

CIA/OCI/BRIEF 168-75
31 OCTOBER 1975

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EUROPEAN BRIEF 168-75.4

1. SPAIN: SPAIN'S PRESSING NEED FOR AN ACTIVE HEAD OF STATE, PLUS THE NEAR CERTAINTY THAT FRANCO WILL NOT RECOVER, APPARENTLY CONVINCED PRINCE JUAN CARLOS THURSDAY TO ACCEPT ONCE AGAIN DESIGNATION AS TEMPORARY CHIEF OF STATE.4

PRIME MINISTER ARIAS AND OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN URGING THE PRINCE TO FOLLOW THIS COURSE FOR SEVERAL DAYS. THE NEED HAS GROWN MORE ACUTE DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS BECAUSE OF THE DIVISIVE STRUGGLE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OVER POLICY TOWARD THE SPANISH SAHARA.4

JUAN CARLOS HAD BEEN RESISTING THE TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT BECAUSE OF HIS EXPERIENCE IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE SUMMER OF 1974, WHEN HE WAS ONLY A FIGUREHEAD. HE IS CONCERNED THAT A REPEAT WOULD DAMAGE HIS REPUTATION AS A LEADER AND THE FUTURE OF THE MONARCHY IN SPAIN. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT JUAN CARLOS HAS ACCEPTED THE TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT AGAIN ONLY BECAUSE OF A TACIT UNDERSTANDING THAT HIS RULE WILL BE "TEMPORARY" IN NAME ONLY.4

FOLLOWING A MEETING THURSDAY WITH JUAN CARLOS, ARIAS SENT A

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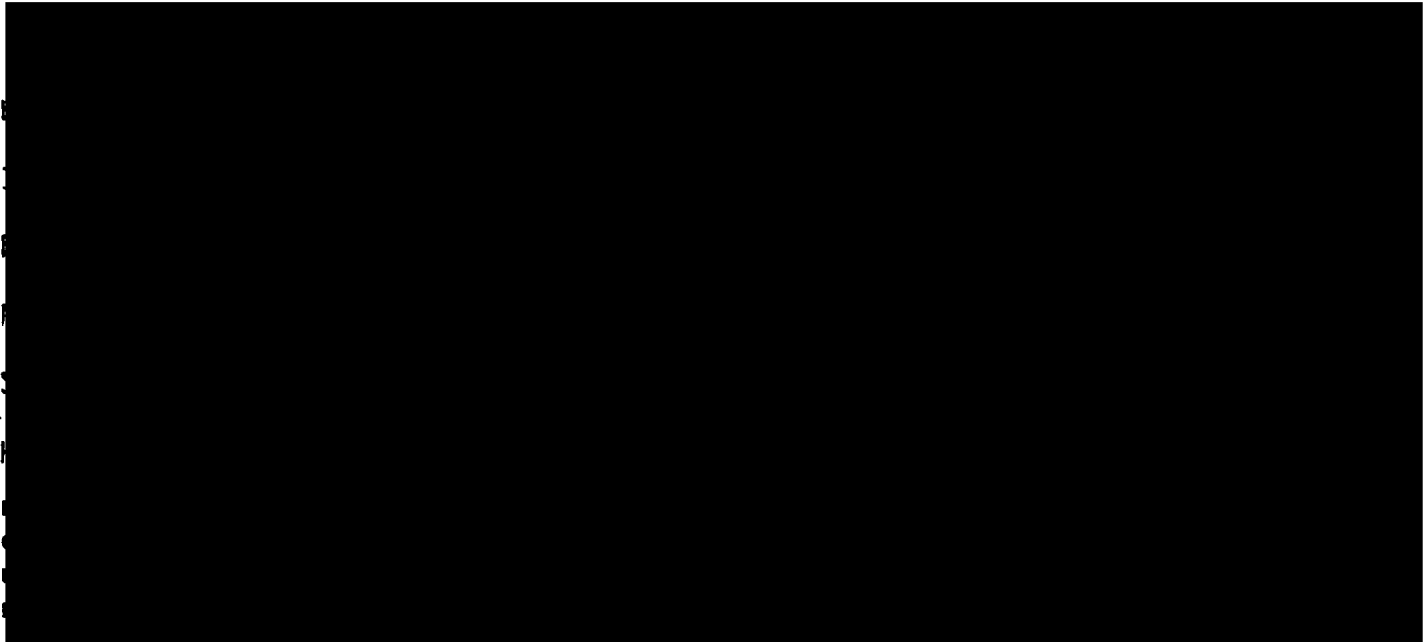
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TELEGRAM TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT, INFORMING HIM THAT ARTICLE 11 OF THE CONSTITUTION HAD BEEN INVOKED. THE ARTICLE PROVIDES FOR TEMPORARY ASSUMPTION OF POWER BY A DESIGNATED SUCCESSOR DURING A CHIEF OF STATE'S ILLNESS. THIS TELEGRAM FULFILLS THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR JUAN CARLOS TO TAKE POWER FOR AS LONG AS FRANCO REMAINS ILL. JUAN CARLOS IS EXPECTED TO PRESIDE OVER A CABINET MEETING FRIDAY.

