

The President's Daily Brief

December 22, 1975

2

~~*Top Secret 25X1*~~



Exempt from general
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652
exemption category 5R(1)(2)(3)
declassified only on approval of
the Director of Central Intelligence

December 22, 1975

Table of Contents

Lebanon: Syrian army Chief of Staff Shihabi's two days of talks with Lebanese and Palestinian leaders in Beirut and his praise for right-wing Phalanges Party leader Jumayyil have raised speculation that the trip was designed to press leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt to cooperate with Prime Minister Karami. (Page 1)

Egypt - Saudi Arabia - Lebanon: Egypt and Saudi Arabia apparently are planning a more active joint effort to mediate in Lebanon. (Page 3)

Angola: Forces of the National Front and the National Union are continuing to make gains in the central and eastern part of the country. (Page 6)

USSR-Angola: Moscow is continuing its propaganda campaign against the US on the Angolan issue. (Page 7)

Notes: Argentina; Austria (Page 8)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LEBANON

Syrian army Chief of Staff Shihabi's two days of talks with Lebanese and Palestinian leaders in Beirut and his praise for right-wing Phalanges Party leader Jumayyil have raised speculation that the trip was designed to press leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt to cooperate with Prime Minister Karami.

On Friday, Jumblatt said publicly that Lebanon is "at the beginning" of a political settlement that could take two or three months to implement. Although it was ambiguous, this was his most optimistic statement in several weeks.

Jumblatt so far has resisted the temptation to blame Lebanese Christians directly for the assassination of Tripoli Governor Qassim Al Imad on Saturday. Al Imad generally shared Jumblatt's leftist views and like Jumblatt was a member of the Druze sect.

For the present, Druze, Muslim, and Christian leaders are united in blaming the slaying on unidentified individuals seeking to perpetuate the fighting. Interior Minister Shamun claims to have evidence that radicals who in the past have used sniping attacks to spark a resumption of general hostilities are now preparing a series of political assassinations.

The Syrians may be trying to persuade Jumblatt to endorse the terms of an agreement worked out when Jumayyil visited Damascus early this month. That plan reportedly provides for:

- Implementation of an effective cease-fire.
- Expansion of the cabinet to include representatives of Jumayyil and Jumblatt.
- Agreement to minor, largely cosmetic reforms while President Franjiyah is in office.
- Negotiations on more fundamental reforms after a new president is elected in August 1976.

(continued)

Lebanese Christians probably would accept these proposals on the theory that they would bring immediate peace, and allow time to qualify or back away from the pledge to negotiate fundamental changes in the country's system of government.

Jumblatt and other leftists are reluctant to give up anything in return for mere promises of reform. They too have suffered heavy casualties in the fighting this year, however, and now may be convinced that Franjyah is not likely to resign or make significant concessions before his term expires.

EGYPT - SAUDI ARABIA - LEBANON

Egypt and Saudi Arabia apparently are planning a more active joint effort to mediate in Lebanon. They are apprehensive about the growing power and questionable intentions of the Lebanese radicals and the Syrians in the dispute.

[Redacted]

25X1
25X1

The Egyptians have been pressing the Saudis to take the lead in negotiations since Crown Prince Fahd's visit to Cairo early this month.

25X1

More active Saudi mediation would be welcomed by the Lebanese. It would be tolerated by the Syrians, who are still angry with the Egyptians over the second Sinai agreement, and would work to undercut a direct Egyptian initiative. A Christian member of the Lebanese cabinet told Ambassador Godley on Friday that Fahd was the only person who could mediate the Lebanese problem.

In late November, high-level Saudi officials were promoting an Arab summit as offering the best hope for ending the fighting in Lebanon. Khalid may propose such a meeting during his talks in Damascus or he may endorse the recent call by Iran for a special meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers.

Cairo and Riyadh [Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted] realize that they would have only limited ability to influence the decisions of such a group. Damascus, which is always reluctant to see its own influence in Lebanon diluted, has not yet replied, but President Asad presumably will offer his views during a visit to Tehran scheduled for December 28.

25X1

25X1

The Lebanese government has welcomed the Iranian proposal. Lebanese leaders have found in the past that any regional meeting focused on Lebanon

(continued)

tends to buy time by relieving domestic pressures on them. In addition, such meetings have always been accepted by the other Arabs as substitutes for more dramatic remedies, such as Arab military intervention in Lebanon.

Cairo and Riyadh apparently intend that their planned diplomatic initiative should substitute for serious consideration of any Arab military move at this time. Leaders of both countries, however, have at different times observed [redacted] military action might be required if the situation in Beirut should deteriorate sharply.

