

CIA/OCI/BRIEF 101-75
1 JULY 1975

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010004-5

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EUROPEAN BRIEFING 101-75.4

1. CYPRUS: LAST WEEK, PRESIDENT MAKARIOS COMPLETED A TOUR OF SEVERAL ARAB STATES AIMED AT WINNING ARAB BACKING FOR THE GREEK CYPRIOT CASE AGAINST THE TURKS. MAKARIOS RECEIVED SOME RHETORICAL SUPPORT FOR HIS CAUSE BUT FEW OFFERS OF CONCRETE ASSISTANCE.

MAKARIOS' WOOING OF THE ARABS BEGAN LAST MARCH WHEN HE RECOGNIZED THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION AND GRANTED IT PERMISSION TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN NICOSIA. THE ARCHBISHOP FOLLOWED THIS UP WITH A TRIP TO FOUR PERSIAN GULF STATES IN MAY AND VISITS TO EGYPT, SYRIA, IRAQ, AND LIBYA THIS MONTH.

TURKISH CYPRIOTS ALSO ARE BIDDING FOR ARAB SUPPORT. LAST WEEK, A HIGH LEVEL TURKISH CYPRIOT OFFICIAL WENT TO SAUDI ARABIA IN THE FIRST OF SEVERAL VISITS TO ARAB STATES WHILE TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH IS SET TO VISIT LIBYA AND IRAQ SOON. TURKISH CYPRIOTS WILL ALSO BE REPRESENTED AT THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN JIDDA IN MID JULY.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO ETHNIC COMMUNITIES, MEANWHILE,

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WORSENER OVER THE WEEKEND FOLLOWING THE EXPULSION OF SEVERAL HUNDRED GREEK CYPRIOTS FROM THE TURKISH CYPRIOT ZONE AND DENKTASH'S THREAT TO EXPEL THE REMAINING GREEK CYPRIOTS UNLESS ALL TURKISH CYPRIOTS LIVING IN THE GREEK CYPRIOT ZONE WHO WISH TO MOVE NORTH ARE ALLOWED TO DO SO. ALTHOUGH DENKTASH IS UPSET ABOUT THE ALLEGED ROUGH TREATMENT OF SOME TURKISH CYPRIOTS RECENTLY CAUGHT MAKING THEIR WAY TO THE NORTH, HIS DEMAND MAY BE THE BEGINNING OF AN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE THE COMPLETE SEPARATION OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES. THERE ARE LESS THAN 10,000 TURKISH CYPRIOTS STILL LEFT IN THE SOUTH AND AN EQUAL NUMBER OF GREEK CYPRIOTS IN THE NORTH. SHOULD THE EXPULSION OF GREEK CYPRIOTS CONTINUE, IT MAY WELL LEAD TO THE CANCELLATION OF THE THIRD ROUND OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS SET TO BEGIN IN VIENNA ON JULY 24. [CONFIDENTIAL]

25X1X 2. USSR: THE VOLUBLE MIKHAIL KAPITSA, ONE OF THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY'S TOP EXPERTS ON THE FAR EAST, TOLD A VISITING [REDACTED] THAT RELATIONS WITH CHINA WERE STALEMATED, BUT HE GAVE NO HINT OF PARTICULAR TENSIONS.

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KAPITSA CLAIMED, AS HE HAD IN THE PAST, THAT THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER PROBLEM COULD BE SOLVED "ANY DAY" IF THE CHINESE WERE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE REALISTICALLY.

KAPITSA CLAIMED THAT, IN RETURN FOR THE THREE SOVIET HELICOPTER CREW MEMBERS HELD IN CHINA SINCE MARCH 1974, THE CHINESE HAVE DEMANDED THE RETURN OF ALL CHINESE WHO HAVE ILLEGALLY ENTERED THE SOVIET UNION. THE SOVIETS HAD SENT BACK 35 BORDER-CROSSERS LAST YEAR, HE SAID, BUT OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT MEET THE CHINESE DEMAND TO REPATRIATE ALL THE 100,000 CHINESE WHO, HE SAID, FLED CHINA IN 1962 AFTER DISTURBANCES IN SINKIANG. KAPITSA CLAIMED THAT THESE CHINESE REFUGEES WERE SITUATED IN "CAMPS."

