

RADIO FREE EUROPE  
MUNICH

INCOMING CIPHER MESSAGE

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

NYC 58 15 NOV 65  
WALTER  
FM E. SCHNEIDER INFO FISCHER

U R G E N T

1107A

WASHINGTON POST TODAY PUBLISHES OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY SOVIET  
EMBASSY DENOUNCING PENKOVSKIY BOOK AND FIRST OF TWO ARTICLES  
BY VICTOR ZORZA CASTING DOUBT UPON BOOK'S AUTHENTICITY.  
ZORZA DOES NOT ARGUE THAT CONTENT OF BOOK IS FALSE BUT INSTEAD  
ASSERTS VIEW THAT IT IS NOT WHAT IT PURPORTS TO BE. IN  
OTHER WORDS HE SUGGESTS THAT BOOK IS COMPILATION OF  
MATERIAL RECEIVED BY WESTERN INTELLIGENCE FROM PENKOVSKIY  
RATHER THAN, AS BOOK CLAIMS, A JOURNAL OR DIARY WHICH HE  
WROTE IN MOSCOW. WE TEND TO AGREE. MY VIEW, WHICH FISCHER  
SHARES, IS THAT WE SHOULD BE RATHER CAUTIOUS IN HANDLING  
MATERIAL OF THIS KIND. ON THE ONE HAND MATERIAL FROM BOOK  
REGARDING SOVIET LIFE UNDOUBTEDLY IS OF INTEREST TO OUR  
AUDIENCES AND THEREFORE OF SOME REAL PROPAGANDA VALUE; ON  
THE OTHER, SPY STORIES HAVE A SENSATIONAL RING AND CAN EASILY  
BACKFIRE. WE HAVE STATED THESE VIEWS IN POLICY MEETINGS  
HERE AND, AS INDICATED BY MY NYC 10 OF 2 NOVEMBER,  
ADVISED DESKS THAT DECISIONS ON EXPLOITATION SHOULD BE LEFT  
TO MUNICH. ASSUME THIS SITUATION STILL PREVAILS. WOULD  
APPRECIATE ANY THOUGHTS YOU MAY HAVE ON HOW TO HANDLE NEW  
WASHINGTON POST MATERIAL WHICH IS BEING FORWARDED TO YOU.  
MY SUGGESTION IS THAT IT BE HANDLED FACTUALLY,

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IF AT ALL. ASSUME YOU ARE AWARE THAT SOME MUNICH BD'S  
HAVE ASKED NY DESKS TO DO PROGRAMMING ON THIS SUBJECT.  
THANKS AND REGARDS.  
END MSG.