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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 32//

TO BREMER/BARBIAN/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD VIA BLACK PATCH WH52006

TOHAK 32

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

OCTOBER 21, 1975

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

SYRIAN-ISRAELI CLASH: A SYRIAN MILITARY SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT SOME SYRIANS HAD CLASHED WITH AN ISRAELI PATROL ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. THE INCIDENT REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE SEVEN MILES NORTHEAST OF AL QUNAYTIRAH, THE SAME AREA WHERE TWO SYRIAN SHEPHERDS WERE KILLED BY THE ISRAELIS LAST WEEK. TEL AVIV HAS PLAYED DOWN THE INCIDENT. ISRAELI MILITARY SOURCES ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SHOTS WERE FIRED ACROSS THE UN BUFFER LINE BUT SAID THE FIRE HAD NOT BEEN RETURNED. THE ISRAELIS SAID THEY WERE NOT EVEN CERTAIN WHO HAD FIRED THE SHOTS. THEY REPORTED NO CASUALTIES.

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

NON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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NSA review completed

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ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY STRESSES ITS INDEPENDENCE; THE ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY LAST WEEK APPROVED A PLATFORM DESIGNED TO DISTINGUISH THE PARTY FROM BOTH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND THE COMMUNISTS AND TO REINFORCE ITS PIVOTAL POSITION BETWEEN THEM. THE PLATFORM WAS PUT TOGETHER IN PREPARATION FOR A PARTY CONGRESS NOW SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY. IN EXPLAINING THE NEW PLATFORM, SOCIALIST CHIEF DE MARTINO ALL BUT RULED OUT HIS PARTY'S RETURN TO FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE NEXT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION. IN THE MEANTIME, THE SOCIALISTS SEEM WILLING TO GIVE PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT TO A GOVERNMENT LIKE PRIME MINISTER MORO'S PRESENT COALITION. THE NEW SOCIALIST PLATFORM ATTEMPTS TO APPLY THE LESSONS THE PARTY DREW FROM THE REGIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS LAST JUNE. THE SOCIALISTS ATTRIBUTE THEIR RELATIVE LACK OF SUCCESS TO THEIR LONG ASSOCIATION WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS IN THE GOVERNMENT. BY KEEPING THEIR DISTANCE FROM THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, THE SOCIALISTS HOPE TO COMPETE ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH THE COMMUNISTS FOR THE VOTES OF DISSATISFIED ITALIANS IN THE NEXT ELECTION.

KHMER ALLOW FOREIGN TRIP BY SIHANOUK: THE CAMBODIAN COMMUNIST APPARENTLY INTEND TO ALLOW PRINCE SIHANOUK TO VISIT ARAB, AFRICAN, AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER. THE PRINCE PROBABLY PREFERS THE FOREIGN BANQUET CIRCUIT TO THE

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RESTRICTIONS THE KHMER COMMUNISTS PLACE ON HIM IN PHNOM PENH, BUT HE STILL MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY RECONCILED TO HIS REDUCED ROLE AS A GOOD-WILL AMBASSADOR.

THAT HE WAS AGAIN CONSIDERING RESIGNATION, BUT THAT HIS WIFE WAS DETERMINED THAT HE REMAIN "CHIEF OF STATE." SIHANOUK MAY NOT YET HAVE MADE A FINAL DECISION TO RESIGN. HE IS DOUBTLESS AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT HIS CHANCES OF INFLUENCING THE DOMESTIC POLICIES OF THE KHMER COMMUNISTS ARE PRACTICALLY NIL AND THAT HE IS, IN EFFECT, AN ANACHRONISM.

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SWITZERLAND ANNOUNCES LARGE-SCALE MILITARY MANEUVERS: BERN HAS NOTIFIED THE SIGNERS OF THE CSCE THAT IT WILL CONDUCT A LARGE-SCALE MILITARY EXERCISE IN NOVEMBER. INVITATIONS TO FOREIGN OBSERVERS WILL BE LIMITED TO RESIDENT MILITARY ATTACHES. THE NOTIFICATION IS EVIDENCE OF BERN'S KEEN INTEREST IN SUPPORTING CSCE PROVISIONS. THE MANEUVER, SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE FROM NOVEMBER 10 TO 18 IN NORTHEASTERN SWITZERLAND, INVOLVES SOME 40,000 MEN AND 5,000 VEHICLES.