COMMENTING ON OTHER SUBJECTS, KAPITSA SAID:

--CHINA HAS 150 NUCLEAR WARHEADS, BUT THE MEANS OF DELIVERY ARE NOT "VERY ACCURATE."

--HANOI IS THE ONLY STRONGLY ANTI-CHINESE FORCE IN A "WOBBLY" AREA.

--VIETNAM WILL BE REUNITED IN ONE TO TWO YEARS.

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THE SOVIET UNION HAD CONSIDERED TAKING AN INITIATIVE TOWARD TAIWAN, BUT REJECTED THE IDEA, BECAUSE ANY SUCH STEP WOULD UNNECESSARILY COMPLICATE RELATIONS WITH PEKING.

IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, ANOTHER SOVIET OFFICIAL IN THE SOVIET UNION ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOVIET MAPS SHOW THE SPRATLEY AND PARACEL ISLANDS AS CHINESE, BUT HE SAID THIS WAS A "TECHNICALITY," AND IN FACT MOSCOW REGARDS THEIR STATUS AS "UNDETERMINED." {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 IMPDET.H

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 808-75.4

//~~URGENT~~ THE FAILURE OF THE ARGENTINE LABOR MOVEMENT TO RESPOND ON JUNE 30 TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLLBACK OF WAGE INCREASES BETRAYS LACK OF AGREEMENT ON HOW TO PROCEED. SENTIMENT IS STRONG, HOWEVER, FOR A SHOW OF FORCE. NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING AND PRESIDENT PERON MET WITH LABOR LEADERS LAST NIGHT. B/Y

//GENERAL STRIKES HAVE BEEN CALLED IN THREE PROVINCIAL CITIES, BUT AS YET ONLY WILDCAT STRIKES ARE OCCURRING IN BUENOS AIRES.//Y

//THE ADMINISTRATION IS NOT LIKELY TO FIND MUCH SUPPORT FOR A SHUTDOWN WITH LABOR. INDEED, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER LOPEZ REGA REPORT-EDLY SOUGHT IN VAIN RECENTLY FOR ARMY BACKING DURING WHAT COULD BE A PROLONGED GENERAL STRIKE; HE WAS TOLD THAT THE OFFICERS WOULD MAINTAIN A STRICTLY HANDS-OFF POLICY.//Y

//THE OFFICERS REALIZE THEY WILL NEED LABOR SUPPORT IN THE EVENT THEY FEEL OBLIGED TO TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT. PERONIST AND OPPOSITION PARTY CONGRESSMEN ALSO HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR LABOR.//Y

//INTERIOR MINISTER ROCAJORA, WHO IS THREATENING TO RESIGN,

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REPORTEDLY HAS CAUTIONED PERONISTS THAT LOPEZ REGA MAY RESORT TO FORCE AGAINST THEM IN AN EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE THEM FROM OPPOSING MRS. PERON. LOPEZ REGA, IN FACT, IS REPUTED TO CONTROL THE RIGHT-WING TERRORIST ANTI-COMMUNIST ALLIANCE, WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR A BOMBING ATTACK ON JUNE 29 AGAINST A RELATIVE OF THE ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PERONIST LABOR CONFEDERATION. PERONIST LABOR LEADERS ARE SAID TO FEAR FURTHER TERRORIST ATTACKS.//Y

//GROWING OPPOSITION TO MRS. PERON'S AUTHORITY AS THE HEAD OF THE PERONIST MOVEMENT WAS REFLECTED LAST WEEKEND IN A VERBAL CLASH BETWEEN RAUL LASTIRI--LOPEZ REGA'S INTIMATE AND THE NUMBER-TWO MAN IN THE PERONIST PARTY HIERARCHY--AND SEVERAL KEY PERONIST SENATORS. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM)// E-2 IMPDET.H

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EAST ASIA BRIEF 101-75.4

1. THAILAND-CHINA: BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR CHINA, PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT SAID HE EXPECTED NO LAST-MINUTE HITCHES IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEKING. KHUKRIT EXPRESSED PLEASURE WITH THE TONE AND SUBSTANCE OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE THAT WILL ANNOUNCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS, AND SAID HE BELIEVES IT GIVES BANGKOK MORE THAN MALAYSIA OR THE PHILIPPINES GOT IN THEIR COMMUNIQUE.

