



The President's Daily Brief

September 30, 1975

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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Table of Contents

Portugal: Prime Minister Azevedo's move on the media yesterday is the toughest action his new government has taken to implement its promise to restore democratic pluralism to the media and discipline to the military. (Page 1)

Lebanon: Neither the Phalangists nor their leftist opponents indicated any relaxation in their respective positions at yesterday's meeting of the national conciliation committee. (Page 2)

25X1

Thailand: [Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

(Page 3)

Mauritius: [Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

(Page 4)

25X1

Jordan-Syria: [Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

(Page 6)

25X1

Cuba: Castro's strong endorsement for the cause of Puerto Rican independence Sunday apparently was intended as a response to what he labeled "strong statements" by US officials. (Page 7)

Notes: Saudi Arabia; USSR-Libya; USSR (Page 8)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PORTUGAL

Prime Minister Azevedo's move on the media yesterday is the toughest action his new government has taken to implement its promise to restore democratic pluralism to the media and discipline to the military. If he is forced to back down, it will be a serious blow to his credibility and the long-term prospects of his government.

The Prime Minister is running into some trouble. All radio and television stations have been occupied by security troops, but the stations are ignoring Azevedo's orders that his communiqué be read every 15 minutes and that all news not received from official sources be subject to government censorship. Security forces have sided with the workers in at least one station. Representatives of the occupied stations held an inconclusive meeting with security chief Carvalho and Information Minister Almeida Santos last night. During the meeting, demonstrators outside demanded removal of the troops from all stations and threatened otherwise to take back the stations by force.

Azevedo told the nation in a speech last night that his action is intended to end the media's encouragement of civil disruption and its exploitation of indiscipline in the armed forces. He issued the order as acting president while Costa Gomes, who is well-known for temporizing and compromising, is out of the country visiting Poland and the USSR. Both the new cabinet and the top military leadership unanimously supported Azevedo's decision.

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LEBANON

The national conciliation committee apparently dealt chiefly with matters affecting the cease-fire at its second meeting yesterday. It has only begun to solicit ideas on coping with the causes of violence. Prime Minister Karami announced that the committee had agreed on steps to remove street barricades, silence snipers, close down clandestine radio stations, and stop kidnappings.

Neither the Phalangists nor their leftist opponents indicated any relaxation in their respective positions at yesterday's meeting. Phalangist leader Pierre Jumayyil, for example, insists on discussing the question of the Palestinians in Lebanon--a matter most other participants would prefer to avoid.

The composition of the committee is also complicating the talks. Leaders of the conservative wing of the Shia Muslims and at least two small Christian groups complain that they are underrepresented. To meet their objections, Karami is reportedly trying to expand committee membership. He is being vigorously opposed in this effort by Kamal Jumblatt's leftists.

The security situation in Beirut improved yesterday, and shops and stores began to reopen. Most banks were closed but were expected to reopen today. The army is enforcing security in the commercial sections of Beirut, leaving the internal security forces and the Palestine Liberation Organization responsible for other areas of the city.

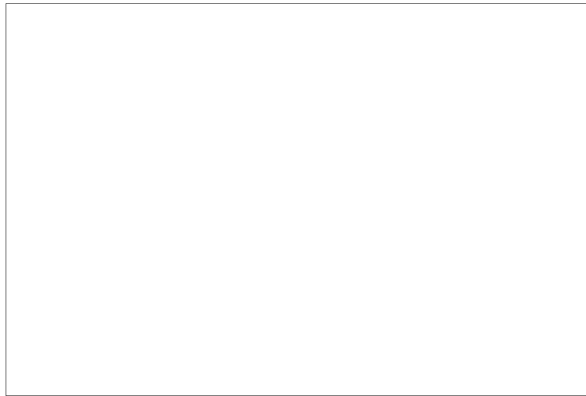
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THAILAND



