



# The President's Daily Brief

*September 27, 1974*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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CAMBODIA

*Rumors of an impending move by senior Cambodian army officers against the Lon Nol government are circulating in Phnom Penh. Coup rumors have gone the rounds in past times of stress, and there is no clear sign that any group is actively preparing to move soon. The rumors themselves, however, add to the general unrest stemming from recent economic reform measures.*

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PORTUGAL

*A forthcoming rally to support President Spinola has sharpened differences between factions within the government and heightened tensions in Lisbon.*

Media coverage of the rally, now set for Saturday, has connected Spinola with a resurgence of fascism that may be difficult for him to live down. Nonetheless, if the rally is successful, Spinola's position will have been strengthened. He will then be able to move ahead with his efforts to establish a system of government less vulnerable to a takeover by authoritarian elements on either the right or left.



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Widespread violence might encourage a power grab by conservative forces. Incidents of violence could also serve as a pretext for Spinola to dismiss Prime Minister Goncalves. Spinola has been dissatisfied with the Prime Minister's management of the government, particularly the decolonization process.

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The Portuguese press has already suggested that the Communists are considering pulling out of the government because of defeats they have suffered in the cabinet recently.

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ISRAEL

*Prime Minister Rabin appears to have been trying since mid-September to prepare the Israeli public for a more flexible approach toward Middle East peace negotiations.*

Increasing numbers of Israelis have decided that a new war, even if won, would not solve anything, and that political answers to the Arab-Israeli conflict must be found. These Israelis recognize that any political approach must involve concessions.

Rabin's moves, nevertheless, will distress influential people inside and outside the government who oppose territorial concessions. The US embassy has noted that a significant minority of Israelis remain convinced that no amount of Israeli moderation will bring peace closer.

One of Rabin's prime efforts has been to make the Israelis aware of his view that the US will bring additional pressures on Tel Aviv in the tough negotiations that lie ahead. The Prime Minister has stressed in press interviews that the nature of US relationships in the area has changed since the October war.

Early this week Rabin told the press that he had a "clear and detailed peace map" to use with Arab peace negotiators; Israeli government leaders have previously maintained that no maps would be prepared until detailed discussions were to be held with the Arabs on possible Israeli withdrawals.

Public statements by Defense Minister Peres and Chief of Staff Gur, meanwhile, show a marked moderation of the strident militancy shown toward Syria during the past few months. Peres, whose warnings against Syria have been among the toughest, called on Syria "not to believe that Israel does not want agreement, when in fact we are ready to make peace." Chief of Staff Gur, who has frequently accused Syria of violating the disengagement agreement, cautioned against exaggerating the seriousness of Syrian violations, noting that, as with all agreements, various interpretations are possible.

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NOTES

USSR-Cyprus: [redacted]

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USSR-Egypt: [redacted]

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Brazil: [redacted]

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