



The President's Daily Brief



July 14, 1976

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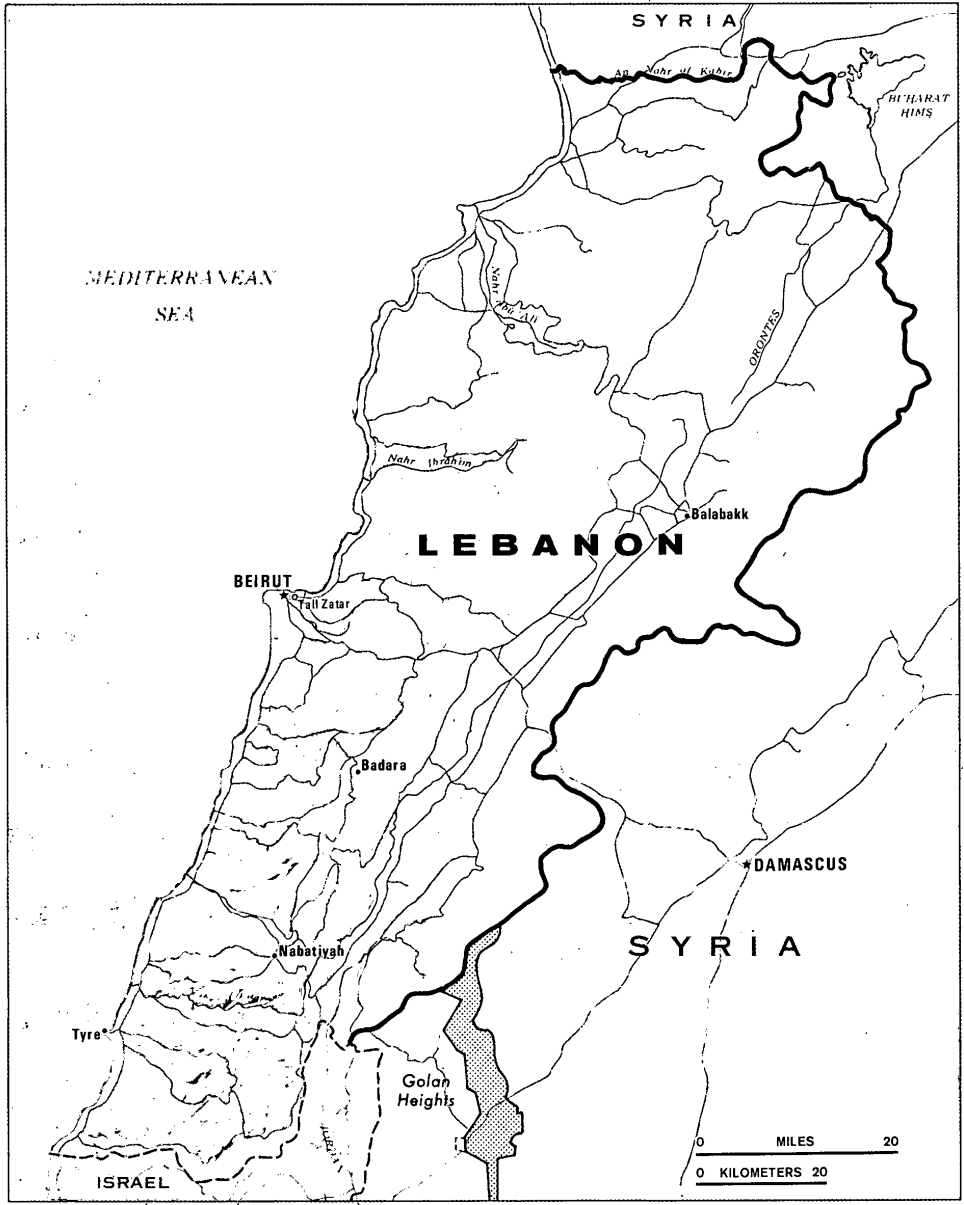
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July 14, 1976

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LEBANON: Syria is apparently making the gesture of a limited pullback from Sidon largely to forestall pressure from other Arab states.



Sidon and will be replaced by a contingent of the Arab security force. 25X1

The Palestinians and Libyan Prime Minister Jallud, who negotiated the withdrawal, anticipate that it will facilitate the entry into Sidon of ships carrying arms for the leftists. It is doubtful, however, that Syria will move its forces out of artillery range of the harbor. In fact, Syrian forces launched an intensive artillery attack on Sidon Monday night at almost the same time that Damascus announced plans for the pullback.

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Pal-
estinian and leftist forces are building two airstrips in southern Lebanon, just west of Nabatiyah and at Badara, to facilitate arms shipments to the leftists.

Overhead photography shows construction in these two areas that could be for airstrips. The apparent strip near Nabatiyah, although not completed, could handle large transport aircraft; the one at Badara is too short to handle more than light aircraft.

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Both of these areas are vulnerable to air attack, and both could be brought within range of Syrian artillery. Nabatiyah could also be shelled from Israel.

