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The President's Daily Brief

September 5, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

September 5, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Syria

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(Page 3)

Notes on Soviet minesweeping operations in Israeli-controlled waters

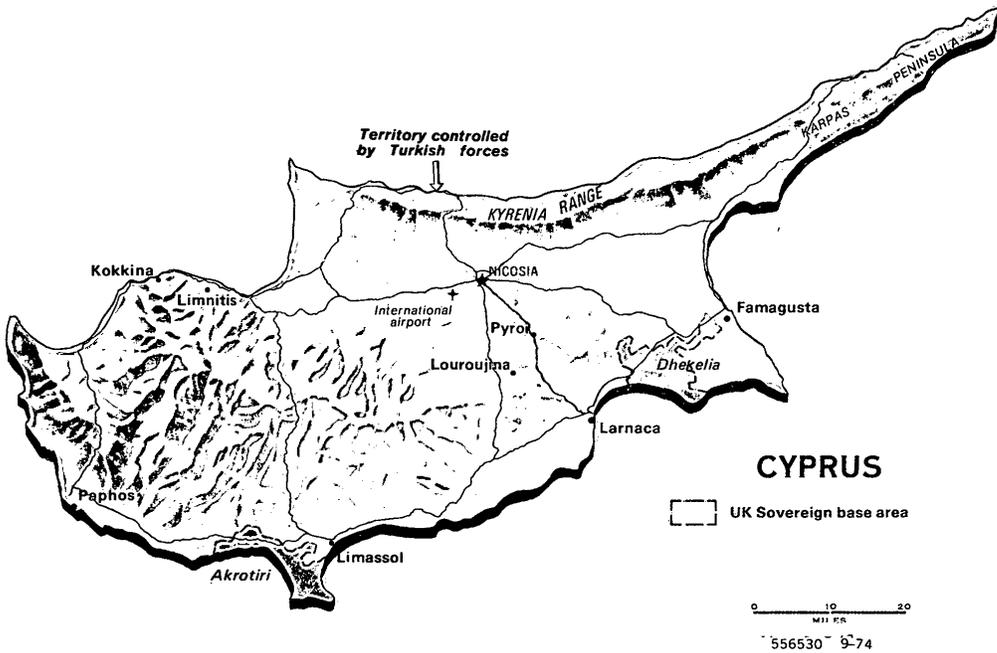
Romania

Iran Page 4.

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CYPRUS

The Greeks are showing some flexibility in their requirements for the opening of serious peace talks, but the Turks have thus far made no solid reciprocal gestures.

Prime Minister Karamanlis seems to have dropped his insistence that Turkish troops on Cyprus withdraw to positions they held before the last round of fighting, the so-called Attila line. The Greeks also seem to be prepared to accept a federation for the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities. Athens now appears to be emphasizing the need for Greek Cypriot refugees to return to their homes, especially in Famagusta.

Ankara has not rejected proposals that it withdraw its troops, which primarily would mean moving out of the area around Pyroi southeast of Nicosia and away from the perimeter of the British base at Dhekelia, but it has been noncommittal. The Turks appear to see withdrawal and refugee questions as bargaining points to be used once negotiations get under way.

Statements made by Prime Minister Ecevit suggest Turkey would be willing to withdraw at least to the Attila line, and Ecevit has even indicated that the boundary line is negotiable. Turkish forces have not permitted Turkish Cypriots into the deserted Greek sector of Famagusta.

Nevertheless, the Turks are keeping the pressure up. Over the past week, Turkish forces have moved farther beyond the cease-fire line and by Tuesday were reported to have moved as far as Limnitis on the northwest coast.

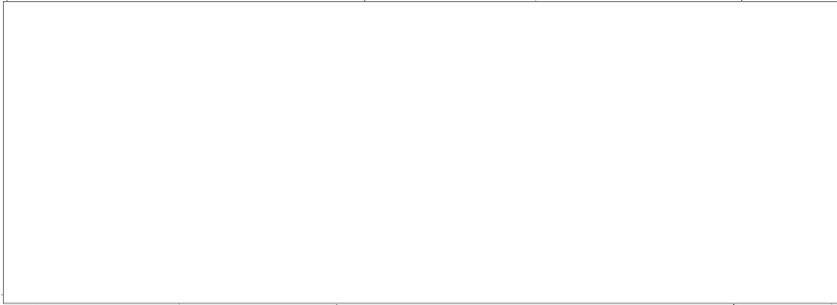
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In Turkey

There are growing signs of friction within the coalition government in Ankara that may explain Ecevit's unwillingness to make significant concessions. Ecevit may, however, be examining the political impact any concessions would have in the event he decides to call for early elections.

