

EYES ONLY
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SMITH INFO FISCHER
FM KAUFMANN

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REUR MUN 163 OF 31 DECEMBER. WE SEEM TO BE ON THE SAME BEAM AS FAR AS DESK CHIEF - DEPUTY EXCHANGES ARE CONCERNED. HAD DISCUSSION WITH PECHACEK TODAY AND HE WOULD LIKE TO SHOOT FOR ONE APRIL DATE. HE POINTS OUT THAT NETIK IS DUE FOR VISA TRAVEL THIS SPRING, AND SOME MONEY MIGHT BE SAVED IF HE WERE GIVEN EXCHANGE ASSIGNMENT. IT WOULD ALSO OPEN UP A NEW AREA TO HIM. ON THE OTHER HAND, ELIAS WOULD BE PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE AND IS, OF COURSE, QUITE FAMILIAR WITH N.Y. OPERATION. FOR THE WRITER EXCHANGE, PECHACEK RECOMMENDS BRAUN, BEHARKA AND SIMONCIC IN THAT ORDER. HE WOULD WELCOME HAVING SCHNEIDER COME HERE FROM CS NEWS DESK BUT FEELS THIS ENTIRE MATTER WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL WITH FIRT.

WALTER WOULD LIKE TO FINISH MILITARY PAPER BEFORE COMING TO MUNICH. THIS WOULD PROBABLY MEAN EARLY SPRING. I AM STILL VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN LEARNING WHOM YOU PROPOSE REPLACING HIM WITH.

PAGE TWO EYES

AS FAR AS MAKING LOWER LEVEL (EXCHANGES) PERMANENT, I FEAR THAT WE WILL RUN INTO SERIOUS SNAGS IF WE ATTEMPT TO DO SO. MANY OF THE WRITERS HERE HAVE LONG RANGE FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS, CAME TO THIS COUNTRY ORIGINALLY BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO SETTLE HERE AND WOULD PROBABLY NOT GO ALONG WITH PERMANENT REASSIGNMENT TO MUNICH. FOR INSTANCE, PENTCHEFF HAS BEEN UNABLE TO STIR UP ANY INTEREST IN EVEN A ONE YEAR EXCHANGE AMONG HIS WRITERS SINCE THEY FEAR THAT THIS IS A MUNICH "PLOT" TO LURE THEM THERE PERMANENTLY.

BELATED BUT VERY BEST NEW YEAR'S WISHES.
END MSG.