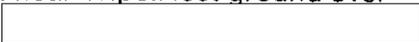
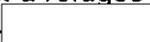




**PLO-SYRIA: Arafat Losing Ground**

Forces loyal to PLO Chairman Arafat near Tripoli lost ground over the weekend to pro-Syrian PLO groups.   
pro-Syrian forces have cut off the road between the loyalist camps at Beddawi and Nahr el-Bared, the second of which has fallen. Meanwhile, Syrian forces killed six individuals and wounded 17 during a demonstration in support of Arafat at a refugee camp outside Damascus, according to press reports. 

**Comment:** A loss or capitulation by Arafat to the pro-Syrian groups would enhance Syrian President Assad's influence in the Lebanese reconciliation talks and the broader peace process. Assad would be able to utilize the PLO forces loyal to him as political and military surrogates in Lebanon—possibly in terrorist operations.



**USSR:** 





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