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ORIG : H. I. TRAUBLEN
 UNIT : OCI
 NO : 7454
 DATE : 17 OCT 68

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

PAGE 1 OF 7

22-57

ROUTING

S E C R E T

☐ INDEX
☐ NO INDEX
☐ FILE IN C

ROUTING			
1		4	
2		5	
3		6	

BOOK MESSAGE AS BELOW

FROM: DIRECTOR

004: 001 4

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ROUTINE

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76391

WORLD BRIEFS (REPORT IN SLANTS)

PERMANENT

1. THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE NAVAL CONVOY: NAVAL ELEMENTS CONSISTED OF TWO NEW LONG RANGE F-CLASS TORPEDO-ATTACK SUBMARINES, A NAVAL TANKER, TWO OCEAN RESCUE TUGS, TWO FLOATING WORKSHOPS, AND TWO NEW MISSILE RANGER INTERCOMBATATION SHIPS. DECLASSIFIED BY 60320 UCBA

2. LIMITED ELOC ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR INDOONESIAN POLICIES;
//NEITHER THE SOVIET ELOC NOR COMMUNIST CHINA IS LIKELY TO PROVIDE
SIGNIFICANT OR EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC AID FOR INDONESIA IN SOLVING
PROBLEMS APT TO ARISE FROM ITS SEVERANCE OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH
MALAYSIA. THEY MAY, HOWEVER, OFFER SOME ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AS A
POLITICAL GESTURE.//

3. IMPACT OF GRAIN SHORTAGES IN USSR: MOSCOW IS TAKING STEPS TO LESSEN ITS EFFECT ON THE ECONOMY AND REASSURE THE POPULATION THAT

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

SECRET

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ORIG:
UNIT:
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☐ INDEX
☐ NO INDEX
☐ FILE IN CS FILE NO.

1	4
2	5
3	6

TO:

FROM: DIRECTOR

CONF:

INFO:

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ROUTINE

TO

INFO

-2-

CITE DIR

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MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN TO AVOID LIKE FAILURES IN THE FUTURE. AN UNUSUALLY LARGE PRESS CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF KHRUSHCHEV'S PLAN FOR REFINING "GUARANTEED HARVESTS" THROUGH EXTENSIVE USE OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZER AND IRRIGATION IS UNDER WAY. CONSERVATION MEASURES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED, AND THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE IS TO GUARD STORES AND WAREHOUSES.

4. HURRICANE FLORA BATTERS CUBA: ALTHOUGH DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS ARE STILL TENTATIVE, AGRICULTURE AND TRANSPORTATION APPARENTLY SUFFERED FAR MORE THAN INDUSTRY AND THE MILITARY.

5. CHINESE OVERTURES TO JAPAN: FOR OVER A YEAR PEIPING HAS BEEN ACTIVELY EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPANDED NON-BLOC TRADE, AND ITS LATEST OVERTURES TO UNOFFICIAL BUT INFLUENTIAL JAPANESE VISITORS MAY BE PART OF THIS EFFORT. PROPOSALS FOR INCREASED TRADE HAVE BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY FOR MOVES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS ACROSS THE BOARD. HOWEVER, THE LIMITED POTENTIAL OF THE CHINA MARKET MAKES IT UNLIKELY THAT TRADE WITH PEIPING WILL REMAIN A NEGLIGIBLE SHARE OF JAPAN'S TOTAL TRADE.

6. VIEWS OF WESTERN DIPLOMATS ON COMMUNIST CHINA: //THEY DESCRIBE A COUNTRY RECOVERING VERY SLOWLY FROM GRAVE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS,

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PAGE 3 OF 7

12-42

ORIG :

UNCL :

EX :

INFO :

☐ INDEX☐ NO INDEX☐ FILE IN CS FILE NO.**SECRET**

ROUTING

1		4	
2		5	
3		6	

TO :

FROM : DIRECTOR

CONF :

INFO :

DEFERRED

POLLTIME

TO

INFO

-3-

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WHOSE PEOPLE REMAIN IN A STATE OF "RESIGNED APATHY" DESPITE INCESSANT POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION, AND WHOSE LEADERS WILL PROBABLY BECOME MORE RIGID.// (CONF)

7. CONTINUED RUMORS OF IMMINENT WORLD COMMUNIST MEETING: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ KHRUSHCHEV HAS NOT BEEN IN THE CAPITAL SINCE 11 SEPTEMBER, AND IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN SEEN IN YALTA, WHERE HE OFTEN MEETS FOREIGN GUESTS. MOSCOW HAS NOT STATED A POSITION ON CALLS BY FOREIGN COMMUNIST PARTIES FOR A MEETING, BUT IS MAKING CLEAR THAT ANY MEETING WILL BE TO CONDEMN THE CHINESE, NOT TO TRY TO FIND A WAY TO LIVE WITH THEM.

8. SOVIET CHALLENGE TO WESTERN ACCESS RIGHTS IN BERLIN: INTERFERENCE WITH US AND BRITISH CONVOYS ON THE BERLIN AUTOBahn APPEARS TO BE AIMED AT DRAWING THE WESTERN POWERS INTO NEGOTIATIONS ON BOTH ACCESS PROCEDURES AND THE BROADER QUESTION OF THE STATUS OF WESTERN FORCES IN WEST BERLIN. MOSCOW PRESUMABLY INTENDS TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTROL OVER THESE HARASSMENTS IN ORDER TO AVOID IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO THE DETENTE ATMOSPHERE. IT APPEARS, HOWEVER, TO BE OPERATING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT US AND UK ALSO HAVE AN INTEREST IN PRESERVING THIS ATMOSPHERE AND THAT THIS AFFORDS IT GREATER LATITUDE FOR MANEUVERS TO DRAW THE WEST INTO A NEW ROUND OF BERLIN TALKS.

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☐ INDEX
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ROUTING			
1		4	11/2/78
2		5	
3		6	

TO :
FROM : DIRECTOR
CONF :
INFO :

DEFERRED

ROUTINE

INFO

-4-

CITE DIR

76391

9. ALGERIA-MOROCCO: FIGHTING ALONG THE UNDEFINED SAHARAN BORDER BETWEEN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE AND MAY EVEN EXPAND TO NEW POINTS PENDING NEGOTIATIONS. TALKS SO FAR HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. NEITHER GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, SEEMS TO WANT AN ALL-OUT WAR, AND NEITHER REALLY HAS THE RESOURCES TO WAGE ONE. THE MOROCCAN ARMY, HOWEVER, IS BETTER ORGANIZED, TRAINED AND EQUIPPED THAN THE ALGERIANS, ALTHOUGH THE LATTER HAVE NEARLY TWICE AS MANY MEN UNDER ARMS. WHETHER OR NOT AN ACCOMMODATION IS REACHED SOON, THE SUSPICION WITH WHICH EACH GOVERNMENT REGARDS THE OTHER WILL BE DEEPENED, AND EACH IS LIKELY TO LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO ENCOURAGE SUBVERSION AND DISSIDENCE IN THE OTHER'S TERRITORY.

10. SOMALI REPUBLIC. //SOMALI OFFICIALS SAY THEY HAVE OBTAINED AN OFFER OF ~~THE~~ \$28 MILLION WORTH OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM THE USSR. WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ~~WILL~~ WILL RECONSIDER, AND VERY POSSIBLY WITHDRAW, THEIR PLANS TO AID THE SOMALI ARMY. WORD OF THIS DEVELOPMENT COMES AT A TIME WHEN SOMALI RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA ARE AGAIN DETERIORATING AS A RESULT OF RECENT INCIDENTS BETWEEN SOMALIS IN ETHIOPIA'S OGADEN REGION AND THE ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES. A BORDER CLASH OCCURRED ON 11 AND 12 OCTOBER, FOLLOWED BY RIOTING IN THE SOMALI CAPITAL.//

11. CONGO: //WITH PARLIAMENT DISMISSED, THE MADOULA CABINET HAS

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BECOME THE FOCUS FOR WIDESPREAD DISSATISFACTION WITH CORRUPT, INEFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION AND CHRONIC ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. CONGO LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IN MOVES RECALLING THE ROLE SUCH GROUPS PLAYED IN OVERTHROWING THE CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE) GOVERNMENT TWO MONTHS AGO, ARE CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT OF "PUBLIC SAFETY" COMPOSED OF "HONEST AND RESPONSIBLE MEN." THERE EVIDENTLY IS SOME FEELING IN THE GOVERNMENT THAT ADOULA IS NOT TOUGH ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION, AND THERE ARE REPORTS THAT SOME OF HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES PLAN TO TAKE OVER FROM HIM. ADOULA LEFT NEW YORK THIS WEEK TO RETURN TO THE CONGO VIA EUROPE. //

12. SOUTH VIETNAM: THE DIEM REGIME CONTINUES TO TAKE REPRESSIVE MEASURES AGAINST POTENTIAL OPPONENTS. THERE ARE ALSO FURTHER SIGNS THAT THE REGIME IS PREPARING TO FACE A LONG PERIOD OF STRAINED RELATIONS WITH THE US. JOINT US-VIETNAMESE COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS, HOWEVER, ARE CONTINUING WITHOUT SERIOUS INTERRUPTION. //

13. ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION ON EVE OF SOCIALIST CONGRESS: THE SOCIALIST PARTY CONGRESS OF 25-29 OCTOBER WILL PROBABLY AUTHORIZE PARTY CHIEF BENNI TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS FOR DIRECT SOCIALIST PARTICIPATION IN A NEW CENTER-LEFT GOVERNMENT. THE OBSTACLES TO THE

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VIOLENCE OR PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE SEVERAL MOVEMENTS SEEKING TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT QUEBEC, MANY IMPORTANT INTELLECTUAL AND POLITICAL LEADERS ARE ON RECORD AS WANTING A SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER DEGREE OF AUTONOMY AND EQUALITY THAN THEY FEEL NOW EXISTS FOR CANADA'S SECOND LARGEST PROVINCE.

END OF MESSAGE

James W. Felt, Jr.
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

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