



The President's Daily Brief

July 22, 1976

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~~Top Secret~~ 25X1

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July 22, 1976

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LEBANON: Syrian President Asad warned the Palestinians in a public address Tuesday night that Syria would not withdraw from Lebanon unless asked to do so by President Franjyah or "other legal Lebanese authorities." Asad's speech is the strongest and most explicit public affirmation to date of Syrian policy in Lebanon.

In an apparent rebuttal to assertions that the Christians are attempting to partition the country, Asad stated that some Palestinian leaders are trying to set up a "North Palestine" in southern Lebanon.

Although angry over the speech, Palestinian leaders reportedly decided to send Faruq Qaddumi to Damascus to see Asad. Qaddumi was en route to Syria on Tuesday when he was abruptly recalled to Beirut.

According to the leftist-controlled Beirut radio, Qaddumi accompanied a small delegation led by Libyan Prime Minister Jallud that left for Syria yesterday. The delegation reportedly has instructions only to "listen and transmit."

In the wake of Asad's speech, there is little likelihood that Jallud's group will even try to break the present stalemate. Moreover, the Palestinians plan to issue a formal response today to Asad's speech which may further obstruct efforts to start a dialogue.

An agreement between Christian and Palestinian leaders to establish a buffer zone between the Muslim and Christian sectors of Beirut was partially implemented yesterday when a Saudi contingent of the Arab security force took up positions at the major cross-over point.

By late yesterday some Beirut citizens were venturing across the line.

Heavy fighting at Tall Zatar refugee camp yesterday prevented the scheduled evacuation of wounded. The most intense clashes yesterday were in central Lebanon where Christian forces are trying to recapture three villages that have been under Palestinian and leftist control for months.

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Two local employees of the US embassy in Damascus who were carrying official pouches to Beirut were seized at a checkpoint near Marj Ayun manned by members of the renegade Lebanese Arab Army. The pouches were reportedly opened and the men interrogated and beaten. 25X1

U-2 photography [redacted] showed that construction was continuing on what appear to be two airstrips in areas in southern Lebanon that are controlled by leftist forces.

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The strip near Nabatiyah is about 1,100 meters (3,600 feet) long, while the length of the one at Badharan is still uncertain; it could measure up to 870 meters (2,850 feet).

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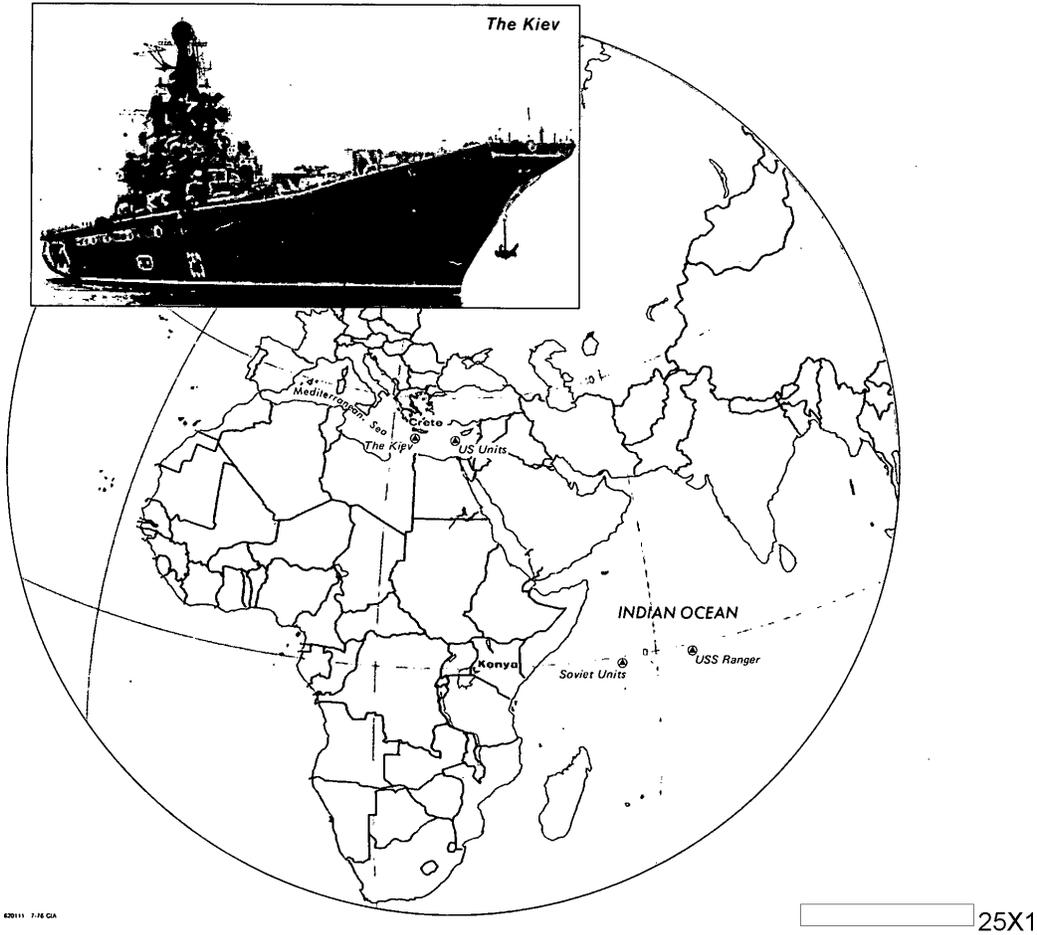
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US/Soviet Ships in the Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean



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USSR: *There has been no Soviet reaction thus far to the movement of the US attack carrier America and an amphibious task force to stations off the Lebanese coast.*

The Soviet aircraft carrier Kiev, which entered the Mediterranean on its first operational cruise on Sunday,



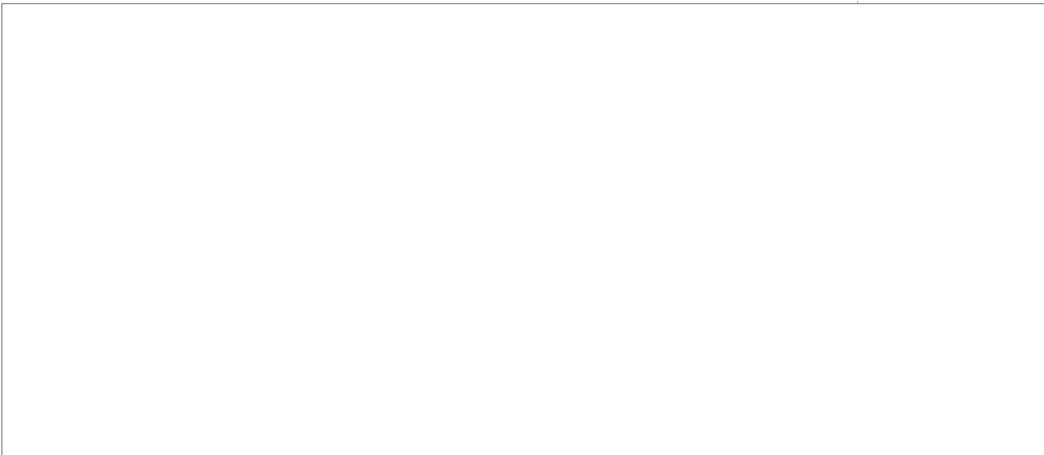
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Both helicopters and vertical-take-off fighters were operating from the carrier. It moved to the Gulf of Sollum anchorage near Egypt early this morning.

Elsewhere, the Soviets have shown interest in the movement of the US aircraft carrier Ranger to the central Indian Ocean. A Soviet intelligence ship shadowed the carrier as it crossed the Indian Ocean last week, and several Soviet ships have now moved to a position between the Ranger and the coast of Kenya. The Soviet units are 450 miles west of the Ranger.