SHOULD FRANCO DIE OR BE DECLARED INCAPACITATED, THE THREE-MAN COUNCIL OF THE REGENCY WOULD TAKE OVER THE ROUTINE FUNCTIONS OF CHIEF OF STATE UNTIL JUAN CARLOS HAS BEEN FORMALLY SWORN IN AS KING JUAN III.

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FRANCO'S LINGERING ILLNESS HAS ENCOURAGED SPECULATION OVER THE CHANGES THAT WILL BE MADE WHEN JUAN CARLOS TAKES OVER PERMANENTLY. OVER A DOZEN CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE REPLACEMENTS FOR PRIME MINISTER ARIAS, BUT JUAN CARLOS MAY CONCLUDE THAT IN THE INTEREST OF MAINTAINING A SMOOTH TRANSITION IT WOULD BE BETTER TO RETAIN ARIAS FOR A PERIOD.4

//THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAS SENT SECURITY REINFORCEMENTS TO THE FRENCH BORDER IN RESPONSE TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FRENCH LEFTIST GROUPS WILL STAGE A MARCH ON NOVEMBER 1. [REDACTED] THAT THE MARCH IS PLANNED TO END AT THE BORDER, WHERE THERE WILL BE DEMONSTRATIONS, BONFIRES, AND POSSIBLY THE LAUNCHING OF BALLOONS WITH PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS INTO SPAIN. {CONFIDENTIAL}//4

2. SPANISH SAHARA: TALKS ON SPANISH SAHARA AMONG SPANISH, MOROCCAN, AND MAURITANIAN OFFICIALS WERE SUSPENDED THURSDAY AFTER TWO DAYS WITHOUT ANY SIGN OF PROGRESS.4

ALTHOUGH MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI, IN HIS DEPARTURE STATEMENT, CHARACTERIZED THE NEGOTIATIONS AS "VERY ADVANCED," HE DEFENSIVELY CLAIMED ALGERIA'S REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE

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ALGERIAN DELEGATION IN MADRID WERE TOTALLY DISCOUNTED. HE REAFFIRMED MOROCCO'S OPPOSITION TO INCLUDING ALGERIA IN THE TALKS. THE ALGERIANS, LED BY INTERIOR MINISTER ABDELGHANI, ONE OF PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE'S CLOSEST ADVISERS, HAVE BEEN HOLDING PARALLEL TALKS WITH SPANISH OFFICIALS AND WERE STILL IN MADRID WHEN THE MOROCCAN DELEGATION LEFT FOR HOME.4

ABDELGHANI PRESUMABLY IS REITERATING ALGERIA'S POSITION THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR SPANISH SAHARA MUST NOT BE IGNORED. ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA IS APPARENTLY MAKING SIMILAR DEMARCHES TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM IN NEW YORK.4

ALGERIA OPPOSES TURNING THE TERRITORY OVER TO MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA WITHOUT FIRST GIVING THE SAHARAN PEOPLE A FREE CHOICE. SAHARANS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY OPT FOR INDEPENDENCE IN ANY FAIR REFERENDUM.4

