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The President's Daily Brief

November 18, 1976

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

November 18, 1976

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JORDAN: *One of the terrorists who attacked the hotel in Amman yesterday reportedly has confessed that his group was trained in Iraq and infiltrated into Jordan by Iraqi authorities.*

The terrorists apparently are members of the "Black June" group, which takes its name from the month Syria made its first big military push into Lebanon. They are said to have demanded that Jordan condemn the Lebanese cease-fire agreement. Jordan has strongly backed Syria's actions in Lebanon and has long been a priority target of fedayeen and other Arab radicals.

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The "Black June" group was formed by dissident Fatah leader Sabri al-Banna, who for several years has operated from Baghdad with Iraqi support. He cooperates with the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and with non-Arab terrorists, including the Latin American, "Carlos," and the Japanese Red Army.

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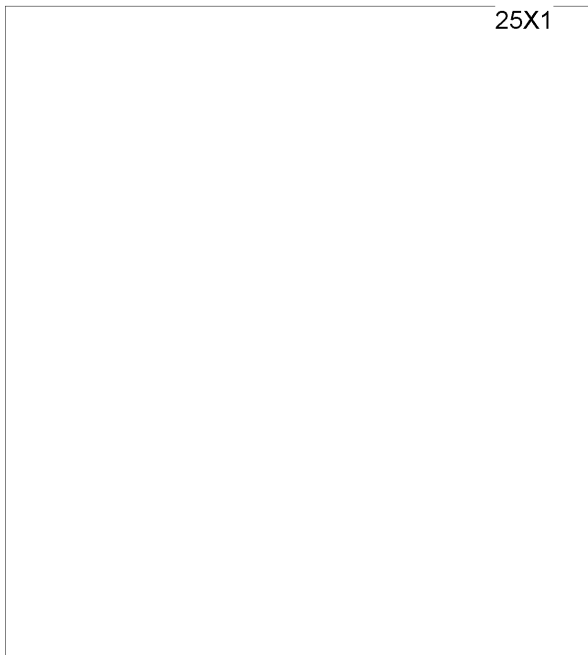
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Jordan last night expelled four Iraqi diplomats to protest the terrorist attack.

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RHODESIA: *Zambia and Tanzania are urging the Rhodesian nationalists at the Geneva conference to be flexible in their negotiating positions. The two countries are concerned, however, that Mozambique may be encouraging the nationalists to maintain an uncompromising stand.*

