAL PAYMENT.

MORI/CDF  
C03339873

THIS IS A POTENTIAL PROBLEM, BUT SINCE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD

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ALREADY ACQUIRED ENOUGH BRITISH POUNDS -- BEFORE DEVALUATION OF THE DOLLAR -- TO MAKE PAYMENTS UP TO OCTOBER 1, WE DO NOT EXPECT THE MATTER WILL BECOME AN IMMEDIATE QUESTION BETWEEN US AND MINTOFF OR BETWEEN THE U.S. AND OUR NATO ALLIES. (FAZIO)

**INDIA'S SCARCITY**

**DROUGHT:** ACUTE DROUGHT CONDITIONS HAVE NOW SPREAD OVER AN AREA OF WESTERN AND CENTRAL INDIA INHABITED BY SOME 200 MILLION PEOPLE. AS A RESULT, LARGE AREAS ARE SUFFERING FROM SHORTAGES OF FOOD, DRINKING WATER, AND HYDROELECTRIC POWER. MORE THAN A MILLION PEOPLE ARE ESTIMATED TO HAVE MIGRATED TO AREAS LESS AFFECTED. THE FOOD SITUATION IS ESPECIALLY SERIOUS WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S RESERVES VIRTUALLY EXHAUSTED, AND NO SIGNIFICANT RELIEF IN SIGHT UNTIL AT LEAST MAY-JUNE WHEN SPRING CROPS START TO REACH THE MARKETS AND THE MONSOON RAINS BEGIN.

DURING THE LAST TWO MONTHS, INDIA HAS PURCHASED ABOUT 1.5 MILLION TONS OF FOODGRAIN IN THE COMMERCIAL MARKETS OF THE U.S., CANADA, ARGENTINA, AND AUSTRALIA AT A COST OF \$200 MILLION USING UP ABOUT ONE-FIFTH OF ITS FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES. NEW DELHI REPORTEDLY IS IN THE MARKET AGAIN FOR ANOTHER ONE MILLION TONS. IT IS STILL DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN IMPORT AND DISTRIBUTE ENOUGH FOOD TO AVOID WIDESPREAD HUNGER, INCREASED MIGRATION OF PEOPLE AND LIVESTOCK AND OTHER ECONOMIC DISRUPTIONS THAT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO INCREASED POLITICAL UNREST.

**HAVANA SILENT ON HIJACKING ACCORD:** AS OF YESTERDAY, HAVANA RADIO SERVICES HAVE NEITHER REPORTED THAT THE U.S. AND CUBAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE REACHED AN AGREEMENT TO CURTAIL HIJACKINGS NOR HAVE THEY COMMENTED ON THE STATUS OF THE TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT. THE REPORTS OF AN AGREEMENT ARE HEADLINE NEWS IN THE U.S. (JORDEN)

**SITUATION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:** THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT, INCREASINGLY CONFIDENT THAT IT HAS THE SECURITY SITUATION UNDER CONTROL, IS LESSENING ITS PRESSURE AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY'S MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTY, THE PRD. MANY MEMBERS OF THE PRD WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED AFTER THE GUERRILLA LANDING HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS NO LONGER SEARCHING FOR PRD LEADER JUAN BOSCH. IT HAS NOT, HOWEVER, OFFERED BOSCH ANY GUARANTEES OF SAFETY SHOULD HE DECIDE TO EMERGE FROM HIDING. BOSCH REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED THAT THE PRD WILL NOW OPERATE CLANDESTINELY BECAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT "PERSECUTION," LEAVING LITTLE CHANCE FOR A RETURN TO THE ONCE TOLERANT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BALAGUER AND THE PRD.

WHILE GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE STILL TRYING TO LOCATE AND

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ENCIRCLE THE SMALL BAND OF ARMED GUERRILLAS IN THE SAN JOSE DE  
OGOA AREA. (JORDEN)

URUGUAYAN PRESIDENT NAMES NEW DEFENSE AND INTERIOR MINISTERS;  
AS PART OF HIS AGREEMENT WITH THE REBELLIOUS MILITARY LEADERS,  
PRESIDENT BORDABERRY HAS NAMED NEW DEFENSE AND INTERIOR MINISTERS.  
THE NEW DEFENSE MINISTER, WALTER RAVENNA, A CLOSE ADVISER TO  
THE PRESIDENT DURING THE RECENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS, HAS ASSURED  
THE MILITARY LEADERS OF HIS SUPPORT FOR THEIR POLITICAL AND  
ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM. HE HAS VOWED TO FIGHT CORRUPTION  
"WHEREVER IT EXISTS." FOR THEIR PART THE MILITARY LEADERS  
HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT "MILITARY OPERATIONS HAVE REACHED A HAPPY  
ENDING" AND HAVE CALLED ON THE PEOPLE OF URUGUAY TO WORK FOR  
THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THEIR REFORM PLAN. ONE OF THE  
PROVISIONS OF THE RECENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND  
THE MILITARY CALLS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL SECURITY  
COUNCIL TO BE CONTROLLED BY THE MILITARY. ITS MEMBERS ARE EX-  
PECTED TO INCLUDE THE DEFENSE AND INTERIOR MINISTERS; THE ARMY,  
AIR FORCE, AND NAVY COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF; AND, POSSIBLY, THE  
FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY.

IA/ECOSCO ACCEPTS RESIGNATION OF SANZ DE SANTAMARIA; THE INTER-  
AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL FORMALLY ACCEPTED LAST WEEK  
THE RESIGNATION OF DR. CARLOS SANZ DE SANTAMARIA AS CHAIRMAN  
OF CIAP (INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS).  
THE COUNCIL HAD TRIED EARLIER TO CONVINCE SANZ TO WITHDRAW HIS  
RESIGNATION BUT HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HIS DECISION WAS IRREVO-  
CABLE. THE RESIGNATION WILL TAKE EFFECT UPON THE CONCLUSION OF  
THE THIRTEENTH SPECIAL MEETING OF CIAP SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER  
OF THIS YEAR. (JORDEN)  
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