

# The President's Daily Brief

*September 24, 1976*

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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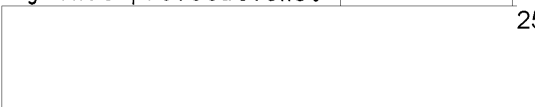
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LEBANON: *President Ilyas Sarkis took the oath of office yesterday in Syrian-occupied Shaturah with 66 of the 97 parliamentary deputies present.*

Sarkis' inaugural address did not set forth a detailed plan of action, but called for an end to the fighting and for communication among all involved in Lebanon.

The initial reaction of Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat was positive. He announced that, to help end the fighting, he would order his forces to cease firing and to avoid retaliating against provocations.

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*Saudi Arabia's effort to arrange a limited summit that would strive for a reconciliation between Egypt and Syria as a step toward dealing with the Lebanese problem has stalled. Recent remarks by Egyptian President Sadat suggest that Cairo is in no hurry to facilitate the mediation effort.*

In an interview published yesterday in the Beirut newspaper An-Nahar, Sadat continued his attacks on Syria, blaming Damascus for "selling out" the Palestinians and obstructing other Arabs' efforts to resolve the Lebanon crisis.

Sadat said he welcomes an Arab "mini-summit" with both Egyptian and Syrian participation, but he made clear that he regards it as a forum in which to discuss Lebanon, not to settle his quarrel with Syria.

Sadat indicated that the only way to stop the fighting in Lebanon is "by force" with what he called a deterrent force--presumably an expanded Arab security contingent with an offensive role. He offered Sarkis "tanks, rockets, and artillery of all kinds" from Egypt's inventory. He said, however, that Egypt would not supply any troops.

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# BAHRAIN



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Cairo pressed for an enlargement of both the role and armament of the Arab security force during an Arab League foreign ministers' meeting in July, but the proposal was voted down.

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BAHRAIN-US: *Since June, Prime Minister Khalifa and his nephew Crown Prince Hamad, who is minister of defense and commander of the defense force, have been holding out the possibility of an extension of the US navy's stationing agreement in return for military assistance.*

As of now, the US navy will have to leave by June 30, 1977, as requested by Bahrain in mid-1975. The Prime Minister contends that a military assistance deal would enable his government to demonstrate to its people that the US presence generates tangible benefits for Bahrain.

The Bahraini leaders have been vague on the specifics of what they might have in mind. Recently, however, Crown Prince Hamad informed the US embassy that he wants to develop an air wing--with F-5s and helicopters--and a sea force. Hamad said the air wing should grow to 14 or so jets over the next five to seven years.

*It is unclear whether the approaches made by Khalifa and the Crown Prince are private and exploratory or whether they reflect an official government overture undertaken after approval by the council of ministers.*

