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FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 100

NSA, OSD & STATE
reviews completed

TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD WH40239

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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

JANUARY 18, 1974



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MORE ON NVA INFILTRATION SYSTEM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM NSA ON THE STREAMLINING OF THE NVA INFILTRATION SYSTEM SHOWS THE REDUCTION OF COMMO-LIAISON STATIONS IN THE LAOTIAN PANHANDLE. THE NUMBER OF STATIONS IS REDUCED FROM 35-40 TO THREE OR POSSIBLY FOUR. IT ALLOWS INFILTRATION GROUPS TO TRAVERSE MORE THAN 200 KILOMETERS THROUGH THE PANHANDLE IN THREE DAYS -- PREVIOUSLY THE TRIP TOOK 45 TO 60 DAYS.

ICELAND BASE RIGHTS: THE NEXT ROUND OF U.S.-ICELAND NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE FUTURE OF THE U.S.-MANNED BASE HAS BEEN POSTPONED AGAIN AT REYKJAVIK'S REQUEST. ORIGINALLY SLATED FOR MID-DECEMBER AND RESCHEDULED FOR MID-JANUARY, IT HAS BEEN PUT BACK TO MID-FEBRUARY. THE BASE ISSUE HAS BEEN SET ASIDE AS PROGRESSIVES AND COMMUNISTS IN THE THREE-PARTY COALITION HAGGLE OVER A PARLIAMENTARY AGENDA. BELIEVING THAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL GAIN PRESTIGE IF THEY BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT ON THE BASE QUESTION, THE OTHER GOVERNMENT PARTIES WOULD RATHER SQUEEZE THEM OUT ON A DOMESTIC ECONOMIC ISSUE.

FRENCH START EVACUATION OF CAMBODIA: THE PRESS REPORTS FRANCE TODAY BEGAN AN EMERGENCY AIRLIFT OF FRENCH WOMEN AND CHILDREN

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LIVING IN CAMBODIA. THE FLIGHTS TO BANGKOK REPORTEDLY WILL CONTINUE ON A DAILY BASIS UNTIL ALL FRENCH WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE OUT OF THE COUNTRY. THEIR EMBASSY MADE NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

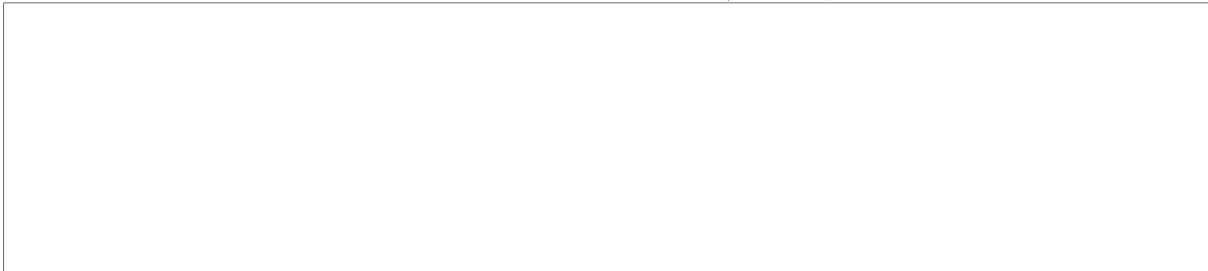
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ABOUT THE EMERGENCY EVACUATION, BUT [REDACTED] THE DECISION WAS MADE IN LIGHT OF INTENSIFIED REBEL ROCKET ATTACKS ON PHNOM PENH.



