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EXDIS

PASS WHITE HOUSE

USNATO FOR SECRETARY

SUBJECT: CONTACT WITH COMMUNIST CHINESE

REF: NY MEMCON WITH PRESIDENT SEPTEMBER 9 (MOOISI)

1. SUMMARY: I SAW CHINESE CHARGE LEI YANG AND HIS INTERPRETER THIS EVENING AFTER YUGOSLAV RECEPTION AND TOLD INTERPRETER THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WANTED TO HAVE SERIOUS CONCRETE TALKS WITH CHINESE. INTERPRETER SAID ONLY THAT HE WOULD REPORT THIS STATEMENT. I BELIEVE OUR CONVERSATION WAS NOT RPT NOT OBSERVED BY OTHER DIPLOMATS OR BY JOURNALISTS. HOWEVER, POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT STORY MAY GET OUT. GUIDANCE REQUESTED WHETHER WE SHOULD DISCREETLY STIMULATE PRESS INTEREST. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CHINESE CHARGE LEI YANG AND HIS INTERPRETER (NAME UNKNOWN) WERE PRESENT THIS EVENING, DECEMBER 3, AT YUGOSLAV FASHION SHOW AT PALACE OF CULTURE. IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONCLUSION OF SHOW, I FOLLOWED CHARGE AND INTERPRETER OUT OF BUILDING AND WAS ABLE TO HAVE BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH INTERPRETER ON STEPS OF PALACE OF CULTURE. FSD SIMONS WAS WITH ME. I SPOKE IN POLISH.

3. AS WE WERE ON WAY OUT, I INTRODUCED MYSELF TO INTERPRETER AS AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AND SAID I WISHED TO

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GREET THE CHARGE. INTERPRETER REPLIED: "I DON'T KNOW. YOU MUST WAIT." MEANWHILE, CHARGE, WHO HAD LOOKED BACK AND UNDOUBTEDLY RECOGNIZED ME, KEPT ON GOING. I LEFT BUILDING WITH INTERPRETER AND, STANDING ON STEPS, MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO HIM: "I HAS RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON AND SAW PRESIDENT NIXON. HE TOLD ME HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SERIOUS, CONCRETE TALKS WITH CHINESE." INTERPRETER, WHO LISTENED ATTENTIVELY BUT WITHOUT EXPRESSION, SAID IN REPLY: "GOOD. I WILL REPORT THAT." INTERPRETER THEN WALKED ON TO JOIN CHARGE WHO WAS HEADED TOWARD HIS CAR.

4. CHINESE AND I LEFT PALACE AHEAD OF OTHERS ATTENDING YUGOSLAV SHOW. NO OTHER DIPLOMATS WERE OUTSIDE DURING OUR CONVERSATION AND I BELIEVE WE WERE UNOBSERVED. AS FAR AS I KNOW, NO JOURNALISTS WERE PRESENT AT YUGOSLAV SHOW.
5. POSSIBILITY EXISTS, HOWEVER, THAT MY TALK WITH CHINESE WAS SEEN BY SOMEONE AND THAT STORY WILL SPREAD RAPIDLY AND WILL REACH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS. IN EVENT WE ARE QUERIED BY CORRESPONDENTS WHO HAVE LEARNED OF CONTACT WITH CHINESE, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO FOLLOW FOLLOWING GUIDANCE.
6. BEGIN PRESS GUIDANCE. (UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED) AMBASSADOR SPOKE BRIEFLY EVENING OF DECEMBER 3 WITH INTERPRETER ACCOMPANYING CHINESE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM, MR. LEI YANG. THIS ACTION IS CONSISTENT WITH INTEREST EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT NIXON IN HAVING GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES.

QUESTION: WAS THIS AT AMBASSADOR'S INITIATIVE?

ANSWER: YES.

QUESTION: WAS THIS FIRST CONTACT BETWEEN PRESENT AMBASSADOR AND CHINESE?

ANSWER: YES.

QUESTION: WHY DID AMBASSADOR DO THIS; ANY SIGNIFICANCE IN TIMING; ISN'T SUCH ACTION UNUSUAL?

ANSWER: NO COMMENT; REFER TO STATEMENT.

QUESTION: WAS AMBASSADOR ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS?

ANSWER: NO COMMENT; REFER TO STATEMENT.



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QUESTION: WHAT WAS CONTENT OF CONVERSATION; WHAT WAS REACTION OF CHARGE?

ANSWER: CAN'T COMMENT.

QUESTION: WILL THERE BE MORE CONTACTS OF THIS KIND?

ANSWER: CAN'T SPECULATE.

QUESTION: DOES THIS MEAN FORMAL US-CHINESE TALKS WILL BE RESUMED IN WARSAN IN NEAR FUTURE; DOES IT HAVE ANY BEARING ON SUCH TALKS?

ANSWER: THE US HAS FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT US-CHINESE TALKS COULD RESUME IN WARSAN OR ELSEWHERE. THIS CONTINUES TO BE OUR POSITION. WE HAVE NOTHING NEW ON CHINESE ATTITUDE. NO FURTHER COMMENT SHOULD BE OFFERED. END PRESS GUIDANCE.

7. IF NO PRESS INQUIRIES DEVELOP, IT WOULD BE EASY FOR US TO STIMULATE SUCH INQUIRIES INDIRECTLY AND DISCREETLY. WE WOULD THEN RESPOND TO QUESTIONS ALONG LINES OF ABOVE GUIDANCE, AMENDED AS DEPARTMENT MIGHT FEEL APPROPRIATE. REQUEST GUIDANCE WHETHER WE SHOULD STIMULATE INQUIRIES. MY OWN FEELING IS THAT APPROACH TO CHINESE AND IMPRESSION IT WILL MAKE ON THEM OF OUR SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF WE REFRAIN FROM STIMULATING QUESTIONS FROM PRESS.

8. CHINESE CHARGE WILL PROBABLY BE PRESENT AT RECEPTION EVENING DECEMBER 4 ON OCCASION OF NATIONAL DAY OF FINLAND. HOWEVER, I DO NOT PROPOSE TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN SPEAKING TO CHARGE THEN AND I WOULD DOUBT THAT HE WOULD HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE REACTION FROM PEKING TO MY APPROACH BY THAT TIME.

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STOESSEL

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