

RADIO FREE EUROPE
MUNICH

OUTGOING CIPHER

1972 FEB 3

16:33

TO: C

MUN 6 3 FEB 72

TO: DURKEE INFO PETZALL YARROW HOVEY DUNNING REYMAN
FM: WALTER INFO COOK BEDE BERNARD BROWN KOHAK LYON
NOWAK PECHACEK/BELLUS ZAHARIEFF

031543:

RFE DAILY REPORT NO. 27

1. BULGARIA: THE YUGOSLAV-MACEDONIAN NEWSPAPER NOVA MAKEDONIA OF 25 JANUARY HAS NOTED WITH APPROVAL THE BULGARIAN MEDIA'S RECENT DOWN-PLAYING OF THE TRADITIONAL BULGARIAN VIEW REGARDING SEVERAL HISTORICAL ANNIVERSARIES. SEE MONDAY'S DR. THE EDITOR OF THE NOVA MAKEDONIA ARTICLE NOTED THAT FROM ALL THE RECENT BULGARIAN PAPERS HE HAD SEEN THE APPROACH WAS CLOSER TO THE TRUTH AND QUITE DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUSLY WHEN THE BULGARIAN PRESS HAD TRIED TO SHOW THAT THESE HISTORICAL FIGURES WERE BULGARIANS. THE BULGARIAN BD WILL BROADCAST THE NOVA MAKEDONIA ARTICLE WITHOUT COMMENT AS A MEANS OF INFORMING OUR LISTENERS OF THIS SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT. THERE HAS, OF COURSE, BEEN NO EXPLANATION OF THE CHANGED LINE IN BULGARIAN MEDIA.

2. CZECHOSLOVAKIA: JIRI LEDERER WAS SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS IN PRISON YESTERDAY FOR PUBLISHING "FALSE AND SLANDEROUS INFORMATION ABOUT POLAND," CETEKA AND RADIO PRAGUE ANNOUNCED LAST NIGHT (DS). THE MOST OMINOUS ASPECT OF LEDERER'S TRIAL AND SENTENCE IS THE FACT THAT THIS IS THE FIRST INSTANCE OF SUCH PUNISHMENT FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT DURING THE 1968 PERIOD, DESPITE EARLIER ASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY BY HUSAK AND OTHERS. WHEN ONE RECALLS THE NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS WHO IN 1968 WROTE OR SPOKE ABOUT OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN A MANNER CONSIDERED SLANDEROUS TODAY, THE SENTENCING OF LEDERER INDEED SETS A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT. THE BD WILL NOT RPT NOT USE THIS THEME IN ITS COMMENTARY, STRESSING RATHER THAT THE SENTENCE CONTRADICTS EARLIER REGIME PROMISES.

(MORE)

WESTERN NEWS MEDIA LAST NIGHT REPORTED SEVERAL NEW ARRESTS. SEE DS FOR THE NAMES AND THE STORY WHICH WE HAVE ISSUED THIS MORNING FOR OUR NEWSCASTS. ONE ADDITIONAL PERSON, HISTORIAN KAREL BARTOSEK, WAS MENTIONED BY AFP/PRAGUE AS ARRESTED, BUT WE HAVE PUT A BIO ON THIS NAME SINCE NO OTHER AGENCY HAS YET REPORTED IT. EERA IS PREPARING A SHORT PAPER ON THE LATEST ARRESTS WHICH WE SHALL TELEX TO YOU LATER TODAY. OUR FIRST IMPRESSION IS THAT THE LATEST ARRESTEES ARE NOT A HOMOGENOUS GROUP; EVIDENTLY THE REGIME IS TRYING TO INTIMIDATE ALL INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES BY ARRESTING ONE FROM EACH CIRCLE. IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO WATCH FOR SIGNS OF THE CHARGES, I.E., WHETHER THEY CONCERN PRESENT ACTIVITIES OR THOSE OF 1968. WE BELIEVE THAT IRENA BLUHOVA, JAN SLING'S 68-YEAR-OLD MOTHER-IN-LAW, WAS ARRESTED BECAUSE SHE PROTESTED VEHEMENTLY THE ARREST OF SLING. WE HAVE IN PROCESS AN "RFE FILLS THE INFORMATION GAP" REPORT ON THE CS BD'S COVERAGE OF RECENT ARRESTS, BUT WILL HOLD UP COMPLETION OF IT FOR A WHILE UNTIL WE CAN BETTER JUDGE A PROPER CUT-OFF DATE.

