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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Friday 7 July 1978

CG NIDC 78/157C

[Redacted box]

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

DIA review(s) completed.

State Dept. review completed

Top Secret

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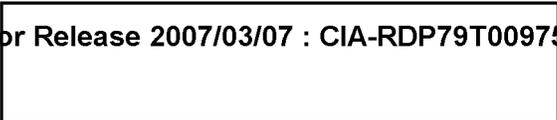
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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Friday, 7 July 1978.

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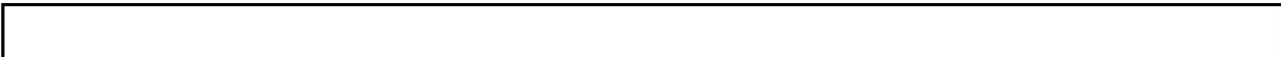
The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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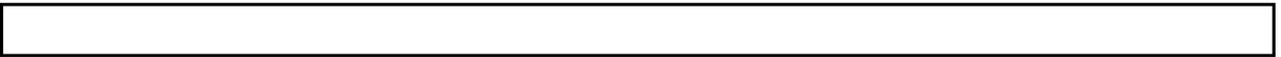


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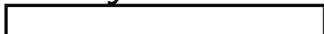
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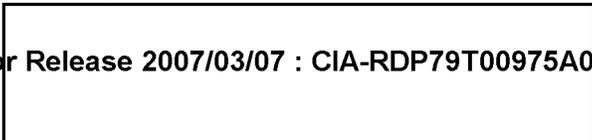
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South Korea

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LEBANON: Situation Report

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[redacted] Another cease-fire went into effect in Beirut last night following the sixth day of the Syrian bombardment of areas controlled by Christian militias. Israeli aircraft overflew Beirut early yesterday morning, and Tel Aviv has warned that it will not allow Syria to continue to pound the Christians. //The Syrians have apparently reinforced their forces in Beirut, while the Christians are determined to continue the battle.//

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[redacted] //Israeli leaders yesterday tried to interject a greater sense of urgency into efforts to stop the fighting in Beirut by threatening to act on their own to bail out the Christians. The government of Prime Minister Begin, under domestic pressure to act, clearly hopes the US will weigh in forcefully with Damascus to wind down the fighting.//

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[redacted] //The Israelis indicated that the overflights were meant to punctuate their concern to the Syrians and to provide a dramatic measure of reassurance to beleaguered Christian units in the area.//

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[redacted] The US defense attache in Tel Aviv notes that Weizman and other senior Defense Ministry officials are deeply involved in evaluating military options should the government decide to assist the Christians. The attache believes Israel's most feasible option would be airstrikes against Syrian positions in Beirut.

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[Redacted]

[Redacted] //The Syrians are reported to have augmented their forces in Beirut with troops stationed in other parts of Lebanon and have dispatched additional artillery units from Syria. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] //If the fighting continues much longer, the militia leaders can probably count on support from at least part of the Christian-dominated Lebanese Army. Units of the Army fought on the side of the militias during clashes with the Syrians in February.//

[Redacted] //Palestinian forces and Lebanese Muslims have continued to stay out of the fighting. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

US-SOMALIA-ETHIOPIA

[Redacted] *Somalia has strongly criticized the US decision to postpone sending a military survey mission to Somalia. At the same time, Ethiopia has again accused Somalia of preparing to reinvade the Ogaden and reiterated its tough stand on terms for an eventual settlement of the Ogadeni conflict.*

[Redacted] Somali Ambassador to the US Addou, acting on instructions from President Siad, told a US official on Monday that the Somali leader needed a demonstration of US political support in order to be in a position to bring the Ogadeni insurgents under control. Siad was attempting to rein in the guerrillas, according to Addou, but had to proceed cautiously because of the sensitivity of the issue and the grave political risks involved for him personally.

[Redacted]

25X1 [redacted] Addou argued that any delay in the dispatch of the US survey mission would strengthen the hand of those in Somalia who oppose Siad's turn to the West and favor accommodation with the USSR. The Ambassador said that if the US adopts a wait-and-see attitude, particularly at a time of stepped-up Ethiopian air strikes against Somalia, Siad could be overthrown and his policy reversed by those in the leadership who believe the USSR is the only power capable of guaranteeing Somali security.

