



# The President's Daily Brief

*September 17, 1976*

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*LEBANON: A preliminary session of the tripartite Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese negotiations will be held today before president-elect Sarkis leaves for Cairo.*

In Cairo, Sarkis is likely to urge Egyptian President Sadat to encourage the Palestinians and Lebanese leftists to negotiate in good faith and to make a plea for the Egyptians to patch up their quarrel with the Syrians. Sadat is likely to urge Sarkis to seek a Syrian withdrawal at the earliest possible date.

Sarkis, who will represent the Christian side at the talks, is likely to have his negotiating mandate highly circumscribed by acting prime minister Shamun and President Franjiah. Shamun said yesterday that the Palestinians would have to withdraw from "all fronts," not just the mountains,



*By the recent cabinet reshuffle, Franjiah and Shamun apparently intend to strengthen the position of their supporters in the new Sarkis government.*

By giving Shamun the defense portfolio, the two men clearly hope to ensure the Maronites a dominant voice in the reconstruction of the Lebanese army. This could pit Shamun against the Syrians



*There are tentative indications that Libya may be withdrawing some of its troops from Lebanon who have been serving with the Arab League peacekeeping force.*

A Libyan C-130 transport was scheduled to depart from Damascus for eastern Libya on Wednesday. On the same day an unspecified number of Libyan personnel in Beirut were to leave Lebanon. Damascus would be the logical transit point if they were returning to Libya.

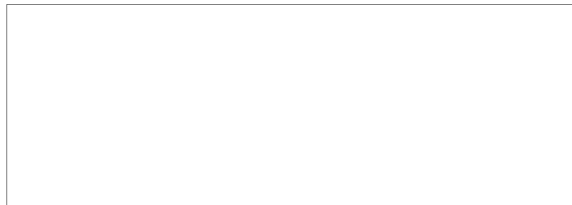
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Yasir Arafat is quoted as having said recently that Syria and Libya had begun to cooperate with one another in efforts against Egypt.

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JAMAICA: *The current visit of former CIA employee Philip Agee to Jamaica has been used by the Manley government to bolster its prospects in the elections early next year.*

Agee arrived in Jamaica on September 9 for a highly publicized one-week visit. He appeared on television, had press conferences, and made a number of speeches stressing the theme of US, and particularly CIA, efforts to destabilize Jamaica.



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Although the trip ostensibly was sponsored by a private organization, it could hardly have taken place without Manley's approval. This assumption is strengthened by the contact Agee had with high Jamaican officials, reportedly including Manley, and by the frequent and prominent coverage the government media gave to Agee's statements.

With the opposition clearly gaining ground in the pre-election maneuvering, Manley probably counted on Agee to help persuade the Jamaican public of the credibility of his insinuation that the US is trying to subvert his government. In this way he probably hopes to buttress

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his case for maintaining the present state of emergency through the elections and for further harassment of the opposition.

A member of Manley's cabinet, acknowledging that Agee's visit should be viewed in the context of Jamaica's elections, told Ambassador Gerard that the visit will be helpful for the ruling party.

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NOTES

*The ruling Rhodesian Front Party's resolution giving Prime Minister Smith a unanimous vote of confidence and "full backing to negotiate" does not indicate that the Smith government has softened its position toward a settlement with the black nationalists.*

The party's action may have been designed to give Rhodesia at least the facade of being reasonable should there be pressure for new settlement talks. The unanimous support for Smith suggests that the right-wing members of the party, who are opposed to any concessions to the blacks, were satisfied that the Prime Minister would not make any new moves toward a settlement.

