

LIBYA: President Qadhafi has decided to follow up his talks in Belgrade with a five-day visit to Paris beginning 22 November. Judging from the composition of his delegation, Qadhafi is shopping for military hardware and assistance in exchange for assurances of oil supplies. Libya's intransigence on the Middle East, however, is likely to be the main focus of discussions in both European capitals.

This is Qadhafi's first trip outside the Arab world since he took power in 1969. Until now, Qadhafi has shown little interest and some apprehension about leaving the Middle East and has always allowed Prime Minister Jallud to represent Libya in European capitals. The Libyan leader's decision to undertake this mission may reflect his urgent determination to present personally his militant position on the Arab-Israeli issues. He considers Yugoslavia and France to be Europe's most independent states, and he may believe they will be receptive to his arguments against great power sponsorship of a settlement.

The trip may also have been designed to underscore Libya's disregard for current peace efforts. Qadhafi reportedly will wind up his stay in France with a major press conference on 26 November, the date set for the Arab summit in Algiers. Qadhafi may hope to divert attention from the summit, which he recently denounced as a facade for rubber-stamping what has already been decided in Cairo. [REDACTED]

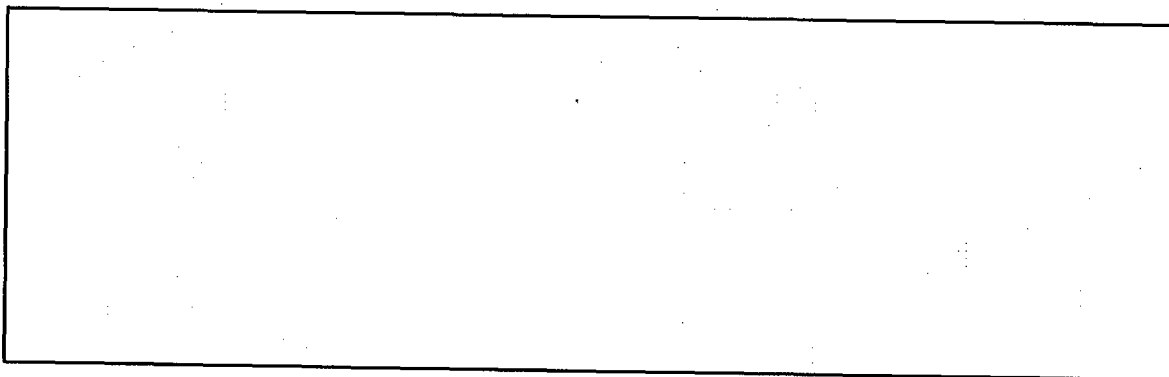
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NETHERLANDS: The Dutch Government is seeking to mitigate the effects of the oil boycott by re-establishing a dialogue with the Arab states and by pressing its EC partners for greater cooperation.

The Foreign Ministry on 19 November submitted a White Paper to parliament on the oil crisis with the primary objective of trying to convince the Arabs that The Hague has conducted an "even-handed" policy in the Middle East. The document reiterates support for UN Resolution 242 and mentions the need to give some form to the political aspirations of the Palestinians. The paper also invites representatives of Arab oil-producing states to The Hague to discuss differences.



The unwillingness of other EC members to assist the Dutch in coping with the embargo has prompted parliamentary proposals for retaliation. Prime Minister den Uyl, in fact, has warned that if the EC members refuse to share their oil, the Netherlands may ban exports of natural gas to Western Europe.

[Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] Some crude oil apparently is still being transshipped through the Netherlands, but the Arab states have established a special monitoring team to ensure that these shipments are not diverted to Dutch refineries.

