



Director of
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*Wednesday
8 February 1984*

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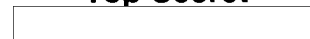


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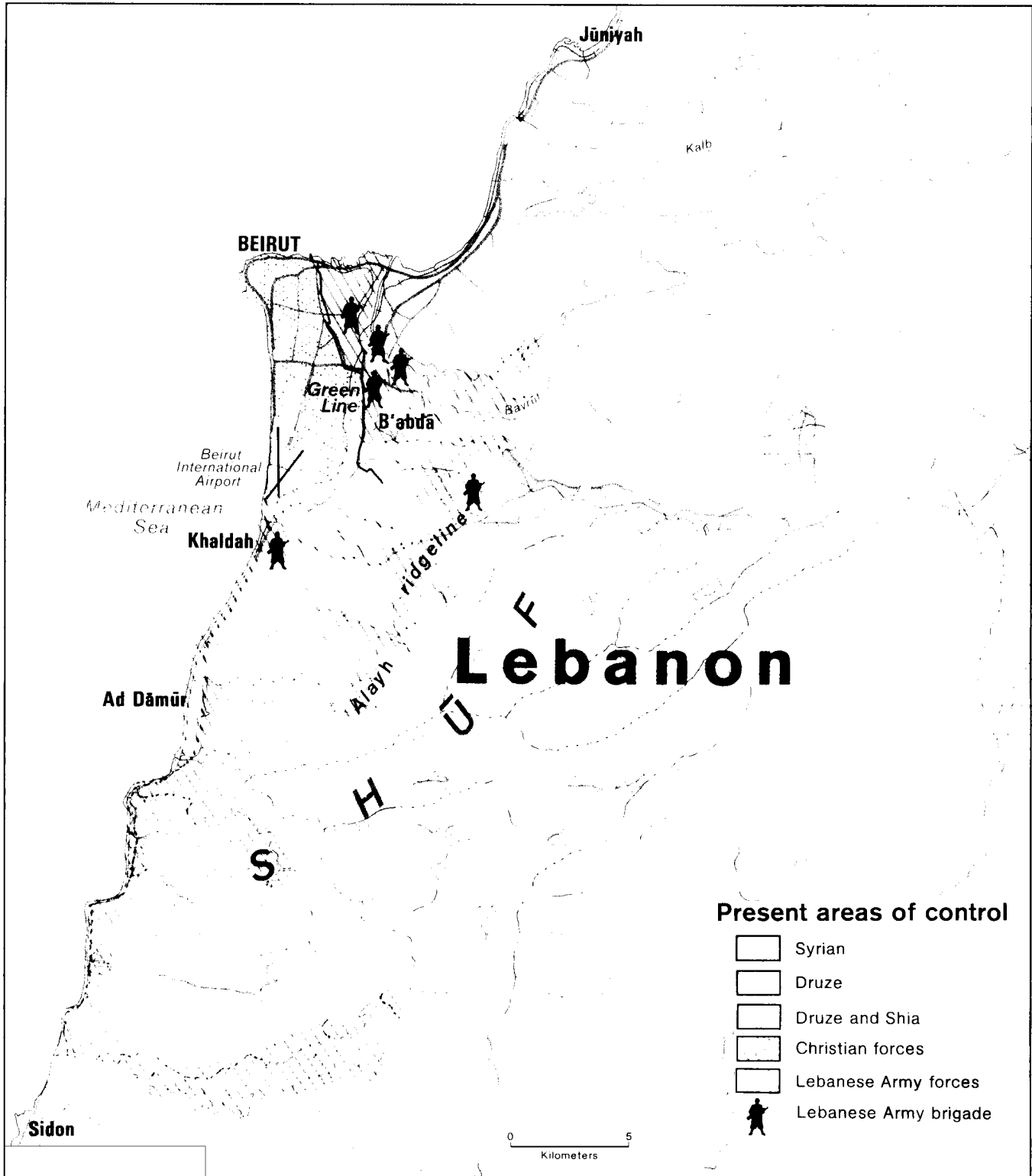


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LEBANON: Government at Bay

Antigovernment factions, with their control of West Beirut assured, are hardening their political demands.

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Press accounts from Beirut indicate sporadic clashes continued yesterday along the Green Line and other traditional flashpoints dividing Christian from Muslim Beirut. The government, however, has lost control of West and South Beirut. The US defense attache reports the entire 6th Brigade—which is the major unit responsible for security duties in West Beirut—has surrendered, defected, or returned to its barracks and refused to fight.

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The government can now count on the loyalty of most of the four experienced, largely Christian, brigades numbering about 9,000 men. Elements of two other brigades total perhaps 2,500 men. Fadi Fram, the leader of the Christian Lebanese Forces, yesterday called on all Christian militiamen to join their units and be prepared to defend themselves and their areas.

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Druze leader Junblatt yesterday told the US Ambassador in Damascus that he is determined to force President Gemayel from office—a goal that he claims is shared by the Shia Amal militia. According to Junblatt, however, the Druze would accept a Maronite president who would not be committed to the troop withdrawal accord of 17 May or a member of the Christian Phalange Party.

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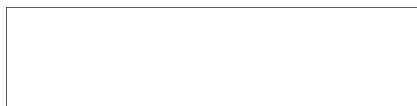
Comment: Gemayel's opponents probably calculate that his position is fatally weakened. They may demand political concessions that Christian hardliners would find unacceptable. To force Gemayel's resignation, Junblatt and Amal leader Barri may hold out the threat of further fighting.

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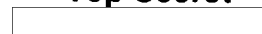
Christians already view current developments with alarm. They would be likely to view additional fighting as a direct threat to their survival. Syrian President Assad may restrain his surrogates from further action, however, in order to prevent all-out civil war in Lebanon.

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[Redacted]

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USSR-SYRIA-LEBANON: Visits by Soviet Officials

The planned visits of important Soviet officials to Syria and Lebanon probably reflect Moscow's interest in obtaining a high-level assessment of the deteriorating situation in Lebanon. [Redacted]

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Pravda reported today that Syria has invited Politburo member Aliyev to visit Damascus during the first half of this month. He will be the highest ranking Soviet official to visit there since Foreign Minister Gromyko went in 1980. [Redacted]

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[Redacted] Karen Brutents, a deputy chief of the Soviet party Central Committee's International Department who periodically visits Lebanon, is scheduled to arrive in Beirut today. An official of the Amal Shia militia recently told US officials in Moscow that Amal chief Barri expects to be invited by Brutents to visit Moscow [Redacted]

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Lebanon's Chargé in Moscow told US officials that Brutents would like to meet with President Gemayel. Recent Soviet media commentary has reported favorably on the activities of anti-government factions while omitting mention of their calls for Gemayel's resignation. [Redacted]

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Comment: The Soviets almost certainly are reviewing their role and will be trying to determine the attitudes of the Syrians and of the various Lebanese factions on possible diplomatic moves. Both Aliyev and Brutents may try to determine if [Redacted] respective contacts are willing to accept a UN contingent as a replacement for the Multinational Force in Beirut. [Redacted]

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Moscow maintains close ties with the Lebanese Communist Party and Druze leader Junblatt of the Progressive Socialist Party, but it may now be prepared to invite Barri to visit Moscow. A meeting with Gemayel would be unusual, however, because Brutents is a party, not a government, official. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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FRANCE-CHAD-LIBYA: Foreign Minister's Trip

French Foreign Minister Cheysson made little progress toward a diplomatic settlement in Chad during his recent trip through the region. [Redacted]

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A Chadian official has told the US Embassy in N'Djamena that President Habre agreed to send a representative to preparatory meetings for a new reconciliation conference, provided it not be held in a country that is subject to Libyan pressure. [Redacted]

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[Redacted] Chadian officials were pleased by Cheysson's private and public reaffirmation of support for Habre and for the territorial integrity of Chad. [Redacted]

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A French official has told the US Embassy in Addis Ababa that Ethiopian Chairman Mengistu was cool to Cheysson's proposal to hold a new conference under OAU auspices outside Ethiopia. He says Mengistu criticized the French for not having forced Habre to attend the talks in Addis Ababa last month. In addition, Mengistu showed little interest in Cheysson's proposal that France and Libya jointly finance an OAU observer force along the 16th parallel in Chad—the declared limit of French operations. [Redacted]

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In Paris, an official in the Foreign Ministry has told the US Embassy that Cheysson's talks with Libyan leader Qadhafi got nowhere, in part because Qadhafi insisted that France first drop its support for Habre. The official says that Chadian rebel leaders echoed Qadhafi's demand in recent meetings with a French presidential adviser. [Redacted]

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Comment: Although the French will continue to probe for a diplomatic opening, Cheysson's statements in N'Djamena apparently reflect a consensus among French officials that for now Paris has no alternative to maintaining its military presence and support for Habre. If Cheysson's talks with Qadhafi were as unproductive as the official indicates, there probably will be increased support in Paris for a firm military response to any threat of direct Libyan involvement in fighting near the 16th parallel. [Redacted]

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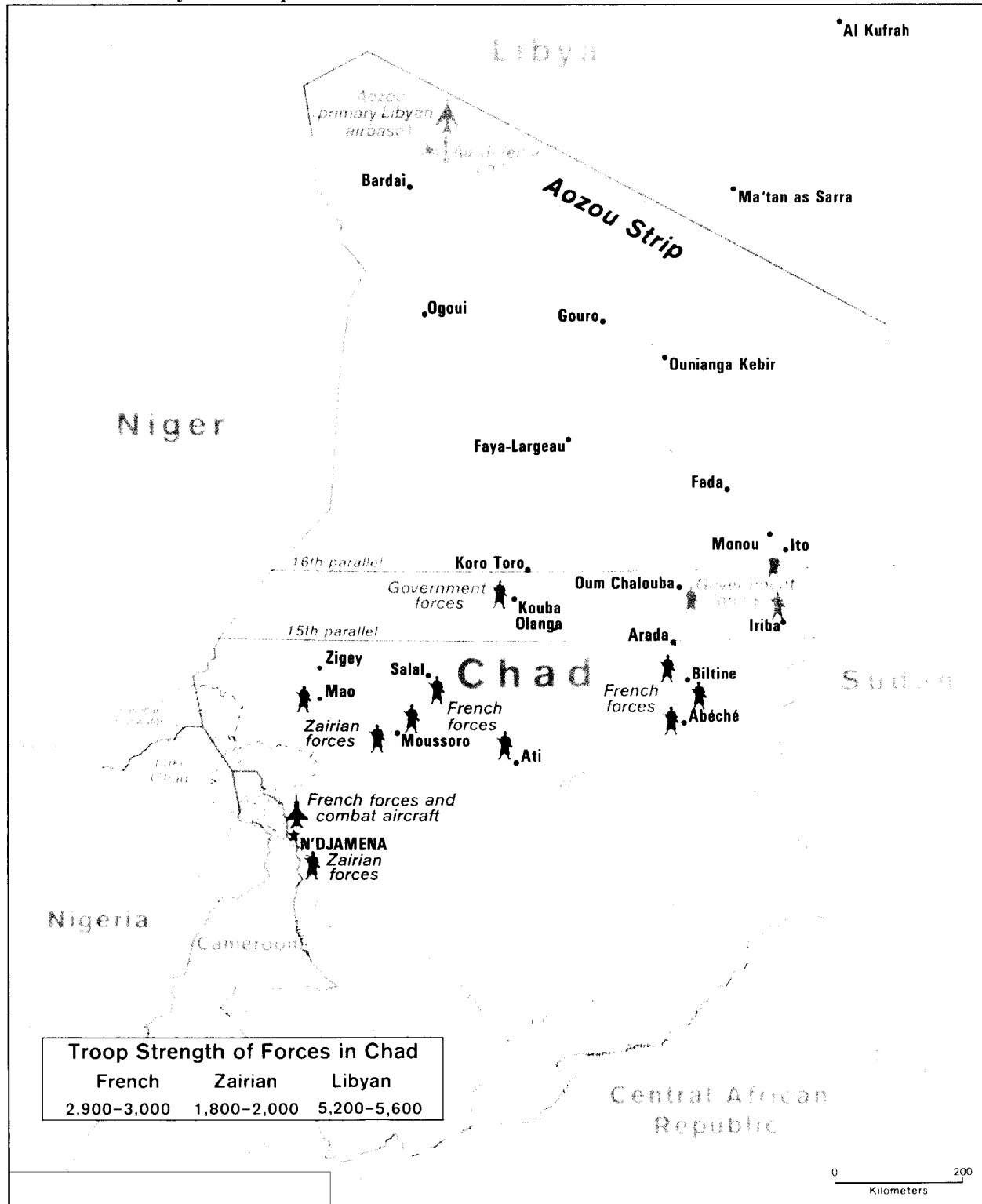
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Recent Military Developments in Eastern Chad



