



The President's Daily Brief

December 8, 1976



~~Top Secret~~² 25X1

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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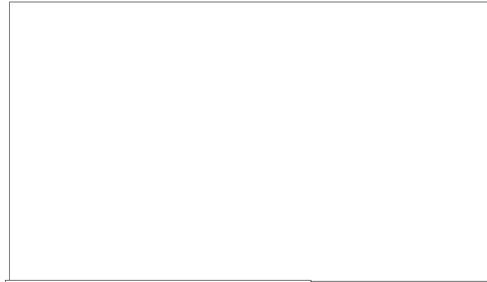
IRAN - SOUTH YEMEN -
SAUDI ARABIA: *Iran may be considering limited military action against South Yemen if diplomatic efforts fail to secure the release of a recently captured Iranian fighter pilot.*

Iran has twice publicly threatened unspecified "future actions" if South Yemen does not return the pilot of an Iranian F-4, one of two aircraft downed by South Yemeni antiaircraft fire on November 24. The aircraft was on a probable reconnaissance mission near Oman's disputed border with South Yemen, although Iran and Oman claim the plane was unarmed and on a routine training mission over Oman. The pilot was captured and the co-pilot killed during the incident.

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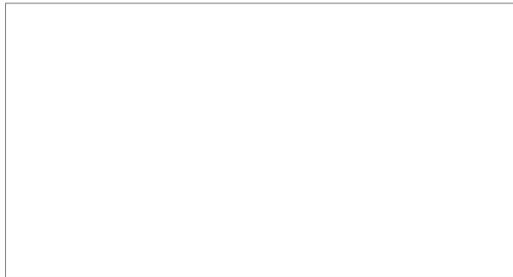
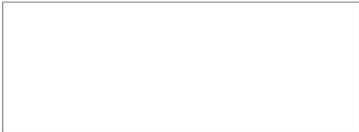
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The Shah would have to weigh carefully the political costs of military action against an Arab country--even an outsider such as South Yemen--and consider larger questions such as how military action would affect the future sale of US arms to Iran. Nevertheless, Iran's

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[Redacted]

repeated public warnings that he would act alone to combat radical influences in the Gulf all suggest he is at times willing to pay that price.

* * *

LEBANON: *Renewed tensions in southern and northern Lebanon may further complicate efforts by the Syrian-dominated security forces to begin collecting heavy weapons.*

Implementation of the plan for disarmament has been delayed until 25X1 next week and may be set back further if the tensions continue.

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In the wake of renewed fighting between Israeli-backed Christian troops and Palestinian and leftist forces in southern Lebanon, Israel has stepped up its naval patrols along the southern Lebanese coast.

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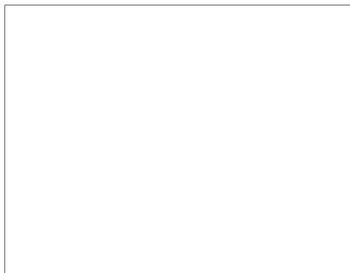
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Israel's continuing warnings that it will not tolerate the presence of a non-Lebanese military force to police the border area gives President Sarkis little room to find a compromise solution. There is no Lebanese force capable of maintaining security in the south, and efforts to create a strictly Lebanese force with an acceptable balance of Christians and Muslims would cause a potentially dangerous delay in implementing other parts of the cease-fire agreement. 25X1



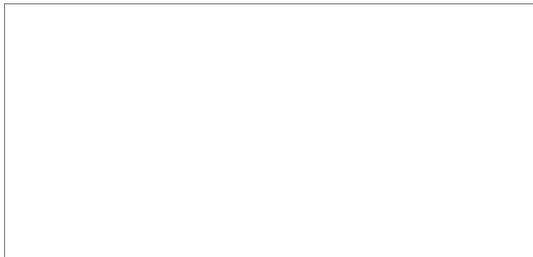
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The quadripartite committee of Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait, set up at the Riyadh summit to interpret the Cairo accords, is expected to meet this week. Israel may be hoping that its present attitude may encourage this group to consider disarming Palestinian units in the south. 25X1



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RHODESIA: The Rhodesian guerrilla leaders who arrived in Geneva last week to join the settlement conference have been playing a low-key role as part of Robert Mugabe's nationalist delegation.

The US mission in Geneva reports that Mugabe, leader of the Zimbabwe African National Union delegation, has appeared much more relaxed and confident since the arrival of the military leaders.

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Nkomo has told the US mission that he believes the guerrillas can be more fully controlled now that their leaders are at the conference. He hopes to take advantage of their presence by resuming negotiations on military coordination between his own ZAPU forces and the ZANU guerrillas.

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Despite the outward harmony, there are continuing reports of disunity within the ZANU faction.

