

**Top Secret 219**

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Wednesday 14 September 1977 CG NIDC 77-214C

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION  
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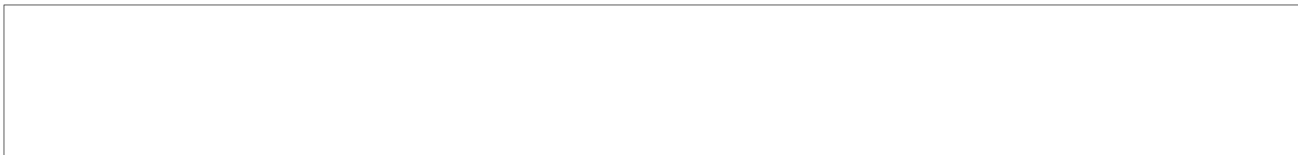
National Intelligence Daily Cable for Wednesday, 14 September 1977. 25X1

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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FRANCE: Leftist Summit Meeting

25X1 [redacted] //Leaders of the French Left Alliance of Communists, Socialists, and Left Radicals meet today to try to resolve serious disagreements over revisions of their Common Program for Governing that have provoked acrimonious public exchanges for several weeks. The Communists want to commit the Socialists to as radical a program as possible in advance of the victory they expect in the legislative election in March. The Communists think Socialist dominance of the alliance will increase following the election. The USSR, meanwhile, has apparently indicated that it prefers the present French Government to remain in power.//

25X1 [redacted] //The Socialists have consistently rejected the Communists' major proposals and generally are adopting a "take it or leave it" approach. Communists stubbornness may result in the alliance's inability to campaign with a joint platform. According to the press, Socialist spokesmen have indicated that a second meeting--probably within two weeks--may be necessary to smooth over the dispute.//

25X1 [redacted] //The governing coalition is buoyed by the left's dissension and by the latest opinion poll, which shows a 15 percentage point drop since June in the number of those who expect the left to win in March. The polls have not, however, shown a change in the 53 to 54 percent of the voters who say they will vote for the leftist parties.//

25X1 [redacted] //The government is also pleased by Moscow's apparent preference that the present government remain in power. [redacted] 25X1

25X1 [redacted] This preference may become more apparent later this year if, as expected, the Soviets give Prime Minister Barre first-class treatment during his visit to Moscow.// 25X1

25X1 [redacted] //Barre hopes to boost his popularity by a series of "important international missions"--including trips to the US, USSR, and China--before the election. His travels will receive broad coverage in the pro-government French press, and he hopes that his successes will improve the chances of other candidates from the governing majority. French legislative races are not won on foreign policy issues, however, and any

[redacted]

increase in Barre's popularity is likely to be so diluted in districts other than his own that it will have little effect on the national election results.//

25X1 [redacted] //A favorable reception of Barre by the Soviet leadership would be reminiscent of Chervonenko's well-publicized visit to Giscard in the waning hours of the presidential election campaign of 1974. It would also reflect the poor relationship between the Soviet and French Communist parties. The nature of this relationship was evident in June when French Communist leader Marchais refused to meet with Soviet President Brezhnev during his visit to Paris.//

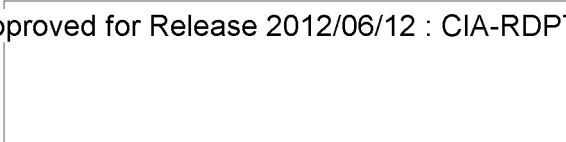
25X1 [redacted] //The current strains in party-to-party relations were caused in part by the French party's assertion of its autonomy and its criticism of Soviet violations of human rights. Even before these strains developed, Moscow was nervous about the French Communists' participating in the Left Alliance; the Soviets feared that ultimately the French Communists would fall under the ideological sway of the numerically stronger Socialists or be dismissed by the Socialists if the Alliance were to win power.//

25X1 [redacted] //The rise of Eurocommunism has only added to these anxieties. It seems likely that the Soviets are now concerned that a victory by the Left Alliance would encourage other West European Communist parties to become more independent of Moscow. [redacted]

#### SOUTH KOREA: Political Prisoners

25X1 [redacted] //The South Korean Government has abandoned its policy of phased release of political prisoners that began earlier this summer. A South Korean official said recently that domestic pressure for additional releases has eased. Another factor probably is the government's belief that US attention has shifted from the prisoner issue to the Pak Tong-sun affair.//

