



**Director of
Central
Intelligence**

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National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

15 April 1982

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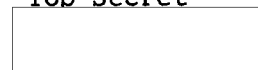
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UK-ARGENTINA: Continued Maneuvering

//Prime Minister Thatcher told Parliament yesterday that she still saw a glimmer of hope for a peaceful solution in the UK's dispute with Argentina, but vowed to use force if negotiations fail. She also announced additional military preparations. The Argentines continued ferrying troops and supplies to the Falklands.



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//Prime Minister Thatcher told Parliament yesterday that some diplomatic progress has been made, but said that negotiations are complex and did not disclose any details. She indicated that Secretary of State Haig's impending trip to Buenos Aires will be crucial.//



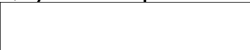
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//Thatcher reiterated London's determination not to enter negotiations until Argentina withdraws its forces from the Falklands and British administration is re-established. She also reaffirmed the decision to use force if necessary and announced that additional men and equipment are being added to the task force. Thatcher noted that if Argentina challenges the maritime exclusion zone, London will assume that Buenos Aires has ruled out a peaceful settlement.//



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//Social Democratic spokesman Owen and Labor Party leaders Foot and Healey pledged support for the government's handling of the crisis. Healey criticized the US, however, for not showing more support for the UK and said that enough US pressure would force Argentina to back off.//



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Comment: //Thatcher's statements are designed to underscore her willingness to follow through militarily and to negotiate without surrendering basic positions. She may rely on the complexity of the negotiating process to buy time to reinforce British military strength. Thus far, Thatcher and those close to her have not publicly criticized US support, but comments like Healey's are becoming increasingly common, especially in the back benches.//



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British Military Moves

//The British are expanding the number of vessels earmarked to support the task force. A Defense Ministry spokesman said yesterday that the 12,000-ton assault ship Intrepid would be recommissioned and join its sister ship Fearless, which sailed last week with 1,000 marines aboard. He stated that the additional forces are intended to signal to Argentina that the UK is prepared for a long campaign.// [redacted]

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//Press reports also indicate that yesterday the Navy chartered an additional cargo vessel and four trawlers. One large container vessel reportedly was chartered to ferry additional Harrier aircraft to the South Atlantic.// [redacted]

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Comment: //The trawlers could be converted in a short time for minesweeping duties. The use of a container ship as a launch and recovery platform for Harrier aircraft will allow the British to almost double the size of their Harrier force.// [redacted]

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//A week or more may be required to deploy these additional support vessels and allow them to join up with the task force. This suggests that the major portion of the force will spend some time regrouping at Ascension Island before departing for the Falklands.// [redacted]

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Argentine Military Activity

Unconfirmed press reports indicate that the Argentine fleet departed the Puerto Belgrano naval base on Tuesday.

[redacted]

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[redacted] The Argentine Coast Guard announced yesterday that two of its boats broke the blockade and arrived in Port Stanley on Tuesday to patrol the islands. [redacted]

