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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 08//

TO BRENER/BARBIAN/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

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

VIA BLACK PATCH WHB1973

TOHAK 08

OCTOBER 18, 1975

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

NSA review completed

SELA HEADQUARTERS TO BE CARACAS: DELEGATES TO THE SECOND MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE CREATION OF SELA (LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM), WHICH BEGAN WEDNESDAY IN PANAMA, HAVE AGREED THAT THE ORGANIZATION'S HEADQUARTERS WILL BE IN CARACAS. A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ARE STILL UNDER DISCUSSION, AMONG THEM VOTING FORMULAS FOR DECISION-MAKING, SIZE OF BUDGET, AND HOW ACTIVE AN ORGANIZATION SELA IS TO BE. IT APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT A CHARTER WILL BE WRITTEN AND SELA WILL BE FORMALLY ESTABLISHED AT THIS MEETING. (BROWNELL)

DIA review(s) completed.

TORRIJOS VISIT TO COSTA RICA: PANAMANIAN GENERAL TORRIJOS MADE A BRIEF VISIT TO COSTA RICA WEDNESDAY TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT OUBER. HIS TRIP APPARENTLY CONCERNED THE UPCOMING MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS IN GUATEMALA AT THE END OF THIS MONTH. THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE WILL APPARENTLY BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS ON THE AGENDA OF THAT MEETING. TORRIJOS TOLD THE PRESS IN COSTA RICA THAT HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THE MEETING. HE ALSO MADE OPTIMISTIC SOUNDS ABOUT PROGRESS ON THE CANAL TALKS. THE BELIZE DISPUTE ALSO REPORTEDLY WILL BE DISCUSSED BY THE PRESIDENTS AT THE MEETING, WITH GUATEMALA SEEKING SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITION. (BROWNELL)

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MRS. PERON ADDRESSES RALLY: PRESIDENT PERON ADDRESSED A

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

SDO, SEC FLE

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State Dept. review completed

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LARGE RALLY OF THE GENERAL LABOR CONFEDERATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF JUAN PERON'S RISE TO POWER. SHE PROCLAIMED THE RESUMPTION OF THE POLICY OF DIALOGUE WITH ALL POLITICAL SECTORS AND EVOKED MEMORIES OF HER LATE HUSBAND. SHE ALSO ANNOUNCED THE DETERMINATION OF HER GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT AGAINST SUBVERSION AND TERRORISM. THERE WERE SEVERAL SMALL EXPLOSIVE DEVICES SET OFF AT THE RALLY BUT MAJOR VIOLENCE, PREDICTED BY SOME, DID NOT OCCUR.
(BROWNELL)

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FEAR ABOUT OUTSIDE INTERVENTION COULD EXPLAIN LIBYAN MEASURES: THE LIBYANS HAVE TAKEN SEVERAL UNUSUAL MEASURES OVER THE LAST TEN DAYS, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF NEW ANXIETY ABOUT OUTSIDE INTERVENTION. SINCE OCTOBER 7, LIBYA HAS:

- TRANSFERRED A COMPANY OF COMMANDOS TO A TERMINAL ON AN OIL PIPELINE OWNED BY OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM;
- PREVENTED A NUMBER OF OCCIDENTAL EMPLOYEES FROM LEAVING LIBYA;
- RECALLED ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM LEAVE;
- BANNED THE ENTRY OF ALL FOREIGN JOURNALISTS.

NO UNUSUAL MILITARY ACTIVITY HAS BEEN DETECTED IN STATES BORDERING LIBYA, ALTHOUGH THE POSSIBILITY THAT TRIPOLI IS RESPONDING TO FRICTION WITH ONE OR ANOTHER OF ITS NEIGHBORS CANNOT BE RULED OUT. UNEASINESS IN THE ARMED FORCES OVER AN INVESTIGATION OF MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN A RECENT COUP ATTEMPT COULD EXPLAIN AT LEAST SOME OF TRIPOLI'S ACTIONS. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE LIBYANS HAVE BEEN SEIZED BY A NEW WAVE OF FEAR OF OUTSIDE INTERVENTION. TENSIONS GENERATED BY THE DISPUTE WITH OCCIDENTAL MAY HAVE PROMPTED TRIPOLI TO WORRY AGAIN ABOUT POSSIBLE U.S. INTERVENTION

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ON BEHALF OF OCCIDENTAL AND ITS EMPLOYEES, IN THIS CASE, GADHAFI MAY BE REACTING TO RUMORS IN BEIRUT THAT THE U.S. AND EGYPT HAVE BEEN COLLABORATING AGAINST HIM.

