

# The President's Daily Brief

*April 9, 1976*

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~~*Top Secret*~~<sup>25X1</sup>



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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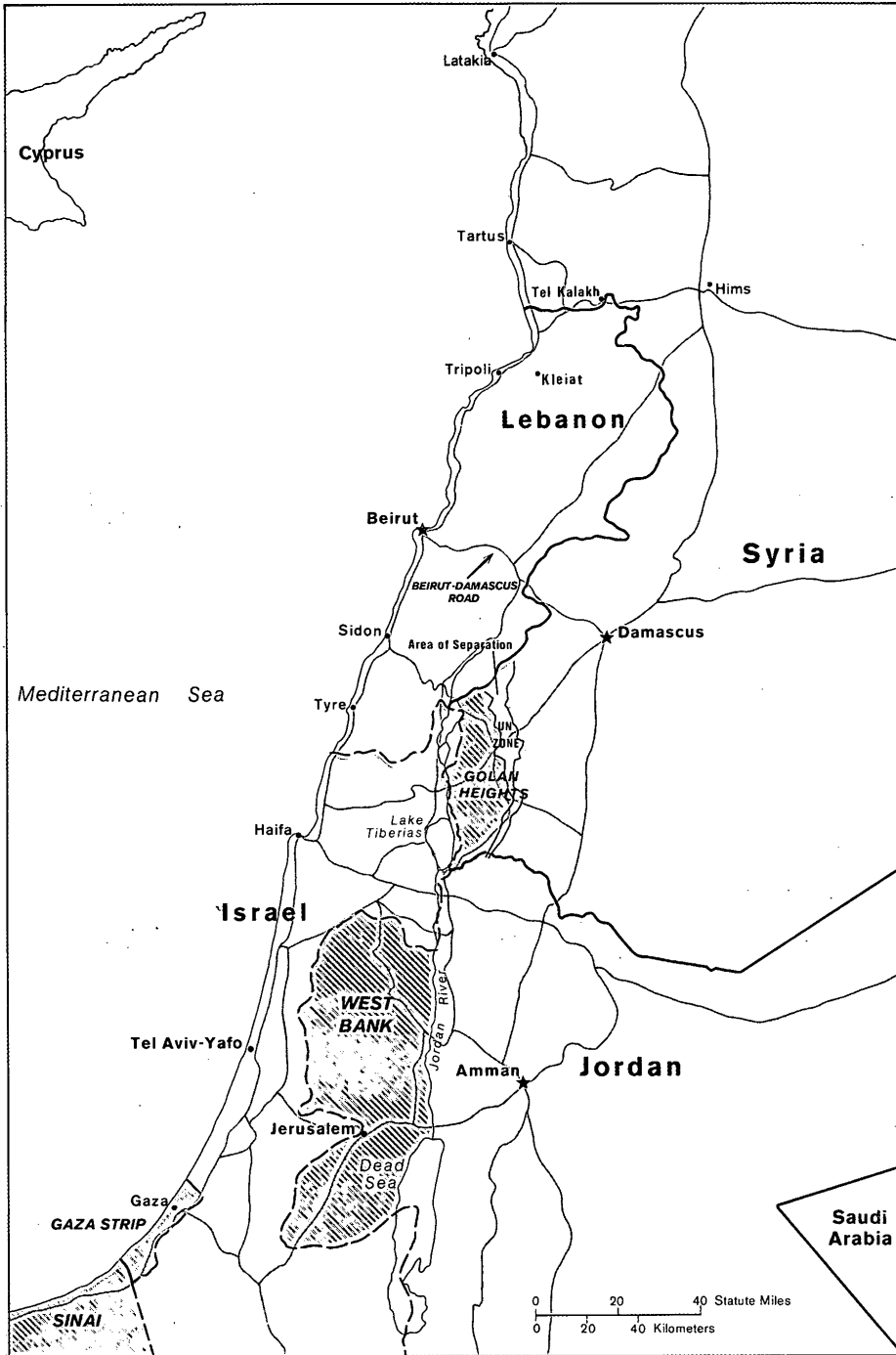
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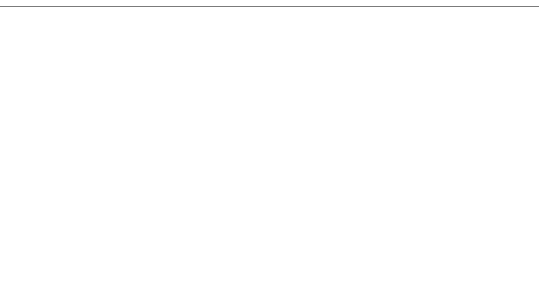
**LEBANON-ISRAEL:** *Israeli Defense Minister Peres yesterday acknowledged publicly for the first time that there are substantial numbers of Syrian forces in Lebanon.*

His statement presumably was prompted by Damascus' introduction of 1,300 to 1,500 Syrian regulars and nearly 100 vehicles into the Tripoli area on Tuesday.


