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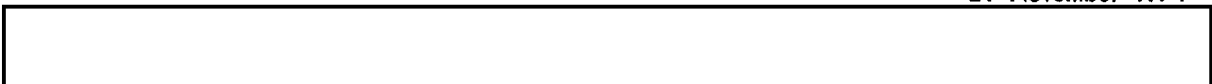
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National Intelligence Bulletin

Top Secret

21 November 1974



25X1

Nº 654

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National Intelligence Bulletin

November 21, 1974

CONTENTS

PLO-UN: Arabs to present draft resolution to UN outlining "inalienable rights" of Palestinians. (Page 1)

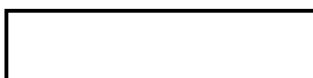
USSR-FEDAYEEN: Moscow shuns Arafat's extremist rhetoric. (Page 4)

25X1



FOR THE RECORD: (Page 13)

25X1



National Intelligence Bulletin

November 21, 1974

that the Arabs will continue, at least for bargaining purposes, to perpetuate the Palestinian claim to Israel proper.

In spite of this stand, the majority of Palestinian leaders seem prepared, for now, to settle for a Palestinian entity limited to the West Bank and Gaza. PLO leaders will not admit this in public, at least until Israel indicates a willingness to negotiate with them or until the PLO realizes other concrete gains through negotiations.

Tel Aviv considers that UN approval of a statement authorizing the Palestinians to use "all means" to regain their rights would in reality be an international endorsement of terrorism. The Arabs, for their part, do intend that an element of threat remain in this formulation. Some, including the Egyptians, have argued that fedayeen strikes into Israel are carried out in self-defense and are, therefore, legal under provisions of the UN Charter.

PLO representatives in New York have played down this line of argument, apparently in the hope that they can in this way win European backing for the draft resolution. The Palestinians consider that the PLO's willingness to give up its earlier call for armed struggle and to restrict itself to methods that accord with the UN Charter represents significant concessions.

The draft resolution, in addition to spelling out Palestinian rights, requests UN Secretary General Waldheim to establish contact with the PLO "on all matters concerning the question of Palestine." This passage may be intended to lay the groundwork for a second resolution that would accord permanent observer status to the PLO.

Possible EC Split

The Arab resolution on Palestine may split the vote of the EC countries. During their consultations in Paris earlier this week, the EC foreign ministers were

National Intelligence Bulletin

November 21, 1974

PLO-UN

The Arabs are likely today to introduce a draft resolution to the UN General Assembly outlining the "inalienable rights" of the Palestinian people. The proposal will very likely be approved by a large majority, probably late tomorrow.

The resolution reportedly will affirm the Palestinians' right to:

- gain self-determination without external interference;
- achieve national independence and sovereignty;
- return to their homes and properties;
- use "all means" in accordance with the UN Charter to realize their objectives.

It will also assert that the implementation of these rights is indispensable for a just peace in the Middle East and that the Palestinian people must be a principal party to the establishment of such a peace.

The resolution is largely a restatement of long-standing Palestinian policy goals. Because it does not threaten Israel directly or explicitly deny Israel's right to exist, the Arabs consider the proposal to be moderate. They calculate that it will win overwhelming support, including that of some wavering delegations.

The Israelis will interpret the resolution, particularly its references to a Palestinian homeland, as a denial of their right to exist. They will also charge that the call for the repatriation of refugees is historically unjustified and totally unacceptable.

The resolution deliberately leaves vague the question of a Palestinian homeland. Its reference to the rights of Palestinians expelled "since 1947" confirms

National Intelligence Bulletin November 21, 1974

divided over whether to support the proposal--a position favored by the French--or to vote against it--as urged by the British. The ministers agreed to abstain, but their decision may not survive the maneuvering now going on in New York.

The ministers' main objection to the Arab draft was its failure to refer specifically to UN Resolution 242 or to Israel's right to secure and recognized borders. They indicated that they might move their countries' votes from abstention to a negative one if the resolution appeared to constitute a direct threat to Israel's existence.

Should the French break ranks, Italy and Ireland might follow. They were the only EC countries to join France last month in voting to invite the PLO to participate in the General Assembly debate.

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National Intelligence Bulletin

November 21, 1974

USSR-FEDAYEEN

Moscow is clearly uneasy about fedayeen leader Yasir Arafat's more extreme demands voiced during his recent appearance before the UN General Assembly and is seeking to dissociate itself from them.

The Soviets have given considerable favorable publicity to Arafat's appearance at the UN, hailing it as a major victory for the Palestinian cause. At the same time, they have avoided any hint of endorsing the maximum demands of the Palestine Liberation Organization regarding Israel and have reaffirmed the less extreme Soviet position. The Soviets have:

--obscured Arafat's call for a secular, united Palestine and attributed to him a position implicitly acknowledging Israel's existence;

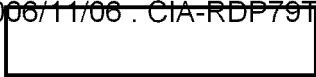
--emphasized in a variety of forums their view that a Middle East settlement should be based on the boundaries of May 1967 and respect of Israel's right to exist;

--suggested that a Palestinian state be established on territories occupied by Israel in June 1967.

