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15 DEC 73 09 21z

Action

~~SECRET~~ 141744Z DEC 73 STAFF

CITE DIRECTOR

TO: TEHRAN.

REF: TEHRAN

1. POUCHING OCI ARTICLES OVER PERIOD 23 NOVEMBER TO 6 DECEMBER ON FOLLOWING RECENT EVENTS: SHELEPIN SPEECH IN HAVANA 12 NOVEMBER, SUSLOV'S SPEECH IN VILNYUS AND KOSYGIN'S IN MINSK RESPECTIVELY 28 AND 14 NOVEMBER, KIRILENKO SPEECH IN TBILISI 5 OCTOBER, AND ZORZA ARTICLE IN WASHINGTON POST 4 DECEMBER ALLEGING SIGNS OF TROUBLE IN KREMLIN. ALTHOUGH CLASSIFIED ONLY CONFIDENTIAL, THESE ARE SOLID ANALYSES WHICH DRAW ON AVAILABLE INFO AND PUT ISSUES CITED REF IN BALANCED PERSPECTIVE.

2. IN ABOVE CONTEXT, WE NOTE LANGUAGE LAST SENTENCE REF PARA 3 AND WISH CALL ATTENTION TO FACT THAT REFERENCE TO A BREZHNEV-SUSLOV DISAGREEMENT AS AN ESTABLISHED FACT IS INAPPROPRIATE. AS YOU WILL SEE FROM OCI ARTICLES, WHILE CERTAIN DIFFERENCES DO EMERGE IN TONE AND THRUST OF RECENT SPEECHES OF POLITBURO MEMBERS, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE FROM ANY SOURCE THAT THESE DIFFERENCES ARE OF A CHARACTER OR QUALITY WHICH PERMIT THEM BE DESCRIBED AS POLICY

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2008

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FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR

Date 12/15

To

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| <input type="radio"/> For Your Information | <input type="radio"/> As You Requested |
| <input type="radio"/> For Your Comments | <input type="radio"/> Please file |
| <input type="radio"/> For Your Approval | <input type="radio"/> Note and return. |
| <input type="radio"/> Please prepare reply for Ambassador's
Signature | |
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Ambassador, for your signature. | |

Thank you —
look forward to
receiving pouched
ocs articles. Please
let me know as
soon as they arrive. *pt*