



The President's Daily Brief

November 22, 1976

2

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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Table of Contents

USSR-Romania: Soviet party chief Brezhnev's arrival in Romania today for three days of talks will cap five months of efforts by the Soviets and Romanians to improve bilateral relations. *(Page 1)*

Lebanon: The Syrian-dominated Arab peacekeeping forces entered the Lebanese port cities of Tripoli and Sidon without incident yesterday morning. Shelling is continuing in southeastern Lebanon and across the Israeli border. *(Page 2)*

Note: Brazil *(Page 4)*

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USSR-ROMANIA: *Soviet party chief Brezhnev's arrival in Romania today for three days of talks will cap five months of efforts by the Soviets and Romanians to improve bilateral relations.*

This is Brezhnev's first official visit to Romania during his 12 years as General Secretary.

The talks in Bucharest will take place just before the Warsaw Pact's Political Consultative Committee meets there on Thursday and Friday, the first such meeting to be held in Romania in 10 years. Brezhnev and Ceausescu will probably seek common ground on issues that the Pact gathering is likely to discuss, in addition to their review of Soviet-Romanian relations.

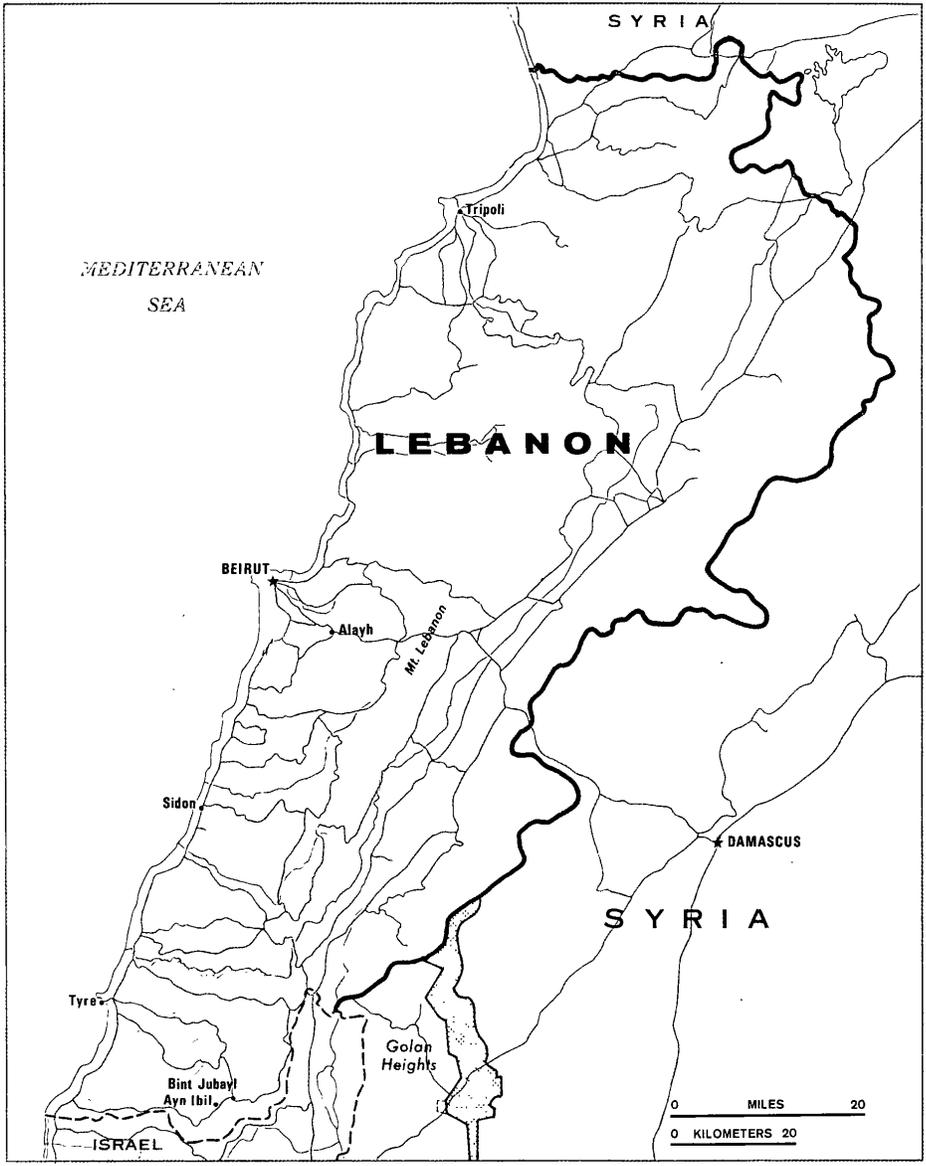
Romania is said to be dissatisfied with its share of the USSR's foreign trade in the 1976-1980 planning period, and Ceausescu may be trying to coax the Soviets into expanding their economic assistance. He will probably press for the specifics of Moscow's reported agreement "in principle" to provide Bucharest with some crude oil and additional raw materials.

