

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT:MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. MBFR--SOVIETS EDGE TOWARD A US-SOVIET FIRST PHASE:
KHLESTOV, THE SOVIET MBFR NEGOTIATOR IN VIENNA, HAS SIGNALLED RENEWED SOVIET INTEREST IN A FIRST-PHASE REDUCTION OF 20,000 MEN COMPOSED OF US AND SOVIET FORCES. WHILE STILL CONTENDING THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD REDUCE, KHLESTOV SUGGESTED THAT NON-US REDUCTIONS MIGHT BE ONLY TOKEN ONES AND THREW OUT THE FIGURE OF 1,000 MEN AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF HOW SMALL A TOKEN CUT MIGHT BE. HE INDICATED THAT ONLY GROUND FORCES WOULD BE INVOLVED, AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO COMMITMENT TO PROCEED WITH OTHER PHASES OF THE SOVIET PLAN.

IN A BILATERAL CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR RESOR ON MAY 27 AND IN THE INFORMAL SESSION OF THREE DELEGATIONS FROM EACH SIDE ON MAY 28, KHLESTOV ARGUED THAT THE RECENT WESTERN SUGGESTION OF A COMMITMENT NOT TO INCREASE NON US AND NON-SOVIET FORCES DURING A FIRST-PHASE REDUCTION DID

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NOT FULLY MEET EASTERN CONCERNS. HE ASKED WHY THE NO-

INCREASE FORMULA WAS LIMITED ONLY TO MANPOWER AND ARGUED THAT EQUIPMENT HAD TO BE ADDRESSED ALSO. (STATE)

2. NEW FACES IN FRANCE: THE NOTABLE ABSENCE IN THE GISCARD CABINET OF EVERY GAULLIST "BARON" MARKS THE FALL FROM POWER OF THE UDR OLD GUARD. SINCE THE GAULLISTS CONTROL THE LARGEST SINGLE BLOC IN THE ASSEMBLY, GISCARD WILL HAVE TO RELY ON THEIR VOTES FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS--BARRING UNSCHEDULED LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS--AND HIS FREEDOM OF ACTION WILL BE TO SOME EXTENT LIMITED. BY PUTTING TECHNICIANS AT THE HEAD OF THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND ECONOMY AND FINANCE, GISCARD CLEARLY INDICATED THAT HE INTENDS TO DOMINATE THE GOVERNMENT, AND HAS GONE EVEN FURTHER THAN POMPIDOU IN CONTROLLING AND CENTRALIZING THOSE KEY MINISTRIES WHICH MAKE IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL POLICY DECISIONS. GISCARD'S SURPRISING CHOICE OF AMBASSADOR TO WEST GERMANY JEAN SAUVAGNARGUES, A CAREER DIPLOMAT WITHOUT KNOWN POLITICAL ATTACHMENTS, AS FOREIGN MINISTER MAY INDICATE THAT HE INTENDS TO BASE HIS EUROPEAN POLICY ON A PARIS-BONN AXIS. (STATE)

3. PRC REJECTS SOVIET STATEMENT ON DISPUTED BORDER- THE CHINESE HAVE NOW REPLIED TO THE SOVIET STATEMENT OF MAY 23. A SPOKESMAN OF THE CHINESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LABELED THE STATEMENT OF THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY "AN UNREASONABLE DEMAND." HE ASSERTED THAT IT "BRAZENLY" DESCRIBED A 100-KILOMETER STRETCH OF SINO-SOVIET BOUNDARY WATERS AS SOVIET "INLAND WATERS." HE MAINTAINED THAT UNDER THE "UNEQUAL" TREATY OF PEKING, "IMPOSED" BY TSARIST RUSSIA, THE SINO-SOVIET BOUNDARY PASSES THROUGH THE CONFLUENCE OF THE AMUR AND USSURI RIVERS, AND "IT IS CHINA'S INALIENABLE RIGHT...TO NAVIGATE THE MAIN CHANNEL THROUGH THE CONFLUENCE OF THE TWO RIVERS." (TICKER)

4. PRC ROLLS OUT THE CARPET FOR FORMER PRIME MINISTER HEATH: HEATH FOUND MAO HEALTHY, CHOU NOT SO WELL, AND VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-P'ING AN ABLE REPLACEMENT FOR CHOU, SHOULD IT BECOME NECESSARY. TENG SAID THAT THE US WAS IMPLEMENTING THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, NOTING THAT US
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TROOPS ON TAIWAN ARE BEING REDUCED. STATING THAT "THOSE" WHO WISHED TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH THE PRC AND TAIWAN WOULD FIND IT UNWORKABLE, TENG POINTED TO JAPAN AS A MODEL OF WHAT MUST BE DONE. HE SAID THE PRC UNDERSTOOD AND EVEN ENCOURAGED JAPAN'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US. WHILE VALUING US AID TO INDIA AS AN OFFSET TO SOVIET INFLUENCE, TENG ASKED THAT HEATH CONVEY A PLEA FOR THE US TO BE EVEN-HANDED BY GIVING

AID TO PAKISTAN AS WELL. (STATE)

5. ARGENTINA-INDIA AGREEMENT ON NUCLEAR ENERGY SIGNED: ALTHOUGH THE MOTIVES APPEAR TO BE COMMERCIAL ON BOTH SIDES, THE EMBASSY SPECULATES THAT THE ARGENTINES DESIRE TO HAVE AT LEAST THE APPEARANCE OF A SOURCE OTHER THAN CANADA FOR THEIR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT EQUIPMENT. (STATE)

6. INDONESIA TO REMAIN IN ICCS: THE INDONESIA ICCS TEAM DEPUTY, AMBASSADOR IDRIS, TOLD AMBASSADOR NEWSOM IN JAKARTA THAT ICCS ACTIVITIES HAVE COME TO A VIRTUAL HALT, BUT THAT THE ORGANIZATION CONTINUES TO INHIBIT CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS. IDRIS URGED A MORE ACTIVE US ROLE, AND SAID THE INDONESIA DO NOT PLAN TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ICCS. (STATE)

7. THAI CABINET NAMED: PRIME MINISTER SANYA NAMED A NEW 14-MEMBER CABINET, WITH ONLY FIVE HOLDOVERS FROM HIS PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. THE NEW DEFENSE MINISTER, RETIRED GENERAL KRUAN SUTHANIN, WHO WAS A FORMER ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, IS THE ONLY NEW MINISTER OF NOTE. (STATE/TICKER)
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