25X1 [redacted] //The South Koreans may release a few more prisoners for Korean Thanksgiving on 27 September, but the government has given up trying to persuade well-known imprisoned dissidents, including opposition leader Kim Tae-chung, to sign statements of repentance so that they can be freed. The families



of a number of prisoners, who have publicly sought a more extensive and unconditional amnesty program, reportedly have been worn down by government resistance.//

25X1 [redacted] //Various dissident figures who remain free continue to speak out against President Pak in hopes of reviving the opposition movement. Government security services have shown some leniency in such cases and often go to considerable lengths to avoid a confrontation. They continue, however, to arrest and try the most militant offenders.//

25X1 [redacted] //There are signs that some opposition politicians may try to exploit the Pak Tong-sun case during the National Assembly session that opens on Tuesday. The major opposition party, charging that the affair has damaged US - South Korean relations, has called for an investigation. At this point it seems unlikely that critics of the President will draw any major advantage, since most South Koreans probably support the government's position against the extradition of Pak Tong-sun. [redacted]

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#### ITALY: Parliamentary Debate

25X1 [redacted] *The Italian parliament began debate yesterday over responsibility for the escape of Nazi war criminal Herbert Kappler from a hospital in Rome last month. The Communist Party appears ready to blame Christian Democratic Defense Minister Lattanzio and to push for his resignation--a move that would strain relations between the two parties and possibly weaken Prime Minister Andreotti's base of support in parliament.*

25X1 [redacted] The carabinieri guards on duty at the time of Kappler's escape are subordinates of the Defense Ministry.  
25X1 [redacted] the decision to attack the Defense Minister probably is an attempt to show the Communist rank and file that the party has not lost its willingness to fight, despite its tacit support for the Andreotti government during the last year. Communist supporters are showing signs of increasing concern over the close relationship they see developing between the party leadership and the government.//

25X1 [redacted] The Communist Party's concern about its image has been heightened, moreover, by the approach of an important round of local elections in November. These contests, involving




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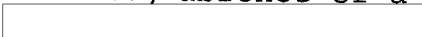


about 10 percent of the Italian electorate, will provide the most significant test of voter sentiment since the parliamentary election of June 1976, in which the Communists scored unprecedented gains.

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 The Christian Democrats' concern over their image is likely to strengthen the party's resistance to pressures for Lattanzio's resignation. They are worried, as the elections draw near, about justifying their acceptance of Communist support to Christian Democratic traditionalists. As a result, the Christian Democratic leadership has in recent weeks taken a more combative line toward the Communists in order to counter the impression that the two parties are drifting toward a governmental alliance.


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 Thus the stage is set for a confrontation between the two parties if the Communists try to force Lattanzio's resignation. Andreotti's best defense in any maneuvering will be to stress the continuing absence of a realistic alternative to his government. 


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#### SPAIN: Peaceful Catalan Carnival


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 *The peaceful rally by more than a million Catalans in Barcelona on Sunday is a clear sign that the Spanish Government's new approach toward resolving regional demands is bearing fruit. The Basque problem will be more difficult to solve, but the Catalan example could provide the key.*

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 The festive mood of the crowd celebrating Catalonia's national day was in part a reaction to news leaked the night before that the re-establishment of the Generalitat--the regional government of Catalonia during the second Republic--is imminent. According to press reports, Madrid, the Catalan government in exile, and the Catalan members of the national parliament have reached agreement, and royal decree laws will be issued soon to establish a president and executive council of Catalonia. Josep Tarradellas, president of the Catalan government in exile, will be named president.

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 The specific powers of the provisional Generalitat will apparently be largely symbolic, at least until agreement is reached on how much power will be transferred to it from the national and provincial governments. Ultimately, the power of



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the Generalitat will depend on the provisions for regional autonomy in the new constitution now being drafted in the national parliament.

25X1 [redacted] The provisional Generalitat, in the meantime, will have powers of representation and negotiation rather than legislation. Re-establishment of the Generalitat nevertheless is a significant step forward for Catalan nationalists who seem satisfied with the expected decrees.

25X1 [redacted] The re-establishment of the Generalitat is clearly a political coup for Prime Minister Suarez. He has apparently succeeded in undercutting Catalan leftists who played on regional sentiments effectively in the parliamentary election last June and won most of the seats in the four Catalan provinces.

