

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

January 26, 1970

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS  
APPLY

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *HK*

MORI/CDF C05106196

SUBJECT: CIA Assessment of the World Situation in 1970

The attached report is a CIA effort to provide a balanced assessment of the world situation at the beginning of the decade. The document considers the communist situation, the U. S. position, problems in the exercise of power, the nature of the contest and developments which may complicate international relations in the 1970s. The report indicates, inter alia, that:

-- The impression that the USSR's world position is improving while that of the U. S. is weakening does not take full account of communist failures and is based on an over-simplified view of the contesting forces in today's world.

-- The Soviets are tempering ambitions to enhance their global position with sober estimates of feasibility. There has been a shift toward the view that it is possible to arrange with the United States some sort of stabilization in Europe, the Middle East, the arms race and even Asia.

-- In responding to its changed world position, the U. S. problem is to find the best ways of combining restraint with the firmness required by national security. Our military capability is undoubted. What the Soviets, Chinese and our allies could come to doubt is U. S. willingness to use its military capability.

-- There are strong rational reasons why great powers will be more prudent about the exercise of power and accepting additional commitments.

-- Because of the complexity of international relationships, a loss of U. S. influence in one arena is not necessarily a gain for the USSR, China, or some other competitor.

MORI/CDF Pages 1 and 2

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-- Developments such as urbanization, anti-establishmentarianism, ethnic and racial conflict, radical nationalism and technical change may alter the world political order.

The CIA report will be given careful consideration in preparation of your Annual Foreign Policy Review.

① What about page 5 -  
weakness of West E. forces?

② Can we do more to  
cause trouble in E. Europe?

① Give a new ~~look~~  
look at Radio Free Europe

③ Increase Exchange?  
Trade?

④ Effort Farm Know how  
Study World +  
give an appraisal  
of what could be  
produced.

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MEMORANDUM


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET

February 6, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM WATTS

FROM: Al Haig   
SUBJECT: CIA Assessment of the World Situation in 1970

Bill --

Attached are Presidential comments on the CIA worldwide review. I suspect we can answer #1, #2 and #3 by tasking Sonnenfeldt for #1 and #2; Bergsten for #3.

Reference #4, I have tasked State and Agriculture to conduct a study within the next 60 days to report on what population could be supported worldwide if U. S. agricultural production methods were employed on a worldwide basis.

The item under #2 referring to Radio Free Europe should be handled by Sonnenfeldt in coordination with CIA. He may wish to discuss this with me before proceeding since I can call Helms who generated the problem in the first instance.

Attachment

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January 23, 1970

HAK:

At Tab A is a memorandum to the President, prepared by Jon Howe, forwarding CIA's report on the World Situation in the 1970s.

At Tab B is a brief note of appreciation to Helms.

Should we send the CIA document to Bob Osgood for his use in working on the Annual Review of Foreign Policy?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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Attachments