



# The President's Daily Brief

*September 4, 1976*

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LATE ITEM

LEBANON: Leftist and Christian radio broadcasts today in Beirut have stated that Syrian President Asad, Lebanese president-elect Sarkis, and King Husayn of Jordan have tentatively scheduled a summit meeting in Damascus on September 27. The broadcasts quoted informed sources as saying that the discussions at the anticipated meeting will deal with relations among the three states involved and the establishment of some sort of alliance among them. The speaker of the Lebanese parliament

\_\_\_\_\_ said that such an alliance "is probably the only way out of the conflict."

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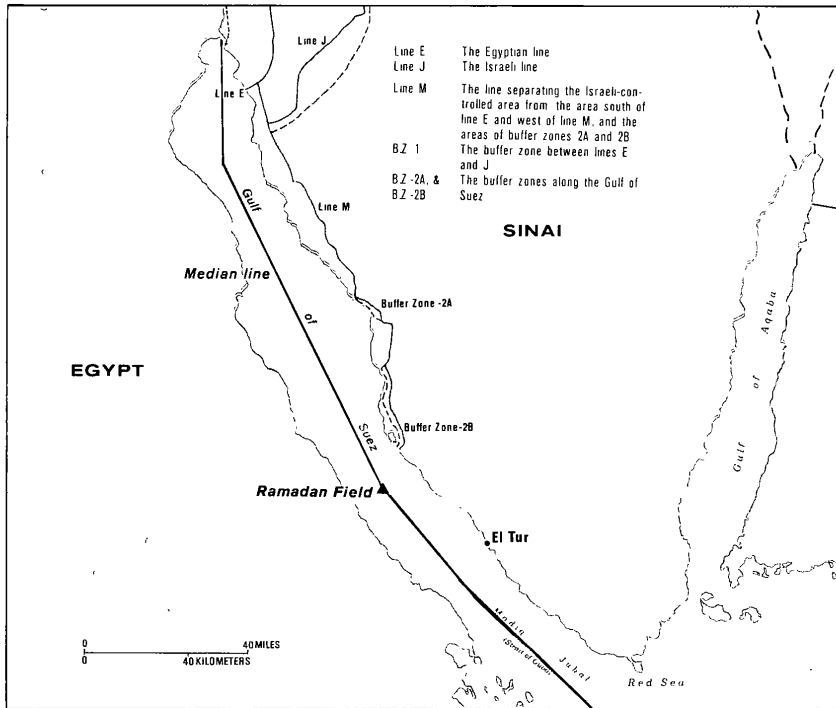
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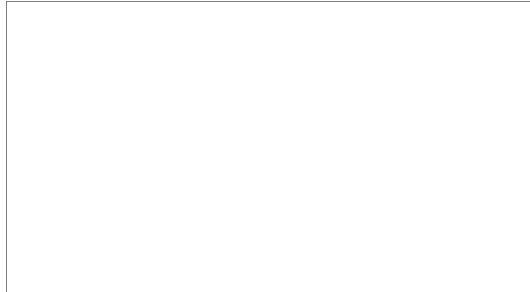
### Gulf of Suez



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*EGYPT-ISRAEL: A US-owned oil exploration ship that was recently forced to withdraw from the Ramadan oil field in the Gulf of Suez is scheduled to return to the disputed area this morning.*



An Israeli patrol boat forced the drilling ship--leased jointly by AMOCO and the Egyptian government--to withdraw on Tuesday night. The incident was only the latest attempt by the Israelis to discourage Egypt from drilling in an area of the gulf they hope to exploit and claim is in Israeli territorial waters. There have been a series of similar incidents in the same general area over the past several months.

Israeli Foreign Minister Allon told Ambassador Toon in Tel Aviv yesterday that the drilling ship would not be physically harassed if it proceeded into the disputed area. The Israelis, however, would take steps--which Allon did not specify--so that the ship would find it "inconvenient" to drill.

Egyptian military moves in response to the recent incidents are more extensive than we previously have seen. The Egyptians are determined to assert their right to explore for oil in waters they regard as their own, and they appear willing to risk a serious incident if the Israelis press the issue. Cairo may be relying on the US to defuse the situation through diplomatic channels.

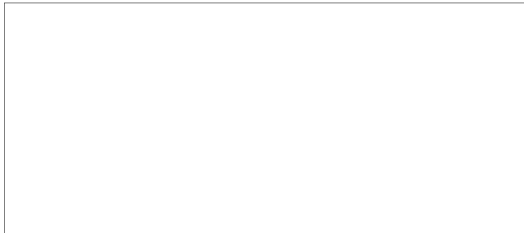
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*LEBANON: There are further indications of a serious split within the Palestinian leadership over the position to be adopted on Syria's military presence in Lebanon.*

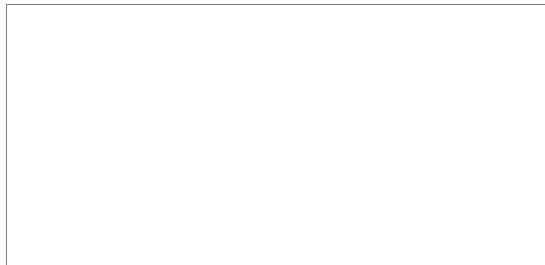
Fatah's second-in-command Salah Khalaf has been quoted in the press as saying that the Palestine Liberation Organization is prepared to make "major concessions" for a settlement in Lebanon--but 50X1 only if the Syrians agree to withdraw.



The Christians are openly questioning whether even a Palestinian agreement to abide by the restrictions of the Cairo accords would be sufficient. Phalangist chief Pierre Jumayyil--possibly in an effort to close ranks with extremist Camille Shamun--has suggested that the accords be considered null because the Palestinians refuse to abide by them.

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*The Christians' intransigence is due in large part to the arms, ammunition, and military training they are receiving from the Israelis.*



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*The Arab League meeting, originally billed as a foreign ministers' conference, opens today, but most members are sending lesser ranking functionaries.*

The meeting is to prepare the agenda for an Arab summit to which a majority of the League members have agreed. The low level of representation at the preliminary meeting may indicate reluctance to tackle the Lebanese problem. Most League members support Syria's attempt to impose controls on the Palestinians in Lebanon, but few are willing to condone publicly Syria's intervention in the fighting.

The military situation in Lebanon yesterday was again relatively calm.

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*EGYPT-USSR: Egypt has reacted sharply to an article appearing in Pravda on Monday that accused Cairo of risking a "new conflict" in the Middle East by threatening Libya.*

Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmi, according to the Cairo press, rebuked the Soviet charge for the article later in the week. Fahmi reportedly characterized the article as Soviet interference in Egypt's internal affairs and with Egypt's right to protect itself from Libyan sabotage.

Publicly the Egyptians are taking the position that Pravda's support for Libya is nothing to worry about. The Cairo press has treated the article as a sign that Moscow no longer has a firm foothold in the Middle East and has been reduced to supporting the "mad" Libyan, President Qadhafi, who has been involved in subversive schemes throughout the Arab world.

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This theme is new for the Egyptians. They have for some time charged that Moscow was masterminding Libya's operations. By treating Moscow now as the follower of Qadhafi that supports his behavior toward the other Arabs, Cairo is clearly bidding for Arab sympathy.

The Egyptians may, however, be more worried than their public bluster would indicate. In a conversation with Ambassador Eilts on Thursday, Foreign Minister Fahmi charged that the Soviets' UN mission is circulating the Pravda article among UN members, telling them that Egypt will have to bear the consequences for its threats against Libya.

Fahmi challenged the US to support Egypt against the Soviets, alleging pointedly that Washington had supported Syria in the face of a recent ultimatum from Moscow about Syria's intervention in Lebanon.

\* \* \*

GREECE-TURKEY: *The Greek government registered its concern to Ambassador Kubisch on Thursday over renewed Turkish seismic exploration in sensitive areas of the Aegean Sea.*

A Greek spokesman said his government considered the Turkish action an intentional provocation that cannot continue. He said Greece would lodge a complaint with Turkey and with the UN Security Council, but he did not request any US action. Similar demarches also may have been made to the British, French, and Italian governments, which helped formulate the compromise resolution on the Aegean controversy in the Security Council last week.

Greek air and naval units [redacted] 50X1  
[redacted] change their

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zone of operations to avoid overlapping the area of the Sismik, the Turkish research ship, which was located yesterday between Thasos and Samothrace islands.

*Prime Minister Caramanlis had appeared determined to settle the dispute through negotiations prior to the announcement of the new area of Turkish exploration.*

He now may come under pressure from the public and opposition parties to take a tougher line with Turkey. He may even be reluctant to negotiate in the absence of a major modification of the scope and duration of the Sismik's activities.

The Turkish government appears to be attempting to induce the Greeks to negotiate on Turkish terms. Prime Minister Demirel also seems to be trying to undercut charges by his opponents that his Aegean policy lacks boldness.

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NOTES

South African Prime Minister Vorster will meet with leaders of the tribal homelands on October 8.

Official commentary has implied that Vorster will discuss with them their demand for the release or fair trial of all urban blacks who have been arrested since June. A week ago the government acknowledged that over 800 blacks were under detention.

Vorster probably wants to defer any commitments to blacks until after the special caucus on September 10 of the ruling National Party. The South African press speculates that the caucus is intended to develop a consensus on limited modifications of the apartheid system.

The caucus will also afford Vorster an opportunity to explain any foreign policy decisions that result from his meeting with Secretary Kissinger. As he left for Zurich yesterday, the Prime Minister stressed that the meeting would deal exclusively with international problems.

Rhodesia [redacted]  
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Mozambican [redacted]  
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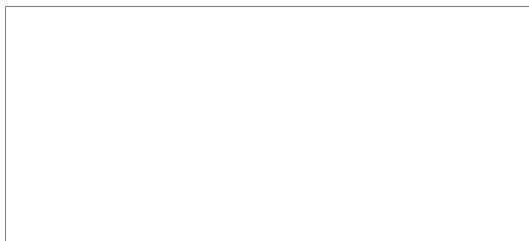
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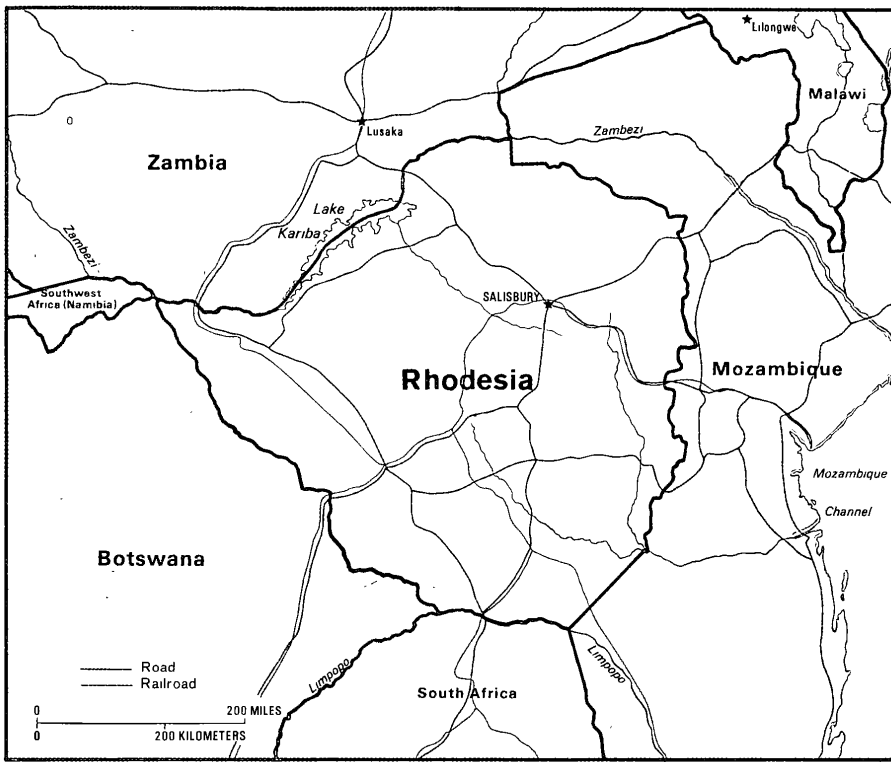


