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# The President's Daily Brief

*April 27, 1974*

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 27, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

General Spinoza, Portugal's new ruler, appears to be off to a good start. (Page 1)

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The Ethiopian Prime Minister fears a possible military take-over. (Page 4)

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Adverse weather is posing a serious threat to Soviet crops. (Page 7)

[Redacted] Chile [Redacted] Peru [Redacted]

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(Page 8)

The fighting is spreading in Iraq between the Kurds and the government. (Page 9)

Afghanistan President Daoud is consolidating his position at the expense of leftists who brought him to power. (Page 9)

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PORTUGAL

General Spinoia appears to be off to an auspicious start in consolidating his control over the country and giving his new government a reformist image. There was only one serious disturbance in Lisbon yesterday; the country generally appears calm, and much of the population is jubilant.

Although Spinoia himself is hardly a liberal, most of his pronouncements yesterday were intended to give the impression that the country is heading in a new direction. The limitations he has said will be put on the scope and functions of the secret police will be widely popular. The lifting of censorship will also enhance the reformist appearance of Spinoia's new government.

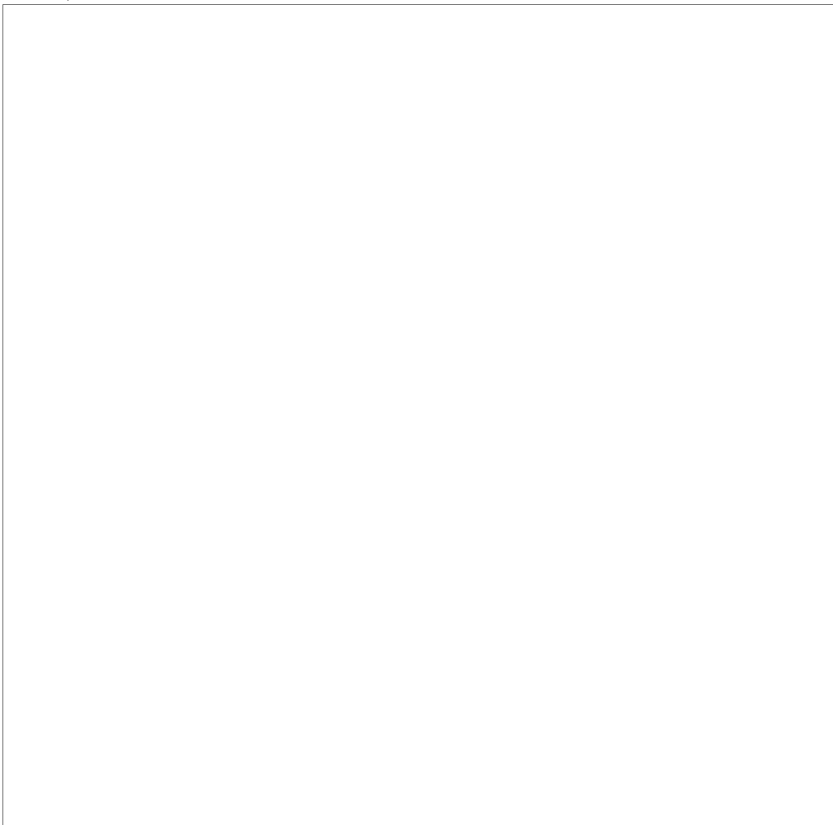
Despite these moves, however, it appears that the junta is going to move cautiously toward "democratizing" the country. The junta plans to invite civilians to participate in a provisional government that will be set up in three weeks, but the military will choose its president and he will most probably be Spinoia. The election of a national assembly is promised only within the next year.

Portugal's African territories remain calm. Local residents are receiving uncensored news accounts of the events in Lisbon. Spokesmen for the liberation movements operating in Angola have repeated their traditional demands for "complete independence" for all the territories. Thus far, none of the insurgent groups has taken military advantage of the situation.