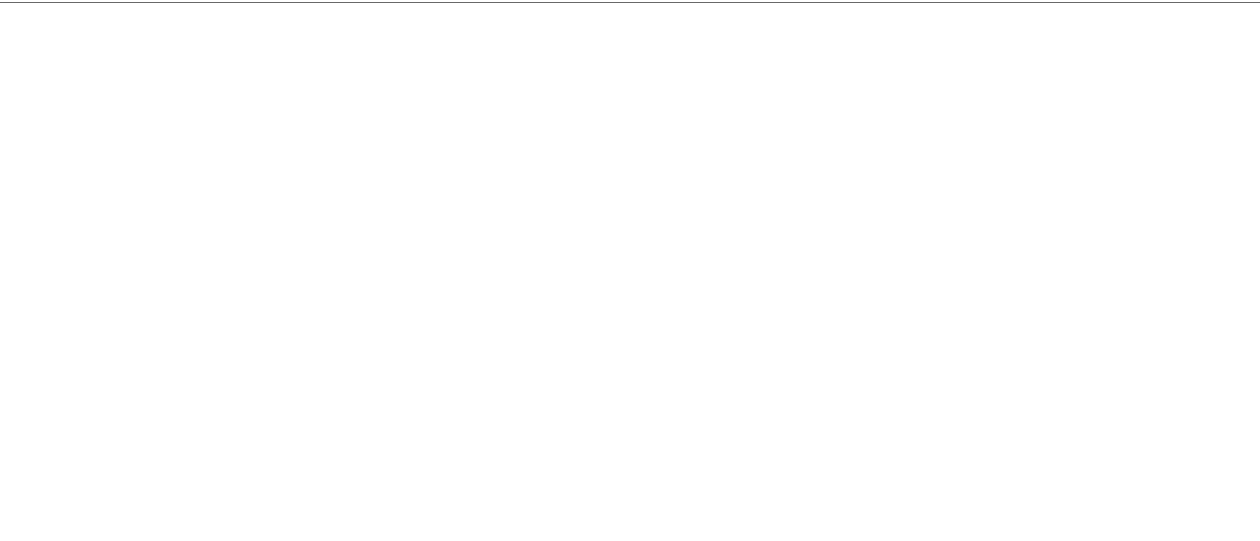
MIDDLE EAST SITUATION: ONLY ONE CEASE-FIRE VIOLATION WAS REPORTED ON THE EGYPTIAN FRONT YESTERDAY. NO REPORTS OF ANY VIOLATIONS IN SYRIA HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

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UN OBSERVERS NEAR AL QANTARA REPORTED SOME 40 EXPLOSIONS -- PROBABLY AN ARTILLERY EXCHANGE -- SOUTH OF THEIR POSITION. THE EXCHANGE LASTED ONLY THREE MINUTES, IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON TEL AVIV TIME.

AIR ACTIVITY ON THE EGYPTIAN FRONT WAS LIGHT YESTERDAY. FOUR ISRAELI AIRCRAFT AND WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN A UN HELICOPTER FLEW IN THE VICINITY OF THE SUEZ CANAL. NO FLIGHTS WERE NOTED ON THE SYRIAN FRONT.

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PENDENTLY TARGETABLE. LAST YEAR, THE USSR EMPTIED MANY OF THE
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SITUATION IN INDOCHINA: THE GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING TO REIN-
FORCE ITS DEFENSE SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH IN ANTICIPATION OF A C
OFFENSIVE IN THAT SECTOR. AN INTERCEPTED MESSAGE OF JANUARY 16
INDICATES THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE HAVING SOME PROBLEMS IN FORMU-
LATING FINAL TACTICAL PLANS FOR THEIR PROJECTED ATTACKS. NORTH-
WEST OF PHNOM PENH, GOVERNMENT FORCES MADE NO NEW HEADWAY IN THE
FIGHTING NEAR THE AIRPORT AND ALONG ROUTE 5. THE COMMUNISTS
CARRIED OUT ANOTHER MINOR SHELLING OF THE CAPITAL YESTERDAY.
CAUSING NO CASUALTIES; TWO ROCKETS THAT STRUCK THE CITY EARLY
TODAY KILLED ONE PERSON AND INJURED FOUR. ON THE ROUTE 4 FRONT,
CAMBODIAN ARMY UNITS MADE SOME PROGRESS IN CLEARING OPERATIONS
SOUTHWEST OF KOMPONG SPEU CITY. ENGINEERS HAVE CONSTRUCTED BY-
PASSES AROUND THREE CUTS AND THE STALLED CONVOY MAY BEGIN MOVING
TOWARD PHNOM PENH TODAY.
THE ARVN POSITION NEAR PLEI DJERENG IN NORTHWESTERN PLEIKU PROV-
INCE HAS IMPROVED WITH THE LINK-UP OF THE PREVIOUSLY ISOLATED
ADVANCE ELEMENTS OF THE 42ND REGIMENT WITH THE MAIN BODY. SHARP
FIGHTING CONTINUES IN THE AREA, WITH HEAVY COMMUNIST LOSSES RE-
PORTED. THE FIGHTING NORTH OF KONTUM CITY WHICH BEGAN ON JANU-
ARY 16 HAS SUBSIDED, AND ACTION ALONG ROUTE 19 EAST OF PLEIKU
CITY HAS TAPERED OFF.