25X1 [redacted] The move will reduce some pressures on Suarez and may make it easier for his minority government to pick up votes from moderates in the regions on crucial issues. It may also improve the fortunes of Suarez' Union of the Democratic Center in the municipal elections due to be held before the end of the year.

25X1 [redacted] Tarradellas, an anti-Communist moderate who remains a symbol of the autonomy Catalonia enjoyed before the Civil War, could also serve as a restraining influence on the leftist-dominated politicians of the region.

25X1 [redacted] Easing of tensions in Catalonia could, in turn, pave the way for a solution of the Basque problems that have bedeviled Madrid since Franco's death. The Basque knot, however, will be more difficult to unravel, partly because there is less agreement among Basques on how much autonomy they want, and partly because of the legacy of bitterness and violence in that region. If the Catalan experiment succeeds, however, there will be precedent for Madrid to work out a similar arrangement for the Basque provinces. [redacted]

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#### IRAN: Assassination Attempt

25X1 [redacted] *The unsuccessful attempt yesterday to kill the Shah of Iran's twin sister in southern France, almost certainly the work of Iranian terrorists, once more highlights the capabilities*



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*of the Shah's enemies. Although Princess Ashraf was uninjured, a woman companion was killed and two other persons wounded when the terrorists sprayed their car with automatic weapons fire.*

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[redacted] Ashraf, with her colorful personal life, symbolizes for many Iranians the corruption that was said to pervade the royal court.

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[redacted] The group responsible for the assassination attempt is probably the European wing of one of the two terrorist groups operating in Iran. Iranian terrorists have carried out previous assassinations, including those of several Americans serving in Iran.

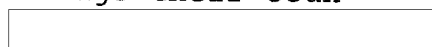
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[redacted] Over the years, dissident operations against the royal family have included two attempts to kill the Shah, an attempt in 1971 to kill or kidnap Ashraf's son, and a plot in 1974 to kill or kidnap the Shah, the Empress, or the Crown Prince. In addition, terrorists have seriously wounded an Iranian intelligence officer in Paris and raided the Iranian Consulate in Geneva, where they made off with the files of the Iranian security organization operating there.

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[redacted] Terrorist groups in Iran have been quiescent for more than a year following a police campaign that killed some of the top leaders. The terrorists may be turning to attacks outside Iran, where security is looser, to demonstrate they still have the ability to attack the regime and to encourage their counterparts within Iran to regroup and rearm.

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#### SOUTH AFRICA: Leader Dies in Prison

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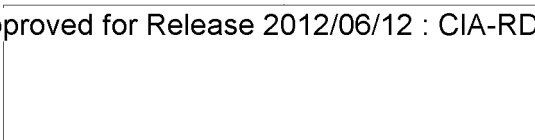
[redacted] *The death in prison of a prominent black South African political activist, Steve Biko, may provide a rallying point for black activists and spark a wide range of international criticism.*

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[redacted] Biko was reportedly in good health when he was detained on 19 August. He is believed to have been the 18th person to die since March 1976 while under detention without trial. The circumstances of many of these deaths suggest torture by security officials.



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[redacted] The 30-year-old Biko was considered one of the leaders of the growing Black Consciousness movement in South Africa. He was the founder and first president of the South African Students Organization, a group of black university students. He also was active in other organizations, including the Black Peoples Convention.

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[redacted] Biko's recent detention was his third in the past six months. Despite government restrictions on his activities, he had been open in his contacts with black political activists. The government had kept him under constant surveillance but has been unsuccessful in several attempts to convict him of offenses.

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[redacted] The US Embassy in Pretoria notes that South African security legislation creates an environment for prisoner abuse. The government has ignored demands for an independent inquiry into the conditions under which security detainees are held and interrogated. [redacted]

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#### PAKISTAN: Bhutto Released on Bail

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[redacted] *The release on bail yesterday of Pakistani former Prime Minister Bhutto could further complicate plans to hold an election on 18 October. According to the US Embassy, pressure from senior military officers to take stronger action against Bhutto or postpone the election is likely to mount-- especially if Bhutto appears to be getting a favorable popular response after the election campaign opens next week.*

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[redacted] Many observers believe that the court action has strengthened Bhutto. They see his release as a moral victory and believe he has gained sympathy and made the military government appear ineffectual. Chief Martial Law Administrator Zia-ul-Haq had stated publicly that Bhutto would be convicted of murder; by allowing bail for such a charge, the court implied that the case against Bhutto is far from conclusive.

