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POL 32-1 Chicom-USSR



Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ACTION EUR-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ACDA-19 GAC-01 SA-03 CIAE-00 PM-06 -02
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2676

SUBJECT: SINO-SOVIET 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 UNCLFAR EXTENT TO WHICH CHINESE CONCERN OVER SOVIET BUILDUP ON BORDER MAY BE MODERATED BY ESTIMATED EXISTENCE OF STANDOFF IN CONVENTIONAL OFFENSIVE CAPABILITIES.

GP-3
BEAM