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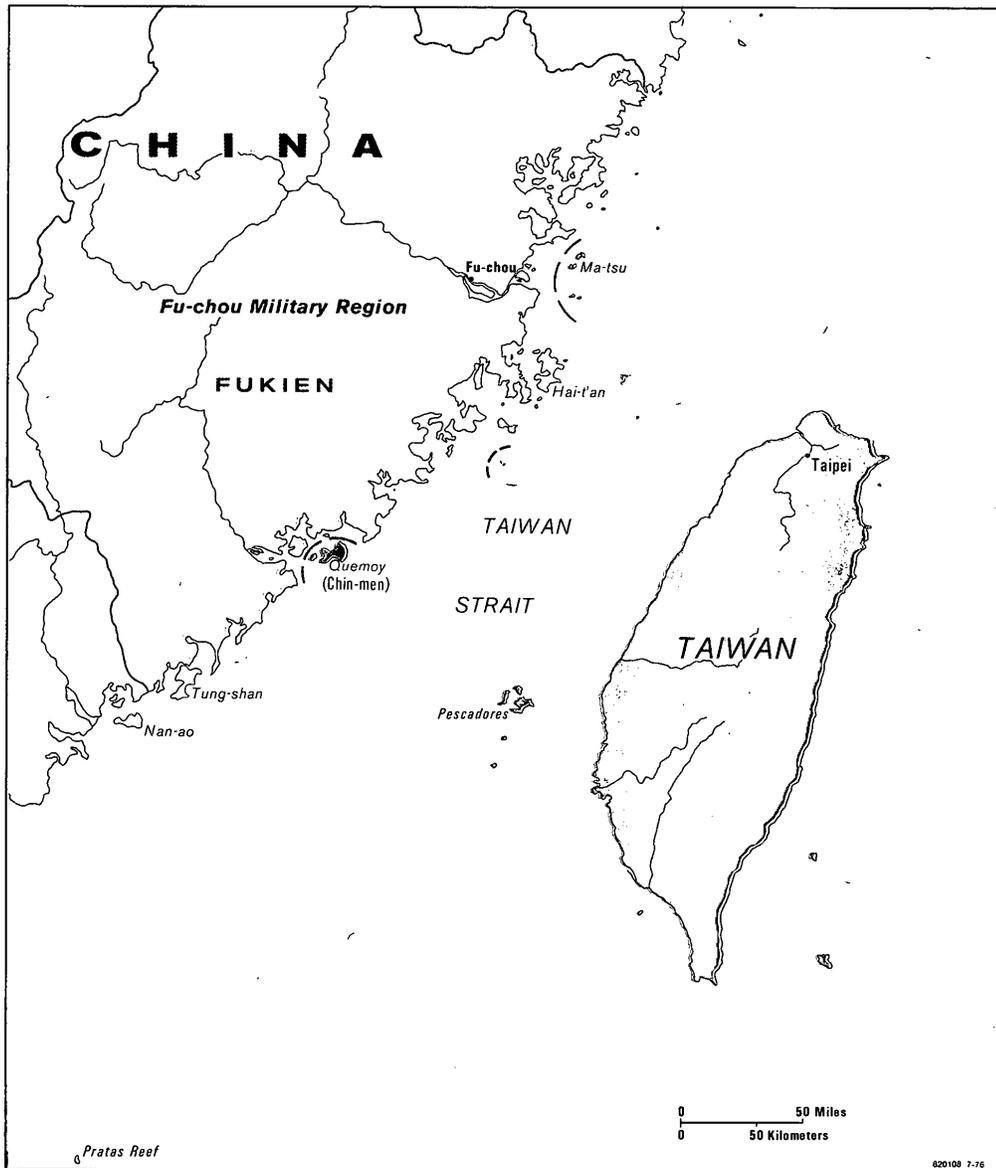
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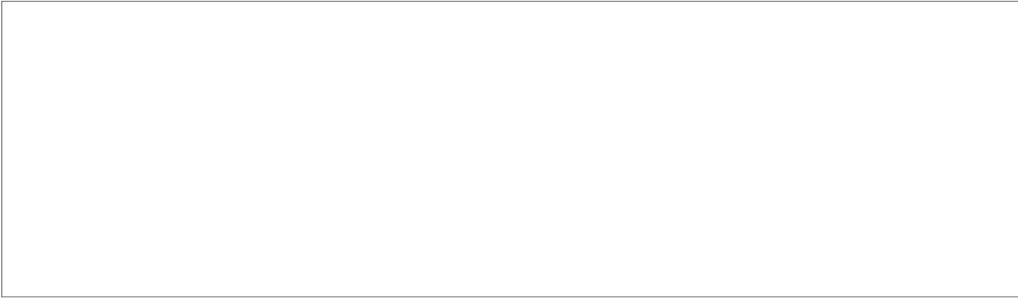
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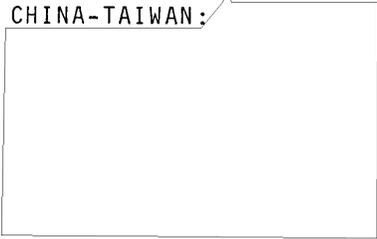


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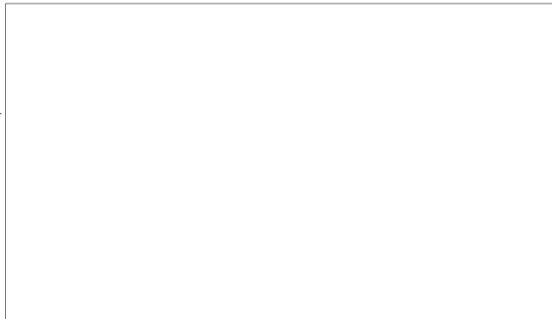
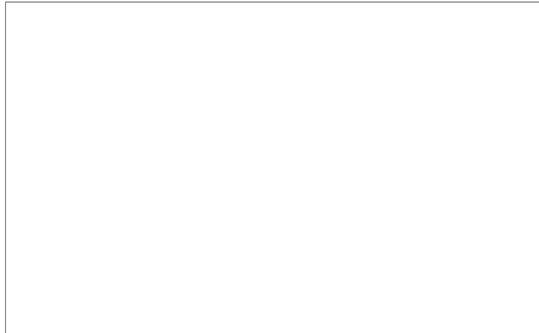
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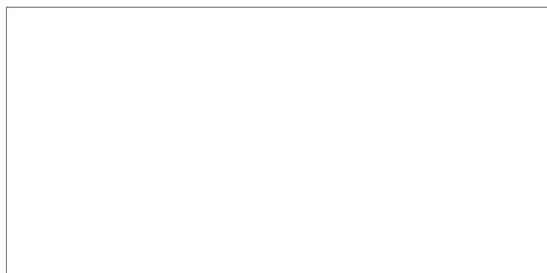
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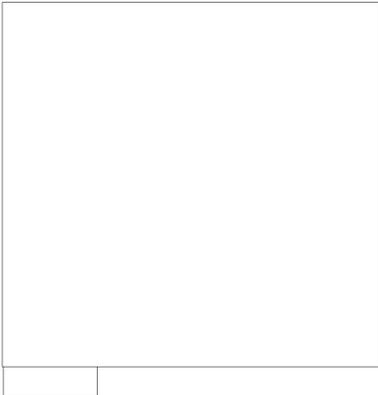
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PAKISTAN-USSR-INDIA:



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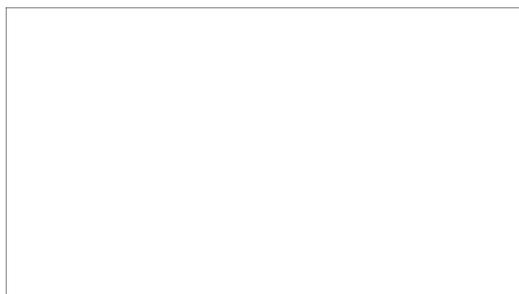
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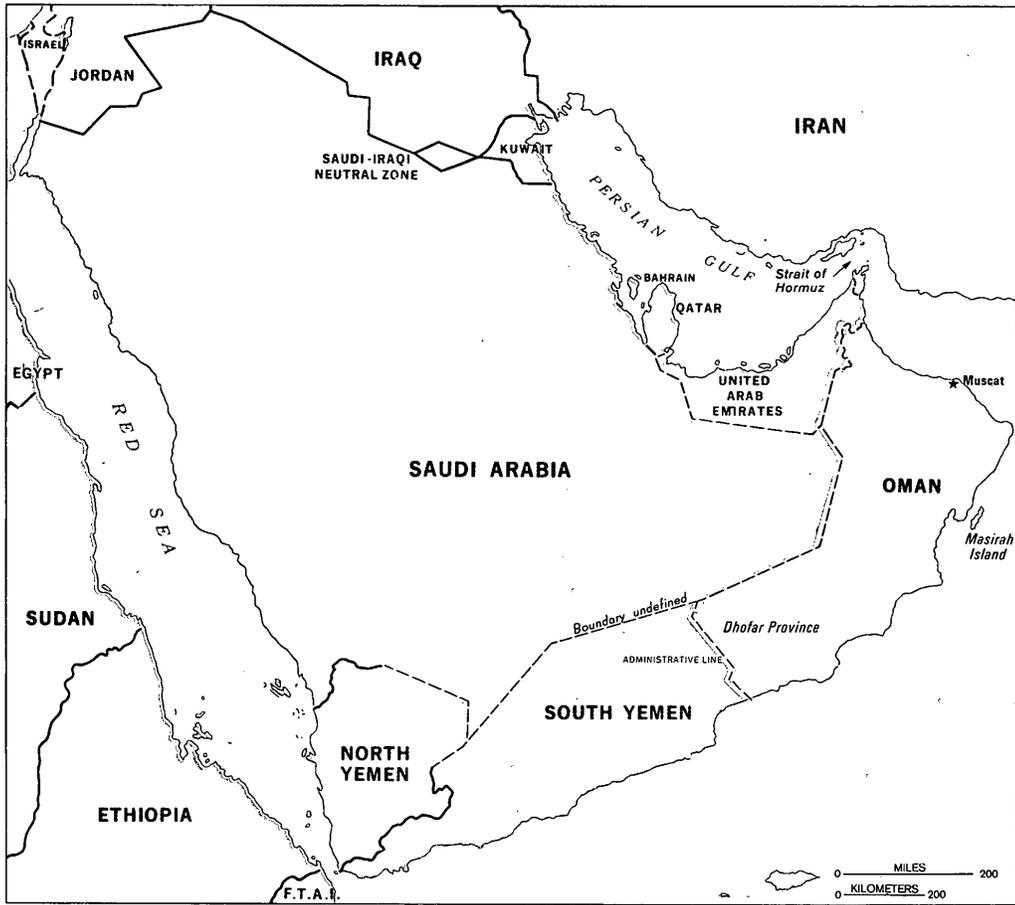
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IRAN-OMAN:

