



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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BETTY

National Intelligence Daily

Thursday
16 September 1982

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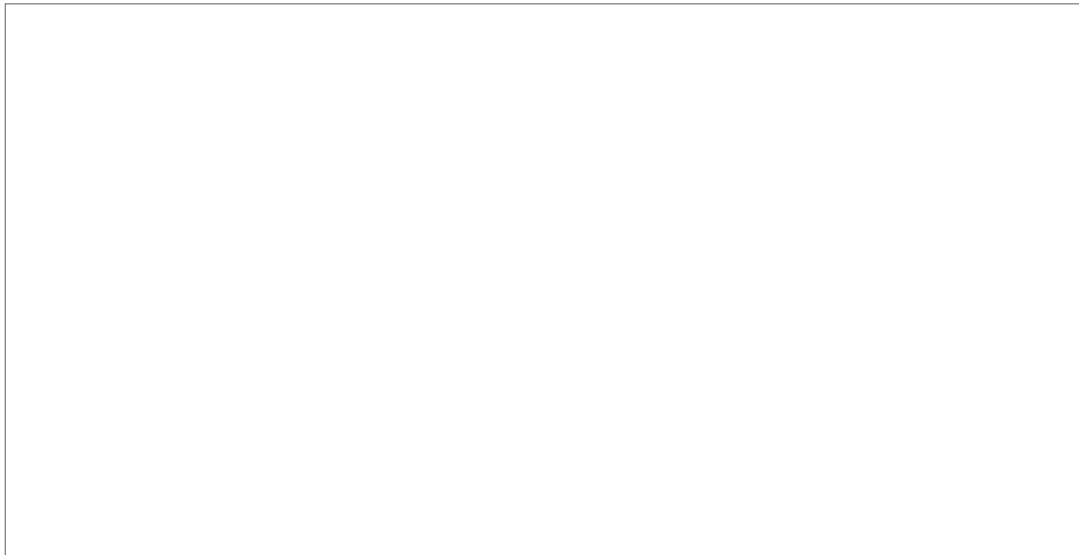
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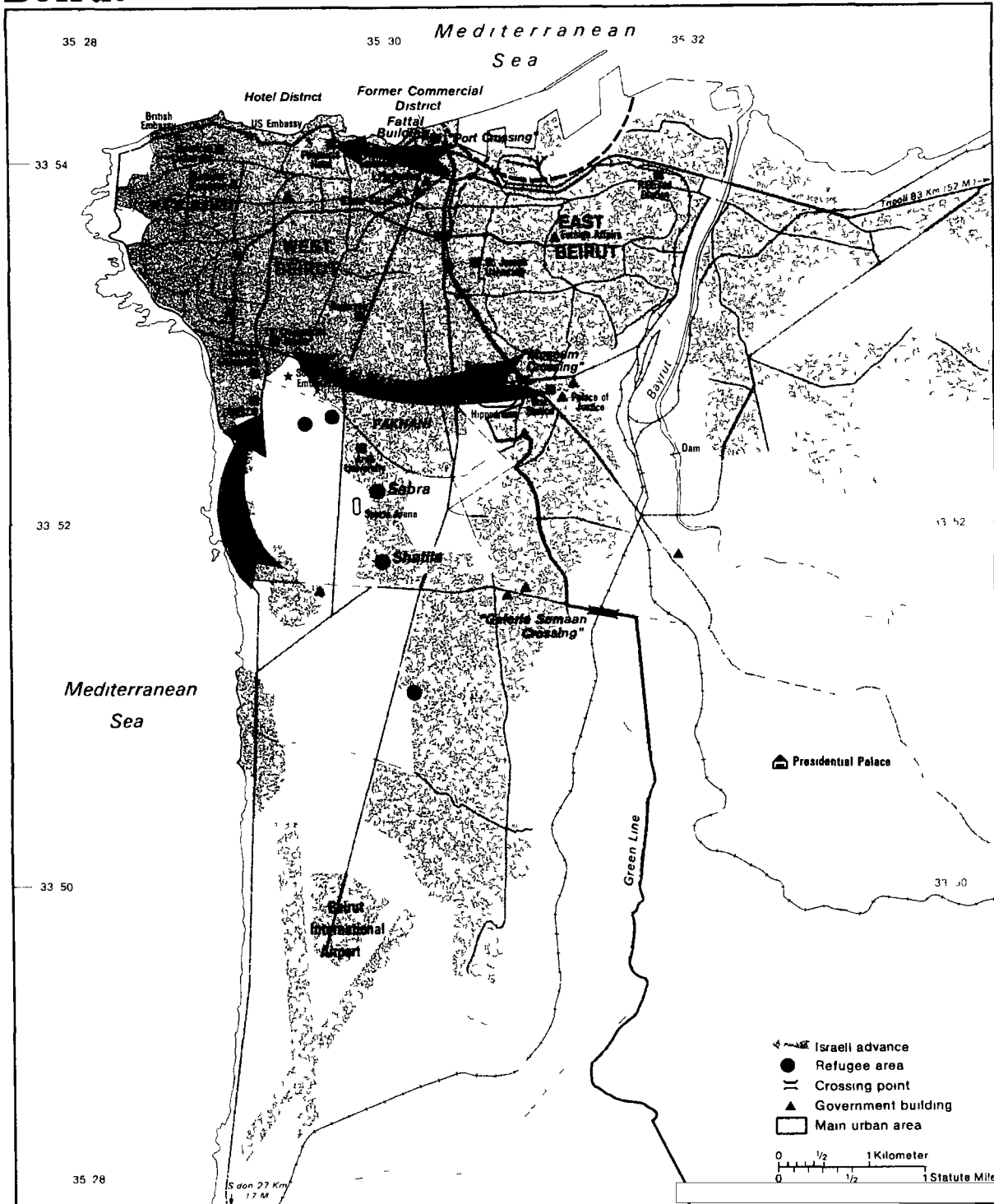


