

The President's Daily Brief

October 6, 1976

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Top Secret^{25X1}



Exempt from general
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652
exemption category 5B(1),(2),(3)
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

October 6, 1976

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USSR-CHINA:

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[Redacted]

Gankovsky, deputy chief of the Soviet team at the Sino-Soviet border talks, is normally posted in Peking but had not been there for six months. Moscow's chief negotiator at the talks, Deputy Foreign Minister Ilichev, has not been in Peking since May 1975.

The Sino-Soviet border talks have made little progress since they began in 1969, and almost none over the last two years. If the Chinese are even moderately civil to Gankovsky, the Soviets are likely to be encouraged. As of September 29, he apparently had not yet had any meetings with the Chinese.

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LEBANON: *The Syrians reportedly intend to resume their offensive against Palestinian and leftist strongholds, possibly as early as tomorrow.*

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The Syrians may be bargaining with the Palestinians for concessions that could head off the offensive, but the reported Syrian demands seem to represent more an ultimatum than a bargaining position, and Damascus undoubtedly has no hope that they will be accepted.

The Syrians reportedly have indicated that they will demand that the Palestinians agree to:

- Withdraw immediately from Alayh and the Shuf.
- Return to the refugee camps (and presumably abide by other provisions of the Cairo accord).
- Change their present leadership (meaning apparently the removal of Yasir Arafat as head of Fatah and the Palestine Liberation Organization).

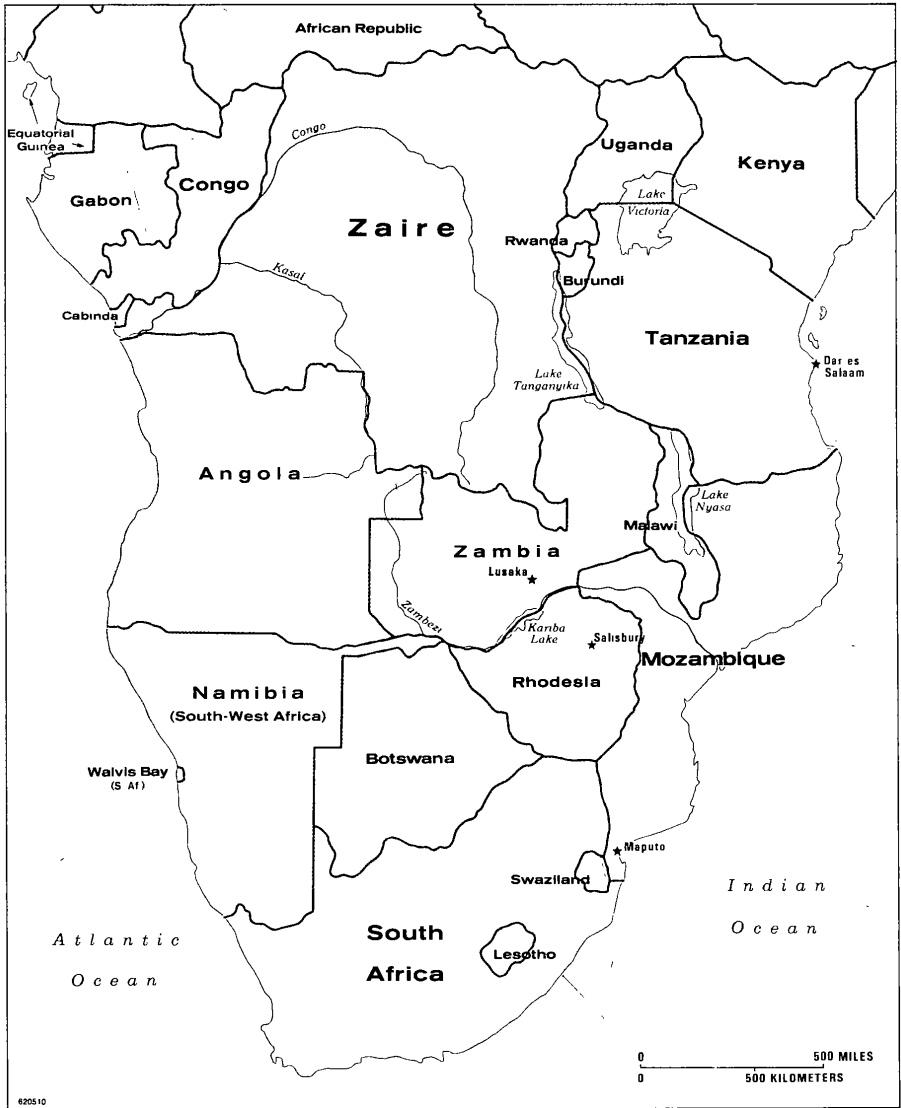
Damascus has stepped up its propaganda attacks on Arafat's leadership, but probably does not believe it can engineer his ouster at present. By proposing such extreme terms and calling more openly for a change in PLO leadership, the Syrians probably hope to erode Arafat's base of support.

Although rumors are rife in Beirut that the offensive will be mounted against Alayh and the Shuf, Syria may have decided that these areas should be bypassed. An assault on Alayh, where the Palestinians appear well dug in, would encounter strong resistance, as occurred when Christian forces tried to attack the town last Friday.