A SENIOR ALGERIAN OFFICIAL RECENTLY SAID THAT, ONCE THE SAHARANS CHOOSE THEIR OWN FUTURE, SOME ARRANGEMENT SHOULD BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN AN INDEPENDENT SAHARA AND ITS NEIGHBORS. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT ELABORATE, HE MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO A PROPOSAL ALGIERS

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FLOATED LAST YEAR. THE PROPOSAL SUGGESTED A REFERENDUM BE HELD UNDER UN AUSPICES, LEADING TO AN INDEPENDENT SPANISH SAHARA GUARANTEED AND SUPPORTED ECONOMICALLY BY SPAIN AND THE THREE NEIGHBORING AFRICAN STATES. ALTHOUGH SUCH A SOLUTION MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO MADRID AND POSSIBLY NOUAKCHOTT, RABAT WOULD REJECT IT OUT OF HAND. {CONFIDENTIAL}4

3. PORTUGAL: THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS HAD SOME SUCCESS IN RECENT DAYS COMBATING MILITARY INDISCIPLINE, WAS PRESENTED WITH A NEW CHALLENGE THURSDAY WHEN LISBON'S MAIN ARSENAL WAS SEIZED BY TROOPS CHARGED WITH ITS SECURITY.4

THE TROOPS ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THEY HAD TOO FEW MEN TO GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF THE ARSENAL. THEIR ACTION PROBABLY IS RELATED, HOWEVER, TO WIDER CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY LEFTIST MILITARY ELEMENTS OVER DEMOBILIZATIONS. EIGHTEEN PERCENT OF THE ARMY WILL BE DISCHARGED FRIDAY, AND ANOTHER 9 PERCENT IS SCHEDULED FOR DEMOBILIZATION ON DECEMBER 2. THE LEFT HAS PROTESTED THAT THESE REDUCTIONS ARE DESIGNED TO TRANSFORM THE ARMY INTO A REACTIONARY CORPS.4

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LEFTISTS IN THE MILITARY HAVE BEEN LOSING MOMENTUM RECENTLY, AND EFFORTS TO KEEP PRO-GOVERNMENT MILITARY REGIONAL AUTHORITIES UNDER PRESSURE HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT LESS THAN SUCCESSFUL. TWO RALLIES THIS WEEK SPONSORED BY RADICAL MILITARY ELEMENTS WERE POORLY ATTENDED AND UNIMPRESSIVE. IN CONTRAST, ANTI-COMMUNISTS IN THE MILITARY APPEAR TO BE ORGANIZING THEMSELVES MORE EFFECTIVELY. OFFICERS SYMPATHETIC TO THE ANTI-COMMUNIST FACTION OF FOREIGN MINISTER ANTUNES HAVE FORMED A "SINGLE MILITARY FRONT" TO COMBAT LEFTIST ATTEMPTS TO BRING DOWN THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT.4

THE LEFT ALSO IS LOSING GROUND ON THE CIVILIAN FRONT. DISSIDENT EMPLOYEES OF A COMMUNIST-INFLUENCED LISBON NEWSPAPER OCCUPIED THE PAPER'S EDITORIAL OFFICES ON WEDNESDAY AND DEMANDED THE REMOVAL OF THE LEFT-WING MANAGEMENT. EARLIER THIS WEEK, THE ANTI-COMMUNIST EMPLOYEES WON BY A 4-TO-1 MARGIN A VOTE TO DISMISS THE PRO-COMMUNIST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.4

THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT IS UNLIKELY TO MOVE AGAINST THE ANTI-COMMUNIST WORKERS BECAUSE THEIR ACTION FALLS IN LINE WITH ITS RECENT EFFORTS TO LOOSEN THE COMMUNIST GRIP ON THE PRESS. THE

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GOVERNMENT MIGHT EVEN USE THE INCIDENT AS AN EXCUSE TO REVAMP THE MANAGEMENT OF OTHER LEFT-LEANING NEWSPAPERS. THE LEFT-WING PRESS HAS BEEN LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR STIRRING UP POLITICAL TENSIONS IN LISBON AND SPREADING REPORTS OF ALLEGED PLOTS TO RETURN THE COUNTRY TO RIGHT-WING RULE. THURSDAY, FOR INSTANCE, LEFT-WING NEWSPAPERS GAVE WIDE PLAY TO A COMMUNIQUE FROM A NEW RADICAL MILITARY GROUP, THE AIR FORCE 'EVOLUTIONARY VIGILANCE COMMITTEE, THAT ACCUSED AIR FORCE LEADERS OF PLANNING A RIGHT-WING COUP.

