



The President's Daily Brief

September 29, 1975



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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LEBANON

The cease-fire in Beirut continued to hold over the weekend, and the atmosphere for today's meeting of the national reconciliation committee has improved. Isolated clashes between Christians and Muslims have occurred in the suburbs, however, underlining the fragility of the truce.

There is still little public sign of compromise by Christians and Muslims. Socialist leader Jumblatt declared on Saturday that there would be no reconciliation with the Phalanges Party before basic leftist demands are met.

In contrast to this public intransigence, the major political forces are cooperating with the security forces. Fedayeen representatives have agreed [redacted] to deny their arms depots to all factions. The Phalangist representatives, meanwhile, have allowed police to take control of barricades under Phalangist control.

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EGYPT

The first open opposition to the Sinai disengagement agreement surfaced in Cairo last week when leftist students conducted three days of protest demonstrations at a Cairo university.

The demonstrations were confined to the campus and apparently were finally quelled when police arrested several of the agitators. The students are traditionally prone to agitation and susceptible to leftist blandishments. Authorities had hoped, however, that they would refrain from open protest until the beginning of the school year in mid-October.

The majority of Egyptians still appear to support the agreement. Student demonstrations nonetheless have worried government officials, who apparently have censored press coverage of the protests. The lack of publicity given to this domestic criticism is in contrast to the full coverage being given to criticism from other Arabs. Egyptians deeply resent this foreign criticism, and it has served to rally support for President Sadat.

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PORTUGAL

Portuguese troops occupied all radio and television stations early this morning on orders of Prime Minister Azevedo, according to press reports. Azevedo issued the orders in his capacity as acting president; President Costa Gomes is in Warsaw to begin a week's official visit to Poland and the USSR.

The move was taken by Azevedo as tension mounted between Portugal and Spain over the violent demonstrations in Portugal against the execution of five Spanish terrorists on Saturday. A government statement said the action was intended to prevent media exploitation of the event to stir up anti-Spanish agitation. Portugal, which depends on Spain for much of its water and electricity, has already expressed regret and promised to pay for the damage caused when demonstrators attacked the Spanish embassy in Lisbon and a consulate in Porto over the weekend.

The occupation may also be directed against the Communists and could be part of a government move to break their stranglehold on the media. Azevedo said that he would address the nation later today to explain his actions.

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OPEC

The agreement of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to raise the price of their crude oil by 10 percent as of October 1 will cost oil-importing nations some \$11 billion annually.

The increase for major oil importers will be:

	Million US\$
United States	2,500
Japan	1,900
West Germany	950
France	900
United Kingdom	700
Italy	700

The adverse impact on growth, although substantial, is difficult to quantify. Economic policy-makers in most industrial countries had anticipated that OPEC would raise oil prices by at least 10 percent and taken the rise into account in formulating their programs for economic expansion.

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NOTES

Indonesian President Suharto is sending Foreign Minister Malik to Portugal in an effort to break the current impasse over Portuguese Timor.

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Suharto still wants Lisbon to organize a multilateral peace-keeping force in Timor. Portugal, meanwhile, continues to call for a negotiated settlement, but is unable to enforce its will there. Now that the worst bloodshed is over and most Portuguese citizens have been evacuated, Lisbon has less reason to authorize Indonesian intervention.

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[Redacted] India
[Redacted] Bangladesh.

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