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FROM ARTHUR MCCAFFERTY.
TO THE PRESIDENT
CITE WH70386

UNCLAS

JULY 4, 1967

FOLLOWING IS AN INTERESTING CABLE FROM PARIS COMMENTING ON KOSYGIN'S PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER HIS MEETING WITH THE GENERAL (PARIS, 74).

ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, AFTER LEAVING THE ELYSEE ON JULY 1 FOLLOWING TWO HOURS OF CONVERSATION AND LUNCH WITH GENERAL DE GAULLE, KOSYGIN MET THE PRESS IN A JOVIAL MOOD. BANTER ASIDE, HE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE IN THE NEAR EAST IS "SURELY AND CLEARLY" THE BUSINESS OF THE UN;

(B) FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS ARE GOOD AND IT IS GOOD TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TOGETHER;

(C) PEACE IN VIETNAM DEPENDS ON THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT (FOR WHICH REASON KOSYGIN COULD NOT SAY WHETHER GLASSBORO AND ELYSEE TALKS WOULD LEAD TO DEESCALATION OF THE WAR). ONLY THE VIETNAMESE COMRADES CAN RESOLVE THE PROBLEM FOR THEY ARE DOING THE FIGHTING.

(D) QUESTION OF FOUR-POWER SUMMIT MEETING WAS NOT DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING.

COMMENT: SOME CORRESPONDENTS WERE STRUCK BY THE WAY IN WHICH KOSYGIN CHOSE TO RESPOND TO (C) AND (D), SPECULATING THAT BOTH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A REPUDIATION OF DEGAULLE, WHO AT LEAST WOULD HAVE SAID "PEACE DEPENDS ON U.S. WITHDRAWAL".

HAROLD KING, A WELL-CONNECTED GAULLIST CORRESPONDENT FROM REUTERS, HEARD THAT THE DEGAULLE-KOSYGIN MEETING HAD BEEN "GLOOMY" AND THAT KOSYGIN LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THE SOVIETS, UNLIKE THE GENERAL, WERE NOT OPPOSED TO THE US PRESENCE IN VIETNAM; KOSYGIN LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS HOPING FOR A BIT OF DE-ESCALATION ON THE PART OF THE US.

DTG 04/1527Z JUL 67

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