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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 302021  
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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 12 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL  
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UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 302021

1. MICHAEL GETLER REPORTED THAT WITH CRUCIAL CONGRESSIONAL VOTES NEARING ON REAGAN'S STRATEGIC PROGRAM, DOD'S "TOP TECHNICAL EXPERTS" ARE ATTEMPTING TO FOCUS CONGRESS' ATTENTION ON WEAPONS' OVERALL CAPABILITIES RATHER THAN ON COST AND SPECIFIC CONTROVERSIES SURROUNDING THEM. GETLER QUOTED RICHARD DE LAUER, "PENTAGON'S TOP SCIENTIST," AS SAYING IN RESPONSE TO THOSE WHO CHARGE MX IS VULNERABLE, "THERE IS NO NATION RICH OR FOOLISH ENOUGH TO SPEND 5 BILLION DLRS TO 7 BILLION DLRS ON THE SURVIVABILITY OF A SYSTEM UNLESS IT INTENDED FOR THAT SYSTEM TO RIDE OUT AN

ATTACK. WE ARE NOT CHANGING OUR CONSISTENTLY HELD VIEW THAT LAUNCH UNDER ATTACK IS A GOOD CAPABILITY, BUT A DANGEROUSLY DESTABILIZING STRATEGY TO DEPEND ON. WE DO NOT, AND WE WILL NOT DEPEND ON IT." IN RESPONSE TO THOSE WHO SUGGEST THAT SOVIETS MIGHT NOW ADOPT SUCH STRATEGY, GETLER QUOTED DE LAUER AS REPLYING, "THAT SUGGESTS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOT AS RATIONAL AS WE, AND I REJECT THAT VIEW. I BELIEVE MY SOVIET COUNTERPART CAN SEE THE FLAWS AND RELATED POTENTIAL FOR ACCIDENTAL CATASTROPHE AS CLEARLY AS I, AND HE WILL HAVE NO PART OF IT." DE LAUER CONCLUDED, NOTED GETLER, "I THINK THE (SOVIETS) WILL SELECT MOBILITY, OR ACTIVE DEFENSE, OR NEGOTIATED REDUCTIONS AS HIS RESPONSE, AND WE WOULD WELCOME ANY OF THOSE AS BEING STABILIZING BECAUSE OF THEIR DEFENSIVE NATURE."

2. POST'S GETLER ALSO REPORTED DOD DISPUTED CBO CLAIMS THAT B1 BOMBER WOULD COST ALMOST 40 BILLION DLRS AND QUOTED LT. GEN. KELLY BURKE, AIR FORCE CHIEF FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AS SAYING "WE HAVE HIGH CONFIDENCE THAT WE'LL DELIVER AT THAT COST (OF 20 BILLION DLRS)." BURKE ADDED, SAID GETLER, CBO USED DIFFERENT INFLATION ESTIMATE THAN ADMINISTRATION'S AND "INCLUDED A LARGE NUMBER OF ITEMS THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 302021

WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF PUTTING ON THE B1." ACCORDING TO GETLER, DOD'S EFFORTS IN CONGRESS APPEARED TO EASE AT LEAST SOME OF SUSPICIONS ABOUT BOMBER PROJECT. GETLER NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT SEN. STEVENS, WHO HAS BEEN CRITICAL IN PAST, SAID HE WAS NOW CONVINCED THAT, EVEN AT HIGHER PRICE, B1 WAS WORTH IT, AND THAT BOMBER SHOULD BE BUILT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO HASTEN DAY WHEN OLDER B-52 CAN BE TAKEN OUT OF SERVICE.

3. DUSKO DODER OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED FROM MOSCOW THAT FLURRY OF SOVIET PRESS COMMENTARIES ATTACKED U.S. CLAIMS THAT SOVIET UNION HAD USED CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA AND AFGHANISTAN. ACCORDING TO TASS STATEMENT CITED BY DODER, REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAD NOT PRODUCED EITHER DIRECT OR INDIRECT PROOF FOR ITS CLAIMS. AT SAME TIME, TASS ADDED, U.S. IS SABOTAGING TALKS IN GENEVA ON TREATY TO PROHIBIT PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN EUROPE, JAPAN, AND PACIFIC OCEAN. DODER ALSO REPORTED ANOTHER TASS DISPATCH SAID, WITHOUT ELABORATING, THAT GRENADES WITH TOXIC AGENTS MADE AT FACTORIES IN PENNSYLVANIA HAD BEEN SEIZED "FROM BANDITS INFILTRATED INTO AFGHANISTAN."