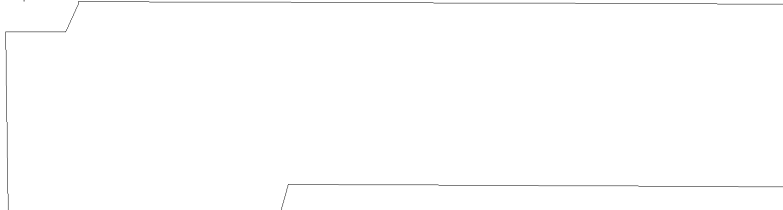
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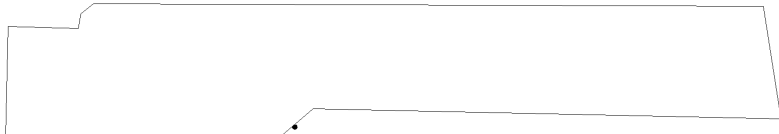
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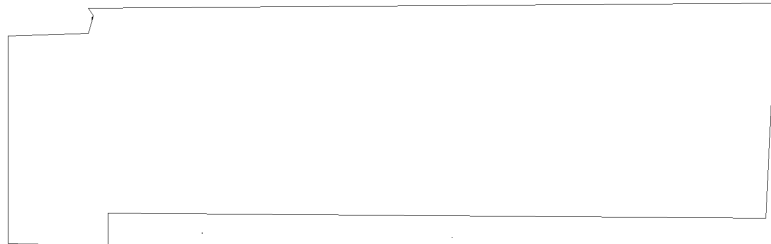
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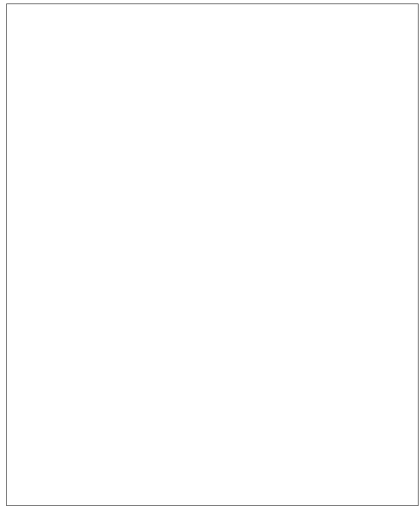
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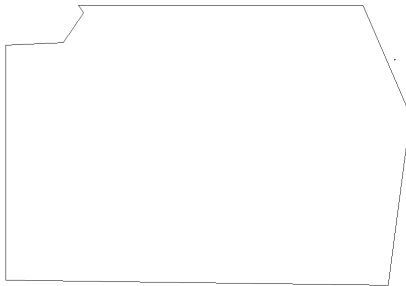


