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The President's Daily Brief

January 31, 1976

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~~Top Secret~~ 25X1

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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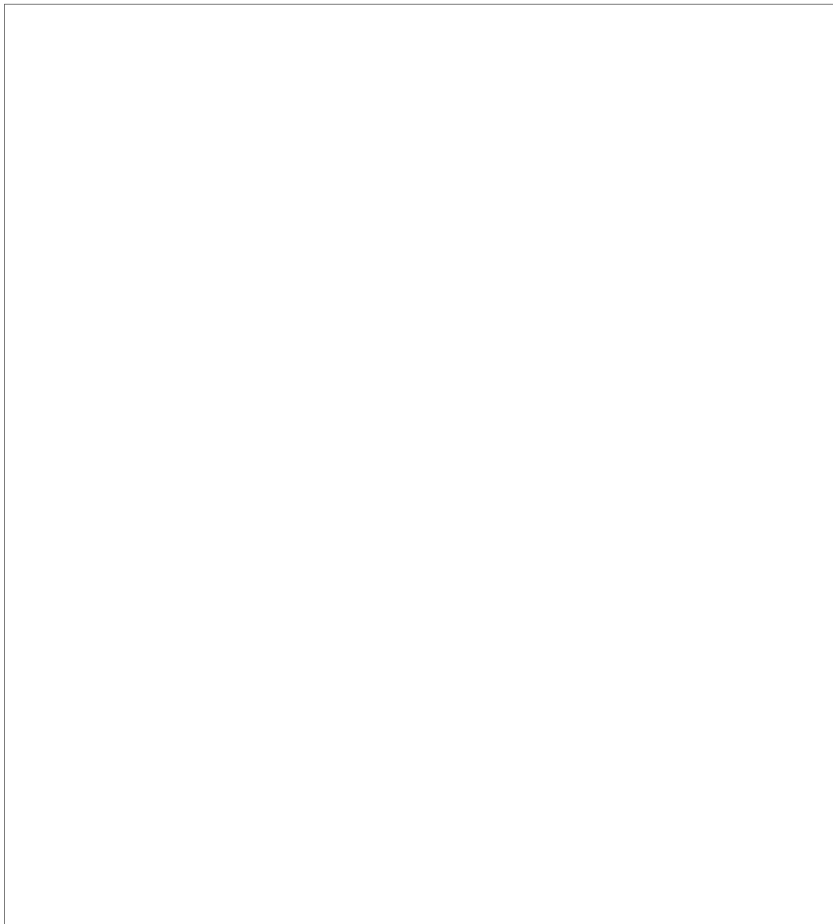
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ZAIRE-ANGOLA



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LEBANON

Muslim and leftist leaders are growing increasingly impatient with Christian negotiators who are continuing to haggle over the terms of a political settlement.

Following a meeting yesterday of Muslim leaders, leftist spokesman Kamal Jumblatt--a key figure in the negotiations--called for a quick settlement and implementation of a reform program within 40 days. Although generally more strident than his colleagues, Jumblatt seemed to be voicing general frustration with Christian footdragging.

An aide to President Franjiah told US officials yesterday that the main problem at this point is the regulation of the Palestinians in the country. The Christians--led by Interior Minister Shamun--have been arguing that final agreement on political reforms must await resolution of the Palestinian issue.

Even if the Palestinian problem is resolved, the Christians may continue to insist on spelling out their exclusive control of the presidency--a point the Muslims have so far refused to include in a written agreement. A potentially more dangerous problem may arise over the timetable for implementing reforms.

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[redacted] the Christians believe they can block any basic changes until the presidential election in September.

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NOTES

The wave of terrorism, campus unrest, and street violence that has claimed more than 20 lives in Turkey since last fall may be taking on anti-US overtones.

Turkish police officials have told US embassy contacts that extreme leftist groups have formed roving bands and instructed them to attack US personnel and property. In Ankara earlier this week, a US government vehicle was bombed. The radical leftist Turkish People's Liberation Army--driven underground in the early 1970s and quiet since then--is thought to be connected with this incident.

