

OUTGOING CIPHER

TO: 

1972 OCT 25

18:07

MUN 44

25 OCT 72

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

251617:

RFE DAILY REPORT NO. 243

1. BULGARIA: THERE IS PRECIOUS LITTLE SO FAR OUT OF THE WRITERS UNION CONGRESS. TODAY, HOWEVER, ELECTIONS TO THE VARIOUS GOVERNING BODIES ARE DUE.

A CURIOUS RELEASE ON EUROPEAN SECURITY WAS PUT OUT LAST NIGHT BY BTA IN ENGLISH. IT ARGUED THAT THE MBFR QUESTION HAS "ITS PROPER PLACE ON THE SECURITY CONFERENCE TABLE. BY DIVORCING IT FROM THE REST OF THE SUBJECTS ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS, THE OBJECTORS TO POSITIVE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE WISH TO USE IT AS A BLUNT WEAPON WITH WHICH TO CLOBBER (SIC) ANY POSSIBLE PROGRESS IN THIS DIRECTION AT THE PROPOSED EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE." WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT THE BTA EDITOR RESPONSIBLE WAS NOT AWARE THAT HE WAS CRITICIZING THE SOVIET POSITION.

2. CZECHOSLOVAKIA: NOTE THE TALKS IN PARIS AT THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL (ITEM SENT DS) -- ANOTHER CASE OF PRAGUE SEEKING TO MEND ITS WESTERN FENCES AS THE SECURITY CONFERENCE APPROACHES.

3. HUNGARY: THE HUNGARIAN COUNTRY MEETING TODAY DISCUSSED THE PRESENT STATE OF THE NEM, IN VIEW OF BOTH SOVIET CRITICAL SCRUTINY OF THE EXPERIMENT AND THE DOMESTIC OBJECTIVE DIFFICULTIES WHICH IT HAS BEEN ENCOUNTERING FOR THE LAST YEAR OR SO. THE MEETING REVIEWED A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT STATEMENTS AND ARTICLES WRITTEN BY REGIME SPOKESMEN WHICH MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE MAIN LINES OF REFORM WOULD CONTINUE BUT THAT CERTAIN MEASURES OF RETRENCHMENT EITHER HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED OR WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE FUTURE. IT ALSO REVIEWED TWO ARTICLES BY THE EXTREME REFORM WING OF ECONOMISTS IN HUNGARY WHOSE MESSAGE WAS

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THAT THE ONLY CURE FOR THE ILLS OF THE REFORM IN HUNGARY WAS MORE, AND NOT LESS, LIBERALIZATION. WHILE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE DUE TO SOVIET PRESSURE, ON THE ONE HAND, OR DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES, ON THE OTHER -- OR TO GAUGE THE DEGREE OF INTERACTION BETWEEN THESE TWO FACTORS -- THE MEETING WAS AGREED IN GENERAL THAT SOVIET CONCERN, AS WELL AS COMECON INTEGRATION REQUIREMENTS, WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR WHICH THE REFORM-MINDED REGIME IN HUNGARY WOULD HAVE TO TAKE PERMANENTLY INTO ACCOUNT. THOUGH THIS MIGHT INHIBIT REFORM, HOWEVER, IT PROBABLY WOULD NOT LEAD TO A SERIOUS CURTAILMENT OF THE MAIN POINTS OF THE NEM, OR IMPEDE THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF SOME ASPECTS.

4. POLAND: RADIO WARSAW ANNOUNCED THIS MORNING THE REPLACEMENT OF WLODZIMIERZ SOKORSKI BY MATEJ SZCZEPANSKI AS HEAD OF POLISH RADIO AND TELEVISION. SOKORSKI, AGED 64, HAD HELD THE POSITION SINCE 1956 AND ONE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT HE IS A BELATED GOMULKIST VICTIM OF THE CHANGE OF REGIME IN DECEMBER 1970. HE WAS AN INTELLIGENT MAN, AN OPPORTUNIST BUT NOT A HARD-LINER IN EVERYDAY PRACTICE. THE IMPORTANT THING ABOUT SZCZEPANSKI (AND THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MOVE) IS THAT HE IS A GIEREK PROTEGE FROM SILESIA. HE CAME FROM RADIO KATOWICE TO THE TOP JOB IN TRYBUNA ROBOTNICZA WHICH HE HELD FOR SEVERAL YEARS. GIEREK'S AIM, THEREFORE, WAS TO GET HIS MAN IN CHARGE OF A HUGE IMPORTANT SECTION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA. WHETHER THIS WILL MEAN MUCH TIGHTENING OF CONTROL AND CENSORSHIP REMAINS TO BE SEEN. BUT, WHATEVER QUALITIES SZCZEPANSKI MAY HAVE, HE HAS NEVER BEEN KNOWN AS A LIBERAL OR A MAN WHO APPRECIATES THE CUT AND THRUST OF PUBLIC DEBATE. NEITHER, OF COURSE, HAS GIEREK.

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5. RUMANIA: AS USUAL, CEAUSESCU DOMINATES THE SCENE. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH LE FIGARO PUBLISHED YESTERDAY HE WAS SURPRISINGLY FORTHCOMING ON THE QUESTION OF THE FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION IN A EUROPEAN SECURITY FRAMEWORK, HAVING RESERVATIONS ONLY ABOUT IDEAS THAT CORRUPT THE YOUNG. NO OTHER EAST EUROPEAN LEADER HAS BEEN AS FORTHCOMING AS THIS AND, OF COURSE, THERE REMAINS A HUGE DOUBT ABOUT CEAUSESCU'S SINCERITY HERE, OR AT LEAST HIS INTERPRETATION OF A "FREE EXCHANGE."

IN BRUSSELS, CEAUSESCU'S REMARKS ABOUT WITHDRAWALS OF TROOPS, DISSOLUTION OF BLOCS, AND COOPERATION WITH EEC, THOUGH NOT NEW FOR HIM, ARE WORTHY OF NOTE BECAUSE OF THE CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE IN SUBSTANCE OF STRESS BETWEEN THE RUMANIANS' POSITION ON THESE POINTS AND THOSE OF THEIR WARSAW PACT ALLIES.

6. OTHER: NOTHING

END MSG