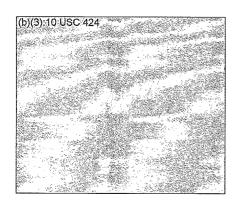
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SERIAL: (U) IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424

TEXT

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Page 1 32

-CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN

COUNTRY: (U) CHINA (CH).

SUBJ: IIR (b)(3):10:USC 424 /INTERNAL FRICTION AMONG TOP POLITICAL LEADERS IN CHINA (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED C O N F I D E N T I A L NOFORN.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 890113.

REQS: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

SUMMARY: +CT REPORT PROVIDES INFORMATION ON INTERNAL FRICTIONS AMONG TOP POLITICAL LEADERS OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

TEXT: 1. (C)
(b)(3),1.4 (c)

THE STRUGGLE FOR LEADERSHIP BETWEEN ((ZHAO)) ZIYANG (STC 6392/4793/7122) AND ((LI)I PENG (STC 2621/7720I IS BECOMING INTENSIFIED. AS A RESULT, THE TWO COMMAND CHANNELS RECENTLY HAVE GIVEN CONTRADICTORY DIRECTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE FIELD OFFICES, CAUSING GRAVE CONFUSION AMONG THOSE IN CHARGE IN THE FIELD.

2. (CI SOMETIMES THE LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE TWO MEN INVOLVE ILL FEELINGS. FOR EXAMPLE, AT THE 1988 YEAR-END CONFERENCE OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU, LI PENG MALIGNED ZHAO ZIYANG WITH SUCH REMARKS AS "I DON'T SEE HOW A PERSON WHO IS ALWAYS PLAYING GOLF CAN KNOW ANYTHING."

3. (C) ON THE OTHER HAND, ((HU)) YAOBANG (STC 5170/5069/6721I HAS BEEN ABSENT FROM MOST OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU CONFERENCES FOR REASONS OF ILL HEALTH. EVEN WHEN HU MAOBANG DID ATTEND THE CONFERENCES, HE MADE NO STATEMENTS, ASSUMING THE ATTITUDE OF "LET OTHER PEOPLE DO WHATEVER THEY WANT TO DO", IMPLYING THAT HE IS A MAN WITH NO AUTHORITY. AFTER LOSING HIS POSITION AS THE PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY, HU YAOBANG WAS INVITED TO TAKE THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS. HOWEVER, HE TURNED DOWN THE OFFER BECAUSE HE DESIRED A POST AS EITHER MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR FOREIGN TRADE. HE WANTED A POSITION INVOLVING ACTIVE WORK RATHER THAN A HIGH POSITION OR POSITION IN NAME ONLY. HIS DESIRE WAS REJECTED BY AN INFLUENTIAL GROUP HEADED BY ((YAO)) YILIN (STC 1202/0181/2651) WHO OPPOSED THE APPOINTMENT OF HU YAOBANG AS THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR FOREIGN TRADE WITH A PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION THAT CHINA CANNOT APPOINT A MAN WHO WAS ONCE THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY TO A LOWER POST.

4. (C) THE SAME HIGH RANKING CHINESE OFFICIAL ADDED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE A BIT SURPRISED TO SEE ((DENG)) XIAOPING (STC 6772/1420/1627) RETIRE FROM THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL MILITARY COMMISSION AFTER THE SINO-USSR SUMMIT CONFERENCE BECAUSE OF HIS AGE.

COMMENTS: (U) NONE.