

**TOP SECRET**

**SENSITIVE**

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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OO WTE33  
DE WTE #4525 1901705  
O 091653Z JUL 74  
FM THE SITUATION ROOM //TOHAK 54//  
TO BREMER/RODMAN FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

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T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD VIA 86970 WH42432

TOHAK 54

JULY 9, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

BAHR'S COMEBACK SURPRISES MANY IN BONN: EGON BAHR'S APPOINTMENT LAST WEEKEND AS MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION CAME AS A SURPRISE TO POLITICAL CIRCLES IN WEST GERMANY. PRIOR TO THIS APPOINTMENT, BAHR'S POLITICAL FUTURE WAS CLOUDED BY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S HAVING DROPPED HIM FROM THE CABINET. IN THIS POST, BARR WILL ADMINISTER PROGRAMS TO THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS A WAY OF DE-EMPHASIZING BRANDT'S OSTPOLITIK.

CAMBODIAN MILITARY SITUATION: GOVERNMENT COMMANDERS REPORT THAT CAMBODIAN ARMY PATROLS HAVE ENTERED THE TOWN OF OUDONG, WHICH WAS LOST TO THE COMMUNISTS ON MARCH 18. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE REPORTEDLY ABANDONED THE TOWN. GOVERNMENT FORCES HAVE HAD THE UPPER HAND IN FIGHTING IN THIS AREA OVER THE PAST MONTH, AND COMMUNIST UNITS THERE ARE APPARENTLY IN DISARRAY.

GROUND ACTION ELSEWHERE REMAINS AT A LOW LEVEL, EXCEPT ALONG THE SOUTHWESTERN REACHES OF ROUTE 4, WHERE THE ISOLATED GOVERNMENT GARRISON AT KOMPONG SEILA WAS HIT BY INTENSE ARTILLERY FIRE OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS. COMMUNIST SHELLINGS OF A MEKONG RIVER RESUPPLY CONVOY LATE LAST WEEK CAUSED ONLY LIGHT DAMAGE.

DOS Review Completed.

PERON'S SECRETARY RETAINS INFLUENCE UNDER NEW ARGENTINE REGIME;  
PRESIDENT MARIA PERON HAS DECIDED TO RETAIN HER LATE HUSBAND'S  
PRIVATE SECRETARY, JOSE LOPEZ REGA, DESPITE STRONG PRESSURE FROM  
SOME MILITARY AND POLITICAL LEADERS TO REMOVE HIM. HE IS STRONGLY  
DISTRUSTED BY THE MILITARY AND BY RIVALS IN THE CABINET AND HAS  
NO POLITICAL FOLLOWING OF HIS OWN. MRS. PERON HAS LONG LEANED  
ON HIM FOR POLITICAL GUIDANCE. HIS POWER IS INCREASING NOTICEABLY,  
WHICH COULD LEAD HIS ENEMIES TO EXPAND THEIR EFFORTS TO GET RID OF  
HIM. HOWEVER, THEY WILL MOVE CAUTIOUSLY FOR FEAR OF CAUSING MRS.  
PERON TO RESIGN ABRUPTLY.

END OF PAGE 01

FRENCH MIRAGE SUPER F-1 READIED FOR FLIGHT; THE MIRAGE SUPER F-1  
TACTICAL FIGHTER, FRANCE'S CANDIDATE FOR REPLACING THE OBSOLESCEMENT  
F-104 IN SEVERAL NATO COUNTRIES, IS EXPECTED TO MAKE ITS INITIAL  
FLIGHT IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR. IN JUNE, THE AIR-  
CRAFT'S ENGINE PASSED ITS FLIGHT-QUALIFICATION TESTS AND ALL  
DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS WERE MET. PRODUCTION OF THE AIRCRAFT  
SHOULD BEGIN BY 1976 OR 1977.

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