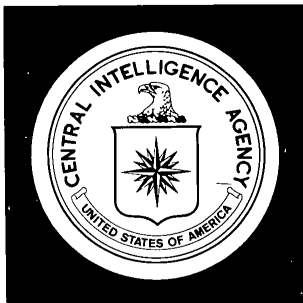


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The President's Daily Brief

October 20, 1976



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Top Secret 25X1

Exempt from general
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exemption category 5B(1),2,3
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

October 20, 1976

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT-USSR: *Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmi may be planning a trip to Moscow in the near future, possibly as early as next week.*



Although Fahmi's deputy denied to the US embassy on Monday any knowledge of a scheduled visit, an American journalist claims to have learned from another "high official" that the visit will be announced tomorrow. 25X1

The trip is generally billed as an effort to explore with Moscow its proposal of October 1 to reconvene the Middle East peace conference at Geneva, but Fahmi and the Soviets probably expect to discuss a range of bilateral issues.

President Sadat has been under occasional pressure from Fahmi and other advisers to improve ties with the Soviets in order to counter the impression that Egypt is wholly dependent on the US and to induce the USSR to resume military equipment deliveries.

Egypt apparently now feels it is advisable to reopen the channel to the USSR in the period before the US presidential election. The Egyptians are counting on the US to start peace negotiations with Israel next year and to consider substantial military aid for Egypt. They probably hope to restore a degree of amicability in their relations with the USSR lest the diplomatic and military assistance from the US not materialize.

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EGYPT-LIBYA:

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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LEBANON: *Most of those Lebanese leftist and Christian leaders who were not represented at the mini-summit in Riyadh have reacted skeptically to the agreement concluded there by Arab leaders on Monday.*

Camille Shamun, the most intransigent Christian leader, former Lebanese president Sulayman Franjiah, and Phalanges military leader Bashir Jumayyil have all reportedly expressed strong doubts that the Riyadh accords can be implemented. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Phalanges head Pierre Jumayyil, however, publicly welcomed the agreement as a hopeful step in solving the crisis.

Leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt stated yesterday that the agreement could not succeed unless Syrian troops withdrew from Lebanon and were replaced by security forces drawn from members of the Arab League.

Jumblatt's unwillingness to endorse the agreement could place Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat--who signed the accords--in a difficult position. [Redacted]

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Military activity tapered off yesterday following the announcement that a general cease-fire is scheduled to begin on Thursday.

The Syrians and Christians had already suspended their jointly planned operations against the Palestinian-leftist stronghold in west Beirut. Only sporadic artillery exchanges occurred yesterday along the confrontation line in Beirut. Some clashes reportedly occurred in the Alayh area.

* * *

CHINA: The major party leadership meeting that began in Peking early last week seems still to be in session.

A large number of limousines, usually a sign that VIPs are in town, was noted in Peking on Monday. A limited number of flights to the provinces over the weekend would not have been sufficient to take home the many members of the party central committee who were apparently brought to Peking last week. The weekend flights, in fact, may have brought additional people to the capital for the meeting.

A leading Hong Kong communist said yesterday that he believes an announcement of Hua Kuo-feng's succession to Mao Tse-tung and "other matters" will be made in seven or eight days, presumably at the conclusion of the meeting. The other matters probably refer to the reconstruction of the now depleted Politburo, personnel appointments, and possibly to some statement on the fate of the four arrested leftists.

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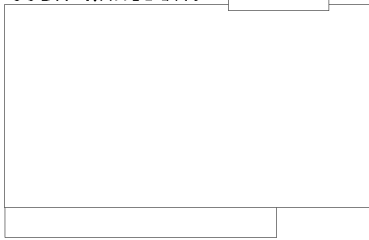
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Although no official charges against the leftist quartet have been made public, an editorial published yesterday seemed to pave the way for a charge--used widely in wall posters--of plotting a coup.

