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 THE WHITE HOUSE

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12/14

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December 14, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
 FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER
 SUBJECT: Information Items

Cambodia Military: The government apparently has abandoned its efforts to retake Phnom Baset, following the dispersal over the weekend of the four predominately Khmer Krom battalions that had been occupying it. The commander of all government clearing operations west of the capital plans to launch a combined armor and infantry drive northward along Route 26 today. He apparently intends to establish blocking positions along this road to prevent the movement of any additional enemy forces toward Phnom Penh.

Soviet Satellites Target South Asia: Analysis of limited data from 10 spacecrafts the Soviets have had in orbit during the past month indicates a high level of intelligence collection in the India-Pakistan area. The spacecrafts included three high-resolution photoreconnaissance and seven electronic intelligence satellites.

The data indicates a primary photographic collection effort against airfields in India and Pakistan. Other major military targets were ground force headquarters at Peshawar and Rawalpindi, naval facilities, and an oil refinery and storage facilities at Karachi. The Soviets also observed the southern Chinese border to include the subdistrict headquarters at Jihkatse near the Sino-Bhutan border and the Gilgit Road which crosses the Chinese-Pakistan border through the Khunjerab Pass. A Soviet consul in Kabul, Afghanistan has revealed that the Soviet Embassy had received satellite observations indicating that China was sending a large number of trucks into Pakistan over the road. This is the first evidence indicating that the Soviets disseminate satellite intelligence to their diplomatic missions.

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DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 13526, Section 3.5

NLN 06-15/26 IER LTR. 9/10/2010
 By AM NARA, Date 6/21/2011

LP. 10F3]

Soviet electronic intelligence satellites showed interest in radar activity along the East and West Pakistani borders with India and in naval electronics in the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean.

India-Pakistan Situation: The battle for Dacca apparently has begun. The main India force, which is approaching from the northeast, reportedly has reached the last river crossing some six miles from the city and the Pakistanis are putting up a fierce fight at that point. Meanwhile, at least three other Indian columns are approaching the city from other directions. There is no reported change in the military situation along the western front. The Paks, however, may be building up for a new offensive in southern Kashmir.

CIA has a report on an Indian cabinet session on December 10. Mrs. Gandhi is reported to have said that acceptance of the UN ceasefire resolution after the liberation of Bangla Desh might make it possible to avoid further complications with the U.S. as well as to rule out the possibility of Chinese intervention. She is said to have advocated doing so after the Awami League regime is installed in Dacca. At one point Mrs. Gandhi is said to have reported that the Soviets are of the view that India should accept a ceasefire as soon as Bangla Desh is liberated. Defense Minister Jagjivan Ram and certain military leaders, however, were opposed to accepting a UN resolution until India had captured certain areas of Pak-held Kashmir and destroyed the "war mechanism" of Pakistan.

Mrs. Gandhi also said during her cabinet meeting that the Soviets are concerned about the possibility of Chinese intervention. She went on to imply that if this happened the Soviets would counter the move militarily in Sinkiang and provide India with some unspecified "air support." It was not clear from the report, however, whether she was simply guessing what the Soviets would be likely to do or whether she actually had Soviet assurances. The Soviets in the past have promised support to India vis-a-vis China but have been vague in setting forth precisely what they would do.

According to press reports, First Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov is due to leave Delhi today, and Indian emissary D.P. Dhar is expected to return from Moscow to Delhi.

The Associated Press reports that an Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday reported the detection of Chinese troop movements "in certain areas." There was no further detail.

The debate in the UN Security Council on our resolution was put off until yesterday evening because of the debate over extending the UN force on Cyprus. It resumed about 5:30 pm EST with another discussion of whether to hear a Bangla Desh representative. The President of the Council ruled against that proposal. The Soviet Union vetoed the U.S. resolution. The vote was 11 for (same as last week), 2 against (USSR, Poland), 2 abstaining (France, UK).

The representatives of Italy and Japan then introduced a resolution calling for a ceasefire as a first step, for immediate steps aimed at achieving a compromise political settlement and for appointing with the consent of India and Pakistan a committee of three members of the Council to help work to these ends. Consultations on this resolution will resume in the morning from 10:00 am EST on, to be followed by a formal meeting tentatively set for 3:00 pm.