



The President's Daily Brief

August 14, 1975

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PORTUGAL

Portuguese security chief General Otelo de Carvalho, one of the members of the ruling triumvirate, yesterday criticized both factions in the struggle for power between pro-communist Prime Minister Goncalves and dissident officers in the Armed Forces Movement. Instead of taking sides, he offered his own radical plan for putting the "revolution" back on course.

We do not yet have enough information to estimate whether Carvalho sees his plan primarily as a vehicle for taking power himself or as an alternative program to which all the warring factions of the Movement could rally. Carvalho's populist approach was to revive the idea of undercutting both the Communist and non-communist political parties with popular organizations avowedly intended to forge "direct links" between the military and the people. A similar proposal, when advocated by the armed forces general assembly in July, was widely criticized and was a major factor contributing to the Socialists' withdrawal from the coalition government. Their withdrawal, in turn, precipitated the present crisis.

Carvalho, who many of the dissidents thought was on their side, will probably divide the Movement even further by suggesting an alternative plan and complicate Portugal's effort to sort itself out politically. His move, no matter what its motives, will sap the dissidents' backing.

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From all indications, the dissidents led by former foreign minister Antunes are still collecting signatures for their petition. [redacted] the dissidents have not yet presented their petition to President Costa Gomes, as had been reported. If the dissidents do not make their move soon, they are likely to lose the momentum that still appears to be in their favor. Support is coming even from unexpected sources. The Lisbon light artillery regiment, considered the most radical unit in Portugal, split, for example, between supporters of the manifesto and those against it.

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These divided loyalties within the military will make public order all the more difficult to maintain. Rival civilian demonstrations are scheduled in Lisbon today. One extreme left-wing group that uses anti-American slogans to attract support is sponsoring a march that will terminate at the US embassy.

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PHILIPPINES - NORTH VIETNAM

President Marcos has formally apologized to the United States for the joint communiqué of August 7 establishing diplomatic relations with Hanoi. Marcos said that the Philippine representative had no authority to sign the communiqué, and it is therefore invalid.

The communiqué includes a Philippine promise not to let the US use Philippine territory "to oppose the Vietnamese people." It also affirms that all property belonging to the former Saigon government should be returned to the new communist regime.

Marcos has told Ambassador Sullivan that the Philippine ambassador in Paris will inform his Vietnamese counterpart that Manila regards the communiqué as invalid and that negotiations for diplomatic relations are to continue on the status quo ante. Marcos said Manila will advise its partners in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations about what has happened, and he is ready to assure the US that no former South Vietnamese equipment will be returned to Vietnam. The North Vietnamese have already used the communiqué to criticize Thai refusal to return such equipment.

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NOTE

Cambodia has named two more leading communists who reside inside the country as deputy prime ministers, further eroding the position of Prince Sihanouk and his supporters in the leadership structure.

According to an announcement from Radio Phnom Penh, widely traveled Ieng Sary, who probably holds a top position in the Khmer Communist Party, has been named deputy prime minister for foreign affairs. Foreign Minister Sarin Chhak, who is a Sihanouk loyalist and is based in Peking, formerly handled most foreign contacts for the new communist regime. Ieng Sary will head a Cambodian delegation to the foreign ministers conference of nonaligned countries to be held in Peru in late August

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Sarin Chhak will serve as his deputy. Son Sen, a member of the central committee of the Khmer Communist Party and former chief of staff of the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces, is the new deputy prime minister for national defense affairs.

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