

The President's Daily Brief

January 5, 1976

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Top Secret

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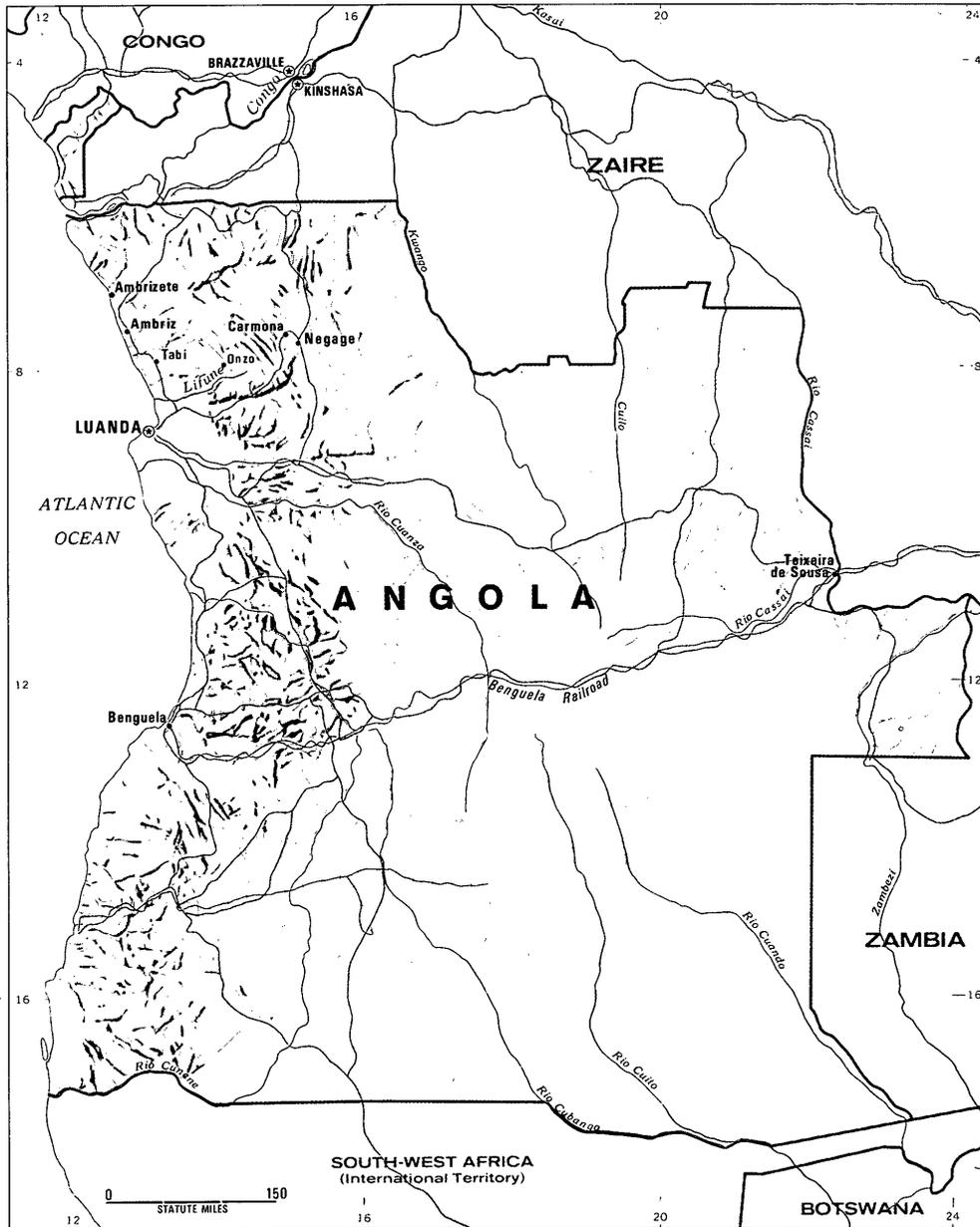
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ANGOLA



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ANGOLA

Popular Movement forces scored significant military gains against the National Front over the weekend.