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[redacted] Although Bhutto's arrest earlier this month did not bring either violence or a boycott of the election by his party, rearresting him could produce a stronger reaction from his followers. It would also increase sympathy for the former Prime Minister and strengthen his claim that the charges against him are politically motivated. [redacted]

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CUBA - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - HAITI

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[redacted] At least two Cuban MIG-21 fighters apparently flew over Haiti and the Dominican Republic on Saturday in an incident that could prompt a Dominican protest at the UN. This was the first known overflight of the island by Cuban fighters; the flights apparently were in reaction to the Dominican seizure of a Cuban fishing boat last week.

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[redacted] On Monday, two high-level Dominican officials told the US defense attache that five jets flew over the northern coastal city of Puerto Plata. The officials believed the aircraft were Cuban MIGs.

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[redacted] According to the Dominican officials, one low-flying jet dropped an auxiliary fuel tank near the pier where the Dominicans held the Cuban fishing boat. If the Dominicans can identify the fuel tank as Cuban, they plan to lodge a protest at the UN.

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[redacted] The Cubans have not previously violated Haitian or Dominican airspace, and the apparent show of strength was probably triggered by the fishing boat incident. The Dominicans, suspecting the boat was transporting contraband, fired shots at the boat and later took it into Puerto Plata. No Cubans were injured and the boat was subsequently released.

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COLOMBIA: National Labor Strike

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[redacted] Leaders of Colombia's four major labor organizations are set to stage a 24-hour nationwide work stoppage today to protest the high cost of living. The approximately 5 million workers who are expected to participate in the strike reportedly have the support of a number of leftist political groups. President Lopez, acting under state of siege regulations that have been in effect for more than a year, has declared the strike illegal. Other political leaders, including former President Lleras, have criticized the government's handling of the situation.



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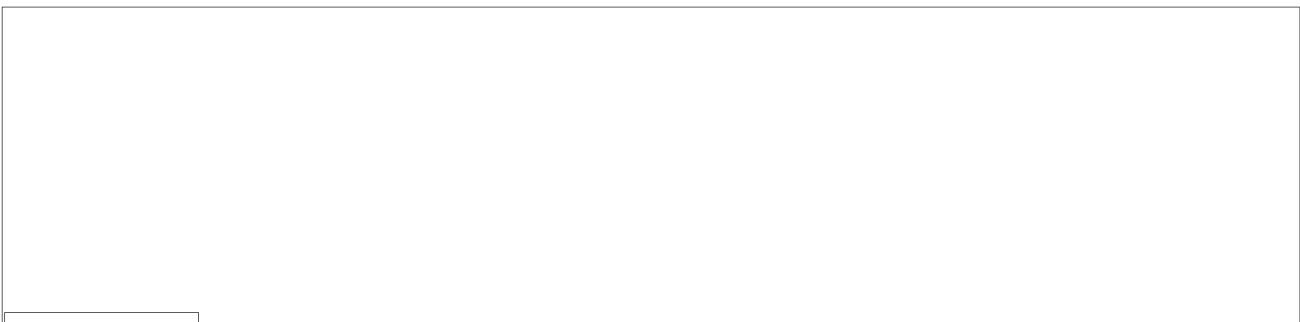
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[redacted] In addition to demanding wage increases, labor leaders have insisted that the state of siege be lifted, that the universities--which were closed several months ago following student uprisings--be reopened, and that an agrarian reform program be undertaken. Communist and leftist political groups have echoed the unions' demands.

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[redacted] Government officials label the proposed strike "politically subversive" and have vowed to quash it. Labor spokesmen have reaffirmed that the "labor struggle" will continue regardless of any action against the workers. Given the government's strict anti-inflation policy, a last-minute wage settlement is extremely unlikely.

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[redacted] The national election is scheduled for next April, and Lopez's ruling Liberal Party could be hurt at the polls unless he can overcome this latest threat to public order. [redacted]

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**NORWAY: Early Election Returns**

[redacted] *Norwegian Prime Minister Odvar Nordli's Labor Party apparently came close to a parliamentary majority in the general election that concluded yesterday. The victory reflects a resurgence of confidence in the party, whose electoral fortunes waned severely in 1973.*

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[redacted] Labor appears to have won 77 of a possible 155 seats in parliament. This means it will probably have to rely on the single seat won by its prickly ally, the Socialist Left Party, which has attacked Labor for its pro-NATO and pro-Western positions. Another possible partner, however, is the Liberal Party, which won two seats and is more supportive of Labor's foreign policies.

