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By CD NARA Date 2/3/05

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SEP 2 1968

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**EXCLUSIVE FOR THE SECRETARY AND UNDER SECRETARIES**

**AFTERNOON SUMMARY**



**OPERATIONS CENTER  
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

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DIGEST OF STATE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 2, 1968

## E A S T A S I A

Korean Reaction to President's Speech

Korean Prime Minister Chong expressed bewilderment to Ambassador Porter over the President's decision not to run again and made a mild remonstrance over the Vietnam aspects of the speech. Porter comments that Chong's main concern probably stems from the fact the President's announcement on bombing runs counter to the South Korean position in favor of continued military pressure on North Vietnam. (SECRET) Seoul 5437, 4/2 (EXDIS).

Thieu to Visit US

Ambassador Bunker this morning conveyed to South Vietnamese President Thieu an invitation to visit the US. General discussion on timing suggests that the visit would not be during the next month or two. (SECRET) Saigon 23737, 4/2 (EXDIS).

Offshore Islands

In response to another Drew Pearson article alleging that the US may ask Chinese Nationalist President Chiang Kai-Shek to withdraw his troops from Quemoy and Matsu Islands, we have authorized Embassy Taipei to reply to any queries that, contrary to Pearson's assertion, the Department has not confirmed that the US may request Chinese withdrawal. (SECRET) State 140001, 4/2 (EXDIS).

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## N E A R E A S T

Terrorist Bases

With regard to Israeli charges of Jordanian Government responsibility for terrorist activity, Ambassador Symmes suggests that we not dismiss the likelihood that some of the recent terrorist incidents may have been undertaken by Fedayeen terrorist groups operating from bases on the Israeli controlled West Bank. (SECRET) Amman 4154, 4/2 (EXDIS).

Arms for Jordan

Ambassador Symmes reports that following the signing of the March 28 arms understanding, General Khammash told him that King Hussein had wanted to press for the inclusion of arms lost by Jordan in the February 15 and March 21 fighting, but had decided to make this additional request later. Jordanian losses on those occasions include at least 33 tanks, several guns and assorted vehicles. (SECRET) Amman 4151, 4/2 (EXDIS).

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T H E P R E S I D E N T ' S S P E E C H

Japan

An officer of the Japanese Foreign Ministry told Embassy Tokyo that Japan is concentrating its diplomatic efforts on the UK and USSR at present. He said the Japanese Embassy in Moscow has been instructed to make it explicit to the Soviets that now is the time for Hanoi to respond. (CONFIDENTIAL) Tokyo 7071, 4/2 (LIMDIS).

United Kingdom

Following Soviet Ambassador Smirnovsky's first call on British Foreign Secretary Stewart, the Ambassador told the press that the President had declared an incomplete bombing halt which was not unconditional. A Foreign Office source later told Embassy London that Stewart had told Smirnovsky he wanted Gromyko to know that he believed the UK and USSR should get together quickly. (CONFIDENTIAL) London 7732, 4/2.

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Italy

Embassy Rome reports that Italian Foreign Minister Fanfani on April 1 found the Soviet Charge without instructions or guidance of any kind from Moscow on the subject of the President's speech. Fanfani asked the Charge to urge his Government to approach the North Vietnamese Government with "wise advice." Fanfani has also noted that the North Vietnamese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs is visiting Algiers, and has offered to have the Italian Ambassador there ask the Algerians to press North Vietnam for a constructive reply. (SECRET) Rome 5213 and 5214, 4/2 (LIMDIS).

South Korea

Embassy Seoul reports that official Korean reaction indicates only reluctant support for US moves to bring Hanoi to the conference table. The Embassy expects that the Korean Foreign Minister will, at the Wellington Conference, renew his Government's position calling for stepped-up measures to crush the Communists. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) Seoul 5438, 4/2.

Malaysia

In a carefully worded statement the Malaysian Prime Minister said he knew that the President's decision will not mean US withdrawal from Vietnam until peace is restored with honor. However Embassy Kuala Lumpur reports that most Malaysian officials and private citizens are skeptical that Hanoi will respond positively to the US initiative. (CONFIDENTIAL) Kuala Lumpur 3602, 4/2 (LIMDIS).

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## E A S T A S I A

Saigon Administrative Reforms

Embassy Saigon relays a press report that South Vietnamese President Thieu on March 30 signed the decrees establishing the Administrative Reform Council and the National Planning Council. Both councils will be directly under the control of the President. Cabinet discussion of the division of the Republic into six administrative regions and the abolition of some posts was also reported. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) Saigon 23752, 4/2.

Ohama Mission

Embassy Tokyo reports that, as carried in the Japanese press, Special Representative Ohama's report to Prime Minister Sato following Ohama's return from his survey mission to Okinawa was remarkably moderate. Ohama reportedly said that B-52's on Okinawa are not carrying nuclear weapons, and that immediate palliative measures are possible to ease Ryukyuan concerns. (CONFIDENTIAL) Tokyo 7066, 4/2.

## N E A R E A S T

Israeli Views on Jordan

Embassy Tel Aviv quotes an Israeli Foreign Ministry source as saying that the weight of opinion at the Ministry favors Israel doing what it can to keep Jordanian King Hussein on the throne as the best hope of controlling terrorists. At the same time, the source supported a policy of unrelenting Israeli force which would leave Hussein and the Arabs no alternative but peace with Israel. (CONFIDENTIAL) Tel Aviv 3146, 4/2 (LIMDIS).

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Normalization on Cyprus

Embassy Nicosia notes, together with the Cypriot Government's normalization program and the real prospects for local talks, that Turk Cypriots have not yet responded to the normalization measures. Believing that many Turk Cypriots would like to respond with a conciliatory gesture, but have so far been blocked by the Turkish Embassy, our Embassy suggests that we impress on Turkey the need for a conciliatory response. (CONFIDENTIAL) Nicosia 1563, 4/2.

## E U R O P E

Polish Party Shortcomings Admitted

Embassy Warsaw reports that an article by a Deputy Member of the Polish Party Central Committee suggests that significant weaknesses and shortcomings in Polish socialism are responsible for the March unrest in that country, and should not be brushed aside in the course of an emotional repressive campaign. The Embassy thinks that party moderates may share his fear that the present atmosphere may favor hardline "demagogues." (CONFIDENTIAL) Warsaw 2655, 4/2.

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