



The President's Daily Brief

July 26, 1975

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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TURKEY

The Turkish cabinet decided yesterday that operations at US defense installations will be suspended as of today with the exception of NATO-related activities at Incirlik airbase. This was the essence of both a public announcement and a diplomatic note to the US.

The diplomatic note states that the Turkish government no longer regards its defense cooperation agreement with the US as valid. Consequently, it is suspending activities at Diyarbakir, Karabursel, Sinop, Belbasi, and the non-NATO activities at Incirlik. These installations and communications facilities will be placed under the "full control and custody" of the Turkish army.

Foreign Minister Caglayangil told Ambassador Macomber that it would be Monday or Tuesday before Turkish officers actually take control. As of 10 am. this morning in Turkey, all installations were operating normally without interference.

Probably with deliberate intent, neither the public announcement nor the note to the US clarifies what is meant by "full control and custody." The definition of "suspension of activities" may also be used as a bargaining ploy by the Turks. Negotiations on the facilities have been scheduled for next week.

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PORTUGAL

The Armed Forces General Assembly last night appointed a ruling triumvirate of President Costa Gomes, Prime Minister Goncalves, and security chief de Carvalho to lead Portugal. Its decision apparently means that the Communist-supported Goncalves has survived the moderates' attempt to remove him from power. The Socialists and Popular Democrats have called demonstrations tonight, apparently to protest the decision.

Emphasizing that a strong political leadership is essential at this time, the Assembly:

--Concentrated "political-military power" in the triumvirate.

--Relegated the former ruling Revolutionary Council to an adviser of the new three-man leadership.

--Reaffirmed a law promulgated earlier this year that empowers the Assembly to name the members of the Revolutionary Council.

Key moderate leaders of the Council were absent from the Assembly session; rumors in Lisbon have it that they have resigned.

If Goncalves has indeed retained his power, the reaction from those opposing the country's drift to the left is likely to be strong and taken into the streets. In an apparent warning to the Socialists and also to other demonstrators who have been attacking Communists throughout the country, the Assembly advocated firm action against those who "create a climate of popular agitation" and hinder the construction of socialism. Labor Minister Costa Martins, reportedly a confidant and political ally of Goncalves, on Thursday told US embassy officials that continued opposition by the Socialists and Popular Democrats to the policies of the Armed Forces Movement would probably result in the cancellation of municipal and parliamentary elections promised later this year.

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A moderate note was struck by President Costa Gomes in his opening address to the Assembly. He appealed for a slowdown in the revolution, warned against antagonizing the West, and acknowledged that the military no longer had the support of all the Portuguese people. The President's remarks could have some influence on attitudes in Lisbon

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The Azores question was also taken up by the Assembly. Its communiqué said that reports were heard and that measures to solve the islands' problems were discussed.

In the most authoritative statement made by any Portuguese leader in recent days, Costa Martins told the US labor attaché that, while the Portuguese may be passive, the government would do everything in its power to defeat a move toward Azorean independence. He emphasized that the islands are entirely different from the African colonies; they are populated by Portuguese and are an integral part of Portugal, he said. The Azores were reported calm yesterday after a group of Portuguese sailors were beaten by an angry mob on Thursday night.

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NOTES

The Israelis reportedly are demobilizing the civilian reservists recalled to duty earlier this week

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Tel Aviv asserts that there are now some 15,000 to 20,000 Egyptian troops and some 41 tanks on the east bank of the canal. The disengagement agreement permits only 7,000 men and 30 tanks in this area. The Israelis claim that the buildup has occurred over the past five months, but has been greatest since July 15. They say they intend to protest the excess tanks to the UN command, but not the extra troops because of the difficulty of supporting the claim. The Israelis report that they have detected no Egyptian violations on the west bank of the canal.

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The Australian Labor government has been further weakened by the controversy over Prime Minister Whitlam's firing of former deputy prime minister Cairns.

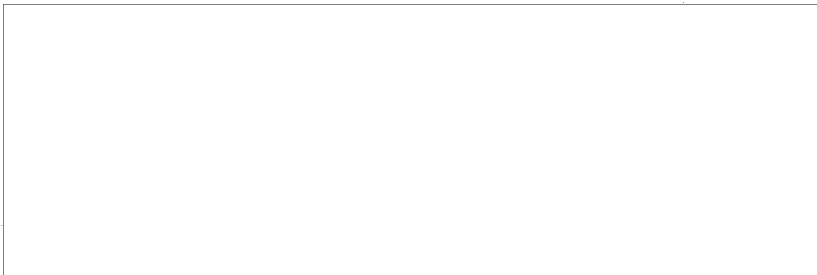
The Labor Party's standing has dropped to a record low in recent opinion polls--well below 40 percent in most samplings. Whitlam faces sharp questioning from the Labor Party Executive next week. Many members of the Executive hold Whitlam personally responsible for the Labor government's troubles, and he will be taken to task for his tendency to act arbitrarily without consulting the party hierarchy.

* * *

The National Front for the Liberation of Angola apparently succeeded in pushing the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola from the town of Caxito, 40 miles northeast of Luanda, on Thursday night.

The Front regards Caxito--an important junction along a major supply route into Luanda--as a key staging area for forcing its way back into the capital. The Front apparently is consolidating its position in the Caxito area.

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The Thai foreign ministry is studying the results of a recent meeting of low-level Thai and Cambodian officials near the Thai border.

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The two sides are said to have discussed trade and diplomatic relations, opening of the border, and the possibility of additional meetings. Such border contacts have taken place before, but this is the first time that issues broader than local trade have been discussed. If the contact was made on orders from Phnom Penh, it could lead to a more formal and higher level dialogue. The Cambodians certainly are not yet ready to move toward a resumption of diplomatic ties, however, and they may only be trying to relax the situation along the border and expand trade in order to alleviate local supply shortages.

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