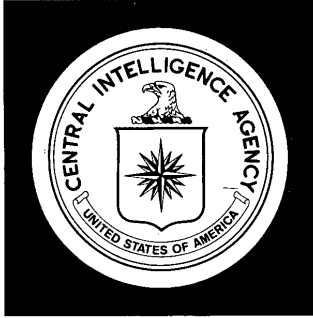


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# The President's Daily Brief

*June 12, 1976*

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Exempt from general  
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652  
exemption category 5B(1)(2)(3)  
declassified only on approval of  
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June 12, 1976

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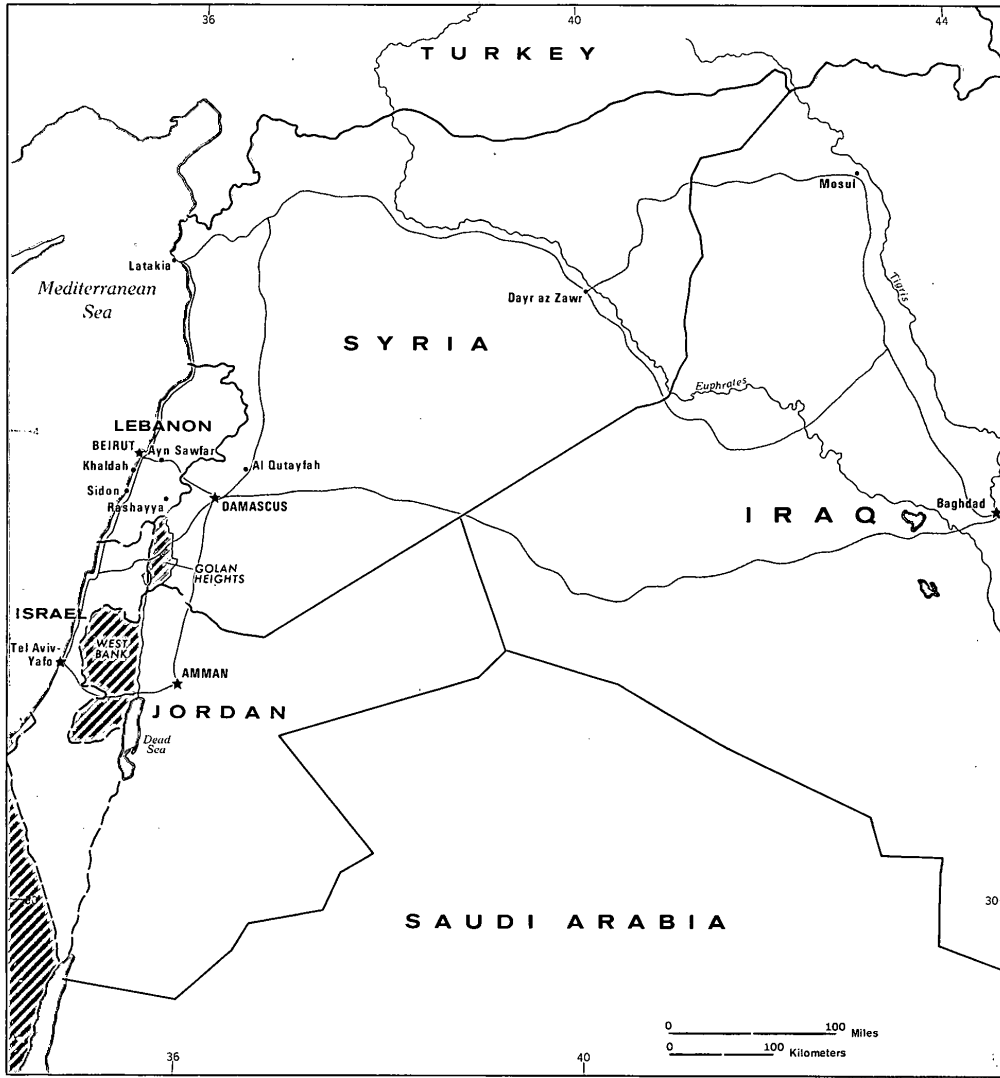
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LEBANON: *Syrian forces yesterday continued their efforts to reinforce and improve their positions outside Beirut and Sidon. No progress has been made toward implementing the Arab League's proposal for a joint Arab peacekeeping force for Lebanon, and considerable confusion surrounds the status of the force.*

League Secretary General Riyad took delegations with him from Sudan, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia to Damascus yesterday to discuss details of the force. He announced that the size and disposition of the Arab contingents are still to be negotiated with Syria and the Lebanese parties.

