



# The President's Daily Brief



*October 4, 1976*

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*Top Secret*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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WEST GERMANY: *Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's Social Democrats and Foreign Minister Genscher's Free Democrats apparently intend to renew their coalition government following yesterday's national parliamentary election. Christian Democratic leader Helmut Kohl, however, has not yet conceded defeat and still hopes to entice the Free Democrats to join him in a government.*

Unofficial results of yesterday's balloting indicate that the Social Democrats and Free Democrats together polled just over 50 percent of the vote and will receive 252 votes in the Bundestag--a majority of only eight seats. Compared with the 1972 election, the Social Democrats lost considerable ground and the Free Democrats also lost votes.

The Christian Democrats--as expected--again became the plurality party in West Germany. They and their ally, the Christian Social Union in Bavaria, won 48.6 percent of the vote and 244 Bundestag seats. The Christian Democratic showing was the second best any party has ever made in a national election.

Genscher, the Free Democrats' chairman, yesterday publicly repeated the pledge made last May that the Free Democrats would renew the coalition with Schmidt's party. Kohl, buoyed by his Christian Democrats' showing at the polls, said he will formally propose coalition talks with the Free Democrats on the ground that a six-to-ten seat majority is not enough to guarantee a stable government.

*How stable a Social Democratic - Free Democratic coalition government will be and whether it will last a full term until 1980 is uncertain.*

Maintaining the ironclad discipline that will be necessary to hold the coalition together for the next four years will probably prove a formidable task for the leaders of both the Social Democrats and the Free Democrats.

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Enacting legislation may also prove more difficult than it has been during the past four years. Schmidt apparently was alluding to such possible difficulties when he stated yesterday that he hoped the opposition will not embark on a course of "confrontation" in the Bundestag or a course of "obstruction" in the upper house of Parliament, which the opposition controls.

## WEST GERMAN ELECTION RESULTS

	<u>Percentage</u>		<u>Seats</u>	
	1972	1976*	1972	1976*
SDP	45.8	42.6	230	213
FDP	8.4	7.9	41	39
	<u>54.2</u>	<u>50.5</u>	<u>271</u>	<u>252</u>
CDU/CSU	44.9	48.6	225	244

\*Unofficial

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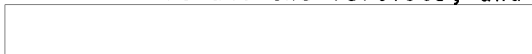
LEBANON: *Christian forces advancing on Alayh, one of the last Palestinian-leftist strongholds on the Beirut-Damascus highway, temporarily halted their offensive on Friday night and have limited their attack since then to occasional shelling.*



In addition, several Alayh inhabitants asked that the offensive cease while they attempt to persuade the Palestinians to withdraw peaceably.

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Such a voluntary withdrawal is unlikely. Alayh is of symbolic and strategic importance to both the Palestinians and the leftists, and



their defenses in the town appear adequate to withstand an attack by Christian forces fighting without the Syrians.

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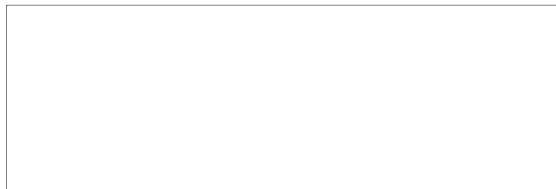
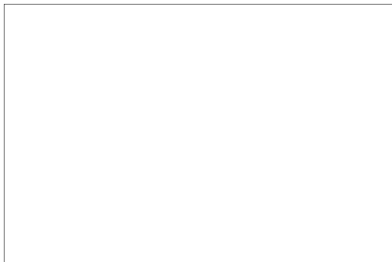
*Syrian forces have thus far limited their participation to artillery attacks on Alayh and neighboring Bhamdun in support of the Christians.*

The Syrians are encamped just east of Bhamdun in positions they took up on Friday.

Fighting elsewhere in Lebanon was generally at a low level. Syrian forces have apparently cleaned out most remaining pockets of Palestinian resistance in the mountains just north of the Beirut-Damascus highway. Farther north, there are continuing reports that Christian and Syrian forces are fortifying their positions around Tripoli, but action has thus far been limited to artillery attacks on the city.

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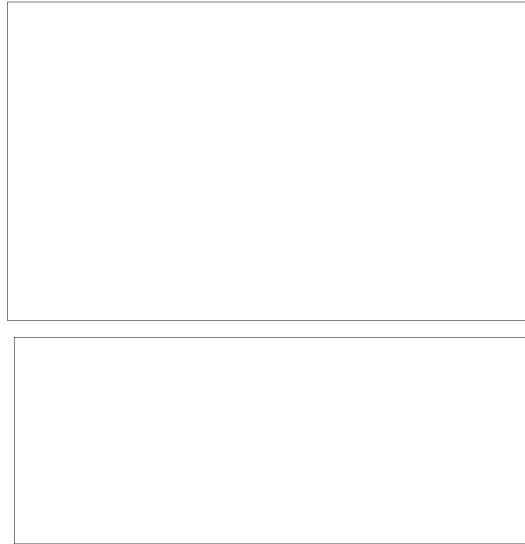
Christian leaders are said to have been considering asking for French troop involvement. It is highly unlikely, however, that any Christian party, much less the Syrians themselves, would accede to the Syrians' replacement by French forces.

