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INFO OCT-01 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SDV:RLBARRY/MGARRISON:MB

APPROVED BY M:MR. EAGLEBURGER

C: MR. SONNENFELDT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE

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CHEROKEE FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM EAGLEBURGER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3,4

TAGS: ASEC, US, UR

SUBJECT: MOSCOW SIGNAL

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 1758; (B) MOSCOW 1696

1. YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY PROCEED TO BRIEF EMPLOYEES ON CLASSIFIED BASIS IN SMALL GROUPS AS PROPOSED IN REF A. YOU SHOULD STRESS IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING PRESS STORIES AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE AND ADVISE EMPLOYEES THAT THEY SHOULD TELL DEPENDENTS ONLY THAT THERE WAS A PROBLEM WHICH IS ON WAY TO SOLUTION BUT THAT SPECULATION ABOUT IT IN THE PRESS MIGHT UNDO THE SOLUTION.

2. PREGNANT WOMEN AND OTHERS WITH POTENTIAL MEDICAL PROBLEMS SHOULD BE BRIEFED SEPARATELY, WITH PARTICIPATION BY DRG. POLLACK AND JOHNSON. ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE MADE IMMEDIATELY TO MEDEVAC PREGNANT WOMEN FOR TESTS RECOMMENDED PARA 5, REF. B. ANY MEDICAL ADMINISTRATIVE

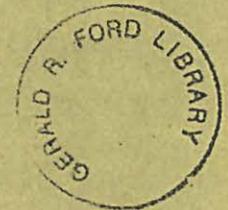
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DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

STATE DEPT, GUIDELINES, state visit 8/3/00

BY lba, NARA, DATE 7/30/01



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PROBLEMS CAN BE RAISED IN M/MED CHANNEL WITHOUT REFERENCE TO SIGNAL PROBLEM.

3. CLASSIFIED FACT SHEET SHOULD BE REVISED TO INCLUDE LATEST INFORMATION ON SIGNAL LEVELS.

4. ALL PRESS QUERIES SHOULD BE ANSWERED WITH STRICT "NO COMMENT," AND EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO DISSUADE CORRESPONDENTS FROM FILING SPECULATIVE STORIES.

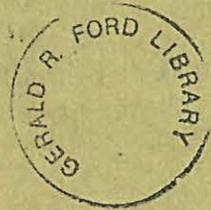
5. FOLLOWING ARE REVISED TALKING POINTS FOR BRIEFING,

-- I KNOW THAT THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF SPECULATION OF LATE ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON HERE, SPECULATION WHICH WAS FUELED BY THE CANCELLATION OF THE GENERAL BRIEFING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY. I APPRECIATE WHAT A DIFFICULT SITUATION THIS CREATES, AND AM GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL FOR YOUR FOREBEARANCE.

-- WHAT I AM GOING TO TELL YOU TODAY AND WHAT I HAD PLANNED TO TELL YOU AT THE PREVIOUS BRIEFING IS A MATTER OF GREAT SENSITIVITY. SINCE IT INVOLVES ALL OF YOU PERSONALLY YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW THE FACTS, BUT I AM ASKING YOU TO KEEP IT IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE WITHIN THE EMBASSY STAFF. YOU SHOULD NOT DISCUSS IT WITH UNOFFICIAL AMERICANS AND ESPECIALLY NOT WITH JOURNALISTS, AND YOU SHOULD NOT DISCUSS IT WITH OFFICIAL AMERICANS OTHER THAN THOSE STATIONED HERE IN MOSCOW. THIS IS BECAUSE WE ARE NOW MAKING PROGRESS IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEM, PROGRESS WHICH MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE SHOULD THERE BE A GLARE OF PUBLICITY.

-- THE PROBLEM WE HAVE TO CONTEND WITH IS ONE OF LOW INTENSITY RADIO WAVES WHICH HAVE BEEN BEAMED AT THE EMBASSY BY SOVIET INSTALLATIONS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. FOR A TIME, DURING THE LATTER HALF OF LAST YEAR, THE INCREASED POWER AND EXTENDED DURATION OF THESE SIGNALS BECAME A MATTER OF CONCERN BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE HEALTH OF THOSE WHO LIVE AND WORK HERE. AT PRESENT, THE LEVEL OF INTENSITY HAS BEEN GREATLY REDUCED ONCE MORE, WHICH SOMEWHAT REDUCES OUR

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CONCERN AND ENCOURAGES US TO TRY TO ACHIEVE OUR MAIN AIM: TO GET THE SIGNALS TURNED OFF ENTIRELY. FAILING TO ACHIEVE A COMPLETE TURN-OFF, WE WILL TAKE OTHER MEASURES WHICH WILL LOWER THE LEVEL OF RADIATION IN THE EMBASSY TO ZERO FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES.

-- LET ME SAY FIRST OF ALL THAT WE KNOW OF NO REASON FOR ALARM. EVEN AT THE HIGHER LEVELS WHICH CAUSED OUR CONCERN THE AMOUNT OF RADIATION TO WHICH EMBASSY EMPLOYEES WERE EXPOSED WERE FAR BELOW THE NEW STANDARD WHICH U.S. RESEARCHERS HAVE ESTABLISHED AS THE SAFETY THRESHOLD. IN THE U.S., THIS SAFETY LEVEL HAS BEEN SET AT 10,000 MICROWATTS PER SQUARE CENTIMETER FOR 8

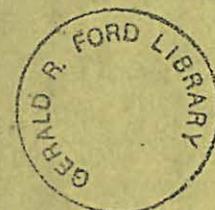
HOURS A DAY. THE SOVIETS HAVE TAKEN A MORE CONSERVATIVE APPROACH AND THEIR RESEARCHERS HAVE SET A SAFETY LEVEL OF 10 MICROWATTS PER SQUARE CENTIMETER FOR 8 HOURS. AS YOU CAN SEE, THE U.S. SAFETY LEVEL IS 1,000 TIMES HIGHER THAN THE SOVIET SAFETY LEVEL.

-- YOU SHOULD NOT CONFUSE THIS NON-IONIZING RADIATION WITH THAT FROM THE RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES SUCH AS RADIUM AND URANIUM. YOU MAY HAVE EXPERIENCED NON-IONIZING RADIATION IN DIATHERMY TREATMENT FOR SORE MUSCLES, AND IT IS USED IN MICROWAVE OVENS IN MANY KITCHENS. IT IS GENERATED BY RADAR, RADIO AND TELEVISION.

-- LET ME REVIEW THE HISTORY. IN THE 1950'S RADIO OPERATORS IN OUR EMBASSY FIRST DETECTED AN UNIDENTIFIED RADIO SIGNAL. BY THE EARLY 1960'S OUR TECHNICIANS WERE ABLE TO PIN DOWN THE EXISTENCE OF THIS CONTINUOUS MICROWAVE SIGNAL DIRECTED AT THE EMBASSY FROM A NEARBY APARTMENT. I'LL CALL THIS SIGNAL NO. 1. IT OPERATED DAILY UNTIL MAY 1975, AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL WHICH I WILL LATER COMPARE WITH OTHER SIGNALS.

-- IN THE SPRING OF 1972 A NEW SIGNAL, NO. 2, WAS DETECTED. IT APPEARED ONLY SPORADICALLY, THEN SOON CEASED.

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-- YET ANOTHER SIGNAL, NO. 3-A APPEARED ON THE SCENE BRIEFLY IN 1973 AND AGAIN IN 1974, FOR ONLY A FEW DAYS BOTH TIMES. IT WAS STRONGER, BUT OF LITTLE CONCERN AT THAT TIME BECAUSE IT QUICKLY STOPPED. IN MAY, 1975, HOWEVER, IT REAPPEARED AND HAS BEEN IN REGULAR OPERATION SINCE THAT TIME. AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, SIGNAL NO. 1 DISAPPEARED.

-- IN OCTOBER, 1975, A SIGNAL SIMILAR TO NO. 3-A BEGAN OPERATING FROM A SECOND LOCATION. SO AT THIS TIME THE TWO SIGNALS, 3-A AND 3-B, ARE OPERATING, USUALLY JUST ONE AT A TIME. RECENTLY, AS I SAID, THE POWER LEVELS OF THE SIGNALS HAVE BEEN GREATLY REDUCED.

-- BECAUSE OF THE DIRECTIONAL NATURE OF THE SIGNAL, THE LEVEL OF RADIATION VARIES GREATLY FROM PLACE TO PLACE IN THE EMBASSY. GENERALLY SPEAKING THE HIGHEST LEVELS ARE FOUND ON THE TOP FLOORS OF THE CENTRAL WING.

-- SIGNALS 3-A AND 3-B HAVE BEEN MEASURED WITH SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT, WHICH SHOWED THAT RADIATION LEVELS SLIGHTLY EXCEEDED THE SOVIET SAFETY STANDARD IN A FEW LOCATIONS ON THE TOP 4 FLOORS. THE HIGHEST READINGS--UP TO 12.9 MICROWATTS-- WERE ON BALCONIES OR IN FRONT OF OPEN WINDOWS ON THOSE FLOORS.

-- AT PRESENT WE ARE BACK TO THE PRE-MAY SITUATION WITH POWER LEVELS WELL BELOW ANY ACCEPTABLE SAFETY STANDARD. IT REMAINS OUR GOAL TO GET ALL THIS RADIATION TURNED OFF PROMPTLY. WE ARE TAKING STEPS WHICH WE HOPE WILL LEAD TO THIS GOAL.

-- OUR BEST JUDGMENT IS THAT FAMILIES AND EMPLOYEES IN THE EMBASSY NEED NOT HAVE ANY CONCERN FOR THEIR HEALTH AND WELL BEING, EVEN AT THE HIGHER LEVELS WHICH APPLIED UNTIL RECENTLY. FURTHERMORE, OUR PRESENT KNOWLEDGE INDICATES THAT EVEN IF BIOMEDICAL CHANGES HAD BEEN CAUSED BY RADIATION LEVELS TO WHICH A FEW OF YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPOSED, SUCH CHANGES

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ARE REVERSIBLE BY SIMPLY ENDING THE EXPOSURE.

-- EVEN AT THESE REDUCED LEVELS, WE MAY DECIDE TO INSTALL PROTECTIVE SCREENING WHICH WE NOW HAVE ON HAND, IN ALL EXPOSED WINDOWS WITHIN A SHORT TIME IF WE HAVE NOT MADE PROGRESS IN OUR EFFORTS TO GET THE SIGNAL TURNED OFF. BECAUSE OF THE DELICATE NATURE OF THESE EFFORTS I AM NOT AT LIBERTY TO DISCUSS THEM WITH YOU BUT SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT THERE IS SOME PROSPECT FOR SUCCESS.

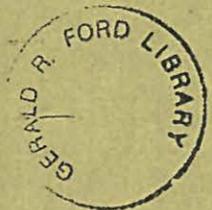
-- IN THE MEANTIME, IF ANY OF YOU FEEL MORE SECURE IF YOUR WINDOWS BE SCREENED, WE WILL OF COURSE PROCEED TO INSTALL THEM. I WOULD ONLY ASK THAT YOU NOT REVEAL THE REASON FOR THESE STEPS TO PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY IN ORDER THAT WE MAY AVOID PUBLICITY THAT WOULD INTERFERE WITH THE EFFORTS I HAVE REFERED TO.

-- I AM GOING TO ASK YOU NOT TO BRIEF YOUR DEPENDENTS AT THIS TIME BEYOND SAYING THAT THERE WAS AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM WITH POTENTIAL HEALTH IMPLICATIONS WHICH IS NOW UNDER CONTROL AND THAT CONFIDENTIALITY IS ESSENTIAL AT THIS POINT IN ORDER TO PREVENT PRESS SPECULATION AND TO GIVE US THE BEST CHANCE OF GETTING THE SIGNAL COMPLETELY TURNED OFF. THOSE WITH SPECIAL MEDICAL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING PREGNANT WOMEN, WILL BE CONTACTED INDIVIDUALLY BY DR. JOHNSON AND DR. POLLACK.

-- MEANWHILE IF QUESTIONS ARISE ABOUT POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF THE SIGNALS ON YOUR HEALTH, YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY DISCUSS THEM WITH DR. JOHNSON. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POINTS I HAVE MADE I WILL BE GLAD TO TRY TO ANSWER THEM WITH THE HELP OF DR. HERBERT POLLOCK, A RECOGNIZED AUTHORITY IN THE FIELD.

6. SECRETARY SPECIFICALLY HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO EMPHASIZE TO YOU THAT THIS HAS NOW DEVELOPED INTO A MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEM AND THAT YOU MUST DO ALL YOU CAN TO ASSURE NO REPEAT NO LEAKS, WHICH THE SOVIETS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY VIEW AS A MEANS OF EMBARRASSING THEM, THEREBY

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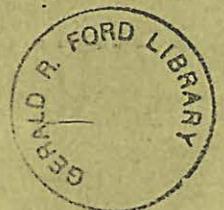
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PERHAPS DESTROYING WHATEVER HOPES THERE MAY NOW BE FOR
RESOLVING THIS DIFFICULT PROBLEM ONCE AND FOR ALL. KISSINGER

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