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Peres continued to minimize the significance of the Syrian role in Lebanon, saying that no more than 2,500 troops are involved and that they are not an "organized military force" constituting a threat to Israel. He added, however, that Israel will "take the necessary defensive measures" if its security is threatened.

Peres' statement appears designed both to remind the Syrians and reassure the Israelis that Israel is alert to Damascus' actions and will not necessarily remain inactive if Syria continues to move forces across the border.



We have had no indications that more Syrian forces have crossed into Lebanon in the past 24 hours.

 has seen no unusual activity that would indicate preparations for a large-scale move into Lebanon, but an East European diplomat has told the attache that he believes Syria may make a major move this weekend.

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Leaders of the principal Lebanese and Palestinian factions still appear to be working to arrange a peaceful meeting of parliament tomorrow. Violence continues in several sections of Beirut, but at a level that probably will not derail plans for convening that body.

Leftist leader Jumblatt and his group have reaffirmed their willingness to accept a political rather than a military solution to the crisis, provided President Franjiah is quickly replaced.

*CYPRUS: The forced resignation of Greek Cypriot negotiator Clerides yesterday, combined with growing rancor over the US-Turkish defense agreement, have left more conciliatory forces in Cyprus in disarray and permitted more radical Greek Cypriot leaders to seize the initiative.*

*At Annex we present a memorandum on reportedly planned violence against the US embassy in Nicosia.*

The ascendancy of the more extreme elements in the Greek Cypriot community spells serious trouble for efforts to reach a Cyprus settlement with the Turks. Former supporters of Clerides joined hardliners in demanding his resignation after he admitted arranging secretly to give Turkish Cypriot negotiator Denktash a preliminary version of Greek Cypriot proposals for a settlement.


The Turks probably see the situation as offering an opportunity to stall even longer in the talks and to place the blame on the Greek side. In fact, Turkish Cypriot negotiator Denktash apparently leaked information of his secret agreement with Clerides.

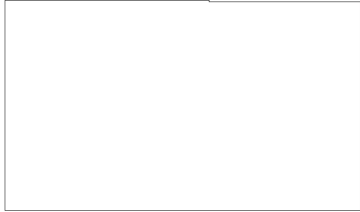
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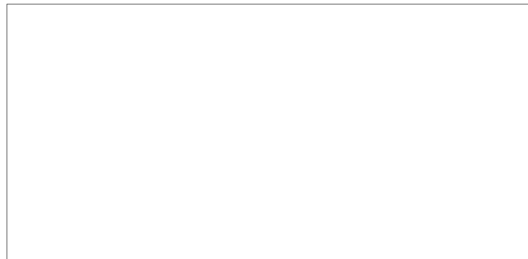
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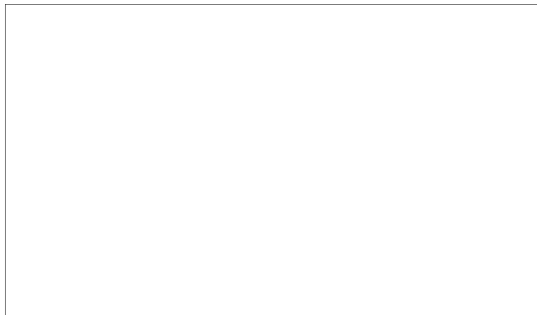
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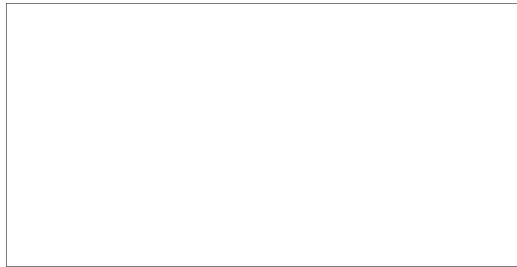
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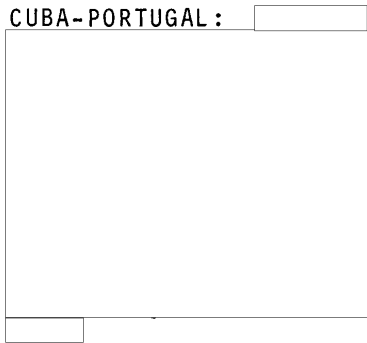


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CUBA-PORTUGAL :

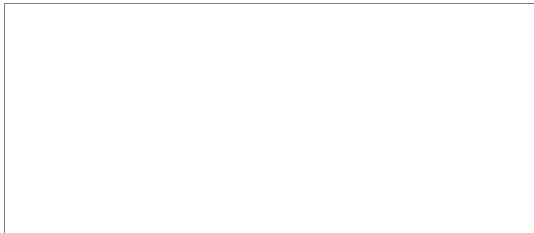
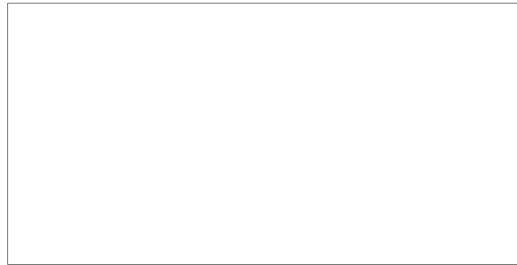


