



The President's Daily Brief

September 24, 1974

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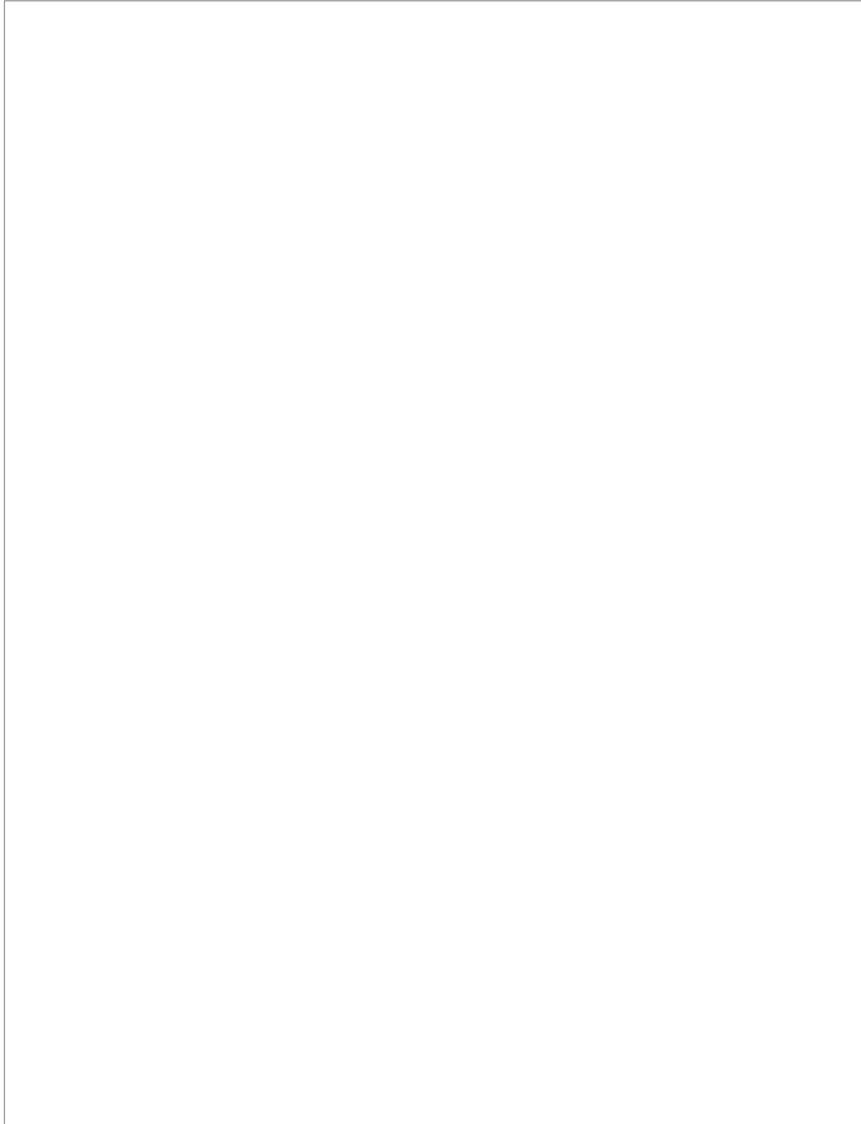
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SAUDI ARABIA