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LIBYA-CHAD: Libyan Military Moves and Intentions

Libya continues to improve its military position in Chad while assessing its next moves. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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Fada has been reinforced by three light strike aircraft. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Meanwhile, government forces appear to have routed the rebels in the battle for Monou. There is no evidence of significant Libyan participation in the fighting. [Redacted]

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Comment: One or both of the SA-6 batteries at Al Kufrah probably will be moved to Ma'tan as Sarra, which is becoming a key support facility for Libya's operations in Chad. The buildup in Fada strengthens its defenses and also increases Libya's alternatives for limited offensive action. [Redacted]

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Libyan leader Qadhafi is likely to be interested in keeping substantial military pressure on President Habre. At the same time, however, he probably does not want to provoke French intervention. [Redacted]

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To prevent further defeats similar to the one at Monou, Qadhafi may support future rebel attacks north of the 16th parallel with Libyan aircraft, artillery, and armor. He also probably will encourage continued rebel probes south of the 16th parallel, but without major involvement by Libyan forces. [Redacted]

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NICARAGUA: Preparations for Elections

The Council of State begins discussion of the electoral law today, reversing an earlier decision postponing such consideration in order to protest recent insurgent air attacks. [Redacted]

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A junta communique does not explain the reversal, but notes that the election cannot be isolated from the climate created by "US aggression." [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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The junta has reaffirmed that on 21 February it will announce the date for elections. Last month the Sandinistas proposed to elect a president, vice president, and 90-member assembly for six-year terms. The assembly is to adopt a constitution within two years. [Redacted]

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The regime intends to present a draft media law within the next several weeks, and it has given assurances that all parties will have access to an uncensored media. Other recent preparations for elections include a decree giving seats on the Council of State to two parties that were not represented and approving regulations to carry out the political parties law that was passed last September. [Redacted]

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Opposition leaders took advantage of relaxed censorship last month to insist that they need more freedom to campaign. In calling for international supervision of the elections, they pointed out that the regime's control of the Army, public employees, and neighborhood defense committees gives it an unfair advantage. The Social Christian Party has named a tentative presidential candidate, but the rest of the opposition has not yet decided how to proceed. [Redacted]

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Comment: The opposition may wait to see the final electoral law before deciding whether to participate. Although the opposition can agree on a series of demands for increased freedom, it has lacked the unity to devise a specific plan of action. Moreover, the largest opposition party, the Democratic Conservative Party, recently was split by a leadership dispute and remains outside the opposition's umbrella organization. [Redacted]

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NATO: Views on Chemical Weapons Ban

Certain Allies are expressing qualified support for the USSR's recent proposal for a chemical-weapons-free zone in Europe as a first step toward a global ban. [Redacted]

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The West German press on Monday reported that the disarmament spokesman of the governing Christian Democrats has stated that the party would support a verifiable prohibition on chemical weapons "limited at first to Europe." Canadian officials have confirmed that Prime Minister Trudeau recently told East German leader Honecker that the West and the East could reach an agreement on chemical weapons if they first banned them in Europe.