THE STATEMENT CITED THE TRANSFERRAL OF AIRCRAFT AND WEAPONRY, THE INTENSIFICATION OF TRAINING FOR AIR FORCE PERSONNEL, AND THE PERSECUTION OF "PROGRESSIVE" SOLDIERS AS PROOF OF A PLOT. THESE CHARGES ARE PROBABLY RELATED TO AIR FORCE ACTION IN MOVING PLANES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT FROM THE LISBON AREA TO GUARD AGAINST SABOTAGE IN THE EVENT OF A LEFTIST MOVE TO TAKE OVER THE CAPITAL. WHILE THE CHANCES FOR SUCH A TAKE-OVER SEEM TO HAVE RECEDED, THE AIR FORCE HIGH COMMAND REPORTEDLY STILL EXPECTS A LEFTIST ATTEMPT TO ELIMINATE THE RELATIVELY CONSERVATIVE AIR FORCE. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 IMPDET.H

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 368-75-4

3. ARGENTINA: ARGENTINE PRESIDENT MARIA ESTELA PERON, SCARCELY TWO WEEKS AFTER RESUMING OFFICE, HAS NAMED A FOLLOWER OF LOPEZ REGA TO THE OUSTED STROGHRAN'S FORMER POST OF SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER.4

HER CHOICE OF ANIBAL DEMARCO, A LACKLUSTER WELFARE MINISTRY OFFICIAL, HAS AROUSED FEARS THAT THE INFLUENCE OF LOPEZ REGA LINGERS ON. SOME OF HIS OTHER FOLLOWERS--SUCH AS PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY JULIO GONZALEZ--ARE STILL IN OFFICE DESPITE THE PURGE OF SOME HIGH-LEVEL SUPPORTERS.4

IN MAKING THE APPOINTMENT, THE PRESIDENT HAS IGNORED STRONG SENTIMENT AGAINST THE HEIRS OF LOPEZ REGA. THIS WILL SURELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE HARDENING OF OPINION, IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT, AGAINST HER.4

THE DECISION CLEARLY WAS MADE AGAINST THE ADVICE OF HER GOVERNMENT'S TOP FIGURE, INTERIOR MINISTER ROBLEDO, WHO HAD PROMISED THE MILITARY HE WOULD KEEP PERON IN LINE. IF HE CONTINUES TO FAIL, HIS OWN POSITION WILL BE SERIOUSLY WEAKENED. (CONFIDENTIAL)4

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2. VENEZUELA: VENEZUELA IS NEGOTIATING THE SALE OF 120,000 BARRELS A DAY OF OIL, PROBABLY HEAVY FUEL OIL, TO ASIATIC PETROLEUM CORPORATION, AN AFFILIATE OF ROYAL DUTCH SHELL.

IF CONSUMMATED, THE DEAL WILL BE THE FIRST INSTANCE OF A COMMERCIAL SALE BY THE VENEZUELAN NATIONAL OIL FIRM, WHICH WAS SET UP TO MANAGE THE OIL INDUSTRY AFTER NATIONALIZATION. THE OIL, EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT 6 PERCENT OF VENEZUELA'S PLANNED CRUDE AND PRODUCT EXPORTS FOR 1976, WOULD BE SOLD IN THE US AT A PRICE THAT WOULD INCLUDE THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION.

