



# The President's Daily Brief

*July 5, 1974*

5



~~*Top Secret*~~

25X1

Exempt from general  
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652  
exemption category 5(B)(1), (2), (3)  
declassified only on approval of  
the Director of Central Intelligence

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

July 5, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Arab League Secretary General says that several secret resolutions were adopted in support of Lebanon and the fedayeen. A Beirut paper, however, will indicate that Lebanon rejected all offers of aid. (Page 1)

General Galvao de Melo, a member of Portugal's junta and a close associate of President Spinoza, recently approached the US deputy chief of mission on Portugal's pressing need for economic aid from the US. (Page 3)

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted] (Page 4)

25X1

Emperor Haile Selassie has agreed to military supervision of the government and to acceleration of constitutional changes that will make him a figurehead. (Page 5)

In Laos, the cabinet again postponed recognition of the Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government, prompting a fresh Communist threat to pull out of the coalition. (Page 6)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

ARAB STATES

In a vaguely worded statement issued at the conclusion of the two-day Arab League Defense Council meeting in Cairo, Secretary General Riyad said that several secret resolutions were adopted in support of Lebanon and the Palestinians. Although Riyad did not elaborate, he said the Arab states agreed to provide Beirut and the Palestinians with military, financial, and political support.

According to a correspondent's dispatch from Cairo to a usually well-informed Beirut newspaper, however, the Lebanese--in closed meetings of the council--rejected all offers for financial and military aid for both Lebanon and the Palestinians.

The Lebanese apparently made it clear that they did not want either the Arab troops or the sophisticated air and air defense equipment that was offered by other Arab states, for fear that this would provoke direct hostilities with Israel. There had been earlier indications that Beirut would seek at least financial assistance for a long-range defense program that it could plan itself.

The Lebanese also reportedly succeeded in turning aside Palestinian demands for aid. The dispatch quoted fedayeen leader Zuhayr Muhsin as saying that Beirut vetoed requests both for financial aid for the construction of shelters in Palestinian refugee camps and for additional SA-7 missiles to augment the Syrian-manned missile units sent last week to defend the camps in Lebanon.

The delegates from Lebanon apparently felt that accepting assistance from other Arabs at this time would place their government under an obligation to states that do not share its inclination to remain relatively uninvolved in Arab-Israeli affairs. They probably felt that permitting aid to the fedayeen would infringe on their sovereignty--already a sore point in Lebanese-fedayeen relations.

(continued)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

Lebanon's reported unwillingness to accept aid could have broad and serious consequences. The fedayeen, under pressure from Lebanon and other moderates, pledged earlier this week to suspend cross-border raids into Israel. The fedayeen may now feel that Lebanon's position at the Cairo meeting releases them from this pledge.

Many Arabs, including the Egyptians, will be apprehensive that the Lebanese position weakens Arab clout and could strengthen Israel's propensity for expansionism. Egypt's offer two weeks ago of planes and pilots for Lebanon's defense was intended, as was the Defense Council meeting itself, to remind Israel and the US that the Arabs can back their words with action when they feel it necessary. The apparent failure of the Arab states to come up with a unified position, however, belies that warning.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

PORTUGAL

General Galvao de Melo, a member of Portugal's junta and a close associate of President Spinoia, recently approached the US deputy chief of mission on Portugal's pressing need for aid. Emphasizing that he was raising the matter officially, Galvao de Melo said the most important immediate requirement from the US is economic assistance. He endorsed President Nixon's suggestion that the forum for discussing such aid could be the current negotiations on the US base in the Azores.

In the course of the same conversation with the US embassy officer, Galvao de Melo said that he plans to leave the junta soon in order to found a centrist political party. The party will campaign for Galvao de Melo himself as vice president and for General Spinoia as president of the republic. The party will have the support of the armed forces chief of staff, General Costa Gomes. Galvao de Melo did not indicate, and perhaps does not know, whether the party will have the crucial support of middle-echelon and junior officers.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*



25X1  
23^1



*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

ETHIOPIA

Emperor Haile Selassie has agreed to military supervision of the government and to acceleration of constitutional changes that will make him a figurehead. The agreement, reached on Wednesday, leaves the Endalkatchew government intact but provides for "close collaboration" between the cabinet and the military. A revised constitution, now being prepared by a committee appointed last March, is expected to establish a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary cabinet.

The military scored a major gain by securing the appointment of General Aman Mikael Andom as the new chief of staff. Aman, who enjoys wide respect in the military, has long advocated the political and social changes that the military have now forced the Emperor to accept.

Haile Selassie also agreed to grant amnesty to political prisoners and to all political exiles who left the country because of differences with him.

While the moderates who now dominate the military can enforce their views when they intervene in the political process, they are not a tightly knit group and therefore will not be able to provide firmness and continuity in the direction of the government.



*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

NOTE

Laos: For the third time in as many meetings, the Lao cabinet on July 3 postponed recognition of the Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government. The Communist minister of foreign affairs, Phoumi Vongvichit, reiterated the Pathet Lao threat to pull out of the coalition government if the proposal to recognize the PRG is not accepted. The non-Communist ministers successfully argued that the entire 18-point program the Communists pushed through the Joint National Political Council must first be debated. One of these 18 points calls for recognition of world revolutionary movements--a category that would include the PRG.

*Top Secret*