



The President's Daily Brief

December 15, 1975

2

~~Top Secret 25X1~~



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December 15, 1975

Table of Contents

Lebanon: The fighting continued over the weekend.
(Page 1)

25X1

Cuba-Angola-Nigeria: [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED]
Non-military assistance to the Popular Movement apparently will soon come from Nigeria.
(Page 2)

Australia: [REDACTED]

25X1

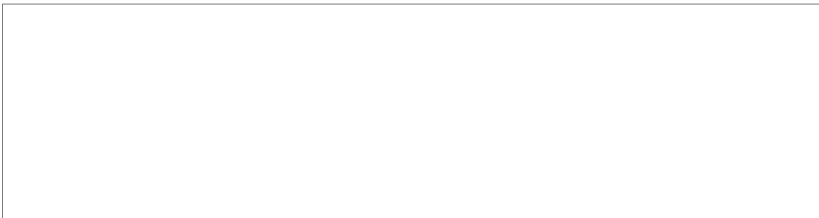
[REDACTED] (Page 4)

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LEBANON

Heavy fighting continued in Beirut and elsewhere in the country over the weekend.

The failure of the latest cease-fire--announced Friday--is due at least in part to the inability of the Palestine Liberation Organization to control radical Muslims.



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Press reports from Beirut suggest that Damascus may again be attempting to find a political solution. Former Lebanese prime minister Abdullah Yafi, a traditional Muslim leader, flew to Damascus over the weekend after meetings with Karami. Other reports indicate that leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt has been summoned to the Syrian capital.

This activity may be in preparation for another attempt by Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam to mediate the crisis. According to press reports, Khaddam is scheduled to visit Beirut early this week, perhaps today.

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CUBA-ANGOLA-NIGERIA



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[redacted] assistance to the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola apparently will soon come from Nigeria. Lagos recognized the Luanda-based regime last month in reaction to South Africa's involvement on behalf of the Movement's rivals [redacted]

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The Nigerian foreign minister has publicly announced that his government does not expect to send troops to Angola. [redacted]

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The head of a delegation of the Popular Movement that recently visited Lagos has spoken in terms of economic, commercial, and technical aid.

Nigeria apparently still hopes for the formation of a coalition government in Angola since no one nationalist group can claim majority popular support. Nigerian delegations are touring African capitals to explain Lagos' position and to exchange views on how to stop the fighting in Angola.

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The Nigerians recognize that the intransigence of the Popular Movement is a major obstacle to a political solution. Lagos may hope that by providing aid, it can gain greater leverage with leaders of the Movement and encourage them to adopt a more accommodating attitude toward a political settlement.

Nigeria may also see the provision of aid as a way to help the Popular Movement resist Soviet domination. Nigeria regards Movement leaders, for all their Marxist rhetoric, as pragmatic nationalists and reportedly is determined to do what it can to prevent the Popular Movement from becoming irretrievably mortgaged to Moscow.

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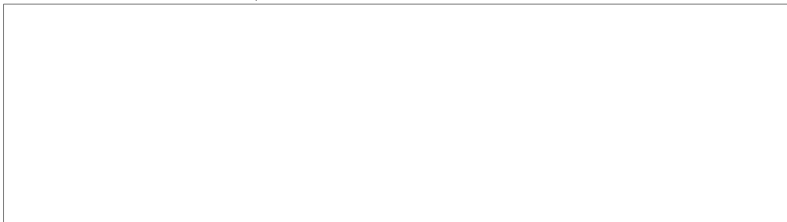
AUSTRALIA



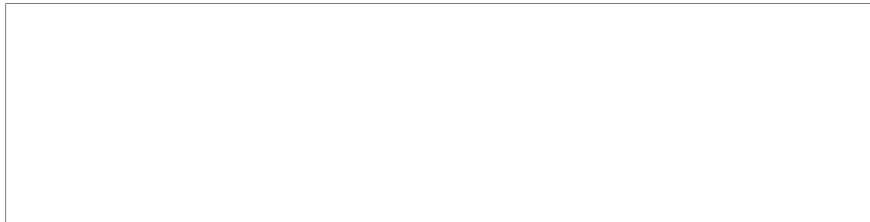
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