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The President's Daily Brief

October 5, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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Table of Contents

Portugal: Dissension may be developing within the armed forces over the government's drift to the left. (Page 1)

Ethiopia: Troops moving into capital raise tensions as power struggle within military continues. (Page 2)

[Redacted] (Page 3)

25X1

France-Israel: [Redacted] (Page 4)

25X1

25X1

Vietnam: North Vietnamese infiltration to the south may increase soon. (Page 5)

25X1

Notes: France; Philippines; India; USSR-India; USSR-France (Pages 6 and 7)

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PORTUGAL

Dissension may be developing within the armed forces over the government's gradual drift to the left.

25X1

[redacted] a petition now being circulated in support of the former president has been signed by over 800 officers.

25X1

A similar petition surfaced in late August. It was supposed to back Spinola's position and gather support for disbanding the Armed Forces Movement Coordinating Committee. Spinola received the backing of a majority of the officers, but the Coordinating Committee has continued to operate. In fact, recent events have increased its influence.

Council of State legislation early this week made the Coordinating Committee part of the armed forces General Staff. The Movement will now be in a better position to override President Costa Gomes, who is chief of staff of the armed forces, on military policy. This development, along with Prime Minister Goncalves' take-over of the Defense Ministry, puts the left-leaning Movement in a strong position to control the military.

A further polarization between regular officers and Armed Forces Movement members is likely over the choice of a replacement for the former army chief of staff, who was one of the four junta members ousted last weekend. The regular officers, though they agree with the basic aims of the Movement's program, resent the promotions Movement members have had since the coup, as well as the increased politicization of the military.

The regular officers have not recovered from the shock of Spinola's resignation, and do not appear to have the organization necessary to challenge the Movement seriously. If they do not move soon, the Movement's control may become incontestable.

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ETHIOPIA

Troops supporting different military factions are moving into Ethiopia's capital, adding to tensions as the complex struggle for power within the military continues.

The ruling military committee held meetings Thursday and yesterday in an effort to avert a clash among its various contending factions. While it was meeting, additional troops of the 1st Division moved into Addis Ababa. The action, and other measures of military preparedness taken by the 1st Division, may be a show of force aimed at influencing the committee's decisions.

The 1st Division, until recently, had primary responsibility for protecting the royal family. It only belatedly joined the military committee [redacted] Some members of the 1st Division want to restructure the 120-man committee into a less cumbersome body.

25X1

In a showdown, 1st Division forces would be far superior to those of the other unit assigned to the capital--the 4th Division. The movement of other units into Addis Ababa may represent an effort by those opposed to the 1st Division to get troops into the capital to even the balance.

In addition to its serious factional disputes, the military must cope with unruly radical students who are agitating against a proposal that calls for them to perform two years of national service in the countryside.

The military held a meeting with students on Thursday to conciliate differences, but the affair ended in violence. The students are likely to hold demonstrations in the next few days calling for immediate civilian government, contributing further to tensions in the capital.

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USSR



25X1

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FRANCE-ISRAEL

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25X1

The Israeli visitor was said to be most interested in the supersonic Mirage F-1 fighter, but cautioned that Israeli leaders would have to weigh carefully Washington's probable reaction to any Israeli purchase of F-1s. Egypt and Kuwait reportedly have already bought some of these aircraft.

A major sale of fighters to Israel might cause political problems for France. Over recent years, good relations with the Arabs have come to be a basic aim of French foreign policy, because of the overriding concern to assure an adequate supply of oil.

Even during the embargo, however, the French avoided cutting off the Israelis completely. Tel Aviv managed to obtain a steady stream of spare parts for its French Mirage and Mystere aircraft, despite the embargo. Moreover, as a result of the recent visit by the Israeli chief of staff, Israel has ordered and is now receiving some replacement engines for its 60 Mirages.

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VIETNAM

Hanoi has not yet begun its seasonal infiltration of troops to South Vietnam's southern battlefronts, but the flow of manpower through the pipeline could increase soon.

