



The President's Daily Brief

May 7, 1976

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 25X1

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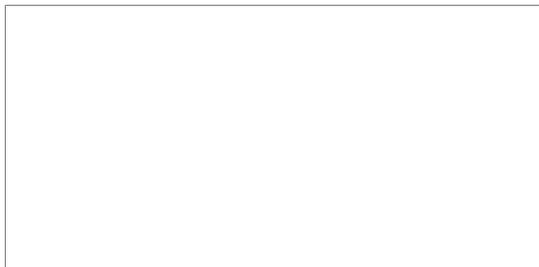
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LEBANON: *Leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt yesterday requested a postponement of the presidential election scheduled for tomorrow. Jumblatt, who has already caused a week's delay, again cited Syrian interference in the campaign as his reason for wanting to put off the election.*

The general mood in parliament is to proceed with the vote if security appears adequate.



This eleventh-hour pressure may persuade Jumblatt not to disrupt the convocation of parliament, but he probably will not participate himself.

Jumblatt has virtually no chance of getting the Syrians to withdraw their support from Ilyas Sarkis. Sarkis can now count on close to a majority of the votes in parliament.

The success or failure of Jumblatt's move to postpone elections depends largely on whether the Syrians and Palestinians can enforce the uneasy cease-fire in Beirut. Troops of the Palestine Liberation Army have enlarged the buffer zone between warring factions in the capital, and, for the time being, have silenced the heavy artillery of both Christians and Muslims.

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CHINA: *Since the ouster of former vice premier Teng Hsiao-ping, incidents of violence such as occurred in Peking on April 5 are reported to have been fairly widespread throughout China. The debate in Peking over Teng's fate and related issues has exacerbated long-standing local tensions.*

The disruptions, although far less severe than during the Cultural Revolution and the campaign in 1974 to criticize Lin Piao, have prompted Peking to issue at least two central directives on the subject and numerous orders to tighten discipline and increase vigilance against sabotage.

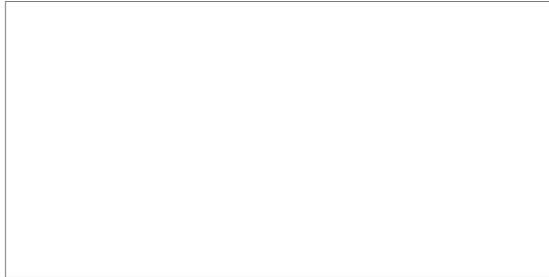
Provincial broadcasts have implied, and at least three have admitted, that incidents similar to the riot

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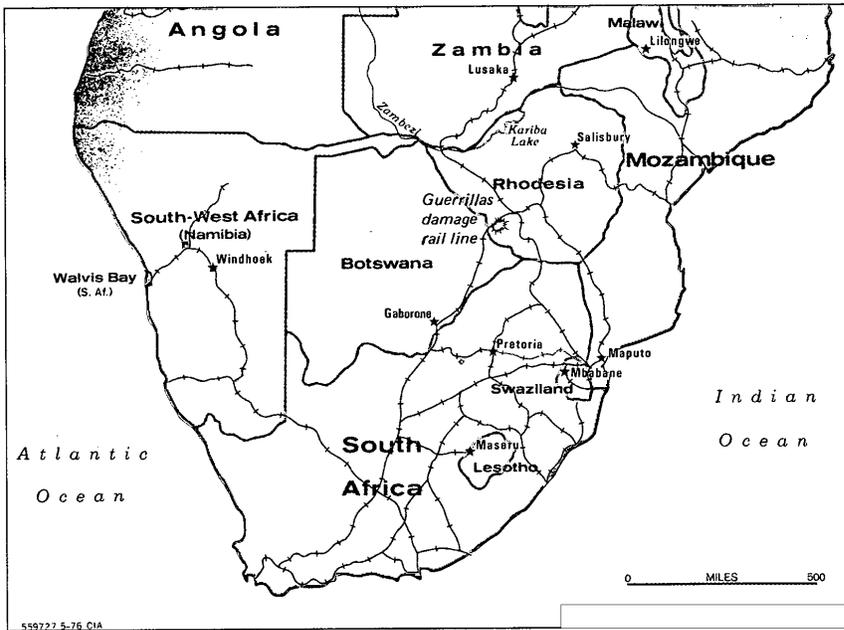
in Peking have taken place in the provinces. The most serious disruptions appear to have occurred in Fukien--the coastal province facing Taiwan.



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USSR-CUBA: *General Secretary Brezhnev and senior party ideologist Suslov met with Cuban First Deputy Prime Minister Raul Castro several times this week in Moscow.*

Castro represented Cuba at Marshal Grechko's funeral late last month and stayed on for talks. The Soviets described the meetings as "cordial and comradely"--a formulation often used to suggest some disagreement--but shed no light on the substance of the talks.



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NOTES

Rhodesia's secondary rail line linking the country with Botswana and South Africa reportedly has been damaged by guerrillas.

A communique released by the Smith government said that the rail line was sabotaged yesterday near the Botswana border but that the minor damage was repaired without disrupting traffic. There have been no previous indications of any 25X1 guerrilla activity in this area.



* * *

Panama allowed the two US tuna boats that were confined in the Canal Zone for over a week to leave unmolested Wednesday night.

Torrijos followed through on his reported decision to let the boats purchase retroactive licenses based on tonnage for about \$20,000 each rather than fine them \$100,000.

The payment permits the boats to fish in Panamanian waters for six months. Torrijos is now faced with the delicate problem of explaining his actions to the Panamanian public.

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India and Pakistan are scheduled to open talks on May 12 in Islamabad.

The discussions will cover the possible restoration of diplomatic relations, the resumption of transportation links, and a review of trade and shipping agreements.

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Morocco	
Western Sahara	

Rabat [redacted] conducted sweeps 25X1
 against the guerrillas recently in
 southern Morocco. [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] sporadic Polisario
 raids are continuing in that area,
 indicating that Rabat's efforts
 fell short there [redacted]

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*Some Egyptian pilots
 may receive training
 soon in Iran.*

[redacted] President Sadat is
 known to have asked the Iranians 25X1
 to provide training on US-made
 fighters and C-130 transports.

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