The tight supply situation facing Palestinian and leftist forces is apparently causing bickering among them over allocation of available resources. The leader of the leftist Lebanese Arab Army charged last week that Fatah had cut off all assistance to the army.

Libya interceded

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with Fatah early this month to assure a more equitable distribution of equipment.

The Arab League foreign ministers adjourned last night having agreed to little more than another call for a cease-fire and provision of non-military aid to Lebanon. They adopted a series of resolutions that appear only to paper over continued disagreements. 25X1

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ARAB TERRORISM:

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EC: The EC Nine heads of government, meeting in Brussels yesterday, called on all nations to cooperate in combating acts of terrorism.

Largely in response to the Uganda hijacking and the subsequent UN Security Council debate, EC members are drafting a convention on the prosecution and extradition of persons who engage in terrorist acts, particularly those involving the taking of hostages.

The convention is expected to contain, among other provisions, measures to improve coordination among national police forces in dealing with terrorists, including the possibility of direct cross-border assistance.

West Germany hopes the accord will serve as a springboard for wider international action, and may introduce a formal resolution on terrorist acts involving hostages when the UN General Assembly convenes in September. Prior to this week's EC summit, Bonn had received only reluctant support from most of its Community partners, who fear a UN initiative would unnecessarily antagonize some of the Arab states.

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ITALY: Giulio Andreotti yesterday was designated by President Leone to try to sort out the post-election political situation and form a government. The resignation of the Socialist Party's top leadership injects yet another note of uncertainty into the political negotiations.

Andreotti told US Ambassador Volpe last week that as prime minister - designate he might attempt to form a smaller, more streamlined cabinet that would include some new Christian Democratic figures as well as technicians with a good public image. Andreotti said he recognized that his party, perhaps faced with its last opportunity to head the government, must be prepared to take decisive steps to prove that it can govern effectively.

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Andreotti stated he had almost given up hope of attracting the Socialists back into the government. The Christian Democrats, he said, were inclined toward formation of a minority government to see them through the next few months.

The extent of government cooperation with the Communists is yet to be worked out and may be influenced by the outcome of the present leadership struggle in the Socialist Party.

The Christian Democrats have already conceded the presidency of the Chamber of Deputies and seven lesser parliamentary posts to the Communists. The Communists are likely also to receive the chairmanships of several parliamentary committees although they will probably not head any of the major ones.

In exchange for these concessions, the Christian Democrats hope the Communists will be satisfied with an indirect role in the legislative process. This would take the form of a programmatic accord in which the Communists could review the government's legislative proposals and submit counterproposals.

Should such an accommodation emerge, the Christian Democrats would probably continue to insist that the Communists remain officially in the opposition although the distinction between government and opposition would be blurred.

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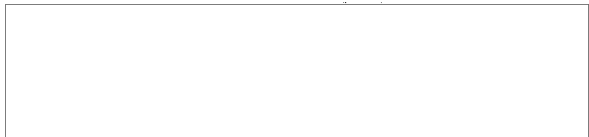
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JORDAN: King Husayn yesterday designated Mudhir Badran, a political and economic conservative, to succeed Zayd Rifai as prime minister, minister of defense, and minister of foreign affairs.

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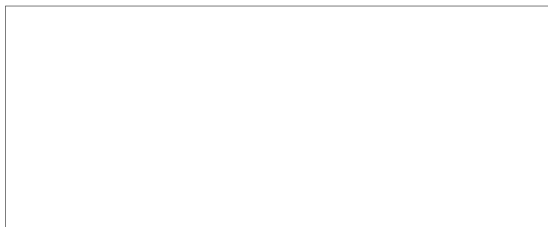
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ETHIOPIA: The US consul in Asmara, capital of Eritrea Province, has received reports that Ethiopian army troops in the province are angry over the execution in Addis Ababa last Saturday of General Getachew Nadew, who was the martial law administrator and armed forces commander in Eritrea.

Getachew was killed as part of a new purge of suspected opponents of the ruling military council ordered by Major Mengistu Hailemariam, the council's first vice chairman, and his supporters.

Military officers from units of the two divisions based in Eritrea reportedly have been discussing a move against the council. The war-weary troops in Eritrea are impatient with the council's inability to find a political solution to the conflict with secessionist guerrillas. Getachew was an advocate of his troops' views.

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The council yesterday acknowledged the purge publicly by announcing that Getachew, a leading member of the council, and 17 others--businessmen and civil servants--had been executed for alleged antigovernment and criminal acts. The announcement also said that two council members had been arrested. There are indications that others on the council may be arrested soon.

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NOTES

The two flights from Cuba scheduled for Monday night took place according to plan, making four flights presumed to have gone to Angola in three days.

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Yugoslav

Soviet

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Mozambican forces along the border with Rhodesia apparently fired an SA-7 missile at a Rhodesian aircraft last week.

Mozambique has been seeking to improve its air defense, and reportedly was recently promised additional SA-7s by the USSR. The shoulder-fired missiles could be highly-effective in combating air strikes across the border by slow-flying Rhodesian planes.

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