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WEEKLY BRIEF (NOFORN IN PLANTS; ~~SECRET~~)

~~EXHIBIT~~ REORGANIZATION OF CUBAN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM: MISSILE-SITE RELOCATIONS AND FIGHTER REDEPLOYMENTS SUGGEST A SHIFT FROM ISLAND-WIDE COVERAGE TO POINT DEFENSE OF MAJOR INSTALLATIONS BEFORE TRANSFERRING THE SYSTEM TO CUBAN CONTROL. THE CHANGE TO LESS SOPHISTICATED SAM GUIDANCE RADAR EQUIPMENT, APPARENTLY BEING MADE BEFORE CUBANS BEGIN FIELD TRAINING, HAS REDUCED RANGE CAPABILITY. MIG-21S HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED FROM THE TRAINING BASE TO THREE OTHER AIRFIELDS, POSSIBLY AS PART OF THE OVERALL REORGANIZATION OF THE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM.

1. SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS MAY BE APPROACHING NEW CLIMAX: THERE ARE GROWING INDICATIONS THAT SOVIET LEADERS ARE CONSIDERING CONVENING A NEW INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MEETING, PRESUMABLY TO EXPLOIT PEIPING'S REJECTION OF THE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY. DECISION TO CALL SUCH A

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CONFERENCE, ORGANIZED ALONG LINES THE CHINESE COULD NOT ACCEPT, WOULD INDICATE A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO PROVOKE SOME CHINESE ACTION WHICH THE USSR COULD REPRESENT AS PEIPING'S FORMAL VOLUNTARY SEPARATION FROM THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT.

2. CHINESE COMMUNIST NATIONAL DAY: FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, THE CELEBRATIONS AVOIDED BOASTS OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC STRENGTH. SPEECHES WERE ^{IVE} CAUTIOUS ABOUT DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES AND CAUTIOUS ABOUT ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS.

3. COMMUNIST CHINA - NORTH KOREA: LIU SHAO-CHI'S VISIT TO NORTH KOREA WAS A NEW EFFORT TO TIGHTEN POLITICAL, MILITARY, AND ECONOMIC TIES. HE APPARENTLY FAILED IN HIS ATTEMPTS TO EMBROIL THE KOREANS EVEN MORE DEEPLY IN THE ~~USSR~~-SOVIET STRUGGLE. THE COMPOSITION OF HIS DELEGATION SUGGESTS MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS WERE ON THE AGENDA. (COSY)

4. SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE DEVELOPMENTS IN COMMUNIST CHINA: ~~IX~~ ~~1968~~ FINDING CONSTRUCTION OF SITES, DESPITE LACK OF SOVIET AID, SUGGESTS CHINA IS DEVELOPING A CAPABILITY TO PRODUCE SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT WHICH WILL BE INSTALLED AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. THIS FAR, ONLY ONE OF THE 14 COMPLETED SITES IS KNOWN TO HAVE ALL THE

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EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO FIRE A MISSILE.//

5. DEVELOPMENTS IN COMMUNIST GRAIN PURCHASES: IT NOW SEEMS CERTAIN THAT THE USSR WILL IMPORT AT LEAST 11 MILLION TONS OF WHEAT. CHINA HAS NOT YET STARTED NEGOTIATING CONTRACTS FOR 1964 DELIVERY, BUT IT WILL PROBABLY NEED ABOUT 5 MILLION TONS. THE EUROPEAN SATELLITES HAVE BEGUN SEEKING WHEAT IN THE WEST. SOVIET NEWSPAPERS ARE POINTING TO A MOUNTING PROBLEM OF WIND EROSION OF THE SOIL IN THE NEW LANDS. (CONF)

6. PETR IVASHUTIN://NEW SOVIET MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CHIEF: THE APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY SECRET POLICE CHIEF TO REPLACE IVAN SEROV, WHO WAS SACKED AFTER THE FRIGOVSKY CASE, PROBABLY SIGNALS A SECURITY CRACK-DOWN WHICH COULD LOWER MORALE AND HAMPER MOSCOW'S INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION EFFORT AT LEAST TEMPORARILY.//

7. LAOS://WITH THE ADVENT OF THE DRY SEASON, COMMUNIST FORCES HAVE RESUMED LARGE-SCALE CONVOY OPERATIONS INTO LAOS ALONG THE RECENTLY REOPENED ROUTE 7. A SUBSTANTIAL INFUSION OF TROOPS AND SUPPLIES FROM NORTH VIETNAM IS INDICATED DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS. REHEVED CONVOY ACTIVITY HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED ALONG ROUTE 12 IN SOUTH-CENTRAL LAOS. THESE MOVEMENTS MAY PREBAGE A RENEVAL OF MILITARY

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PRESSURE, NOW THAT THE WEATHER HAS IMPROVED AND SINCE THE POLITICAL
 MANEUVERS OF THE PATHET LAO WERE FRUITLESS. PREMIER SOUVANNA PLANS
 TO VISIT GENÈVA, LONDON AND MOSCOW BEFORE RETURNING TO THE VIENTIANE
 AREA THIS MONTH. HIS NEUTRALIST MILITARY CHIEF, KEB KONG LE, IS ALSO
 SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO THE COUNTRY AFTER A TWO-MONTH STAY IN THE USSR.

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8. BRITISH POLITICS: THE CONSERVATIVES WILL MEET IN
 ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON 9-12 OCTOBER IN MORE TRANQUIL POLITICAL CIR-
 CUMSTANCES THAN ABOUT A YEAR AGO. THE POSSIBILITY OF A SNAP
 AUTUMN ELECTION HAS RETREATED, AND THE DENNING REPORT SEEMS TO HAVE
 ELIMINATED THE THREAT OF FURTHER MINISTERIAL SCANDALS. LEADING
 PARTY STRATEGIST HAS TOLD EMBASSY OFFICIALS THAT MACMILLAN WILL NOT
 RETIRE UNTIL THERE IS AGREEMENT WITHIN THE PARTY ON HIS SUCCESSOR,
 AND THAT THERE IS AS YET NO SUCH AGREEMENT. (CONF)

9. WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR-DESIGNATE ERHARD, NOW SCHEDULED
 TO TAKE OFFICE ON 16 OCTOBER, HAS RECEIVED AN UNEXPECTED POLITICAL
 DIVIDEND IN THE 28 SEPTEMBER STATE ELECTION IN BREMEN. HIS PARTY,

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THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION (CDU), POLLED 28.9 PERCENT OF THE VOTE FOR A GAIN OF NINE SEATS IN THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE. THE TRADITIONALLY DOMINANT SOCIAL DEMOCRATS DROPPED THREE SEATS EVEN THOUGH THEY HELD THEIR MAJORITY OF THE VOTE AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL--54 PERCENT--AS IN THE LAST ELECTION. THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THE CDU SUCCESS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE DETERIORATION OF THE SPLINTER GERMAN PARTY, AND THE RALLYING OF CONSERVATIVE VOTERS BEHIND THE CDU. (CONF)

10. FRANCE://THE FRENCH NAVY CONTINUES TO GIVE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A NUCLEAR-POWERED, POLARIS-TYPE SUBMARINE, A PROJECT ABSORBING OVER HALF OF THE NAVY'S 1968-69 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS. DESPITE PUBLIC CLAIMS THAT THE FIRST SUBMARINE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN 1969, DELAYS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOME COMPONENTS MAKE IT UNLIKELY THAT THE FIRST NUCLEAR BOAT CAN BE DEPLOYED ON STATION BEFORE 1971.//

END OF MESSAGE

J. C. Keenan
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