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The President's Daily Brief

July 29, 1975

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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Nigeria: Lagos Radio this morning broadcast an announcement by the head of the presidential bodyguard stating that the armed forces had replaced General Gowon as head of government. The announcement said that the coup had been bloodless, but did not mention the whereabouts of Gowon, who may be at the African summit meeting in Uganda. (Page 2)

Portugal: Socialist leader Soares has again called for a "government of national salvation" to replace the ruling three-man junta. He referred favorably to President Costa Gomes and again strongly attacked Prime Minister Goncalves. (Page 3)

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TURKEY

The cabinet meets today to evaluate the progress made in implementing the government's decision to suspend operations at selected US installations and to turn control of them over to the Turkish army. The suspension of operations is to be monitored continually by the Turkish general staff.

Instructions to the 11 Turkish teams who will take command today of five US-run installations makes clear that the Turks expect to have access to all areas of the bases.

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The Turkish general staff has confirmed that operations at the US Coast Guard long-range navigation station at Kargaburun must be suspended. Kargaburun has not been classified as a common defense installation as have the other bases where activity has been halted. The foreign ministry told the US embassy yesterday that the general staff did not believe Kargaburun either directly served Turkey's national defense interests or was essential to the well-being of US troops. This statement is consistent with a comment by the Minister of Interior on Sunday that activity would be continued only at installations which the Turkish general staff believed were needed.

The instructions to the Turkish teams do not apply beyond a transitional period pending negotiations. Ankara's longer range intentions may become evident at today's special meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Brussels. The Turkish NATO delegation has informed the US that it will present a statement describing the measures Turkey has taken on the installations and prospects for the future.

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In Cyprus, Turkish Cypriot leaders are meeting today to consider measures against US [redacted] installations in the Turkish Cypriot zone that have been closed since the Turkish invasion last summer. Senior Turkish Cypriot officials hint they may declare the Turkish Cypriot zone an independent state. Ankara has thus far opposed such a move.

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NIGERIA

Lagos Radio this morning broadcast an announcement by Colonel Joseph Garba, head of the brigade of guards, in which he declared that the Nigerian armed forces have "decided to effect a change in the leadership of the federal military government," and that General Gowon "from now" ceases to be head of government and commander in chief of the armed forces.

Garba also announced a dusk-to-dawn curfew, suspension of Nigerian Airways operations, and the closing of all Nigerian airports and borders.

Garba claimed "this has been a bloodless operation," suggesting that forces responsive to him were in control of at least Lagos itself and that the coup has been successful. He claimed that he was acting "in consultation with my colleagues," but there is as yet no information as to what units, if any, are acting in concert with the brigade of guards. Garba obviously has control of the Lagos radio station. The brigade of guards is the presidential bodyguard, an important unit stationed in the Lagos area.

The broadcast made no reference to the whereabouts of General Gowon. The general had previously announced that he would be attending the summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity, which is scheduled to open today in Kampala, Uganda. He is probably out of the country.

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PORTUGAL

Portuguese Socialist Party leader Mario Soares yesterday called again for a "government of national salvation" to replace the ruling three-man junta in Lisbon.

In a news conference Soares said that the government must be built around a noncontroversial figure capable of rallying popular support. He was referring to President Costa Gomes. On Sunday the Socialists had called on Costa Gomes to construct a broadly based government from the various political parties and the factions in the Armed Forces Movement.

Soares also made a hard-hitting attack on Prime Minister Goncalves and warned of the danger of a dictatorship by "one group" or one man.

Goncalves is expected to announce the membership of the new provisional cabinet shortly after General Otelo de Carvalho, who with Costa Gomes and Goncalves make up the ruling triumvirate, returns from Cuba on Wednesday. The US embassy believes that Otelo will also serve as one of two vice prime ministers and that the ministers and state secretaries will be leftist "non-party technicians."

The uncertain situation in Portugal led to reports yesterday that Costa Gomes would not attend the European security conference summit. Last night, however, Radio Lisbon reported that Costa Gomes and his delegation will depart for Helsinki on Thursday.

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