Damascus also is apparently sensitive about the reactions of Druze inhabitants of Alayh and the Shuf to military operations in their areas, primarily because anti-Syrian sentiment among the Lebanese Druze could spill over into the Druze community in Syria.

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RHODESIA: Unity talks between two Rhodesian black nationalist factions apparently have made little progress.

The talks between the Zimbabwe African National Union and the Zimbabwe African People's Union are now taking place in Maputo, Mozambique, and are expected to shift to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania soon.

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[redacted] ZAPU representatives are insisting that political unity must be achieved before the respective military forces can be united. ZANU, which includes most of the guerrillas, refuses to enter into anything but a loose political alliance. ZANU leaders fear that unity would only benefit ZAPU leader Joshua Nkomo, whom they distrust.

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ZANU representatives also met last week in Lusaka with representatives of the third faction led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa [redacted]

Muzorewa had been left out of the original unity talks by the other factions and the "front line" African presidents. Muzorewa's welcome home to Rhodesia last Sunday by a large and enthusiastic crowd, after more than a year of self-imposed exile, suggests that he hopes to exploit his political following there to become again a key figure in settlement talks.

The guerrilla leaders, as distinct from the nationalist politicians, continue to take a hard line in public on a settlement.

At a press conference in Maputo last week, a guerrilla leader asserted that the fighting would continue until the Smith government

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was prepared to surrender unconditionally. The guerrillas nevertheless are said to have decided that at any conference to set up an interim government, they will be represented by a delegation likely to be headed by ZANU spokesman Robert Mugabe. 25X1



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guerrillas and Mozambican forces are strengthening their positions along the Rhodesia-Mozambique border in preparation for new attacks into Rhodesia after the rainy season begins later this month.

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KENYA-UGANDA: *Relations between Kenya and Uganda have taken on a more friendly tone in recent weeks, but Kenya still considers the erratic President Amin a threat to its security.*

In a meeting between Kenyan and Ugandan officials in Nairobi late last month, the two sides agreed to "minimize problems" in the delivery of petroleum to landlocked Uganda--a reference to Kenya's almost two-month-long slowdown on petroleum deliveries following the Entebbe operation. The Kenyan representative to the talks told a US embassy official that his government will not allow arms shipments for Uganda to transit Kenya until it is sure Amin is living up to the August agreement to ease tensions.

The Kenyans apparently still fear that Amin might attempt to retaliate for Nairobi's involvement in the Entebbe operation--especially in light of recent reports of a new Soviet-Uganda arms agreement and Amin's close ties to Palestinian representatives in Kampala.

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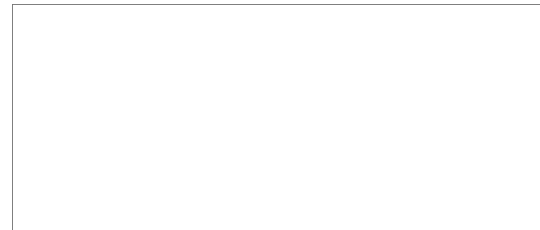
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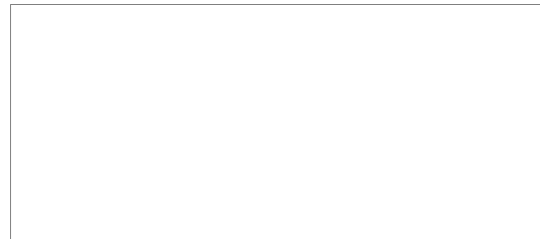
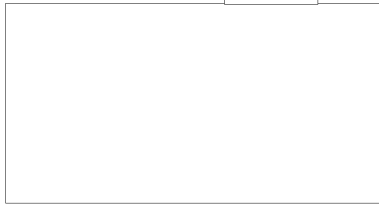


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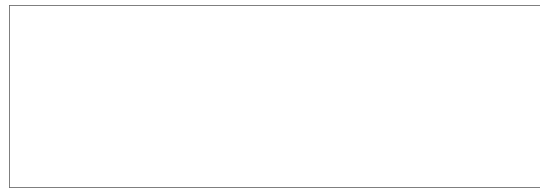
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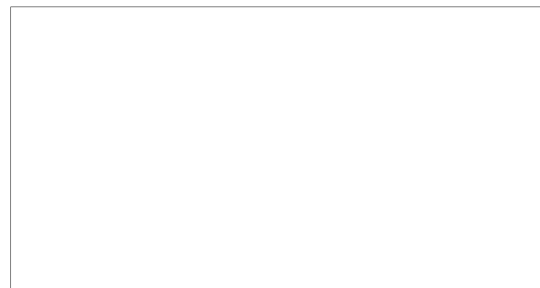
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NOTES

Two Soviet naval TU-95 reconnaissance aircraft arrived in Somalia yesterday morning, the first visit by this type of Soviet aircraft to that country.

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[redacted] Operations by TU-95s from Somalia would greatly increase Soviet reconnaissance coverage of the Indian Ocean area.

The two naval TU-95s that have been operating out of Cuba for the past 18 days returned to the USSR on Monday. It was the sixth time this year that TU-95s have been in Cuba. Two additional TU-95s remain at Conakry, Guinea.

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The Soviets have apparently ended salvage operations at the site of the TU-95 crash southeast of Newfoundland in early August.

The four ships involved in the operation all left the area during the past few days. The Soviets recovered some large pieces of aircraft wreckage. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted]

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