



# The President's Daily Brief

October 13, 1975

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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LEBANON

*The situation in Lebanon is relatively quiet as implementation of the cease-fire moves slowly forward. Efforts to remove private militiamen from barricades apparently are making some progress, but snipers are still active in several Beirut suburbs. The killing of a Christian Phalangist leader by snipers on Saturday marred a reconciliation meeting between Muslim and Christian groups, but has not, as feared, triggered a new round of fighting.*

The uneasy cease-fire has allowed political attention to focus on the efforts of Lebanese and Arab leaders to deal with the crisis. Prime Minister Karami told Ambassador Godley that the Syrians, during the Damascus conference, persuaded Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat and Saiqa leader Zuhayr Muhsin to agree to dampen the fighting and to remove the barricades, if Interior Minister Shamun could persuade the Phalangists to do likewise.

Karami told Godley that the next step to a peaceful solution was to arrange a private meeting between Phalangist leader Pierre Jumayyil and leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt. The prime minister said that he was attempting to arrange such a meeting.

Karami denied that he had discussed with President Asad the possibility of using the army more overtly to maintain law and order. As of late yesterday, however, there were indications that the army had begun to assume some functions from the security forces in Beirut.

In his discussions with Godley, Karami was uncharacteristically critical of both President Franjyah and Jumblatt. According to the prime minister, Franjyah is totally ineffective and is concerned only with what he considers to be essential Christian rights. Karami described Jumblatt as acting in a totally irresponsible manner and as contributing nearly as much as Franjyah to the demise of Lebanon.

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PORTUGAL

*Prime Minister Azevedo is expected to announce today new measures to restore public order and military discipline.*

The cabinet decided last Thursday to take tough measures to restore order, but Azevedo had to wait to get backing from top military leaders of the Revolutionary Council. The Cabinet and the Council met in a marathon session Friday night and Saturday morning and issued a communiqué expressing complete support for Azevedo.

Speculation in Lisbon on the measures Azevedo will announce today, center on rumors that President Costa Gomes will give up his post of Armed Forces Chief of Staff to an advocate of stern discipline-- a move called for earlier by Popular Democratic Party leader Sa Carneiro. Central military region commander General Charais--an original member of the "Antunes nine" which led the anti-Goncalves move in August--is being touted for the job. Such a move would reduce the influence of Costa Gomes

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It would also side-step Army chief Fabiao, who is viewed as lacking the necessary decisiveness to restore discipline in the military.

Azevedo's hand should also be strengthened by progress in the formation of the military intervention force. The new unit reportedly will be made up of the crack commando unit stationed just outside Lisbon, as well as elements from the marines and paratroopers. The commando unit is being augmented by calling some former members back into service, a procedure that should deepen the conservative orientation of the intervention force.

## FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

## NOTES

Moroccan King Hassan arrived in Marrakech on Thursday for what the press has described as a week's visit.

The King's trip to the southern city probably is related to Mauritanian President Ould Dada's visit this week for discussions on Spanish Sahara. Our embassy in Rabat believes, however, that the King's conversations with the Mauritanians in Marrakech may be part of his strategy to couple a reasonable public posture with preparations for military action. The embassy points out that Marrakech was the King's military headquarters during the war in 1963 against Algeria.

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Indonesian President Suharto has ordered the reinforcement of positions along the Portuguese Timor border, following reversals last week at the hands of Fretilin troops.

Early in the week, Fretilin forces pushed Indonesian special forces troops out of Batugade, the last Indonesian stronghold on the Portuguese side of the border. As a result of this setback, Suharto ordered his troops patrolling the border to pursue any Fretilin forces intruding into Indonesian territory back into Portuguese Timor. Late last week after several more border clashes, Indonesian troops launched an attack against Fretilin positions near the border and retook Batugade.

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