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NLF-NSC_ILCC-5-2-4-3

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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CONTAINS CODEWORD

November 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

BRENT SCOWCROFT *BS*

SUBJECT:

Information Items

Brezhnev to Give Congress Report in February: U.S. press contacts in the Soviet media are now saying that the December 1 Soviet communist party plenum will announce that Brezhnev is to be the main speaker at the 25th party congress.

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Initial Foreign Press Reaction to Economic Summit: Anticipating a final declaration from Rambouillet affirming international cooperation to combat recession, foreign media Monday generally considered the economic conference a qualified success. The Times of London said, "The six countries...seem to have attained enough common ground to try to submit guidelines which they hope will help to restore confidence in the West." Editors in several countries greeted "the spirit of Rambouillet." The Frankfurter Allgemeine remarked, "Spirit is good, but action is better. It remains to be seen to what extent you will succeed in getting Congress to support your energy policy, and Prime Minister Wilson to prevent Britain's labor unions from turning protectionist." From Paris, Europe One Radio summed up: "Good intentions but limited results." A commentator said, "Given the experience of the past, one cannot but wonder what such declarations of principle are worth....There is a world of difference between the optimistic statements of the participants and the pious wishes on which the conference reportedly agreed...." A byliner said in Monday's moderate-right L'Aurore: "...it seems that one can already speak of a spirit of Rambouillet as different from the sterile confrontations that ruined the efforts at so many other meetings of the past three or four years. A major point seems to have been established. The Americans without submitting to the disciplines of a contract similar to the one that binds the countries of the European snake, have agreed to put an end to the erratic moves of the dollar...."

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Milan's Corriere Della Sera reported, "having transformed a French initiative into an American enterprise, you and Secretary Kissinger have given the meeting a different tone and pace. It was possible to discard Giscard's monetary surgery. It has become an American cavalcade. In this way some obstacles have been overcome and insurmountable ones circumvented."

Nearly all Soviet central newspapers available on Monday carried TASS items on the economic summit. Pravda, in its first mention of the meeting, runs a Paris-dated TASS report, called "In a Situation of Secrecy." The article says that "not only journalists, but even experts and advisors of the delegations are not admitted to the meetings." Citing "local political circles," the item says that the meeting may be even more concerned with the political than with economic aspects of the current situation in the capitalist world, and that "one of its main objectives is an effort to work out a general line of the industrialized capitalist powers in relations with the developing countries." On the substance of the issues, TASS cites "local observers" on "serious contradictions" between the U.S. and France over floating exchange rates and concludes that "there is also no unity between the participants in the conference on the problems of international trade. There also exists significant contradictions on one of the central questions -- relations between industrialized capitalist states and the developing oil-producing countries. The U.S. is proposing nothing other than a "cartel" of capitalist states for pressure on the oil-producing countries."



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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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November 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: The Situation Room

SUBJECT: Additional Information Items

Possible Warsaw Pact Summit This Week: A West German newspaper reported on November 16 that a Warsaw Pact summit will begin in Moscow on Wednesday, November 19. Citing diplomatic sources in Moscow, Frankfurter Allgemeine asserted that the meeting of the pact Political Consultative Committee will include foreign ministers and military commanders. CIA reports that Frankfurter Allgemeine has published stories of this type previously and has a mixed record for accuracy. In this instance, there is no information to confirm or refute the newspaper article. A meeting of the consultative committee this week, however, would be awkward for all concerned. A Polish Central Committee Plenum is scheduled to begin on Thursday, the Romanian Grand National Assembly is in session this week, and East German Premier Sindermann is in Iran. Additionally, all the pact defense ministers began a meeting in Prague on Monday. While only party leaders technically would attend a summit, it is questionable whether a meeting would be desirable at a time when a number of party and government leaders are otherwise occupied. Nevertheless, should the report be accurate, CIA believes a meeting on such short notice this week would be a command performance reflecting Soviet annoyance at the behavior recently of its East European allies and intended to instill greater respect for authority (i.e., the USSR). According to CIA, a CEMA summit was scheduled for this week but Romanian President Ceausescu convened the Romanian Grand National Assembly to avoid attending. Since nothing more has been heard of the CEMA meeting, Ceausescu may have successfully spiked it for the time being. Also, against a background of Soviet-Polish differences, including Moscow's unhappiness with the Poles because of their heavy trade (and debt) in the West, Gierek recently promoted the official responsible for that policy. (Gates)

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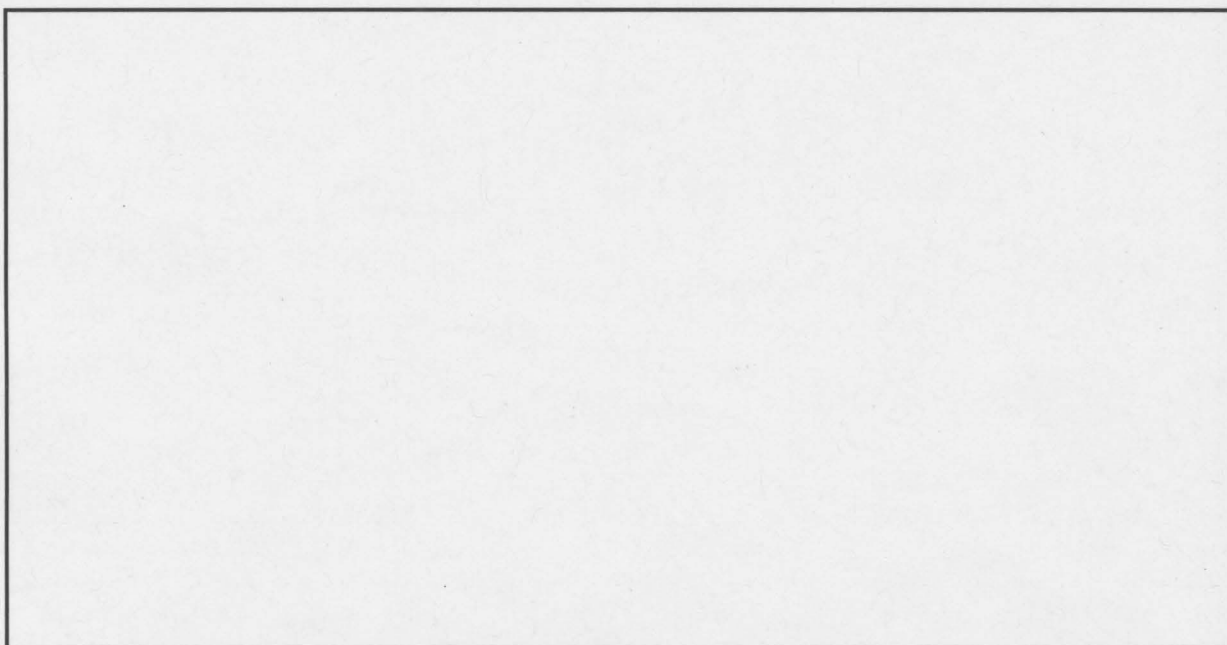
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Sihanouk Begins Tour: Prince Sihanouk commenced a month long trip on November 15 to several Arab, African, and East European countries. The Prince is accompanied by his wife, Monique; Foreign Minister Sarin Chhak; and Keat Chhon, a Khmer communist official. Stops include Syria, Iraq, North and South Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Albania, Romania, and Yugoslavia. Sihanouk's previously scheduled visit to eight other African nations has reportedly

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been postponed until later next year due to the current tense situation in the Spanish Sahara and Angola. (Quinn)

Mexican President Fails to Support Guatemalans: The communique signed at the end of President Echeverria's two-day visit to Guatemala revealed the absence of agreement between the two presidents on Belize. Then, during the press conference that followed, Echeverria stated his opposition to unilateral measures or use of violence to resolve the Belize problem. He further asserted that Mexico itself has rights in Belize which it will present after resolution of Guatemala's problem. Thus Echeverria has backed away from his October statement of support for Guatemala on Belize and has left the Guatemalans highly annoyed. The press reports that Foreign Minister Rabasa has gone to Belize to meet with the prime minister there prior to traveling to New York to participate in the discussion of the matter before the UN committee. According to USUN, a vote is likely on the resolution in the committee as early as Tuesday, November 18. (Low)

