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Authority NND 96900

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TELEGRAM

SECRET 476

PAGE: 01 USUN: N: 02888 051543Z

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ACTION: SS: 30

INFO: OCT 01, 1969 W

090232

R: 050054Z SEP 69
FM: USMISSION: USUN NEW YORK
TO: SECSTATE: WASHDC 8461
INFO: AMCONGEN: HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY: MOSCOW

SECRET: USUN: 2888

EXDIS:

SOVIET-CHINESE RELATIONS:

1. SHEVCHENKO (USSR), WHO IS ONE OF ABLEST AND EXPERIENCED MEMBERS OF SOVIET MISSION, WAS VERY CANDID ON SUBJECT SOVIET-CHINESE RELATIONS IN SEPT. 4 CONVERSATION WITH MISOFF (NEWLIN).

2. SHEVCHENKO SAID CHINESE BANKING ON TWO ASSUMPTIONS: (A) THAT IN LONG RUN SOVIETS WOULD COMPROMISE ON TERRITORIAL DISPUTE, AND (B) THAT SOVIETS WOULD NEVER USE LARGER THAN TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ON BOTH OF THESE COUNTS, CHINESE WRONG HE ASSERTED. SHEVCHENKO SAID SOVIETS, UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, WOULD DISCUSS DEMARCATION OF BORDER BUT DISCUSSION OF CHINESE TERRITORIAL CLAIMS "OUT OF THE QUESTION". DESCRIBING HIMSELF AS A "HAWK", SHEVCHENKO CLEARLY INDICATED THAT HE THOUGHT MOSCOW HAD NOT BEEN FIRM ENOUGH IN FACE OF WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS CHINESE PROVOCATIONS RESULTING FROM ABOVE MISCONCEPTIONS.

3. HE COMPLAINED AT SOME LENGTH THAT RESPONSIBLE US NEWSPAPERS IN REPORTING AND IN EDITORIALS ON THIS SUBJECT ASSIGNED BLAME EQUALLY. SHEVCHENKO IMPLIED THIS WAS RESULT OF GUIDANCE FROM USG. WHEN MISOFF OBJECTED THAT SHEVCHENKO HAD LIVED IN US LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW TRUTH AS TO HOW ANY ATTEMPT AT USG "GUIDANCE" WOULD BE RECEIVED BY US PRESS, SHEVCHENKO RETREATED TO SAY THAT THIS POINT NOT RPT NOT UNDERSTOOD IN MOSCOW.

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4. IN RESPONSE TO DIRECT QUESTION, MISOFF STATED THAT THERE IS NO REPORT OF CHANGE IN US POSITION ON CHIREP ISSUE AND THAT WE EXPECTED STANDARD ALBANIAN ITEM, RES AND RESULT. WHILE SOME OTHER DELEGATION COULD ALWAYS INTRODUCE NEW APPROACH, AT PRESENT WE HAD NO INDICATION ANYONE PLANNING TO DO SO.

5. CONVERSATION THIS TOPIC CLOSED WHEN SHEVCHENKO EXPRESSED HOPE SENTIMENT EXPRESSED BY THEN-CANDIDATE NIXON TO KUZNETSOV, WHEN LATTER IN US FOR EISENHOWER FUNERAL, THAT CHINA MIGHT BECOME COMMON US SOVIET PROBLEM REPRESENTED REAL VIEW SENIOR MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATION. GP-3. BUFFUM.

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