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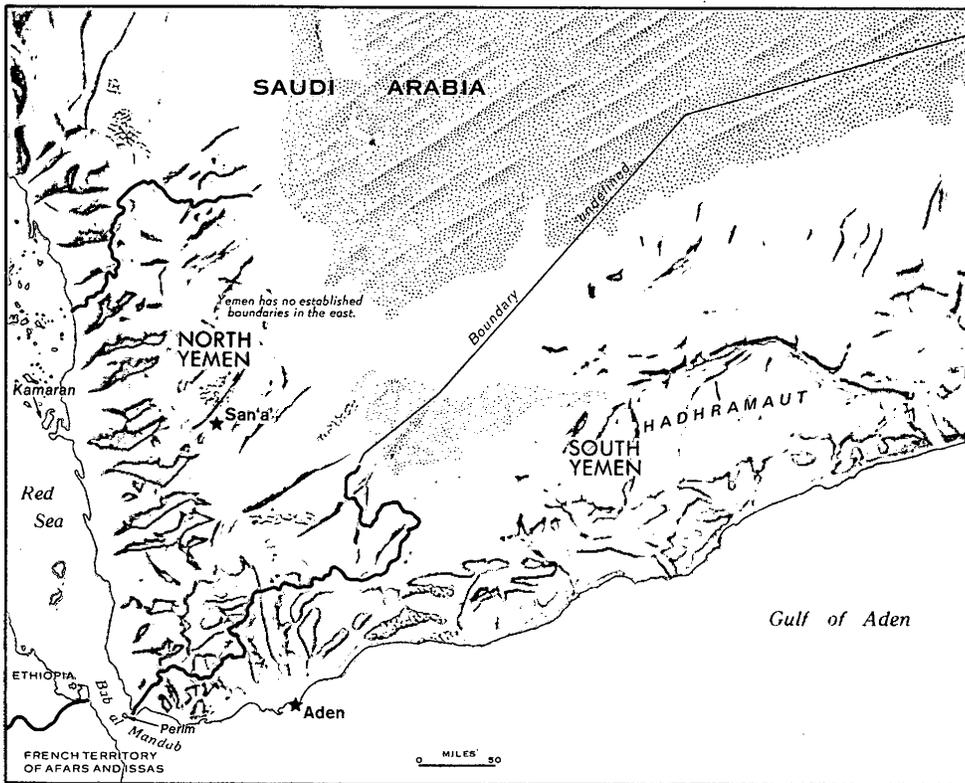


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IRAN-IRAQ





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EGYPT - SOUTH YEMEN - USSR



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The Egyptians, who are coordinating their strategy with Saudi Arabia, hope to diminish Soviet influence in South Yemen and exert a moderating influence there.

South Yemen, on its side, wants to attract both badly needed Saudi financial aid and Egyptian technical assistance. The South Yemenis may also hope this new arrangement will persuade the Saudis to stop supporting groups that launch raids into South Yemen from bases in Saudi Arabia.

The South Yemenis, however, may have misled the Egyptians about their willingness to loosen ties with Moscow. The Soviet Union is Aden's chief source of arms.

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From Moscow's point of view, Cairo's actions add another irritation to Egyptian-Soviet relations.

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At the same time, Moscow has been urging South Yemen to moderate its foreign policy somewhat. The Soviets presumably are anxious to forestall any efforts by conservative Arabs to oust the Marxist regime in South Yemen.

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MBFR

The fourth round of force reduction negotiations opens today in Vienna. Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko suggested last week that Moscow would make some new proposals in the talks. Most West European participants, however, believe there will be little progress during this round and advocate that the West not offer any concessions to the Soviets.

During a meeting [redacted]

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[redacted] last week, Gromyko said that only equal percentage reductions based on the present force relationship would be acceptable to Moscow, and objected to the West's concept of a common ceiling. The Soviet foreign minister added that the Soviets would take "new initiatives." [redacted]

