



The President's Daily Brief

February 4, 1976



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Top Secret^{25X1}

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

February 4, 1976

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ANGOLA

The southern-based National Union is organizing many of its troops into guerrilla units to fight Cuban and Popular Movement troops.

[Redacted]

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In eastern Angola, the National Union reportedly is grouping [Redacted] troops into guerrilla units, which are already active around the town of Lumege.

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[Redacted]

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Other guerrilla units being formed are to operate northward from Andulo.

The Popular Movement apparently has not made any major gains in recent days, but its forces in the central sector are pressing hard in the vicinity of Teixeira da Silva, where there is an important road junction. Two separate Cuban columns [Redacted] [Redacted] backed by armored cars, are reportedly moving on that town; their ultimate target is probably Huambo (Nova Lisboa), the National Union's former political headquarters.

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In northern Angola, [Redacted] Popular Movement forces are stockpiling supplies at Ambrizete in preparation for a move on Tomboco, one of the National Front's few remaining garrisons in the area.

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[Redacted]

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The Front is expecting more European mercenaries to arrive at Maquela do Zombo and Santo Antonio do Zaire.

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] the sealfit from Cuba to the
Angola-Congo area is continuing.

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted] Thirteen Cuban ships have departed for
the war zone since January 1.

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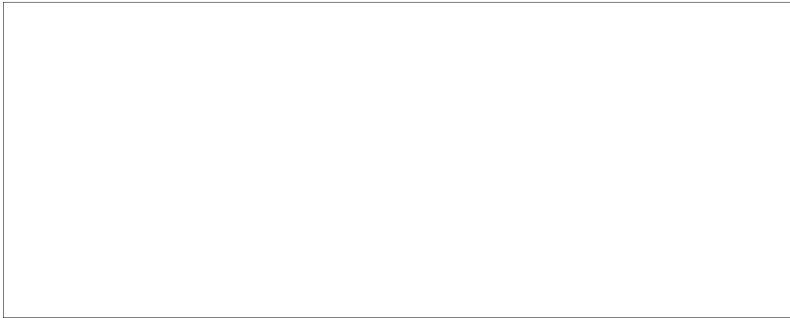
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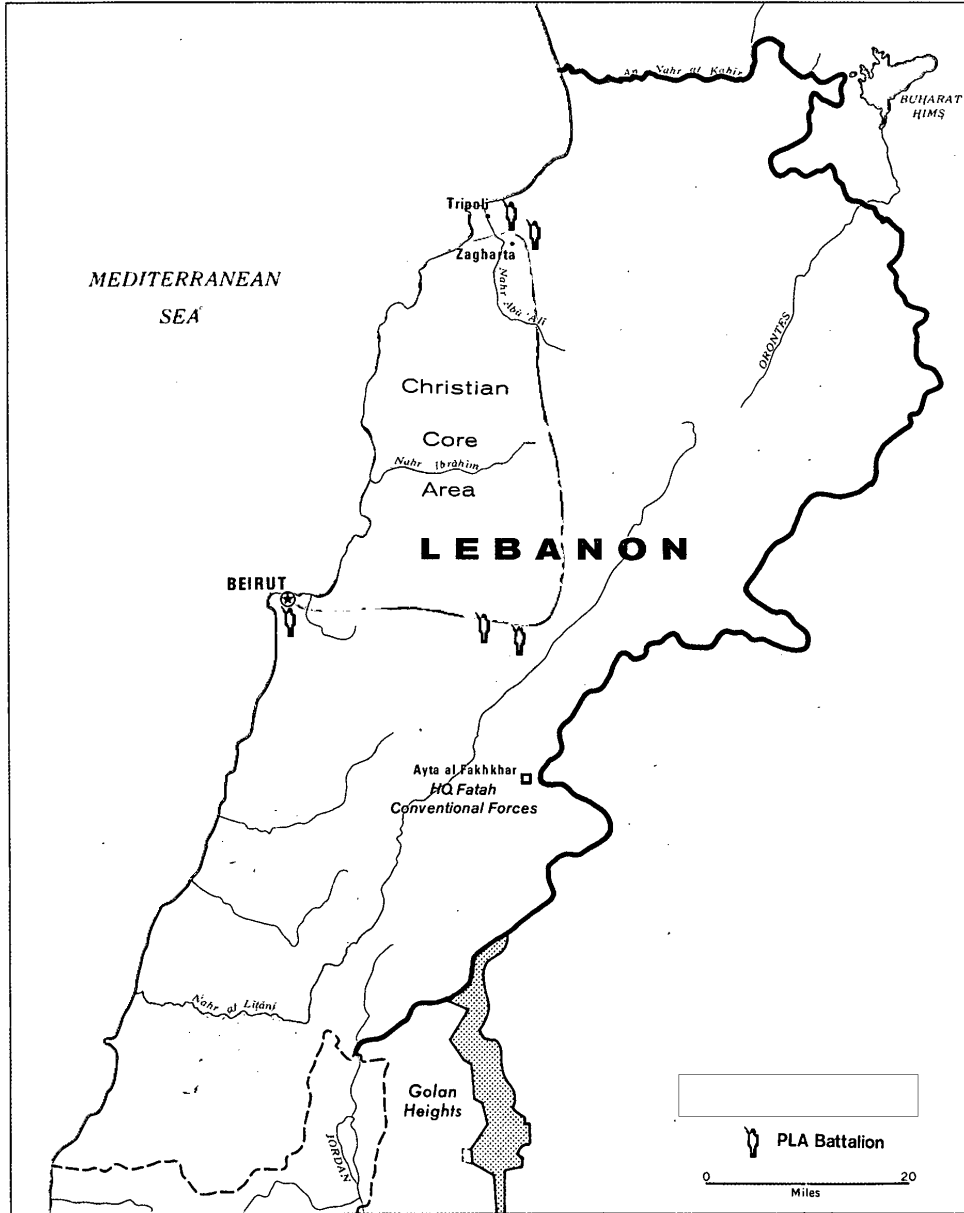
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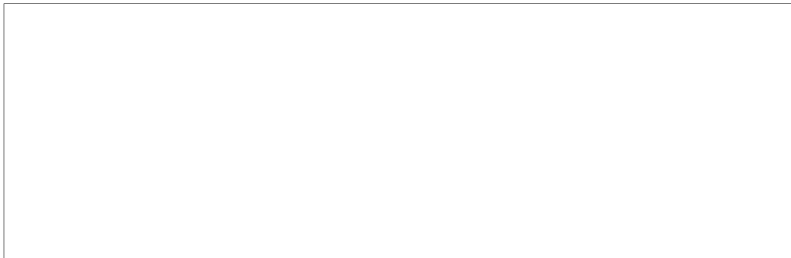
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LEBANON

Leaders of Fatah, the largest fedayeen organization, reportedly plan to expand their conventional military forces in Lebanon in order to counter the growing military and political strength of the Palestine Liberation Army.

The larger and better armed PLA now controls most Lebanese territory outside the Christian core area, and poses a threat to the almost unlimited freedom of action that Fatah and the other independent fedayeen groups enjoy.

The commander of the PLA theoretically is responsible to the political leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and therefore to PLO chairman Yasir Arafat, who is also head of Fatah. In practice, however, the PLA is under the control of the Syrian army. Palestinian leaders are apprehensive that the PLA will be used by Damascus to impose on the fedayeen in Lebanon the same stiff controls that are enforced in Syria.



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There is some evidence that units of the Syrian-controlled Saiqa fedayeen group are preparing to leave Lebanon, but no evidence that the approximately 3,000 PLA troops are planning to leave soon.

Inconclusive political wrangling continues among Muslim and Christian political leaders in Beirut. Lebanese President Franjiyah has again postponed his planned trip to Damascus.

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NOTES

Satellite photography of the Severodvinsk naval shipyard [redacted] shows that the Soviets have launched their fifth lengthened D-class ballistic missile submarine.

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The lengthened D-class is about 500 feet long, about 50 feet more than the standard D-class. It carries 16 launch tubes for the 4,200-nautical-mile SS-N-8 missile, compared with 12 tubes on the standard model.

The Soviets maintain regular patrols by one or two D-class units in the Greenland and Barents seas. Two operational D-class units are assigned to the Pacific, and one more has just completed initial sea trials there. A D-class may have begun its first patrol in the Pacific in early December or early January. The Soviets probably will not begin continuous D-class patrols in the Pacific until four or five units are in service there.

* * *

Photography taken in January shows that the Soviets are dismantling for the first time ICBM silos--six of them--constructed for the SS-7.

With the dismantling of these silos, the USSR seems likely to reach the required total of 51 older ICBM launchers to be fully dismantled by the end of February. The Soviets have completed the dismantling of eight above-ground SS-7 launchers, are in the process of taking apart 34 more, and may start disassembling another three.

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Iceland yesterday rejected proposals worked out with the UK last week for a solution to the cod war, but offered to reopen discussions for a three-month agreement.

By proposing a short-term agreement, Iceland may hope the UN Law of the Sea conference, which will conclude its next session in May--at about the same time that a three-month fishing agreement would expire--will approve a 200-mile economic zone or at least demonstrate broad international support for such a zone. Reykjavik has not said whether it will continue to harass British trawlers during any renewed talks. London now must decide whether to send back its frigates to protect the trawlers.

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