



The President's Daily Brief

November 27, 1976

2



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

November 27, 1976

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Table of Contents

25X1

Mozambique:

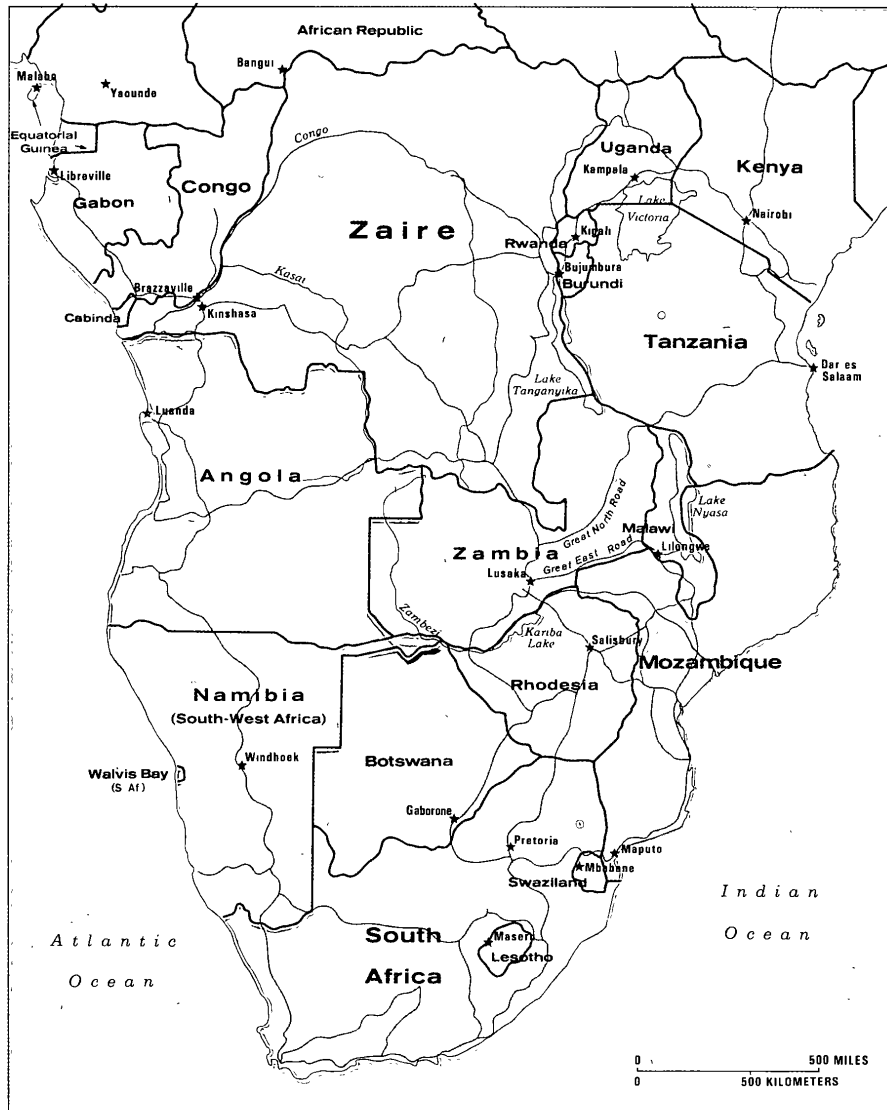
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(Page 1)

25X1

Rhodesia: With the announcement yesterday by the British chairman at the Geneva conference that agreement had been reached on the date for Rhodesia's independence, the conference now should be able to move on to substantive questions. (Page 1)

Notes: Iraq-Syria; Yugoslavia; Thailand-Cambodia (Pages 3 and 4)



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25X1

MOZAMBIQUE:

Zambia, Tanzania, and Angola

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RHODESIA: With the announcement yesterday by the British chairman at the Geneva conference that agreement had been reached on the date for Rhodesia's independence, the conference now should be able to move on to substantive questions.

Foremost among these issues are the formation of a transition government and the British role during the transition period.

Joshua Nkomo, who with his "patriotic front" partner, Robert Mugabe, had opposed the British proposals on a date for independence,

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announced that the British had accepted two amendments proposed by the front. The amendments were not revealed. Rhodesia apparently will gain formal independence from the UK no later than March 1, 1978.

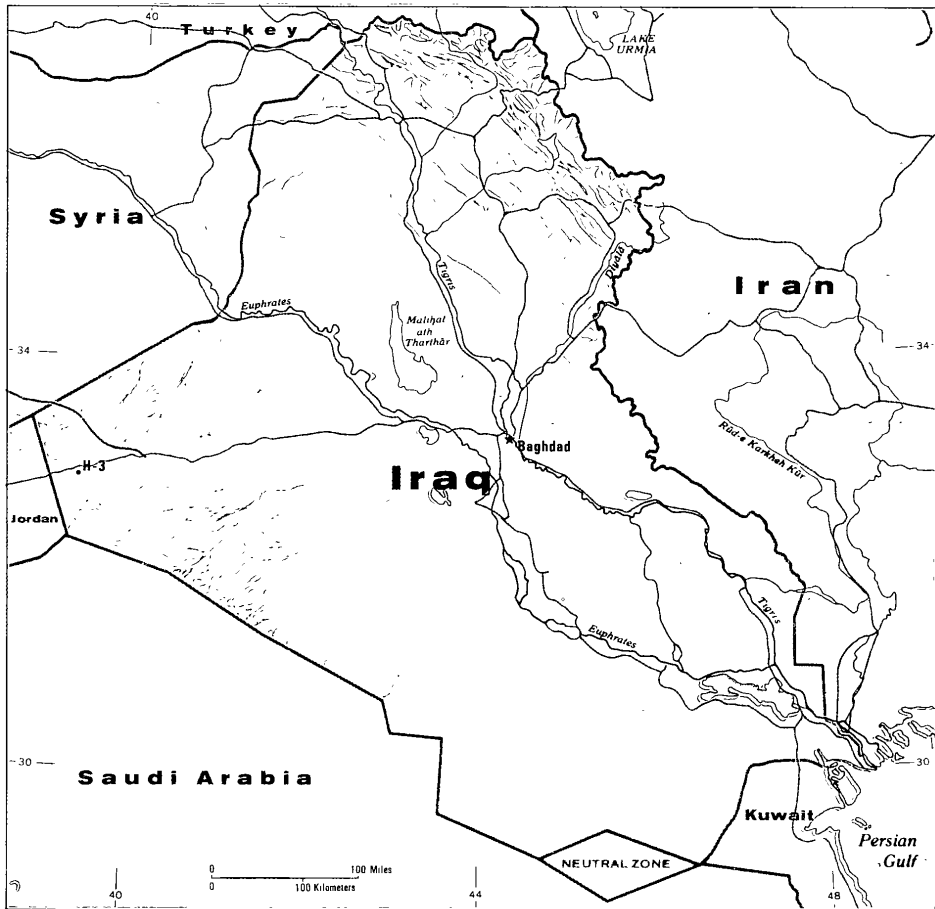
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The other nationalists participating in the talks, Bishop Muzorewa and Ndabaningi Sithole, as well as Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith earlier had indicated their acceptance of the March date.

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NOTES

Both Iraq and Syria are withdrawing troops from along their common border.

Iraq has been removing troops from the area throughout November, but we still are not able to determine the extent of the withdrawal. Syria reportedly is reciprocating by returning all of its troops to bases in southern Syria.

The Iraqis evidently have given up hope that their buildup on Syria's eastern border could cause Syria to modify its actions in Lebanon. Morale problems among the troops who have been stationed there since last summer also may have influenced Iraq's decision to return them to their home garrisons.

* * *

Yugoslavia is reasserting its independence in the aftermath of Soviet party chief Brezhnev's visit last week.

This reaction is in response to press commentaries in other East European countries portraying the visit as a successful consolidation of the "socialist community."

Yugoslav President Tito's "state of the state" message to parliament yesterday ended with an attack against those "who feign concern" about the fate of Yugoslav socialism and try to obstruct and endanger the country's independence. This phrasing clashes with his warm words for the Soviets during Brezhnev's visit.

Although Tito's message did not specifically mention Brezhnev, Stane Dolanc, Tito's deputy in the party, quoted Tito as telling Brezhnev that the Soviets must "once and for all" understand and accept Yugoslavia's independence.

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Dolanc expressed confidence that Moscow would follow through on Brezhnev's promises, but he clearly implied that there is a long way to go. He also stressed that Yugoslavia "belongs to the nonaligned movement" and cannot be drawn into any military bloc.

* * *

Border clashes have erupted once again along Thailand's south-eastern border with Cambodia.

Skirmishes between border forces on land and in the offshore waters reportedly have been occurring since around the first of the month.

The new government in Bangkok wants to avoid further escalation of the fighting. Negotiations between Thai and Cambodian liaison officials are reportedly under way at a border post. These preliminary discussions are intended to pave the way for higher level negotiations.

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