



Intelligence Information Cable

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DIST 24 MARCH 1973

COUNTRY CHINA/VIETNAM/CHINA (TAIWAN)

DOI [REDACTED] MARCH 1973

SUBJECT COMMENTS [REDACTED] ON THE VIETNAM CEASEFIRE, PUBLICITY SURROUNDING THE RETURN OF AMERICAN POWS, TAIWAN, AND CHINA'S POPULATION PROBLEM

[REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] STATED THAT SOUTH VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU WAS CONSPIRING TO UNDERMINE THE VIETNAM CEASEFIRE AND ATTEMPTING TO STRENGTHEN HIS OWN SHAKY POLITICAL POSITION. [REDACTED] PREDICTED CONFIDENTLY THAT THIEU'S EFFORTS WOULD FAIL AND PEACE WOULD COME TO VIETNAM.

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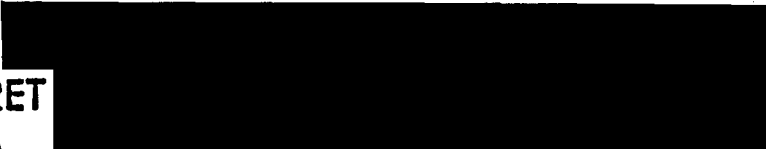
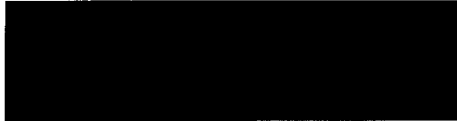
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2. [REDACTED] SAID THAT WITHOUT A CEASEFIRE IN VIETNAM THERE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ANY AGREEMENT BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND PEKING TO ESTABLISH "LIAISON OFFICES." [REDACTED] EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH WASHINGTON AND PEKING TO ENSURE THAT VIETNAM REMAINED PEACEFUL.

3. COMMENTING ON THE VOLUME OF PUBLICITY SURROUNDING THE RETURN OF AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR, [REDACTED] SAID PEKING BELIEVED IT WAS A DELIBERATE PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT STAGED BY WASHINGTON IN ORDER TO REKINDLE LAGGING PATRIOTISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND CONCEAL THE MISTAKES MADE IN VIETNAM.

4. IN DISCUSSING THE PRC'S RECENT OVERTURES TO TAIWAN, [REDACTED] SAID PEKING WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE CHINESE NATIONALIST LEADERS ON TAIWAN WOULD AGREE TO OPEN A DIALOGUE WITH THE MAINLAND. [REDACTED] LAUGHED AT THE RUMORS THAT CHINESE NATIONALIST PREMIER C H I A N G CHING-KUO HAD PAID A SECRET VISIT TO PEKING; HE STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT NEITHER CHIANG NOR ANY OTHER CHINESE NATIONALIST LEADER HAD VISITED THE MAINLAND NOR HAD ANY HINTED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SUCH A TRIP. [REDACTED] ADDED THAT HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT BY A CHINESE NATIONALIST OFFICIAL, SINCE PEKING HAD DELIBERATELY LEFT THE DOOR OPEN FOR SUCH AN EVENTUALITY.

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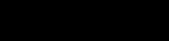


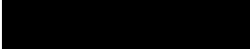
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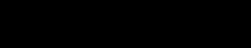
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5. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF CHINA'S POPULATION PROBLEM, 

 SAID THAT WHILE THE MATTER OF OVERPOPULATION HAD BEEN RESOLVED IN THE URBAN AREAS, IT REMAINED A PROBLEM IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

 EXPLAINED THAT PEKING HAD DISCOVERED THAT THE RATION SYSTEM, WHICH PREVAILED IN THE RURAL AREAS, WAS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO THE POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM, SINCE THE RATION SYSTEM ACTUALLY ENCOURAGED CHINA'S PEASANTS TO HAVE MORE CHILDREN IN ORDER TO RECEIVE MORE RATIONS.

 SAID PEKING WAS STUDYING VARIOUS WAYS OF OVERCOMING THIS SHORTCOMING IN THE POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM, BUT AS YET NO ALTERNATIVE TO THE RATION SYSTEM HAD BEEN FOUND TO BE PRACTICAL.

6. 



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