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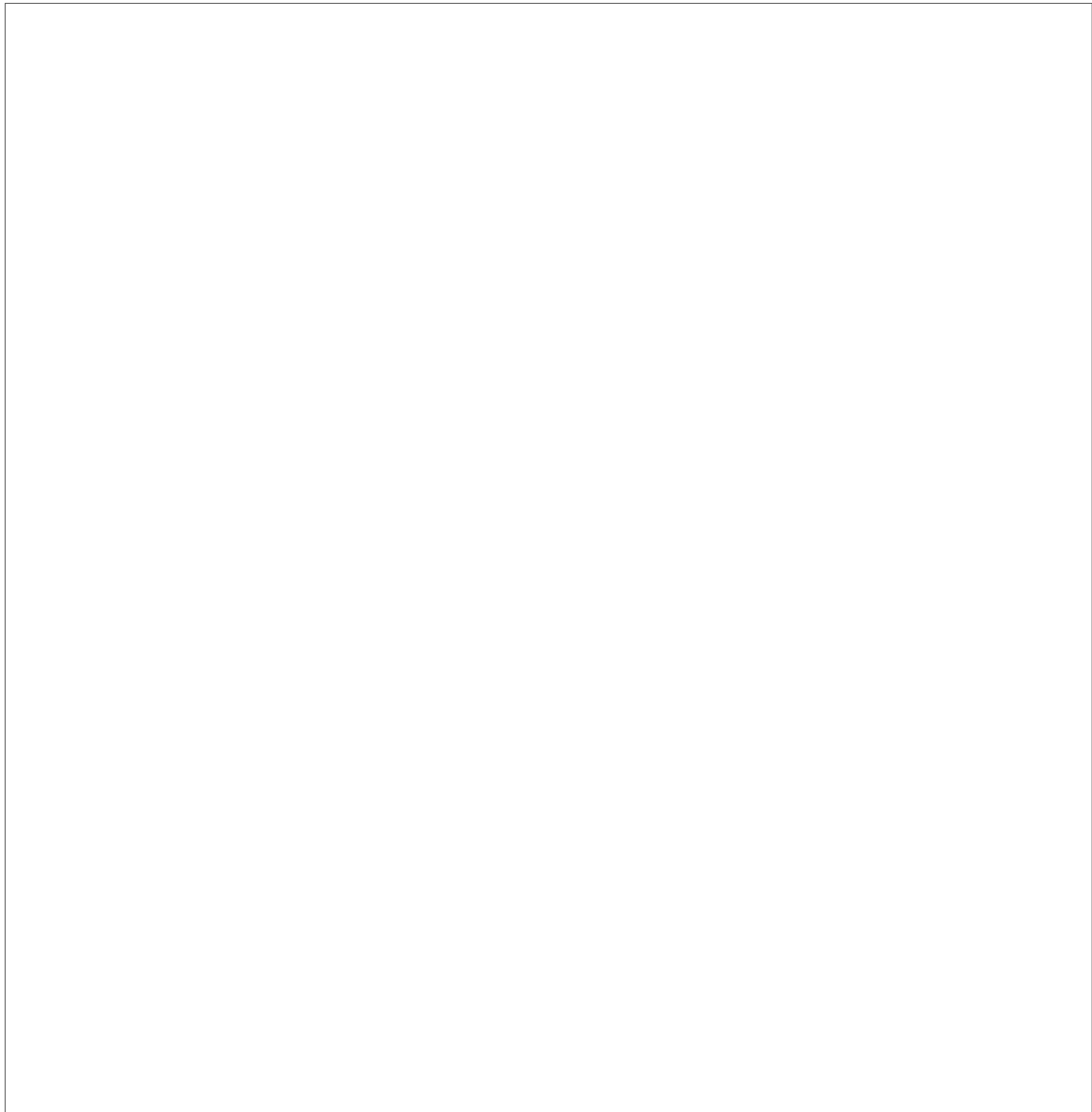
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Buenos Aires is also continuing its buildup of ground forces on the Falklands. Press sources quoting government officials say that up to 100 flights daily--involving both military and civilian aircraft--are ferrying troops and equipment to the islands.



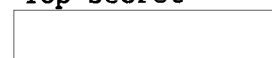
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EL SALVADOR: Political Discussions Continue

The impasse over the formation of a provisional government apparently has led the two major rightist parties to consider a new course. 


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//Leaders from the National Republican Alliance and the National Conciliation Party, during recent separate meetings with US officials, reiterated their opposition to allowing the Christian Democrats to have a leading role in the interim executive. They did not rule out, however, a hierarchy composed of an independent president and three vice presidents--one of whom presumably could be a Christian Democrat.// 


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//In an earlier discussion with US officials, Defense Minister Garcia reportedly indicated there is growing concern in the armed forces over the deadlock and expressed some support for an independent president. Although continuing to prohibit the participation of the armed forces in a provisional government, Garcia claims that a strong military candidate would win a national election. Like the Christian Democrats, Garcia advocates an election next year, while the rightist parties remain opposed to any national vote before 1984.// 

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Comment: //The smaller National Conciliation Party, which increasingly appears to be the more intransigent of the two rightist groups, hopes to protect its position as power broker in the formation of a provisional government. The tough rightist stand against a major Christian Democratic role in the interim executive underscores the traditional "no compromise" attitude within the political system.// 

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Garcia is concerned that the impasse will erode the morale and unity of the armed forces and reduce the ability of the military to fight the insurgents. He realizes, however, that the successful election has increased his domestic stature, and he may believe that he could win a national election if it were held next year. His continuing prohibition of military participation in an interim government is therefore designed to protect his preeminence in the armed forces and to nurture his own political ambitions. 

