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ANALYSIS BRANCH

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO : BONN, MOSCOW, USNATO

DATE: MARCH 27, 1970

FROM : Amembassy ROME

SUBJECT : Soviet Official's View on Southeast Asia Situation

REF :

Ferraris, chief of the Foreign Ministry's office for Eastern European political affairs, tells us that in a conversation with Soviet Embassy Counselor Uranov on March 26, Uranov mentioned recent events in Laos and Cambodia with some preoccupation and suggested that, if these events should lead to increase in present tensions in Southeast Asia, this could also have an effect on the process of search for detente in Europe. Ferraris told the reporting officer that he judged Uranov had been speaking personally and not on instructions. He nevertheless thought Uranov's comment of some interest, and he wondered in fact whether, if events in Southeast Asia should lead to new difficulties between the Soviet Union and China, as well as between the Soviet Union and the United States, this might not have a negative effect on Soviet European policy. He noted in this regard that there had recently been rumors that the Soviets were anxious to slow down the present course of West German Ostpolitik.

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