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25X1C //A REVIEW OF

[REDACTED] THE DOCUMENT, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] SHOWS THAT, IN FACT, IT INCLUDES NO SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURES FROM THE TWO EARLIER AGREEMENTS. IT INCLUDES A LENGTHY PARAGRAPH ON THE CITIZENSHIP OF ETHNIC CHINESE IN THAILAND, RENOUNCING DUAL NATIONALITY AND ENJOINING THOSE WHO ELECT TO REMAIN CHINESE CITIZENS TO RESPECT THE LAWS AND CUSTOMS OF THAILAND. THE PROVISION, WHICH CLOSELY PARALLELS THE LANGUAGE USED IN THE SINO-MALAYSIAN COMMUNIQUE LAST YEAR, APPEARS TO HAVE MET BANGKOK'S REQUIREMENT FOR A CLEAR STATEMENT ON

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THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THAILAND'S LARGE ETHNIC CHINESE COMMUNITY.//4

//THE SINO-THAI COMMUNIQUE ALSO FOLLOWS THE EARLIER MALAYSIAN AND PHILIPPINE EXAMPLES ON THE QUESTION OF TAIWAN. BANGKOK "RECOGNIZES" PEKING AS THE SOLE LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF CHINA AND "ACKNOWLEDGES" PEKING'S CLAIM TO TAIWAN.//4

//ADDRESSING THE SENSITIVE QUESTION OF SUBVERSION, THE ANNOUNCEMENT REAFFIRMS THE RIGHT OF A PEOPLE TO CHOSE THEIR OWN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS, FREE OF OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO EXPRESSES OPPOSITION TO THE EFFORTS OF THIRD COUNTRIES TO ESTABLISH HEGEMONY "IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD," LANGUAGE GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD TO BE AIMED AT THE SOVIET UNION AND OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO PEKING.//4

//THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS WORKED OUT EARLIER THIS MONTH DURING A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO PEKING BY A THAI FOREIGN MINISTRY DELEGATION. NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS MARRED THE NEGOTIATIONS. A THAI OFFICIAL SAID LAST WEEK THAT THE CHINESE HAD NOT MADE AN ISSUE OF THE SO-CALLED KUOMINTANG REMNANT TROOPS IN

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NORTHERN THAILAND, AND THEY APPARENTLY DID NOT RAISE THE QUESTION OF THAILAND'S ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW, WHICH FORBIDS TRAVEL TO CHINA. THE THAIS HAD EARLIER FEARED THAT THE CHINESE WOULD SEEK TO RESOLVE BOTH ISSUES BEFORE AGREEING TO SIGN THE COMMUNIQUE.//4

KHUKRIT STRESSED THAT HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO SACRIFICE THAILAND'S NATIONAL INTEREST FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE CHINESE. AT THE SAME TIME, HE DOES NOT EXPECT THE CHINESE TO CEASE SUPPORT FOR THE THAI COMMUNIST INSURGENCY SIMPLY BECAUSE THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. IN A MORE POSITIVE VEIN, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT RECOGNITION OF CHINA WILL DRAW THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS CLOSER TOGETHER SO THAT THEY WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO DISCUSS COMMON CONCERNS ON CHINA AND VIETNAM.4

KHUKRIT HELD OUT SOME HOPE THAT A TRADE AGREEMENT COULD BE SIGNED DURING HIS VISIT. THE THAI WOULD LIKE TO SELL RICE TO PEKING FOR THE NEW REGIME IN CAMBODIA. {SECRET}4

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2.//THAILAND: THE THAI NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER ANNOUNCED IN BANGKOK ON MONDAY THAT IT WAS CALLING OFF ANTI-US DEMONSTRATIONS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 4. INSTEAD, THE STUDENTS PLAN TO HOLD AT A UNIVERSITY CAMPUS A "GENERAL DEBATE" ON THAI FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD THE US.//4

//THE STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENT WAS TRIGGERED BY SEVERAL FACTORS://4

//--STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE DEMONSTRATIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION POLITICIANS, AND THE PRESS://4

//--FACTIONALISM WITHIN THE STUDENT MOVEMENT://4

//--STUDENT AND LABOR APATHY://4

//--CONCERN THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE TO CRACK DOWN ON LEFTIST AGITATORS WITHIN THE STUDENT MOVEMENT://4

//--THE CONTINUING DRAWDOWN OF US FORCES IN THAILAND, WHICH HAS UNDERCUT POPULAR AGITATION FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES.//4

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//THIS MARKS THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW THAT STUDENT ACTIVISTS HAVE FAILED IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE MASSIVE ANTI-US DEMONSTRATIONS ON JULY 4. THE FAILURE NOT ONLY UNDERSCORES THE FACT THAT ANTI-AMERICANISM IN GENERAL IS NOT A GOOD RALLYING POINT IN THAILAND, BUT ALSO THAT DISENCHANTMENT WITH STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IS GROWING AMONG THE BULK OF THE PEOPLE.//4

//DESPITE THE STUDENT PLANS TO BACK DOWN, THE POLICE ARE CONTINUING TO MAKE CONTINGENCY PLANS TO CONTAIN ANY DEMONSTRATORS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE NO SECRET OF ITS PLANS TO CRACK HEADS, IF NECESSARY, TO PROTECT US EMBASSY PROPERTY. IF JULY 4 PASSES PEACEFULLY, THE KHUKRIT GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE WON A SIGNIFICANT VICTORY IN ITS EFFORT TO CLAMP DOWN ON STUDENT ACTIVISM. {CONFIDENTIAL}//4

3.//LAOS: PATHET LAO TROOPS AND COMMUNIST-INSPIRED CIVILIAN PROTESTERS CONTINUE TO OCCUPY THREE AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS IN THE LAO CAPITAL AND REPORTEDLY ARE DEMANDING THAT CONTROL OF THE INSTALLATIONS BE TURNED OVER TO THE COALITION GOVERNMENT.//4

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//THE MAJOR DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE US EMBASSY WHICH WAS WIDELY EXPECTED ON MONDAY FAILED TO MATERIALIZE, BUT THE PRESIDENT OF THE LAO STUDENT FEDERATION--THE ACTIVIST GROUP THAT HAS SPEARHEADED MANY OF THE ANTI-US DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE PAST TWO MONTHS--TALKED TOUGH AT A NEWS CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT IF THE US REFUSED TO CONTINUE ASSISTANCE TO LAOS, THE COALITION GOVERNMENT "WOULD AGREE WITH THE FEDERATION'S DESIRE TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS."//4

//COMMUNIST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT RETURNED TO VIENTIANE ON MONDAY FROM SAM NEUA, WHERE HE HAD BEEN ATTENDING A THREE-WEEK STRATEGY MEETING OF THE LAO COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE. PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA TOLD THE US CHARGE LAST WEEK THAT PHOUMI HAD SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK IN SAM NEUA AND THAT HIS RETURN TO VIENTIANE HAD BEEN POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. SOUVANNA CLAIMED HE HAD RECEIVED WORD OF PHOUMI'S ALLEGED ILLNESS BY TELEGRAM FROM SAM NEUA. {SECRET}//4

4. KOREA: SOUTH KOREAN MILITARY OFFICIALS REPORT THAT ON JUNE

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28 SEVERAL SUSPECTED NORTH KOREAN AGENTS WERE SIGHTED NEAR KWANGJU AIRFIELD IN SOUTHWESTERN SOUTH KOREA. THE ARMED INFILTRATORS, REPORTEDLY WEARING SOUTH KOREAN ARMY UNIFORMS, WERE PURSUED BY A COUNTER-INFILTRATION FORCE OF SOME 370 MEN. IN THE ENSUING FIREFIGHT, FOUR SOUTH KOREAN POLICEMEN WERE KILLED AND SIX WOUNDED. ONE NORTH KOREAN AGENT WAS KILLED, AND TWO OTHERS ARE BEING SOUGHT.