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*The new prime minister of Barbados is J. M. G. Adams, leader of the Barbados Labor Party, which won Thursday's election.*

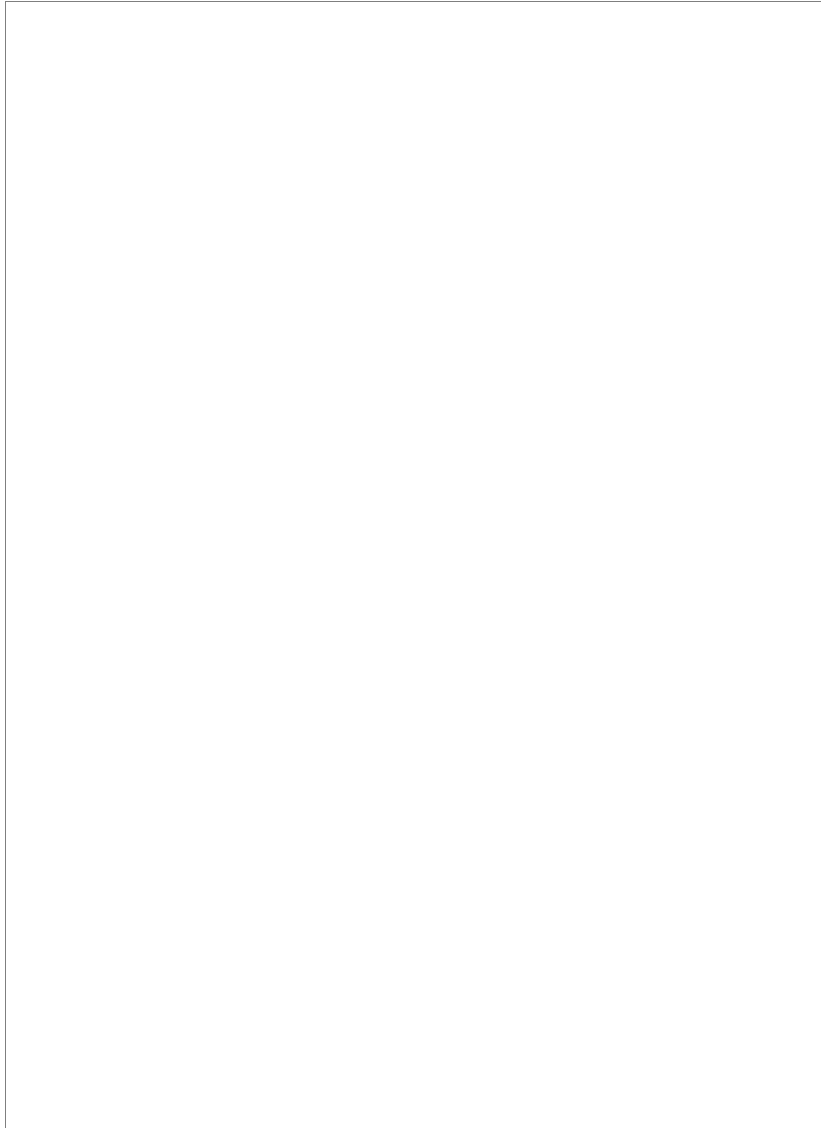
Relations with the US are not likely to change significantly under Adams. The US embassy believes, however, that the Barbadians will demand substantial compensation for the continued presence of the US naval facility on the island after December 1977, when the present lease expires. The embassy speculates, on the other hand, that the Cubans will find Adams less cooperative than former prime minister Barrow was during recent months.

