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MUN 67 31 JULY 71

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

311236:

RFE DAILY REPORT NO. 172

1. BULGARIA: NOTHING.

2. CZECHOSLOVAKIA: A RADIO COMMENTATOR HAS STATED THAT ELECTIONS WILL PROBABLY BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 26 AND 27 (DS). IT HAD RECENTLY BEEN MENTIONED THAT THEY HAD TENTATIVELY BEEN SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT A SPECIFIC DATE HAS BEEN INDICATED. HOLDING THE ELECTIONS OVER A TWO-DAY PERIOD WOULD REPRESENT A DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS PRACTICE.

3. HUNGARY: NOTHING.

4. POLAND: YESTERDAY'S "TRYBUNA LUDU" EDITORIAL ON THE PLANNED NIXON VISIT TO CHINA, THOUGH APPARENTLY NOT GOING BEYOND POINTS RAISED RECENTLY BY POLISH MEDIA, IS COUCHED IN TERMS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF PEKING'S "ANTI-SOVIET" STANCE -- AND, BY IMPLICATION, OF THE RUMANIAN POSITION ON THIS ISSUE.

5. RUMANIA: KOSYGIN LEFT BUCHAREST YESTERDAY, THE TASS ANNOUNCEMENT GIVING NO INDICATION WHATSOEVER AS TO WHY HE STAYED BEHIND AFTER THE OTHER COMECON MEETING DELEGATES HAD DEPARTED. SCHULZ IN THE "DAILY TELEGRAPH" (FROM VIENNA) OFFERS THE FIRST SPECULATION WE HAVE SEEN AS TO THE REASON, CLAIMING THAT HE MAY HAVE TRIED, UNSUCCESSFULLY, TO PRESSURE BUCHAREST INTO TAKING PART IN WARSAW PACT EXERCISES, PERHAPS ON RUMANIAN SOIL. THIS GOES BEYOND THE MORGAN AND TREVISAN SPECULATIONS WHICH WE HAVE REGISTERED (SEE DR NR. 171); THESE TWO REPORTS HAD DEALT ONLY WITH POSSIBLE JOINT SOVIET-BULGARIAN MANEUVERS IN BULGARIA AND THE TRANSIT QUESTION. WE HAVE THEREFORE LISTED THE "TELEGRAPH" PIECE BIO.

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6. OTHER: OVERNIGHT COMMENTARY ON THE COMECON MEETING PROVIDES NO NEW ELEMENTS. THE YUGOSLAV DELEGATE WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED BY THE NON-RESTRICTIVE CHARACTER OF THE DOCUMENT SIGNED, WHILE THE HUNGARIANS (THIS TIME VALYI) CONTINUE TO STRESS THAT PARTICIPATION IN THE INTEGRATION PROGRAM WILL NOT HAMPER EAST-WEST ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

APROPOS OF OUR COMMENTS YESTERDAY ON SUDANESE-EAST EUROPEAN RELATIONS, THE LATEST REPORTS (E.G., PACE IN TODAY'S NYT) INDICATE THAT KHARTOUM IS ALREADY MOVING TO RESTRICT THE ACTIVITIES OF SOVIET ADVISORS --AS WELL AS TO CONTROL DIPLOMATIC TRAFFIC.

END MSG