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WEEKLY SUMMARY

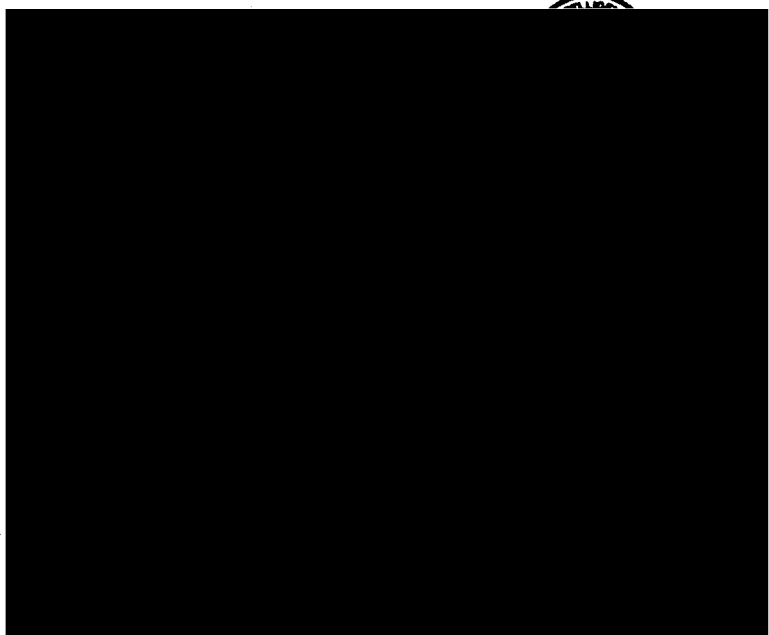
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29 September 1972

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The WEEKLY SUMMARY, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology. Topics requiring more comprehensive treatment and therefore published separately as Special Reports are listed in the contents.

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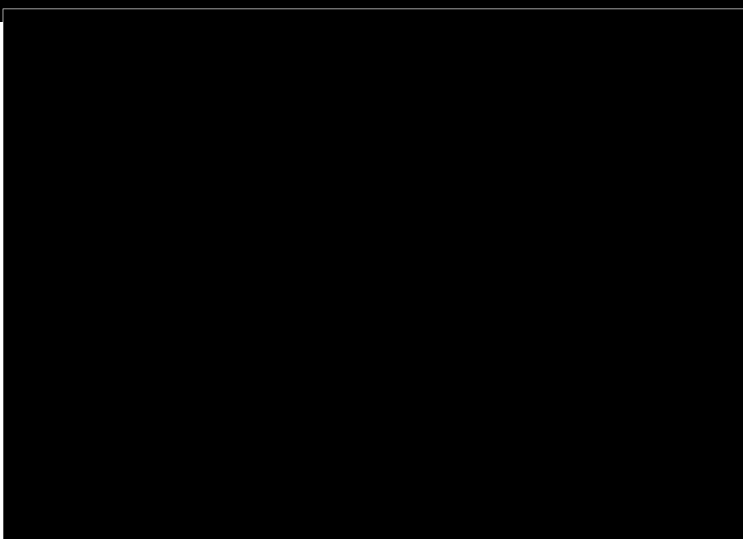
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MIDDLE EAST
AFRICA

14 Middle East: On It Goes



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MIDDLE EAST: ON AND ON IT GOES

Tel Aviv has not attacked the fedayeen or their Arab hosts since the ground operation into southern Lebanon on 16-17 September. Tel Aviv seems to be awaiting evidence that Beirut and Damascus took previous Israeli strikes to heart and will indeed put curbs on the fedayeen. As a matter of fact, no incidents were reported as originating from either country since last weekend, but this inactivity is unlikely to last.

Israeli officials at home and abroad continued to emphasize, however, that the terrorist problem is Tel Aviv's main preoccupation. It is clear that Israel will respond with swift counteraction if terrorism flares up and that the targets will be Israel's Arab neighbors. Israeli officials expressed unhappiness with what it called Lebanese back-sliding on its professed intention to curb the fedayeen and hinted strongly that if Israeli forces had to go back into Lebanon, they might stay there indefinitely.

In contrast to these statements on Lebanon, Tel Aviv has rather abruptly muted its hard line on Syrian responsibility for fedayeen actions and its threats of impending military reprisals. The reasons for this—perhaps temporary—shift may revolve around several factors. There have been no significant incidents and no Israeli casualties since shortly after Israeli forces began maneuvers on the Golan Heights. The problems of striking into Syria are more complicated and difficult than in Lebanon and are more likely to draw a military reaction. Always sensitive to Moscow's moves, Tel Aviv has noted no visible signs of increased Soviet support for Syria and may, therefore, be doing some reassessing.

Moscow and the Arabs

A destroyer and destroyer escort from the Soviet Mediterranean squadron, accompanied by three amphibious ships, apparently entered the Syrian harbor at Tartus on 27 September. An amphibious exercise may take place in the near future. This is the largest number of Soviet naval ships in a Syrian port.

The Soviets and Egyptians are also taking steps to patch up their problems. A Soviet Foreign Ministry official has stated that a Soviet-Egyptian summit will probably take place in about two months.

Lebanon and the Fedayeen

Cairo radio announced on 25 September that a "complete understanding" had been reached between the Lebanese Government and the fedayeen. Despite this show of amity, the details are yet to be worked out. The army is controlling fedayeen movement in the south by means of roving patrols and many checkpoints, and a few fedayeen have been wounded when they refused to submit to army searches. Although the major fedayeen groups have acquiesced for the present to this control, splinter groups probably will not, and further incidents could occur.

The Soviets have also been busy in Lebanon. In addition to the "defense" package offered to President Franjyah last week, the Soviets have flown emergency medical supplies to the Lebanese Red Cross and Palestinian Red Crescent, ostensibly for the use of Palestinians injured in the Israeli raids.