Until now, the domestic disorders have primarily involved fighting between left- and right-wing student groups. Recent changes in the tactics of the extreme left, however, could portend a return to the more widely focused violence that wracked the country in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

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Soviet military


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The Soviet naval group that entered the Atlantic on Thursday morning and sailed south along the African coast, reversed course late in the day and returned to the Mediterranean. The Sverdlov-class cruiser, Kashin-class destroyer, and probably two F-class submarines passed through the Strait of Gibraltar yesterday morning.

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The Warsaw Pact has made its first official response to NATO's offer to reduce nuclear forces in Central Europe in return for the withdrawal of a Soviet tank army.

In the opening session of the eighth round of the force-reduction talks in Vienna, the Polish delegate criticized some aspects of the proposal but was careful not to reject it. Articles in *Izvestia* and other Soviet bloc papers have said the offer was merely a continuation of NATO efforts to obtain a unilateral advantage from the negotiations. The Soviets would, nevertheless, probably like to retain the central ingredient of the proposal--acknowledgment that nuclear forces should be reduced. This has been a cardinal tenet of the Warsaw Pact position since the beginning of the negotiations. A counterproposal, if there is one, may not come until after the Soviet party congress next month.

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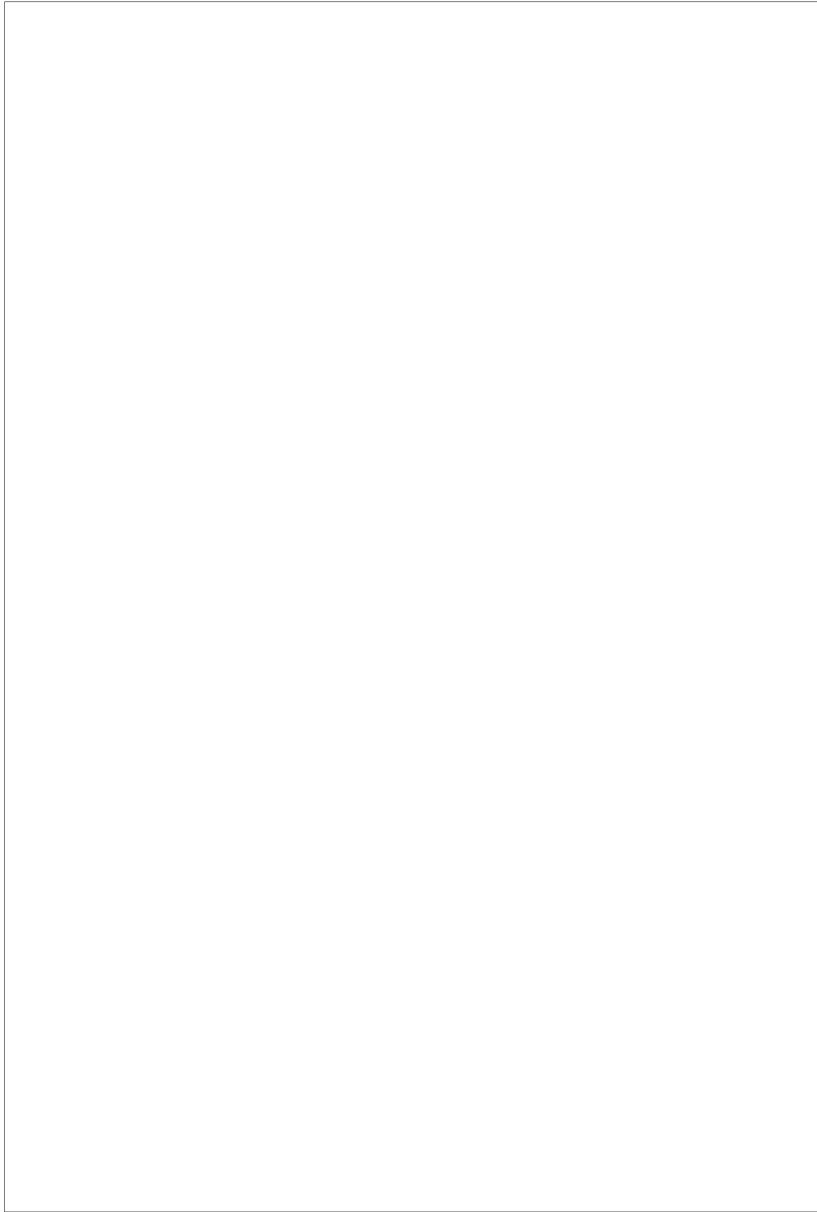
An article in yesterday's Washington Post about an influx of foreign military technicians and advisers into Syria over the past year appears to be a mixture of truth and rumor.

