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# The President's Daily Brief

*October 22, 1974*

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*Top Secret* <sup>25X1</sup>

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

October 22, 1974

Table of Contents

Arab States: Foreign ministers meet today in Rabat to prepare summit beginning Saturday; deliberations likely to be contentious. (Page 1)

Syria: [redacted] (Page 2) 25X1

USSR: Brezhnev's private comments on key foreign [redacted] (Page 3) 25X1

France - Indian Ocean: French to build new naval base. (Page 4)

China: New submarine construction. (Page 5)

Turkey: Ecevit fears loss of influence with military. (Page 6)

Notes: Japan; Lebanon; [redacted] (Page 7) 25X1

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ARAB STATES

*Arab foreign ministers meet today in Rabat to prepare an agenda for the Arab League heads of state conference beginning Saturday. For key Arab states, particularly Egypt, the deliberations are likely to be difficult and crucial.*

Bitter inter-Arab differences have flared over where to go next in peace talks and, specifically, how to handle the Palestinian question. The chief topic for debate at the summit will consist of ramifications of this issue--the roles in negotiations of the Palestine Liberation Organization and Jordan, the related but broader question of the future of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, and the precedence to be given the various stages of the peace talks as they involve individual Arab parties.

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Discussion of the Palestinian problem is bound to be complicated further by the reaction of those chiefs of state who were the targets of the Black September Organization assassination plot uncovered last week.



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Several issues arising out of last year's war will be considered at Rabat. These center primarily on the Arabs' international economic role and include:

- Political aspects of the oil price issue.
- The use of oil and money as political weapons.
- Arab economic cooperation with Africa and the European Economic Community.

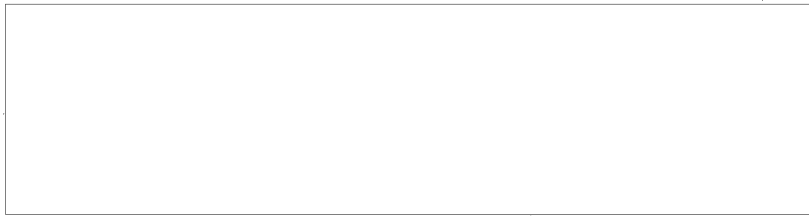
In the corridors, the delegates at Rabat will probably also talk about the role of Iran in Oman, as well as the pan-Arab force Egypt is proposing to station there, and the dispute over Spanish Sahara. If the Sahara question is raised in front of the full summit and a resolution passed, it will probably be vaguely worded to avoid taking sides between the rival claims of Morocco and Mauritania.

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SYRIA



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*Kadar and Brezhnev drive to Kremlin after the Hungarian leader's arrival in Moscow*

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USSR

*General Secretary Brezhnev conducted a generally optimistic tour d'horizon of international political and economic problems during his talks in Moscow last month with Hungarian party boss Kadar. Brezhnev singled out China as the USSR's only serious problem.*

