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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 02//
TO JERRY BREMER FOR THE SECRETARY
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~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD VIA BLACK PATCH
EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY WH42616~~

TOHAK 02

NSA review completed

SEPTEMBER 23, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ITEMS

SOUTH VIETNAMESE REPORTEDLY ABANDON RANGER BASE: SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES HAVE APPARENTLY ABANDONED GIA VUC, AN ISOLATED OUTPOST NEAR THE KONIUM-QUANG NGAI PROVINCE BORDER WHICH CAME UNDER INTENSE COMMUNIST GROUND AND ARTILLERY ATTACK LATE LAST WEEK. HELICOPTER RESCUE OPERATIONS ARE PLANNED TO PICK UP SURVIVORS OF THE GARRISON'S 387-MAN RANGER BATTALION DEFENSE FORCE. THE ABANDONMENT OF GIA VUC HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION SINCE NEARBY MINK LONG DISTRICT TOWN FELL INTO COMMUNIST HANDS IN MID-AUGUST. THE CAMP'S CIVILIAN DEPENDENTS WERE EVACUATED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO IN ANTICIPATION OF MAJOR COMMUNIST ATTACKS. THE ELIMINATION OF GIA VUC WILL HELP THE COMMUNISTS SECURE THEIR HIGHLAND INFILTRATION CORRIDORS AND PROVIDE THEM WITH GREATER ACCESS TO THE RICE-RICH COASTAL LOWLANDS REGION. ELSEWHERE IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCES, SOUTH VIETNAMESE MARINES THIS WEEKEND REPULSED A BATTALION-SIZED NORTH VIETNAMESE GROUND ATTACK NORTHWEST OF HUE NEAR THE THUA THIEN-QUANG TRI PROVINCE BORDER. BOTH SIDES WERE SUPPORTED BY MASSIVE ARTILLERY, ROCKET, AND MORTAR FIRE. THE MARINES CLAIM TO HAVE KILLED 247 COMMUNISTS WHILE SUSTAINING ONLY RELATIVELY LIGHT CASUALTIES THEMSELVES. HEAVY GROUND FIGHTING WAS ALSO REPORTED BY ARVN AIRBORNE AND INFANTRY UNITS IN QUANG NAM PROVINCE.

HURRICANE DAMAGE IN HONDURAS: PRESS REPORTS DESCRIBE THE DEVASTATION OF THE STORM AS THE WORST MOMENT IN THE NATION'S HISTORY, WITH AT LEAST 5,000 DEATHS AND MORE THAN \$500 MILLION IN PROPERTY DAMAGE. THE U.S. AMBASSADOR AND MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN SURVEYING THE COUNTRY AND EXPECT TO BE MORE RELIABLY ABLE TO ASSESS THE PROBLEM IN A REPORT LATER THIS MORNING. THE HONDURAN MILITARY HAS ESTIMATED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN 1,200 DEATHS AND CONFIRMED THE WIDESPREAD DAMAGE. A NUMBER OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAVE SENT PLANELOADS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL. AMONG THEM, THE CUBANS HAVE SENT DOCTORS, NURSES, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, AND A FIELD HOSPITAL. THE EMBASSY HAS A TEAM IN THE FIELD SURVEYING THE DAMAGE AND WILL REPORT THEIR FINDINGS LATER TODAY.

PHILIPPINE-PRC RELATIONS: A SENIOR PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT OFF-

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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DOS Review Completed.

FICIAL HAS PROVIDED THE GIST OF A LETTER WHICH PRESIDENT MARCOS SENT TO CHAIRMAN MAO. THE LETTER, CARRIED BY MRS. MARCOS WHO IS NOW VISITING CHINA AS THE PRESIDENT'S "SPECIAL ENVOY," SAYS THAT HER VISIT "PAVES THE WAY FOR CLOSER UNDERSTANDING, COOPERATION AND FRIENDLY NEIGHBORLINESS," BUT DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. MRS. MARCOS WENT A BIT BEYOND THIS, HOWEVER, IN BOTH HER DEPARTURE STATEMENT AT MANILA AND HER BANQUET SPEECH IN PEKING BY REFERRING TO THE POSSIBILITY OF "CLOSER RELATIONS" BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE PRC. IN MANILA, PRESIDENT MARCOS ANNOUNCED THAT MRS. MARCOS IS TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF OIL FROM PEKING. HE, HOWEVER, DID NOT STATE THE QUANTITY AND PRICE OF OIL TO BE PURCHASED BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

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