We estimate that there are about 3,000 Soviet military advisers and technicians in Syria. Although some Soviets advised Syrian air defense units during the 1973 war, none of them are known to have accompanied Syrian ground units into combat. There may also be as many as 100 North Korean advisers and technicians in Syria.

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SAUDI ARABIA

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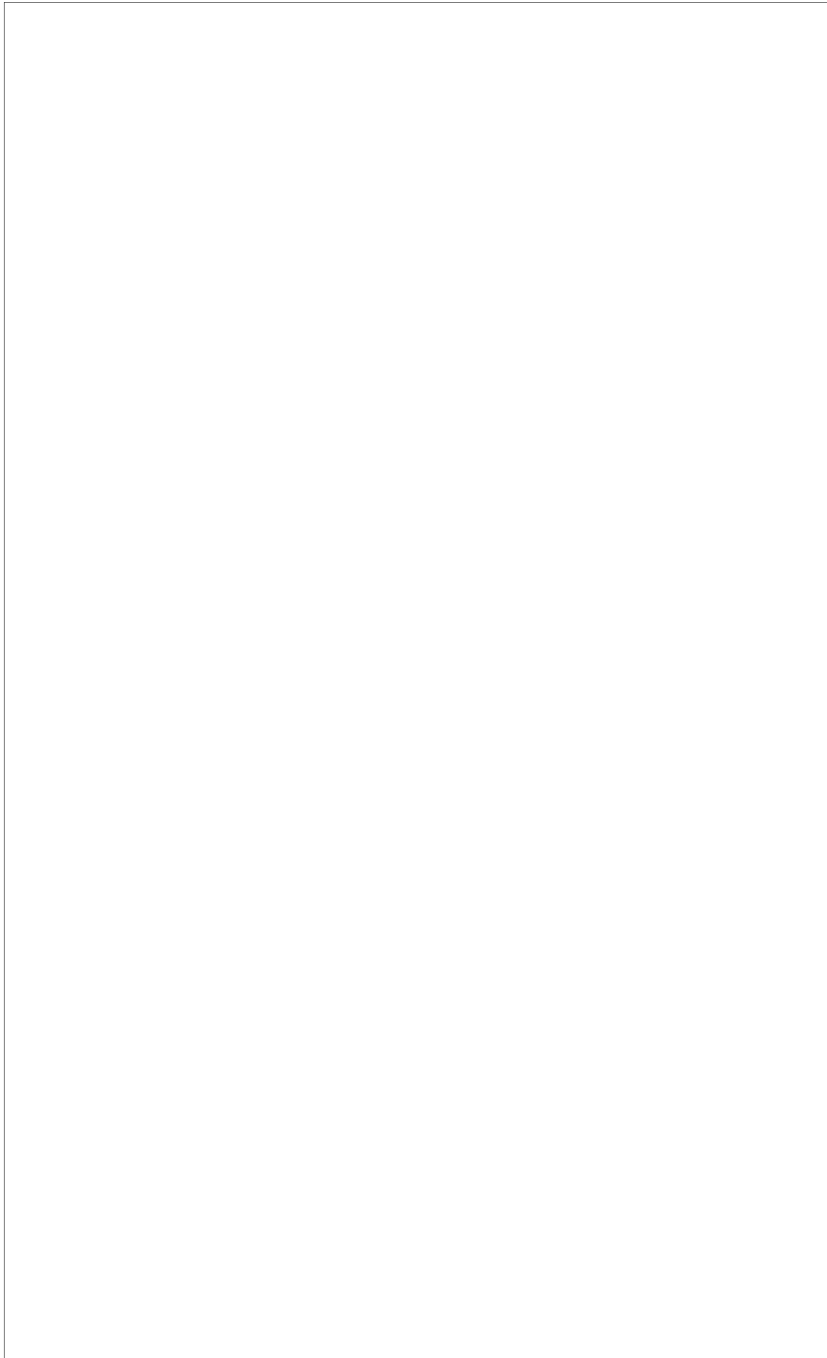
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