

The President's Daily Brief

May 6, 1976

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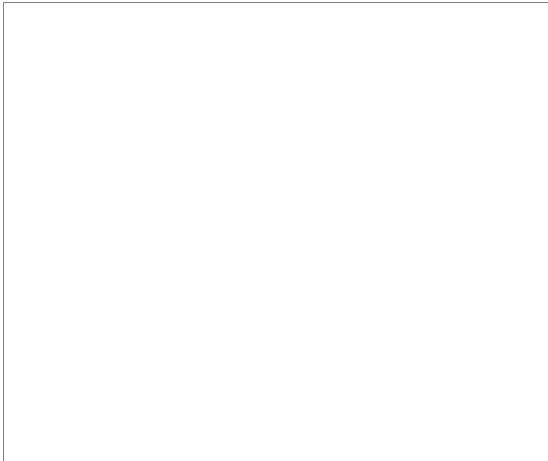
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LEBANON: *Lebanese politicians are increasingly pessimistic about the prospects for a presidential election by parliament this weekend.*

The delegation of uncommitted parliamentary deputies that went to Damascus earlier this week apparently was not able to persuade Syria to shift its support from 25X1 Ilyas Sarkis to a compromise candidate.

[redacted] no word on the result of Yasir Arafat's efforts to resolve the dispute between Lebanese leftist leader Jumblatt and the Syrians over the presidential succession. If Arafat fails to persuade Jumblatt to accept Sarkis and to withdraw his demand for immediate Syrian military withdrawal from Lebanon, there is little chance that the election will be held on 25X1 schedule.



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PORTUGAL: *Agreement may be near on a consensus presidential candidate. The Socialist Party's plan to form a minority government seems to be picking up support.*

Speculation on a consensus candidate increasingly centers on Army Chief of Staff General Ramalho Eanes. [redacted]

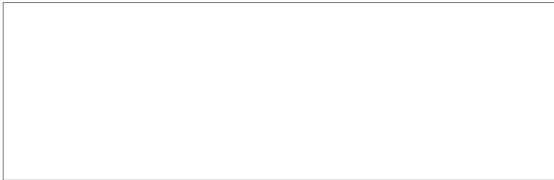
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The 41-year-old infantry officer was one of the key organizers of the coup in April 1974 that overthrew Caetano. He also masterminded the military's successful riposte to the leftist paratrooper rebellion. Since his appointment to the army's top post last November, he has worked to depoliticize the army and restore military discipline.



Both military and party leaders appear more receptive to the Socialists' proposal to form a government after the presidential election of June 27. Last week Revolutionary Council spokesman Captain Sousa e Castro endorsed the plan, arguing that it had sound constitutional grounds and was consistent with the assembly election results, which gave the Socialists a plurality.

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RHODESIA: The Smith government's recent announcement of military mobilization measures has been accompanied by new efforts by Rhodesian security forces against the country's guerrillas and their Mozambican allies.



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Since late last month Rhodesian forces have made several forays across the border into Mozambique. Such Rhodesian operations are not uncommon, although attacks across the border apparently had been suspended for several weeks.

Mozambican President Machel denounced earlier Rhodesian forays into Mozambique when he announced

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the closure of his country's border with Rhodesia in early March. The renewed attacks almost certainly will influence Machel's discussions in Moscow later this month.

Mozambique needs conventional military equipment and training to upgrade its armed forces. If the Rhodesian attacks continue, Machel's concern could lead to a sizable Soviet involvement with the Mozambican military--involvement that could be used to aid the Rhodesian insurgents.

The insurgents, meanwhile, continue to be beset by tribal and personal rivalries, in some cases violent. The persistence of these frictions among the Rhodesian black nationalists could hamper their efforts to expand the insurgency against the Smith government.

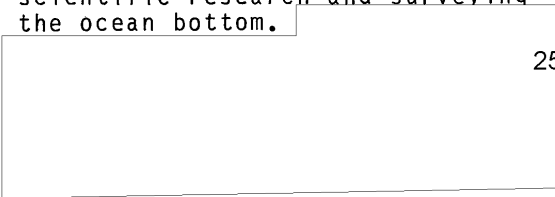


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NOTES

The two Chinese oceanographic research ships in the South Pacific have moved east of the Gilbert Islands and will probably conduct additional survey work before going home.

The ships had previously spent approximately a week north of the Fiji Islands, apparently doing scientific research and surveying the ocean bottom.



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Panama has apparently backed away from its plan to impose the maximum fine of \$100,000 on boats charged with illegal fishing. Two US tuna vessels that have been charged with fishing illegally are still in the Canal Zone.

Government chief Torrijos now appears willing to allow such boats to purchase retroactive licenses based on tonnage for about \$20,000 each. This solution may avoid the automatic reduction of US aid or cutoff of US military assistance.

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The USSR has made little comment about the explosion last week outside the gates of the Soviet embassy in China.

Although the USSR lodged a protest immediately after the incident, Soviet officials in Peking now say that the Chinese government was not directly involved.

The Soviets have not hinted that the explosion could have been prompted by factional infighting in Peking over policy toward the USSR. That possibility, however, is probably one reason they are playing the incident in relatively low key.

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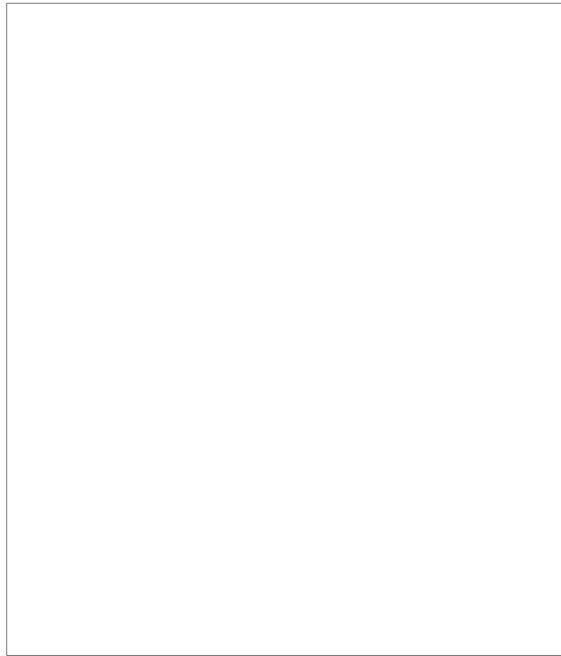
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Ghanaian

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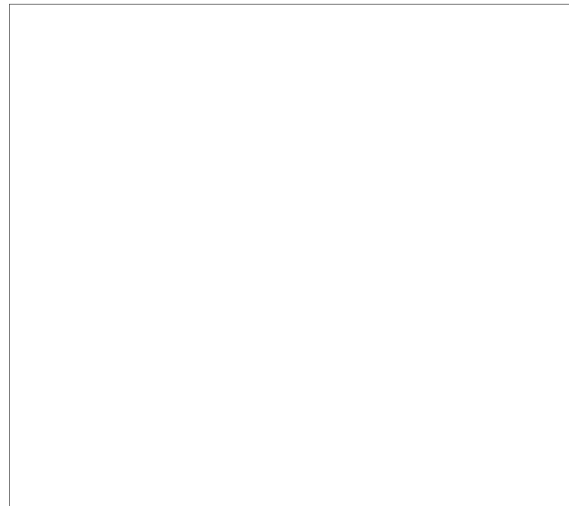
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	USSR	
	Turkey	



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