3. HUNGARY: NOTHING

4. POLAND: AFP/WARSAW REPORTED YESTERDAY THAT GIEREK'S TRIP TO FRANCE, ALREADY ALLEGEDLY POSTPONED FROM THE END OF LAST YEAR TO THIS SPRING, NOW WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN THE FALL--MOST LIKELY IN OCTOBER.

MARGUERITTE HAS AN ARTICLE IN TODAY'S LE MONDE ON A REPORTED MANIFESTO SENT BY SEVENTEEN PROMINENT WRITERS TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE PROTESTING THE HARSH SENTENCES IN THE "RUCH" TRIALS AND ASKING FOR A PUBLICALLY-HELD APPEAL PROCESS (DS). WE HAD RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION EARLIER, ACCORDING TO WHICH THE MANIFESTO WAS SENT LAST NOVEMBER AND NOT "IN THE LAST DAYS OF 1971" AS MARGUERITTE WRITES. MARGUERITTE STRESSES THE UNUSUALLY MILD, ALMOST FRIENDLY, RESPONSE OF THE POLISH AUTHORITIES TO THE MANIFESTO.

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BARRY JAMES OF UPI REPORTED FROM THE VATICAN YESTERDAY THAT A DIPLOMATIC AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VATICAN AND POLAND IS READY FOR SIGNING FOLLOWING THE FRG'S RATIFICATION OF THE BONN-WARSAW TREATY. THE VATICAN SOURCES DESIGNATION OF THE AGREEMENT AS A "WORKING ARRANGEMENT" OR "MODUS VIVENDI" RATHER THAN A FULL CONCORDAT IS HIGHLY LIKELY TO BE CORRECT. THE LAST PART OF THE UPI STORY, IN WHICH IT IS STATED THAT THE RECENT JESUIT REPORT PRAISING CHURCH- STATE RELATIONS IN POLAND WAS PREPARED IN THE VATICAN, SOUNDS LESS PLAUSIBLE AND IN ANY CASE NOT USEFUL FOR BROADCAST. WE HAVE LISTED BIO.

5. RUMANIA: NOTHING

(MORE)

6. OTHER: THE SADAT TRIP TO MOSCOW APPEARS TO BE SHAPING UP AS MORE OF A CONFRONTATION THAN NEGOTIATING SESSION. THE ARAB PRESS, AS, INDEED, DID SADAT HIMSELF, IS OPENLY EXPRESSING RESERVATIONS ABOUT SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE ARAB CAUSE. OUR BD'S WILL INFORM ABOUT THIS, USING QUOTES FROM THE ARAB PRESS. SADAT, WHILE LEAVING HIMSELF SOME ESCAPE CLAUSES, HAS PUT THE SOVIETS ON THE SPOT BY STATING PUBLICLY THAT THE DECISION AS TO WHETHER EGYPT DECLARES A "ZERO HOUR" FOR BATTLE AGAINST THE ISRAELIS DEPENDS ON SOVIET COOPERATION. SADAT HAS, IN EFFECT, SOUGHT TO SHIFT THE ONUS OF EGYPTIAN INTERNAL DISSATISFACTION TO THE SOVIET DOORSTEP. MEANWHILE THE SOVIETS, SEEMINGLY UNWILLING TO BE PUSHED TOWARD VIOLENT SOLUTIONS, HAVE REITERATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION AND THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF 1967. THE OUTCOME OF THE VISIT WILL BE MEASURABLE PROBABLY ONLY IN TERMS OF SOVIET DELIVERIES OF OFFENSIVE MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO CAIRO, BUT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS MAY GIVE SOME INDICATION OF WHAT KIND OF COMPROMISE IS EVENTUALLY REACHED.

STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN CHARLES BRAY'S STATEMENT THAT THE USSR HAS MADE AN OVERTURE TOWARD LIMITING NAVAL STRENGTH IN THE INDIAN OCEAN IS USEFUL TO RECORD.

THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP, POSSIBLY IN RESPONSE TO THE INCREASINGLY VOCAL OPPOSITION FROM THE CDU-CSU TO THE MOSCOW/WARSAW TREATIES, HAS CAUSED THE MOSCOW TREATY TO BE APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND SUBMITTED TO THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET FOR RATIFICATION. THIS MAY BE READ AS A REMINDER TO BONN THAT THE SOVIETS ARE MOVING AHEAD WITH THEIR END OF THE AGREEMENT AND THAT THEY EXPECT THE FRG LEADERSHIP TO DO LIKEWISE.

END MSG