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Beirut

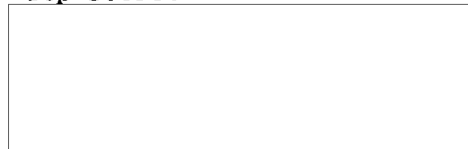


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LEBANON: Israeli Move Into West Beirut

(Information as of 2330)

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5 Defense Minister Sharon yesterday stated that Israel now occupies all key points in West Beirut. The Lebanese parliament may meet next week to choose a new president.

5/6/7

Sharon claimed Israeli forces control points in Ra's Beirut, along the Corniche al Mazra'ah, and past the port area. Press accounts say the Israelis also took control of the Shatila and Sabra refugee camps and the Fakhani area, formerly PLO headquarters.

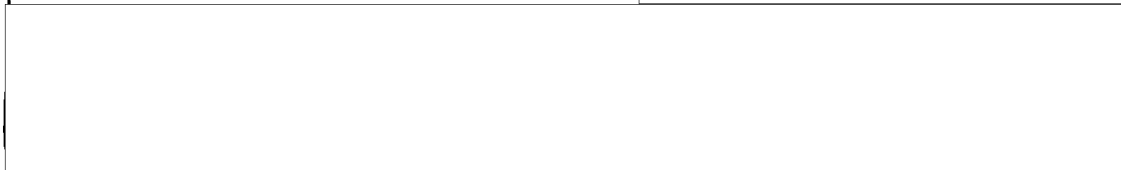
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Israeli forces encountered resistance from leftist militias and have taken some casualties. the Israelis are now in complete control of West Beirut.

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Comment: The Israelis earlier had indicated that their actions would be limited, but the opportunity to disarm the Lebanese leftists and root out the remaining Palestinian forces apparently led them to decide on expanded action. Although the Israeli press says the move was taken following a meeting between Sharon and Begin, the decision to occupy West Beirut probably will lead to renewed charges in Israel that Sharon is acting without proper authority from the cabinet.

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Presidential Elections

1/2

Lebanese Deputy Speaker of the Parliament Munir Abu Fadil says new elections will be called before the expiration of President Sarkis's term on 23 September.

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4 Comment: The Israeli presence at strategic points within the city might facilitate the gathering of a quorum for an election, although many deputies will be angered at once again meeting under Israeli guns.

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The Phalangists can be expected to go on the offensive to ensure their own candidate gains the presidency. They probably are in no mood for compromise with other traditional Maronite leaders, such as Camille Shamun.

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Bashir's brother Amin probably is the favorite now, but many Bashir loyalists may oppose him.

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Phalange Party founder Pierre Jumayyil has come out of retirement to take charge of party affairs, probably hoping to pave the way for Amin to win wider party recognition as its new leader. If the party cannot agree on Amin or another strong candidate, Pierre could offer himself as a compromise.

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his candidacy might encourage serious divisions within the Phalange.

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