25X1 [redacted] Ethiopia's patience with Somalia's sponsorship of increased guerrilla activity in the Ogaden is clearly wearing thin. In an official government statement issued on 2 July, Addis Ababa drew a direct comparison between the present situation in the Ogaden and that of July 1977 when Somali regulars first invaded the Ogaden. The Ethiopians charged that Somali regulars are re-infiltrating in preparation for a second major invasion.

25X1 [redacted] In contrast to recent sabre-rattling speeches by Ethiopian leader Mengistu, the government statement did not threaten major punitive military actions against Somalia, but it did reiterate Ethiopia's hard-line position on a settlement of the Ogaden dispute. In Ethiopia's view, Somalia must:

- Renounce its irredentist policy of territorial expansionism.
- Change its flag, constitution, and map, which serve as the embodiment of the "Greater Somalia" concept.
- Pay compensation, as determined by a special Ethiopian commission, for war-related damages in the Ogaden.
- Respect the charters of the Organization of African Unity and of the UN.

25X1 [redacted] The Ethiopians know that these terms will be totally unacceptable to the Somalis who continue to insist that peace in the Horn can only be realized by granting self-determination to the pro-Somali Ogadenis and by the withdrawal of Soviet and Cuban military personnel from Ethiopia. [redacted] 25X1

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GHANA: Western Help Sought

25X1 [] Ghana's new leader, General Akuffo, says his government will side with the West and has asked for US aid to meet pressing economic problems. The regime's civilian opponents are unlikely to stay quiet for long in the absence of economic improvement. The government has released political prisoners and is concentrating on putting its house in order.

25X1 [] Akuffo told a US Embassy officer yesterday that his government had decided to emphasize its relations with the West and the US in particular. He stressed that the new leaders are determined to meet Ghana's serious economic problems. He said Ghana would soon ask for help from the International Monetary Fund and urged the US both to back Ghana's request and to be generous in providing aid.

25X1 [] The new Ghanaian leader did not indicate what economic reforms his government might institute. He may hope that the US will bail Ghana out without its resorting to painful measures required for IMF assistance. Akuffo may soon send a high-level delegation to the US to present Ghana's case for aid.

25X1 [] General Acheampong's sudden ouster has met with general public apathy, and Accra remains quiet. The average Ghanaian probably sees little difference in the new government, which continues to be run by essentially the same group of officers identified with Acheampong's unpopular rule and the country's economic decline.

25X1 [] At least some civilian opponents are pleased with the change of leadership and hope it will lead to economic reforms. They will not cease their opposition for long, however, unless the new leaders take effective action to turn the economy around and to return Ghana quickly to civilian rule. The new government apparently has not yet considered the matter of restoring civilian rule but has freed all civilians jailed by Acheampong.

25X1 [] For now, the Akuffo government is concentrating on consolidating its support in the officer corps. It has named Brigadier Odarty-Wellington, the former head of the key unit that controls troops in the Accra area, Army commander. He is the only new member of the ruling seven-man military council.

25X1 Akuffo and Air Force Commander Boakye, who reportedly engineered Acheampong's removal, appear to hold the real levers of power in the regime along with E. K. Buckman, a police officer in charge of security. [REDACTED]

TURKEY-CYPRUS: Troop Withdrawals

25X1 [REDACTED] *The Turkish Government has told the US Embassy in Ankara that tomorrow it will announce the withdrawal from Cyprus of two battalions, including mechanized units, totaling 1,250 men.*

25X1 [REDACTED] A spokesman of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the withdrawal, which will begin on Monday, will bring to 17,250 the total number of Turkish soldiers withdrawn from Cyprus since the invasion in 1974. Earlier this year, the Turks announced troop withdrawals totaling approximately 1,300 men.

25X1 [REDACTED] Turkish withdrawals, however, have often been offset by regular troop rotations from the mainland. The actual number of Turkish soldiers on the island--about 30,000--has remained relatively stable for the past two years. Even a substantial troop reduction would not impair Turkish military predominance on Cyprus. [REDACTED]

MALAYSIA: On the Eve of Elections

25X1 [REDACTED] *On the eve of tomorrow's national and state elections, the position of Malaysian Prime Minister Hussein Onn and his 10-party ruling National Front is fairly secure. Malaysia has a sound economy and the political opposition is fragmented. The voters will probably strongly endorse Hussein's moderate domestic program and independent foreign policy.*

25X1 [REDACTED] Although the legal deadline for the next election is late 1979, Hussein's decision to hold one now is not surprising. Malaysia's economic growth, impressive during the past two years, is expected to slow down by next year. The two major opposition parties, moreover, are at low points. The conservative Malay Islamic Party was soundly defeated in the Kelantan state election in March by Hussein's moderate United Malays National Organization, and the Chinese-dominated Democratic Action Party has suffered from internal leadership struggles.