[Redacted]

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West Germany, Canada, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Spain, and the UK preferred a NATO response to the Soviet proposal to put Moscow on the defensive. The Allies failed, however, to agree on a compromise text. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted] West German officials, with support from Norway, Denmark, Belgium, and Canada, are urging the US to begin Allied consultations on the draft. [Redacted]

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Comment: The West German and Canadian expressions of conditional support probably are motivated in part by the public appeal of a European ban. Bonn and Ottawa also may be hoping to prod the US into moving ahead quickly with the promised draft treaty.

[Redacted]

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Chancellor Kohl's government is particularly concerned that the US chemical weapons stockpile in West Germany and public fear of modernization of chemical weapons will become a major political issue. For Trudeau, a ban on chemical weapons is an integral part of his peace initiative. [Redacted]

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If the Allies become more impatient for a draft global treaty, Norway, Denmark, and possibly Belgium also could offer qualified backing for the Soviet initiative. [Redacted]

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POLAND: Church Aid to Agriculture

Church officials in Poland are optimistic that the church's plan to aid private farmers can begin operation by midsummer, and they are making new efforts to secure Western financial support. [Redacted]

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The church and government have finally agreed on a law on charitable foundations that is a prerequisite for the plan, according to the church official who originated the scheme. The official conceded that the wording of the law gives the regime broad control over the plan, but he is confident that the church can prevent this. [Redacted]

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The official also says the two sides have not yet worked out the specific regulations governing the work of the foundation. The church hopes to ensure the foundation's independence by insisting on the right to appoint its administrators—who will be church laymen—and by keeping its funds abroad. The church has conceded, however, that state farms will be entitled to use some of the programs established under the plan. [Redacted]

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A church spokesman, Father Orszulik, will spend most of this month in the US and Canada trying to secure financial commitments, particularly for seven pilot projects. [Redacted]

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The West German Government and episcopate have taken the lead in pledging financial backing. According to US Embassy officials in Brussels and Paris, however, some West European governments are waiting to judge the success of the pilot projects before pledging financial support. [Redacted]

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Comment: The optimism of church leaders is likely to reflect a belief that the regime's desire to increase agricultural output is stronger than its objections to the church's control of the scheme. The government probably softened its earlier opposition to church control because state-controlled farms will benefit indirectly from the plan, and imported agricultural goods for the private sector will help ease the government's economic burden. Moreover, the draft legislation contains enough loopholes to enable the regime to show hardline critics and the Soviets that it can tighten its grip if necessary.

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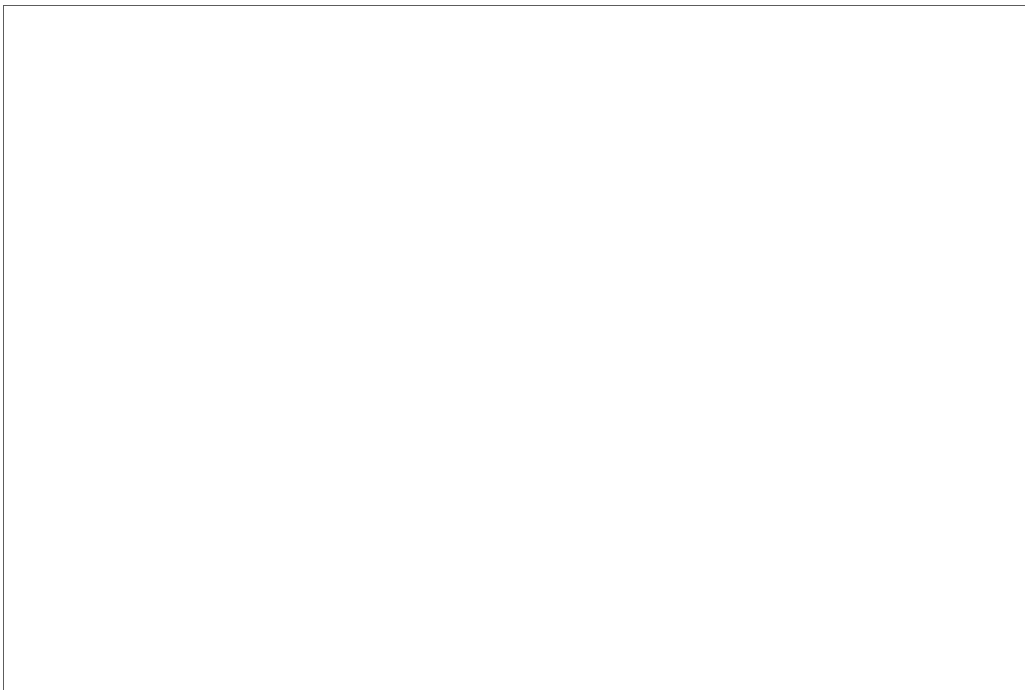
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PHILIPPINES: New Election Bill Submitted

President Marcos's move to ensure his control of the National Assembly may backfire by forcing moderate opposition groups to boycott the National Assembly elections this May. A new election bill, which would add 20 appointed seats to the legislature, is expected to pass the 200-member Assembly this week. The US Embassy says the move has caught Marcos's opponents by surprise, and opposition groups packed the Assembly early this week to protest the bill. The leader of a nonpartisan citizens organization overseeing the conduct of the elections said last week that the change disregards the will of the people. 

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Comment: The bill is intended to provide insurance against a strong showing by the opposition in the elections by allowing Marcos to add enough new members to maintain the ruling party's majority in the Assembly. Its timing is an affront to opposition groups, which are threatening to boycott the election unless Marcos agrees to limit his sweeping executive powers by next Tuesday. 

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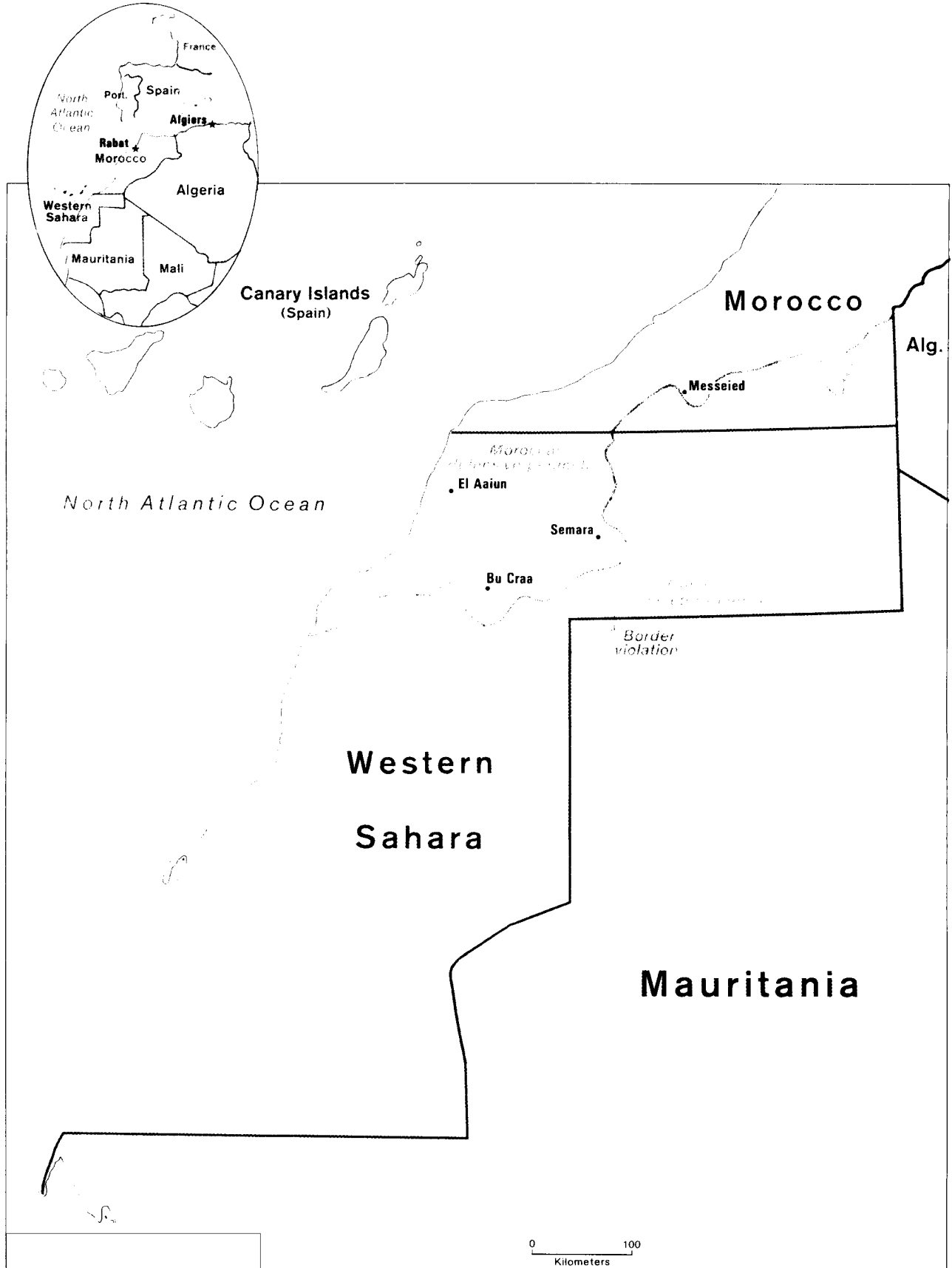
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MOROCCO-MAURITANIA: Extension of Defensive Barrier

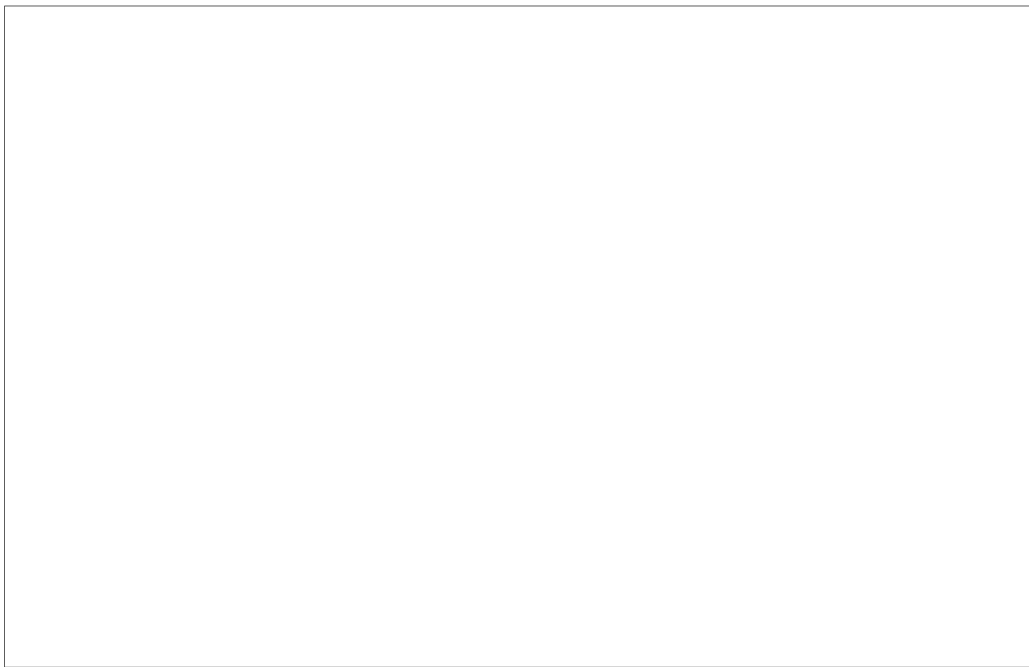
[Redacted] a recent extension of the Moroccan "berm"—an earthen defensive barrier—crosses the border with Mauritania. The southernmost part of the wall now extends about 5 kilometers into Mauritanian territory. [Redacted]

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Comment: Neither the Moroccans nor the Mauritians evidently are aware of the territorial violation. Morocco had planned to extend the berm to the unmarked border, and construction probably strayed off course accidentally. Relations between the two countries are already strained, and they probably will deteriorate further when the violation is discovered. [Redacted]