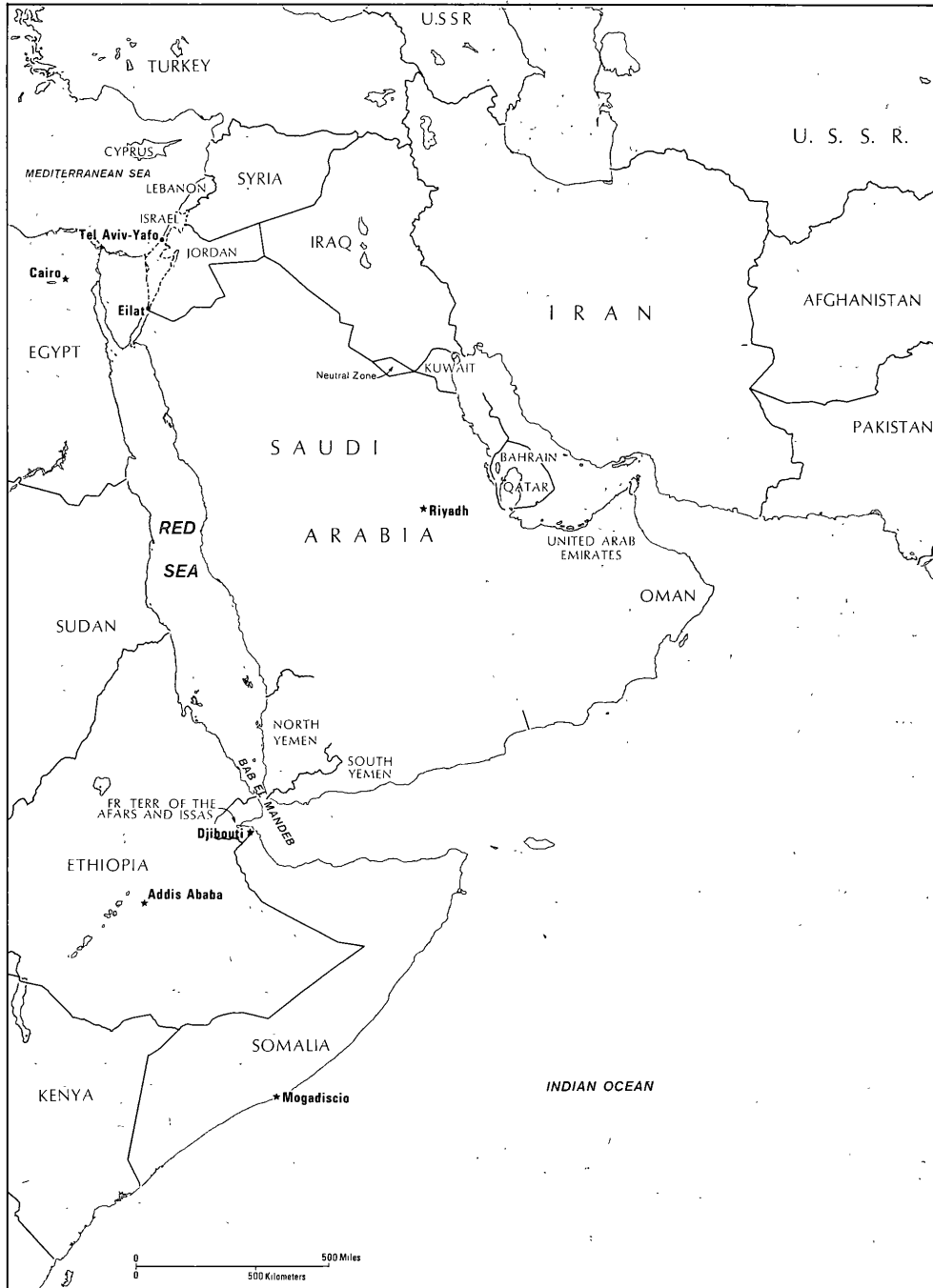
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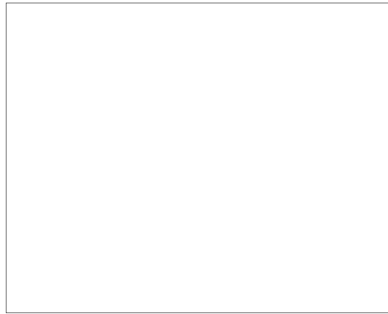
Nyerere apparently has hardened his position on an independence date. He told the US ambassador to Nigeria yesterday that the British proposal, which he had previously supported, is unacceptable. Nyerere said there must be a definite 15-month time limit for the transition period, and that he had been persuaded by Nigerian President Obasanjo that the British plan gives no assurance of independence within any particular time period.

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Most of the Rhodesian guerrillas are based in Mozambique, and Machel clearly favors the guerrilla leaders over most of the established nationalist political leaders. Many of the guerrillas believe their only chance to gain dominant influence in a black Rhodesian government lies in winning a military victory.

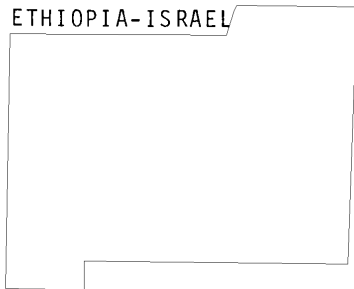
Nevertheless, Machel has worked with the other "front-line" presidents for a negotiated settlement because he believes a settlement would ease his country's serious economic problems and eliminate the embarrassment caused by Mozambique's inability to prevent Rhodesian army raids into its territory.

Mozambican Foreign Minister Chissano arrived in Geneva yesterday to assume leadership of his country's observer delegation. Chissano, who was instrumental in negotiating his own country's independence from Portugal, has a reputation as a moderate, and Machel may have sent him to Geneva to work with the other observers in persuading the nationalists to adopt a flexible approach.