Hanoi stopped sending troops to the central highlands and the southern half of the country last spring. During the summer months, however, the North Vietnamese maintained a flow of troops to the north-central coast of South Vietnam, where the Communists were conducting widespread attacks against government positions.

In September, Hanoi began moving troops to units along the infiltration network, suggesting that it was getting the system ready for heavier supply and troop movements. Hanoi generally begins infiltration to southern South Vietnam during October or November. Hanoi has significantly improved its capability for moving troops south over the past year or so and can now get them to the provinces around Saigon in as little as three weeks.

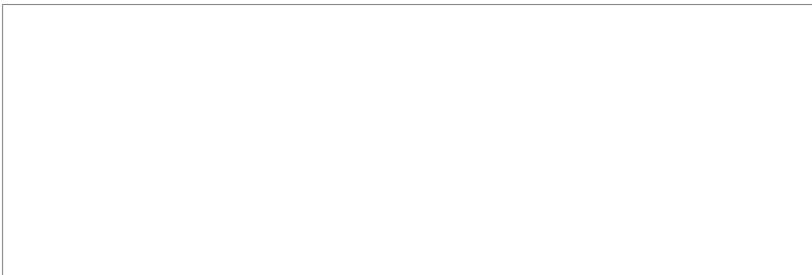
In mid-summer, Hanoi had enough men undergoing basic training to sustain at least a modest infiltration effort this fall and winter. The North Vietnamese, moreover, conducted a major countryside conscription drive during August and September; these new recruits may not be ready to infiltrate until next spring. According to one intercept, they are to receive nine months of training, rather than the four or six months normally given. A longer training period would be consistent with Hanoi's continuing campaign to strengthen its armed forces.

Hanoi could augment its forces in the South by sending some of the combat units in its large strategic reserve. There are no signs, however, that any of the six divisions in the reserve are preparing to move.

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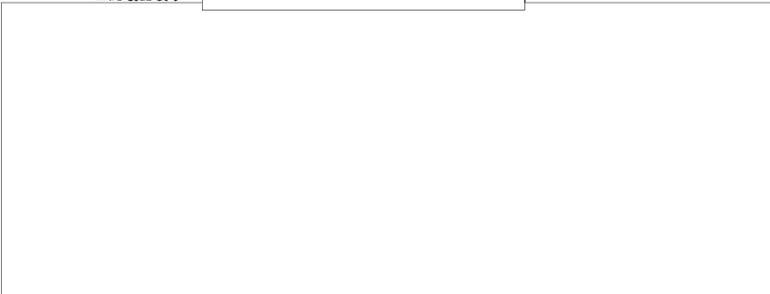
25X1



Philippines: President Marcos said yesterday that relations with Peking and Moscow would be normalized "as soon as possible." To follow up on Mrs. Marcos' visit to China in September, a Philippine mission will go to Peking this month. It is specifically charged with working out details of trade arrangements, but Marcos says it is empowered to negotiate on "any other matter." Marcos reiterated his intention of opening ties with the Chinese and Soviets simultaneously. He did not indicate that he intends to hold any comparable talks with Moscow, although the Soviets would certainly be receptive. Despite Marcos' implication of speedy action, he will probably continue to move gradually in respect to both Moscow and Peking.

25X1

India:



25X1

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USSR-India: The Soviet Union continues to refuse India's requests for food grain. Premier Kosygin did promise to look into the possibility of sending other commodities--primarily non-food--to India, even if this should require the diversion of shipments destined for other countries.

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USSR-France: The French have announced that General Secretary Brezhnev will visit France from December 5 to 7. A meeting at that time will fit the pattern of top-level visits (roughly two a year) that the two countries have exchanged since they signed a protocol on consultations in 1970. Past meetings have served mainly to uphold the appearance of an especially close relationship between the USSR and France. Brezhnev met with the late President Pompidou at a Black Sea resort last March. The December trip will be Brezhnev's first personal encounter with President Giscard d'Estaing since Giscard assumed office.

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