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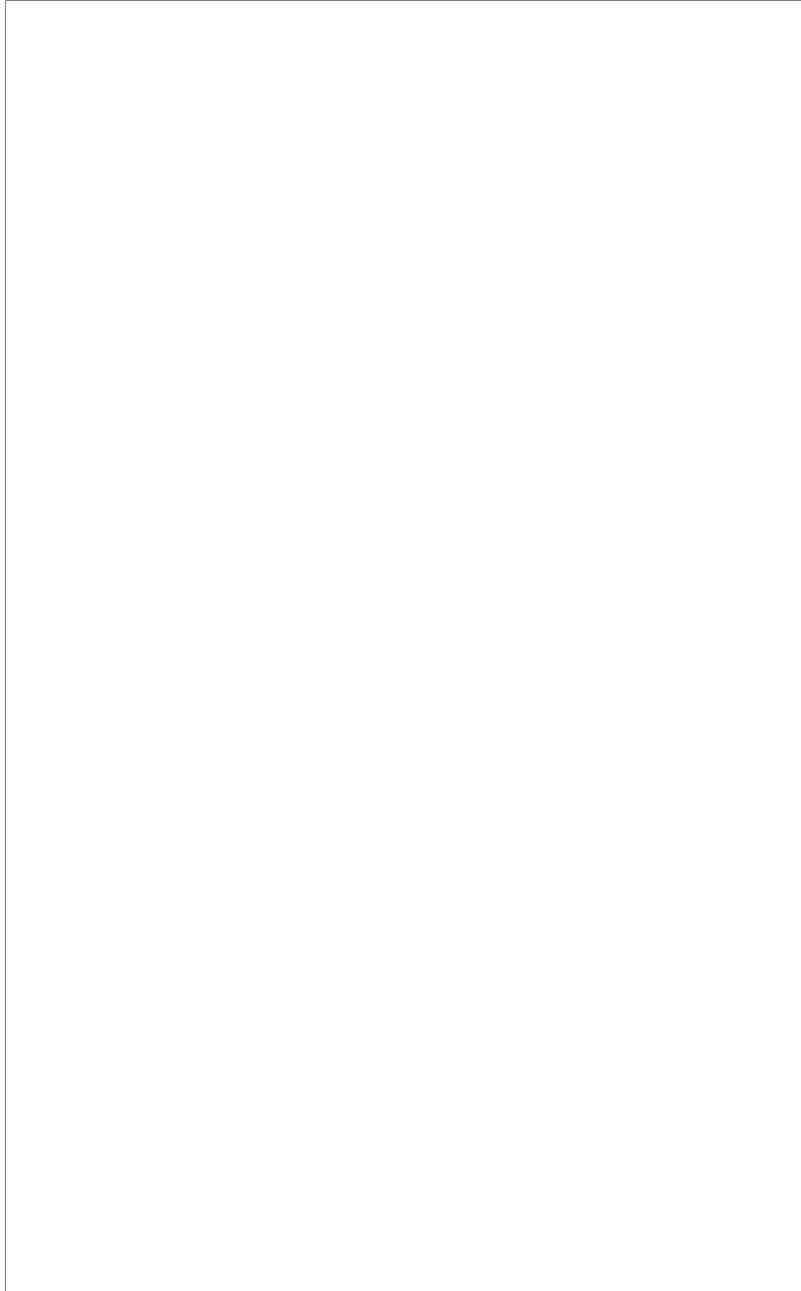
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