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The President's Daily Brief

July 30, 1975

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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TURKEY

The take-over yesterday of US-run joint defense installations occurred without incident.

In a speech yesterday in Brussels, Turkish ambassador to NATO Eralp did not clarify Ankara's long-range intentions toward the bases, nor did he specifically ask the NATO allies to help him out with military sales. He did say, however, that Ankara wanted to establish a new basis of cooperation in future negotiations with the US to ensure a continuous and sufficient defense support to Turkey independent of "whims of certain ethnic pressure groups."

Publicly Eralp has taken a harder line, implying that he did not know whether his government would agree to start talks while the arms embargo continues. He also said that at the installations now run by the Turks, US personnel will be there merely to show the Turks how to run them.

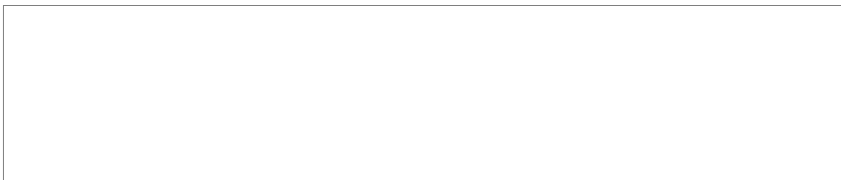
In Cyprus, meanwhile, the Turkish Cypriots, doubtless at Ankara's behest, are now preventing US personnel from entering our Foreign Broadcast Information Service station [redacted] in the Turkish Cypriot zone.

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EGYPT

Egypt's decision in June to limit Soviet access to Egyptian naval facilities prompted a Soviet protest early this month.

[redacted]

[redacted] renewed access would depend on a favorable decision by Moscow on outstanding Egyptian military and economic requests.

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[redacted]

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[redacted] The Soviets have been denied access since early June to facilities at [redacted]

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[redacted] the Gulf of Sollum and [redacted]

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[redacted] have lost their priority status in the use of facilities at Alexandria.

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since the Soviets had consistently said they were "studying" Egyptian requests for the replacement of war losses and debt rescheduling, the Egyptians would "study" the Soviet protest and inform Moscow of the results after the Soviets reached a decision on Egyptian requests.

[redacted]

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It is by no means certain that the Soviets have turned conciliatory on the debt issue. The Cairo press has reported that an air of optimism surrounds Ismail's talks in Moscow, but the scheduled conclusion of his mission has been postponed at least twice, and Soviet media have yet to mention even his presence in the Soviet Union. There has been no indication so far that Moscow is prepared to accede to Egyptian demands for the replacement of military equipment lost in the 1973 war or to sign a new arms agreement.

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NIGERIA

The overthrow of General Gowon in yesterday's bloodless military coup appears to have been successful. No overt opposition to the coup among the military or civilian population has yet surfaced. Gowon apparently is still in Kampala, Uganda, where he had been attending the OAU summit meeting.

Several changes in Nigeria's military government have been announced, with more likely to come. The new chief of state and commander of the armed forces is Brigadier Murtala Mohammed, a 37-year-old Hausa tribesman from northern Nigeria. He played a key part in the 1966 coup that eventually elevated Gowon to power and has since had a checkered history of allegiance to Gowon.

The appointments announced thus far seem to reflect a balance of Nigeria's competing tribal and regional interests. None of the new appointees served under Gowon on the Supreme Military Council, Nigeria's highest decision-making body. Although they have not made any policy statements thus far, what little is known of some of the appointees suggests they may be inclined to pursue a somewhat more nationalist and less conservative course than did Gowon.

Nigeria's new military rulers may have moved against Gowon because of what they regarded as his indecisive leadership, and their exclusion from policy-making positions. The coup came at a time when grumbling was increasing among both civilians and the military over the government's seeming drift in the face of accumulating economic problems, such as inflation, commodity shortages, and unemployment.

The status of Gowon's former senior colleagues on the Supreme Military Council and the other commanders of the army's principal units is unclear. Nigeria's fragile post - civil war political stability could be undone if the new regime does not receive broad support from army leaders. Gowon's role in maintaining stability rested in large part on the fact that he came from a minority tribe and took a consensus approach to Nigeria's domestic problems.

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ETHIOPIA-SUDAN

Deterioration in Ethiopian-Sudanese relations may be responsible for reports of renewed fighting in southern Sudan.

The Ethiopians have claimed that since early July nearly 12,000 southern Sudanese have crossed the border to escape tribal fighting. According to a UN official, the refugees have complained about continuing strife between northern and southern Sudanese, but there is no evidence to indicate that the long civil war, which ended in 1972, is being renewed. Our embassy in Khartoum believes that some of the Sudanese refugees have crossed into Ethiopia merely in search of better living conditions.

Ethiopia's handling of the story, in fact, may be designed to pressure Sudan against giving assistance to Eritrean secessionists. Although we cannot corroborate evidence of such assistance, Addis Ababa apparently believes that Sudanese territory is being used as a rebel staging area. The setting up of a camp for Sudanese army deserters and threats to get involved in the fighting appear to be a ploy by Ethiopia to pressure Khartoum into re-examining its support for the Eritreans.

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NOTES

Portuguese Prime Minister Goncalves is still forming a government. Final action is probably being delayed until General Otelo de Carvalho returns from Cuba today.

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President Costa Gomes has postponed his departure for the Helsinki summit, probably to attend the swearing in of the new government. Most likely, a new foreign minister will accompany Costa Gomes when he goes to Finland on Friday. Foreign Minister Antunes is not expected to be reappointed, and press reports indicate Admiral Rosa Coutinho is a leading candidate to replace Antunes. Europeans who have met him consider Coutinho a lightweight.

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[Redacted] Uganda [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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Argentina's President Maria Estela Peron apparently is bowing to growing pressures to step aside, at least temporarily.

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A period of convalescence away from the capital could open the way for Peron to become a figurehead or to confer power on her constitutional successor, Senate head Italo Luder. The President met with cabinet and military officials yesterday for the first time since she fell ill more than a week ago.

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The Chinese grain crop will top the record 255-million-ton harvest last year, if average weather holds throughout the remainder of the growing season.

We believe that China is not likely to require much more than the 4 million tons of wheat already booked for 1975 delivery from Canada and Australia.

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The EC Nine still are trying to come up with a plan of action to deal with Arab efforts against Israel in the UN.

President Giscard and Chancellor Schmidt agree that formal demarches to the Arabs--either by the EC or by individual members--would be counter-productive at this time. They intend instead to try to get Community agreement to take quiet but persuasive action in selected Arab, nonaligned, and African capitals where it might be most effective.

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