MEANWHILE, THE BODY OF A NORTH KOREAN AGENT, ALONG WITH ONE AK-47 RIFLE, A SOVIET-MADE PISTOL, AND OTHER AGENT-RELATED EQUIPMENT WAS DISCOVERED SOME 40 NAUTICAL MILES SOUTHEAST OF KWANGJU, ALONG THE SOUTHERN COAST. THE DROWNED AGENT MAY HAVE BEEN PART OF THE TEAM THAT WAS SIGHTED NEAR KWANGJU. EARLIER THIS MONTH, TWO SUSPECTED AGENT CACHES—CONTAINING SUCH ITEMS AS PISTOLS AND HAND GRENADES—WERE DISCOVERED NORTHWEST OF SEOUL.

ALTHOUGH SOUTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES PERIODICALLY ARREST SUSPECTED NORTH KOREAN AGENTS, ARMED ENCOUNTERS HAVE BEEN RATHER INFREQUENT IN RECENT YEARS. THE LAST INCIDENT INVOLVING

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AN EXCHANGE OF FIRE OCCURRED LAST SUMMER OFF THE SOUTH COAST OF SOUTH KOREA. THE NORMAL SEASONAL INCREASE IN INFILTRATION ATTEMPTS, COMBINED WITH STEPPED UP SECURITY PRECAUTIONS BY SEOUL, MAY ACCOUNT FOR THE INCIDENTS IN RECENT WEEKS.

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MIDDLE EAST AFRICA BRIEF 101-75.4

1. LEBANON: A SIX-MAN, "NON-POLITICAL" CABINET CONTAINING NEITHER PHALANGISTS NOR SOCIALISTS WAS FORMED IN LEBANON ON MONDAY. THIS REPRESENTS A VICTORY FOR PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE RASHID KARAMI AND A DEFEAT FOR PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH.4

FORMAL INSTALLATION OF THE NEW CABINET BY PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH IS EXPECTED ON TUESDAY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS FROM BEIRUT, MINOR HAGGLING IS STILL GOING ON OVER WHICH PORTFOLIOS ARE TO BE ASSUMED BY EACH OF THE SIX MEMBERS. THE SPEAKER OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, A LEADING SHIA MUSLIM POLITICIAN AND LONGTIME ASSOCIATE OF PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH, TOLD REPORTERS THIS WAS A "MINOR POINT WHICH CANNOT BE DESCRIBED AS AN OBSTACLE."4

FOR MORE THAN A MONTH, FRANJIYAH AND THE COUNTRY'S OTHER CHRISTIAN LEADERS HAD HELD OUT FOR PARTICIPATION BY THE RIGHT-WING PHALANGES PARTY IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT. PHALANGIST LEADER PIERRE JUMAYYIL SO FAR HAS MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENT. HE MET FOR SEVERAL ON MONDAY WITH FRANJIYAH AND KARAMI, HOWEVER, AND PROBABLY AGREED AT LEAST TO REFRAIN FROM PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO THE NEW

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CABINET.4

IT MAY TAKE A FEW DAYS FOR JUMAYYIL TO CONVINCHE HIS FOLLOWERS TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS AND ACCEPT EXCLUSION FROM THE CABINET. THE PHALANGISTS OVER THE PAST TWO DAYS HAVE BECOME INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING. THEY WILL WANT TO AVENGE THEIR SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF CASUALTIES AND PROTEST WHAT THEY SEE AS A MUSLIM EFFORT TO ISOLATE THE CHRISTIAN POLITICAL PARTIES.4

FORMER PRESIDENT CAMILLE SHAMUN, LEADER OF THE NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY, IS THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS CHRISTIAN IN THE CABINET, AND WITH KARAMI ONE OF THE GROUP'S TWO MOST POWERFUL POLITICIANS. SHAMUN AND KARAMI WERE BITTER OPPONENTS IN THE 1958 CIVIL WAR; THEIR RECONCILIATION AND SHAMUN'S PARTICIPATION WILL BE PLAYED UP BY KARAMI AS A MAJOR CONCESSION TO THE CHRISTIANS.4