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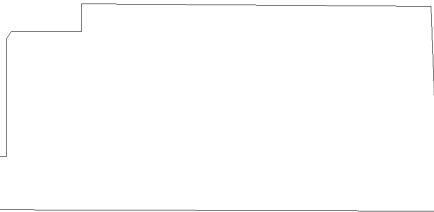
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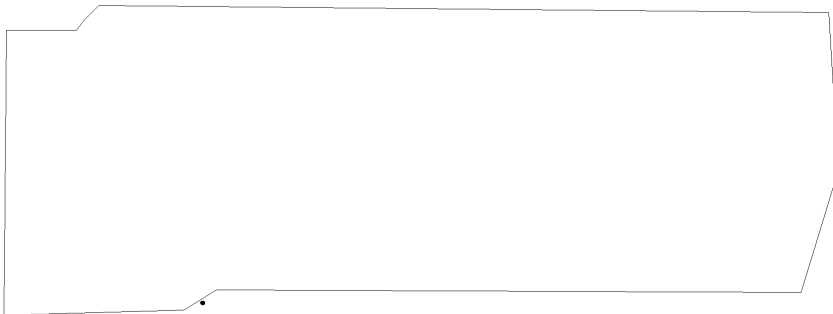
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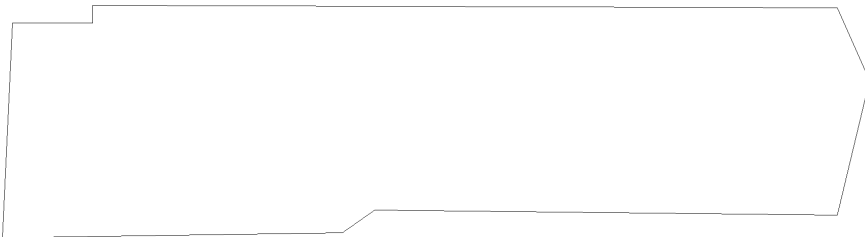
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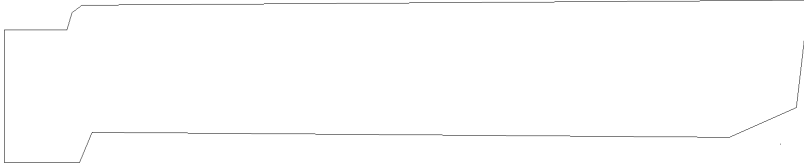
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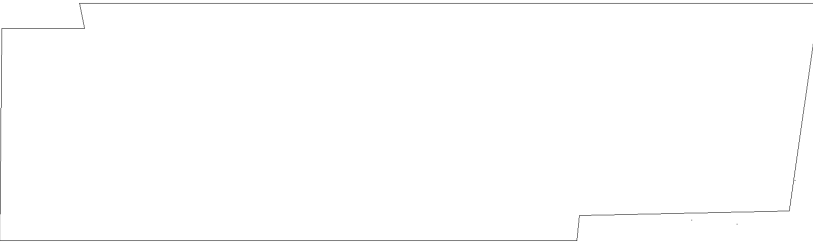
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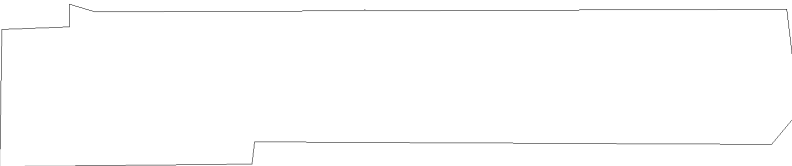
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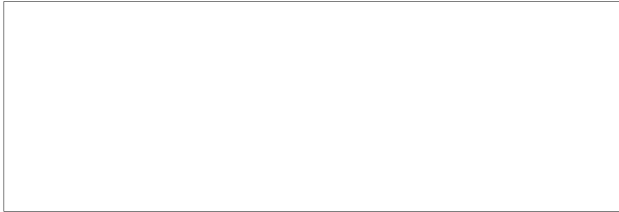


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JORDAN-SYRIA



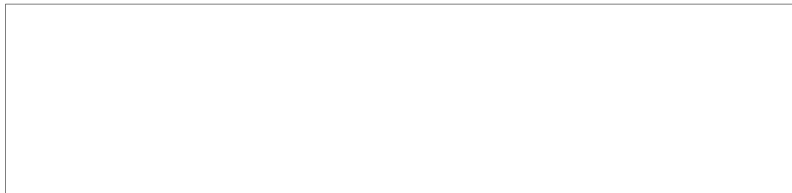
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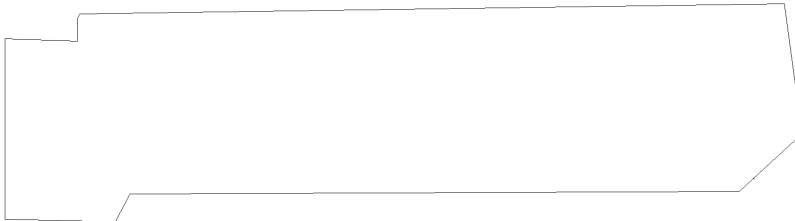
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CUBA

Fidel Castro's strong endorsement for the cause of Puerto Rican independence during his speech on Sunday apparently was intended as a response to what he labeled "strong statements" by US officials.

Castro spoke briefly about Puerto Rico and the US in a long speech otherwise devoted to domestic affairs. He implied that Cuban solidarity with the cause of Puerto Rican independence is a matter of principle and will not be renounced in order to improve relations with Washington. He added "if that is not understood, we will know how to be as patient as necessary."

Contrary to some press accounts of the speech, Castro did not depart from the now standard Cuban position regarding Puerto Rico. Nothing he said, however, indicated a retreat from his stated willingness to begin negotiations with the US to settle differences.

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NOTES

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Four [redacted] TU-22 medium bombers Libya purchased last year from the Soviet Union were delivered yesterday.

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