

*Notes by DCI
5-29-74*



The President's Daily Brief

May 29, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

May 29, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted]

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Prime Minister - designate Rabin's proposed cabinet is likely to be approved by the Israeli parliament, perhaps within a week. (Page 2)

[Redacted]

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Khmer Communist "defense minister" Khieu Samphan appears to have achieved closer ties with the Chinese and their agreement to provide arms aid to Cambodia. (Page 5)

Some of the Turkish armed forces were put on standby alert over the weekend. It may be an exercise, but could also be a warning to the Greeks. (Page 6)

West German [Redacted] (Page 7)

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[Redacted]

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A sizable number of Cuban pilots are training South Yemenis to fly Soviet MIGs. (Page 9)

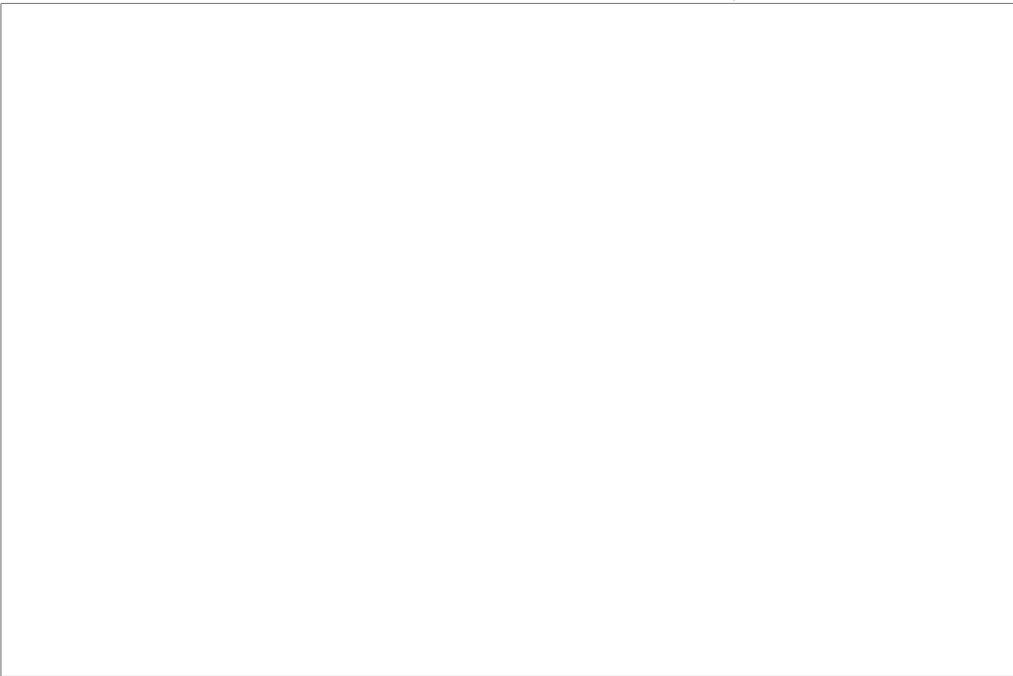
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Fighting on the Golan Heights was at a low level yesterday. (Page 10)

The Soviets are conducting extensive naval exercises. (Page 10)

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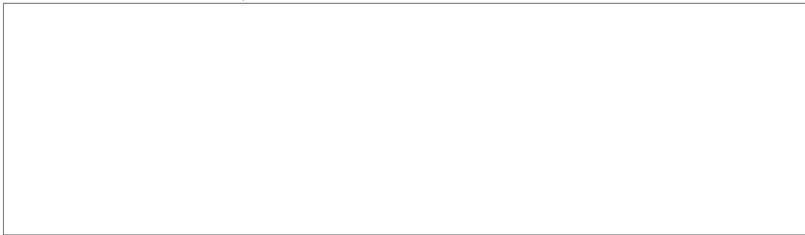
USSR



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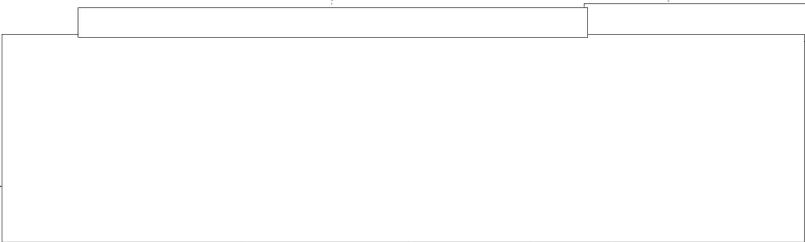
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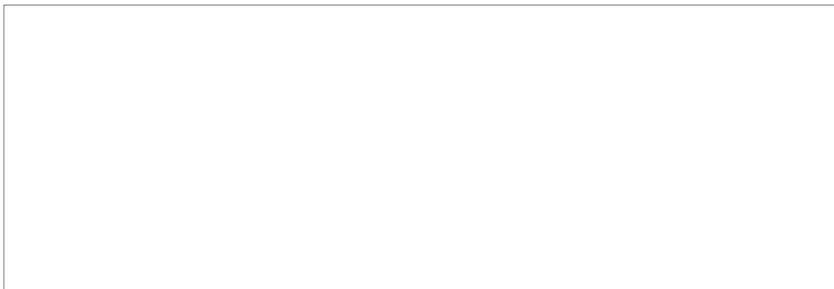


