

The President's Daily Brief



October 2, 1975

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PORTUGAL

Prime Minister Azevedo and his allies in the anti-Communist political parties appear to be moving toward a showdown with leftist political groups and their sympathizers in the military.

The Socialist Party continues firmly to support Azevedo's efforts to curb far-left and Communist influence in the media and to restore military discipline. It joined the Popular Democratic Party last night in alerting supporters to be ready to resist any anti-government action during a leftist rally. The rally took place without serious incident, but a number of left-wing soldiers joined the demonstrating workers.

Earlier yesterday, leftist troops defied Azevedo's orders to withdraw from a radio station where they had sided with the Communist-influenced workers after occupying the station on Monday. They finally agreed to leave after Azevedo promised that the police--generally considered more conservative--would not be replacing them.

Azevedo has few units in the Lisbon area that he can rely on in the event of serious trouble. The commandos at Amadora, just west of the capital, and the paratroopers at Tancos to the north are the most reliable. These units are apparently providing most of the troops for the new intervention force that is still being organized.

The government also appears to be trying to discredit, and eventually to remove, General Otelo de Carvalho, commander of the Lisbon military region. Carvalho marched to the presidential palace with extremist demonstrators Monday night where he was called upon by the crowd to take over the government. According to a story circulating in Lisbon, Azevedo put an end to the episode by telling Foreign Minister Antunes to "throw the fool out." The story, whether true or not, is undermining Carvalho's reputation.

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The Soviets are giving high visibility treatment to President Costa Gomes' visit to Moscow. The President's arrival was carried live on Moscow television, and he was greeted by President Podgorny, Foreign Minister Gromyko, and Defense Minister Grechko. Soviet press references to the "summit level" of the meetings strongly suggest that Costa Gomes will see party leader Brezhnev.

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EGYPT-ISRAEL

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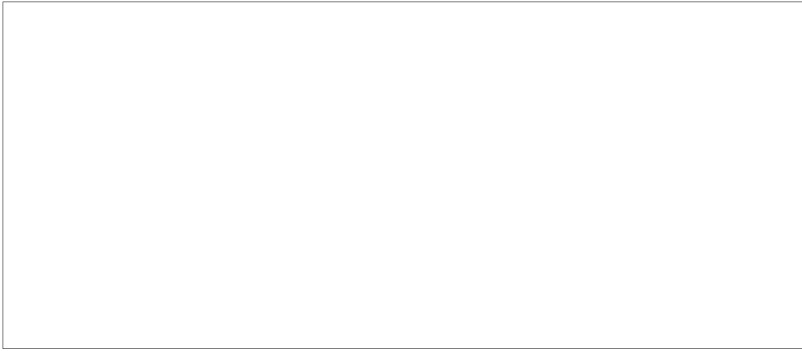
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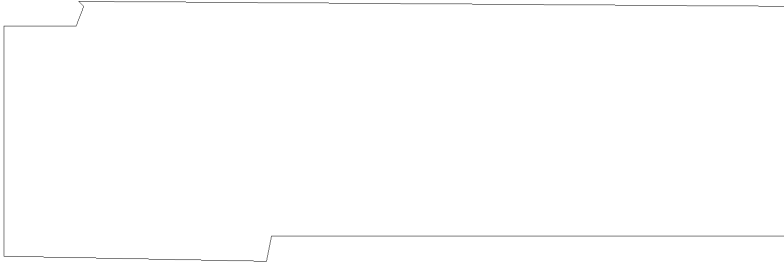
USSR-POLAND



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NOTE

The future of Lebanon's national reconciliation committee now seems in jeopardy.

Phalangist leader Jumayyil and leftist leader Jumblatt, both members of the committee, each accuse the other of responsibility for the brief flare-up in fighting on Tuesday that followed the killing of several members of the Druze sect by Phalangists. Jumblatt, who is a Druze, is demanding that the Phalangists surrender those responsible for the killings. The US embassy doubts that Jumblatt will ever again sit in the same room with Jumayyil.

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