Carmona, the National Front's second largest operational base in northern Angola, reportedly was captured on Saturday by the Popular Movement. Earlier in the day, Movement troops backed by T-34 tanks and multiple rocket launchers had captured Negage, the key outpost in Carmona's southern defense perimeter.

Popular Movement forces also are making steady progress toward Ambriz. During the weekend they pushed National Front forces from two outer defense positions at Onzo and Tabi.

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No new developments have been reported from the eastern front, where heavy fighting between the Popular Movement and the National Union was taking place late last week near Teixeira de Sousa.

The Front has suffered a serious military and psychological blow from the fall of Carmona. The Front now can be expected to try to recapture the base before the beginning of the Organization of African Unity's emergency summit on Thursday. Any further erosion of the Front's military position will strengthen the Popular Movement's claim that the Front cannot exercise effective military and political control in its own tribal region, and therefore is not entitled to be recognized by the OAU or any of its members as a legitimate nationalist organization.

* * *

The Soviet Kotlin-class destroyer that arrived in Conakry, Guinea, on December 29 left there on Friday and is moving south. The ship presumably is heading toward the vicinity of Angola and could arrive before mid-week. Meanwhile, the last of the Soviet heavy transports that flew to West Africa in the past ten days has returned to the USSR.

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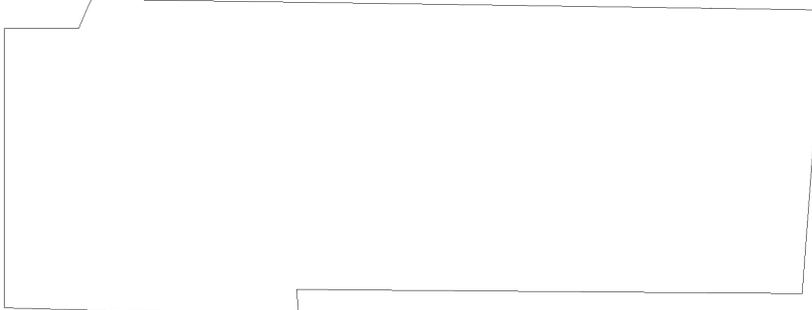
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THAILAND

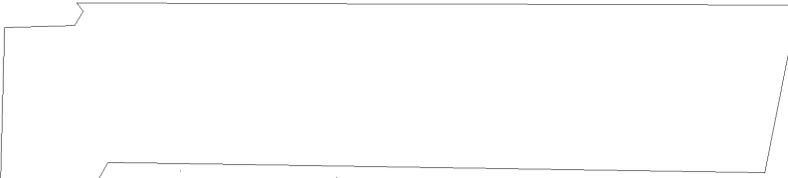
A strike by workers protesting price increases in rice and sugar has begun to pick up momentum, but has not become the general strike predicted by labor leaders. Its success may be determined today, the first full working day since the New Year holidays.

Labor leaders are demanding that the government freeze prices at current levels. The government's agreement to postpone the price increases until January 15 will likely harden the resolve of labor leaders to continue the work stoppage. They already have threatened unspecified "stronger" action if the government declares a state of emergency or dismisses the workers.

We have some evidence that Prime Minister Khu-krit's political opponents have seized upon the price issue to undermine his government. They claim they have enough votes to bring down the government when the National Assembly convenes in special session sometime this week.



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NOTE

The USSR, in an apparent effort to show compliance with the provisions of the European security conference accord, yesterday announced plans to hold a military exercise near the Turkish border from January 25 to February 6.

This is the first Soviet notification of an exercise under the terms of the "confidence-building measures" called for in the CSCE document and carefully follows the conference guidelines on the subject. Still apparently undecided in Moscow, however, is whether to invite observers from the CSCE signatory states.

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