

NSA review completed

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM //TOHAK16//

TO GOMPERT/BREMER FOR THE SECRETARY

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~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~ CONTAINS COJEWORDED VIA BLACK PATCH WH428,6

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OCTOBER 24, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: NOON NOTES

MOSCOW STILL REFUSING TO GIVE AGRICULTURAL DATA: THE SOVIETS ARE STILL UNWILLING TO FURNISH THE U.S. WITH ADVANCE ESTIMATES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND TRADE AND APPARENTLY WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO, DESPITE THE U.S.-USSR AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT THAT REQUIRES SUCH AN EXCHANGE. THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED MEETING OF THE U.S.-USSR JOINT WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND INFORMATION REVEALED SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. THE SOVIETS CONTINUE TO SHIFT THE EMPHASIS OF THE GROUPS WORK FROM ECONOMIC INFORMATION TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL. THEY ARGUE THAT THEIR CROP ESTIMATES ARE TOO POOR TO RELEASE AND THAT ESTIMATES OF TRADE REQUIREMENTS ARE THE PRESERVE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE, WHICH IS NOT IRRELEVANT TO THE AGREEMENT. THE SOVIETS PROPOSED HOLDING ONLY ONE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP NEXT YEAR, IN AUGUST, INSTEAD OF AT LEAST TWO MEETINGS AS SPECIFIED BY THE AGREEMENT. THE MEETING IN MID-SUMMER WOULD BE TOO LATE TO PROVIDE TIMELY INFORMATION ON THE WINTER WHEAT CROP AND TOO EARLY FOR SPRING GRAIN PROSPECTS.

AUSTRALIA TO SELL WHEAT TO USSR: PRESS REPORTS THE AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD TODAY ANNOUNCED A CASH SALE OF 1 MILLION TONS OF WHEAT TO THE SOVIET UNION WORTH \$150 MILLION. THE CONTRACT, WHICH COVERS ALL CLASSES OF AUSTRALIAN WHEAT, PROVIDES FOR SHIPMENT BETWEEN NEXT MONTH AND AUGUST NEXT YEAR.

MILITARY ACTIVITY IN TURKEY: ALL TURKISH MILITARY FORCES ALONG THE GREEK BORDER, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ENGINEER UNITS, REPORTEDLY HAVE BEGUN TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ADVANCED POSITIONS THEY TOOK DURING THE CYPRUS CRISIS. ACCORDING TO A SENIOR TURKISH OFFICIALS THE WITHDRAWALS BEGAN ON OCTOBER 19. ALL UNITS ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR NORMAL POSITIONS IN WESTERN THRACE BY OCTOBER 28.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE OPTIMISTIC ON SUPPLEMENTAL U.S. ASSISTANCE: SOUTH VIETNAM'S PLANNING COMMISSIONER, IN AN OCTOBER 17 REVIEW

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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OF HIS RECENT AID-SEEKING TRIP TO WASHINGTON, TOKYO, AND PARIS, TOLD PRIME MINISTER KHIEM HE WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH THE RESULTS OF HIS TRIP OVERALL, BUT THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THE U.S. WOULD PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SAIGON. THE COMMISSIONER SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF MODERATION TOWARD POLITICAL DISSIDENTS WAS HAVING A FAVORABLE IMPACT ON THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THAT THE AMERICAN PRESS WAS GENERALLY TREATING SAIGON'S HANDLING OF THE SITUATION FAIRLY. HE SUGGESTED THE GOVERNMENT'S LOBBYING EFFORT IN WASHINGTON IN THE FUTURE SHOULD EMPHASIZE THE THEME THAT, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER PAST U.S. POLICY TOWARD SOUTH VIETNAM WAS MISTAKEN OR NOT, SAIGON'S SURVIVAL WAS NOW AT STAKE.

MIRAGES TO EGYPT: THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE DOUBT FOR SOME TIME THAT SOME FORM OF AGREEMENT HAS BEEN NEGOTIATED FOR THE SUPPLY OF FRENCH AIRCRAFT -- MIRAGE IIIS -- TO EGYPT.

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THE EGYPTIANS SHOULD BE ABLE TO ABSORB THESE AIRCRAFT READILY, SINCE THEY FLEW THE LIBYAN MIRAGES DEPLOYED UNTIL RECENTLY IN EGYPT. MOREOVER, ADDITIONAL EGYPTIAN PILOTS HAVE JUST COMPLETED TRAINING ON THE MIRAGE IN FRANCE. THE MIRAGE III HAS BEEN IN SERVICE SINCE THE EARLY 1960S AND, GIVEN THE NUMBER LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PRESENT DEAL, CIA ASSESSES THAT THEIR ARRIVAL IN EGYPT WILL HAVE A NEGLIGIBLE EFFECT ON THE BALANCE OF AIR POWER IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH STILL LIES FIRMLY WITH ISRAEL.

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