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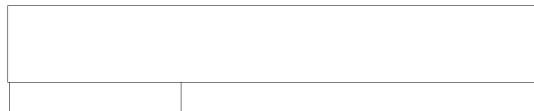
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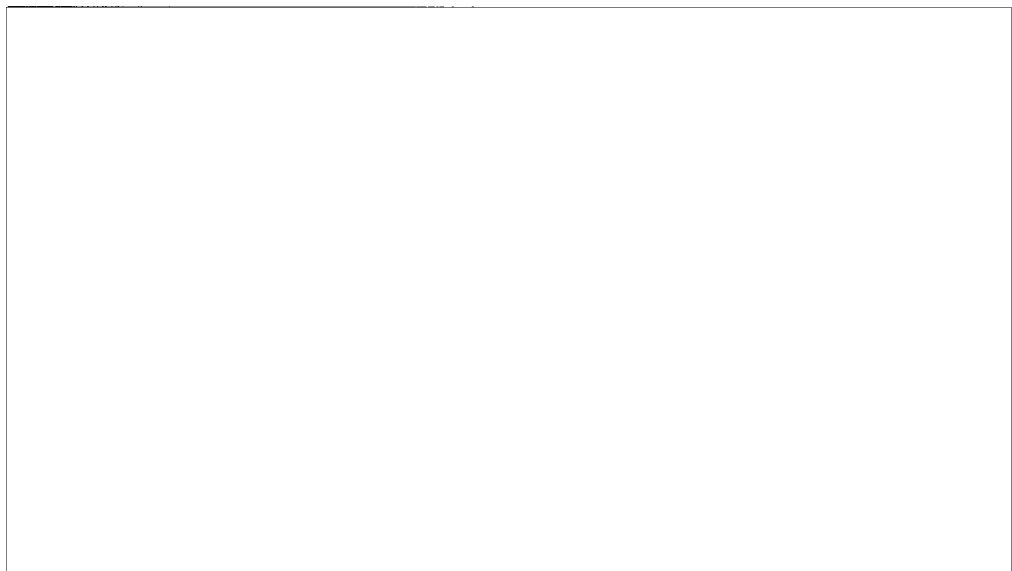
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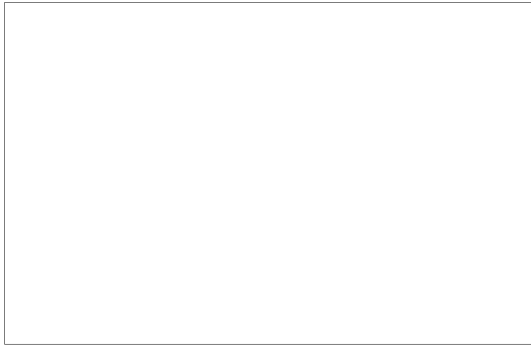
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Guinea  
Soviet



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*Soviet propagandists are citing the demonstrations in Peking and the subsequent dismissal of Teng Hsiao-ping as evidence of intensified political turmoil in China.*

Some broadcasts predict further upheavals and seem to be trying to fan Chinese suspicions of Mao's intentions.

Despite the propagandists' glee over China's internal disarray, Soviet leaders probably have serious misgivings over the uncertain situation in Peking.

Since January, when Hua Kuo-feng was named acting premier, the Soviets have portrayed themselves as sympathetic to China's moderates. They hastily rehabilitated Chou En-lai at that time, commented approvingly on his policies, and became more outspoken in their criticism of China's leftists.

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CYPRUS

*We present below an alert memorandum, released yesterday, on the scope and intent of reported plans for anti-US demonstrations in Nicosia.*

We have reports that the organizers of a demonstration scheduled for April 12 to protest the US-Turkish agreement are planning violent attacks on the US embassy. The forced resignation of Greek Cypriot negotiator Clerides--the principal leader of the forces for moderation--has helped loosen the restraints on more radical elements and may have weakened the resolve of security forces to control anti-US protesters. Representatives of various right-wing and extreme leftist groups have reportedly agreed to cooperate in demonstrations against the embassy.

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted] the impression from talks with the commander of the Cypriot National Guard that his troops will assist the police if necessary.

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Ultimately the protection of the embassy depends on Archbishop Makarios. His government has shown itself capable of controlling demonstrations when it has had the will to do so. This time it may suit him to encourage the demonstrators in order to keep the issue in the international limelight, and the demonstration could get out of control.

Compounding the problem is a reported plot by rightist extremists to assassinate Ambassador Crawford as well as prominent Cypriot political officials. Such an attempt would intensify factional strife and possibly lead to violence within the Greek Cypriot community. It would also present difficult political complications for Greek politicians in Athens.

The growth of extremism implied by these plans, plus the fact of Clerides' resignation, bodes ill for efforts at a Cyprus settlement. Should the demonstrations get out of hand and lead to violence, additional complications would be introduced in an already difficult situation.

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