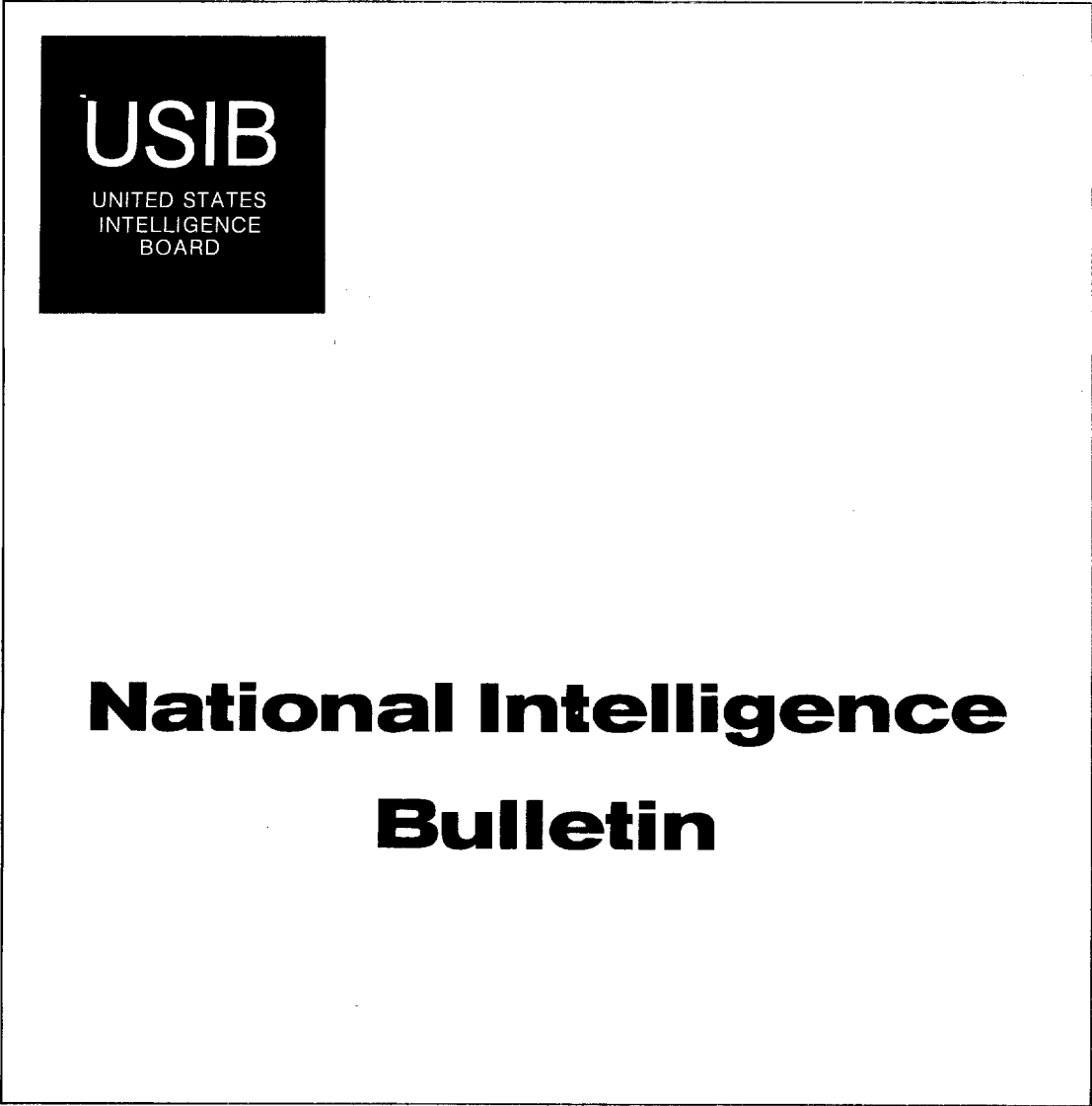


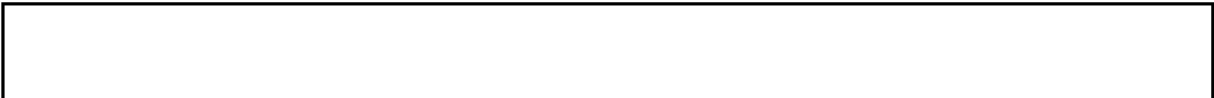
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State, NSA, DIA, USAF reviews completed