THE WASHINGTON STAR

VERNON GUIDRY REPORTS THAT DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, STUNG BY CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST REVELATIONS AND REPORTS OF MILLIONS IN QUESTIONABLE PAYMENTS TO A DEFENSE CONTRACTOR, SAYS A NEW LOOK IS BEING TAKEN AT THE WHOLE ISSUE OF "GRATUITIES" FOR OFFICIALS, FROM THE FLOWING ALCOHOL OF HOSPITALITY SUITES TO THE MORE EXPENSIVE PLEASURES OF CORPORATE HUNTING LODGES. (A-1)

FRED BARNES REPORTS THAT JUST TWO WEEKS AGO, PRESIDENT FORD TOLD AN AUDIENCE IN KNOXVILLE, TENN., ABOUT A POTENTIAL DEAL FOR SOVIET OIL THAT WOULD SERVE AS "GOOD INSURANCE AGAINST MIDEAST OIL DECISIONS." THAT STATEMENT WAS PART OF A PRESIDENTIAL EFFORT TO BALLYHOO ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO LINK A PERMANENT GRAIN DEAL WITH THE SOVIETS TO THE ACQUISITION OF RUSSIAN OIL. BUT THE PRESIDENTIAL BUILDUP MAY HAVE BACKFIRED FOR THE AMOUNT OF OIL THAT THE U.S. WILL GET FROM THE SOVIET UNION -- IF IT GETS ANY AT ALL -- IS MINIMAL. (A-1)

GEORGE GEDDA REPORTS THAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION, SEEKING TO AVOID ADVERSE CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO U.S. MILITARY AID PROGRAMS, WILL NOT RECOMMEND ANY MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHILE THIS YEAR, SOURCES SAY. (A-7)

A STAR EDITORIAL SAYS THAT THE MEANDERINGS OF THE THIRD WORLD MAJORITY IN THE UN ARE OFTEN AS MEANINGLESS AS THEY ARE OUTRAGEOUS. THE ACTION OF THE SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN, AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM MIGHT BE DISMISSED AS ANOTHER RHETORICAL EXCESS, INSPIRED BY ARAB EXTREMISTS, WHICH

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CHANGES NOTHING SO FAR AS THE FACTS OF THE MIDDLE EASTERN CONFLICT ARE CONCERNED. IN FACT, HOWEVER, IT IS FAR MORE SINISTER AND DANGEROUS THAN THAT. NO DOUBT THAT THE COMMITTEE VOTE WILL BE CONFIRMED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS A WHOLE. IT IS IMPROBABLE THAT THEY WILL FACE UP TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR VOTE AND CHANGE THEIR MINDS. THE RESULT IS LIKELY TO BE FAR MORE DESTRUCTIVE TO THE UN AND ITS LEGITIMATE CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD THAN IT WILL BE TO ISRAEL. (A-14)

CROSBY NOYES WRITES THAT YOU HAVE GONE ABOUT AS FAR AS YOU CAN GO IN SATISFYING THE VORACIOUS CURIOSITY OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE ABOUT THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS INSIDE THE STATE DEPARTMENT. IN THEORY, PIKE COULD GO TO THE HOUSE FOR SUPPORT FOR CONTEMPT CITATION AGAINST YOU EMPOWERING THE HOUSE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS TO GO OUT AND ARREST THE SECRETARY OF STATE. IN FACT, NOTHING OF THE SORT IS GOING TO HAPPEN. IF THE ISSUE IS FORCED TO A DECISION, THE DECIDING WILL HAVE TO BE DONE BY THE SUPREME COURT. AND ON THE QUESTION OF EXECUTIVE CONFIDENTIALITY, THERE IS VERY LITTLE DOUBT HOW THE COURT WILL RULE. (A-15)

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