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ACTION EUR-22

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ACDA-19 GAC-01 SA-03 CIAE-00 PM-06 X-2
INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14
USIA-12 NIE-01 IO-12 RSR-01 OMB-01 /128 W

R: 2509472 MAR 72
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECMEM SADHC 8486
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
DIA

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 2676

SUBJECT: SINO-SOVET MILITARY BALANCE

1. SWISS DCM ROSSI (PROTECT) who has frequent contact with
CHINESE EMBASSY told Emboff Mar 24 that in recent conversation
CHINESE DCM expressed concern over numbers of SOVIET TROOPS AND
MILITARY EQUIPMENT ON CHINESE BORDERS: ACCORDING CHINESE DCM,
CPR HAS ENOUGH MEDIUM RANGE MISSILES TO DESTROY ALL MAJOR SOVIET
INSTALLATIONS IN SIBERIA BUT DOES NOT YET HAVE CAPABILITY OF
REACHING EUROPEAN SECTION OF USSR WITHIN THREE YEARS; HOWEVER,
CHINESE EXPECT TO HAVE LONG RANGE MISSILES ABLE TO REACH MOSCOW:
THIS WILL FUNDAMENTALLY ALTER THE STRATEGIC PICTURE: CHINESE NOW
ESTIMATE THAT THERE IS STANDOFF BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND CHINA
IN TERMS OF ABILITY EACH SIDE TO NEUTRALIZE CONVENTIONAL ATTACK
BY OTHER - I.E. SOVIETS HAVE WEAPONS CAPABLE OF OFFSETTING
CHINESE NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY WHILE CHINESE HAVE DEFENSE IN
DEPTH THAT CAN ABSORB SOVIET ATTACK.

2. WE CANNOT EVALUATE ACCURACY OF ABOVE INFORMATION, WHICH LEAVES
UNCLEAR EXTENT TO WHICH CHINESE CONCERN OVER SOVIET BUILDUP ON
BORDER MAY BE MODERATED BY ESTIMATED EXISTENCE OF STANDOFF IN
CONVENTIONAL OFFENSIVE CAPABILITIES.

QP-3
BEAM