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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PROGRAM

POL 321 CHICOM-
 USSR

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State
 INFO : HONG KONG, MOSCOW, TAIPEI
 FROM : Amembassy TEHRAN
 SUBJECT : Soviet-Chicom Hostilities

RECEIVED
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 17 58 PM 1969
 9/10/69

DATE: SEPTEMBER 04, 1969

The Army Attache, Colonel Duvall, was sought out by Soviet Military, Naval, and Air Attache, Major General Sergei KRAKHMALOV, at a reception of the Turkish Military Attache's on August 30 and treated to a seemingly prepared discourse on the possible nature of Soviet-Chicom hostilities. The following summary by Colonel Duvall of the conversation may be of interest to the Department:

(1) Russian-Chinese Border Situation. The current Russian-Communist Chinese border situation is getting worse and is considered by Russia as extremely grave. In the most recent clash (date not identified) two outstanding Russian Army Officers were killed. All the Chinese force involved (Officers and Soldiers) were killed because the Russians moved sufficient combat troops to the area to outnumber the Chinese forces. Continued border clashes were bound to escalate and require the commitment of larger and larger forces on each side.

(2) Use of Nuclear Weapons. The Russians would not hesitate to use nuclear weapons against the Chinese if they attacked with major forces. The Russians would permit the Chinese to penetrate Russian territory to a sufficient depth and then employ tactical nuclear weapons against the Chinese but on Russian soil. They would not employ nuclear weapons against the Chinese except on their own territory unless the Chinese initiated nuclear weapons employment against the Russians.

GROUP 3

Downgraded at 12-year intervals,
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In Out

FORM 4-62 DS-323

Drafted by: ARMA: COL. DUVAL/ POL: JAARmitage:gs 9/3/69

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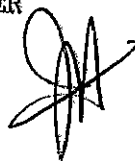
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(3) Russian Relations. Employment of major forces between Russia and China would probably initiate WWII. Russia expected that their eventual ally would be the US since they could not conceive of the US helping China.

Colonel Duvall notes that Krakhmalov's only word of caution involved the use of tactical weapons against the Chinese on Russian soil. Krakhmalov said "Of course, the use of nuclear weapons is my personal idea." He added that it would be nice to have the USSR and the United States fighting together once again.

THACHER



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