P 2013252 FEB 68
FM AMBASSADOR MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WashDC PRIORITY 7512
INFO AMBASSADOR SEOUL 68
AMCONSUL HONGKONG 448
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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ KOSYGIN ON KOREA

1. IN FOREIGN POLICY SECTION OF FEBRUARY 15 SPEECH AT MINSK (PUBLISHED ONLY IN MINSK PAPER WHICH WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED), KOSYGIN REFERRED TO HEIGHTENED TENSION IN KOREA, WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO PUEBLO INCIDENT, THEN REMARKED SOVIET GOVERNMENT TAKING NECESSARY STEPS TO PREVENT KOREA FROM BECOMING HOBBED OF WAR.

2. WHILE THIS CRYPTIC REMARK OPEN TO VARIOUS INTERPRETATION, IN OUR VIEW IT SUPPORTS PREVIOUS INDICATIONS THAT WITHIN THEIR RESTRICTED AREA OF MANUVERABILITY SOVIETS TRYING TO REDUCE TEMPERATURE YET AVOID IRRITATING PYONGYANG. REMARK SEEMS DELIBERATELY PUT IN BROAD CONTEXT OF KOREAN AREA TO DODGE ISSUE OF SOVIET ROLE.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
State Dept. Guidelines

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By [signature] NARA, Date 3/30/01

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IN HANDLING PUEBLO AFFAIR ITSELF.

3. OTHER ASPECTS KOSYGIN'S SPEECH, AS WELL AS BREZHNEV'S FEBRUARY 16 SPEECH LENINGRAD, REPORTED SEPTELS. GP-3 THOMPSON.