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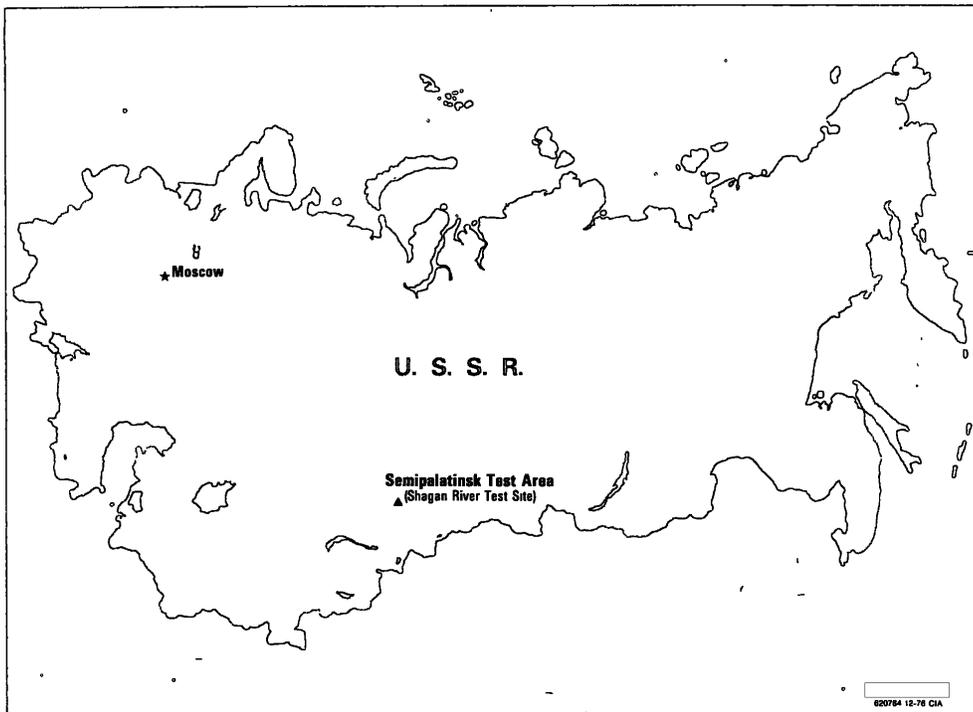
There may be as many as five basic subgroups within ZANU, and Mugabe's delegation remains an extremely fragile coalition.

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NOTES

The USSR conducted an underground nuclear test yesterday at the Shagan River Test Site at Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan.

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This is the fourth test in this general yield range at Shagan River this year. It is the 17th Soviet underground test in 1976-- about the same rate of testing as in recent years.

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The Turkish government, apparently concerned over the possibility of a new US proposal on Cyprus, is accelerating the expulsion of Greek Cypriots still living in the Turkish zone in the north.

The Turks had originally planned to relocate most of the Greek Cypriots by next summer, but the new timetable reportedly calls for moving most of those in the Turkish zone--some 4,000--by the end of the year. Another 4,000 have been expelled during the year.

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The USSR evidently is preparing for a manned space launch this month, perhaps as early as next week.

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The Soviets appear to be preparing to re-man the Salyut 5 space station. If so, they probably will send up a crew in a two-man Soyuz vehicle. Salyut 5 is an operational intelligence collector that has been in orbit since June. Two cosmonauts were aboard the station for 48 days in July and August; an attempt to re-man Salyut 5 in mid-October was not successful.

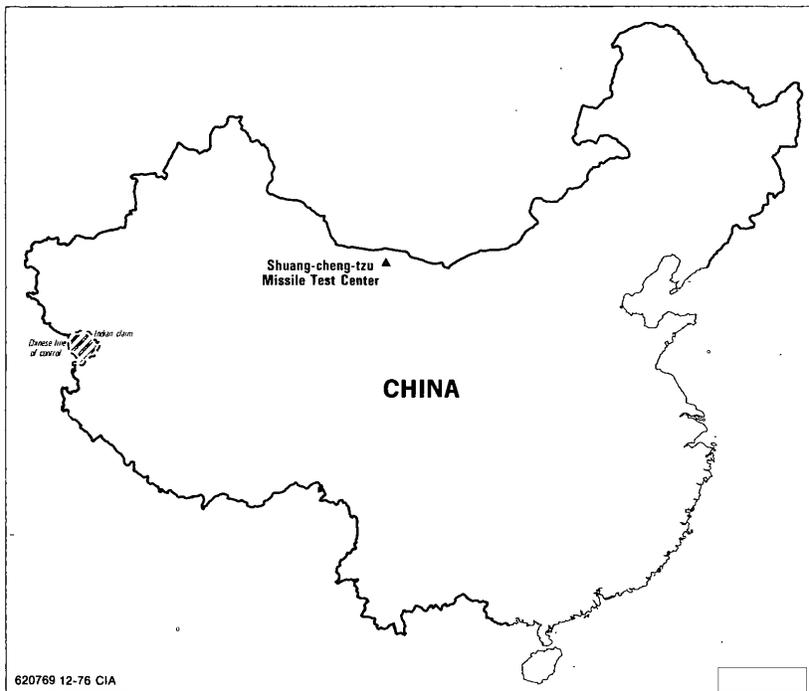
Alternatively, the pending operation could involve a manned test of a new spacecraft.

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China launched a satellite yesterday from the Shuang-cheng-tzu missile test center.

The satellite has been confirmed in orbit, [redacted]

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This is China's third space shot since late summer. The others were only partially successful or failed. China's last successful [redacted]

[redacted] launched in November 1975. 25X1

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