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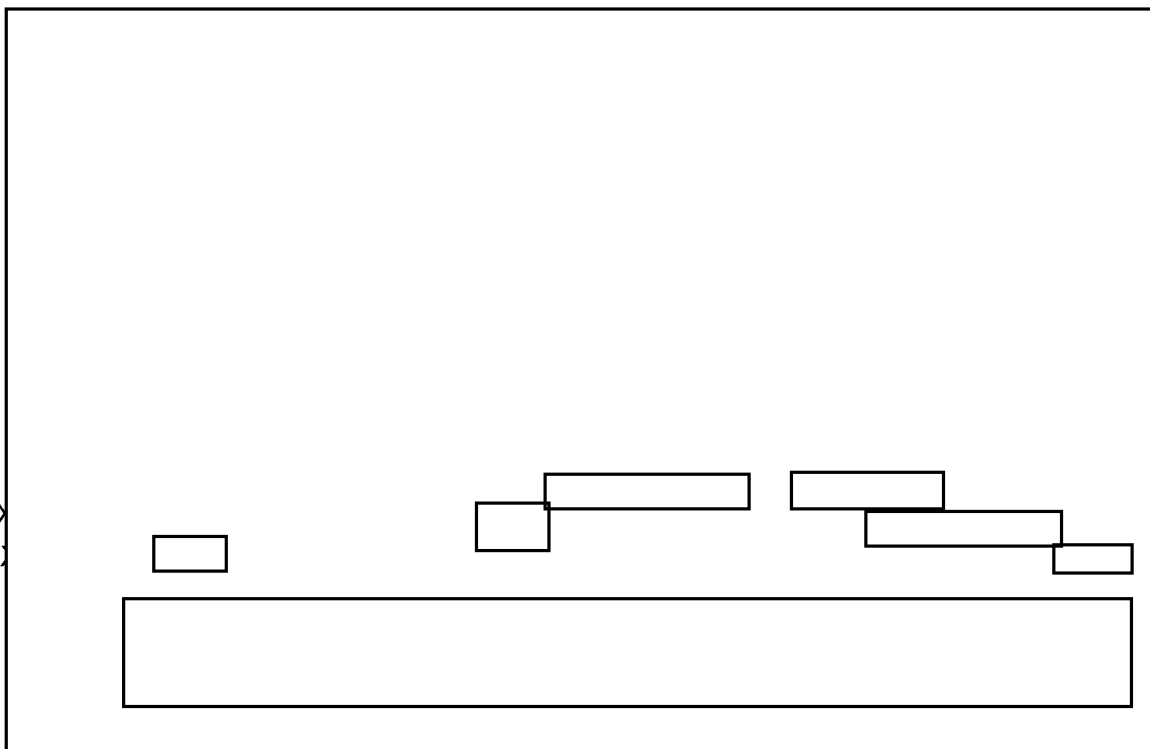
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FOR THE RECORD



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USSR: A Soviet E-II class nuclear-powered guided-missile submarine was sighted on October 19 in the South China Sea en route to the Indian Ocean. It is accompanied by a submarine tender. The arrival of this submarine will be the first time that an E-II has been in the Indian Ocean since February 1974, and the fourth time this type of boat will have operated there.



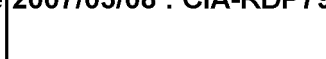
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CAMBODIA

The Khmer communists apparently intend to take advantage of the attention Prince Sihanouk received when he addressed the United Nations early this month by allowing the Prince to visit several Arab, African, and European countries beginning in November.

The Prince's itinerary includes Syria, Iraq, Tanzania, and possibly Sudan, Somalia, and the two Yemens. Sihanouk may also visit Algeria, Egypt, Yugoslavia, and Romania, which reportedly plan to open embassies in Phnom Penh. The Prince will probably express Cambodia's verbal support for various Arab and African liberation movements and thank those countries that supported the Cambodian communists during the war.

Sihanouk probably prefers the foreign banquet circuit to the restrictions the Khmer communists placed on him in Phnom Penh, but he may not be entirely reconciled to his reduced role as a good-will ambassador.

[Redacted]

The Prince may not yet have made a final decision on his plans. He is doubtless aware, however, that his chances of influencing the domestic policies of the Khmer communists are practically nil and that he is, in effect, an anachronism in Cambodia's communist society.

[Redacted]

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LEBANON

Scattered incidents occurred last night in Beirut, but there was no resumption of the heavy fighting that had erupted Sunday night. Commercial activity in Beirut was again at a standstill yesterday as barricades went back up in many areas of the city.

The fighting Sunday night, which for the first time spread to the Ras Beirut area—where many American residents live—apparently involved Sunni Muslim residents of the Ras an-Nabeh region and Christians of Ashrafiyah. The origins of the clash are obscure, but the US embassy reports that it received a second-hand report that Lebanese Communist Party members in Ras an-Nabeh were preparing for battle as early as Sunday morning.

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On the political front, no progress has been made toward an agreement that might conceivably put an end to the fighting. Yesterday's scheduled meeting of the political reform subcommittee of the national dialogue committee was postponed until tomorrow.