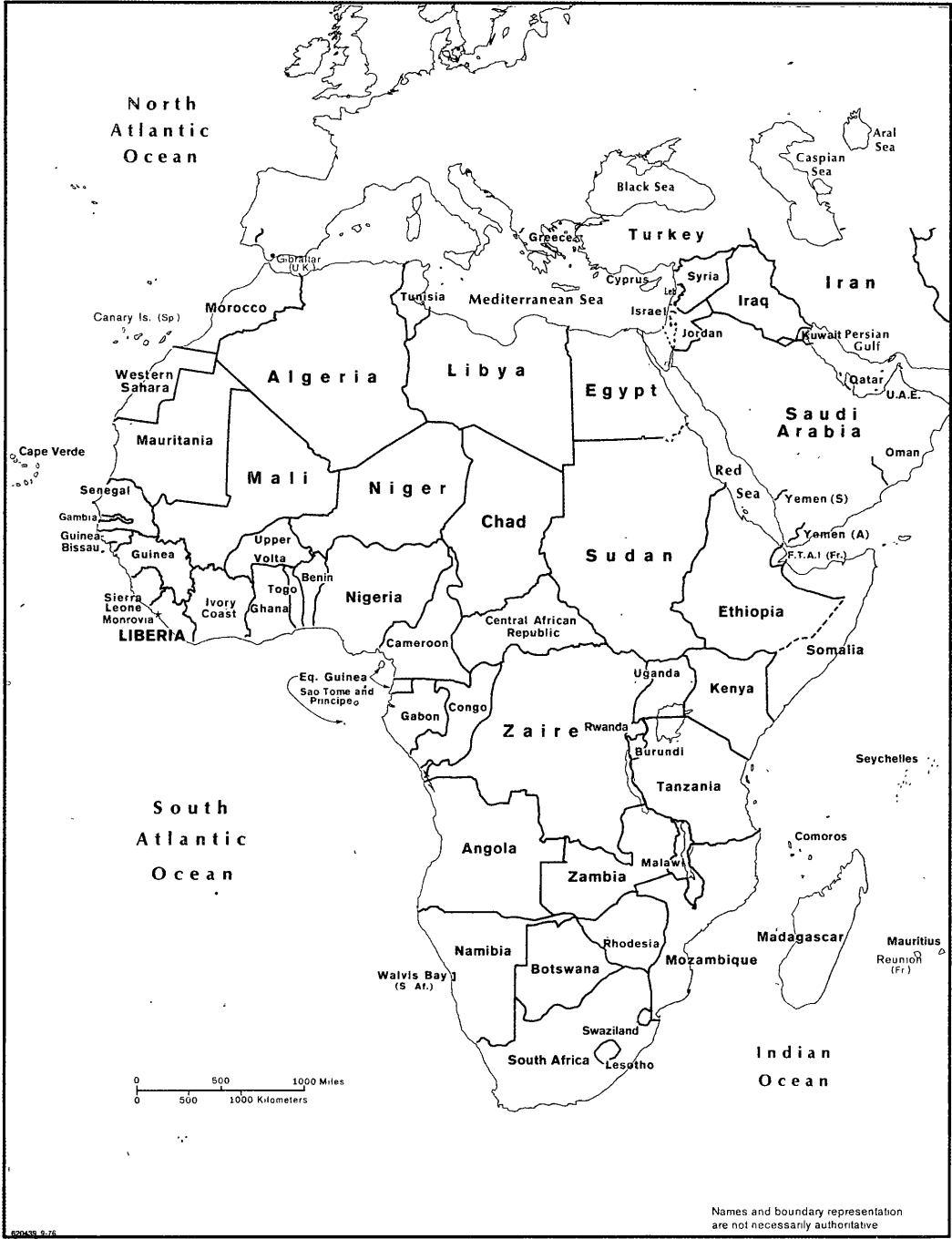
Smith is expected to return to South Africa this weekend for more talks with South African Prime Minister Vorster.

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*Another convoy of Cuban ships--the fourth--apparently is on its way back from Angola and could arrive as early as next weekend.*

Three of the four ships in the convoy are known to have carried troops in the past and to have participated in the last convoy. It has not been possible, however, to determine whether they carried troops in that convoy, which arrived in Cuba at the end of July.

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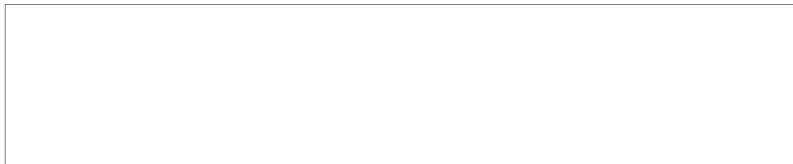


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LIBERIA



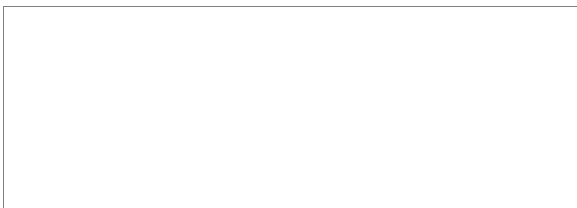
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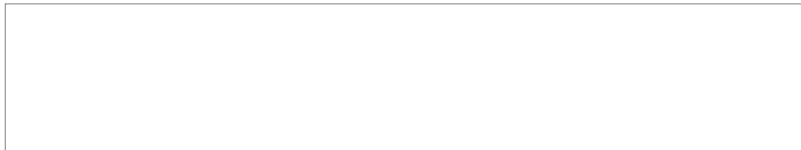
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