



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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Selected Items From the National Intelligence Daily

Wednesday
13 November 1985

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13 November 1985

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Approved for Release
Date JUN 1999

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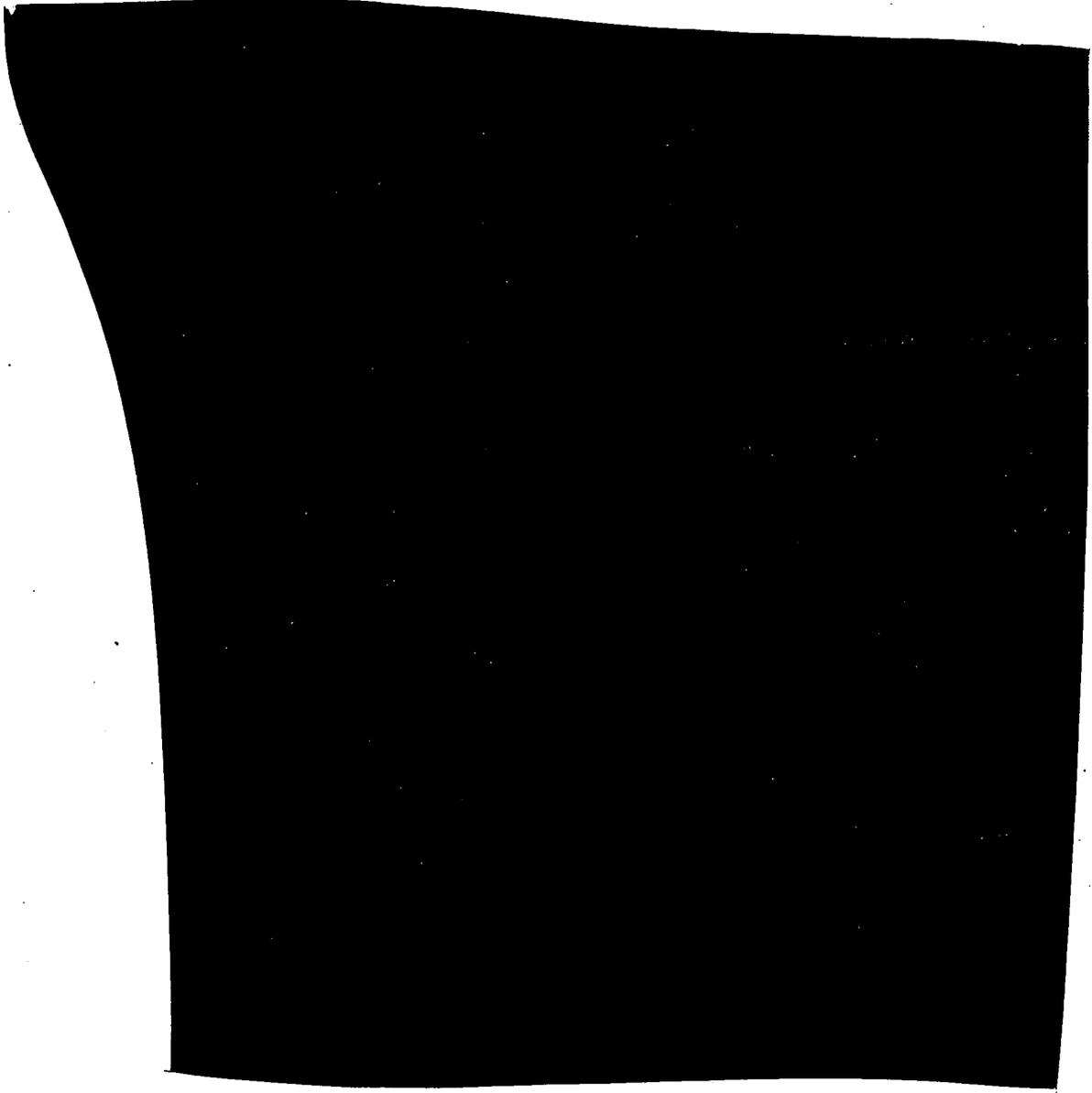
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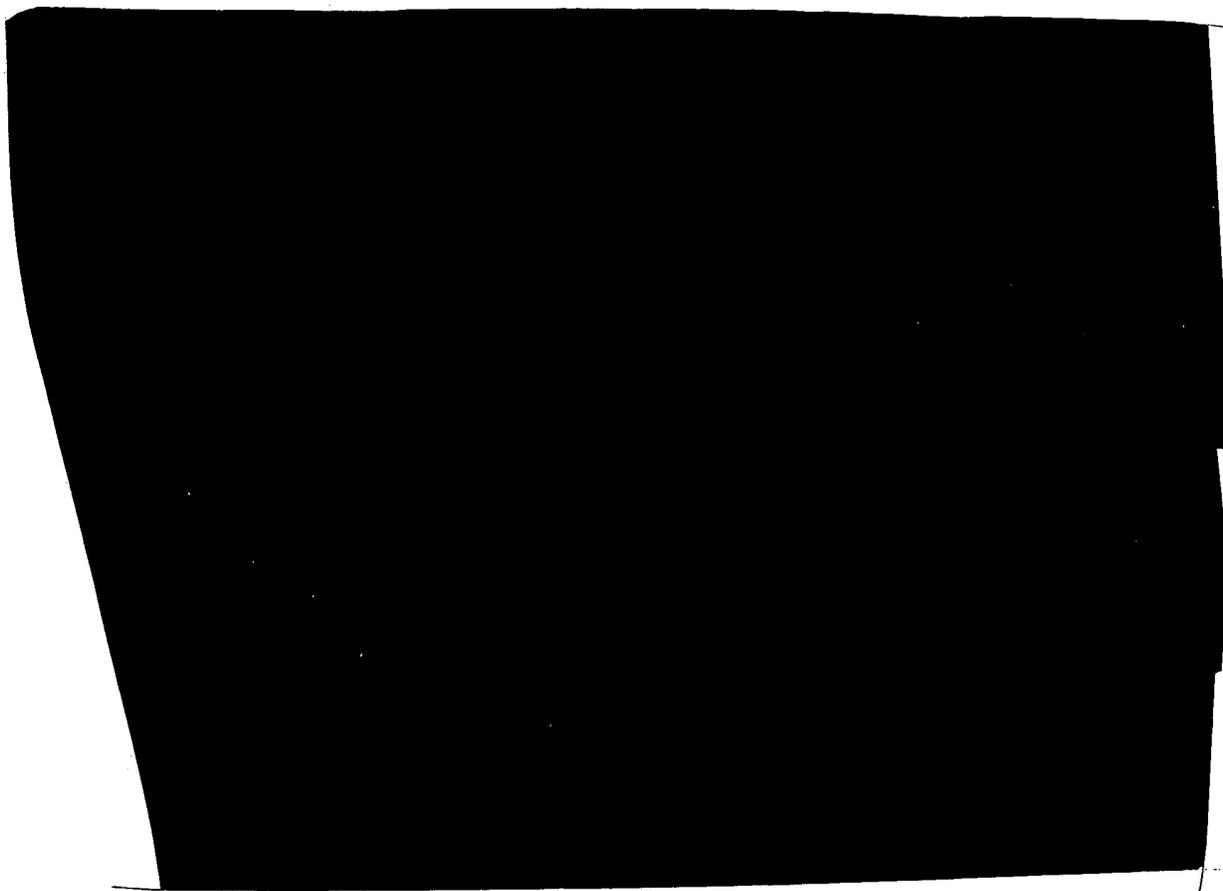
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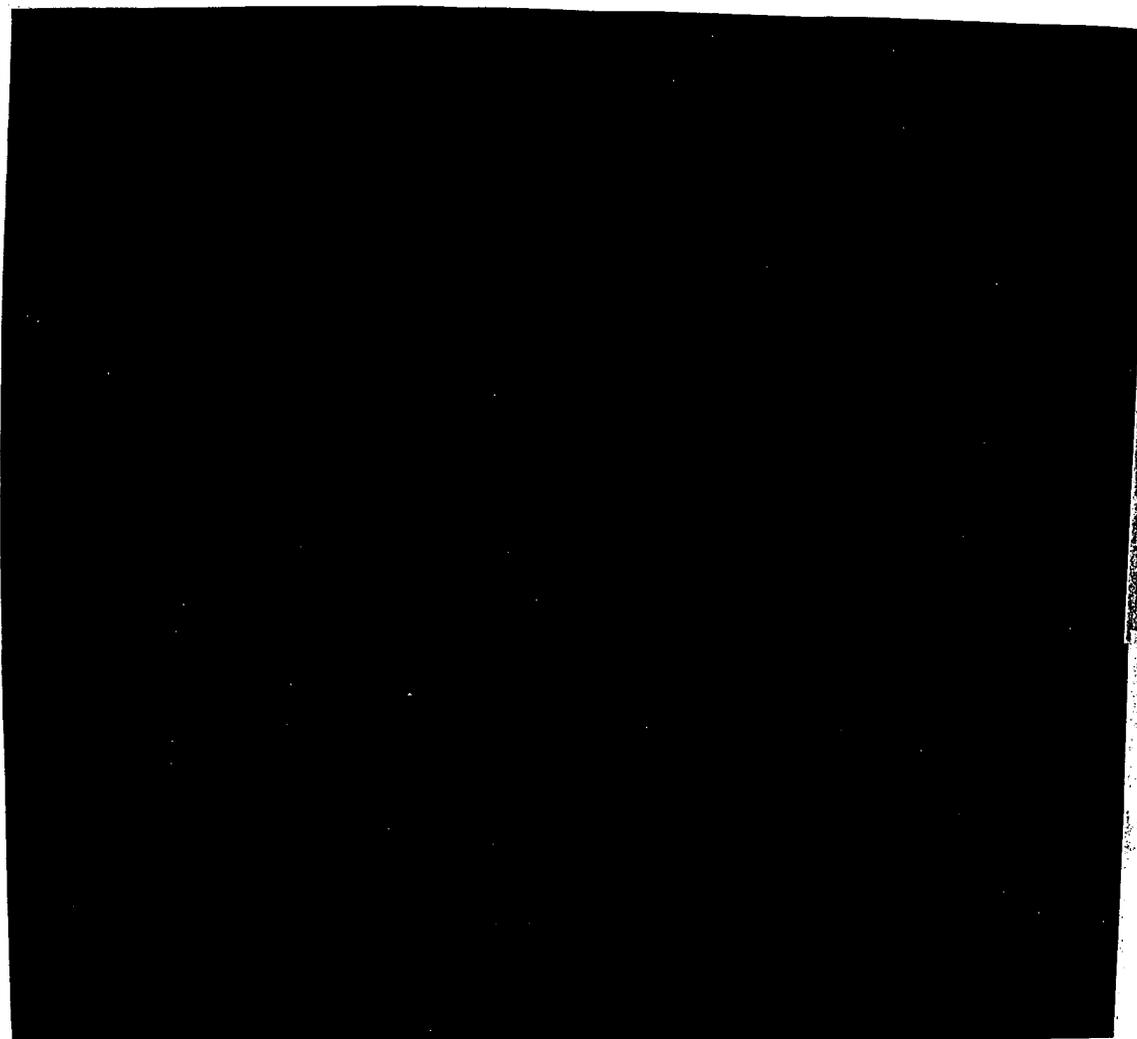
