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 DE WTE #5928 2922249  
 O 192220Z OCT 75  
 FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 15//

TO BREMER/BARBAN/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

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

VIA BLACK PATCH WH51980

TOHAK 15

OCTOBER 20, 1975

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

SOVIET RESPONSE TO ANTI-SOVIET CHINESE SPEECH: MOSCOW HAS FINALLY RESPONDED TO THE ANTI-SOVIET SPEECH VICE PREMIER CHEN HSI-LIEN MADE TWO WEEKS AGO AT THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE SINKIANG UIGHUR AUTONOMOUS REGION. CHEN HAD CONGRATULATED SINKIANG FOR ITS PAST VICTORIES IN "SMASHING" SOVIET AGGRESSION AND SUBVERSION AND WARNED OF THE CONTINUING NEED TO MAINTAIN VIGILANCE AGAINST BOTH THE POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET SURPRISE ATTACK AND SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO FOMENT DISSENSION AMONG THE MINORITIES. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME IN RECENT MONTHS THAT A RANKING CHINESE OFFICIAL HAD EXPLICITLY RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF A SOVIET ATTACK ON CHINA. PRAVDA ON OCTOBER 18 CARRIED AN ARTICLE LAMBASTING CHINA'S POLICIES ON MINORITIES -- PARTICULARLY ITS SUPPRESSION OF MINORITY RELIGIONS -- AND AGAIN REMINDING SOVIET READERS OF THE PHYSICAL THREAT CHINA POSES TO THE USSR. THE CHARGE THAT THE CHINESE ARE SUPPRESSING MINORITY RELIGIONS SUGGESTS THE SOVIETS BELIEVE THAT ONE REASON CHEN WENT TO SINKIANG WAS BECAUSE OF A RELIGIOUS PROBLEM THERE CAUSING TROUBLE FOR PEKING. PRAVDA'S IMPLICATION THAT CHINA POSES A THREAT TO THE USSR IS A LOGICAL COUNTER TO CHEN'S ANTI-SOVIET REMARKS. MOSCOW'S DELAY IN RESPONDING TO CHEN'S TRIP TO SINKIANG SUGGESTS THE SOVIETS AT FIRST WERE UNCERTAIN AS TO PRECISELY WHAT THE VISIT SIGNIFIED.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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