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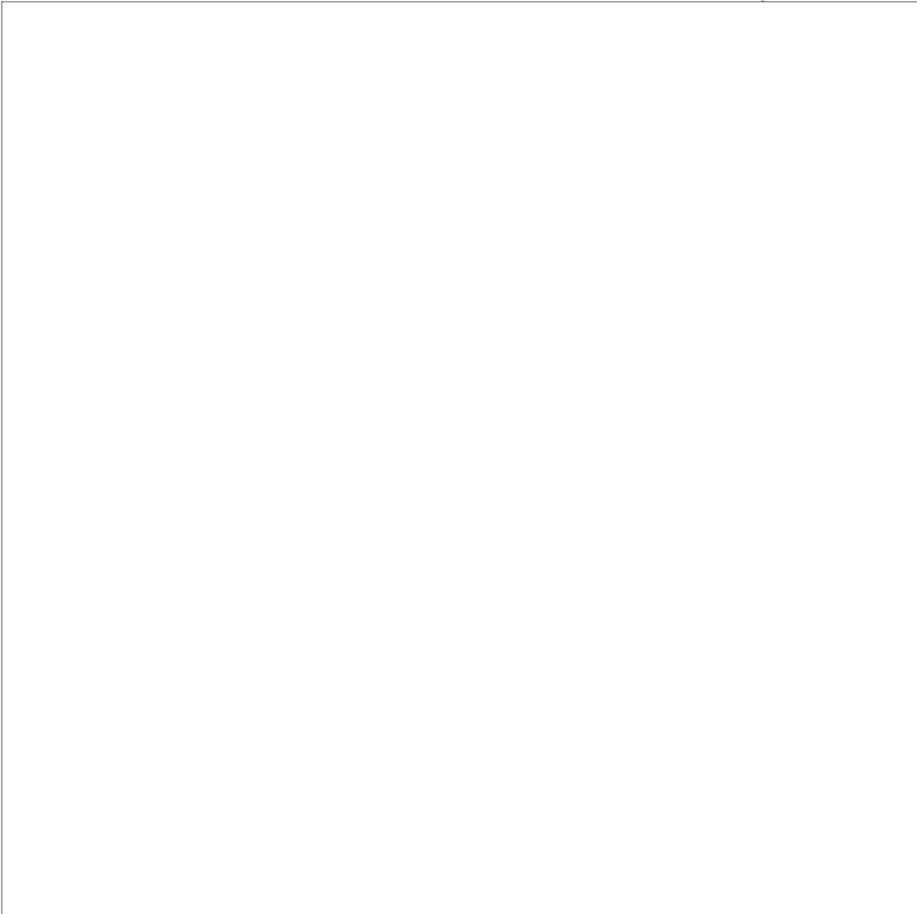
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Most of the other Western negotiators share the West German view that the Soviets will show little flexibility. The West Europeans apparently believe that the Soviets wish to continue to stall in Vienna until a firm date is agreed for the concluding phases of the European security conference. Moscow wants to conclude that conference with a summit meeting, and the course of the negotiations in Vienna and Geneva has shown that Moscow is reluctant to move in the force reduction talks until the West agrees to the summit meeting. The West Europeans presumably also believe that the Soviets will wish to assess further the new governments in Europe and the US before moving in Vienna.

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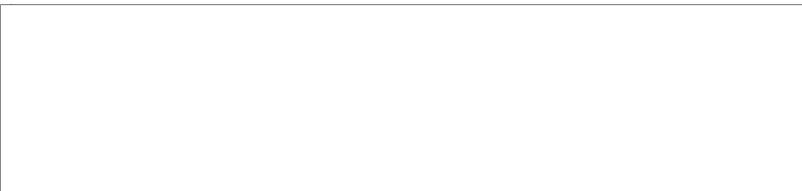
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NOTES

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Greece: The new civilian government took another step toward national elections yesterday when it lifted a ban on the Greek Communist Party. Last week the cabinet approved a new electoral law and a special law is in the works that will outline qualifications for political parties. Most reports indicate that Prime Minister Karamanlis will pick an election date in late November, allowing him to capitalize on his image as a returned hero and also getting the Greeks to the polls before the badly fragmented left can organize some sort of common front.

Ethiopia: Crown Prince Asfa Wossen's announcement of his willingness to return to Ethiopia and to become a constitutional monarch will force the military to define its views on the monarchy. The military designated the ailing Crown Prince as a figurehead successor to Haile Selassie about two weeks ago. It may have done so on the assumption that he would be unable or unwilling to return, and its announcement of his selection may have been a ploy to prepare the Ethiopian people for the gradual abolition of the monarchy. Meanwhile, the failure of university authorities in Addis Ababa to appear on the day of registration yesterday heightens the possibility of renewed student unrest.

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