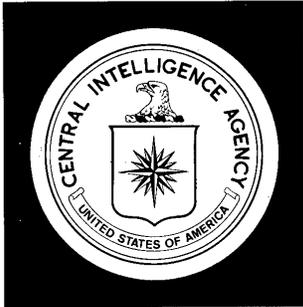


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The President's Daily Brief

October 14, 1974

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ISRAEL-SYRIA



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UN-PLO

The draft resolution inviting the Palestine Liberation Organization to participate in UN General Assembly plenary discussions of the Palestine issue has been scheduled for consideration by the assembly today.

The Arab group managing the resolution's presentation is reported to be confident of gaining at least 80 or 85 votes. The group has therefore agreed to move the resolution to a vote as soon as possible by limiting the number of supporting speeches to eight and waving the right to respond to Israel's reply.

Both the Arab and Israeli delegations are lobbying heavily for support, particularly among West European states. The Israelis, estimating that some 40 states will abstain or vote against the resolution, are trying to increase this tally and shift some of the abstentions to the opposed column. Israel's delegate has been optimistic that most of the West Europeans would abstain



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INDIA

Prime Minister Gandhi's cabinet reshuffle on October 10, according to the US embassy in New Delhi, was designed to put her more competent ministers in charge of the critical economic portfolios. Foreign policy considerations did not appear to play a role.

The basic ideological, regional, and religious composition of the cabinet remains the same, as does the apparent political influence of the senior cabinet members. Whether Mrs. Gandhi will give her new economic ministers the leeway and political support they will need to introduce effective economic policies remains a crucial unanswered question.

The cabinet reshuffle is modest enough to permit Mrs. Gandhi to call a snap election early next year. The embassy concludes that it is still possible--but not likely--that economic and political factors will move the Prime Minister to decide that the Congress Party's chances will be better in 1975 than in 1976.

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NOTES

USSR: Soviet Communist Party slogans for the 57th anniversary of the October Revolution published on Saturday contain strong plugs for detente, including "People of the world! Struggle to make international detente irreversible." An editorial in Pravda on Saturday reviewing developments during the ten years since the October plenum that ousted Khrushchev, singled out the "positive turn in relations" with Washington as "a significant world event which has considerably improved the international climate as a whole."

West Germany - Portugal: Former West German chancellor and Social Democratic Party chairman Willy Brandt will make a "semi-state visit" to Portugal beginning October 19. Brandt will meet with top Portuguese government leaders during his three-day visit, which is in response to an invitation from Portuguese Foreign Minister and Socialist party leader Mario Soares. Brandt will probably deliver a message from Chancellor Schmidt, but no promise of material aid is expected to be included.

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