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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 014//

TO GOMPERT/ADAMS FOR THE SECRETARY

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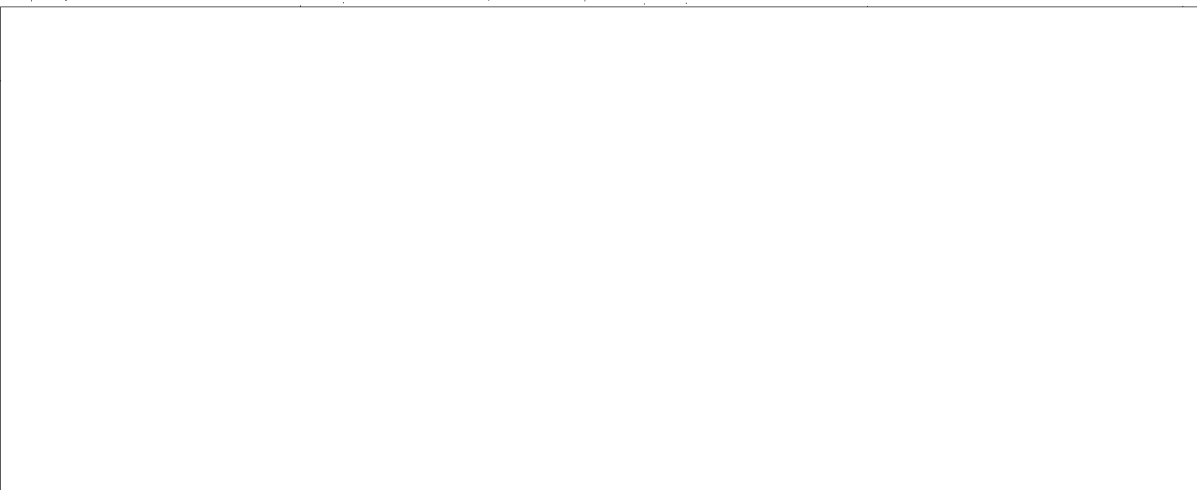
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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MAY 27, 1975

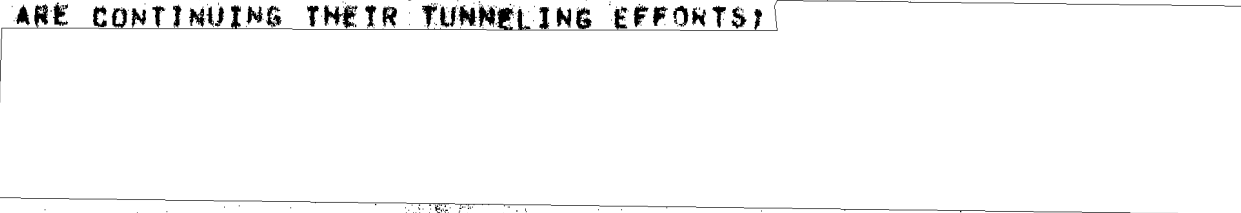
MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM
SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

25X1



NORTH KOREAN TUNNELS IN THE DMZ: THIS MORNING'S WASHINGTON
POST CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY DON OBERDORFER CONCERNING THE
NORTH KOREAN TUNNELING EFFORTS IN THE DMZ. OBERDORFER CITES
THE TUNNELS AS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF INCREASED TENSIONS BE-
TWEEN THE TWO KOREAS. HE INDICATES THAT THE NORTH KOREANS
ARE CONTINUING THEIR TUNNELING EFFORTS;

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***** WHSR COMMENT *****

SECFL

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DOS, NAVY Reviews
Completed

NSA review completed

THE WASHINGTON-STAR NEWS
YOU ARE PICTURED ON PAGE A-1 BLOWING OUT THE CANDLES ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY CAKE.
THE STAR HEADLINES YOUR PROPOSAL THAT THE OIL CONSUMING NATIONS
SPEND UP TO \$1 TRILLION TO AVOID DISASTER CAUSED BY ENERGY SHORT-
AGES.
JERRY T. BAULCH REPORTS THAT MANY ARMY AND AIR FORCE OFFICERS,
MOSTLY CAPTAINS, ARE DUE TO GET WORD IN THE MONTHS AHEAD THAT
THEY WILL BE FORCED TO LEAVE THE MILITARY AS THE SERVICES BEAR
DOWN FROM THE VIETNAM ERA.
A STAR EDITORIAL SAYS THAT AS BEFITS THE FUZZY STATE OF LAOTIAN
AFFAIRS FOR THE LAST TWO DECADES, THE ROUT OF AMERICAN INTER-
ESTS IN THE LITTLE INDOCHINESE COUNTRY HAS BEEN A CONFUSED
EPISODE WITH THE FINAL RESULT STILL UNCLEAR. THE COMMUNIST
VICTORY IS NOT AN OBVIOUS CATAclySM LIKE THE FALL OF PHNOM
PENH OR SAIGON. THE STAR HOPES THE LAOTIANS, MANY OF WHOM
FOUGHT OFF THE PATHET LAO FOR YEARS IN A U.S.-SPONSORED SIDE-
SHOW TO THE VIETNAMESE WAR, MANAGE TO RETAIN SOME INDEPENDENCE
AND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. BUT WHAT ROLE
THERE IS FOR AMERICAN ASSISTANCE IN THE PRESENT DISMAL PRO-
CESS IS DIFFICULT TO PERCEIVE.