THE OTHER FOUR MEMBERS OF THE CABINET ARE POLITICAL INDEPENDENTS CHOSEN TO REPRESENT THE COUNTRY'S MAJOR RELIGIOUS GROUPS. THREE OF THE FOUR SERVED IN THE CABINET OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER RASHID SULH, WHICH RESIGNED IN LATE MAY. AMONG THEM IS PHILIP TAQLA, WHO HAS BEEN AMONG LEBANON'S MOST ABLE FOREIGN MINISTERS.4

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GHASSAN TUWAYNI, THE POLITICALLY INFLUENTIAL EDITOR AND PUBLISHER OF BEIRUT'S LARGEST DAILY NEWSPAPER, WILL SERVE AS MINISTER OF INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND PLANNING. GENERALLY PRO-US, HE SERVED AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER UNDER FORMER PRIME MINISTER SAIB SALAM IN THE EARLY 1970S.4

FIGHTING CONTINUED TO BE VERY HEAVY IN ALL AREAS OF BEIRUT PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CABINET. ITS FORMATION SHOULD LEAD TO A REDUCTION OF HOSTILITIES, INASMUCH AS IT WILL ENCOURAGE THE MAIN MUSLIM, CHRISTIAN, AND PALESTINIAN FACTIONS TO DISMANTLE THEIR ROADBLOCKS, THIS WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE SECURITY SERVICES TO ISOLATE AND ELIMINATE RESISTANCE BY LEBANESE LEFTISTS AND THE RADICAL FEDAYEEN.4

THE LEBANESE ARMY, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, IS LIMITING ITS ACTIVITIES TO PROTECTING IMPORTANT INSTALLATIONS IN BEIRUT. THE ARMY IS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE JOINED THE SECURITY FORCES NOR THE JOINT LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN PATROLS IN ATTEMPTING TO FLUSH OUT SNIPERS. {CONFIDENTIAL}4

2. COMORO ISLANDS: THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON JUNE

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26 APPROVED A BILL THAT MOVES THE COMORO ISLANDS FURTHER TOWARD INDEPENDENCE BUT CALLS INTO QUESTION THE FUTURE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE ARCHIPELAGO. THE ASSEMBLY VOTED TO ALLOW EACH OF THE FOUR INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS TO DECIDE SEPARATELY WHETHER TO ACCEPT A DRAFT INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION THAT IS TO BE DRAWN UP WITHIN SIX MONTHS BY ~~AN~~ A COMMITTEE REPRESENTING ALL COMORIAN POLITICAL GROUPS. PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC'S GOVERNMENT HAD WANTED ALL THE ISLANDS TO BE BOUND BY THE CONSTITUTION, ONCE A MAJORITY OF ALL THE ISLANDERS APPROVES ITS ADOPTION.//4

// COMORIAN NATIONAL POLITICAL LEADERS ARE SURE TO DENOUNCE THE ASSEMBLY'S ACTION. AN ISLAND-BY-ISLAND VOTE WILL ALLOW THE MAHORAIS--THE INHABITANTS OF THE ISLAND OF MAYOTTE--TO END THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH THE REST OF THE COMOROS AND BECOME A FRENCH DEPARTMENT. THE MAHORAIS VOTED AGAINST INDEPENDENCE IN THE REFERENDUM OF DECEMBER 1974. MAYOTTE HAS A LARGE FRENCH AND NATIVE CHRISTIAN POPULATION, AND THE MAHORAIS FEEL LITTLE SENSE OF IDENTITY WITH THE MUSLIM CULTURE THAT PREDOMINATES ON THE OTHER ISLANDS.//4

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FRENCH OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT INTERNATIONAL REACTION
 ^
 TO THE ASSEMBLY'S VOTE. THEY FEAR PARIS WILL BE SUBJECTED TO CHARGES
 OF ATTEMPTING TO PERPETUATE A COLONIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MAYOTTE,
 IN ORDER TO ENSURE FRANCE A MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.
 FRANCE IS ALREADY UNDER INCREASING CRITICISM FROM AFRICAN AND
 ARAB COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF ITS POLICIES TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA
 AND ITS CONTINUING HOLDING ON THE FRENCH TERRITORY OF AFARS
 AND ISSAS. {CONFIDENTIAL} // E-2 IMPDET.H

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