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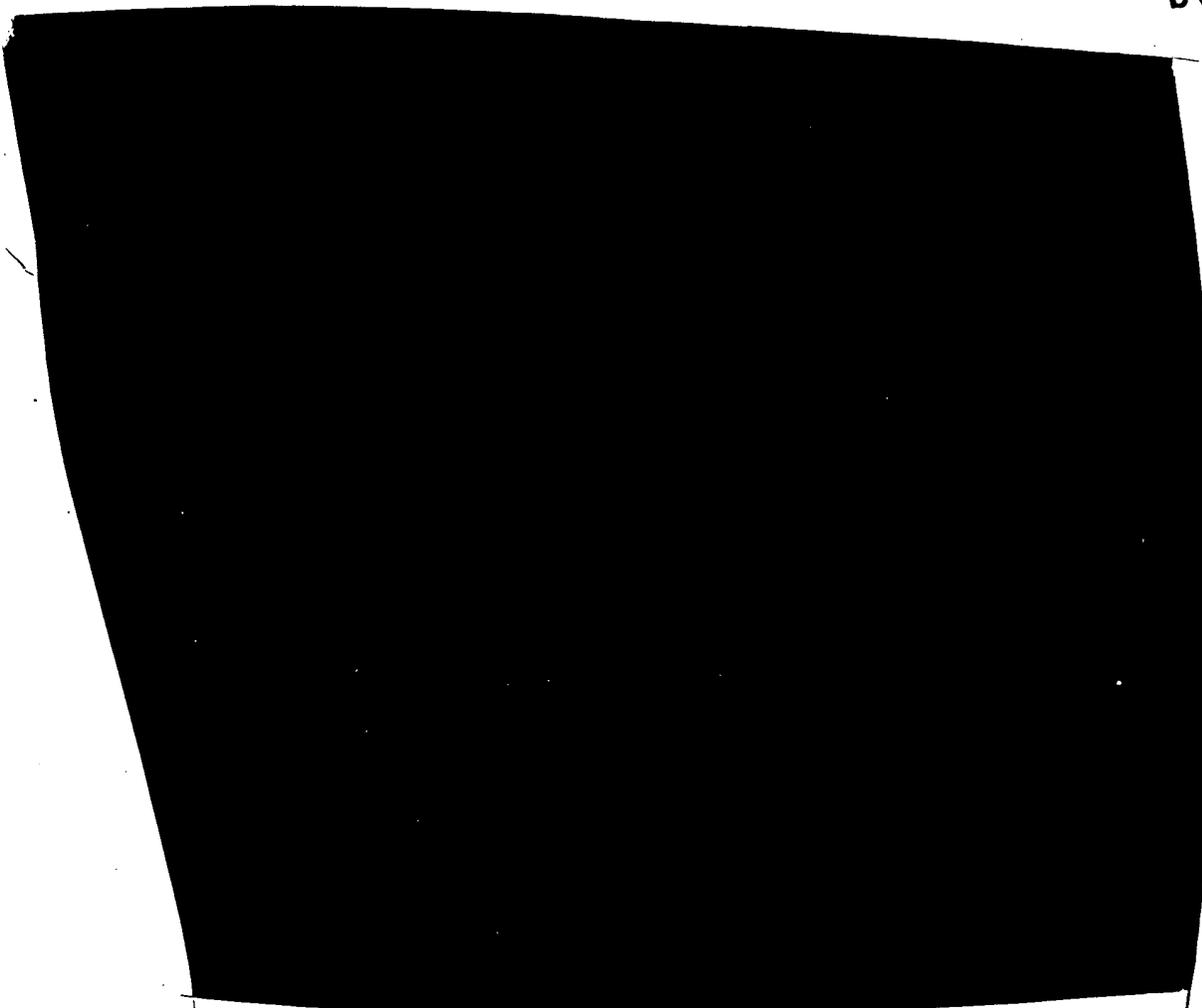
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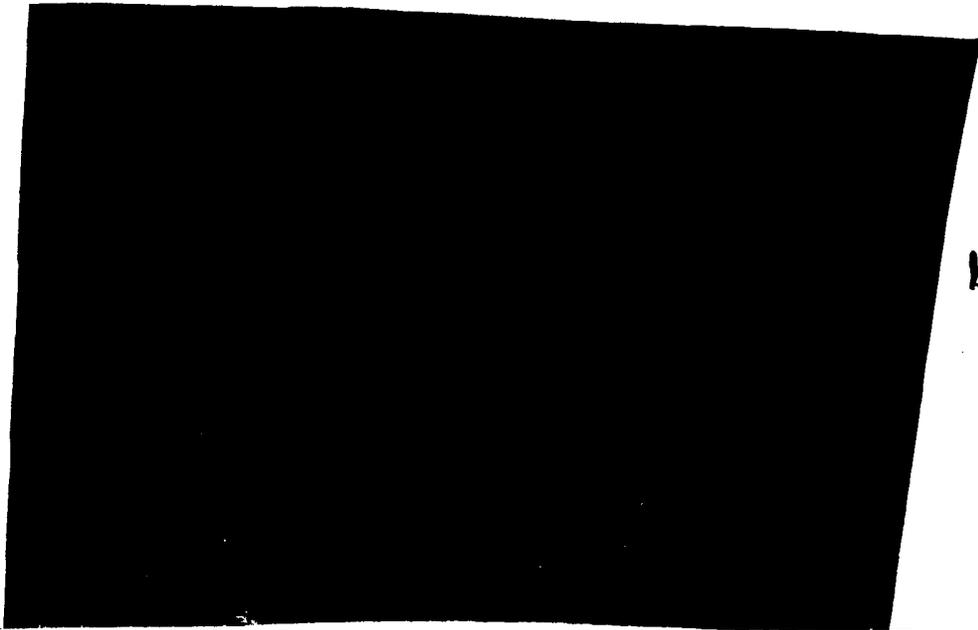


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USSR: Supercomputer Disinformation

Soviet media continue to claim that the USSR does not need Western supercomputers since it has its own high-performance computers. Supercomputers have numerous applications in nuclear weapons design, armor and antiarmor penetration mechanics, cryptology, weather forecasting, and the modeling of advanced aerodynamic vehicles. Within the past year, the US and Japan have worked together to develop safeguards for Western supercomputers in order to deny Soviet Bloc access to them.

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Soviet claims of domestic supercomputer capabilities are greatly exaggerated. The Soviets, however, still hope the claims will influence other countries to weaken or oppose the US and Japanese supercomputer safeguards programs. If the USSR gained access to the details of a Western supercomputer, it might save up to five years in developing its own design. The best Soviet high-performance computers are 30 to 60 times slower than US or Japanese supercomputers and lack good mass storage devices and systems software. The Soviet lag in supercomputer development is estimated to be 10 to 15 years.

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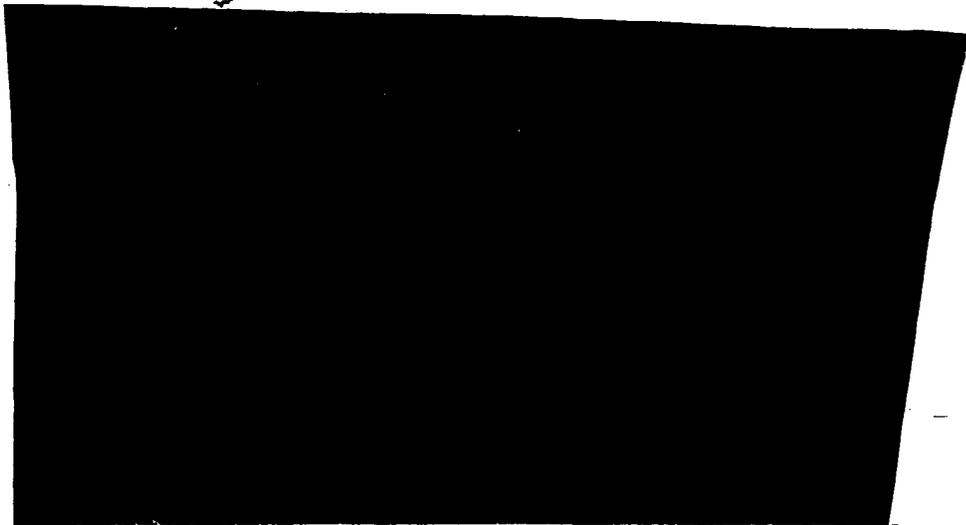
MOZAMBIQUE-USSR: Foreign Minister Visits Moscow

A Mozambican delegation led by Foreign Minister Chissano met briefly with General Secretary Gorbachev in Moscow last week and held extended discussions with Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and party International Department head Ponomarev. TASS described the meeting with Gorbachev as an "exchange of opinions" on bilateral and international issues and the talks with Shevardnadze and Ponomarev as "warm and friendly." According to TASS, the two sides expressed satisfaction over their bilateral relations and Mozambique indicated its support for Moscow's foreign policy.

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Following President Machel's recent visit to the US, the Mozambicans probably wanted to assure Moscow of their interest in continued close ties to the USSR. The talk with Gorbachev appears to have been little more than a get-acquainted session; the Soviet leader may have expressed Moscow's concern over the prospect of increased Western influence in Mozambique. No agreement on economic or military aid was announced, but the Mozambicans did endorse Soviet positions on South Africa and Namibia, probably as a low-cost demonstration of their interest in continued good relations.

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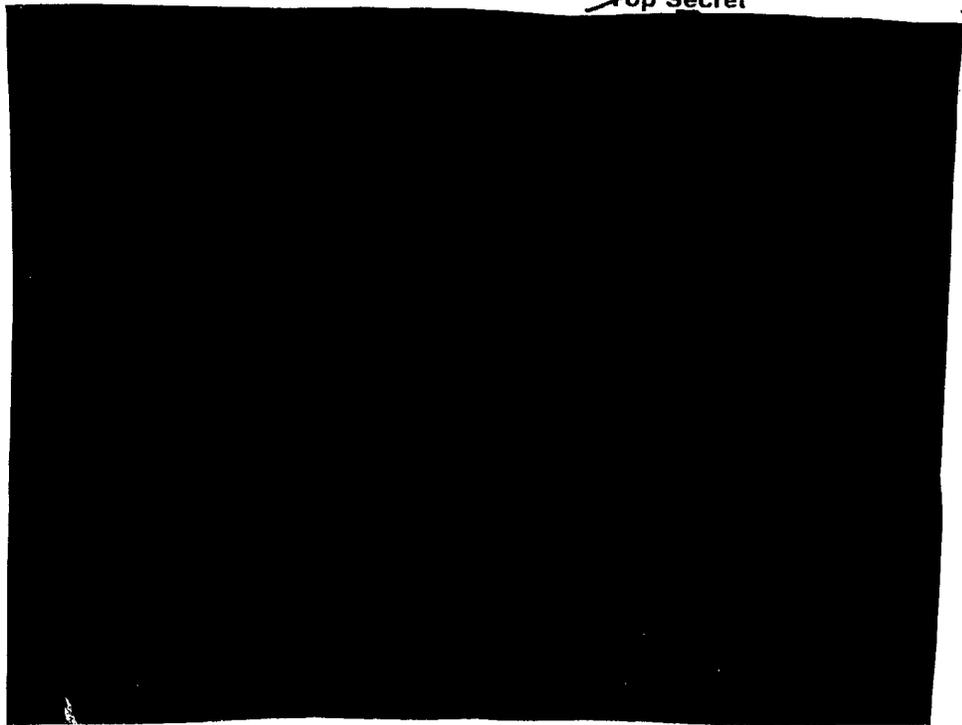
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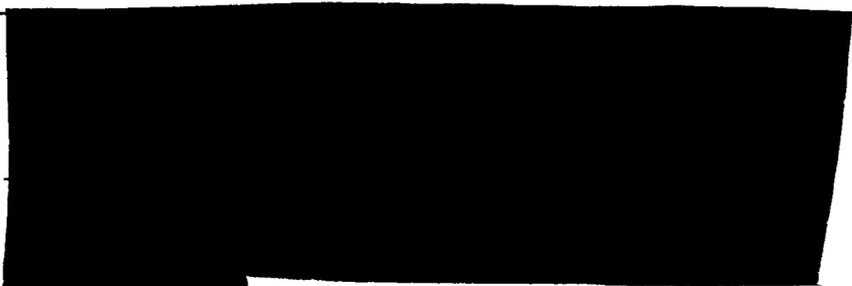
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In Brief

Middle East



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Persian Gulf states providing helicopter escorts for tankers entering Gulf . . . first attempt by Gulf Cooperation Council members to defend ships from Iranian seizures.

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Europe

— Anti-NATO demonstrations in several Spanish cities Sunday involved about 100,000 participants . . . total less than some earlier protests . . . lower turnout likely to cheer Prime Minister Gonzalez.

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Americas

— Nicaraguan security detained journalist of independent *La Prensa*, searched his home last weekend, according to press . . . regime in past has charged reporters in similar cases with counterrevolutionary crimes.

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Africa

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— Responsibility for hijacking of Ugandan airliner ferrying troops unknown . . . rebel spokesman denies involvement though plane landed in rebel-held territory . . . likely to complicate Nairobi peace talks, undercut government abilities to redeploy troops.

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— Students rioted in Congo over weekend . . . protesting austerity measure, . . . some casualties . . . situation now calm . . . President Sassou's stringent policies likely to cause increasing unrest.

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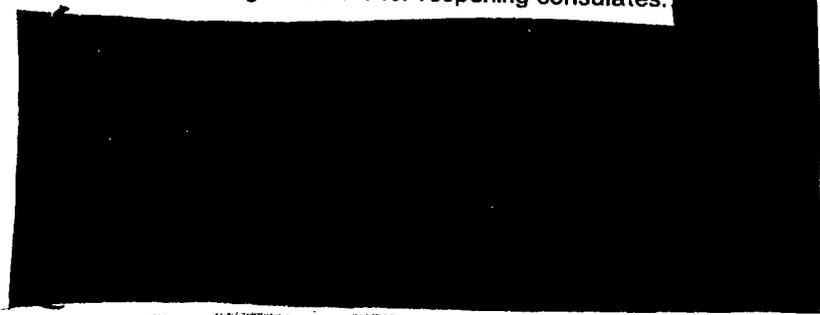
East Asia

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— USSR, China have begun new round of talks on consular affairs . . . did agree in June to simplify visa procedures, reopen consulates in Leningrad, Shanghai . . . current talks probably focusing on details for reopening consulates.

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South Asia

— Prominent Indian journalist says Prime Minister Gandhi will offer Pakistan friendship treaty next month after President Zia ends martial law . . . neither has commented . . . may be discussed when two leaders meet in Oman Monday.

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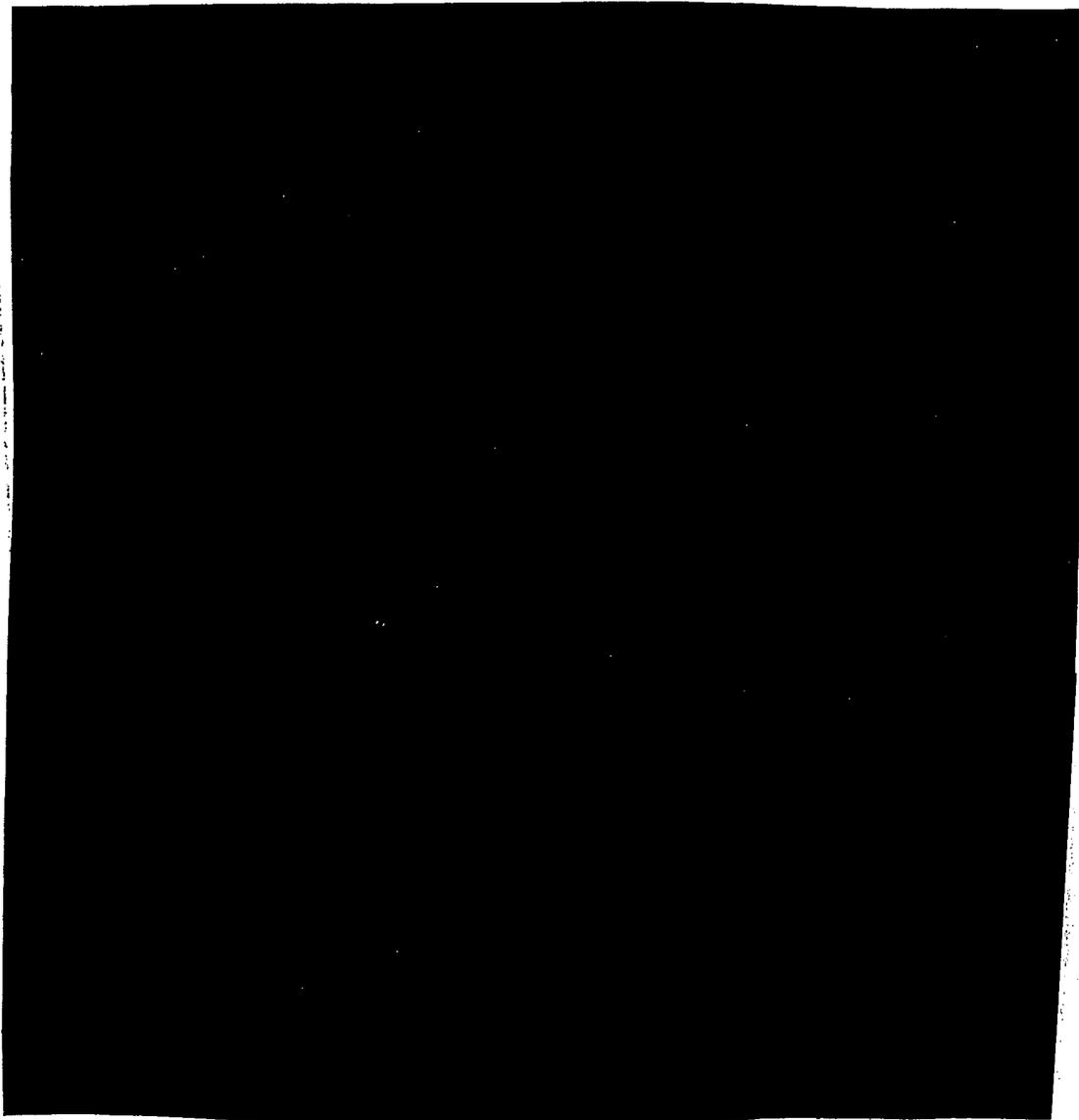
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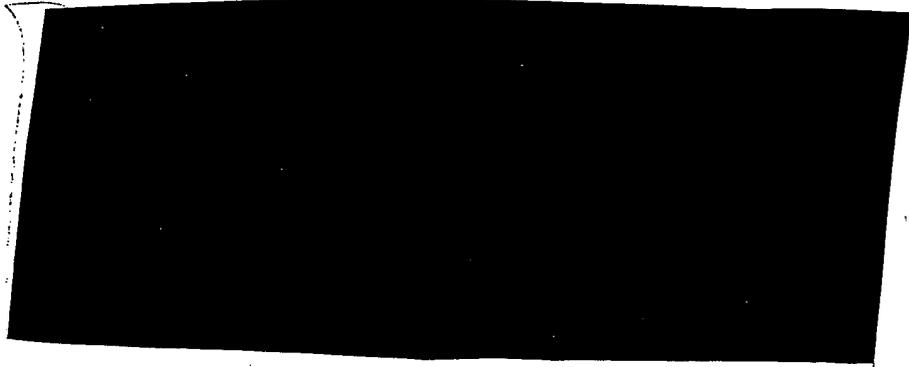
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Special Analysis

SOUTH AFRICA:

Rightwing Prospects

The strong showing by rightwing parties in the five parliamentary byelections last month has raised the specter of a conservative white backlash in South Africa, but it probably does not reflect a rapid, nationwide shift to the right.

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Although the National Party won four of the five races, the total rightwing vote was three times higher than in the general election in 1981 in those districts. The National Party won 27,062 votes compared to the rightwing total of 22,547. The support for the Conservative Party, which split from the National Party in 1982 over the issue of racial reform, and the victory of the extreme rightwing Herstigte Nasionale Party in Sasolburg—the first since its split from the National Party in 1969—indicate that the parties on the right have replaced the liberal Progressive Federal Party as the government's principal adversary for white support.

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The ruling National Party currently is not in danger of losing control of parliament. It holds 127 seats in a 178-member house, and general elections are not scheduled until 1989. If nationwide elections were held today, local observers suggest that the ruling party might lose no more than 32 seats to the rightwing parties.

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The recent election results probably understate the fundamental strength of the National Party. Recent nationwide opinion polls indicate that most whites approve of limited racial reforms and over 70 percent still think President Botha is doing a good job. The limited scope of the byelections—three were held in conservative districts—favored the rightwing parties, but the well-oiled machinery of the National Party undoubtedly would overpower the smaller rightwing parties in a general election.

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The Herstigte Nasionale Party's new confidence also may increase rightwing infighting. The two rightwing parties agreed not to oppose each other in four of the five races, including Sasolburg. The Herstigte Nasionale Party's victory, however, may make it less willing to stay out of elections to help the Conservative Party.

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Rightwing Appeal

The latest election results do reflect the impact of politically sensitive racial reforms, compounded by 14 months of major black unrest and the worst economic conditions in South Africa since the 1930s. Of the five seats contested, Sasolburg was the only district under the government's state-of-emergency regulations. The rightists capitalized on white racial fears and benefited from voter confusion over the extent and pace of Botha's reform program. Blue-collar workers in industrial areas—hit hard by recession and high unemployment—voted for the conservative parties in larger numbers than in past elections.

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A prolonged slump in the economy would benefit conservatives and make whites less willing to accept aspects of racial reforms that affect the job market. And South Africa's economic outlook is bleak: inflation is running at 16 percent and economic growth is expected to remain at a depressed rate of 2 to 3 percent.

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Rapid deterioration of the unrest would further shake voter confidence in the National Party and draw more whites toward the rightist parties. Moreover, growing black militancy and demands for more far-reaching reforms will increase the number of whites who fear that limited reforms will inevitably lead to black majority rule.

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Outlook

Although the right wing does not pose an immediate threat to the National Party's control of parliament, conservative gains are likely to continue because of the endemic violence and a stagnating economy. Continued dissension within the National Party over reforms, meanwhile, might enable the rightwing parties to persuade more of its legislators to defect over the coming years. The threat of defections may cause the National Party to modify its position on reforms and to adopt even harsher measures against nonwhite unrest.

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