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RYBAT (PARIS)

1. SOVIET BLOC HAS MOVED STRONGLY INTO MEDIA FIELD IN EAST AFRICA BY OBTAINING AGREEMENTS TO PROVIDE SOVIET AND CZECH NEWS SERVICES. TELETYPE UNIT OPERATORS, TECHNICIANS AND JOURNALIST TRAINING FOR NEWLY CREATED KENYA AND TANGANYIKA NEWS AGENCIES. PATTERN OF STATE CONTROL OVER NEWS ACQUISITION AND DISTRIBUTION IS CLEARLY EMERGING THESE TWO COUNTRIES, WHERE LEFTISTS IN GOOD POSITION TO PROVIDE PRO SOVIET BLOC, ANTI-ODYOKE SLANT TO CONTROLLED NEWS. REPORTS INDICATE NEWSPAPERS WILL BE OBLIGED TO PURCHASE AND PRINT NEWS FROM THESE BLOC SUPPORTED AGENCIES. NO MOVE YET TO EXCLUDE WESTERN NEWS SERVICES BUT THEY WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO COMPETE WITH SUBSIDIZED GOVT-RUN NEWS AGENCIES BACKED BY POLITICAL PRESSURE. SOME INDICATION OF BLOC INTEREST IN UGANDA MEDIA ALSO.

2. [] INTERESTS OBVIOUSLY AFFECTED BY ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS AND HE NO DOUBT AWARE THIS AS RESULT HIS RECENT VISIT EAST AFRICA. AT NEXT MEETING WITH [] REQUEST OFFENBACH/ ELICIT INFO THIS SUBJECT AND ATTEMPT ASCERTAIN WHAT PLANS OR IDEAS [] MAY HAVE

RELEASING OFFICER

SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
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TO COUNTER OR ADJUST TO REFERRED NEWS SITUATION. WE INTERESTED
BOTH IN WHAT HE MIGHT DO ON HIS OWN AND IN WHAT HE COULD DO WITH
KUBARK ASSISTANCE. DISCUSSION ON LATTER POINT SHOULD OF COURSE
BE EXPLORATORY AND WITHOUT COMMITMENT OR ENCOURAGEMENT.

END OF MESSAGE

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