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USSR: Kirilenko's Health

Reports continue to be received that party Central Committee Secretary Kirilenko is seriously ill. [redacted]

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A Soviet Embassy officer in Belgrade told US Embassy officers on Tuesday that Kirilenko has been bedridden for at least six weeks. He implied that Kirilenko would not resume his former duties even if he should survive.

[redacted]

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Comment: Illness does not entirely account for Kirilenko's political problems, which were already apparent at the time of party Secretary Suslov's death in late January. Kirilenko was active during this period and gave two speeches in February. Illness could explain his subsequent absence from public view, however, and could have made it easier for President Brezhnev's favorite protege, Konstantin Chernenko, to secure his new position as Second Secretary.

[redacted]

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If Kirilenko has become incapacitated, he probably will be removed from office at a Central Committee plenary meeting, which may take place next month. His departure would leave only three senior secretaries in place and would necessitate personnel changes. Two well-qualified candidates for Kirilenko's economic portfolio are Ukranian First Secretary and Politburo member Shcherbitskiy and party Secretary Dolgikh.

[redacted]

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The departure of another senior leader probably would have major consequences for Soviet decisionmaking. Suslov's death has already produced policy adjustments, and the departure of Kirilenko would create uncertainty in the debate over a wide array of foreign and domestic policies.

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UK-CANADA: Transferring the Constitution

//The celebration of the transferral of the Constitution from the UK will be marred by demonstrations by Quebec separatists against visiting Queen Elizabeth and by public concern about the economy.//



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//The Queen is to arrive in Ottawa today to grant Canada legal control over its Constitution, which London had retained since Canada was founded in 1867. The separatist Quebec government was the lone holdout on the constitutional compromise that Prime Minister Trudeau reached with the other provinces last November, and Premier Levesque will not attend the celebrations. Levesque has organized peaceful demonstrations in Montreal, and others may be held in the Quebec city of Hull just across the river from Ottawa.//



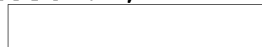
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Comment: //The termination of Canada's legal subordination to the UK was achieved with great difficulty because of the provinces' concern about loss of their prerogatives, but the change will make little immediate difference in Canadian life. The new charter of individual rights included in the Constitution will still have to be tested in the courts.//



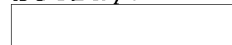
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//The publicity that the government has organized to promote the new Constitution is unlikely to distract attention from high unemployment, inflation, and interest rates. Trudeau has repeatedly said that he will step down before the next election, which would normally be held by early 1984.//



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//The festivities will embarrass and provoke the Quebec government. Levesque has few opportunities left to oppose the Constitution, which he views as a betrayal of Quebec by Trudeau and the other provinces.//



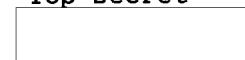
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//A Quebec court last week ruled against the provinces' challenge to the Constitution, and the Supreme Court is likely to do the same. The resulting frustration could spur Quebec's firebrands to violence during the planned demonstrations.//



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INDIA-FRANCE: Purchase of Mirage 2000s

//India has signed a \$3 billion contract for the purchase of 40 Mirage 2000 fighters. The aircraft, the first of which is scheduled for delivery by the end of 1984, will be equipped with advanced electronics systems and the latest French air-to-air missile. India reportedly also has the option to manufacture under license up to 110 additional Mirage 2000s. The USSR had sought to block the French deal by offering India advanced interceptors and fighter-bombers at lower prices and on better credit terms.//

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Comment: //India's decision probably was influenced in part by the fact that the Mirage 2000 has more advanced technology than the aircraft offered by the Soviets and thus would be more effective against the F-16s that Pakistan is obtaining from the US. Prime Minister Gandhi also may want to demonstrate that India is not solely dependent on the USSR for arms.//

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USSR: KGB Appointment

The Soviet military newspaper has listed Viktor Chebrikov as a new First Deputy Chairman of the KGB. Chebrikov was one of several deputy chairmen and his promotion gives the KGB two first deputy chairmen. Georgiy Tsinev was raised to this position in February to fill the vacancy created by the death of Semyon Tsvigun. Both of the new appointees have close career ties to President Brezhnev.