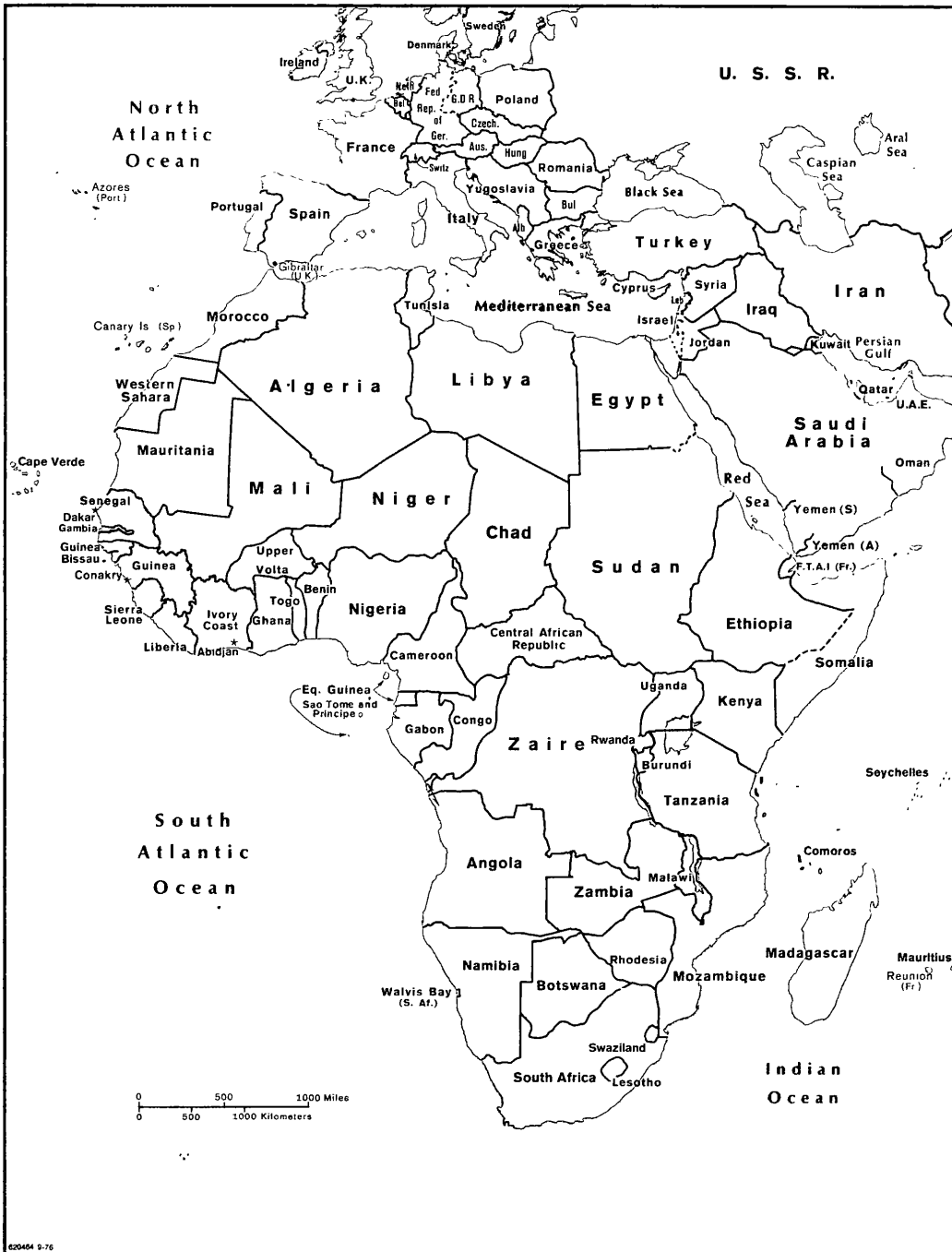
We incline to the former view, in part because Foreign Minister Muhammad--also a member of the ruling family--has given no hint that he is aware of any thought being given to extending the stationing agreement.



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The Prime Minister has justified the apparent reversal of policy on the Middle East Force's presence on the grounds that he no longer must consider the views of

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the National Assembly--which the ruling family dissolved in August 1975--and that he has personal assurances from the Saudis, Iranians, and Kuwaitis that they would have no objection to an extension of the stationing agreement.

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GUINEA-USSR: *Two Soviet TU-95 aircraft landed yesterday in Conakry, Guinea, indicating that, contrary to recent assurances given the US, President Toure will continue to allow the Soviet Union to use Conakry as a staging base for naval reconnaissance flights. Since mid-1973, there have been 16 other TU-95 missions to Guinea.*

A Guinean spokesman told Ambassador Harrop in late July that after August President Toure planned to halt Soviet use of Guinea for reconnaissance flights. At the same time, Guinea requested a US "security guarantee" against the alleged threat posed to the Toure regime by Guinean exiles in neighboring Senegal and Ivory Coast.

A few weeks later, Guinean officials confirmed the decision to halt the flights, but implied that the ban could depend on a favorable US response to Guinea's request for security guarantee.

Guinea may justify the latest TU-95 mission by citing the US failure to respond to its security concerns. Toure may have concluded that he cannot afford to antagonize the Soviet Union, which has been responsive in the past to his anxiety about Guinea's security. A small Soviet naval patrol has operated off Conakry at Guinea's request since 1970 when Portuguese-backed exiles mounted a seaborne attack.

Toure may also have used the TU-95 issue to bargain with the Soviets on other issues. The US embassy in Conakry recently reported that Guinea and the USSR could have settled their protracted dispute over the price the Soviets will pay for bauxite produced at a mine developed with Soviet assistance.

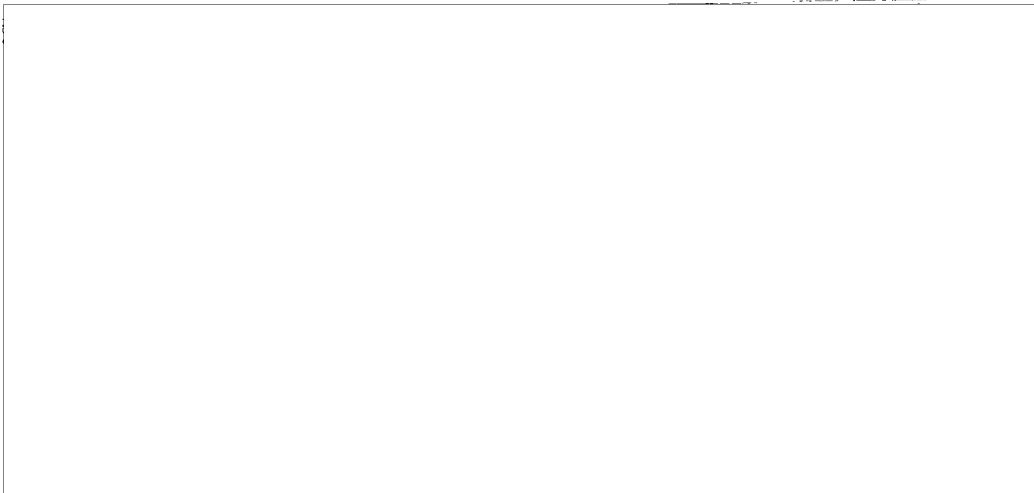
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ANGOLA-ZAMBIA: *The governments of Angola and Zambia have agreed to exchange "diplomatic missions."*

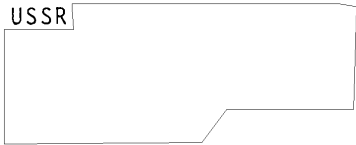
The agreement apparently falls short of establishing diplomatic relations, but the two states will set up official missions in each capital in order to develop closer government-to-government and party-to-party ties. They will also establish a permanent joint commission to resolve problems between the two countries.

The Neto regime in Angola would like to establish better relations with Zambia as a way to achieve closer cooperation among the front-line states backing the black nationalists in Rhodesia and Namibia. It hopes to discourage Zambian support for National Union insurgents operating in eastern Angola. The insurgents are allowed to use Zambian territory for refuge and staging purposes.

Zambian President Kaunda now will begin to urge the Angolan regime to establish a government in which the National Union and the National Front can participate. He will probably also encourage the Angolans to reduce the Cuban presence in Angola.

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NOTES

*Soyuz 22, a Soviet spacecraft with two cosmonauts aboard, returned to earth yesterday after an eight-day mission.*

We believe the cosmonauts devoted the bulk of their work schedule to earth resources photography. [redacted] 25X1  
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Soyuz 22 was the first in a highly publicized cooperative manned space flight program involving the nine countries of the communist trading bloc. Photographic equipment manufactured in East Germany was the only bloc contribution to the spacecraft. The USSR had announced that the program would include cosmonauts from each of the other eight before it ended in 1983.

If the first such joint mission takes place in 1978 as announced, it would put the Soviets several years ahead of the joint US-European program in flying multinational crews. The US space shuttle is scheduled to orbit a European space lab with a European crew in the 1980s.

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*The Soviet Union's Mars program, unlike that of the US, has not been notably successful.*

Since 1960, when the program began, the Soviets have made 15 launch attempts aimed at Mars. Eight of these attempts failed shortly after launch, and only three were even partially successful in getting landing capsules to the surface of Mars. [redacted] 25X1

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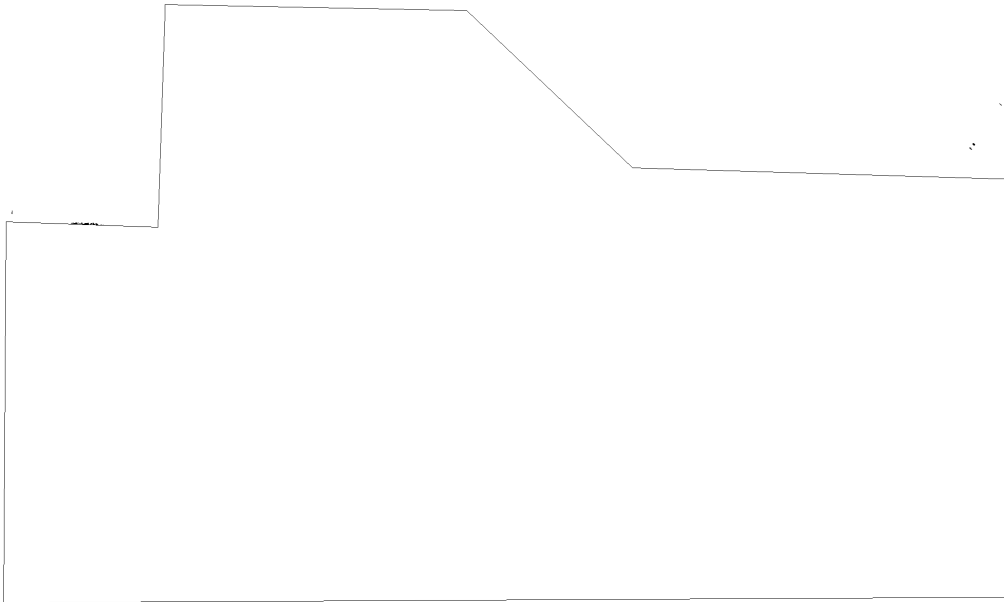
This spotty record, together with Moscow's awareness of Viking's objectives and prospects for success, may have caused the Soviets to re-assess their program and pass up the launch opportunity in 1975. Soviet scientists have indicated that they will try again in 1977, the next opportunity.

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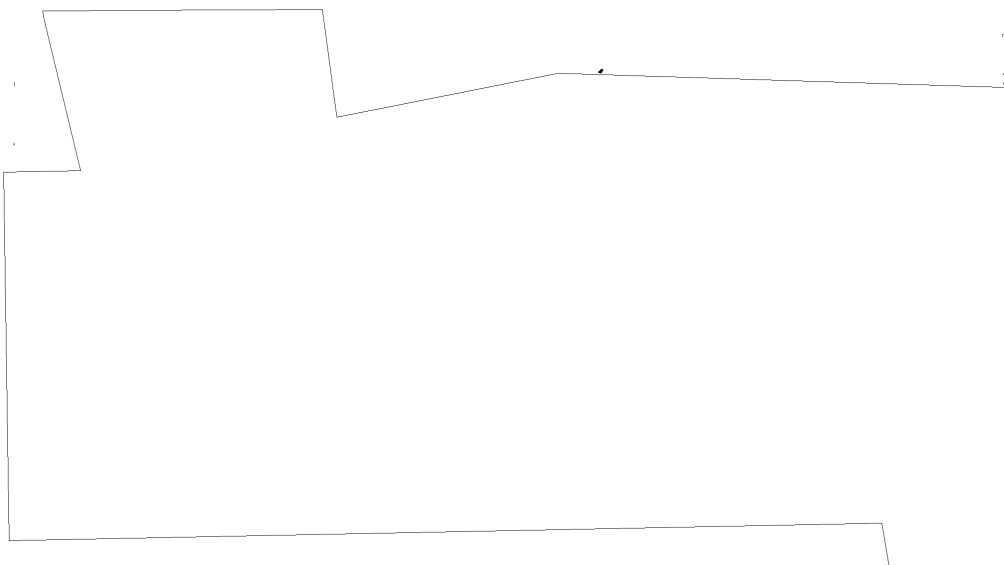
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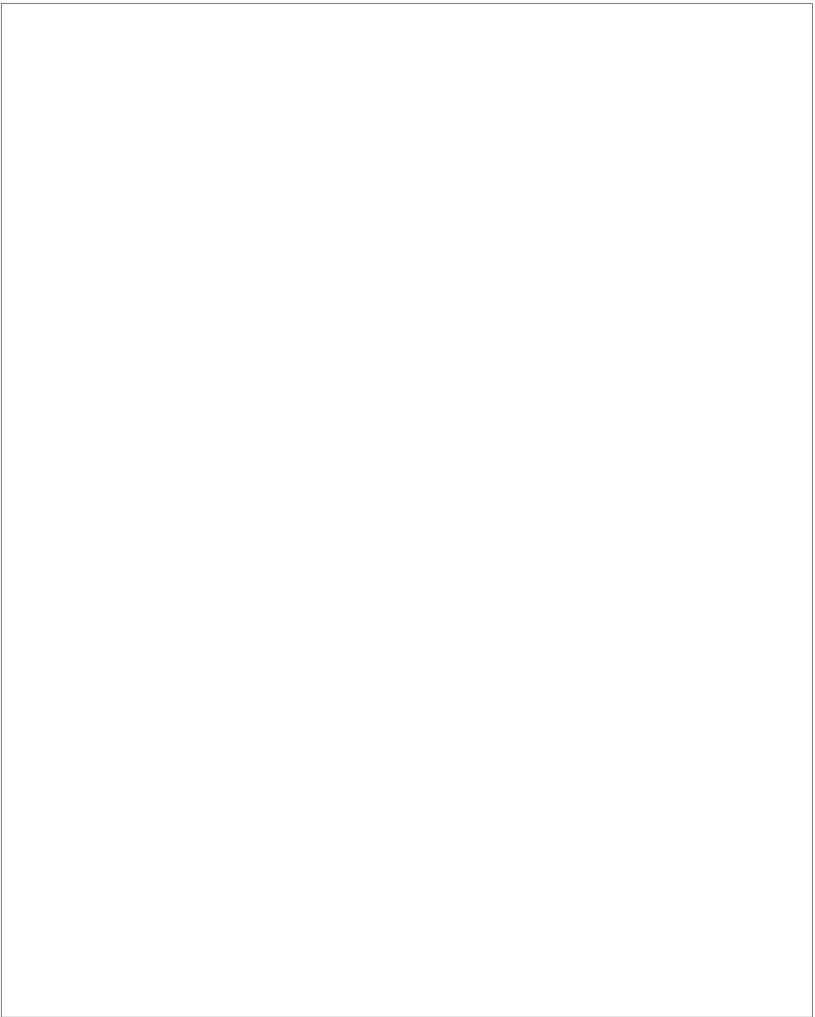