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ETHIOPIA-ISRAEL



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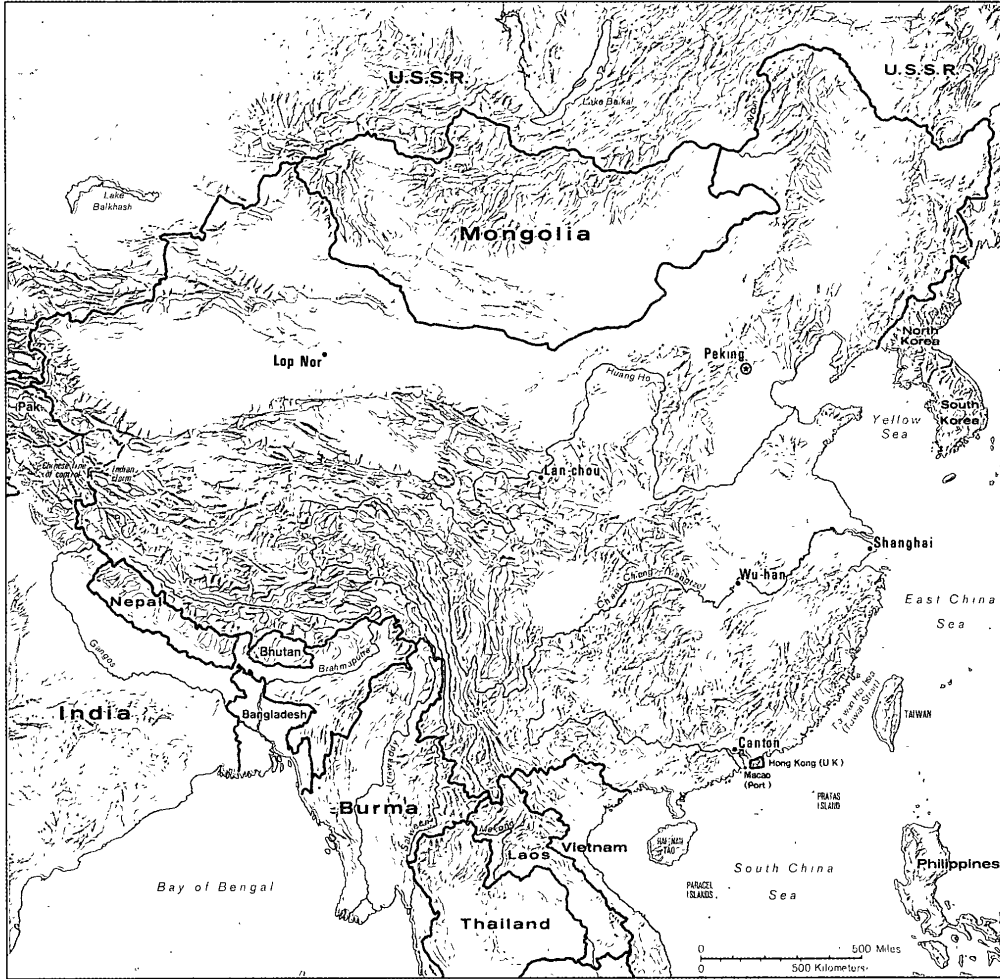
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China



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NOTES

South Africa
Israel

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China yesterday conducted an unprecedented fourth nuclear test of the year in the Lop Nor test area.

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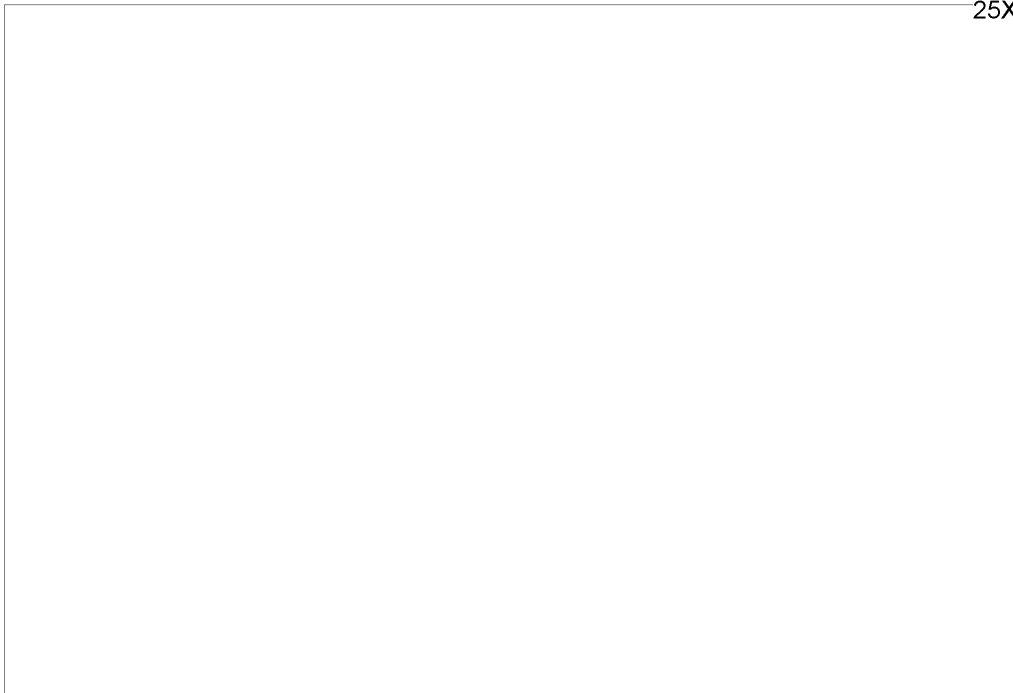
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Crop conditions have not been good in China this year, and Peking is trying to line up shipments of foreign grain at attractive prices.

