

## The President's Daily Brief

November 13, 1975

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The Indian Supreme Court, which last week overturned Prime Minister Gandhi's conviction for campaign violations in 1971, yesterday dealt her a major setback by refusing to reconsider a two-year-old ruling restricting the power of parliament to amend the constitution.

The Prime Minister and other members of her government have complained that parliament--representing "the people"--is frequently blocked by the courts, which they allege represent only a "small minority." She often has used her large majority in parliament to push through constitutional amendments when other means of attaining her goals have failed. One of these amendments recently was struck down by the courts. The court's decision has led to speculation that Gandhi may be planning action to strip the courts of some of their powers. One way for her to do this legally would be to call a constituent assembly, perhaps made up of the present parliament, to rewrite the nation's constitution.

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The European Free Trade Association has agreed to offer project aid to Portugal, but it is much less than Lisbon had requested.

EFTA last week approved a \$100-million investment fund for Portugal and a five-year delay in requiring Lisbon to eliminate tariffs on certain industrial imports from the other six members. The EC also has offered aid, but Lisbon is making little progress in drawing up acceptable projects. Any major flow of money into Portugal from either of these sources evidently is still some way off.

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