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[redacted] The Conservative Party, senior member in an opposition non-socialist coalition that includes the Center and Christian People's parties, won 42 seats, but its gains were mitigated by heavy Center Party losses. With some votes still out, changes in the projected seat count may occur, but a Labor government is virtually assured in any event.

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[redacted] Socialist and non-socialist forces will be almost evenly balanced in parliament. The dramatic demise of the minor parties indicates, however, that a significant shift to the center from both ends of the political spectrum has occurred. In this situation, Nordli, who represents the moderate-conservative wing of his party, will find broad support for his policies. At the same time, the near success of the non-Socialists in unseating Nordli is expected to counter somewhat the demands of Labor's leftist wing for more socialist programs.

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[redacted] The present cabinet will remain intact after the new parliament convenes in early October. Labor's electoral success will allow the government to focus immediately on some of the problems Norway faces and avoid some of the intense political maneuvering that followed its 1973 campaign.

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[redacted] The most important foreign policy issues facing the government--the Barents Sea fishing and boundary question, and the fishing protection zone and other jurisdiction questions on Svalbard Island--will involve difficult negotiations with the Soviets and require broad support among major parties.

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[redacted] Domestically, Labor will probably continue an expansionist economic policy, against the wishes of the Christian People's and Center parties. It will use its influence in labor unions to control wage increases, which have hurt the competitiveness of Norwegian products in international markets. Oil development will be pursued aggressively and more nationalizations are likely. Personal income tax will probably rise as heavy investment in the expensive social security system continues.

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BRIEFS

Somalia - Saudi Arabia

25X1 [redacted] Somali President Siad arrived yesterday in Saudi Arabia, where he was met by the Crown Prince and several ranking Saudi officials who deal with defense matters. His visit is another indication that Somalia may be in serious need of additional financial and military aid to compensate for its losses in Ethiopia and for declining Soviet support.

25X1 [redacted] The Somali search for aid extends in several directions. Somalia is now entertaining a Chinese delegation and there are reports, still unconfirmed, that the Somali Defense Minister was in Egypt last week. [redacted]

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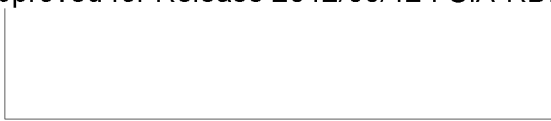
Norway

25X1 [redacted] Norwegian Prime Minister Nordli will attempt to keep the minority Labor government in power although late returns from absentee voters deprived him of a one-seat majority in parliament. The Labor Party yesterday claimed victory, and the three-party nonsocialist coalition conceded defeat. Labor and the coalition of nonsocialist parties are now deadlocked with 76 seats apiece, two short of a majority. The Socialist Left Party holds one seat, but the Liberal Party's two seats are the decisive factor.

25X1 [redacted] Major party leaders accepted yesterday that Nordli should head a caretaker government until parliament convenes in October. In the interim, both sides will begin bargaining for Liberal support.

25X1 [redacted] During the campaign, Liberals sought support for a coalition with the Center and Christian People's parties, which had formed a nonsocialist alliance with the Conservative Party. The Liberals, however, have been reluctant to support governments dominated by either Labor or Conservatives because of fundamental disagreements on economic and environmental policies. [redacted]

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Zaire

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[Redacted] The death sentence levied Tuesday by a Zairian security court against former Foreign Minister Nguza for treason is likely to be commuted by President Mobutu to imprisonment. Mobutu had announced the firing and arrest of Nguza last month for allegedly withholding warning of the invasion in March of Shaba Region by anti-Mobutu exiles.

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[Redacted] Early in the invasion, when Mobutu's political standing appeared precarious, some prominent Zairians privately mentioned Nguza as a likely candidate to succeed the President.

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[Redacted] Mobutu, having made the point that he does not tolerate indiscipline and disloyalty, probably will see that the death sentence is not carried out. Commutation of the sentence would be a useful show of magnanimity that would be in line with Mobutu's recognition of US and other foreign concern over human rights in Zaire. [Redacted]

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