THE VENEZUELAN'S RECOGNIZE THAT THEY COULD LOSE REVENUE FROM SUCH DEALS SINCE THEIR COSTS FOR DELIVERING OIL MAY EXCEED THE COSTS OF THE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES. THE GOVERNMENT THUS REGARDS THE DEAL AS A TEST CASE AND WILL EVALUATE THE RESULTS IN DETERMINING FUTURE MARKETING. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 IMPDET.H

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TO: IMMEDIATE AMMAN MEA BRIEF 168-754

1. LEBANON: FIGHTING DIMINISHED IN ALL SECTIONS OF BEIRUT THURSDAY FOLLOWING AN EARLY MORNING ANNOUNCEMENT OF YET ANOTHER CEASE-FIRE. PRIME MINISTER KARAMI HAS THREATENED TO RESIGN IF THIS AGREEMENT IS NOT RESPECTED. 4

KARAMI WON APPROVAL OF THE ACCORD AT A MEETING WEDNESDAY OF LEBANESE LEFTIST AND MUSLIM POLITICIANS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PLO, THE LEBANESE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCE, AND THE LEBANESE ARMY. LEADERS OF THE LARGE CHRISTIAN POLITICAL PARTIES DID NOT ATTEND, BUT HAD OFFERED ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD RESPECT A NEW CEASE-FIRE. 4

PRIOR TO THE CEASE-FIRE, THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS WERE GRADUALLY BEING DRIVEN FROM THEIR FORWARD POSITIONS IN CENTRAL BEIRUT AND THE CITY'S WESTERN HOTEL DISTRICT. THESE SETBACKS RESULTED FROM THE CONTINUED STRENGTHENING OF LEFTIST FORCES WITH INCREASED NUMBERS OF COMMANDOS FROM THE LARGE FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS. 4

CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS REPORTEDLY WITHDREW AND ALLOWED INTERNAL SECURITY FORCE UNITS TO REPLACE THEM IN ONE MAJOR HOTEL, AND WERE NEGOTIATING A SIMILAR WITHDRAWAL FROM TWO OTHERS. LEFTIST FORCES

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REPORTEDLY ALSO WITHDREW SOME DISTANCE, BUT WERE LEFT IN A STRONGER POSITION THAN BEFORE THE CLASHES SPREAD INTO THE HOTEL DISTRICT LAST WEEKEND.4

THE PHALANGISTS MAY NOW BE WILLING TO ENGAGE IN MORE SERIOUS POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS. AT A MINIMUM, A ROUND OF PRIVATE TALKS WOULD ALLOW TIME FOR THE PHALANGIST MILITIA TO REGROUP AND OBTAIN ADDITIONAL ARMS AND AMMUNITION.4

THE TERMS OF THE LATEST CEASE-FIRE ARE MUCH LIKE THOSE OF PREVIOUS ACCORDS, ALTHOUGH THEY INCLUDE A THREAT THAT THE GOVERNMENT RADIO WILL FOR THE FIRST TIME PUBLICIZE THE IDENTITY OF PERSONS OR GROUPS RESPONSIBLE FOR CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS. ALTHOUGH THIS TACTIC ORDINARILY WOULD NOT INTIMIDATE THE OFFENDING PARTIES, THEY MAY IN THIS CASE BE SENSITIVE TO THE FACT THAT KARAMI HAS IDENTIFIED HIMSELF WITH THIS NOVEL SCHEME.4

KARAMI ALMOST CERTAINLY DOES NOT WANT TO RESIGN. HE PRESUMABLY PUT HIS JOB ON THE LINE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE HAS RUN OUT OF IDEAS FOR SOLVING THE PRESENT CRISIS, BUT IN THE EXPECTATION THAT HE WOULD BE URGED TO STAY ON. IN FACT, SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM,

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SOCIALIST LEADER KAMAL JUMBLATT, AND PLO CHAIRMAN YASIR ARAFAT IMMEDIATELY APPEALED TO KARAMI TO REMAIN IN OFFICE.

ARAFAT REPORTEDLY PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE IN NEGOTIATING THE NEW CEASE-FIRE. VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT BY THE LEBANESE RADICALS AND FEDAYEEN REJECTIONISTS—IF IT IS RESPECTED BY OTHERS—COULD BE INTERPRETED BY ARAFAT AS A SLAP AT HIM, AND COULD ULTIMATELY LEAD TO MORE FORCEFUL EFFORTS BY THE MAJOR PALESTINIAN GROUPS TO CONTROL THE REJECTIONISTS. {SECRET} E-2, IMPDETH

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