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Comment: The KGB has not had two first deputies for over a decade, and it is not clear why a second KGB first deputy was named. Brezhnev may want to strengthen his control over the security forces at the top level because he thinks a challenge is developing there, or simply as a precaution as the turnover in the senior leadership appears to be accelerating. Alternatively, KGB chief Andropov evidently is a candidate for promotion to the Secretariat and may need to be replaced soon.

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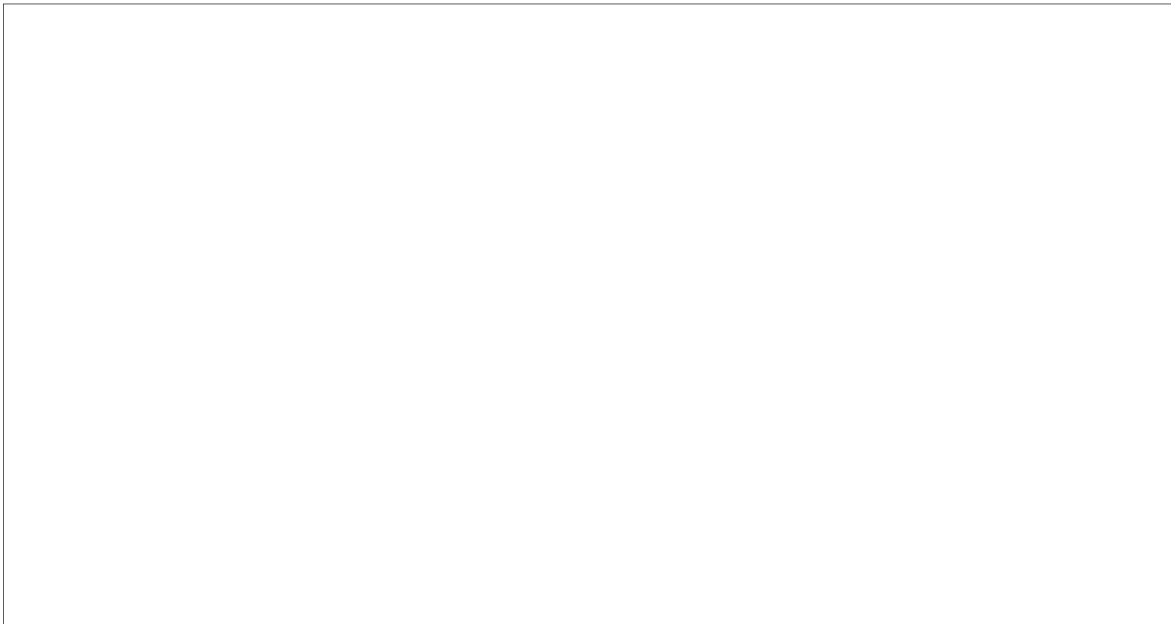
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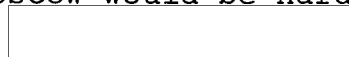
EASTERN EUROPE: Crop Prospects for 1982

//With normal weather, the winter grain harvest in Eastern Europe could approach the record for 1978 of nearly 52 million tons. The area sown with winter grains last fall was larger than in recent years, and good snow-cover through late February probably prevented any major winter damage. Winter grains generally account for half of total grain production in Eastern Europe.//



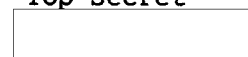
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Comment: It is still too early to make a reliable estimate of regional grain output for 1982, because spring grains are only now being planted and yields will depend on weather conditions. Food supply problems in Poland and Romania make this crop season unusually important. Either country would have difficulty buying enough from traditional Western suppliers to compensate for a poor harvest, and, after three consecutive bad harvests, Moscow would be hard pressed to assist them this year.



