



The President's Daily Brief

November 5, 1975

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November 5, 1975

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LEBANON

The cease-fire in Beirut held yesterday for a fourth day.

Army units reportedly have opened several key highways into the capital. Christian and Muslim militiamen have thinned out some of their forces in the residential Qantari section and in the luxury hotel district of the city. Neither side, however, has shown any willingness to relinquish its vantage points. The tense atmosphere in the downtown area has kept the citizens off the streets, despite Prime Minister Karami's repeated appeals for government and private employees to return to work.

Political attention, meanwhile, continues to focus on the rift between Karami and Interior Minister Shamun. Shamun apparently boycotted the meeting of the national dialogue committee on Monday. Shamun and the Prime Minister were to meet privately yesterday, presumably to iron out their differences before today's cabinet meeting.

Karami reportedly has made some behind-the-scenes headway in negotiations with Christian and Palestinian leaders, despite the poor showing of the dialogue committee. [redacted]

[redacted] preparations are underway for a direct dialogue between Phalanges Party leaders and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

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ANGOLA

The National Front for the Liberation of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola have announced that they are setting up joint committees to coordinate future political and military activities. These committees probably represent a first step in the establishment of a government to rival the one that the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola is expected to proclaim on November 11.

Cooperation and communication between the National Front and National Union groups, however, are poor. Their respective troops do not get along well with each other in the field, and military leaders on both sides believe the other group is trying to take credit for recent battlefield successes.

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The two groups also expressed their willingness to confer with the Popular Movement in Kampala, as proposed by President Amin, the chairman of the Organization of African Unity. They made no reference, however, to the cease-fire that Amin called for last weekend. The National Front and the National Union are in no hurry to agree to any cease-fire as their joint force moves to recapture the Benguela-Lobito rail and port complex in central Angola. Heavy fighting apparently is taking place in that area and the two groups seem confident they will be able to take both towns soon. Their success would significantly strengthen the credibility of any government they may proclaim.

The hard-pressed Popular Movement has sent a representative to Kampala. The Movement needs a respite in order

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to bolster its defenses at Benguela, Lobito and around Luanda.

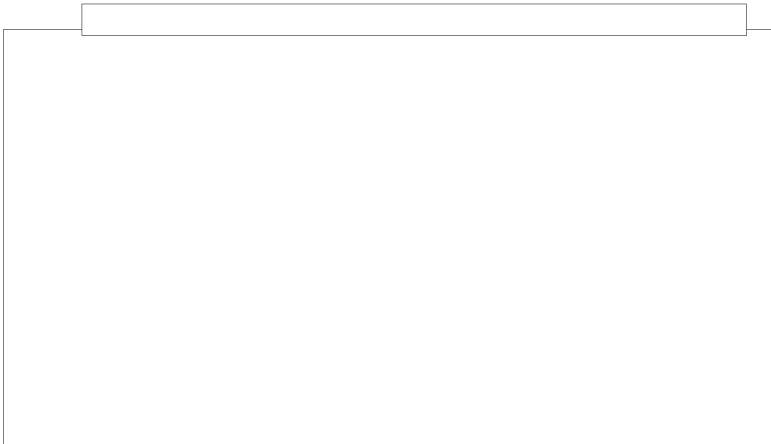
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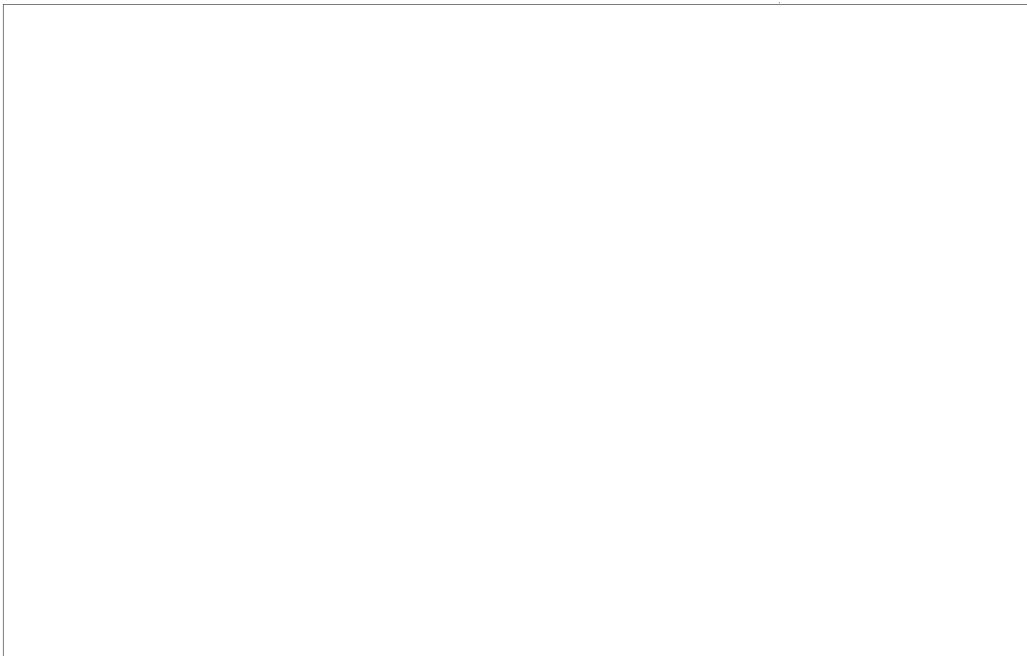
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The Soviet media are devoting increasing attention to Angola as the scheduled date for independence draws near. Recent commentaries in *Pravda*, *Izvestiya*, and *Red Star* portray the Soviet-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola as beleaguered patriots struggling against an alignment of forces--including Chinese, American, and South African--bent on reversing Angola's movement toward independence and retarding Africa's decolonization process. The articles apparently are designed to prepare the domestic audience for a setback to a client that Moscow has touted as a successful pro-Soviet liberation movement. By emphasizing foreign intervention on behalf of the Popular Movement's adversaries, Moscow may also be attempting to justify to a foreign audience its own stepped-up assistance to the Popular Movement.



