

# The President's Daily Brief

*December 26, 1975*

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Exempt from general  
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652  
exemption category 5B(1)(2)(3)  
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the Director of Central Intelligence

December 26, 1975

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CHINA

*Chinese diplomats abroad and other officials with access to thinking in Peking have described your trip to China in positive terms.*

Clearly under instructions from Peking, these officials have privately told US diplomats [redacted]

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--Peking is satisfied with Sino-US relations, and the Shanghai communique remains the framework for further improvement;

--Peking and Washington hold common views regarding many international issues, particularly with respect to "hegemony," and this could result in a common approach to other problems;

--the visit strengthened Washington's hand in future dealings with Moscow.

[redacted]

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Peking seems anxious to dispel speculation that the absence of a communique meant the trip produced no important results or that the two sides failed to agree on any significant matters. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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Peking has taken the line that the talks on international issues constituted the most important part of your visit. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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Your speech in Honolulu has also been well received in Peking. Lengthy excerpts from the speech were carried in the PRC-press in Hong Kong, and one of the newspapers there commented that whereas the Nixon Doctrine meant a limited US withdrawal from Asia, the Ford Doctrine means holding the line. This, the paper claimed, is a spearhead directed against Moscow.

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China's treatment of the detente issue further reflects Peking's contention that the visit produced a clearer definition of mutual Sino-US interest in containing Soviet influence. Major Chinese public statements during your visit virtually avoided the detente question and tended toward a strictly anti-Soviet position. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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[redacted] Denunciations of detente by local Communist officials have not been repeated since this briefing.

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USSR-ANGOLA

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ANGOLA

*Even if present frictions between the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola and the National Front for the Liberation of Angola can be smoothed over, longstanding differences between the two groups and their leaders raise barriers to the transformation of their marriage of convenience into a lasting coalition.*

Jonas Savimbi of the National Union and Holden Roberto of the National Front formed an alliance last summer and fall to counter the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola. That alliance is now badly strained,

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Early this week, the senior representative of the National Front in Huambo, capital of the nominal joint government proclaimed by the two organizations last month, reported "heavy" fighting in that city between troops of the Front and the Union.

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Those forces of the National Front that are involved in the clashes are loyal to Daniel Chipenda, a former central committee member and military commander of the Popular Movement. Chipenda left the Movement about a year ago after he failed to oust its leader, Agostinho Neto. Subsequently Chipenda and a few hundred of his troops joined the National Front. The number of these forces that has participated in clashes with the National Union is not known.

Fighting between Chipenda's troops and those of the National Union apparently started this month

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By agreement with the Front, the Union is in charge of all military operations in Central Angola. When Chipenda's troops refused to submit to the discipline of either the National Front or the National Union, National Union troops took reprisals.

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Despite efforts of senior officials of both organizations to restore discipline, fighting quickly spread to other locations. At the request of National Front officials, Zairian President Mobutu has met with both Roberto and Savimbi about the problem, but the clashes have continued.

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### Chipenda

Chipenda's loyalty to the Front is nominal at best, and he is distrusted by both Roberto and Savimbi. He operates virtually as a free agent, apparently obtaining much of his support directly from South Africa. He has never hidden his political ambitions. His attempts to oust Neto from the Popular Movement, while applauded by the Front at the time, have made Roberto cautious of him. Roberto apparently prefers to keep Chipenda in central Angola, where he can undermine National Union leader Savimbi but cannot challenge Roberto.

Chipenda, like Savimbi, is a member of the dominant tribe in central and southern Angola--the Ovimbundu. Savimbi and other National Union leaders view Chipenda as a formidable political rival because of his family ties, his fame as a soccer player, and his reputed skill as a military leader. Savimbi undoubtedly holds Roberto ultimately responsible, however, for the disruption Chipenda has caused.

### Savimbi and Roberto

Savimbi's alliance with the National Front nominally re-established an earlier association with Roberto. Savimbi was in charge of foreign relations in the National Front in the early 1960s, but he broke with that organization in 1964 when Roberto refused to open a second front against the Portuguese in southern and central Angola.

The National Front, dominated by Bakongo tribesmen of northwestern Angola, preferred to restrict the insurgency to the north. Front leaders regarded Savimbi's proposal as divisive and potentially challenging to Bakongo domination of the rebellion. Two years after withdrawing from the Front, Savimbi established the National Union and began operations against the Portuguese in central Angola.

Savimbi regards the National Front as the weaker of the two groups. The Front has been unable to maintain pressure from the north against the Popular Movement, even with Zairian support. The National Union, with important help from South Africa, is bearing the burden of the military effort. Unless the National Front can resume the offensive, Savimbi may eventually conclude that the Front is irrelevant and terminate the alliance.

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Savimbi has stated on numerous occasions that he has not ruled out a political accomodation with the Popular Movement. Such a position can only increase Roberto's uneasiness. Roberto regards the struggle against the Popular Movement as a military one not open to political settlement.

The feuding between the two sides does not appear to have extended to National Union campaigns in eastern Angola, perhaps because of South African direction of Savimbi's military efforts. Should South African forces withdraw, a key element in the military effort against the Popular Movement would be lost, Savimbi's control over operations in central Angola would be seriously affected, and there would be even greater division between him and Roberto.

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UNITED KINGDOM

*Recent union election results seem to confirm a less militant trend in the trade union movement.*

Moderates now control the country's second largest union, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. Its policy committee recently voted substantial support for the government's wage restraint policy--a reversal of an earlier decision. Last month, centrist forces within the National Union of Teachers blunted a strong drive by the leftwing to take over the presidency of the union. The Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union has also withstood a challenge from the left for seats on the union's executive.

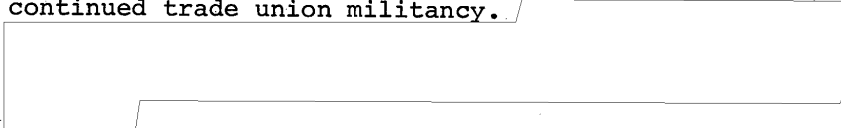
Election results from the country's largest labor organization, the Transport and General Workers' Union should be available soon. This election should show whether the rank and file support the middle-of-the-road domestic policies of the union's leadership.

The most important factor behind the success of the moderates has been the economic slump which has brought on record unemployment. Other reasons include the system of postal balloting--which neutralizes militant minorities by promoting broad participation--coupled with intense media interest.

Communist Party fortunes are also on the decline. Membership is dropping and circulation of the party newspaper, *The Morning Star*, is decreasing. The party, however, retains representation on the general council of the Trades Union Congress, on the executives of some of the country's most powerful unions, and at regional and local levels in key industries.

Although the recession has generated a sense of sobriety and moderation, it also makes union leaders even more conscious of protecting the workers' economic position. Trade union leaders will continue to do battle with management on such issues as pay and working conditions.

Basic socio-economic problems will also encourage continued trade union militancy.



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