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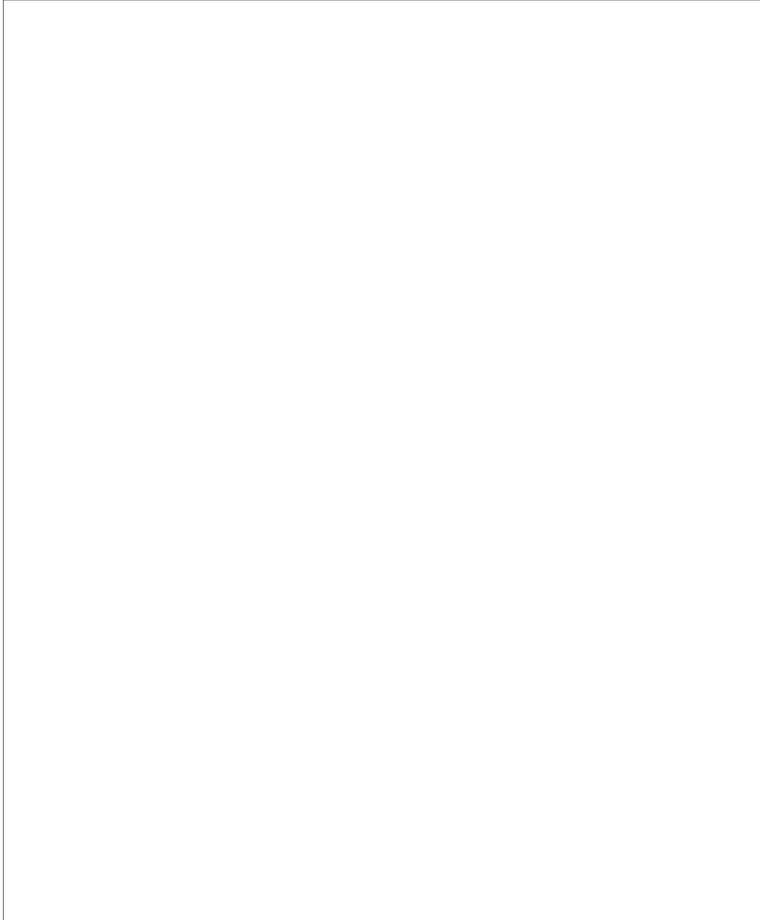
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SYRIA

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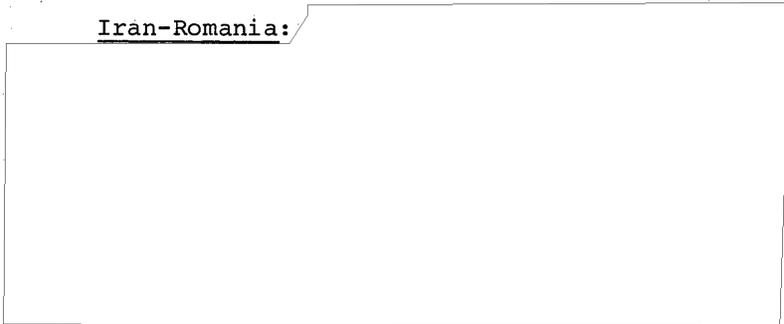
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NOTES

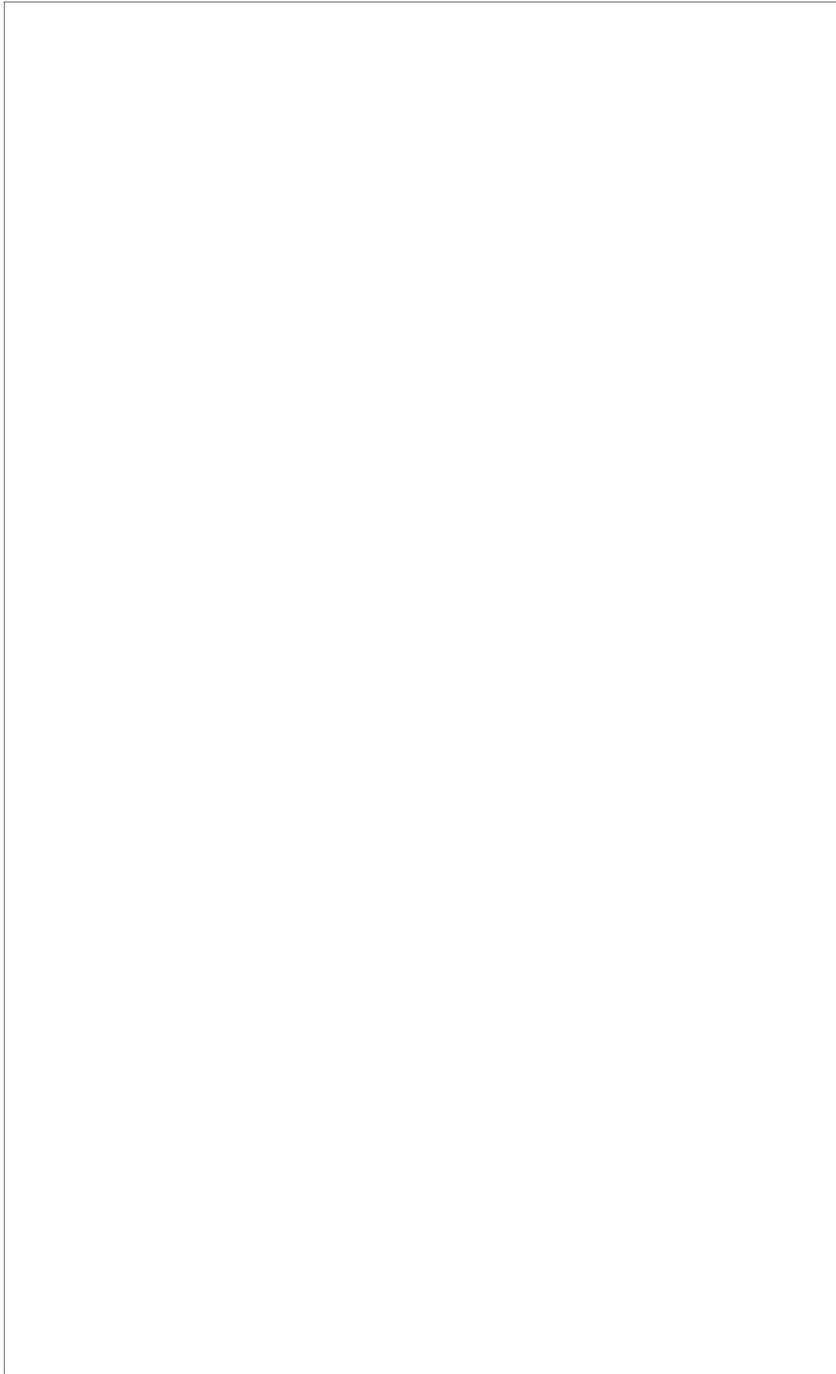
Israel-USSR-Egypt: Israel reportedly has agreed to let Soviet minesweepers clear the Israeli-controlled portion of the Strait of Gubal. The Egyptians presented the specifics of the proposed operation, including a mid-September completion date, to the Israelis through UN channels. Bad weather has kept the Soviet minesweepers idle this week, and may again postpone completion of the mine-clearing. Operations were delayed for about ten days in July and August because of weather conditions.

Iran-Romania:

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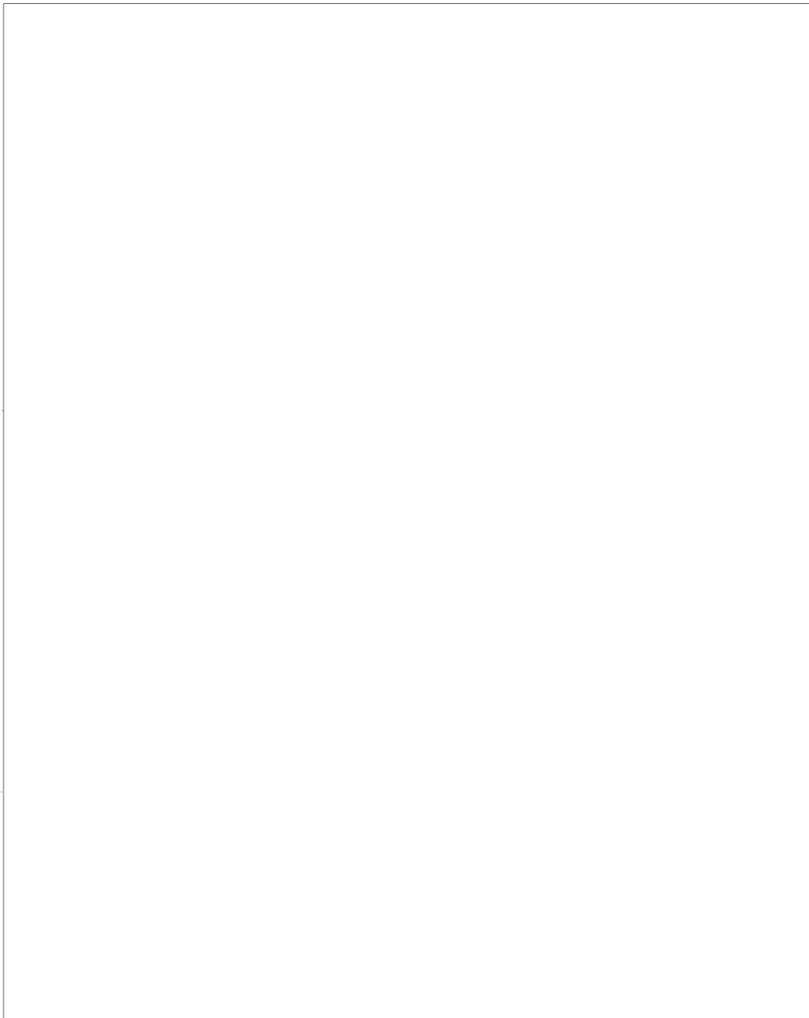
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