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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOMAK 40//

TO PAUL BARBIAN FOR THE SECRETARY

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

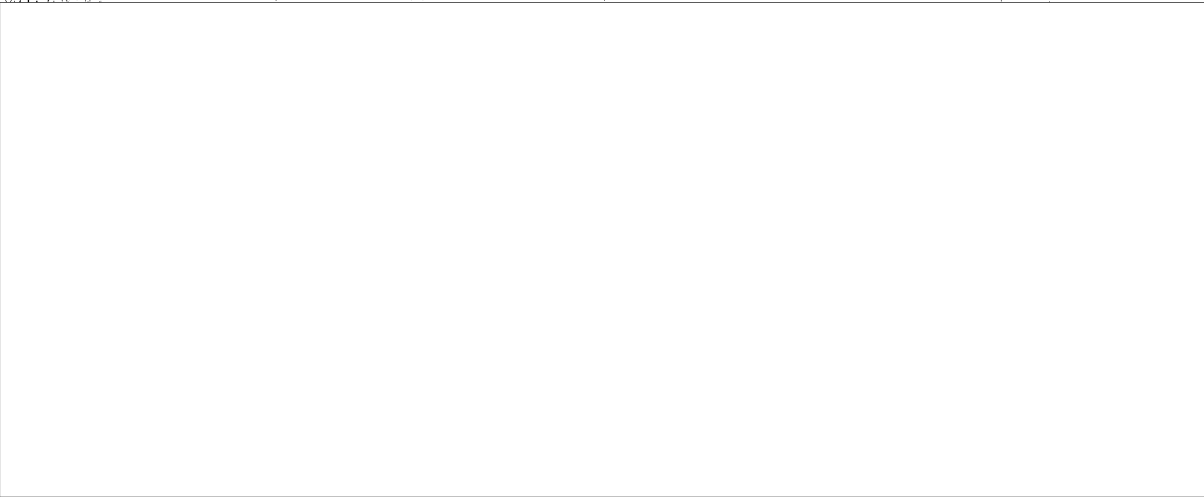
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JANUARY 2, 1976

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MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM
SUBJECT: EVENING NOTES



THE WASHINGTON STAR
VARIOUS NEWS SERVICES REPORT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS
DENIED AS "NONSENSE" AND "WITHOUT FOUNDATION" A REPORT
THAT SOME 300 CIA-SPONSORED AMERICANS ARE READY TO JOIN AN
EQUAL NUMBER ALREADY FIGHTING IN THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR.
(A-1)

SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN TOOK OFF YESTERDAY ON A THREE-WEEK
TRIP TO ASIA THAT WILL INCLUDE A VISIT TO HANOI. ACCORDING
TO A STAFFER WHO WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO STAY BEHIND, MCGOVERN

***** W H S R C O M M E N T *****

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NSA review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

WILL STOP OFF IN PAKISTAN, INDIA, AND BANGLADESH AS WELL. MCGOVERN, WHO ONCE SAID HE'D GO TO HANOI ON HIS KNEES, IF THAT'S WHAT IT TOOK TO GET AMERICAN POWS BACK, IS GOING BY PLANE ACCOMPANIED BY SOME STAFF AIDES. (A-2)

ACCORDING TO TONY AVIRGAN, THE SOVIET UNION STANDS TO GAIN MUCH MORE THROUGH ITS INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA THAN JUST INFLUENCE IN THAT RICH AND STRATEGIC WEST AFRICAN COUNTRY. BECAUSE OF SOVIET BACKING FOR THE POPULAR MOVEMENT FACTION, RUSSIAN PRESTIGE APPEARS HIGHER IN MANY AFRICAN CAPITALS THAN EVER BEFORE. TO THESE COUNTRIES THE SOVIET UNION SUDDENLY IS SEEN AS AN IMPORTANT ALLY IN THE FIGHT FOR AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE. (A-3)

A NEW YORK TIMES ITEM STATES THAT THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT FORD HAD EXERCISED HIS 43RD VETO, REJECTING LEGISLATION THAT WOULD HAVE MADE THE TREASURY SECRETARY A MEMBER OF THE NSC. THE PRESIDENT SAID THE MEASURE WAS UNNECESSARY BECAUSE THERE ALREADY WERE ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR OBTAINING THE ADVICE OF THE SECRETARY ON NATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS. (A-3)

AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "JOAN AND TOM AND HENRY AND NELSON" QUESTIONS WHAT NEED STATE HAS FOR A CONSUMER AFFAIRS COORDINATOR -- A \$37,000-A-YEAR CONSUMER AFFAIRS COORDINATOR? JOAN BRADEN, IDENTIFIED IN NEWS REPORTS AS LONGTIME FRIEND OF VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER AND SECRETARY KISSINGER, IS EXPECTED TO BE NAMED TO THAT CURIOUS POST SHORTLY. LAWRENCE EAGLEBURGER ALLOWED AS HOW SHE WILL MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH CONSUMER GROUPS AND THE WHITE HOUSE, WHATEVER IN THE WORLD OF UNDERSECRETARYDOM THAT MEANS. HE EXPLAINED, MORE OR LESS, THAT THE JOB WAS CREATED PARTLY IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT FORD'S COOLNESS TO PROPOSALS FOR CREATION OF A FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, WHICH IS ALL TO THE GOOD; THUS CONSUMERS ADVISERS ARE TO BE APPOINTED TO EACH MAJOR AGENCY. STILL -- WHY THE STATE DEPARTMENT? POSSIBLY MRS. BRADEN COULD UNDERTAKE TO HAVE LABELS ATTACHED TO PARTICULAR POLICY EMANATIONS: WARNING -- DETENTE MAY BE DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH; OR INVOLVEMENT IN ASIAN OR AFRICAN SQUABBLE) HAS BEEN SHOWN TO HAVE ADVERSE SIDE EFFECTS. (A-10)

GEORGE BEVERIDGE WRITES THAT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB'S NEW REPORT ON RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE FORD WHITE HOUSE AND THE PRESS OFFERS NOTHING VERY DRAMATIC. IT DOES GIVE READERS A WORTHWHILE GLIMPSE OF THE PRESS CONSENSUS ON HOW THIS IMMENSELY INTRICATE POWER STRUGGLE WORKS, OR OUGHT TO. FOR ALL THE GAINS, THE REPORT SAYS, FORD'S "OPENNESS AND CANDOR" STILL FALL SHORT OF HIS PROMISES: HE DUCKS TOO MANY TOUGH QUESTIONS; HIS TOP ASSOCIATES SHARE THE FAULT, ESPECIALLY IN RE-

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FUSING TO PROVIDE VITAL INFORMATION WHEN THE PRESS NEEDS IT.
THE FIVE-PAGE PRESS CLUB REPORT, SPLENDIDLY BRIEF, SUGGESTS
SOME POSSIBLY USEFUL IDEAS TO BEEF UP NESSEN'S OPERATION.
IT ALSO URGES FORD TO ISSUE AN EXECUTIVE ORDER DIRECTING HIS
ENTIRE ADMINISTRATIVE TO COMPLY WITH HIS "OPENNESS" PLEDGE.

(A-10)

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