

SENSITIVE

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SITUATION LISTING

DATE 04/24/73//114

SITUATION: HAK
SUBJECT CATEGORY: OUTGOING III

DOS, OSD
reviews completed

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

ANNOTATIONS:
SCOWCROFT, LORD

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MESSAGE:
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O 261230Z MAR 73
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 113
TO JON HOWE FOR MR. KISSINGER

ZEM
T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD WH30875

TOHAK 113
MARCH 26, 1973
MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT
HENRY A. KISSINGER
INFORMATION ITEMS

FROM:
SUBJECT:
INDOCHINA SITUATION: MAJOR CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM DECLINED TO 14 WHILE MINOR INCIDENTS DROPPED TO 62, THE LOWEST TOTAL NUMBER SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE BEGAN. ENEMY SHELLING RESUMED AGAINST THE TONLE CHAM BASE CAMP IN MILITARY REGION 3, BUT CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT. A U.S. ARMY HELICOPTER WAS HIT BY GROUND FIRE AND THREE U.S. CREWMEN WERE INJURED NEAR MY THO IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE OF MILITARY REGION 4. THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA HAS NOT CHANGED APPRECIABLY. ENEMY TROOPS STILL HOLD A 12-MILE STRETCH OF ROUTE 1 NORTHWEST OF NEAK LUONG AND POSITIONS ALONG THE MEKONG RIVER TO THE SOUTH. THE COMMUNISTS MADE NO FURTHER GAINS ALONG ROUTE 2, AND NO NEW ACTIONS WERE REPORTED NEAR ROUTE 15 EAST OF KAMPOT CITY. FARTHER WEST, THE CAMBODIAN INSURGENTS CONTINUED TO BLOCK ROUTE 4 NEAR STUNG CHHAY. U.S. PILOTS FLEW 166 (INCLUDING 12 GUNSHIP) ATTACK AND 59 B-52 SORTIES.
CEASE-FIRE DEVELOPMENTS: THE PATHET LAO NEWS AGENCY SAID TODAY THE PATHET LAO WERE READY TO SET FREE AMERICAN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL IN THEIR HANDS "AT ANY DATE." GENERAL WOODWARD REPORTS THAT U.S. POWS IN LAOS WILL BE RELEASED "IN A FEW DAYS." THREE INDONESIAN ICCS OFFICERS WERE WOUNDED IN TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS YESTERDAY IN THE CAN THO AREA OF THE DELTA. IN THE FIRST, TWO OFFICERS WERE SLIGHTLY WOUNDED WHEN THEIR JEEP WAS AMBUSHED. IN THE SECOND, AN OFFICER WAS HIT BY RIFLE FIRE WHILE RIDING IN A TRUCK AND WAS EVACUATED TO SAIGON, WHERE HIS CONDITION WAS NOT JUDGED SERIOUS. THE INDONESIAN COMMANDER IS REPORTEDLY CONVINCED THE SHOOTING WAS AN ACCIDENT.

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MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

PROBABLE NEW ISRAELI PRESIDENT: EMBASSY TEL AVIV REPORTS THE LIKELIHOOD THAT DR. EPHRAIM KATCHALSKI, AN OUTSTANDING ISRAELI SCIENTIST AND MEMBER OF MRS. MEIR'S LABOR PARTY, WILL BE THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL.

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PRESIDENT SHAZAR, WHO IS 83 YEARS OLD, MUST RETIRE IN MAY AFTER A DECADE IN OFFICE. A KNESSET ELECTION TO CHOOSE A SUCCESSOR IS EXPECTED IN EARLY APRIL, BUT GIVEN THE STRENGTH OF MRS. MEIR'S LABOR PARTY, WHOMEVER IT CHOOSES IS LIKELY TO WIN, AND LABOR HAS NOW GIVEN THE NOD TO KATCHALSKI. KATCHALSKI IS CONSIDERED A POLITICALLY NONCONTROVERSIAL FIGURE, WHICH IS IMPORTANT SINCE ISRAEL'S PRESIDENT IS STRICTLY CEREMONIAL. HE IS DESCRIBED IN ISRAEL AS "A GREAT SCIENTIST AND A GREAT MAN," AND OUR EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT HE HAS SHOWN HIMSELF A GOOD FRIEND OF THE U.S. SITUATION IN TURKEY: THE TURKISH MILITARY AND THE POLITICIANS REMAIN AT LOGGERHEADS OVER THE SELECTION OF A SUCCESSOR TO PRESIDENT SUNAY, WHOSE TERM EXPIRED. AMBASSADOR HANDLEY DESCRIBES THE SITUATION AS TOUCHY, THOUGH IT DOES NOT YET APPEAR THE MILITARY ARE MOVING TOWARDS OPEN INTERVENTION.

AT A MINIMUM, HOWEVER, THEIR PATIENCE IS WEARING THIN. PARLIAMENTARY POLITICIANS LAST WEEK REFUSED TO BACK THE MILITARY'S CANDIDATE AND THIS WEEK REJECTED THE MILITARY'S ALTERNATIVE, WHICH WAS TO EXTEND PRESIDENT SUNAY'S TERM. BOTH SIDES ARE SEARCHING FOR SOME OTHER KIND OF COMPROMISE.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY DEVELOPMENTS: THE DOLLAR HAD A GOOD WEEK, FLUCTUATING ONLY SLIGHTLY SINCE EXCHANGES REOPENED LAST MONDAY. ONE REASON FOR THE DOLLAR'S GOOD PERFORMANCE, HOWEVER, IS THAT TRADING WAS GENERALLY LIGHT, BECAUSE SPECULATORS HOLDING STRONG CURRENCIES ARE AWAITING A CLEARER PICTURE OF PAYMENTS TRENDS. CIA'S PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS TRENDS IN JAPAN AND WESTERN EUROPE INDICATES THAT THE YEN AND MARK WILL APPRECIATE FURTHER AND THE POUND WILL DEPRECIATE. JAPANESE ANALYSTS EXPECT THAT ONCE HEAVY PAYMENTS TO THE MIDDLE EAST FOR OIL IMPORTS AND PAYMENTS TO THE U.S. FOR ATOMIC ENERGY MATERIALS ARE MADE -- PERHAPS BY NEXT MONTH -- THE DOLLAR WILL WEAKEN ON THE TOKYO MARKET. EUROPEAN TRADERS BELIEVE THE DOLLAR WILL STRENGTHEN IN THE SHORT RUN BUT WEAKEN LATER. IN GENERAL, THE DOLLAR DID WELL BY ITSELF. THE CENTRAL BANK OF JAPAN INTERVENED MILDLY TO KEEP THE DOLLAR'S VALUE FROM RISING TOO FAST, AND THE BUNDESBANK ENTERED TRADING BRIEFLY TO KEEP THE MARK WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE JOINT EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FLOAT.

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