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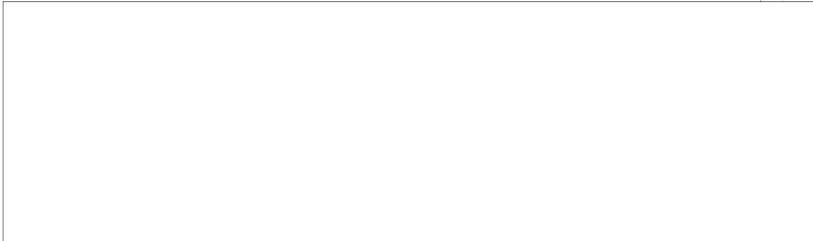
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ISRAEL

Prime Minister - designate Rabin should have no trouble securing parliamentary approval of his proposed cabinet, probably within a week.

Rabin last night informed President Katzir that he had succeeded in putting together a cabinet to replace that of Prime Minister Meir. Shortly before, his Labor Party Executive Bureau and the Labor Alignment Knesset faction voted, after a stormy session, to approve the new line-up.

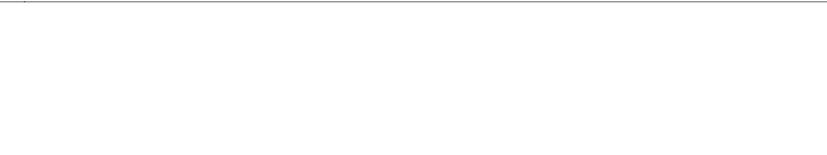


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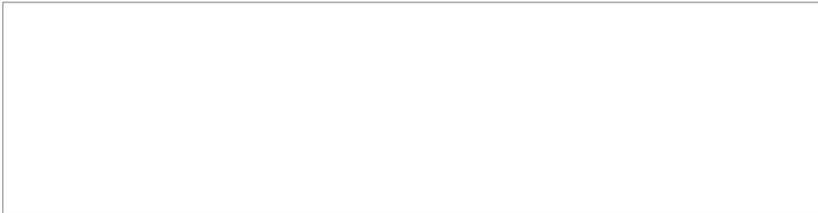
Fifteen of Rabin's proposed 20-member cabinet are hold-overs from Mrs. Meir's outgoing government,



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Rabin is not expected to alter significantly the policies of Mrs. Meir's government.

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NORTHERN IRELAND

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CAMBODIA-CHINA

Ranking Khmer Communist leader Khieu Samphan is preparing to return to Cambodia after apparently successful talks with Chinese leaders, which appear to have aligned the Khmer Communists more clearly and firmly with China. Samphan declared that Peking was "our most reliable and solid rear area" and in the joint communiqué issued before his departure for Hanoi on May 27 unstintingly praised Chinese leadership and policies.

While not ignoring Sihanouk entirely, the communiqué played down his role in the "struggle." Sihanouk apparently was not present during the substantive discussions in Peking. Peking's treatment of Samphan has made it clear that it sees him as playing a major role in a future settlement.

There was no sign in the communiqué, however, that Peking anticipates any early solution in Cambodia. The document reiterated Chinese calls for an end to US "aggression" in Cambodia and the withdrawal of US support to the "Lon Nol clique" in order to enable the Cambodians to resolve their differences independently. This long-held Chinese position stops short of prescribing a military solution and suggests that Peking has not yet excluded a negotiated settlement.

The communiqué disclosed that an aid agreement has been signed providing for "gratis" Chinese military equipment and supplies to the insurgents. The Chinese first signed a separate military aid agreement with Sihanouk's "government" on January 13, 1973. Shortly after the Vietnam cease-fire was signed in Paris, however, Sihanouk claimed that Chou En-lai had told him that the agreement precluded any further direct Chinese materiel assistance to the Khmer Communists. Instead, Sihanouk said, the Chinese would give the insurgents money to buy arms.

The conclusion of the 1974 military aid agreement so late in the year could mean that the level of Chinese support will be low. The pact probably resulted from increased Khmer Communist pressure for support, especially in light of what the insurgents consider to be continued heavy US assistance to the Lon Nol government.

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GREECE-TURKEY

Selected elements of the Turkish armed forces apparently went on "standby alert" over the weekend. Although the alert may be related to operational readiness inspections scheduled for this week or to pending exercises, it could also be an outgrowth of the dispute between Turkey and Greece over oil rights in the Aegean.