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ANOTHER STAR EDITORIAL SAYS THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF SMALL BUT CUMULATIVELY SIGNIFICANT SIGNS OF A NEW CAUTION IN THE CONGRESS IN MATTERS RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF AMERICAN FOREIGN AND MILITARY POLICY. SOMEHOW, RECENT EVENTS SEEMS TO HAVE IMPRESSED A MAJORITY ON CAPITOL HILL WITH THE DANGER OF OVER-ENTHUSIASTIC CONGRESSIONAL INTERFERENCE IN THESE MATTERS AT THIS TIME. PERHAPS THE LEGISLATORS HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE SETBACKS THAT OUR FOREIGN POLICY HAS EXPERIENCED OF LATE AND THE ROLE THEY HAVE PLAYED IN THE CASES OF TURKEY AND THE SOVIET TRADE AGREEMENT. PERHAPS, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, THEY WERE APPALLED BY THE COLLAPSE OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA AFTER CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO CUT OFF FURTHER AMERICAN AID. WHATEVER THE REASONS, CONGRESS SEEMS LESS DISPOSED AT THIS STAGE TO TRY TO DICTATE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY OR GUT OUR MILITARY POWER AT HOME AND ABROAD. IT IS STILL MUCH TOO EARLY TO DRAW ANY LARGE CONCLUSIONS, BUT IT STRIKES US AS A HOPEFUL DEVELOPMENT.

WILLIAM SAFIRE, WRITING ON THE MURPHY COMMISSION, SAYS THAT TWO YEARS AND THREE MILLION DOLLARS AGO, THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS AGREED TO SET UP A COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE "ORGANIZATION, METHODS, AND POWERS" OF OUR VARIOUS FOREIGN-POLICY ESTABLISHMENTS, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS "TO PROVIDE A MORE EFFECTIVE SYSTEM FOR THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATION'S FOREIGN POLICY." SURELY THIS KIND OF INFORMED, DETAILED DEBATE IS WHAT SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD, A COMMISSION MEMBER, HAD IN MIND YEARS AGO WHEN HE AND A FEW OTHER FARSIGHTED MEN DREAMED UP THE COMMISSION TO EXAMINE THE MAKING OF FOREIGN POLICY. INTEREST THERE WILL BE, FOR THE TIMING IS RIGHT! NEVER HAS THERE BEEN A GREATER NEED FOR A THOUGHTFUL, DISPASSIONATE, CAREFUL LOOK AT THE WAY WE TRY TO BUILD A PEACE AND PROTECT OUR INTERESTS.

CROSBY S. NOYES SAYS THAT "REASSURING NATO IS A TOUGH JOB FOR FORD." HIS JUNKET TO EUROPE THIS WEEK SHAPES UP AS OPERATION REASSURANCE DESIGNED FOR AN ALLIANCE THAT IS BADLY IN NEED OF ALL THE ASSURANCE IT CAN GET. FORD CAN BE EXPECTED TO BEAR DOWN HEAVILY ON OUR UNSHAKABLE RESOLVE, DESPITE WHAT HAPPENED IN INDOCHINA, TO FULFILL OUR COMMITMENTS TO THE DEFENSE OF NATO. THE NATO LEADERS WILL BE HAPPY TO HEAR IT, EVEN IF THEY DON'T ENTIRELY BELIEVE IT. FOR THEY ARE ALL WELL AWARE THAT, WITHOUT THE CEMENT OF THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT THE ALLIANCE WOULD DISINTEGRATE FORTHWITH, AND INDEED MAY DO SO ANYWAY, REGARDLESS OF WHAT JERRY FORD MAY SAY IN BRUSSELS THIS WEEK. THE DETERIORATION ALREADY IS WELL ADVANCED. FORD, NO DOUBT,

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WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO RESOLVE THESE DOUBTS, AND PERHAPS HE WILL SUCCEED. YET THE HARD FACT IS THAT WE HAVE REACHED THE POINT IN THIS COUNTRY WHERE IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO GIVE CREDIBLE ASSURANCES TO ANYONE. EUROPEANS NOW REALIZE VERY WELL THAT, THOUGH A PRESIDENT CAN MAKE COMMITMENTS, IT IS UP TO THE CONGRESS -- AND ULTIMATELY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- TO MAKE GOOD ON THEM. AND DESPITE FORD'S GROWING STATURE AS A POLITICAL LEADER, HE HAS YET TO DEMONSTRATE HIS AUTHORITY TO TRANSLATE WORDS INTO DEEDS SO FAR AS THE NATION IS CONCERNED.

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