25X1

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud said in November that a pan-Arab force could provide a solution if it were invited in by the principal parties to the Lebanese dispute. [redacted]

25X1

[redacted]

25X1

[redacted]

25X1

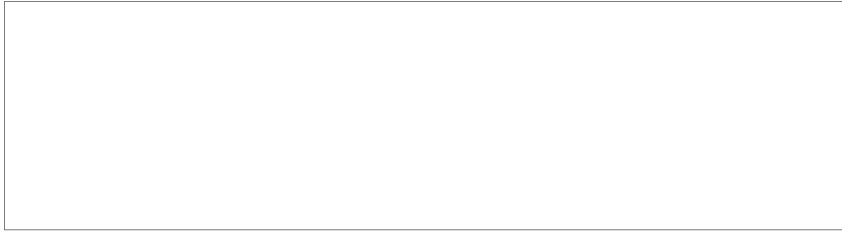
Some of the less radical Arab states might tacitly approve an Egyptian move to prevent the upset of Lebanon's traditional governing system, but few would be willing to risk Syrian and Palestinian condemnation by offering public support.

[redacted]

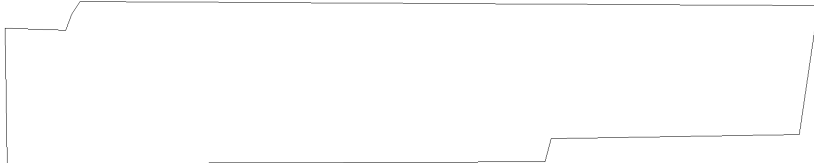
25X1

[redacted]