There is no indication that Libyan and Algerian forces entered eastern Lebanon from Syria on Thursday as reported in the press. We have detected no signs that Algerian forces have yet left home. [redacted]

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Jallud is continuing his efforts to arrange a truce in Lebanon and late yesterday had reportedly gained Syrian approval of a proposal for at least the partial withdrawal of Syrian troops from their current positions. It is not clear, however, whether the Syrians intend to honor their agreement or are using Jallud's mission to gain a tactical advantage.

*Syrian President Asad has done some rapid fence mending on both his right and left and may not be as beleaguered now as he appeared to be when his crackdown on the Palestinians first met heavy resistance.*

Asad is making progress on both military and diplomatic fronts despite his admitted miscalculation of reaction to Syria's military moves and the need to commit more forces to Lebanon than he had expected.

Palestinian and leftist forces in Sidon and Beirut are under attack, and their principal forces in the mountains east of Beirut have been driven back to defensive positions.

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Syria continues to make gains in northern Lebanon. Damascus is attempting to create a new "Arab Lebanese Army" that may add to Syria's leverage during eventual negotiations over a reconstituted Lebanese security force.

Asad has managed so far to finesse both the Arab League mediation effort and the more narrow Libyan ploy to draw Syria into a radical coalition with Algeria, Libya, and Iraq. Asad's quick agreement to accept Algerian and Libyan mediators was an acknowledgment that he could not act with complete independence, but it also served to split Algeria and Libya from Iraq.

Algerian and Libyan involvement has not prevented Asad from pursuing his goal of consolidating Syria's military position. The difficulties Libyan mediator Jallud has been having with the Palestinians probably have already reduced his ability to press Asad to be more flexible.

*Asad is genuinely concerned by Iraq's latest military moves, but may benefit indirectly from Baghdad's actions.*

Iraq's obvious eagerness to take advantage of any unrest in Syria is likely to prompt the conservative Arab states--notably Saudi Arabia--to reduce pressure on Asad. These states are now more alarmed at the possibility that the Syrian President may be in jeopardy than by his actions in Lebanon.

Asad at various times has played on the theme of his vulnerability in order to secure political and financial support from the conservative Arabs who regard him as a moderate leader. He is likely to do so again in order to get the Saudis to resume their financial

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aid and to reduce Egyptian criticism. The outcome of the Syrian-Egyptian reconciliation meeting may well turn out to be more than cosmetic.

SYRIA-IRAQ-IRAN: *The Lebanese crisis and Iraqi pressure along Syria's eastern border have forced Damascus to withdraw forces from the Golan Heights.*

President Asad told Jordanian officials early this week that he intended to reinforce the Iraqi border area. The US defense attache in Syria saw an SA-6 missile brigade and an armored brigade moving north between Damascus and Al-Qutayfah yesterday and presumes they are destined for the border. Syria dispatched fighter aircraft to the eastern part of the country on Thursday.

Baghdad has reinforced its task force in western Iraq. There are now at least two armored divisions as well as some armor, infantry, and support units from other divisions there.

*The Shah of Iran told the US ambassador on Thursday that he had discussed the Iraqi-Syrian problem with Saudi King Khalid during the latter's recent visit to Tehran.*

The Shah had stressed to the King that "anything which might hurt President Asad must be blocked." He told Ambassador Helms he would shortly send a message to Riyadh urging that Saudi Arabia do all it can to support both Syria and Jordan at the expense of Iraq.

The Shah indicated that he would strongly advise Egyptian President Sadat to support Asad. Sadat is scheduled to visit Tehran on Tuesday.

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USSR-ANGOLA: *The USSR tried to use the visit of Angolan Prime Minister Nascimento to Moscow late last month to establish close military ties with Angola.*



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cow may hope that it could eventually obtain use of Angolan ports and airfields as staging areas for long-range naval and air operations.

The Neto regime probably would be willing to agree to normal port-call and bunkering rights. It might, however, be reluctant to provide "access" which would entail the establishment of permanent facilities in Angola.

The joint communique issued at the close of Nascimento's week-long visit emphasized that a wide-ranging, comprehensive series of agreements in the economic, commercial, cultural, and diplomatic fields had been concluded and that a declaration on the "fundamentals of friendly relations and cooperation" had been signed. As for military assistance, the communique noted only that agreement had been reached on certain unspecified measures aimed at strengthening Angola's "defense capabilities."