25X1 [redacted] The Prime Minister has won high marks for cracking down on corruption and promoting friendly relations with Communist nations--including Vietnam and Cambodia. He continues to reiterate Malaysia's desire to gain international recognition of Southeast Asia as a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality.

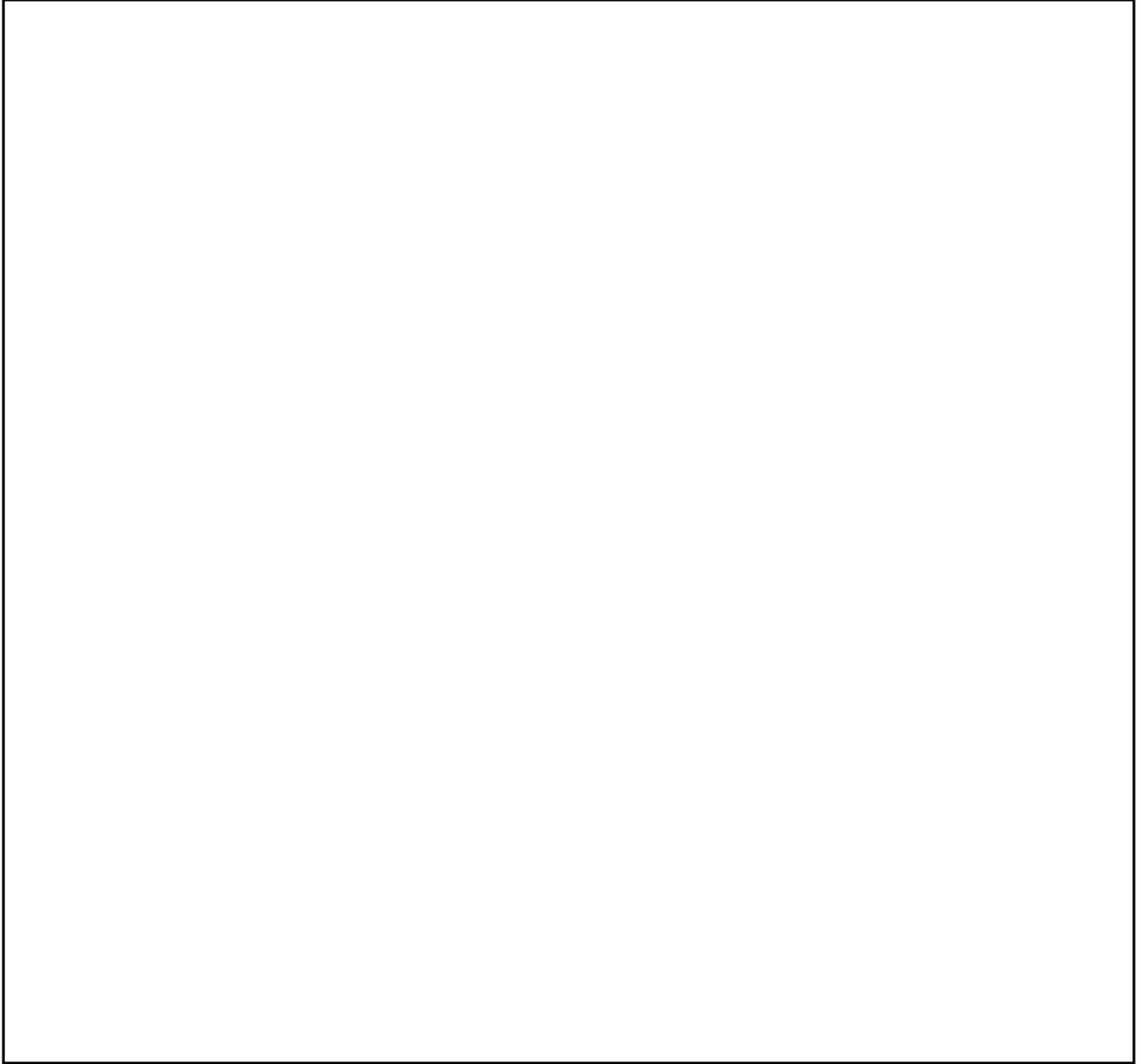
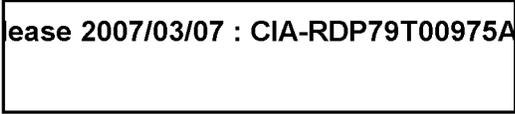
25X1 [redacted] Hussein has continued to deal with the almost intractable problem of endemic tension between Malays and Chinese. Despite its efforts to restructure the economy in favor of Malays, the government is still charged by some conservative Malays with favoritism toward Chinese.

25X1 [redacted] To undercut attempts to exploit this issue, Hussein banned rallies during the campaign and stepped up naval patrols to minimize the number of refugees arriving from Indochina--many of them ethnic Chinese. The government's arrest in April of the Democratic Action Party chairman, who is Chinese, for allegedly violating the Official Secrets Act may also have been aimed at currying favor with the Malay electorate. [redacted]

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WEST GERMANY: Tactical Missiles

[Redacted] West Germany has begun supplying its armed forces with two tactical missile systems that will improve West German and NATO capabilities against Warsaw Pact forces. The

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Roland surface-to-air missile will help blunt Pact tactical air power, and the Kormoran antiship missile will pose a significant threat to Pact naval movements in the Baltic.

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[redacted] The Roland--a weapon developed jointly with France--will enable the West Germans to improve their tactical air defenses. Its mobility, quick reaction time, and sophisticated tracking system provide good coverage in all types of weather against high-performance aircraft at low and medium altitudes.

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[redacted] The first of 140 Roland launchers for the Army left the production line late last month. The Roland will augment the Gepard antiaircraft artillery gun. The Air Force and Navy will employ the Roland in the 1980s as point defense at key installations.

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[redacted] The Kormoran will be the Navy's primary air-launched antiship missile. The Navy received the first of 350 on order in May. The Navy's F-104G fighter-bombers will carry the missile, as will the Tornado when it comes into service.

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[redacted] Countering the Kormoran is difficult. The missile usually is launched at least 30 kilometers from its target, and the aircraft is thus well beyond the ship's antiaircraft fire. The missile's sea-skimming capability substantially reduces the possibility that it could be downed as it approaches the target. [redacted]

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BRIEFS

OAU

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[redacted] The foreign ministers of the member countries of the Organization of African Unity will open a nine-day session in Khartoum today to prepare the agenda for the 18-21 July meeting of African heads of state. The ministerial schedule is heavily loaded with committee reports and other routine business, but there will be at least informal discussion of pressing political issues likely to surface at the summit. Interest this year is focused on foreign involvement--Communist and Western--in Africa and on proposals to create an inter-African defense force to assist member countries in crisis situations.

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[redacted] Sudanese security forces are on full alert to protect the many African leaders attending the conference and to prevent local groups hostile to the government of President Numavri from exploiting an opportunity for subversive action. [redacted]

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Afghanistan

[redacted] With the appointment of Deputy Prime Minister Babrak Karmal as Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, Afghan President Taraki appears to have succeeded in overcoming his rivals within the People's Democratic Party. Taraki earlier named Nur Mohammed Nur, former Minister of the Interior and a close associate of Babrak, Ambassador to the US. The President is also sending other members of Babrak's faction abroad.

[redacted] There are no significant ideological differences between the Taraki and Babrak factions, but the two men have struggled for personal power since the mid-1960s and often differed over tactics. Their latest rift could stem from differences over relations with the USSR or the pace of domestic policy change. Taraki presumably takes a more nationalistic and cautious approach to these issues than Babrak. [redacted]

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South Korea

[redacted] Following President Pak Chong-hui's election yesterday by an electoral college to another six-year term in office, political attention in South Korea is shifting to a National Assembly election that will be held sometime between September and February. Pak's haste in scheduling the vote yesterday--it could have been held as late as 27 November--reflected his desire to forestall demonstrations for a return to a direct presidential election system. The coming Assembly election will generate increased activity by students during the remainder of the year, but the focus of protest will now be on issues less directly linked to Pak's rule. [redacted]

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