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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 84//

TO ADAMS/BARBAN/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY CONTAINS CODEWORD

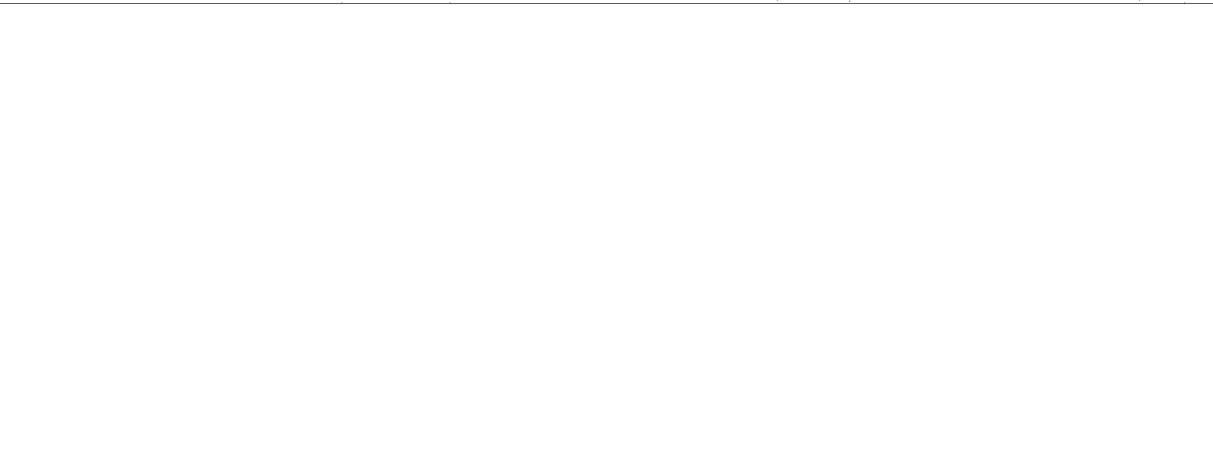
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TOHAK 84

AUGUST 28, 1975

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

MORI/CDF per C02398086



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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

NORTH VIETNAM'S INCREASING INFLUENCE IN THE SOUTH; INTER-
CEPTED COMMUNICATIONS SINCE MID-JUNE HAVE CONTINUED TO RE-
FLECT INCREASING SOUTHERN RELIANCE ON NORTH VIETNAM TO
SOLVE PROBLEMS IN THE CIVILIAN SECTOR. PROVINCIAL AND RE-
GIONAL AGENCIES HAVE REQUESTED NORTHERN ASSISTANCE IN AREAS
SUCH AS ROAD REPAIRS, WATER CONSERVATION, POSTAL SERVICE,
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AND BROADCASTING. OTHER MESSAGES HAVE
CONFIRMED THAT HANOI IS ORGANIZING AND MANAGING SUCH CIVIL
ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTH AS HYDROELECTRIC PLANNING AND
RECONSTRUCTION, SHIPPING, AND PORT OPERATIONS. THERE IS
A VARIETY OF EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT PROVISIONS OF NORTH

NSA review completed

***** WNSR COMMENT *****

SEC FLE

PSN:045182

PAGE 01

TOR:240/16:00Z

DTG:281558Z AUG 75

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VIETNAM'S NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN ALSO WILL BE APPLIED TO SOUTH VIETNAM. ADDITIONALLY, LARGE NUMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERTS FROM NORTH VIETNAM HAVE BEEN REQUIRED BECAUSE OF THE SHORTAGE OF SOUTHERN COMMUNISTS WITH NECESSARY SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE; MANY OF THESE PERSONNEL ARE BEING PLACED IN KEY MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

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POPULAR MOVEMENT SHOWING MILITARY, POLITICAL STRENGTH IN ANGOLA: THE POPULAR MOVEMENT OF THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA HAS MADE SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY GAINS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ANGOLA IN RECENT WEEKS, BUT THE NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA AND THE NATIONAL UNION FOR THE TOTAL INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA MAY STILL BE ABLE TO SQUEEZE THE MOVEMENT BETWEEN THEM. FOR THEIR PART, THE PORTUGUESE ARE UNABLE TO REASSERT THEIR AUTHORITY OVER THE TERRITORY. THE POPULAR MOVEMENT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL SO FAR BECAUSE ITS FORCES ARE BETTER TRAINED AND BETTER ORGANIZED THAN THOSE OF ITS RIVALS. MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE SOVIET UNION IS MORE THAN ADEQUATE FOR THE NEEDS OF THESE FORCES. IT GIVES EVERY EVIDENCE OF BEING SET ON GAINING CONTROL OVER AS MUCH OF ANGOLA AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN NOW AND NOVEMBER 11. AT LEAST, MOVEMENT LEADERS WANT TO BE IN THE BEST POSSIBLE MILITARY POSITION TO TAKE OVER THE TERRITORY BY FORCE WHEN PORTUGAL BOWS OUT. THE POPULAR MOVEMENT IS CAUGHT, HOWEVER, BETWEEN THE FRONT IN THE NORTH AND THE UNION TO THE SOUTH.

PSN:045182

PAGE 02

TOR:240/15:00Z

DTG:281558Z AUG 75

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THESE GROUPS HAVE A CHANCE OF SQUEEZING THE MOVEMENT BETWEEN THEM IF THEY CAN QUICKLY GAIN THE NECESSARY MILITARY MOMENTUM. EVEN IF THEY SEIZE THE INITIATIVE FROM THE MOVEMENT, THE BEST THEY MAY BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE IS TO FIGHT TO A STALEMATE AND FORCE THE MOVEMENT TO AGREE TO ANOTHER COALITION GOVERNMENT.

PRESIDENT PERON REPLACES CONTROVERSIAL GENERAL: PRESIDENT PERON HAS BOWED TO INTENSE PRESSURE FROM ARMY CORPS COMMANDERS AND REPLACED THEIR DISCREDITED COMMANDER IN CHIEF, GENERAL NUMA LAPLANE, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS FROM BUENOS AIRES. PERON'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE GENERAL'S RESIGNATION RAISES ARGENTINE HOPES THAT THE TWO-WEEK CRISIS IN THE ARMED FORCES CAN NOW BE RESOLVED. NAMED TO REPLACE NUMA LAPLANE WAS GENERAL JORGE VIDELA, COMMANDER OF THE JOINT ARMY STAFF. PERON REPORTEDLY MADE THE DECISION AFTER LENGTHY MEETINGS YESTERDAY WITH CABINET MEMBERS, PARTY AND LABOR LEADERS, AND KEY MILITARY OFFICERS. VIDELA WAS AMONG THOSE OFFICERS LEADING THE MOVE TO OUST NUMA LAPLANE. HIS ACCESSION TO THE POST MEANS THAT AT LEAST ONE OFFICER SENIOR TO HIM WAS FORCED INTO RETIREMENT. THE CONFLICT WITH THE MILITARY, WHICH APPEARS TO BE SUBSIDING, WAS ONLY THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF CRISES THAT HAVE ROCKED THE PERON GOVERNMENT SINCE THE DEMISE OF SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER LOPEZ REGA TWO MONTHS AGO. AS LONG AS PERON REMAINS IN OFFICE, SUCCEEDING CRISES SEEM INEVITABLE BECAUSE OF HER LACK OF LEADERSHIP AND SUSCEPTIBILITY TO MANIPULATION.

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PSN1045182 PAGE 03 OF 03 TOR:240/16:00Z DTG:281558Z AUG 75

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