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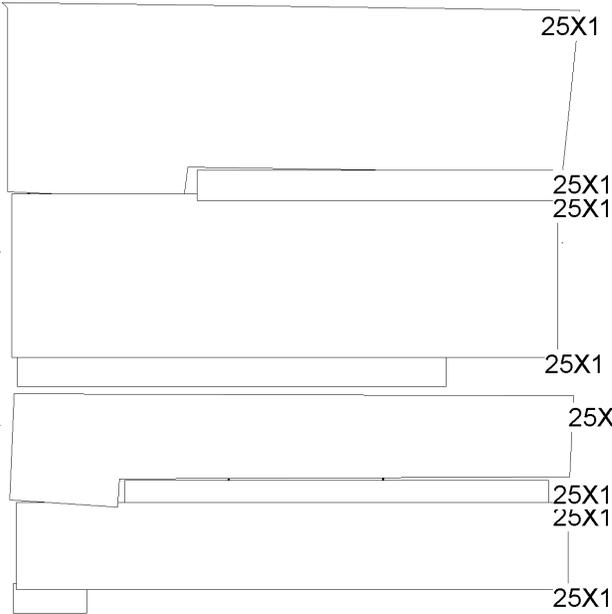
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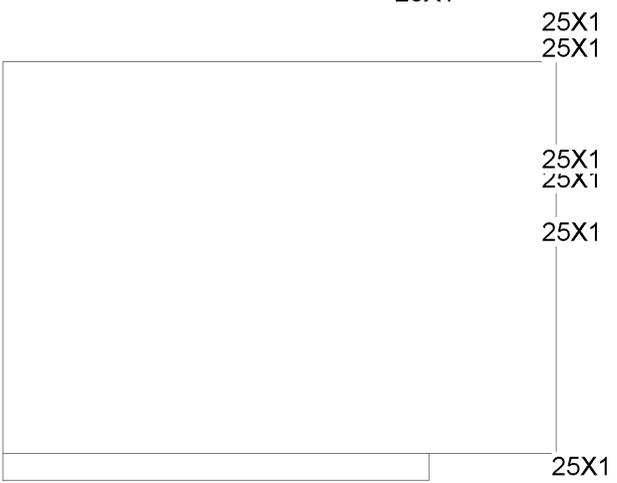
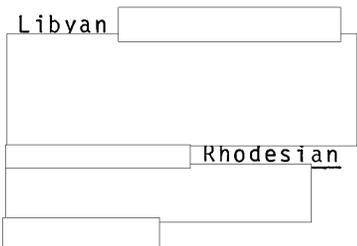


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