

MUN 89 22 MAY 61

TO: KAUFMANN INFO WALTER  
FM: SCHNEIDER INFO SMITH

221730:

-----U R G E N T----- STRICTLY C O N F I D E N T I A L

WE FEEL THAT NY DESKS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DO COMMENTARIES TOMORROW (TUESDAY) ON RACIAL DISTURBANCES IN ALABAMA. SITUATION VERY PROBABLY WILL GET HEAVY PLAY BY BLOC PROPAGANDA ALONG LINES OF LITTLE ROCK, BUT SO FAR BLOC COVERAGE IS NEWS ONLY. WE FEEL THAT RFE SHOULD NOT BE IN POSITION OF REACTING TO COMMUNISTS ON THIS BUT ON CONTRARY SHOULD FACE ISSUE SQUARELY, EMPHASIZING THAT EVENTS ARE UNFORTUNATE EPISODE IN LONG STRUGGLE FOR PROGRESS AND THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS TAKING VIGOROUS ACTION TO RESTORE ORDER AND PROTECT INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS. CNR HERE HAS ALREADY ASKED NY NEWS ROOM FOR DETAILED BACKGROUNDER AND CONTINUED COVERAGE WHICH WILL BE MOST HELPFUL ON THIS END. WE FEEL HOWEVER THAT NY SHOULD DO BULK OF COMMENTARY ON THIS.

SOMEWHAT SIMILARLY, WE FEEL THAT YOU ARE IN BETTER POSITION THAN WE TO HANDLE COMMENTARIES ON CUBAN BULLDOZERS FOR PRISONERS DEAL. ALTHOUGH WE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT CUBA IN GENERAL IS NOT AN IDEAL SUBJECT FOR COMMENTARIES AT THIS TIME, THIS DEVELOPMENT CERTAINLY DESERVES MORE THAN ROUTINE COVERAGE. OUR APPROACH OF COURSE SHOULD STRESS HUMANITARIAN BASIS OF U.S. RESPONSE WITH SOME REFERENCE TO CYCNICISM OF CASTRO OFFER AND SIMILARITY TO NAZI TRUCKS FOR JEWS OFFER.

CORRECTION TO SECOND SENTENCE:  
NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY AND TANJUG HAVE ALREADY COMMENTED ON MONTGOMERY SITUATION.

END MSG