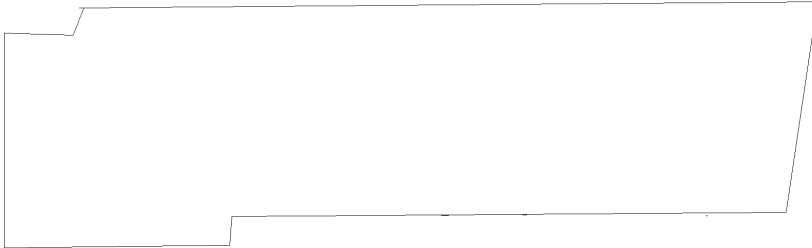
25X1



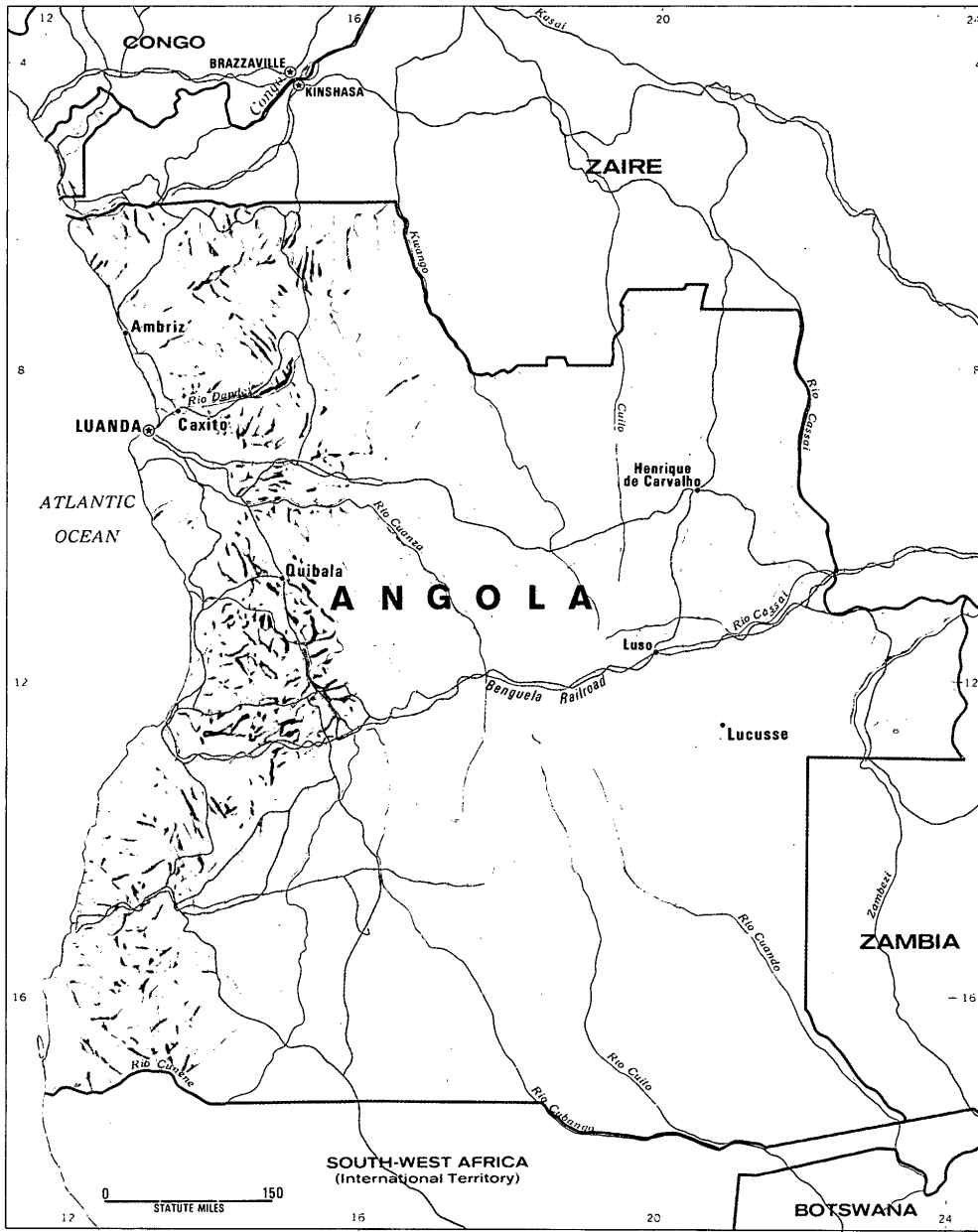
25X1



25X1



25X1



ANGOLA

Forces of the National Front and National Union are continuing to make gains against the Popular Movement in the central and eastern part of the country.

A National Union force, which had advanced to within 14 miles of Quibala, has beaten back a Popular Movement counterattack, reportedly led by three Soviet-built T-34 tanks. The National Union claims to have destroyed one of the vehicles and driven off the rest. A separate, combined National Front - National Union force is moving on Quibala from the south.

National Union forces in the east have initiated a drive south and east of Luso to clear out Popular Movement troops that moved into the area earlier this month. If the clearing action is successful, the National Union will be able to open a road from Luso through Lucusse to the Zambian border. North of Luso, the Popular Movement has fallen back to positions along the Cassai River and has destroyed a number of bridges to block the National Union advance toward Henrique de Carvalho.

North of Luanda, the Popular Movement remains bogged down some 50 miles south of Ambriz, the National Front's headquarters. The Popular Movement forces appear to be building up defensive positions in the area and are erecting earthen by-passes to replace destroyed bridges.

The Nigerian government, meanwhile, publicly has announced its decision to give \$20 million to the Popular Movement. The announcement capped a visit to Lagos by the Luanda "government's" Prime Minister, Lopo de Nascimento.

USSR-ANGOLA

Moscow is continuing its propaganda campaign against the US on the issue of Angola.

Soviet media are giving heavy play to US Congressional deliberations on Angola and focusing particular attention on US news stories expressing concern that Washington might be drawn into another Vietnam situation. The media predictably have applauded the Senate's decision to block US aid to the Angolan factions opposed to the Popular Movement.

Reaction in the Soviet media to your weekend public statements on Angola has been sparse. Radio Moscow called your remarks on Soviet policy toward Angola "unfriendly" and avoided comment on your references to Cuban activity.

Recent Soviet commentaries have also blasted the Chinese for "teaming up with the most rabid forces of international reaction" in Angola and for allegedly providing "massive" military and financial assistance to "pro-imperialist, pro-racist forces" operating there. For its part, Peking, in a *People's Daily* article last Friday, denounced the Soviets as "outrageous meddlers" in Angola, bent on undermining African unity and plundering the continent's vast strategic resources.

Despite Moscow's harsh rhetoric on Angola, there may be some flexibility in the Soviet position. Last Friday, a *Pravda* article signed by "Observer"--indicating top-level Kremlin endorsement--spoke in positive terms of the UN and Organization of African Unity deliberations on Angola. The article seemed to imply that Moscow now may place more importance on African participation in a negotiated solution of the conflict.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

The rebellion of dissident Argentine air force officers calling for the ouster of President Maria Estela Peron is apparently all but over. Peron remains in office for the moment, but her hold is tenuous at best.

The air force rebels failed in their repeated attempts to enlist the support of the other services. At no time was the position of the rebels very strong. The move apparently surprised most other officers

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

* * *

The six terrorists who yesterday seized numerous hostages, including 11 ministers, at the headquarters of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Austria are probably linked to radical Palestinian groups.

They apparently acted in an effort to dramatize their opposition to any Arab accommodation with Israel. A statement issued by the group attacked the US, Iran, Egyptian President Sadat, and Arab-Israeli negotiations. It specifically called for renunciation of the Sinai agreement between Israel and Egypt and denounced attempts to involve the Palestinians in Middle East peace negotiations.

The terrorists have not yet been identified. A spokesman for the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine has denied that his group is involved in the Vienna attack. The Palestine Liberation Organization, headed by Yasir Arafat, has similarly disclaimed any responsibility for the incident.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret