

171

OP IMMED
DE WTE #2809 1470549
O 270932Z MAY 75
FM THE SITUATION ROOM //TOHAK 008//

TO GOMPERT/ADAMS FOR THE SECRETARY

UNCLAS VIA BLACK PATCH NH50938

TOHAK 008

NEWS AND COMMENT
MAY 27, 1975
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY NEWS SUMMARY

MIDDLE EAST: NEWS

GUNFIRE IN THE STREETS OF BEIRUT MONDAY GREETED THE RESIGNATION OF LEBANON'S FIRST MILITARY LEADER IN 32 YEARS. BRIGADIER GENERAL MOUHEDDIN RIFAT QUIT AFTER ONLY THREE DAYS IN OFFICE BECAUSE LEFT-WING POLITICAL GROUPS AND MUSLEM FACTIONS FAILED TO HALT A WEEK OF BLOODY CIVIL STRIFE.

RAFAT AND HIS CABINET ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN AS CARETAKERS UNTIL A NEW CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT CAN BE FORMED, NBC REPORTED.

IN A WEEK OF FIGHTING IN BEIRUT, 77 PERSONS HAVE BEEN KILLED AND 225 WOUNDED, UPI SAID. JOHN CHANCELLOR (NBC) REPORTED THE TOLL AS MORE THAN 150 PERSONS KILLED AND MORE THAN 300 WOUNDED IN FIGHTING IN BEIRUT AND IT'S SUBURBS.

PRESIDENT SULEIMAN FRANJIEH ACCEPTED RIFAT'S CABINET BUT IN A BITTER FAREWELL SPEECH TO THE DEPARTING CABINET DEFENDING THE APPOINTMENT AS AN EMERGENCY ACTION "TO PUT OUT THE RAGING FIRE," UPI REPORTED. HE SAID THE MILITARY HAD DONE MORE FOR LEBANON IN IT'S 70 HOURS IN OFFICE THAN ALL IT'S PAST CIVILIAN GOVERNMENTS COMBINED, UPI REPORTED. --AP UPI: NETWORKS (5/26/75)

LEBANON CLAIMS ISRAELIS MADE MORE RAIDS;
ISRAEL DENIES CHARGES

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

SECRET

PSN:055416 PAGE 01 TOW:147/05:49Z DTG:270932Z MAY 75

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

***** U N C L A S S I F I E D *****

LEBANESE MILITARY SPOKESMAN CLAIMED MONDAY THAT ISRAELI FORCES ENTERED SOUTHERN LEBANON IN A SECOND DAY OF RAIDS AGAINST SUSPECTED PALESTINIAN GUERRILLA CONCENTRATIONS, BUT ISRAELI SPOKESMAN FLATLY DENIED THE REPORT.

SEVEN LEBANESE SOLDIERS AND TWO ISRAELIS WERE KILLED AS A RESULT OF ISRAELI RAIDS SUNDAY. --ABC NBC CBS; (5/26/75)

IRANIAN REBELS TAKE CREDIT FOR U.S. AIRMAN'S DEATH

A GROUP WHICH IDENTIFIED ITSELF AS THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF IRAN CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY MONDAY FOR THE DEATHS OF TWO SERVICE LAST WEEK. THEY SAID THE AMERICANS' DEATHS WERE 'REGRETTABLE BUT UNAVOIDABLE AND IMPERATIVE.' THEIR STATEMENT ALSO ATTACKED THE SHAH OF IRAN AS A DESPOT AND ACCUSED HIM OF BEING UNDER CIA ORDERS. --ABC CBS --(5/26/75)

U.S. DIPLOMATS AND PATHET KAO BARGAIN OVER AID COMPOUND

U.S. DIPLOMATS AND THE LAO CONTINUED THEIR BARGAINING MONDAY OVER LAOTIAN STUDENT OCCUPATION OF A U.S. AID COMPOUND IN VIENTIANE. U.S. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES CHRISTIAN CHAPMAN REPORTED SOME PROGRESS IN HIS ATTEMPTS TO END HARASSMENT OF U.S. WORKERS. A FEW MORE AMERICANS LEFT LAOS ON COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS MONDAY. --AP UPI --NETWORKS (5/26/75)

REPORTERS EXPELLED FROM SOUTH VIETNAM

SOUTH VIETNAM'S NEW COMMUNIST RULERS EXPELLED AN AMERICAN AND A FRENCH JOURNALIST MONDAY, THE FIRST NEWSMEN ORDERED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY SINCE THE CAPTURE OF SAIGON. THE AMERICAN IS MATT FRAJOLA OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

ALTHOUGH NO OFFICIAL REASON WAS GIVEN FOR THE EXPULSIONS, OTHER JOURNALISTS SAID THE COMMUNISTS APPARENTLY OBJECTED TO RECENT ARTICLES WRITTEN BY FRAJOLA, AND TO THE TONE OF SEVERAL BOOKS ON INDOCHINA WRITTEN BY THE FRENCH JOURNALIST OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS. UPI REPORTED. -- AP UPI CBS (5/26/75)

KUKRIT SAYS ALL U.S. TROOPS WILL BE OUT BY MARCH

THAT PRIME MINISTER KUKRIT PRAMOJ SAID MONDAY A REVIEW OF ALL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE U.S. WOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN TWO MONTHS AND ALL AMERICAN TROOPS WOULD BE WITHDRAWN BY NEXT MARCH, IF NOT SOONER.

KUKRIT, WHO MET WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION FOR 30 MINUTES, ALSO SAID, "I'M QUITE CERTAIN THAT NORTH VIETNAM

PSN:055416

PAGE 02

TOR:147/05149Z

DTG:270032Z MAY 75

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

AND THAILAND WILL OPEN TIES VERY SOON." UPI (5/26/75)

INTERNATIONAL: NEWS

CRITIC OF PARK APPEALS FOR U.S. SUPPORT OF KOREA

KIM DAE-JUNG, AN OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT, MADE AN IMPASSIONED PLEA TO THE U.S. MONDAY TO SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES IN ASIA.

THE 49-YEAR OLD FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SAID SOUTH KOREA CAN DEFEND ITSELF EVEN WITHOUT AMERICAN TROOPS BUT ONLY IF IT GETS A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT WHICH CAN WIN POPULAR SUPPORT. AND HE ASKED SECRETARY KISSINGER TO REVERSE HIS POLICY OF PUTTING SECURITY FIRST AND DEMOCRACY SECOND IN KOREA. --AP/NBC (5/26/75)

MARCOS DISCUSSES FUTURE OF U.S. MILITARY BASES

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT FERDINAND MARCOS HELD A LENGTHY, HIGH-LEVEL MEETING WITH US OFFICIALS MONDAY TO DISCUSS US MILITARY BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES. PRESENT DURING THE TALKS WERE THE US AMBASSADOR TO THE PHILIPPINES, WILLIAM SULLIVAN, AND PHILIPPINE DEFENSE SECRETARY JUAN PONCE ENRILE.

MARCOS SAID AMERICA WILL REGAIN ITS MORAL AUTHORITY IN THE WORLD BY ACCEPTING HIS NATION'S EFFORTS TOWARDS SELF-RELIANCE, AND BY GRADUALLY REMOVING US INFLUENCE.

HE WANTS TO MAKE THE REST OF NON-COMMUNIST ASIA INTO A KIND OF SWITZERLAND, NEUTRALIZE IT AS A BUFFER-ZONE BETWEEN SAIGON AND HONOLULU, BUT HIS PROBLEM IS THAT THE PHILIPPINES HAVE BEEN HOSTING A COMPLEX OF US MILITARY BASES, CBS REPORTED.

"SOONER OR LATER DESPITE THAT OLD FRIENDSHIP WITH THE PHILIPPINES, THE US IS GOING TO BE FACED WITH FINDING A NEW DEFENSE ANCHOR IN THE PACIFIC OR AS IN GUANTANAMO IN CUBA, STAYING ON IN THE PHILIPPINES DESPITE THE WISHES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND NOBODY LIKES TO STAY WHERE HE IS NOT WANTED." RICHARD THRELKELD (CBS) REPORTED. --UPI/CBS (5/26/75)

MIDEAST: COMMENT

THE PERCY MIDEAST STAND IS WISE BY FRANK STARR
(EXCERPTED FROM THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE)

IT MAY SEEM SELF-SERVING, IT MAY LOOK LIKE GRANDSTANDING, BUT SEN. CHARLES PERCY ALMOST ALONE AMONG SENATORS TOOK A

PSN:055416

PAGE 03

TOR:147/05:497

DTG:270922Z MAY 75

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

***** U N C L A S S I F I E D *****

WISE AND DEFENSIBLE POSITION ON ONE OF THE MOST SENSITIVE OF ISSUES.

SEVENTY-SIX OF HIS COLLEAGUES HURRIED TO SIGN--APPARANTLY WITHOUT MUCH FORETHOUGHT--A LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD ON AID TO ISRAEL, WHILE ANOTHER 22 APPARENTLY CHOSE NOT TO SIGN. BUT PERCY HAD THE INITIATIVE TO RESPOND ON HIS OWN, SAYING, IN EFFECT, "I AGREE WITH THE NEED TO SUPPORT THE SECURITY AND SURVIVAL OF ISRAEL, BUT IT IS UNWISE WHEN THE UNITED STATES IS IN A DELICATE MEDIATING POSITION TO ASSERT THE INTERESTS OF ONLY ONE SIDE."

IN FACT, THE LETTER SIGNED BY THE 76 SENATORS WAS A RATHER ODD ONE. IT WAS WRITTEN BY FORD PREPARED FOR SUMMIT MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT OF EGYPT AND PREMIER YITZHAK RABIN OF ISRAEL. THE MOMENT WAS ONE REQUIRING DELICATE BALANCE BY THE PRESIDENT.

AT PRECISELY THE MOMENT WHEN THE CREDIBILITY OF THE PRESIDENT'S ABILITY TO DELIVER ON ANY ASSURANCES HE MIGHT MAKE TO EITHER SIDE WAS A CRITICAL QUESTION, THE SENATORS STRUCK IT A POTENTIALLY FATAL BLOW BY SIGNALING THE ARABS THAT THEY WOULDN'T ALLOW FORD ANY MANEUVERING ROOM WITH ISRAEL.

THIS WAS ONE OF THE HIGH-PROFILE ACTIVITIES FAVORED BY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SEN. HENRY JACKSON IN RECENT MONTHS, AND IT COULD PROVE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO THE INTERESTS HE PROFFESSES TO EMBRACE I.E., ISRAEL'S. (5/26/75)

1200

PSN:455416

PAGE 04

OF 04

TOR:147/05:49Z

DTG:270002Z MAY 75

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY