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The President's Daily Brief

October 11, 1974

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~~*Top Secret*~~

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

October 11, 1974

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SAUDI ARABIA - US

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CYPRUS

Archbishop Makarios has told supporters in Cyprus that he probably will return to the island sometime shortly after the UN debate. Makarios reportedly acknowledged a strong anti-Makarios element on the island, but he said his presence would have a stabilizing effect within the Greek Cypriot community.

Should the archbishop return, he may find that some of his traditional supporters will demand a greater role in policy-making. A leading member of the Communist Party of Cyprus recently stated that while his party continues to support Makarios' return, the situation is different now and the Communists must be accorded their "proper role" in politics.

Another of Makarios' supporters, leftist political leader Vassos Lyssarides, has also stated that all political leaders--except for extreme rightists--must be consulted, particularly before an agreement is signed with the Turkish Cypriots. He called for the formation of an "ecumenical government" made up of all political groups except the extreme right.

Makarios' return before a political settlement is reached with the Turks would likely harden the positions of both sides in the negotiations. Acting President Clerides might stay on to continue negotiations with Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash, but his flexibility and authority to commit the Greek side would be greatly reduced. The Denktash-Clerides talks would likely be redefined as strictly exploratory, with any decisions being left to Athens and Ankara but also requiring Makarios' approval.

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PORTUGAL

The rightists, thwarted in their attempts to hold a pro-Spinola rally on September 28, are now rumored to be planning to turn the Catholic celebration in Fatima this Sunday into a "spontaneous" anti-Communist demonstration. Some 300,000 Catholics are expected to attend the celebration in that northern town.

If such a demonstration were to succeed, it might provide the impetus for rightist military elements to attempt a counter coup. The right wing, however, is in shambles as a result of the events of the past two weeks, and it is doubtful that rightists could successfully organize a sizable protest demonstration. It seems equally doubtful that conservatives in the military have been able to regroup sufficiently to carry out a successful power grab. A desperate attempt to halt what many conservative Portuguese see as a rapid swing to the left cannot be ruled out, however.

The regime has placed military units charged with internal security on alert.

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CHINA-LAOS

Chinese roadbuilding efforts in northern Laos are progressing well and [redacted]

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[redacted] the roads will be turned over to the Laotians upon completion. [redacted]

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[redacted] the section in Phong Saly Province had already shifted to Laotian control.

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Last month Prime Minister Souvanna reportedly requested that the Chinese extend the road as far as Luang Prabang. [redacted]

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[redacted] the Chinese-built system in the north would be connected to the existing Lao road network in the south.

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Even if the leg to Luang Prabang is the last job for the Chinese roadbuilders, some of their 23,000-man force will have to stay because the Laotians will be unable to maintain the 300-mile road network.

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ANGOLA

A Portuguese delegation arrived in Kinshasa yesterday to discuss with Zairian President Mobutu the decolonization of Angola.

The Portuguese probably will attempt to reassure Mobutu that Lisbon's efforts to decolonize Angola have not been set back by the resignation of president Spinoza, who met with Mobutu last month in the Cape Verde Islands. If anything, President Costa Gomes probably hopes to speed up the decolonization process.

Both the Portuguese and Mobutu are in a quandary over Angola. Mobutu has been unable to bring together the three insurgent groups, partly because of their rivalries and internal factionalism. Mobutu's preference for certain insurgent leaders has complicated his efforts.

Angola's 500,000 whites fear that Lisbon will negotiate a direct transfer of power to an insurgent coalition, as was done in Mozambique. They are pressing Lisbon to protect their interests, but they are not sufficiently organized to prevent such a transfer of power.

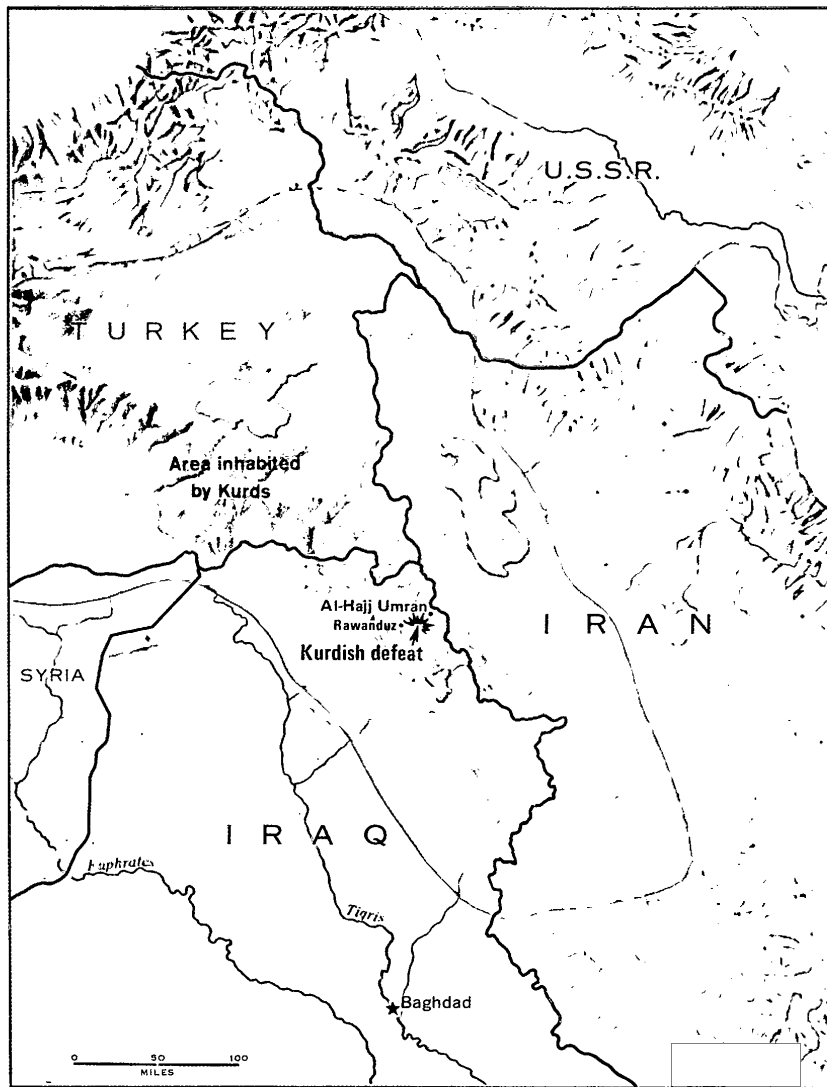
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SOUTH KOREA

The government expects the street demonstrations mounted in Seoul by students and Christians during the past two days to peak soon. Based on past performance, government security forces should contain the protests, but there is a danger that the confrontations could become increasingly violent.

The demonstrators are emphasizing two long-standing demands, the release of comrades imprisoned under the emergency decrees earlier this year, and an end to President Pak's unlimited power.

The basic issue is Pak's authoritarian rule, which he argues is necessary, as long as the confrontation with North Korea continues. A new element in the situation is your planned visit in November. The impending visit, together with recent criticisms of Pak in the US, have encouraged Pak's foes to make protests that would have carried grave risks earlier this year. Pak has tried to disabuse the opposition of the notion that it can get away with more now, stressing that the US has made no demands that he moderate his policies, and that he will take firm measures to maintain order.



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NOTES

Iraq: The Kurds have been dealt their worst defeat since the fighting began last March. After several days of combat, the Iraqi army has taken a strategic mountain overlooking the road to Kurdish headquarters at Al-Hajj Umran. The Kurds reportedly suffered more than 200 casualties. The Iraqi victory could be costly, since Baghdad's troops reportedly are demoralized by high casualties in the protracted and inconclusive fighting.

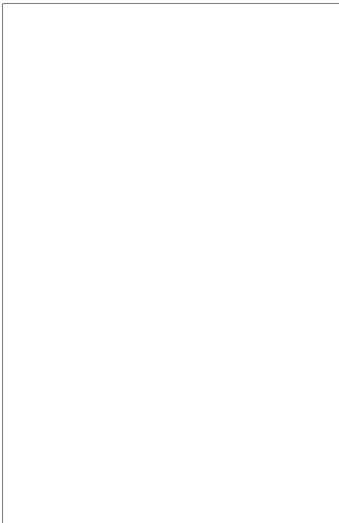
Vietnam: The Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government has issued a statement calling for the overthrow of President Thieu before the Paris agreement can be implemented. Although this line first appeared in North Vietnamese propaganda last August, the new statement represents the first official endorsement of the tougher Viet Cong position on Thieu. It contrasts with an earlier position, which stressed that Thieu eventually would be replaced by the political process set forth in the Paris agreement. It is another sign of Hanoi's gradual disenchantment with the prospects for major political gains through negotiations as long as President Thieu is in power.