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PALESTINIAN LEADERS HAVE "INFORMATION" THAT WASHINGTON AND CAIRO HAVE PLANS TO OUST THE LIBYAN REGIME AND THAT EGYPTIAN INTELLIGENCE WILL PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE EFFORT. GADHAFI MAY WELL HAVE CAUGHT WIND OF THIS INFORMATION THROUGH HIS MANY CONTACTS IN PALESTINIAN CIRCLES.

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MADRID SEEKS UN ASSISTANCE CONCERNING SPANISH SAHARA: MADRID HAS DECIDED TO TURN TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL FOR HELP IN RESOLVING THE DISPUTE WITH RABAT CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF SPANISH SAHARA. THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR IN NEW YORK REQUESTED SATURDAY THAT THE COUNCIL CONVENE EARLY NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE.

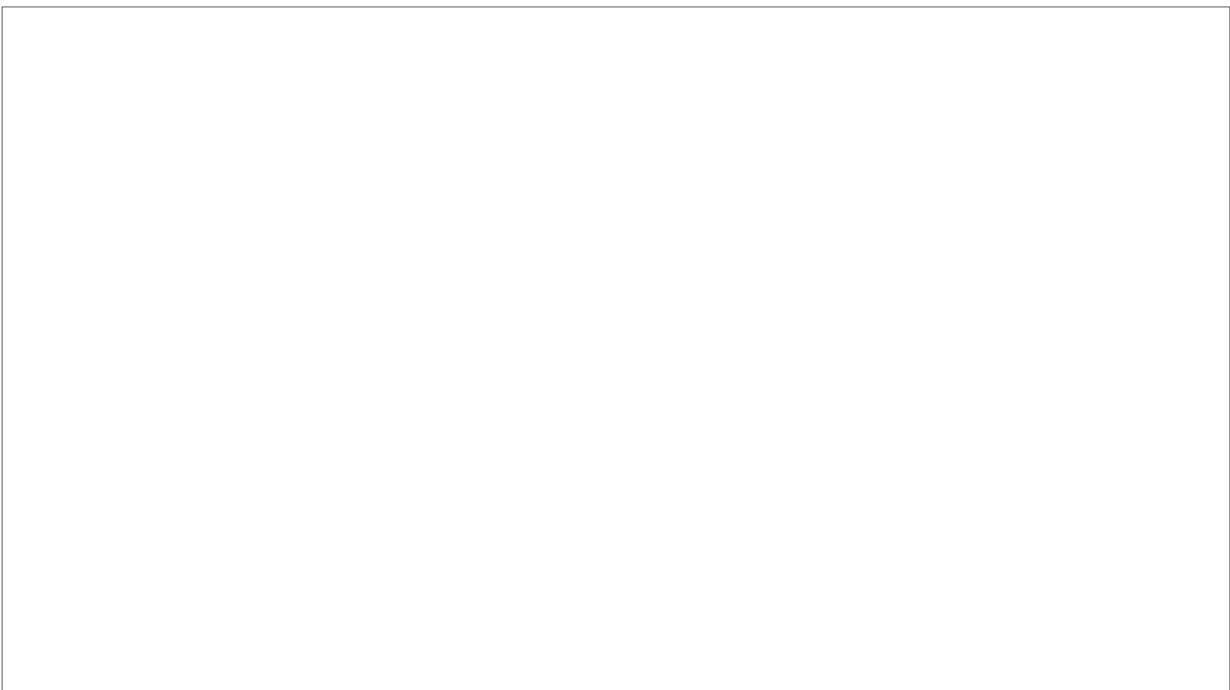
THE REQUEST IS A DIRECT REACTION TO MOROCCAN KING HASSAN WHO ANNOUNCED ON OCTOBER 16 THAT HE WILL ORGANIZE AND LEAD A PEACEFUL MASS MARCH INTO SPANISH SAHARA BY 300,000 UNARMED MOROCCANS. SPANISH OFFICIALS IN MADRID HAVE STILL MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS BUT THE LOCAL PRESS HAS EXPRESSED INCREDULITY AT HASSAN'S PLANS.

THE SPANISH DELEGATION AT THE UN APPEARS OPTIMISTIC THAT MOST COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL SUPPORT THEIR REQUEST FOR A MEETING, PROBABLY FOR OCTOBER 20. LAST NIGHT, SPANISH REPRESENTATIVES CLAIMED THEY ENCOUNTERED NO SERIOUS OPPOSITION TO THEIR PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL MISSION COMPOSED OF THREE NATIONS TO VISIT AND REPORT ON THE SITUATION IN SPANISH SAHARA. THEY MAY TABLE THIS PROPOSAL AT THE SPECIAL COUNCIL SESSION NEXT WEEK. MADRID'S BASIC STRATEGY IS TO KEEP THE ISSUE WITHIN UN CHANNELS--SPECIFICALLY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY--WHERE IT CAN EXPECT BROAD SUPPORT FOR ITS PLANS TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO SPANISH SAHARA ON THE BASIS OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

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