Australia has already sold China 500,000 tons of wheat for delivery between February and June 1977. A delegation from the Canadian Wheat Board will be in Peking on Friday. China has also purchased 6,000 tons of soybean oil from Brazil.

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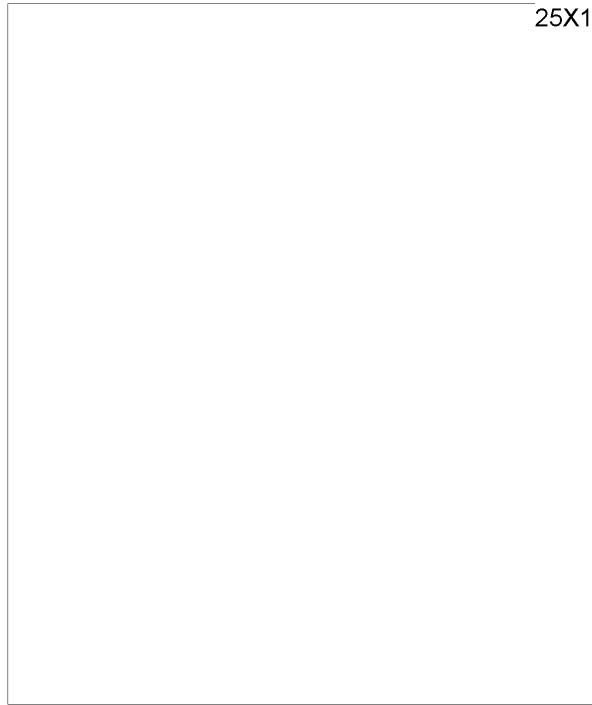


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The Spanish parliament may vote today on the constitutional reform bill that could set the course for post-Franco Spain.

Government officials appear confident that the bill, which would put an end to the largely appointed parliament of the Franco era and provide for a freely elected bicameral legislature, will obtain the necessary two-thirds majority.

The vote is likely to be close primarily because the government is apparently determined to push ahead without compromise on several key issues that have been opposed by a broad spectrum of rightists. The rightists could prevent passage of the bill if they vote as a bloc.

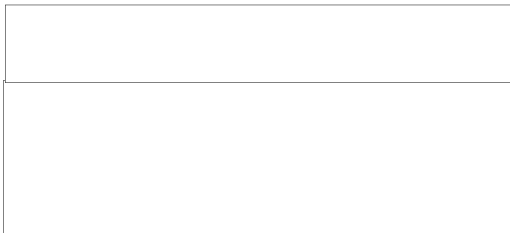
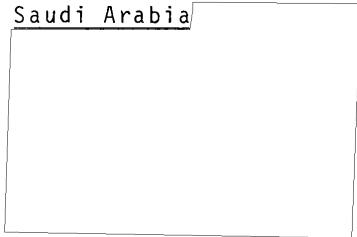
If the bill passes, the government will immediately begin preparations for the mandatory national referendum to confirm the parliament's decision. It will probably be held in late December, with the legislative election following in March or April.

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Saudi Arabia



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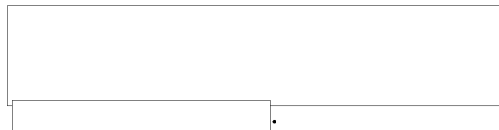


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The communique issued after Soviet General Secretary Brezhnev's official visit to Yugoslavia this week suggests there was some hard bargaining, but the Tito regime is no doubt pleased with the results.

The key element in the text, from Yugoslavia's perspective, is Brezhnev's reaffirmation of previous Soviet promises to respect the right of the Yugoslavs' "separate road" to socialism. However, the omission of the word "trust"-- which Tito permitted in the communique after his meeting with Brezhnev in Kiev three years ago-- apparently reflects Yugoslav wariness of Moscow's intentions toward Yugoslavia.

We have no information as to whether Brezhnev requested increased naval access to Yugoslav ports.

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