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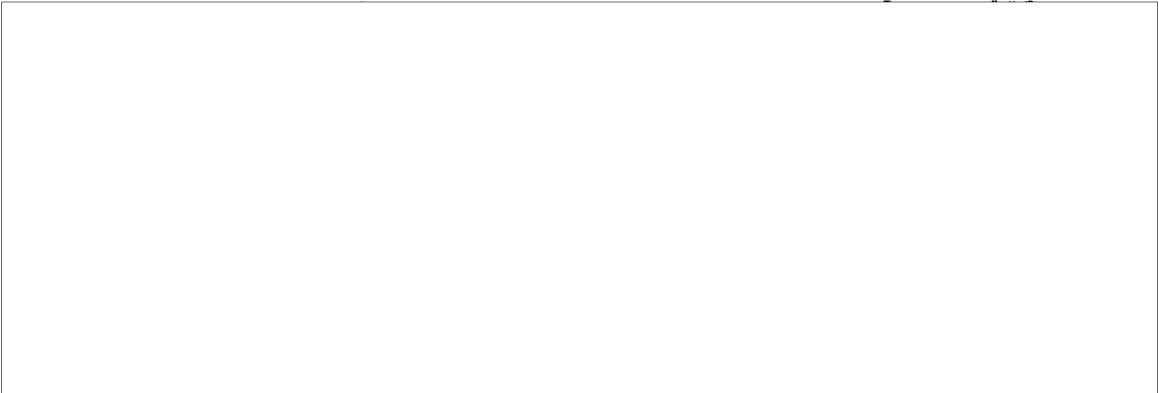
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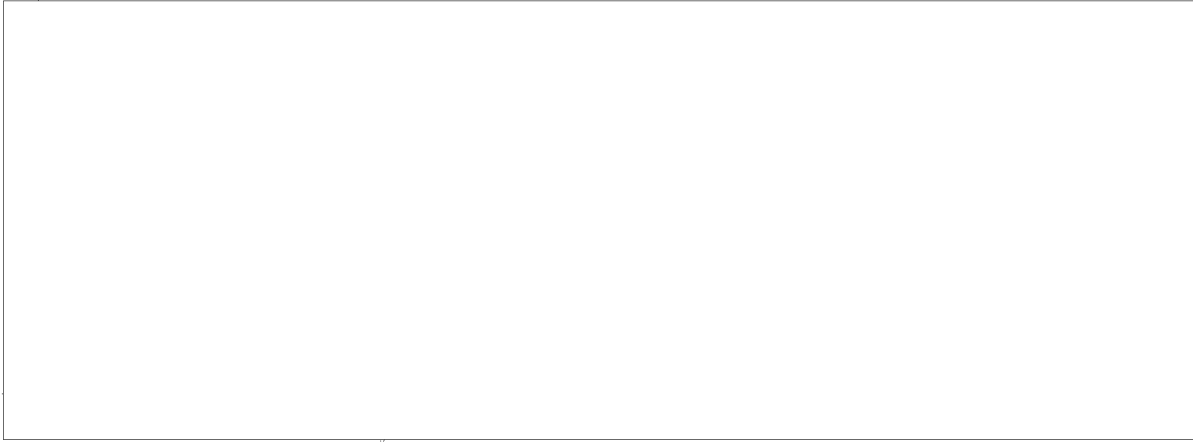
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GEISEL NEXT PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL: RETIRED GENERAL ERNESTO GEISEL WAS OFFICIALLY APPROVED BY A SPECIAL ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONVENED IN BRASILIA TUESDAY TO BECOME THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL. HE WILL ASSUME OFFICE ON MARCH 15. GENERAL GEISEL'S LAST POST WAS AS HEAD OF PETROBRAS, THE STATE PETROLEUM MONOPOLY. LIKE PRESIDENT MEDICI, GEISEL IS EXPECTED TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND AN INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE GEISEL IS MORE LIBERAL AND MORE DISPOSED TO PERMIT A GRADUAL RESTORATION OF SOME POLITICAL ACTIVITY THAN MEDICI HAS BEEN. HE MAY ALSO BE MORE NATIONALISTIC AND, THEREFORE, POSSIBLY WILL BE MORE CAUTIOUS IN HIS APPROACH TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN BRAZIL.

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