



The President's Daily Brief

November 22, 1974

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~~*Top Secret*~~



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

November 23, 1974*

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*Information as of noon EST November 22, 1974.

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MIDDLE EAST

*UN Secretary General Waldheim will leave
New York today for Damascus, Cairo, and
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GREECE

The new government formed by Prime Minister Karamanlis is made up of older technicians and veteran politicians drawn only from his New Democracy Party.

It is a cabinet unlikely to challenge Karamanlis' authority. Holdovers from the previous cabinet include Foreign Minister Bitsios, a career diplomat, and Minister of Defense Averoff and Minister of Public Order Gikas, both of whom have good relations with the military. The key economic ministries are held either by technicians or by politicians without previous ministerial experience; this suggests that Karamanlis will take the lead in this area.

The opposition parties that Karamanlis defeated so handily have fallen to bickering with one another. The communist United Left and former foreign minister George Mavros' coalition claim that Andreas Papandreou's new Panhellenic Socialist Movement stole their constituency on the left. Papandreou's group, which received 13 percent of the vote, has accused the others of contributing to New Democracy's victory by giving Karamanlis moral support.

The US embassy believes that Papandreou's reckless rhetoric during the final week of the campaign drove undecided middle class voters into the Karamanlis camp. Papandreou's political future does not seem promising; his constituency is now almost exclusively among students, radicalized workers, and intellectuals.

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USSR-IRAN

The joint statement issued following the Shah's departure from Moscow on Wednesday indicates the two countries failed to narrow their differences on some basic issues.

The key to this is the "spirit of frankness" said to have characterized the exchange of opinions on the Near and Middle East situation. We think this formulation applies specifically to the Kurdish conflict and resultant Iraqi-Iranian frictions.

The Shah endorsed detente, early resumption of the Middle East peace conference, and Soviet efforts to set up an Asian security system. The Soviets, in turn, agreed with the Iranians that questions pertaining to the Persian Gulf should be solved by the countries of the area.

Bilateral cooperation in economic and scientific matters received positive treatment, but no details were given beyond the statement that agreement in principle was reached on certain "big cooperation projects."

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NOTES

Middle East:

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Cyprus: Acting President Clerides announced in London on November 21 that he will meet with Archbishop Makarios and Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis in Athens between November 28 and 30. Clerides also said that Makarios will return to Cyprus the first week in December. In Athens, the three men will discuss Makarios' return to Cyprus, the negotiations, and what role Clerides will play in negotiations.

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Japan:

[Redacted]

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