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ROUTINE
DE WTE #7444 3501643
R 161720Z DEC 75
FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 47//

TO BREMER/COVEY/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

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

VIA BLACK PATCH WH52509

TOHAK 47

NSA, DIA, & NGA HAVE
REVIEWED

DECEMBER 16, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

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IRANIAN-EGYPTIAN INCREASED MILITARY COOPERATION: ACCORDING TO DIA, IRAN AND EGYPT ARE CONTINUING SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY COOPERATION. DURING HIS MID-NOVEMBER VISIT TO CAIRO, IRANIAN VICE MINISTER OF WAR, GENERAL TOUFANIAN, WAS REPORTEDLY OFFERED UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN THE EGYPTIAN INVENTORY. PRESIDENT SADAT AND HIS ADVISER, MARWAN, ARE SAID TO HAVE TOLD TOUFANIAN THAT IRANIAN PILOTS MAY TRAIN ON MIG-21S AND MIG-23S. IN ADDITION, THE EGYPTIANS WILL ALLOW IRANIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH EGYPT'S LATEST MODEL SOVIET TANKS AND ARMORED PERSONNEL CAR-

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

SDO, SECFLC

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INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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RIERS, TOUFANIAN CLAIMED THE TANKS HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM SYRIA AND THAT THEY ARE THE LATEST VERSIONS MANUFACTURED BY THE USSR.

MAURITANIAN AND POLISARIO FORCES CLASH IN SAHARA:

ARMED CLASHES HAVE BEEN OCCURRING BETWEEN MAURITANIAN FORCES AND THE POLISARIO IN SOUTHERN SAHARA.

MAURITANIAN LOSSES ARE ESTIMATED AT 0 DEAD AND 100 WOUNDED. THE ONLY GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL IN NOUAKCHOTT HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN CLEARED OF PATIENTS IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE WOUNDED. THE MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY IS TRYING TO SUPPRESS THE NEWS.

THAT MAURITANIAN MILITARY FORCES SHELLED THE TOWN OF LA AGUERA IN SOUTHERN SPANISH SAHARA WHICH IS IN THE HANDS OF THE POLISARIO FRONT. MAURITANIAN UNITS REPORTEDLY WAGED A FIERCE BATTLE WITH THE POLISARIO GUERRILLAS. SOME 800 MEMBERS OF THE POLISARIO FRONT HAVE APPARENTLY BARRICADED THEMSELVES IN THE TOWN AND MAURITANIAN FORCES HAVE GIVEN THE GUERRILLAS 48 HOURS TO EVACUATE WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM THE AREA IN ORDER TO PREVENT A MASSACRE. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT IT APPEARS MAURITANIAN TROOPS HAVE SUFFERED MANY LOSSES AND HAVE BEEN FORCED TO EVACUATE THEIR WOUNDED BY AIR TO NOUAKCHOTT.

ISRAELI AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS: IN LATE NOVEMBER, THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE LOST AN F-4E AIRCRAFT IN THE SINAI. ITS LOSS AND PERSONNEL CASUALTIES IN THE ACCIDENT, ALONG WITH NUMEROUS OTHER LOSSES IN THE PAST YEAR, DEMONSTRATE A GROWING PROBLEM FACING THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE, ACCORDING TO DIA. THIRTEEN AIRCRAFT ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN LOST SO FAR THIS YEAR. THE INCREASE IN ACCIDENT RATES IS BELIEVED TO BE CAUSED BY TWO MAJOR FACTORS. THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE IS LOSING MANY QUALIFIED MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL TO COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES SUCH AS EL AL. IN ADDITION, IT HAS EXPANDED ITS PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM TO COMPENSATE FOR WARTIME LOSSES AND TO PROVIDE A HIGHER PILOT-TO-AIRCRAFT RATIO. DECLINING MAINTENANCE SKILLS COUPLED WITH MORE PILOTS WITH LESS EXPERIENCE THAN BEFORE HAVE ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE INCREASE IN ACCIDENTS. ANOTHER CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR THAT MAY HAVE HAD SOME IMPACT ON LOSSES INCLUDES THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE PROPENSITY TO EXCEED PERFORMANCE LIMITATIONS. AS AN EXAMPLE, THE F-4E IS ROUTINELY SUBJECT TO "G" FORCES OF OVER

5. ALSO, TAKEOFF WEIGHT FREQUENTLY EXCEEDS TECHNICAL ORDER MAXIMUM GROSS WEIGHT. THE IAF INVENTORY IS OLD IN MANY CASES, AND ALMOST ALL PRE-1973 WAR AIRCRAFT HAVE RECEIVED BATTLE DAMAGE.

NEW CAMBODIAN CONSTITUTION APPROVED: THE KHMER COMMUNISTS

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HAVE ADOPTED A NEW CONSTITUTION, ACCORDING TO A COMMUNIQUE BROADCAST YESTERDAY BY RADIO PHNOM PENH. THE ANNOUNCEMENT PROVIDED NO DETAILS ON ITS CONTENTS, OR ON WHAT ROLE THE NEW CONSTITUTION ASSIGNS TO PRINCE SIHANOUK. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER KHIEU SAMPHAN STATED THAT A "THIRD NATIONAL CONGRESS," REPORTEDLY ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 1,000 DELEGATES, HAD "UNANIMOUSLY" APPROVED THE CONSTITUTION. THE CONGRESS, HELD ON DECEMBER 14, APPARENTLY CULMINATES THE WORK OF A COMMITTEE ALLEGEDLY FORMED AT A SPECIAL NATIONAL CONGRESS LAST APRIL, FOLLOWING THE COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER OF CAMBODIA, TO DRAFT A NEW CONSTITUTION.

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