In private, Soviet officials have made these points more bluntly. [redacted]

[redacted] Moscow was furious with Arafat [redacted] PLO leader knew perfectly well that Moscow supported Israel's existence and, considering the support the Soviets had given Arafat, should not have said anything that violated the USSR's position. Soviet UN delegate Malik has taken the same line [redacted]

During the past several months, Moscow has moved toward more vocal support for Arafat and the PLO, and it has begun to endorse openly the idea of a Palestinian state. To balance this shift, Moscow has become increasingly explicit in its support for the continued existence of Israel, periodically indicating its interest in eventually resuming diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv.




National Intelligence Bulletin

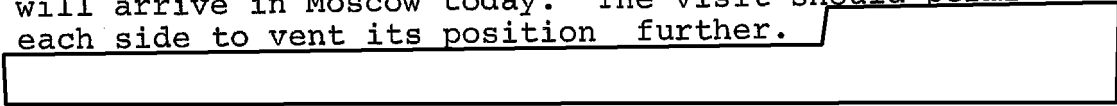
Novmeber 21, 1974

The Soviets probably want to separate their position from that of the PLO at this time in order to remind the fedayeen that Soviet support is not a blank check. Moscow may also believe it has a better chance of winning US support for an early resumption of the Geneva peace talks if it publicly disavows seeking the dismemberment of Israel.

25X1

 Arafat will arrive in Moscow today. The visit should permit each side to vent its position further.

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National Intelligence Bulletin November 21, 1974

25X6

FOR THE RECORD

USSR-US: General Secretary Brezhnev left Moscow by air last night for his talks with President Ford near Vladivostok this weekend. Tass reported that Brezhnev's plane landed today in Khabarovsk, only 400 miles from Vladivostok. The Soviet delegation enplaning from Moscow included Foreign Minister Gromyko, Civil Aviation Minister Bugayev, Ambassador Dobrynin, Brezhnev's foreign policy adviser Aleksandrov, Tass director and press spokesman Zamyatin, and Georgy Kornienko, the Soviet Foreign Ministry's chief expert on the US. 

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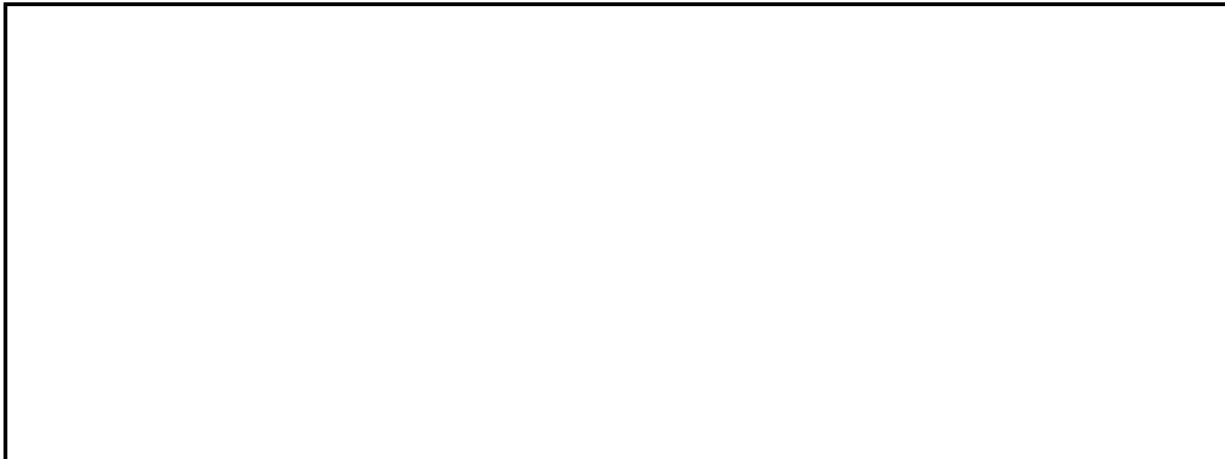
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25X1

National Intelligence Bulletin


November 21, 1974



25X1

Netherlands: In response to rising unemployment and stagnating consumer demand, The Hague plans to inject an additional \$1.3 billion into the economy during 1975. The already expansionary budget for next year, submitted to parliament in September, will now include supplementary proposals that are designed to make up for a slower than anticipated rate of growth in world trade and prevent unemployment from exceeding 4 percent. Unemployment is now up to 3.9 percent--a level that was not expected before 1975. The success of the government's expansionary policies will depend in part on the policies pursued by the Netherlands' major trading partners, particularly West Germany. 

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Poland-USSR: Many of Warsaw's top military leaders arrived in Moscow early this week, but the reason for their visit is unclear. Polish Defense Minister Jaruzelski met with Soviet Defense Minister Grechko on Monday and with General Secretary Brezhnev the next day. The delegation also includes three of Poland's five deputy defense ministers and seven ranking officers. Press coverage of the visit has been scanty. Tass has reported that "there was an exchange of opinion on questions pertaining to the further development of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Poland and also of topical international problems." The delegation has since traveled to Kiev and to the Crimea. 

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