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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

[Redacted]

DATE: May 16, 1955

FROM :

[Redacted]

EO 13526 6.2(d)

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SUBJECT: Status Report Items



Eastern Europe, USSR and Related Matters (NSC 174)

- a. A draft ~~Outline Plan of Operations~~ is nearing completion.
- b. Pursuant to para. 1.e. of the List of Agreed Courses of Action, dated August 25, 1954, the case of an American aircraft shot down by Czech fighters in 1953 was presented to the International Court of Justice. Czechoslovakia has refused to appear, alleging that the statement of facts by the U. S. is inaccurate. The Court will make a statement in the next week or two.

Interdepartmental Escapee Committee (NSC 86/1)

- a. ~~The~~ program to counter ~~the~~ Soviet anti-emigration campaign has generated a number of actions in ~~the~~ information field, among which is an article written by an American observer in Germany, soon to appear in the Saturday Evening Post.
- b. Efforts ~~are~~ being made simultaneously to induce ~~the~~ Yugoslav Government to grant continued asylum to escapees now in Yugoslavia and to induce ~~the~~ Italian Government to admit them pending resettlement.

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NSC 5406/1 (Yugoslavia)

On May 14, ~~the~~ USSR and Yugoslavia announced that ~~a~~ top-level Soviet delegation would visit Belgrade ~~at~~ the end of May. In notifying the U. S. ambassador of this about 12 hours before the announcement, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister asserted that Yugoslavia's ties with the West would in no way be affected. Tito reiterated this in a public speech on May 15, adding that Yugoslavia would be careful to preserve its full independence as well as its freedom from ties to any power bloc. In view of rather clear indications from Tito and other Yugoslav leaders that Yugoslavia would not agree to an indispensable minimum coordination of military planning for wartime eventualities, and on the basis of positive recommendations from the Ambassador and "Country Team" in Belgrade, State and Defense had been seriously considering the sus-
pension of all U. S. military aid shipments to Yugoslavia. *complete*

While announcement of the Soviet-Yugoslav talks confirms the trend towards a neutral course in Yugoslav policy, and therefore

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reinforces the conclusion that further military aid lacks justification, it may nevertheless be inopportune to suspend aid prior to the talks for political reasons. A decision is pending. Plans are going forward, at Tito's suggestion, for general political conversations in early June between the U.S., the U.K. and French ambassadors in Belgrade and the Yugoslav Foreign Minister. These will cover the whole range of the international situation and should smoke out additional details on Yugoslav policies, especially after talks with the Soviets.

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