United Kingdom: Harold Wilson's Labor Party seems headed for a clear but narrow parliamentary majority. Vote counting has been completed in just over three-quarters of the 635 districts, and Labor has captured 294 seats, 24 short of a majority. The Conservatives have won 184 seats so far, and the Liberals 5. Edward Heath refused to concede last night, saying he might wait until all the votes are counted this afternoon.

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SOMALIA UNDER PRESIDENT SIAD

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President Mohamed Siad

is approaching his fifth anniversary as head of Somalia's leftist-controlled Supreme Revolutionary Council.

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Despite occasional strains within the 21-member Supreme Revolutionary Council, Siad, who has survived several plots and assassination attempts, seems to feel he has things under control. He was away from Mogadiscio on trips to

outlying areas for long periods earlier this year. In September Siad, who is currently President of the Organization of African Unity, left the country for ten days to attend an African summit meeting and to visit parts of central Africa.

In fact, his travels have been largely in Africa, although he visited the USSR in November 1971 and the People's Republic of China and North Korea in May 1972. Italy is one of the few Western nations with which he is on good terms.

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Perhaps the most pressing problems now facing Siad are economic. With one of the lowest levels of living in Africa, Somalia has been especially hard hit by the rising cost of food; some prices have doubled since last November. Staples are strictly rationed or simply unavailable; many non-essential items are no longer imported.

Relations With US

Somalia's relations with the US can best be described as cool. The small American mission in Mogadiscio is restricted from traveling outside the capital as well as to certain parts of the city itself.

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[redacted] Private US citizens have been harassed while passing through the country, and a number have been arrested or expelled on trivial charges. The government has lodged an official protest with the US embassy over statements that a Soviet base has been established at Berbera.

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Nonetheless, Siad wants to keep ties open with the US. Aside from Somalia's other economic woes, its harvests of foodgrains have been poor this year, and the Somalis will soon be seeking economic assistance. Mogadiscio is concerned by US shipments of tanks and other arms to Ethiopia during the past few months because of the impact these arms will have on the Somali-Ethiopian military balance. Somalia would like to convince the US that there is no real need for the arms in Addis Ababa.

Soviet Relations

The Somalis have had military ties with the USSR since 1963, before a revolution put Siad in power. In return for Soviet arms and the improvement of Somali airfields and ports, Mogadiscio granted the Soviets bunkering, repair, and communication facilities at Berbera. Moscow's interest in the relationship quickened after its expulsion from Egypt in 1972, and these facilities are now being expanded. The Soviets may hope to use an airfield they are constructing near Mogadiscio as a base for long-range reconnaissance aircraft.

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[redacted] 60 percent of the country's officer corps is Soviet-trained.

The large Soviet presence--estimated at over 1,400 military and economic advisers--has generated popular resentment in Somalia. The regime, which was split on the issue, has done its best to play down a friendship treaty signed with Moscow in July 1974.

One of the most irritating aspects of the Soviet tie has been Moscow's insistence on doling out oil supplies to Somalia bit by bit, in order to keep the country on a tight rein.

The Arab States

In an attempt to circumvent this restriction and to conciliate members of the Revolutionary Council who felt the Moscow connection had gone too far,

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Siad moved successfully last February to get Somalia admitted to the Arab League. He likes the Arabs and is antagonistic toward Israel. His hope that the Arab connection would result in money and oil has been partially realized. Libya promised to cooperate in a joint development bank, shipping line, and agricultural scheme, in addition to paying for the construction of a commercial airport under a 1972 loan. More significant was Iraq's agreement to help construct an oil refinery in Mogadiscio and lend Somalia the money to pay for its share.

A Somali official announced on October 1 that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have offered Somalia \$37-million worth of financial assistance. The Saudis have held out the bait of an additional \$20 million if Somalia can produce evidence that it has reduced Soviet influence--a condition the Somalis may find easier to promise than to fulfill.

Ethiopia

Although President Siad has publicly stated a policy of Somali noninterference in the events unfolding in Ethiopia, relations with Addis Ababa as well as with neighboring Kenya have long been uneasy. Almost from the time it became an independent state, Somalia has had irredentist claims on the Ogaden region of Ethiopia, the northeast province of Kenya, and the French Territory of the Afars and Issas--with its strategic port of Djibouti--on the grounds that all these areas are inhabited by ethnic Somalis. In the past, governments in Mogadiscio have backed guerrilla activity across the Ethiopian and Kenyan borders.

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