The Lebanese parliament is to meet today, and Kamal al-Asad, a Shia Muslim, is expected to be re-elected speaker without opposition. Rumors are spreading, however, that leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt and his supporters in parliament will boycott the session, possibly indicating a developing split between the Shia Muslims and the leftists. In any event, the politically impotent parliament is likely to have little influence on the conflict.

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SYRIA

Recent actions have stimulated apprehension about Syria's military intentions. A news service correspondent told a US embassy official in Damascus on Friday that Israeli allegations that Syria is evacuating civilians from the Golan Heights are accurate.

The correspondent also reported that Syria intends to occupy a piece of Israeli-controlled territory so that Secretary Kissinger will have to return to Syria and negotiate a comprehensive settlement. Another correspondent said, "If anything happens, it will be a quick two-day action, after which Syria will stop operations and the US will restrain Israel."

[redacted] observed large-scale Syrian troop movements toward Damascus and points south of the city on October 17-18. The sightings occurred along the road from Homs, north of the capital, to Dara near the Jordanian border, with convoys observed as far as 25 miles south of Damascus. Fifteen unidentified tanks on transporters and six to eight "large" troop convoys were noted. The source claimed that the convoys contained enough troops to man at least two brigades. Forty empty tank transporters were observed moving north along the same route.

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DIA

The US attache in Damascus cannot confirm the reports of large-scale troop movements, [redacted]

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DIA

The possibility of a limited Syrian military operation, however, cannot be discounted. Ambassador Murphy commented that, while a quick thrust into the Golan with the expectation that the US would prevent large-scale Israeli retaliation may not represent agreed-upon operational strategy, the two correspondents may have turned up an option under consideration by the Syrian government.

It is also possible that the story was planted as part of a Syrian effort to increase pressure on the US and Israel to refocus diplomatic efforts on the Golan front. In any case, Syria appears to be improving its military capability on the Golan front, thus permitting President Asad to choose from a range of policy options.

Meanwhile, Asad continued his verbal assault on the second Sinai disengagement agreement in a lengthy interview published on Saturday in a Kuwaiti newspaper. Reiterating his opposition to further peace negotiations concerning the Golan Heights unless the Palestine Liberation Organization takes part, the Syrian leader said he had been offered an opportunity to engage in talks similar to those in which Egyptian President Sadat had participated. Asad said he had refused because the talks were aimed at isolating the Palestinian problem.

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Asad criticized Egypt's anti-Soviet stance as an attempt to obscure the Palestinian issue by offering Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf states the choice between Egypt and communism. He denied that Syria and the Palestinians were "chessmen in the hand of the Soviets," and said Syria had rejected Moscow's offer of a treaty of peace and friendship.

The Syrian President said that during his recent trip to the USSR, the Soviets had shown a readiness to back Syria's struggle to recover the occupied territories. He said he was "confident that we will be provided with arms."

Asad did not reveal Syrian intentions regarding the renewal of the mandate of the UN force on the Golan Heights, which expires on November 30. He noted, however, that the existence of the observer force was no barrier to Syrian military action. Recalling that Syria had insisted that the force be called an observer rather than an emergency force like the one in the Sinai, Asad declared, "When we decide to wage a war, these observers will not be an obstacle."

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* * * *

A Syrian military spokesman announced yesterday that some Syrians had clashed with an Israeli patrol on the Golan Heights. The incident reportedly took place seven miles northeast of Al Qunaytirah, the same area where two Syrian shepherds were killed by the Israelis last week.

Tel Aviv has played down the incident. Israeli military sources acknowledge that shots were fired across the UN buffer line but said the fire had not been returned. The Israelis said they were not even certain who had fired the shots, and they reported no casualties.

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SPANISH SAHARA

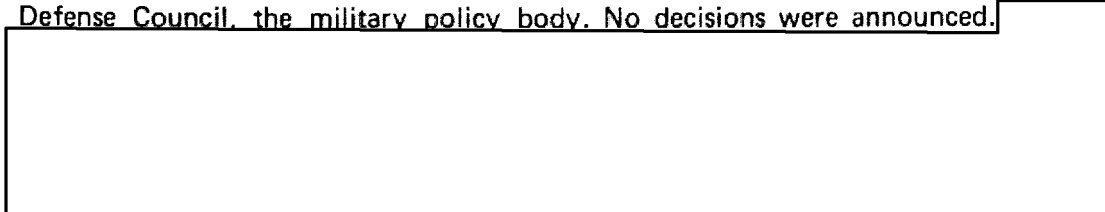


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The UN Security Council met yesterday, at Spain's behest, to discuss King Hassan's plan to have 350,000 unarmed Moroccan citizens march into Spanish Sahara. The Security Council president said the members would consult privately before meeting again.

Spanish Prime Minister Arias chaired a long cabinet meeting in Madrid to discuss how to react to the Moroccan march. Arias also met with the National Defense Council, the military policy body. No decisions were announced.

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