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*



USSR: *Moscow is again expressing interest in a Soviet-US understanding on arms control in the Indian Ocean.*

In the most forthright statement on arms control in the Indian Ocean ever to appear in the Soviet media, Yury Zhukov in *Pravda* recently stressed the potential importance of talks between the USSR and the US on "ways to liquidate military bases and limit naval forces in the Indian Ocean." Subsequently a staff member of the USA Institute told a US embassy officer in Moscow that the Soviets were especially interested in discussing mutual restraint in constructing shore installations.

Moscow may feel that its prospects for matching US shore facilities are very poor. The USA Institute staffer suggested as much when he commented that Moscow's access to the facilities it now has in Somalia is not as secure as US rights to Diego Garcia, and the facilities themselves nowhere near as extensive as those planned by the US.

Renewed Soviet expressions of interest in arms control in the Indian Ocean is in keeping with the effort the Soviets have been making since the 25th party congress to portray themselves as the great power most interested in disarmament.

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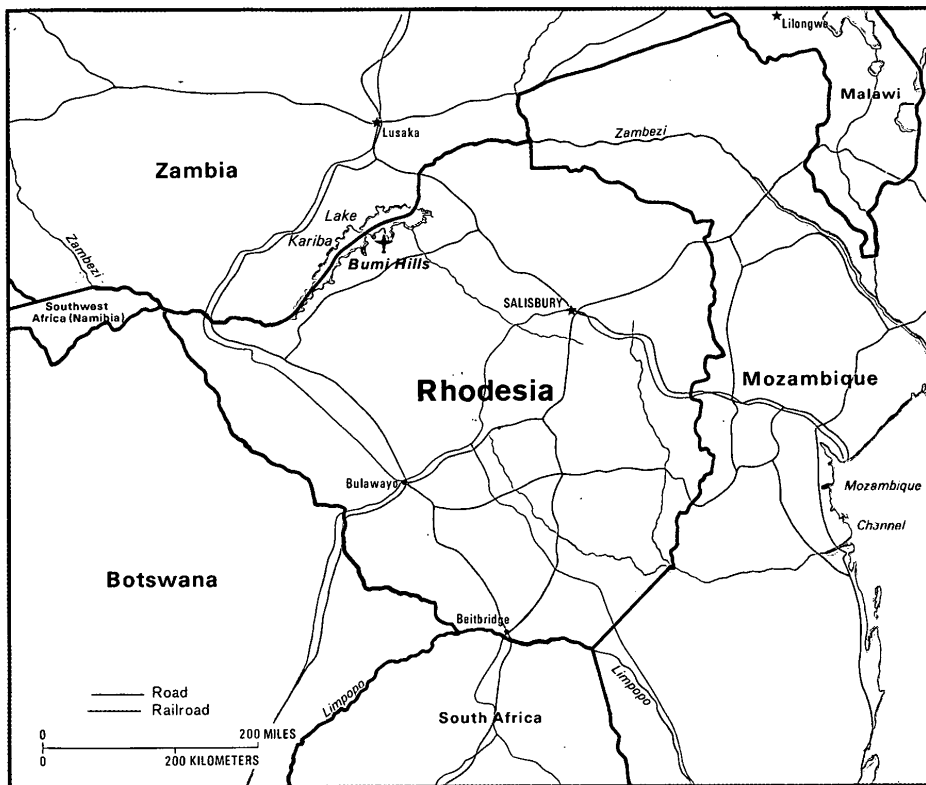
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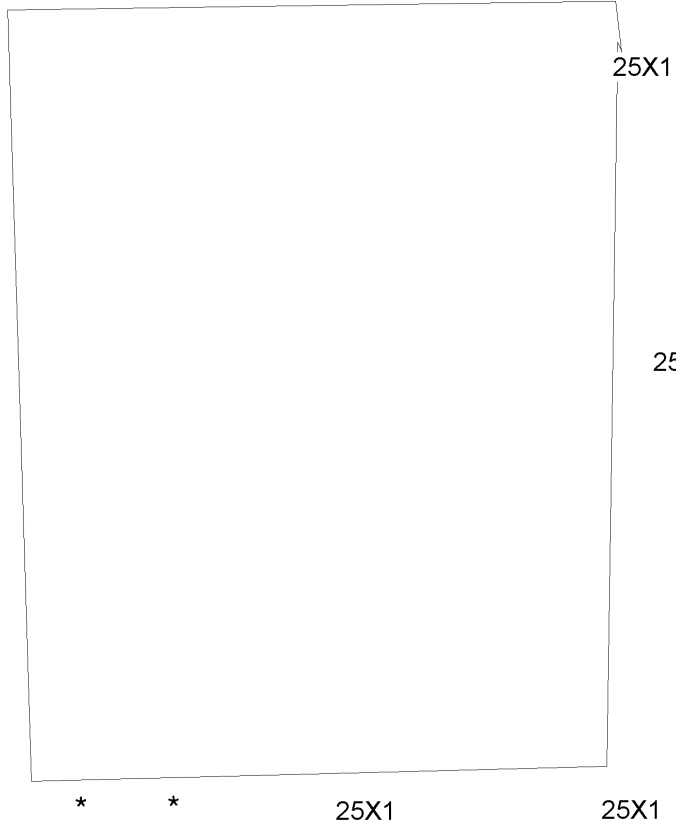
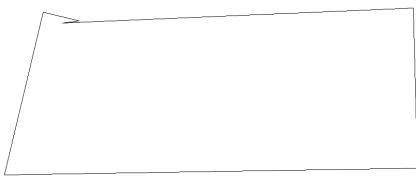
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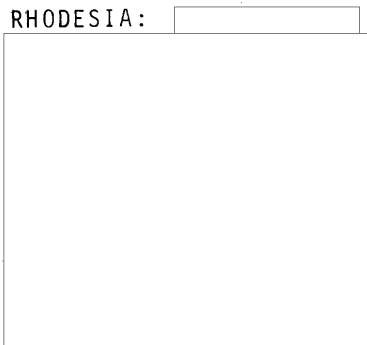