4. PHILIP J. HILTS OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAVE PRODUCED NEW PHYSICAL EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT CLAIMS THAT BIOLOGICAL WARFARE CAMPAIGNS LINKED TO SOVIET UNION ARE BEING WAGED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WITH

DEADLY NEW WEAPON CALLED "YELLOW RAIN." HILTS QUOTED STATE'S BURT AS TESTIFYING TO ARMS CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE OF SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, "WE NOW HAVE THE SMOKING GUN. WE NOW HAVE FOUR SEPARATE PIECES OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE." BURT ADDED, SAID HILTS, "WE MAY SOON HAVE MORE, AS, I REGRET TO SAY, CHEMICAL ATTACKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA WITHIN THE LAST MONTH." HILTS OBSERVED EVEN MOST PERSISTENT CRITIC OF EARLIER EVIDENCE. DR. MATTHEW MESELSON OF HARVARD, INDICATED NEW MATERIAL MIGHT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 STATE 302021

CHANGE HIS OPINION. MESELSON TESTIFIED, SAID HILTS, THAT HE "WOULD RECOMMEND CAUTION ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TRIOCTHECENE TOXINS HAVE BEEN USED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, ALTHOUGH THE PRELIMINARY EVIDENCE INDICATES THEY HAVE."

5. N.Y. TIMES' REPORTED FROM ATHENS THAT GREEK GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED "THE REMOVAL OF THE NUCLEAR WARHEADS WILL BE ONE OF OUR FIRST DEMANDS IN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE AMERICAN BASES." TIMES NOTED THAT, IN REFERENCE TO RENEWED PROPOSALS BY LEADERS OF BULGARIA, RUMANIA, AND YUGOSLAVIA FOR HAVING NUCLEAR WEAPONS BANNED FROM BALKANS, STATEMENT CONTINUED, "WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE DENUCLEARIZATION OF THE BALKANS WILL BE A GENERAL DEVELOPMENT, SINCE OUR NEIGHBORS AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE ALSO CALLED FOR IT." TIMES ALSO NOTED OFFICIAL U.S. POSITION HAS BEEN THAT DOD "NEITHER CONFIRMS NOR DENIES" BASING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON GREEK TERRITORY," ALTHOUGH IT ALLEGED THAT IN PAST "SEVERAL HUNDRED NUCLEAR WARHEADS HAVE BEEN KEPT AT AMERICAN BASES IN GREECE."

6. N.Y. TIMES REPORTED IN REUTERS DISPATCH FROM MADRID THAT SWEDEN CONDEMNED SOVIET UNION BEFORE CSCE DELEGATES OVER INCIDENT INVOLVING SOVIET SUBMARINE THAT RAN AROUND OFF SWEDISH NAVAL BASE. TIMES SAID SWEDISH DELEGATE JOHAN RAPPE CHARGED SUBMARINE HAD INTENTIONALLY VIOLATED SWEDISH TERRITORY AND ENTERED PROHIBITED MILITARY ZONE "FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING ON ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES." RAPPE ALSO REITERATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S CHARGES THAT "IN ALL PROBABILITY, SUBMARINE HAD NUCLEAR WARHEADS ON BOARD."

7. CHRISTOPHER WREN OF N.Y. TIMES, IN DISPATCH FROM BEIJING, REPORTED CHINA REITERATED ITS OBJECTIONS TO ANY SALE OF ARMS TO TAIWAN, CALLING ISSUE "A LITMUS TEST" OF AMERICAN RESPECT FOR CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY. WREN SAID UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 05 STATE 302021

CHINESE COMPLAINED THAT TALK OF SELLING ARMS TO TAIWAN WAS

TAKING PLACE "IN DISREGARD OF REPEATED PROTESTS FROM CHINESE GOVERNMENT SINCE U.S. HAS RECOGNIZED THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC AS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA AND TAIWAN AS PART OF CHINA'S TERRITORY." CHINA HAS HINTED, OBSERVED WREN, THAT IT MIGHT REVIEW ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. IF ARMS SALE GOES THROUGH, BUT SO FAR IT HAS CAREFULLY REFRAINED FROM SPELLING OUT WHAT ACTION IT MIGHT TAKE. CLARK

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