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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 35//

TO CONVEY PASSAGE ROOMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

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VIA BLACK PATCH WH61292

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SEPTEMBER 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT  
SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

U.S.-ISRAELI TALKS ON GULF OF SUEZ: THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE ISRAELI TEAM OVER AMOCO DRILLING IN THE GULF OF SUEZ PRODUCED NO GIVE IN THE ISRAELI POSITION. THE SUBJECT WILL BE TAKEN UP AGAIN WHEN SECRETARY KISSINGER MEETS ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON NEXT WEEK IN NEW YORK. IN THE MEANTIME, ISRAEL WILL PRESUMABLY PREVENT AMOCO FROM DRILLING ITS 304 CONCESSION WHICH IS DUE TO EXPIRE BY SEPTEMBER 21 UNLESS DRILLING IS UNDERWAY. THIS WILL CONFRONT THE EGYPTIANS WITH A CHOICE OF WHETHER TO EXTEND AMOCO'S CONCESSION IN THE HOPE THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL EVENTUALLY WIN PERMISSION FOR AMOCO TO DRILL OR TO CANCEL THE CONCESSION IN ORDER TO DRAMATIZE ITS CONCERN OVER ISRAELI TACTICS WITH RESPECT TO THE OIL FIELDS IN THE GULF OF SUEZ. THE ISRAELI NEGOTIATING POSITION, FROM WHICH THEY REFUSED TO BUDGE ON ORDERS FROM PRIME MINISTER RABIN, IS THAT THEY WILL ALLOW AMOCO TO DRILL ONE WELL EAST OF THE ISRAELI MEDIAN LINE IN THE GULF OF SUEZ, BUT ONE WELL ONLY, IF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL AGREE TO USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH AMOCO AND EGYPT TO PREVENT ANY ADDITIONAL DRILLING EAST OF THE LINE. OUR NEGOTIATING TEAM TOOK OUR LONG-STANDING POSITION THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ACCEPT THE ISRAELI MEDIAN CONCEPT NOR CAN IT ACCEPT THAT ISRAEL HAS THE

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RIGHT TO HARRASS U.S. OIL COMPANY SHIPS EAST OF THAT LINE. THE STATE TEAM SUGGESTED THAT ISRAEL ALLOW DRILLING TO PROCEED AT THE ONE WELL IN QUESTION, WITH NO OTHER DRILLING PENDING ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS AT A LATER DATE AND WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ISRAELI OR AMERICAN LEGAL POSITIONS. THE ISRAELI TEAM REJECTED THIS SUGGESTION. DESPITE THE DIVERGENCE IN VIEWS, STATE SAID THE TALKS WERE CONDUCTED IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.

PANAMANIAN ALLEGES OFFICIAL U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN DEMONSTRATIONS; PANAMANIAN NEWSPAPERS ARE FRONT-PAGING ALLEGATIONS OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL INVOLVEMENT IN THE RECENT STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN PANAMA BASED ON THE ARREST OF THREE U.S. SERVICEMEN WHO ALLEGEDLY WERE INVOLVED IN ROCK THROWING AND INCITING STUDENTS DURING THE DEMONSTRATIONS. OUR PRELIMINARY INFORMATION INDICATES THAT THE ROCK THROWING CHARGES MAY VERY WELL BE TRUE. THE PANAMANIAN CHARGE FRIDAY MORNING, ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, DELIVERED A VERBAL MESSAGE TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT ACCUSING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OF CONSPIRING IN AN ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA. A NOTE DELIVERED TO AMBASSADOR JORDEN IN PANAMA YESTERDAY "ENERGETICALLY PROTESTS THE INSERTION OF U.S. ARMED FORCES AND CANAL ZONE FACILITIES INTO THE RECENT DISTURBANCES IN PANAMA AND REQUESTS THAT MEASURES BE TAKEN TO PREVENT SUCH ACTIVITIES.

MEANWHILE, THE NEW YORK TIMES PROBABLY WILL RUN THIS WEEK-END A STORY BY DAVID BINDER, BASED ON A DOCUMENT GIVEN TO BINDER BY THE PANAMANIAN CHARGE, ENTITLED "CHRONOLOGY OF A FLIP FLOP." THE PANAMANIAN DOCUMENT SETS OUT THE HISTORY OF U.S. PROMISES TO PANAMA TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY AND STATES THAT WE HAVE NOW RENEGED ON THAT PROMISE.

BRAZILIAN TV TO CARRY FIRST FORD/CARTER DEBATE; TV GLOBO, AFFILIATE OF THE PRESTIGIOUS BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPER O GLOBO, WILL CARRY THE FIRST FORD/CARTER DEBATE LIVE, VIA SATELLITE, LARGELY AT ITS OWN EXPENSE (USIS MAY PICK UP A SMALL PART OF THE COST). WHILE OBVIOUSLY BELIEVING THE DEBATE -- EVEN THOUGH ON DOMESTIC U.S. ISSUES -- WILL BE OF WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN AND OF ITSELF, O GLOBO ALSO IS BELIEVED TO HAVE A SUBTLER MESSAGE FOR ITS AUDIENCE ABOUT THE NATURE OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

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[REDACTED]

SWEDISH ELECTIONS -- OPPOSITION RIDES AN EMOTIONAL ISSUE  
 THE OPPOSITION CENTER PARTY IS RIDING AN EMOTIONAL TIDE  
 AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY AS THE SWEDISH ELECTION CAMPAIGN  
 ENTERS ITS FINAL WEEK. EMBASSY STOCKHOLM REPORTS THAT  
 PALME FINDS HIMSELF AND HIS SOCIAL DEMOCRATS INCREASINGLY  
 FORCED TO ANSWER CENTER LEADER FALLDIN'S SLOGAN, "DON'T  
 VOTE AWAY SECURITY; VOTE AWAY NUCLEAR ENERGY." LESS DRAMATIC  
 ISSUES SUCH AS THE ECONOMY AND SOCIAL BENEFITS HAVE  
 BEEN PUSHED INTO THE BACKGROUND. THE EMBASSY NOTES THE  
 SOCIAL DEMOCRATS APPARENTLY ARE HAVING SOME TROUBLE MAINTAINING  
 THEIR TRADITIONALLY HIGH MORALE, BUT BELIEVES THE ELECTION IS  
 STILL "EXTREMELY CLOSE."  
 WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE IN WORKS? THE SOVIETS,  
 [REDACTED] ARE UPSET

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ABOUT PLANS FOR A POSSIBLE WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY  
 MEETING IN BRUSSELS IN LATE OCTOBER, FEARING THAT THE MEETING  
 WOULD MOVE THESE PARTIES EVEN FURTHER AWAY FROM MOSCOW.  
 A WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE SO SOON AFTER  
 THE JUNE 29-30 EAST BERLIN SUMMIT COULD INDEED PRESAGE  
 RENewed SOVIET DIFFICULTIES WITH WEST EUROPEAN PARTIES.  
 ON THE OTHER HAND, LACKING OTHER INFORMATION, PARTIES  
 IN WESTERN EUROPE ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR DOMESTIC  
 PROBLEMS AND SEEM DISINCLINED TO CHALLENGE MOSCOW AT  
 THIS POINT. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING COULD BE TO COORDINATE  
 CERTAIN FOREIGN POLICY MEASURES ADOPTED IN EAST BERLIN.  
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