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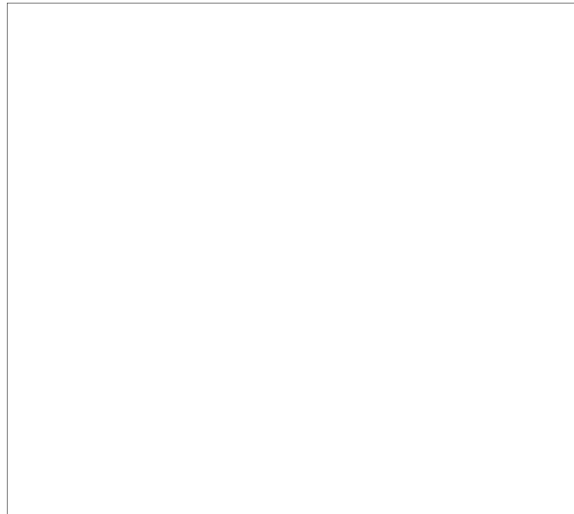
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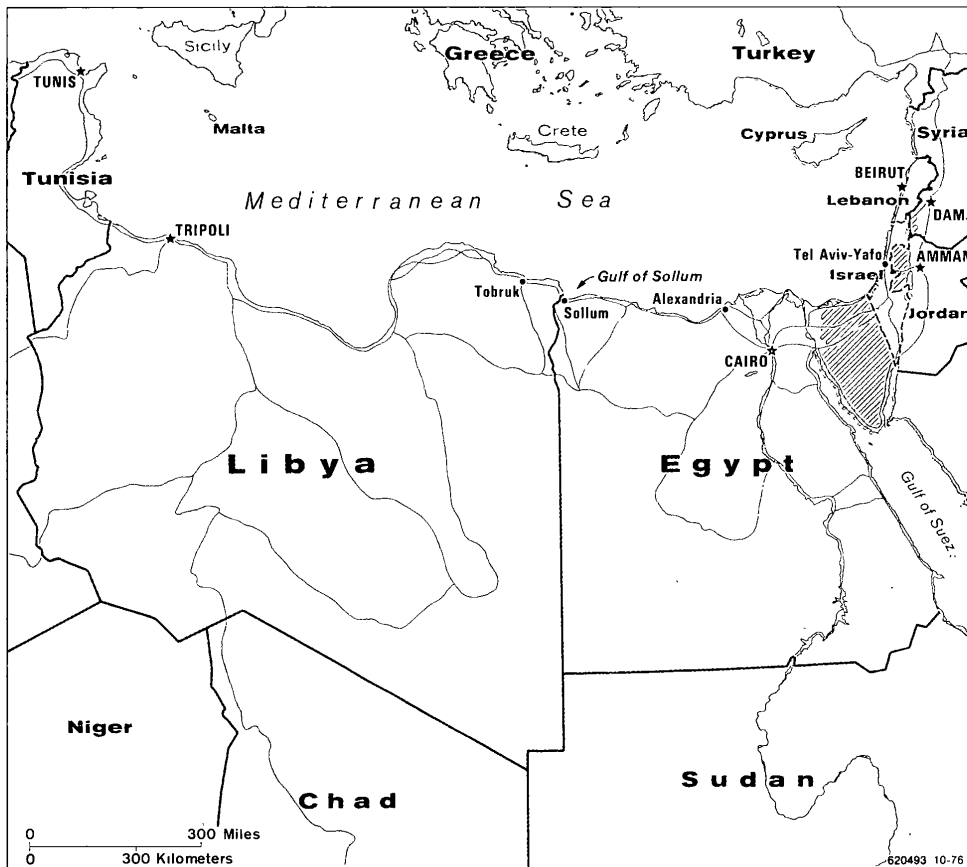
*The Greek and Turkish foreign ministers agreed in New York last Friday to a resumption of negotiations on the Aegean continental shelf and control of Aegean air space.*

Representatives of the two sides will meet to consider both issues on November 2, probably in Switzerland.

After the meeting Turkish Foreign Minister Caglayaogil expressed satisfaction that the Greeks were no longer insisting on discussing only the legal aspects of the dispute and were now willing to discuss other points such as the security requirements of the two countries.

Despite the positive atmosphere emerging from the New York meeting, the approaching Turkish election campaign and the concern in Athens about alienating the Greek military by too conciliatory a policy appear to preclude any major breakthrough in the coming months.

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*The Soviets have increased their naval presence in the Gulf of Sollum, probably in reaction to recent Egyptian activity in the area.*

Yesterday a Soviet frigate was rushed to the Soviet anchorage in the gulf to join a naval tug already there. The tug arrived back at the anchorage last week



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The Egyptians are continuing to conduct exercises using live ammunition in the gulf despite the presence of the Soviet ships. Egypt announced in August that a large area--including the Soviet anchorage--in the Gulf of Sollum would be closed to foreign shipping for four 10-day periods this fall. The fourth and final period is scheduled to begin on October 15.

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