Ceausescu will want the language of the joint communique after the meetings to follow the same line as that issued after the Tito-Brezhnev talks in Yugoslavia--recognition of national sovereignty and voluntary cooperation among equal communist parties that freely choose their own national communist courses.

The Soviets will strive for Romanian recognition of the merits of greater integration within the communist community and also of Moscow's seniority in the communist movement.

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LEBANON: *The Syrian-dominated Arab peace-keeping forces entered the Lebanese port cities of Tripoli and Sidon without incident yesterday morning.*

An advance contingent of the security force reportedly took control of the oil refinery south of Sidon.

The Fatah military leadership notified local commanders on Friday that they were to aid in implementing this phase of the truce agreement by providing liaison officers. Fatah units in the Tripoli area were ordered to withdraw to nearby refugee camps and to cooperate with a special committee in turning over all offices once held by the Syrian-controlled Saiqa organization.

The Arab security force command announced on Saturday that peace-keeping units will begin confiscating heavy weapons and military vehicles and arresting persons bearing arms. Christians, Palestinians, and leftists have already begun caching heavy weapons to avoid confiscation.

In southern Lebanon, artillery exchanges between the Palestinian- and leftist-controlled town of Bint Jubayl and the Christian-held village of Ayn Ibil continue to be reported. Syria has not sent troops into the far south because of Israeli sensitivity about the border area.

For the first time in several months, Fatah guerrillas on Friday night fired across the southeastern Lebanese border at an Israeli army patrol. We are fairly certain that there was some Israeli shelling yesterday across the border, probably in the same vicinity.

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Israeli Defense Minis-
ter Peres warned [redacted]
[redacted] yester-
day that Syrian pene-
tration into southern
Lebanon may increase
tension in the area.

An Israeli military correspondent
stated that Israel had warned
Syria several times, through the
US, that the presence of Syrian
units in the border area could
precipitate Israeli military in-
tervention. He added that secu-
rity officials did not regard the
Syrian move to Sidon in itself to
be a threat to Israel.

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NOTE

Brazil's persistent balance of payments problems may widen the rift within the military regime over foreign economic policy.

Planning Minister Reis Velloso and other spokesmen have attacked recent speeches by Minister of Industry and Commerce Severo Gomes in which he called for greater insulation of the economy from external influences.

Gomes blames the government's liberal trade and foreign investment policies for Brazil's present economic troubles. He has proposed redistributing income to accelerate expansion of the domestic market--implicitly to reduce dependence on foreign markets--and accelerating development of import substitution industries. He would also trim foreign borrowing and cut direct investment by multinational corporations. Although not new, these arguments appeal to many nationalistic Brazilians and some factions within the military.

The attack against Gomes indicates that many within the government fear his ideas may be gaining momentum. The assault may also be inspired by a desire to influence presidential politics. While President Geisel's term will continue for over two more years, potential successors already are maneuvering for position.

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