

The President's Daily Brief

April 28, 1976

2

~~Top Secret~~ 25X1



Exempt from general
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652
exemption category 25X(1)(2)(3)
declassified only on approval of
the Director of Central Intelligence

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

April 28, 1976

Table of Contents

Portugal: The secretary general of the center-right Popular Democratic Party is threatening to withdraw from the government. (*Page 1*)

Thailand: The Seni Pramot coalition is expected to clear its final hurdle by winning a parliamentary vote of confidence by the end of the week. (*Page 2*)

Lebanon: The election of a new president will be held on Saturday. (*Page 2*)

Notes: Ghana; Panama; Spain; Romania-USSR; Tunisia-Libya; Rhodesia (*Pages 4, 5, and 6*)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PORTUGAL: *Francisco Sa Carneiro, secretary general of the center-right Popular Democratic Party, created new political uncertainty yesterday by threatening to withdraw his party from the present provisional government.*

He is demanding that the Socialists drop plans to form a minority government after the presidential election this summer. He also is insisting that the present government be shuffled to exclude the Communists and to reflect more accurately the results of the legislative assembly election last Sunday. His party finished second in the election.

Socialist Party leader Soares has not reacted publicly to Sa Carneiro's threat, but he is unlikely to give in easily to such pressure tactics. A Popular Democratic withdrawal, however, would leave the Socialists and the Communists as the only parties in the provisional government. This would embarrass the Socialists, who have said on several occasions that they would not govern with the Communists alone. It would also cause concern among anti-Communist "operational" military officers that such a leftist coalition might become a permanent fixture.

Sa Carneiro's strategy could have even more far-reaching consequences, however. Shortly before the assembly election, Prime Minister Azevedo threatened that any political upheaval during the interregnum could cause his resignation. Should Azevedo decide to step down, President Costa Gomes would be required to appoint a successor to form another temporary government. The prospect of a complete government collapse would be upsetting to the military and could play into the hands of those who favor suspending the presidential election and setting aside the legislative results.

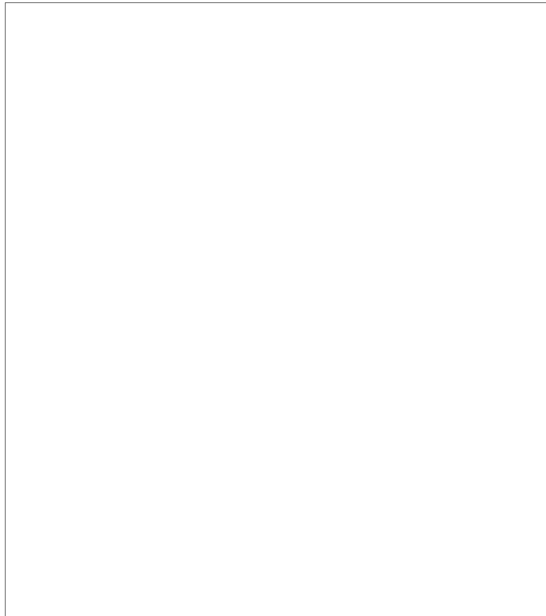
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

* * *

THAILAND: *The Seni Pramot coalition is expected to clear its final hurdle by winning a parliamentary vote of confidence by the end of the week.*

The new government probably will have a comfortable majority of over 60 seats, which should make it less vulnerable to parliamentary pressures than the previous Krukrit government.



* * *

LEBANON: *The election of a new president will be held on Saturday, May 1, the speaker of Lebanon's parliament announced yesterday.*

The principal groups--the Christians, Muslim leftists, Palestinians, and Syrians--have made clear their preferences for President Franjiah's successor and have shown only tentative signs of compromising before the elections. If they do not settle on a candidate in advance, the parliamentary session could turn into a prolonged debate that could upset the shaky cease-fire in Beirut.

--continued

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

During the few remaining days of the campaign, Ilyas Sarkis, the preferred choice of the Syrians and conservative Christians, and Raymond Edde, the favorite of the Lebanese left and the Palestinians, will try to break the deadlock in their race for the presidency. Should they fail, the field will be open to a host of weaker candidates.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

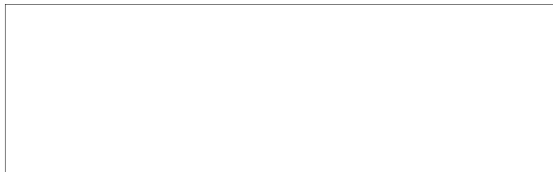
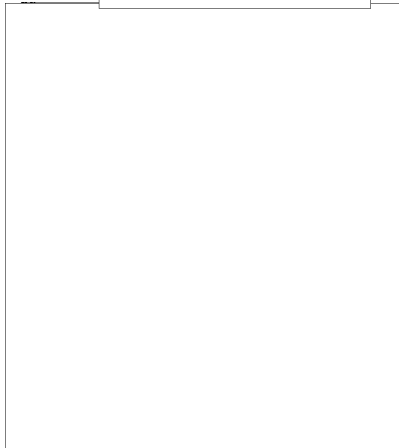
25X1

NOTES

25X1

Ghana

25X1



* * *

Panama's efforts to capture foreign fishing vessels is still underway. No boats have yet been seized, but a US tuna boat reported a Panamanian aircraft fired across its bow on Monday.

Heavy rains yesterday may have curtailed sea and air patrolling and apparently hampered communications. The Panamanians are still awaiting an official response to their request that Canal Zone authorities detain a US registered boat presently in zone waters that they claim was fishing illegally.

* * *

Spanish Communists and other opposition parties are planning strikes and massive demonstrations on May Day.

As a prelude to May Day, the Communist Party has called for nationwide walkouts to begin today in the construction industry. The Communists are urging Spanish workers to transform the work stoppage into a general strike. Security forces are preparing for trouble and have banned all rallies except those sponsored by the state labor organization.

--continued

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

* * *

Romanian President Ceausescu used exceptionally strong language in a speech on Monday to charge Moscow with twisting Marxist-Leninist doctrine to advance Soviet hegemony in the world Communist movement.

The Yugoslavs immediately rebroadcast Ceausescu's speech, describing it as the "official opening of a polemic" against advocates of limited sovereignty--a euphemism for the "Brezhnev Doctrine."

Ceausescu's speech, which will not be ignored by the Kremlin, suggests that Bucharest feels itself under pressure from Moscow. His charges and the Yugoslav commentary clearly reflect the apprehensions of Bucharest and Belgrade both over the greater Soviet emphasis on ideological conformity since the 25th Soviet party congress and Moscow's intentions in the Balkans in the post-Tito period.

* * *

The Tunisian navy may be conducting a small-scale naval operation in waters under dispute with Libya.

The continental shelf has been a source of concern for both countries for several years because of potential petroleum resources. The latest round of negotiations to establish a mutually acceptable boundary along the shelf broke down in early March. A US destroyer is now participating in an exercise with the Tunisian navy in the Gulf of Hammamet, but appears to be well out of the potential confrontation area.

--continued

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

* * *

Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith announced last night that he is bringing ten blacks into his government.

Four tribal chiefs are being sworn in today as full cabinet ministers, and six deputy ministers will soon be appointed from among Rhodesia's black businessmen and professionals.

Smith apparently hopes this move will offset the collapse last month of his constitutional settlement negotiations with Joshua Nkomo, one of the rival leaders of the divided African National Council.

Smith's token measures are not likely to win over Rhodesia's urban blacks, who have supported Nkomo, nor deter foreign backing for the Rhodesian guerrillas, who have recently stepped up incursions from bases in Mozambique.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret