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Date Printed:

10-Nov-2003

DOC_NBR: 1979STATE312357

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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RELEASED IN FULL

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PAGE 01 STATE 312357

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 /000 R

DRAFTED BY EUR:RLBARRY:MR (TEXT REC'D FROM WHITE HOUSE)

APPROVED BY EUR:RLBARRY

S/MS:MSHULMAN (SUBSTANCE)

S/S:LPBREMER

S/S-0: SBUTCHER

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 312357

NODIS

CHEROKEE

DECAPTIONED

E.O. 12065 GDS 12-3-85 (BARRY, ROBERT)

TAGS: UR, US

SUBJECT: US ORAL MESSAGE ON PURPORTED ALERT OF AMERICAN
STRATEGIC FORCES

REF: STATE 295771

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. ON DECEMBER 3 BARRY (EUR) CONVEYED FOLLOWING ORAL
MESSAGE TO SOVIET MINISTER-COUNSELOR BESSMERTNYKH IN
RESPONSE TO SOVIET MESSAGE DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN
TO THE SECRETARY (REFTEL).

BEGIN TEXT:

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PAGE 02 STATE 312357

-- THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED THE ORAL

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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BREZHNEV CONCERNING RECENT PRESS REPORTS OF A PURPORTED "ALERT" OF AMERICAN STRATEGIC FORCES. BECAUSE THE ORAL MESSAGE WAS BASED ON INACCURATE AND MISLEADING INFORMATION, THE ASSERTIONS IN THE MESSAGE ARE INACCURATE AND UNACCEPTABLE TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

-- THE LEVEL OF ALERT OF U.S. STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE FORCES

WAS NOT RAISED ABOVE ITS USUAL LEVEL BECAUSE THE U.S. COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM ASSURES REVIEW AND CONTROL BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS. IT DOES NOT SERVE THE PURPOSES OF PEACE OR STRATEGIC STABILITY FOR THE SOVIET UNION TO BASE ITS ACTIONS OR ITS DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES ON PRESS REPORTS OR TO PROPAGANDIZE SUCH MATTERS BEFORE FINDING OUT THE TRUE FACTS. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ASSURES THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT BOTH THAT ITS LOCAL COMMANDERS HAVE AND WILL EXERCISE THE AUTHORITY TO PUT THEIR FORCES IN CONDITION TO SURVIVE ATTACK, AND THAT CONTROL OF THE OFFENSIVE USE OF OUR FORCES IS TOTALLY RELIABLE, AS WAS DEMONSTRATED IN THIS CASE. WE WOULD WELCOME SIMILAR INFORMATION FROM THE SOVIET UNION ON ITS COMMAND AND CONTROL PROCEDURES. END TEXT. VANCE

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