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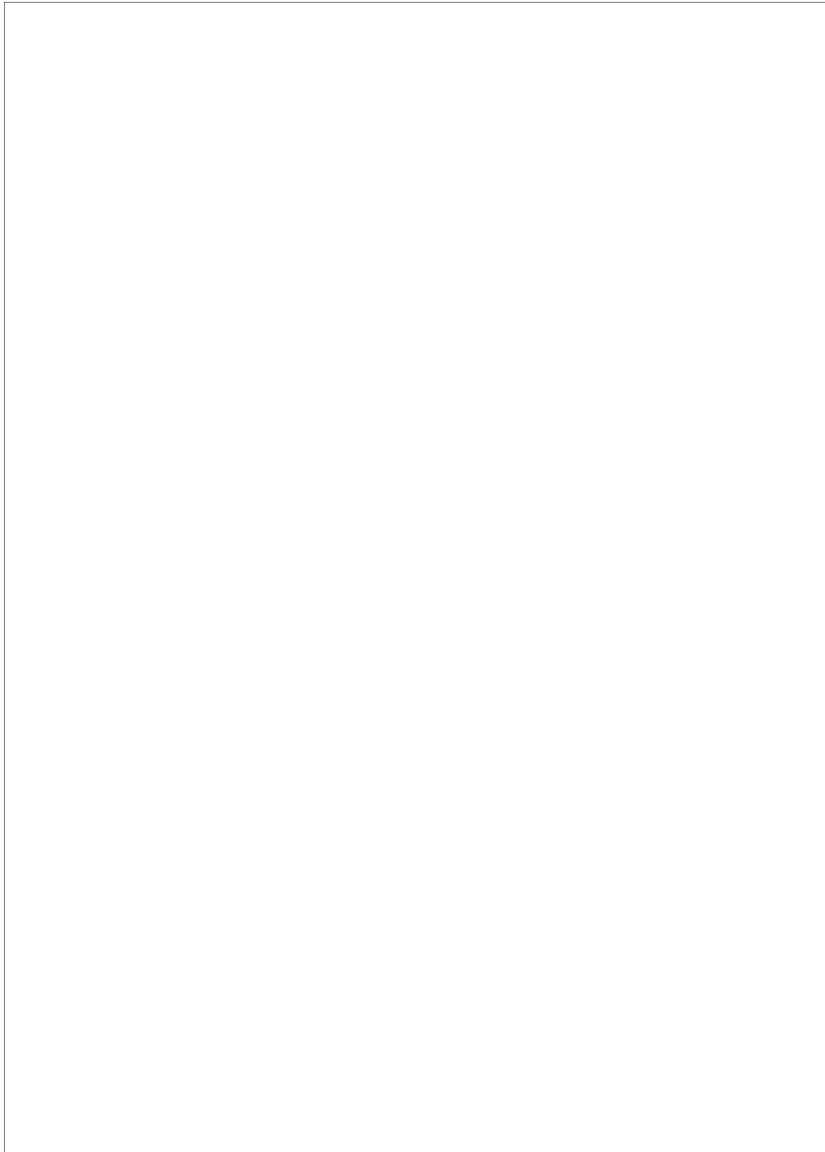
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TURKEY-CYPRUS