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USSR-MOZAMBIQUE: Aircraft Delivery

[Redacted] the Soviets have delivered 12 more MIG-21 fighters over the past six weeks to the northern Mozambican port of Nacala. This brings the total number of MIG-21s in the Mozambican inventory to 27, all of which have arrived since mid-1983. [Redacted]

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Comment: The delivery of the additional MIG-21s is part of the USSR's program to strengthen Mozambique's forces against South African-backed insurgents. In Mozambican service the aircraft may be piloted by Cubans. Agreements covering the aircraft presumably were concluded well before the latest round of talks between Mozambique and South Africa. During the talks, the Mozambicans have tried to persuade Pretoria to sever its links with the insurgents in return for new Mozambican restrictions on the ANC. [Redacted]

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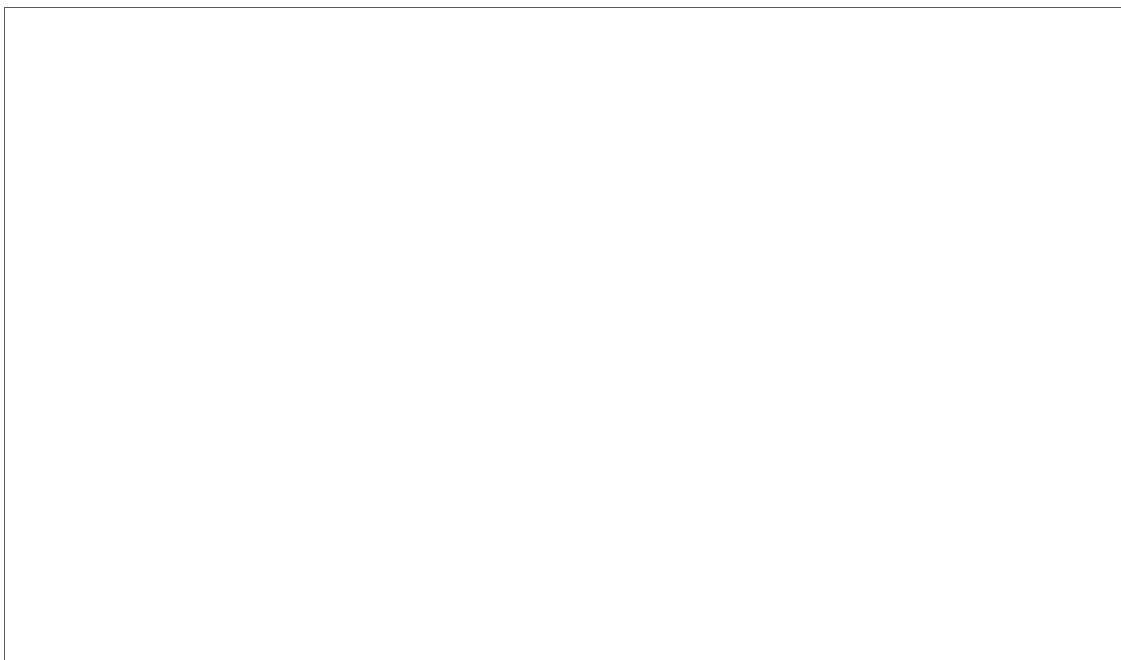
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ROMANIA: Crackdown on Private Farming

Bucharest recently announced new measures, including provisions to expropriate land, if necessary to force private farmers to increase sales to the state. Private farmers and members of cooperatives who engage in private farming are obligated for the first time to sell specified amounts of goods to the state at fixed prices. Quotas are to be based on the size of the family, the amount of land worked, and the number of animals owned. 

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Comment: The new measures reflect the failure of earlier efforts to gain tighter control over the supply and distribution of food. Farmers now will have little choice but to sell to the state or risk the loss of their land. Although the new measures are unlikely to increase production, they will put a larger proportion of available supplies at the state's disposal. With exports taking precedence over domestic needs, consumer shortages and social tensions probably will increase. 

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