



*The President's Daily Brief*

*9 May 1973*

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Exempt from general  
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652  
exemption category 5B(1),(2),(3)  
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

**TOP SECRET**

May 9, 1973

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TOP SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

**TOP SECRET**

May 8, 1973

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

LATE ITEM

Some fighting has resumed in Lebanon today. Press reports state that tank and machine-gun fire broke out near a refugee camp on the southern outskirts of Beirut.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

9 May 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Lebanese Army has reacted strongly against fedayeen who had breached the cease-fire, while negotiations with the guerrilla leadership continue. (Page 1)

The transfer of Libyan and Iraqi ground-attack aircraft to Egypt has upgraded the Arabs' capability to attack Israeli targets. (Page 2)

[redacted]  
the Chinese [redacted]

[redacted] (Page 3)

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Cambodia's four-man council is making little progress in forming a new cabinet. (Page 4)

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LEBANON-FEDAYEEN

The army yesterday reacted in strength against guerrillas in the Beirut area who breached the cease-fire and others who refused to surrender such "offensive" weapons such as rockets and mortars. Most areas outside the capital were quiet. Army units from the south have reinforced Beirut. Yet another cease-fire has been declared, and negotiations with the fedayeen leadership continue.

*The durability of the latest cease-fire depends on whether Yasir Arafat can keep most fedayeen from becoming embroiled in fighting incited by the guerrilla extremists. The government also faces the possibility that Communists and other leftists might join in the fight against the army.*

The Lebanese remain alarmed over Syria's intentions. Shortly before fighting resumed yesterday, [redacted] Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam warned President Franjiyah that Syria "could not ignore" any further action against the fedayeen. He is said also to have cautioned that Syrian armed forces might occupy some Lebanese territory if there

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[redacted] Syria's closure of the border and the call by Radio Damascus for the Lebanese people to join the guerrillas' fight have added to the government's concern.

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A report that a force, probably composed of Syrian regulars, entered Lebanon yesterday has not been confirmed. [redacted]

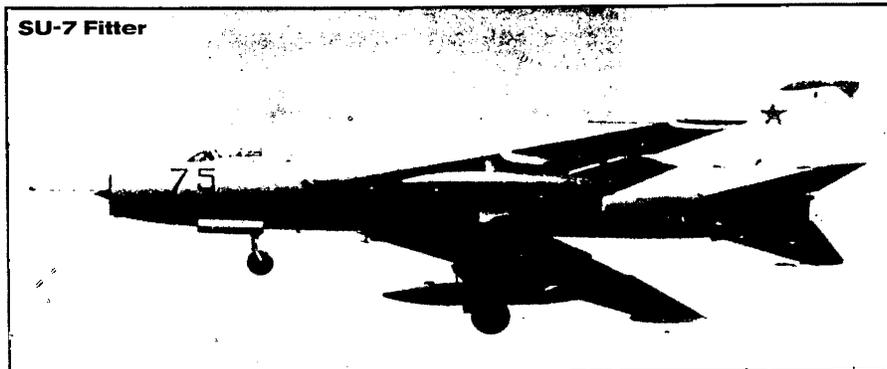
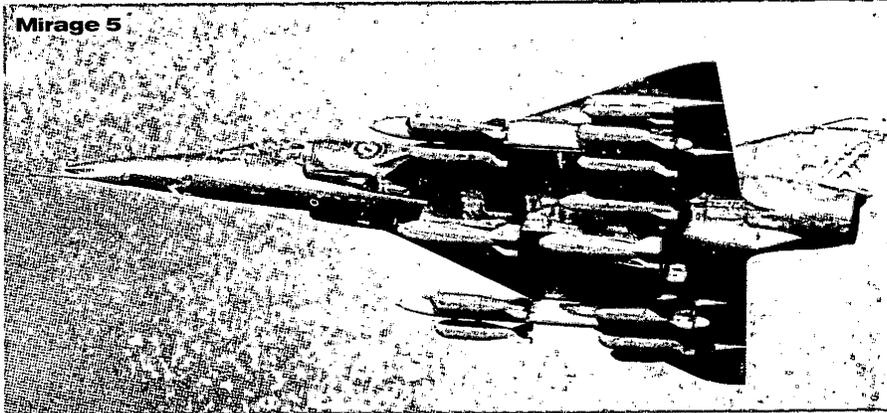
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### Ground Attack Aircraft in Egypt



#### Low Altitude Capabilities

|             | Combat radius | Payload   | Mission time |
|-------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|
| Mirage 5    | 265 nm        | 6,000 lbs | 1.3 hrs      |
| SU-7 Fitter | 75 nm         | 4,400 lbs | 0.4 hrs      |

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EGYPT

*The Arabs' capability to attack Israeli targets has been upgraded by the transfer of Libyan and Iraqi ground-attack aircraft to Egypt, but Israel's military superiority is not yet threatened.*

*About 30 Libyan Mirages and some 16 Iraqi Hawker Hunters were transferred to Egypt last month. Thus there are now a variety of aircraft in Egypt that can be used in a ground-attack role, including Soviet built SU-7 and SU-17 Fitters and MIG-17 Frescos. These are in addition to Egypt's 26 TU-16 medium bombers and some 15 IL-28 light bombers.*

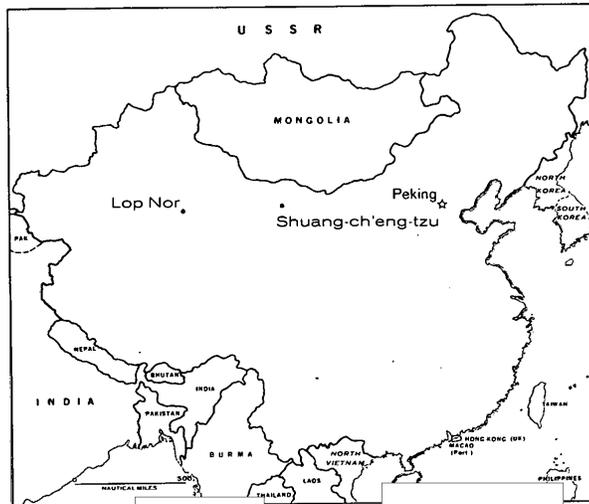
*The Mirage is the best of the ground-attack aircraft now in Egypt, particularly in range and in size and diversity of payload. Both the Mirage and the Fitter can reach targets in Israel proper, but only the Mirage can fly at the low altitudes required to penetrate Israeli defenses and still reach Israel with a sizable payload. At low altitudes, the Fitter would be restricted to operations over the Sinai.*

*The Hunters, which have about twice the payload of the MIG-17, would be useful in ground-attack missions close to the Suez Canal. In such a role, they would complement the MIGs as well as the Mirages and Fitters.*

*The Libyan Mirages are believed to be flown by Egyptians who have been training on them for over a year. These pilots appear to be capable of flying them in combat. The Hunters are piloted by Iraqis, and evidence suggests that their proficiency is low.*



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**CHINA**

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CAMBODIA

The ruling High Political Council is making little headway in forming a new cabinet. The appointment of a prime minister has been snarled by the Republican Party's advocacy of a political non-entity for the post.

The council and party representatives have made more progress on policy issues. They have agreed on the need for new elections but, rather than risk further dispute on this delicate subject, have deferred decision on the type and timing. On military matters, they have agreed to place the armed forces under civilian control, presumably through the prime minister's office.

The council reportedly has accepted Lon Nol's proposal to elevate Army Chief of Staff Sosthene Fernandez to the new post of commander in chief of the armed forces.

*The President's proposal seems to be a response to demands by the other council members that he reduce his substantial involvement in military affairs.*

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