



The President's Daily Brief

May 26, 1976

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LEBANON: *Lebanese left-ist leader Kamal Jumblatt reportedly will meet with president-elect Sarkis within the next two days to discuss Sarkis' peace plan.*



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blatt has made clear that he wants "fighters"--presumably the heads of various militias--to participate in the negotiations instead of traditional politicians. He reportedly also favors holding the negotiations outside Lebanon.

Although Jumblatt may be somewhat flexible on these issues, he will be uncompromising in his demand that President Franjyah resign before the formal implementation of a truce. The leftists believe that military pressure is the only way to effect Franjyah's departure, and they will not publicly renounce the use of force--as Sarkis has proposed--until the President has stepped down.

A US embassy official who visited Christian headquarters last weekend found the Christians divided and deeply confused on the issue of Franjyah's departure. Many apparently are sympathetic to the President's refusal to resign; others seem to recognize that Franjyah's procrastination is undermining the Christians' victory in electing Sarkis and is eroding his effectiveness as an arbiter.

Interior Minister Shamun and several of Franjyah's close advisers are primarily responsible for encouraging the President's stubbornness. President Giscard's offer to send French forces has also encouraged Franjyah's hope that outsiders will eventually come to his aid.

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ANGOLA: *The Neto government is having difficulty maintaining law and order and developing a viable economy three months after the end of large-scale fighting.*

[REDACTED]
assaults and armed robberies are so common, even in Luanda, that it is unsafe to venture into most streets during the day or night.

The security situation is being aggravated by a worsening food shortage. Fresh food is virtually unavailable in the major towns, partly because of the collapse of the country's transportation system.

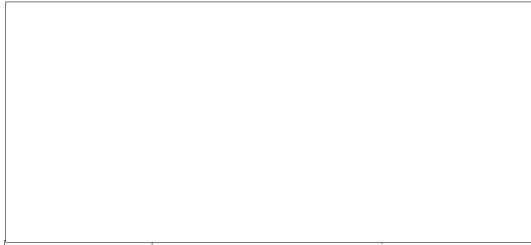
The violence and food shortages are disrupting the rest of the economy and fueling long-standing animosity between blacks and mulattos. President Neto and other Angolan leaders have been exhorting workers to return to their jobs, but with little apparent effect so far. The effort to get the economy going also is being hampered by the continuing factional struggle within the Popular Movement.

In southern Angola, meanwhile, remnants of Jonas Savimbi's National Union are continuing to harass government and Cuban forces. Government forces are having more success in the north against surviving units of the National Front.

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The effectiveness of the Egyptian air force reportedly has deteriorated seriously in recent weeks.



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Since the beginning of 1976, the air force's accident rate has increased dramatically, and now has reached its highest point since the 1973 war. As a result of the accidents, most of the air force was ordered to stand down in early May for a review of flight procedures and safety measures.

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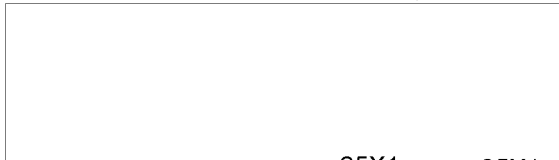
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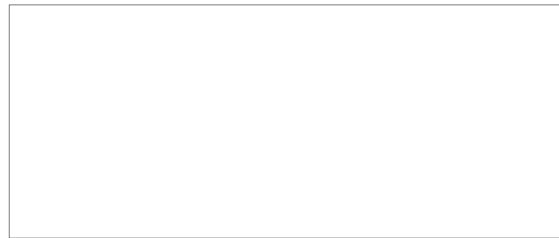
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Violent clashes occurred in Greece yesterday between police and leftists protesting a new labor law. Similar disturbances erupted on Mykonos and on Rhodes where leftists are protesting shore visits by US naval personnel.

The government has responded firmly, showing Prime Minister Caramanlis' determination to beat back the first real challenge from the left since the restoration of democratic rule in 1974. The demonstrations may, in fact, persuade Caramanlis to move away from his moderate stance and adopt a more rightist political course.

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China's nuclear powered Han-class submarine was observed [redacted] berthed at a submarine base near Chingtao on the southern coast of the Shantung Peninsula.

The presence of the Han there rules out any possibility that it was with the two oceanographic research ships that were operating in the south Pacific on May 6.

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[redacted] *Algeria has received 15 MIG-21s from the USSR--the first Soviet fighter aircraft received since mid-1974.*

Algeria is the third non-Communist country after Cuba and Syria to receive the L version, a more advanced export variant of the MIG-21. The new MIGs probably are part of a \$450 to \$500 million arms accord signed in late 1975.

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The seventh anniversary celebration of President Numayri's takeover in Sudan passed without incident.

[redacted]

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