

OUTGOING CIPHER MESSAGE

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MUN 14 8 DEC 69

TO: DURKEE INFO YARROW HOVEY DUNNING REYMAN KAUFMANN SCHNEIDER  
FM: WALTER (LYON ACTING) INFO COOK

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RFE DAILY REPORT NO. 72

1. BULGARIA: FOREIGN MINISTER BASHEV ARRIVES IN BELGRADE TODAY FOR A FIVE-DAY VISIT WITH HIS COUNTERPART YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER TEPAVAC. AS OF TODAY THE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE MEETING IS SOMEWHAT MIXED WITH KOMUNIST DENYING THE POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSIONS ON MACEDONIA AND SEVERAL BILATERAL INITIATIVES ON THE STATE LEVEL GIVING SIGNS OF RELATIVE MODERATION IN SOFIA'S ATTITUDE VIS-A-VIS BELGRADE. WE HAVE AT OUR DISPOSAL A BACKGROUND PAPER ENTITLED "BULGARIAN MODERATION TOWARD YUGOSLAVIA AND ALBANIA" WHICH DISCUSSES THE HISTORY OF RELATIONS AND THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND BULGARIA, AND A PORTION OF THE BULGARIAN SITUATION REPORT OF 4 DECEMBER DEVOTED TO THE PRESENT VISIT TO BACKSTOP OUR REPORTING. BULGARIAN BD WILL NOTE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS IS GOOD AND THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN ENCOURAGING SIGNS INDICATING A WISH TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BUT THAT ONE CANNOT EXPECT TOO MUCH. WE ENCOURAGE A THOROUGH EXPLORATION OF THOSE AREAS WHERE AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE. ON MACEDONIA, WE RECOGNIZE THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN GUILTY IN THE PAST OF TROUBLING THE ATMOSPHERE ON THIS ISSUE, BUT EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THIS AREA OF DISAGREEMENT WILL NOT BECOME THE FOCAL POINT OF THE VISIT AND PREJUDICE SUCCESS IN OTHER AREAS. WE TRACE THE DEVELOPMENT OF BULGARIA-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS, NOTING THAT BULGARIA DOES NOT HAVE AN INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY AND THAT A DETERIORATION OF BULGARIA-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS IN THE PAST HAS USUALLY OCCURRED WHEN THE SOVIETS HAVE CHOSEN TO SQUABBLE WITH BELGRADE.

2. CZECHOSLOVAKIA: THE STATE-WIDE CULTURAL CONFERENCE WHICH CONVENES TODAY UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MINISTER OF CULTURE BRUZEK IS PART OF A COORDINATED CRACKDOWN ON CZECHOSLOVAK INTELLECTUALS AND ARTISTS. SINCE BRUZEK'S POSITION ON THE CULTURAL UNIONS AND HIS GENERAL IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION ARE FAMILIAR TO US AND HAVE BEEN COVERED IN PREVIOUS DGS, WE SHALL AWAIT DEVELOPMENTS BEFORE ISSUING ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE MATERIAL.

CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF PREMIER CERNIK WHO ATTENDED THE MOSCOW SUMMIT AS PART OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY AND GOVERNMENT

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DELEGATION, HE IS REPORTED BY RADIO BELGRADE TO HAVE STAYED IN THE SOVIET UNION FOR A "SHORT HOLIDAY". DURING THIS TIME HE IS SAID TO HAVE HAD TALKS WITH THE HIGHEST SOVIET OFFICIALS ON CZECHOSLOVAK-SOVIET ECONOMIC COOPERATION AS WELL AS ON THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. RADIO BELGRADE OBSERVES FURTHER THAT THIS WAS THE REASON WHY THE CZECHOSLOVAK CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAD POSTPONED ITS SCHEDULED PLENUM ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. WE ARE USING THIS ITEM WITH ATTRIBUTION TO RADIO BELGRADE.

CONTINUING PURGES ARE OCCURRING IN THE NORTH MORAVIAN LOCAL PARTY COMMITTEES AND REPORTS OF NEW DISMISSALS FROM THE PLZEN (WEST BOHEMIA) CITY PARTY COMMITTEE SHOW THE CONSERVATIVES CONTINUE TO SETTLE SCORES WITH THE REFORMERS ON A WIDE SCALE. ZIVOT STRANY REPORTED THAT 335 MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN NORTH MORAVIA LOST THEIR POSTS FOR "RIGHTIST OPPORTUNIST TENDENCIES." RADIO PLZEN REPORTS THAT 16 CITY PARTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ONE CANDIDATE MEMBER HAVE BEEN RECALLED OR RELIEVED OF THEIR DUTIES. CZECHOSLOVAK EVALUATION IS ROUNDING UP THESE MOST RECENT PURGES SO THAT WE MAY HAVE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS FOR USE BY THE BD'S.

A REPORT IN SATURDAY'S SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG BY RUDOLF HILF REVIEWS AN ARTICLE IN THE SLOVAK JOURNAL VYBER BY JAN RIECAN WHICH EXPRESSES OPTIMISM ON THE SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. RIECAN REVIEWS THE OUTSTANDING DIFFICULTIES FACTUALLY, INCLUDING THAT OF REPARATIONS WHICH MAKE THE SETTLEMENT OF THE VALIDITY OF THE MUNICH AGREEMENT DIFFICULT FOR BOTH PARTIES AND BELIEVES THAT BOTH SIDES MUST TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TOWARD SOLVING THIS PROBLEM. HE BELIEVES THAT THE PROBLEMS OF EUROPEAN SECURITY CAN BE SETTLED GRADUALLY AND THAT ONE MUST BEGIN BY SOLUTION OF VARIOUS PARTS OF IT. HE BELIEVES THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAKS SHOULD MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO NORMALIZATION OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN EUROPE BY SETTING ASIDE THE BARRIERS WHICH STAND IN THE WAY, AND THAT THE GOAL OF CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN POLICY SHOULD, AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF A LONG-TERM TRADE AND PAYMENT AGREEMENT AND AN EXCHANGE OF TRADE COMMISSIONS, BE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH THE BUNDESREPUBLIK. THUS FAR VYBER IS ONLY A STRAW IN THE WIND BUT SEEMS IN GENERAL TO REFLECT INCREASING CZECHOSLOVAK PREDISPOSITION TO LOOK FAVORABLY UPON AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC SUCH AS HAS BEEN RECENTLY OBSERVED IN MLADA FRONTA AD SMENA.



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3. HUNGARY: NOTHING

4. POLAND: NOTHING

5. RUMANIA: A DELEGATION OF RUMANIAN ARMED FORCES HEADED BY DEFENSE MINISTER ION IONITA IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN MOSCOW TODAY ACCORDING TO RADIO WARSAW. POLISH RADIO STATES THAT THE INVITATION WAS EXTENDED BY SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER GRECHKO. THUS FAR THERE ARE NO DETAILS AS TO THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT BUT IT MAY BE ASSUMED THAT SUCH ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AS THE CONDUCT OF MANEUVERS AND THE AMOUNTS ALLOCATED TO THE MILITARY BUDGET WILL BE DISCUSSED. CONCEIVABLY THE VISIT WILL SEE A RENEWAL OF SOVIET PRESSURE FOR PACT MANEUVERS ON RUMANIAN SOIL OR A CLOSER INTEGRATION OF RUMANIAN FORCES INTO THE WARSAW TREATY ORGANIZATION. BD'S WILL RAISE QUESTIONS AS TO THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING.

6. OTHER

THE MOST INTERESTING STORY OF THE DAY IS THE SOVIET UNION'S SUDDEN ACCEPTANCE OF THE WEST GERMAN OFFER MADE LESS THAN A MONTH AGO TO BEGIN TALKS WITH THE NEW BONN GOVERNMENT ON AN AGREEMENT TO RENOUNCE THE USE OF FORCE OR THREAT OF FORCE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE SOVIET DECISION WAS COMMUNICATED TO THE WEST GERMANS THREE DAYS AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF A COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY THE MOSCOW MEETING OF SEVEN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION. THE COMMUNIQUE INCLUDED A RATHER POSITIVE EVALUATION BY THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE NEW BONN COALITION LED BY CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT. OBSERVERS ALSO NOTED THAT THE FORMULATIONS USED IN THE COMMUNIQUE OPENED THE WAY FOR BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WITH THE BRANDT GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH OFFICIALLY LIMITED TO AN AGREEMENT TO RENOUNCE THE USE OF FORCE BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND WEST GERMANY THE MOSCOW TALKS ARE EXPECTED TO INVOLVE A MUCH BROADER RANGE OF ISSUES CONCERNING THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE BONN GOVERNMENT. THE OPENING OF THE TALKS IS INTERPRETED AS A NEW SUCCESS FOR THE SPD-FDP COALITION AND PERSONALLY FOR CHANCELLOR BRANDT IN INITIATING BETTER RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE. THE OPENING OF THE SOVIET-WEST GERMAN TALKS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF A DAILY GUIDANCE SUMMARY WHICH WILL BE ISSUED TODAY.

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A REPORT BY PAUL WOHL CONCERNING NEW SIGNS OF A POWER STRUGGLE IN THE KREMLIN HAS ATTRACTED SOME ATTENTION HERE. WOHL'S ARTICLE IS BASED ON AN INTERESTING OBSERVATION WHICH HAS UP TO NOW ESCAPED THE ATTENTION OF MANY SOVIET ANALYSTS. WOHL'S REPORT POINTS OUT THAT ON 30 NOVEMBER A NUMBER OF SOVIET DAILY NEWSPAPERS INCLUDING PRAVDA AND IZVESTIA CARRIED A FRONT PAGE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PARTY CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF THE NEW KOLKHOZ CHARTER. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS SIGNED BY PREMIER KOSYGIN AND PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL BREZHNEV. BREZHNEV, HOWEVER, WAS IDENTIFIED ONLY AS THE SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OMITTING HIS FULL TITLE AS PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL. SUCH OMISSIONS ARE EXTREMELY RARE, AND DUE TO THEIR UNUSUAL CHARACTER, ARE GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE SIGNS OF FORTHCOMING CHANGES IN THE SOVIET HIERARCHY.

THE PAUL WOHL PIECE MADE NO DEFINITE PREDICTIONS AS TO SUCH POSSIBLE CHANGES. SINCE THE 30TH OF NOVEMBER, HOWEVER, BREZHNEV'S NAME HAS APPEARED IN THE SOVIET PRESS AND ONCE AGAIN HE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL. WHILE AVOIDING ANY PREDICTIONS, WE ARE CARRYING THE WOHL ARTICLE CLEARLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE SOURCE. OUR ANALYSTS ARE GOING TO KEEP THEIR EYES OPEN FOR ANY POSSIBLE RECURRENCE OF THE INCIDENT. WE ARE ISSUING A GUIDANCE TODAY ON THE CONCLUSION OF THE NATO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE WHICH ROUNDS UP ITS POSITIVE PROPOSALS FOR THE SOLUTION OF CONCRETE PROBLEMS, THE IMMEDIATE SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN PROPAGANDA REACTION TO IT AND THE EXPLICIT RECONCILIATION OF BONN'S AND WASHINGTON'S POSITION BY THE NIXON LETTER AND THE ROGER'S STATEMENT IN BONN. REGARDING THIS LATTER WE FELT WE MUST DEAL WITH IT SINCE BOTH NYT (BINDER) AND THE LONDON TIMES SPOKE OF DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND BONN.

END MSG