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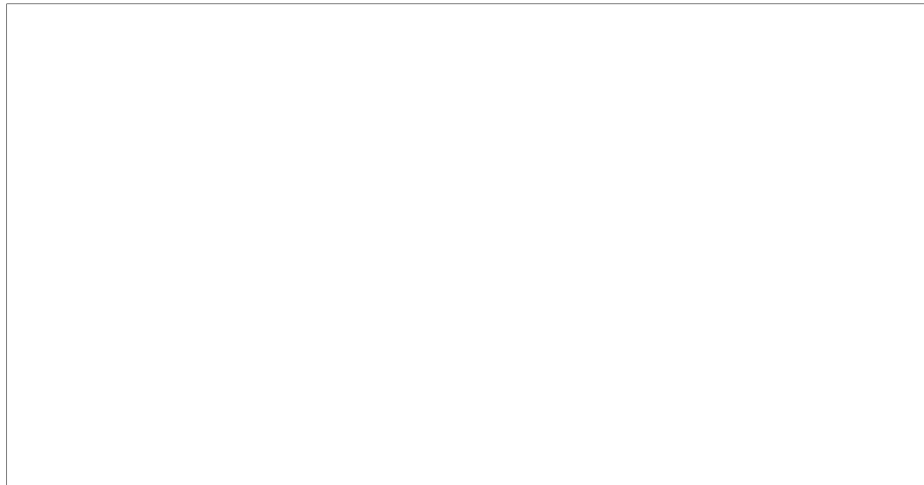


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NOTES

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Morocco's efforts to dissuade Spain and Algeria from seeking a UN-sponsored solution of the Spanish Sahara dispute apparently were unsuccessful.

Spanish leaders reportedly told Moroccan Prime Minister Osman that negotiations could continue only under UN auspices and provided Morocco called off its planned mass march into Spanish Sahara. Osman has stated that talks will continue, but that the march will go on. Morocco continues to use the date for beginning the march as its trump card in talks with Spain. It may offer a further delay in the hope of wringing some concession from Madrid.

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Portuguese Prime Minister Azevedo paid a visit to the provinces yesterday to enlist popular support for his government.

Azevedo's trip to the southern resort city of Faro also is an expression of support for the newly installed non-Communist civil governor and for the commander of the southern military region. Before the Prime Minister left Lisbon, his cabinet issued a communiqué reaffirming its decolonization policy in Angola and urging rapid reorganization of the news media.

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Five high-level officials of former president Mujib's regime in Bangladesh who were imprisoned last August by the Mushtaque government reportedly have been executed.

In reaction to the killings, President Mushtaque's cabinet has resigned, and Mushtaque himself is reportedly attempting to resign. The cabinet has not played an important part in the government, but its resignation could make it difficult for Musharraf, the new strongman, to build political support for his regime. A general strike occurred in Dacca this morning to protest the deaths. There is further evidence that Musharraf moved to take over the government out of personal ambition and that he has no major ideological or policy difference with President Mushtaque.

* * *

Thai Foreign Minister Chatchai has informed the US ambassador that Bangkok has decided to return to Laos aircraft claimed by Vientiane to help ease difficulties with the new regime there.

The planes--mostly T-28s--were in Thailand for servicing at the time of the communist takeover in Laos. Chatchai said Bangkok is aware of US reservations over such a return and that he would talk to the ambassador again before the government acts on the decision. The return of aircraft to Laos would make it difficult for Thailand to avoid a similar concession to the Vietnamese communists.

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