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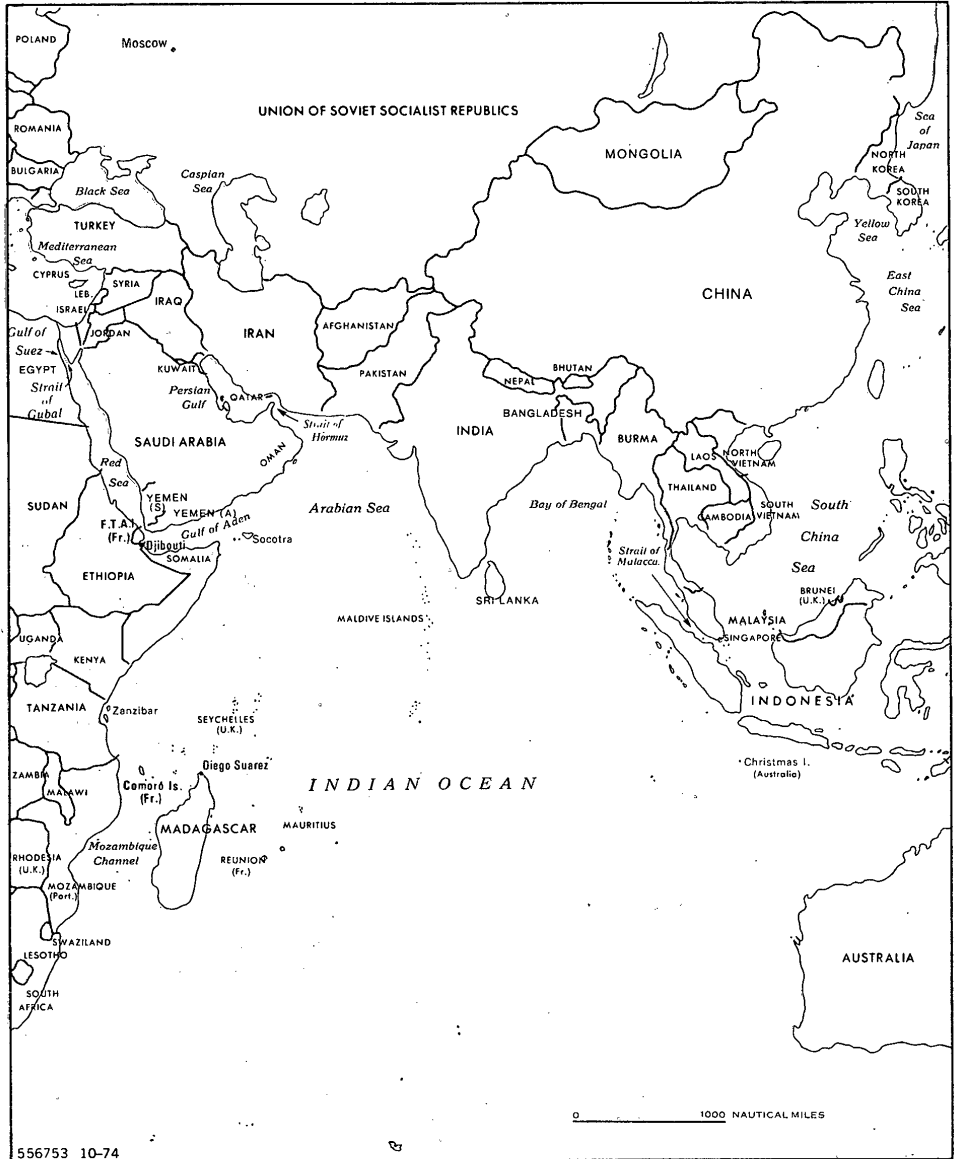
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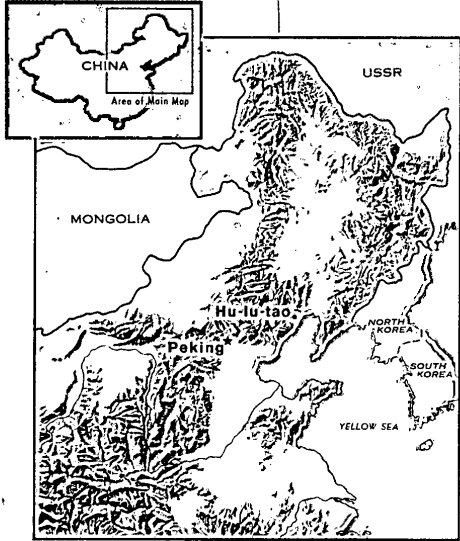


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FRANCE - INDIAN OCEAN

*Paris disclosed on Friday that it plans to build a naval base in the Comoro Islands. This will place the French astride the shipping routes from the Persian Gulf to Western Europe and will expand Paris' role in the growing naval competition in the Indian Ocean.*

The French flotilla in the Indian Ocean has been substantially augmented in the last few months; the most recent arrivals include the aircraft carrier Clemenceau. The French have had to use floating support facilities since Paris relinquished its naval base and communications facility at Diego Suarez on Madagascar last year. The only significant French base remaining in the Indian Ocean area is at Djibouti, in the French Territory of the Afars and the Issas, where the French have a small permanent naval contingent.



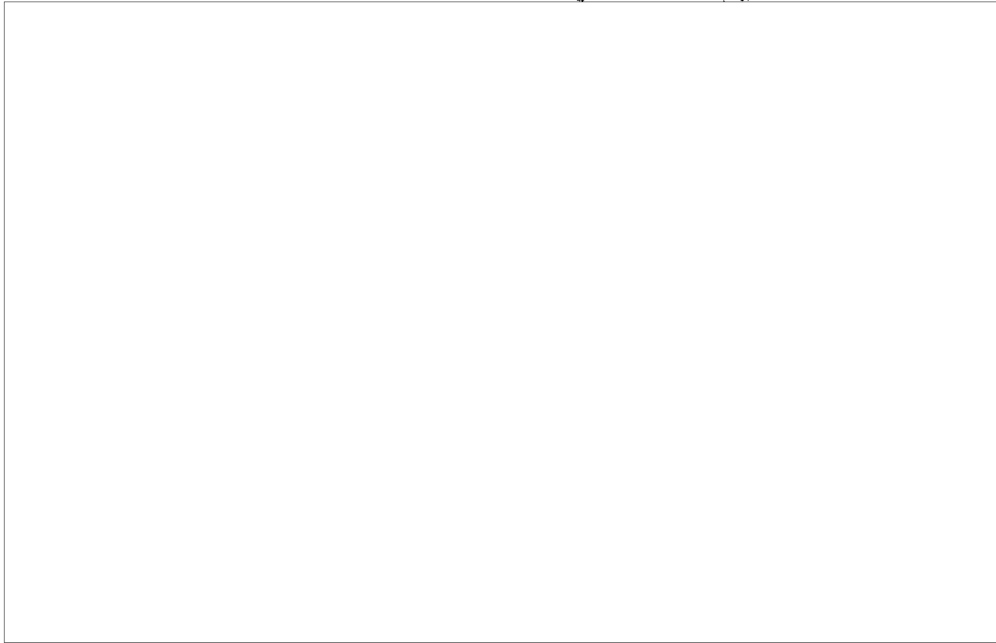
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CHINA

*The Chinese continue to make progress in building large, modern submarines.*

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[redacted] the Hu-lu-tao shipyard in northern China turned up more components of the type used in China's only Han-class attack submarine. The Han-class was built at Hu-lu-tao and is probably nuclear-powered. The components are probably for another Han-class, but they could also be for a ballistic missile submarine based on the Han's hull design. [redacted]

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TURKEY

*Prime Minister Ecevit fears that his influence with the military is waning the longer he remains head merely of a caretaker government.*

Ecevit's concern about his weakened position may be one reason he wants to work out a compromise with Justice Party leader Demirel to end the political stalemate and form a new government. The Justice Party congress that began yesterday should confirm Demirel as party leader and free his hand to negotiate an agreement with Ecevit.

[redacted] Ecevit is worried that hard-line military leaders might react precipitately to a Greek "provocation" on Cyprus. [redacted]

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The Turkish military blocked the prisoner exchange on Cyprus for three weeks; this suggests there is some validity to Ecevit's concern. To counter this tendency, Ecevit is taking steps to make the military fully aware of the mounting pressure of international opinion on the Turkish government. During the conflict on Cyprus there were several indications that the Prime Minister was able to limit military actions, particularly by emphasizing international pressures.

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NOTES

Japan: The rally in Tokyo yesterday to protest the alleged presence of US nuclear weapons in Japan, as well as your visit scheduled for next month, fell well short of the organizers' goals. Communist and Socialist sponsors claimed an attendance of 70,000, after forecasting a total of 100,000; police put the figure at only 25,000. The demonstrators agreed to forward a demand that you call off your visit. Because of the relatively modest turnout, however, opposition leaders face the hard choice of pressing an all-out campaign against the visit in the face of uncertain public support, or limiting their efforts to token protests.

Lebanon: The conservative Saib Salam has given up trying to form a new government. Salam was thwarted by President Franjiah in his efforts to strengthen the cabinet and the position of prime minister, and faced opposition from parliamentary factions supported by Syria and the fedayeen. Franjiah must now find another Sunni Muslim willing to try to form a government. Salam's difficulties make it unlikely that a more forceful or effective government than the "do-nothing" Sulh government that resigned a month ago will be formed.

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Syria:

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