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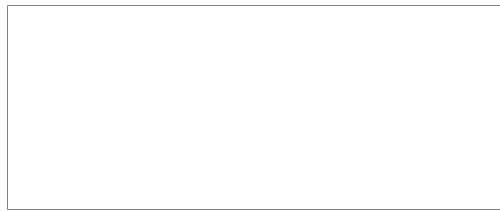
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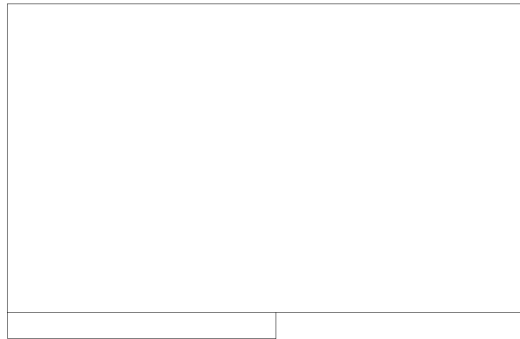
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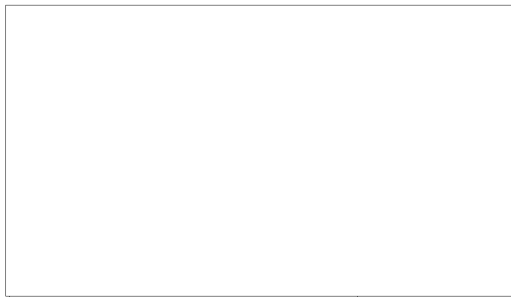
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RHODESIA: The "front-line" African presidents are trying to prevent disputes among the Rhodesian nationalists from threatening the success of the Geneva conference.

At a meeting in Lusaka last Sunday, Zambian President Kaunda, Tanzanian President Nyerere, Mozambican President Machel, and Botswanan President Khama reportedly informed leaders of the major nationalist groups that dissension among them at Geneva would not be tolerated.



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Mugabe reportedly sees himself playing a mediating role between Nkomo and Muzorewa in smoothing out differences arising during the conference.

Mugabe said his statement that he would walk out of the conference if Ndabaningi Sithole, the current president of ZANU, attends was meant only for public consumption. Earlier this week, the British government added Sithole to the Rhodesian nationalist leaders invited to lead delegations to the Geneva meetings.

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UGANDA:

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IRAN-FRANCE :

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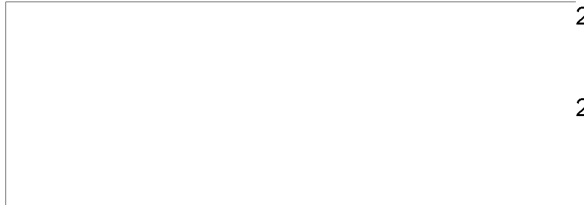
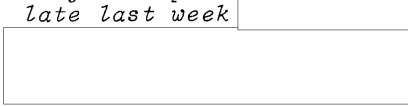
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NOTES

The failure of the Soviet Soyuz 23 spacecraft to dock with the Salyut 5 space station late last week



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Problems do not appear to be serious enough to prevent future Soviet attempts to re-man Salyut 5. The Soviets may try to send cosmonauts to the space station again before the end of the year.

This is the first Soviet docking failure since August 1974, when Soyuz 15 overshot Salyut 3.

* * *

Iran's purchase of a 25-percent interest in the West German holding company that controls the Krupp conglomerate will guarantee Krupp's long-term involvement in Iran's economic development program.

The joint announcement avoided any mention of the value of the transaction but did state that Iran's 25-percent interest would entitle it to exercise a managerial role in the corporation. Iran purchased a 25-percent share in the Krupp iron and steel enterprise in 1974 and a 40-percent interest in two Brazilian subsidiaries of the conglomerate earlier this year.

The Iranian infusion will provide Krupp with much needed operating capital. Iran probably is anticipating greater access to Krupp's technology.

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