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SYRIA-USSR

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ISRAEL-SYRIA

Fighting was light on the Golan front yesterday  
for the second successive day. [redacted]

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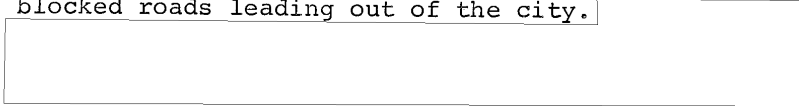
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ETHIOPIA

Prime Minister Endalkatchew and his cabinet fear that the military may be planning an outright takeover of the government as the only way to end the continuing strikes, demonstrations, and rural unrest.

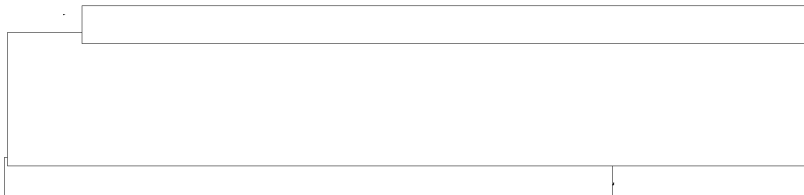
Army units yesterday arrested ministers of the former cabinet, some provincial governors who were in the capital, and the former mayor of Addis Ababa. Middle-level police officers arrested several senior police officers, possibly including the former national police commander, General Yilma Shibeshi. The government removed Shibeshi from his post yesterday, in response to demands for his ouster from police in Eritrea.

The military is patrolling Addis Ababa and has blocked roads leading out of the city.



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The military is clearly out to force compliance with its demands for swift prosecution of former officials for corruption. The government's reluctance to do this has been a major source of friction.

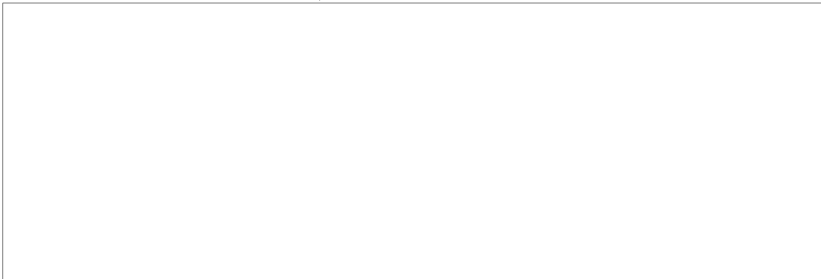


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CHINA - NORTH VIETNAM



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The Chinese, at the same time, are increasing deliveries of food to North Vietnam to help alleviate shortages. In good years, North Vietnam produces only three fourths of its food and will remain dependent on China and other countries for the rest.



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WEST GERMANY

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USSR

Adverse weather is posing a serious threat to Soviet crops. Rainfall over the western part of the country has been well below normal for several months. In a recent meeting with US Senator Roth in Moscow, Deputy Minister of Agriculture Kuznetsov estimated that up to 10 million hectares of the 35.5 million sowed last fall will have to be resowed, compared with an average of 3 to 5 million in recent years.

In 1972, a bad crop year, about 10 million hectares of fall-sown crops required reseeding. Losses in fall grain output usually can be offset somewhat by resowing in the spring, but only feed grain--not food grain--can be used for resowing.

Prospects for the spring crops are also being jeopardized by a cold snap and snowstorm which hit the European USSR the middle of this month and hindered spring sowing. The area planted is now one third less than that at this time last year. Because the season is still early, favorable weather conditions over the next few weeks would bring a substantial improvement in the spring crop picture.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

CHILE-PERU

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NOTES

Iraq: Heavy fighting between the Kurds and government forces is spreading. All efforts to reach a negotiated settlement appear to have been abandoned. The Kurds have declared an all-out war against the Baathist regime in Baghdad. The government, although announcing a 30-day extension of its amnesty offer for Kurds who left their government jobs, has warned the Kurdish rebels to cease fighting immediately and surrender their leaders to the government or face a "broad" attack.

Afghanistan: President Daoud is consolidating his control over the government at the expense of the leftists who helped him take power last July. He has expelled some leftists from the cabinet, and has made some key appointments designed to ensure loyalty of the armed forces. Ambassador Eliot thinks Daoud intends to complete his purge by July 17, the first anniversary of his assumption of power. Leftists who feel threatened might attempt to challenge Daoud soon in order to preserve what power they have. It is unlikely that such a move would succeed.

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