

The President's Daily Brief

February 11, 1976

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MOROCCO-ALGERIA

The Moroccans are planning to attack and occupy the Polisario-held town of Mahbes in Spanish Sahara some time this week.

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A Moroccan official who is a close confidant of King Hassan told the US ambassador in Rabat on Friday that Morocco was in no hurry to take Mahbes and that the King had told Arab emissaries Morocco had no intention of crossing the Algerian border.

The official said the Algerians would have "weeks" to evacuate the town, but could not remain there indefinitely. He told the ambassador that Algeria had withdrawn its forces from Tifariti last week by prearrangement, apparently as a result of mediation efforts by Egyptian Vice President Mubarak.

A Saudi official gave the US ambassador in Rabat a similar account of this story yesterday. The Saudi said King Hassan said he had issued orders to his military forces not to cross the Algerian border.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

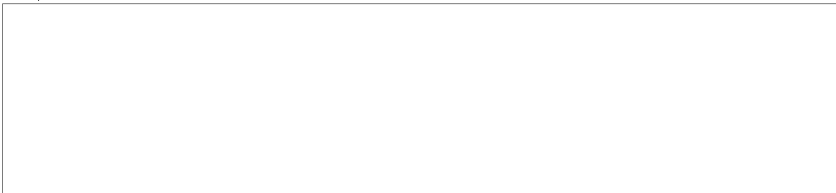
ANGOLA

The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola announced last night that its forces had captured the rail and port complex of Lobito, Angola's largest port, and Benguela, the coastal terminus of the Benguela railroad.

Lobito is deep within the National Union's area of tribal support. Its capture, which we have regarded as imminent, would end any hope of the National Union's being able to survive as a conventional military force in central Angola.

It is almost certain that National Union forces will soon be forced to move to the south. Such a withdrawal would put them in an isolated area from which it would be difficult to launch guerrilla attacks against the Popular Movement, as National Union president Jonas Savimbi hopes to do.

Meanwhile, Ugandan President Amin, the chairman of the Organization of African Unity, yesterday announced that the government of Popular Movement leader Agostinho Neto has, in effect, been accepted by the OAU as the sole representative of Angola. Consequently, Amin said, Uganda had extended official recognition to the Neto regime.

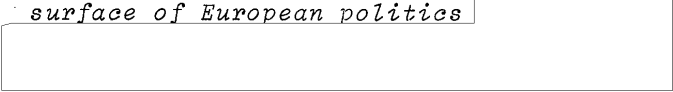


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The announcement removes any doubt that the Movement will be seated at the OAU ministerial meeting scheduled later this month.

EUROPE - WEST GERMANY

The uneasiness over Germany's growing influence which may be just below the surface of European politics

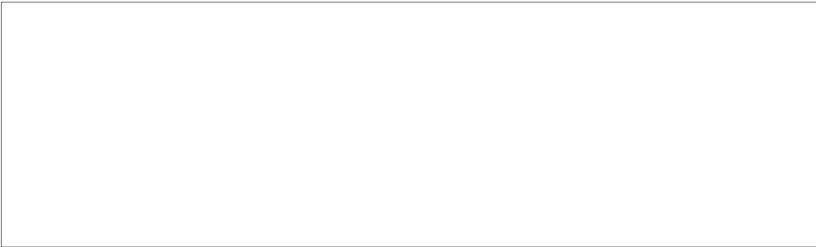


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Chancellor Schmidt last week addressed the Foreign Affairs Club in London as a prelude to his private talks with Prime Minister Wilson over the weekend. Schmidt spoke mainly about the present and future of the European Community and the need for economic recovery.



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Most European capitals are long since resigned to Germany's admitted importance today, and within limits expect it to shoulder responsibility and share in leadership. Obviously, however, German leaders can easily stir up old resentments.

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	Palestine Liberation Army	
	Lebanon	

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