[redacted] that activities of an alert nature took place at three Turkish air bases on May 25 and 26. [redacted] that a tank regiment was issued ammunition on May 26 and had taken up camouflaged positions. In addition, gendarmerie units in Ankara reportedly were placed on an increased state of readiness.

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The alert is not a general one and may stem in part from exercises under way or scheduled. Press reports from Ankara indicate that Turkish military units were scheduled to begin exercising in the Aegean yesterday. The coming CENTO exercise, "Shahbaz," which will involve Turkish, Iranian, and Pakistani air forces, could also account for some of the activity.

Nevertheless, Ankara may be taking precautionary measures in response to bellicose statements made in recent weeks by the Greek press, as well as reports of Greek troop movements. Turkey may also be demonstrating a willingness to back up with military force, if necessary, its intent to explore the Aegean.

The Greek note delivered to Ankara on May 23 suggested that Athens might be prepared to talk about arrangements for holding discussions on the Aegean problem. Greek Foreign Minister Tetenes, however, told Ambassador Tasca yesterday that Athens saw no chance for direct contact before the NATO conference in Ottawa or the Law of the Sea Conference set for next month.

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WEST GERMANY

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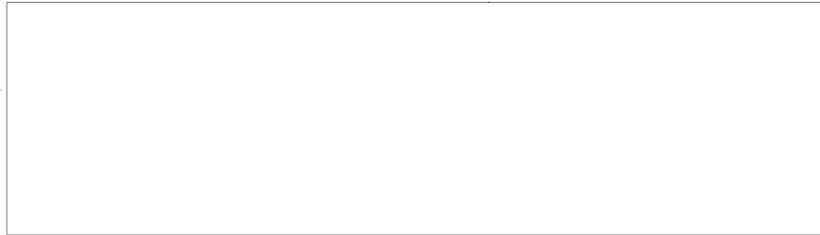
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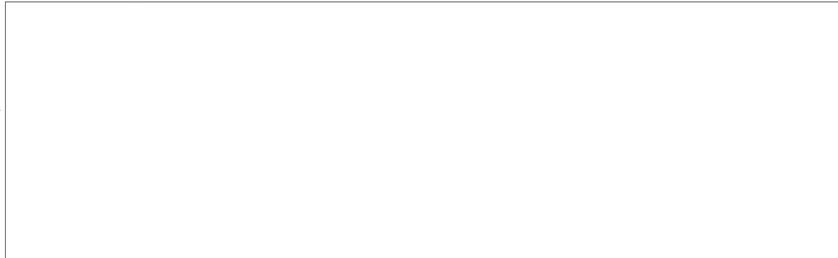
USSR - WARSAW PACT



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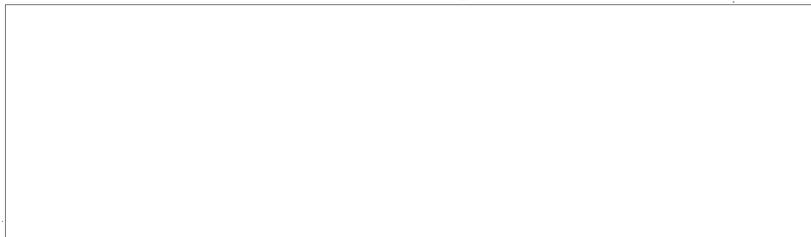


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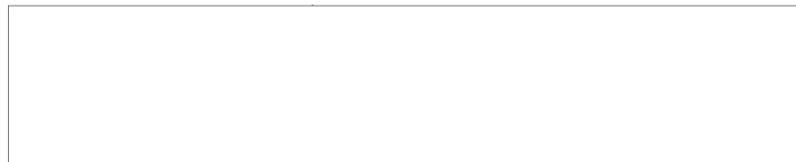


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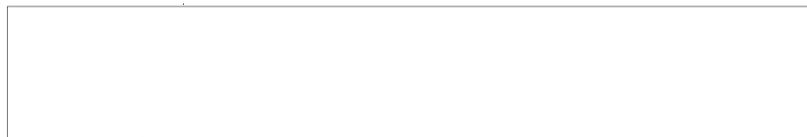
SOUTH YEMEN - CUBA



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Soviet Naval Exercises



NOTES

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[Redacted] US naval personnel in Egypt have reported that security measures were to be increased along the Suez Canal yesterday.

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[Redacted] Egypt has increased its state of military readiness on previous occasions when fearful that Israel was undertaking unusual military activity.

Israel-Syria-Lebanon: Fighting was at a low level yesterday on the Golan front, with only sporadic exchanges of tank and artillery fire. The Israelis shelled fedayeen positions near Mount Hermon, and exchanged fire with Lebanese units in southern Lebanon. Israeli aircraft flew several reconnaissance missions over southern Lebanon.

USSR: The Soviets are now conducting extensive naval exercises in both the Norwegian Sea and the northwest Pacific. These are consistent with the Soviet practice in recent years of annually conducting a series of brief, sharply focused exercises, instead of just two or three large exercises.

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