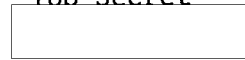
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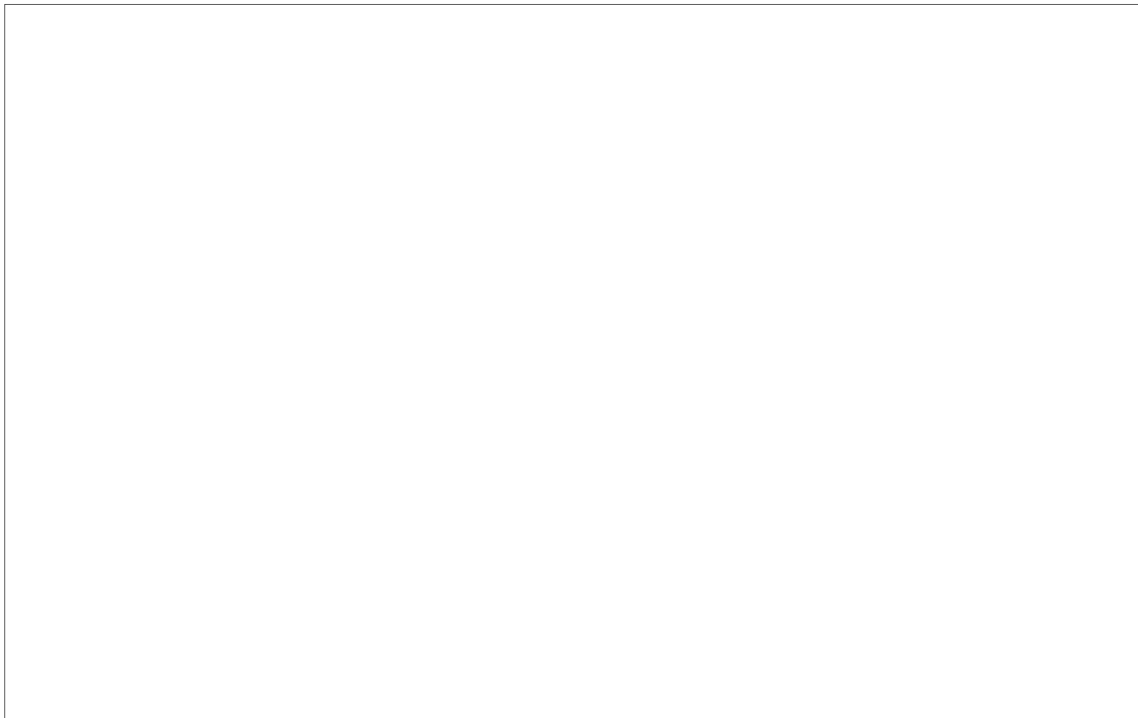


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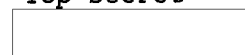
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CHINA: Foreign Policy Appointment

The appointment of Qiao Shi as the director of the Chinese Communist Party's International Liaison Department suggests that Beijing's recent activism in promoting ties with other Communist parties and leftist political movements will continue. A specialist in Third World affairs, Qiao has been deputy director of the department, where he has promoted China's relations with selected East European and Asian Communist parties. Under Qiao's predecessor, the party has moved toward more vocal public support for Third World interests as well as guided renewed party-to-party contacts with the French Communists and other close Soviet allies. 

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LEBANON: New Clashes in West Beirut

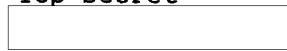
Heavy fighting erupted in West Beirut yesterday between the Lebanese Shia Amal militia and rival Communist organizations backed by Palestinian guerrillas. Initial reports indicated that the exchanges, which began in southern Lebanon on Monday when two Amal officials were ambushed, was spreading through several sectors of the city and threatening the airport. 

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Comment: The new outbreak of fighting is the latest in a series of gunbattles between Amal and pro-Iraqi and Communist groups who compete for recruits and support among Lebanon's Shia population. The new round in Beirut may reflect the determination of Amal, which supports the central government's authority, to block leftist plans to hold local elections in the Muslim sector next week. The PLO, wary of Shia resentment of guerrilla activity in southern Lebanon, usually tries to avoid being drawn into Amal-leftist clashes, but frequently cannot prevent radical Palestinian groups from joining their Lebanese leftist allies against Amal. PLO leader Yasir Arafat can be expected, however, to keep the situation in the south from threatening the fragile nine-month-old cease-fire there. 

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