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RHODESIA:



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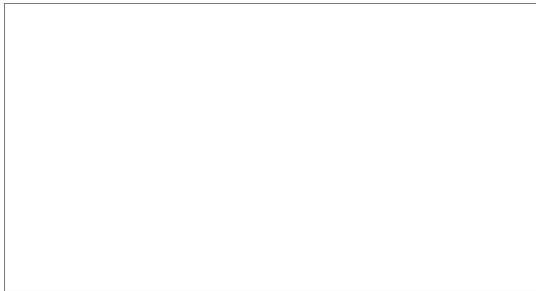
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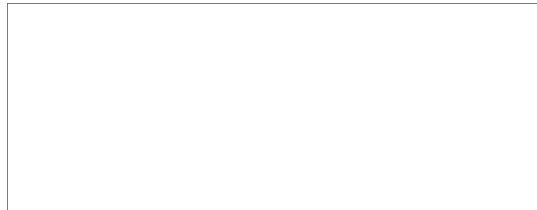
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NOTES

Romanian party secretary  
Stefan Andrei has postponed his arrival in the US until June 15



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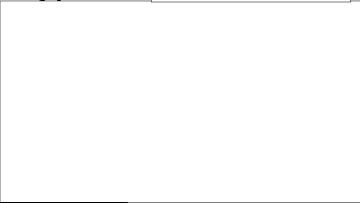
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*The Soviets appear to be developing a large naval ballistic missile for installation aboard a new submarine considerably larger than any other Soviet submarine built so far. The new missile and the first of the new Soviet submarines could be operational by about 1980.*

Photography taken in May suggests that the Soviets are building a test platform for the new missile at the Nikolayev shipyard. The size of the openings in the new test platform suggests that the missile will have a much larger diameter than any other Soviet submarine-launched ballistic missile.

A missile that large would not fit into any of the existing Soviet submarines, but a submarine large enough to carry it may be under construction. Last year, what may have been hull sections for a very large submarine were photographed at the Severodvinsk shipyard in the northwestern USSR.

The Soviets have said that they would build an advanced missile submarine--called the Typhoon--if the US proceeds with plans to build the Trident.

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*Ugandan President Amin reportedly suffered only minor wounds in the assassination attempt Thursday night. According to a press report, Amin was seen in Kampala yesterday, apparently none the worse for the attempt on his life.*

Amin will take revenge against whomever he believes responsible for the incident. These persons could include members of his bodyguard and of tribes that have opposed him.

Amin may also make threatening moves against neighboring Tanzania and Kenya. Both governments have given aid and sanctuary to dissident Ugandan exiles.

Ugandan radio is saying the grenades used in the assassination attempt were "American and Israeli types."

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