

RADIO FREE EUROPE
MUNICH

OUTGOING CIPHER

1971 JUL 19

15:29

TO: C

MUN 36 19 JULY 71

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

191414:

RFE DAILY REPORT NO. 161

1. BULGARIA: ADDING TO SATUDAY'S REMARKS ON THE RADIO SOFIA PROGRAM ON THE RUSSE TRIAL (SEE DAILY REPORT NO. 160): FURTHER CHECKING HAS UNEARTHED UNOFFICIAL INFORMATION RECEIVED LAST SEPTEMBER ON A NOVEMBER 1969 TRIAL OF SEVEN STUDENTS AND ONE WORKER IN RUSSE FOR HAVING PRINTED (IN THE HOUSE OF THE LOCAL PARTY SECRETARY) AND DISTRIBUTED PROTEST LEAFLETS. ACCORDING TO THIS INFORMATION, SENTENCES RANGING FROM ONE TO FIVE YEARS WERE METED OUT TO THE MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP, WHICH INCLUDED THE SON OF THE LOCAL SECRET POLICE DIRECTOR AND THE SONS OF HIGH LEVEL PARTY FUNCTIONARIES. AS TO THE RADIO SOFIA PROGRAM ITSELF, WE ARE SURPRISED THAT THE PARTICIPANTS INTERVIEWED WERE ALLOWED TO AIR THEIR OPPOSITIONAL VIEWS SO FRANKLY.

2. CZECHOSLOVAKIA: NOTHING.

3. HUNGARY: NOTHING.

4. POLAND: NOTE THAT THE COMMUNIQUE ON JAROSZEWICZ' VISIT TO EAST BERLIN REPORTS THE SIGNING OF A TRANSPORTATION CO-OPERATION TREATY. NO DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE BUT THIS ACCORD MIGHT SIGNAL SOME IMPROVEMENT IN AN AREA WHICH IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN FULL OF DIFFICULTIES.

5. RUMANIA: NOTHING.

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6. OTHER: EAST EUROPEAN COVERAGE OF THE PLANNED NIXON VISIT TO CHINA CONTINUES TO REVEAL NO CLEARLY DISCERNIBLE LINE (SEE ALSO SATURDAY'S DAILY REPORT). NO CZECHOSLOVAK COMMENT AT ALL HAS APPEARED THUS FAR (NEWS COVERAGE BY PRAGUE HAS ALSO BEEN MOST SCANTY), WHILE THE RUMANIANS HAVE CONFINED THEMSELVES TO ONE BRIEF COMMENTARY (ON JULY 17) WELCOMING THE MOVE AS AFFIRMING THE "IMPERATIVE" OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE. THE MOST INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT OVER THE WEEKEND WAS THE EMPHATIC HARDENING OF THE HUNGARIAN STANCE. AN ARTICLE IN THE SUNDAY "NEPSZABADSAG" FLATLY CONDEMNED THE "ANTI-SOVIET PLATFORM" OF THE SINO-US RAPPROCHEMENT, AN ASPECT WHICH IT VIEWED AS "EXTREMELY DANGEROUS". THE IMPLICIT ANTI-RUMANIAN DRIFT OF THE ARGUMENT WAS UNDERSCORED BY ANOTHER ARTICLE IN A COLUMN RIGHT NEXT TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ONE WHICH DISCUSSED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SINO-RUMANIAN RELATIONS, CRITICIZING IDEOLOGICAL NEUTRALITY, AND TALKS ABOUT THE TWO SUPER-POWERS AND THE ROLE OF SMALL NATIONS. THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR, THOUGH NOT QUITE AS EXPLICIT AS IN THE CASE OF THE KOMOCSIN ATTACK, AND THE RUMANIANS MIGHT WELL RESPOND TO IT INDIRECTLY, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR OWN COMMENT ON THE PLANNED NIXON VISIT. IN CONTRAST, POLISH COVERAGE SO FAR HAS CLEARLY SOUGHT TO PLAY THE EVENT DOWN, THOUGH WE DO FEEL THAT FERON'S LEAD IN TODAY'S NYT ARTICLE GOES OVERBOARD (AND HAVE MARKED IT BIO).

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SOVIET, EAST GERMAN AND ALBANIAN REACTIONS TO THE NIXON VISIT THUS FAR HAVE BEEN SCARCE. THE SOVIET LEADERS APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN TAKEN COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE BY THE CHINESE-US ANNOUNCEMENT. WE SUSPECT THAT THE SOVIET MEDIA HAVE RECEIVED NO FIRM GUIDANCE ON THE HANDLING OF THE VISIT. YESTERDAY'S "PRAVDA" CARRIED A REVIEW OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL, IN WHICH IT REFERRED TO KISSINGER'S TRIP TO PEKING AND THE SUBSEQUENT INVITATION WITHOUT, HOWEVER, OFFERING ANY INDEPENDENT COMMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENTS. THE SOVIET YOUTH ORGAN "KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA" CARRIED A SELECTION OF FOREIGN PRESS COMMENTS WITH AN INTRODUCTORY NOTE WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, SUGGESTED THAT CHINA'S INVITATION TO NIXON MEANS THAT PEKING "IS USING ALL ITS INFLUENCE TO HELP THE US TO GET OUT OF VIETNAM UNDER CONDITIONS ACCEPTABLE TO IT (I.E., THE US)."

IN A WEEKLY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION RADIO MOSCOW PANELISTS MENTIONED THE KISSINGER VISIT AND SUGGESTED THAT THE PROPOSED DATE OF THE NIXON VISIT (I.E. BEFORE MAY 1972) COULD POSSIBLY BE CONNECTED WITH THE "PRE-ELECTION STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLICANS." WE BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN DELAYED IN MAKING A GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THE FORTHCOMING NIXON VISIT TO CHINA AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SOVIET UNION. ONE REASON FOR THE DELAY IS THE FACT THAT AT THIS TIME OF YEAR MOST MEMBERS OF THE POLITBURO ARE VACATIONING OUTSIDE MOSCOW. IT IS LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THE REGIME WILL SOON PUBLISH A STATEMENT ON ITS VIEWS VIS-A-VIS THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS.

EAST GERMAN REACTION SHOWS THE REGIME'S UNWILLINGNESS TO COMMIT ITSELF BEFORE LEARNING OF MOSCOW'S LINE ON THE NIXON VISIT. BESIDES PRINTING A BRIEF FACTUAL NEWS ITEM

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ON THE NIXON STATEMENT, "NEUES DEUTSCHLAND" LIMITED ITS COVERAGE TO AN OUTLINE OF THE "PRAVDA" AND "KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA" TREATMENT OF THE VISIT ON PAGE 5 OF ITS SUNDAY ISSUE.

THE ALBANIAN MEDIA HAVE APPARENTLY FAILED TO COMMENT ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND WE BELIEVE THAT THEIR FUTURE COVERAGE WILL NOT GO BEYOND THAT OFFERED BY THE CHINESE. WE RECALL THAT THE ALBANIAN MEDIA GAVE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM TREATMENT TO THE SENSATIONAL TRIP OF THE US TABLE TENNIS TEAM TO PEKING LAST APRIL. IT SEEMS TO ADVERTISE CHINA'S MOVES. WE BELIEVE THAT PEKING FAILED TO GIVE ADVANCE NOTICE TO ITS ALLIES ON THE KISSINGER TRIP AND ITS RELATED DEVELOPMENTS.

IN THIS CONTEXT THE ASTONISHMENT OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIETCONG DELEGATIONS IN PARIS UPON HEARING THE NEWS OF THE NIXON VISIT IS QUITE REVEALING. IT TOOK MRS. BINH MORE THAN 24 HOURS BEFORE SHE WAS ABLE TO OFFER AN EXPLANATION. HER VIEW, THAT IT WOULD BE "INCONCEIVABLE" FOR THE CHINESE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH NIXON OVER THE HEADS OF THE VIETCONG LEADERSHIP, DID NOT CARRY MUCH CONVICTION. IN THIS CONTEXT IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW IF NORTH VIETNAM'S FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO WAS PASSING THROUGH PEKING IN HIS WAY HOME FROM MONGOLIA LAST WEEK, KNEW OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN US-CHINESE RELATIONS. JUDGING FROM HSINHUA'S ACCOUNT OF THE VISIT, THE FOREIGN MINISTER MET CHOU ON THE EVE OF THE 14TH AND LEFT PEKING FOR HANOI THE 15TH, I.E., SOME 24 HOURS BEFORE THE CHINESE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS CARRIED BY THE SAME NEWS AGENCY.

PEKING'S OWN TREATMENT OF THE NEWS HAS ALSO BEEN INTERESTING. THE PRESS COMMUNIQUE ON KISSINGER'S VISIT AND THE INVITATION EXTENDED TO CHOU APPEARED UNDER THE SIMPLE HEADING: "ANNOUNCEMENT." RADIO PEKING HAS APPARENTLY CARRIED

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THE FULL TEXT OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN ONE OR TWO OF ITS REGULAR NEWS BROADCASTS ON THE SAME DAY AND HAS NOT MENTIONED THE MATTER SINCE. THE CHINESE ARE APPARENTLY DETERMINED NOT TO ELABORATE ON THE SITUATION. RESTON, WHO IS IN PEKING, HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SOUND OUT ANY CHINESE OFFICIAL ON THE ISSUE AND WAS NOT PERMITTED TO MEET ANYONE KNOWLEDGEABLE SUCH AS CHOU EN-LAI. (NOW, DUE TO HIS OPERATION, HE WILL NATURALLY BE INCAPACITATED FOR SOME TIME). WE BELIEVE THAT PUBLICLY, THE CHINESE WILL CONTINUE THEIR USUAL ANTI-US LINE ON ALL FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS WHILE ENGAGING IN FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE US AT VARIOUS LEVELS, AS SUGGESTED BY KISSINGER YESTERDAY.

IN COVERAGE OF THE LATEST US-CHINESE DEVELOPMENTS WE RELY HEAVILY ON THE AVAILABLE PRESS MATERIAL WHICH HAS BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO NIXON'S STATEMENT. WE AVOID ANY COMMENTARIES OF OUR OWN ON THE EFFECT OF THE TRIP ON THE INDOCHINA SITUATION, PACE OF US WITHDRAWAL FROM VIETNAM, ETC. ALSO WE AVOID PREDICTIONS ON DATE OF US RECOGNITION OF CHINA OR POSSIBLE US STRATEGY CONCERNING CHINESE ADMISSION TO THE UN.

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