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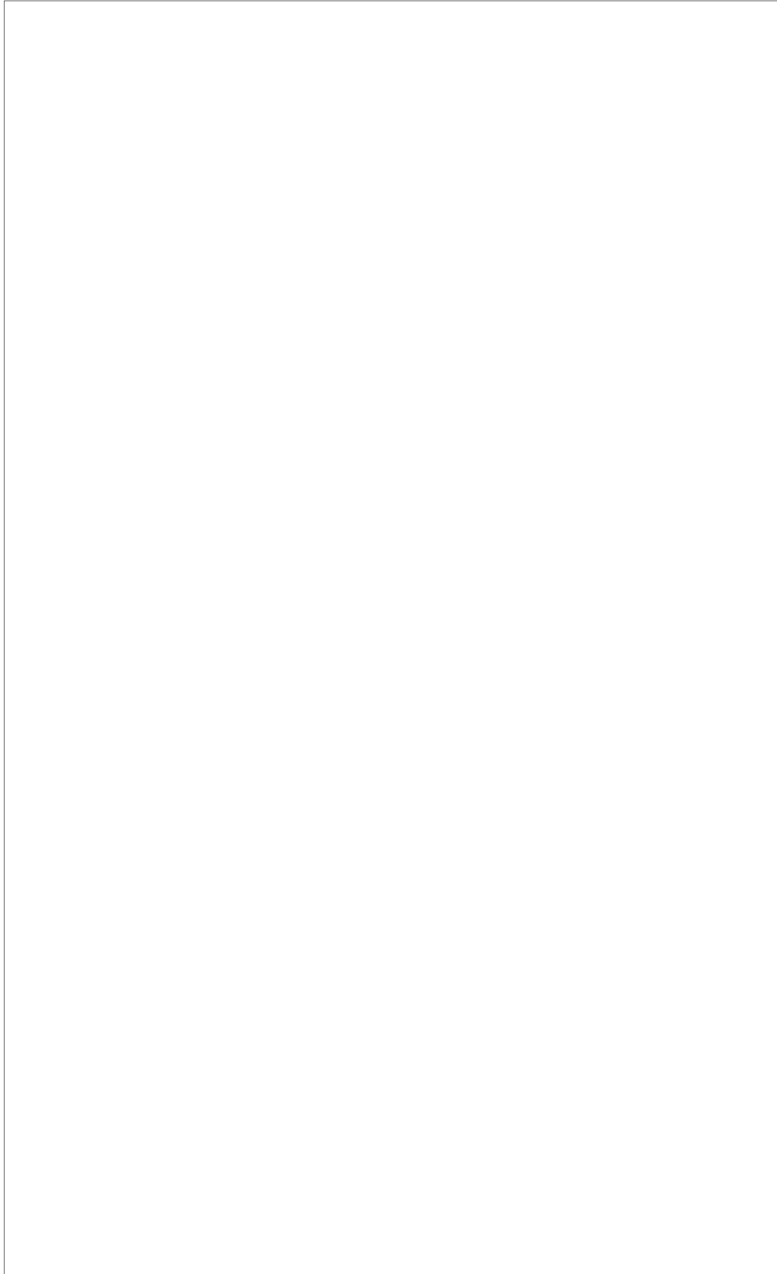
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