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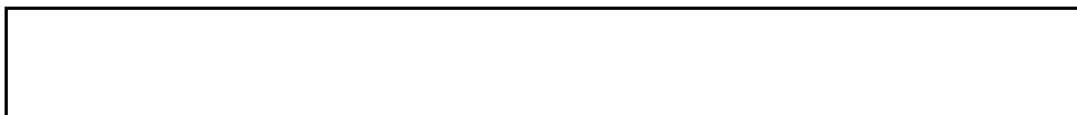
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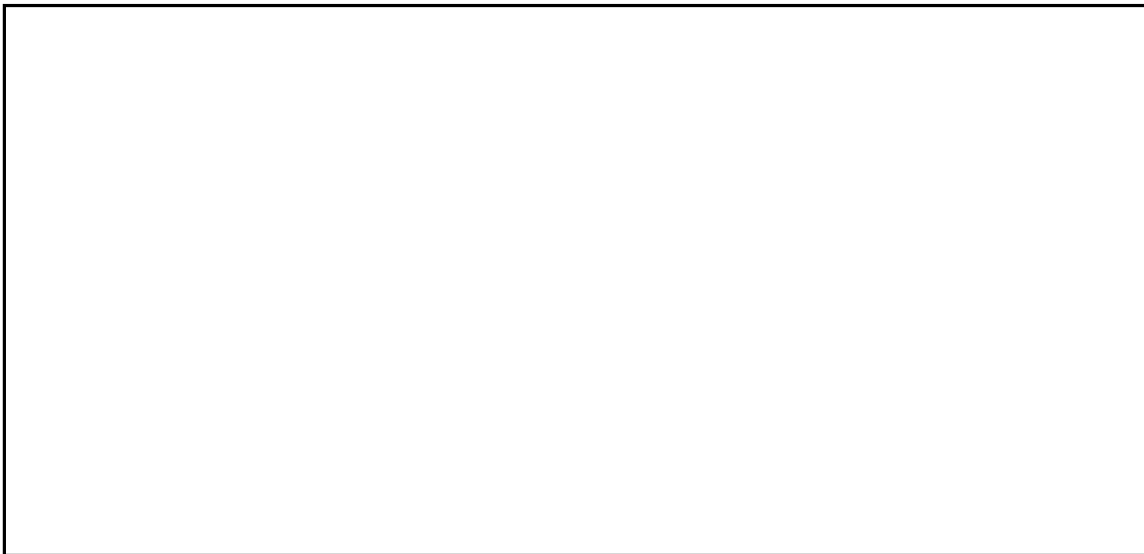


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Arab States - Israel: Arab terrorists appear to be clearly implicated in at least one of the airliner explosions last weekend.



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In regard to the crash of the Swiss airliner on the same day, spokesmen for the several associations of fedayeen groups have been categorical in denying over-all fedayeen responsibility. They have, however, dodged the point of a specific retraction by the PFLP General Command, the terrorist group that initially claimed credit for the bombing.

The Israelis have so far bent all their efforts toward engendering international action against an international threat, drawing on the worldwide revulsion against the two incidents. The reaction of foreign air carriers strikes a particularly sensitive Israeli nerve--the threat of a de facto aerial blockade of Israeli territory, which is the avowed object of several fedayeen action groups. Should diplomatic efforts be unavailing, the Israeli instinct for retaliation could take the form of a counterblockade against civil airports in the Arab states or some other impressive military action.



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Chile-Cuba: There are mixed political motives behind the sale of Chilean foodstuffs to Cuba.

Chile announced officially last week that \$3 million worth of food will be sold for cash to Cuba this year and \$8 million worth in 1971. While not claiming the "humanitarian" motives permitted as an exception to OAS sanctions, the Chilean officials claim that the sale breaks no international pact. The US ambassador points out that Chilean officials have consistently prevaricated in answering queries on the subject from US officials.

President Eduardo Frei's expressed reservations on Cuba have not deterred some of his subordinates from moves they see as politically advantageous for the Christian Democratic candidate in the September presidential election. Chile voted against imposing the OAS sanctions, but accepted the resolution as binding when it passed anyway. Most Chileans probably still do not support the sanctions. Chile was the chief Latin American supplier of agricultural commodities to Cuba before the sanctions were imposed.

The major architect of the Chilean policy is Foreign Minister Gabriel Valdes, who believes that this initiative will advance his ambition of leading the Latin American countries into a policy more independent of the US.

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Valdes' claims that consultations with other Latin American governments had shown support for moves to reintegrate Cuba into the inter-American system have not been borne out.

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USSR - West Germany: A West German firm has obtained the dealership for Soviet civil aircraft in West Germany and Austria, according to a German press article.

Under the agreement, the newly formed German firm will serve as dealer for the twin-engine KA-26 helicopter and the tri-jet YAK-40 transport aircraft. They are expected to be displayed for the first time in West Germany this spring at the Hannover Air Show. Soviet-registered aircraft, however, must be cleared for entry into the country through diplomatic channels of the three Western allies, and the Soviets apparently have not yet sought such approval.

According to the article, the YAK-40, which can carry 24 to 31 passengers, will cost 40 percent less than comparable Western aircraft, but operating costs may be higher because of the limited seating capacity. The article further stated that the KA-26 helicopter, which has twin rotors and piston engines and can carry seven passengers, will cost less than a US single-engine Bell Jetranger. Most modern Western helicopters, however, are powered by turboshaft rather than piston engines. The German firm is hoping for government purchases of the helicopter for road rescue operations as well as for sales to private firms.

The Soviet Union has been trying to sell its aircraft to several West European countries with little success thus far. In late 1969, it sold two YAK-40s to a small, private, newly formed Italian airline that subsequently acquired the dealership for selling YAK-40s in Italy and possibly in other European countries.

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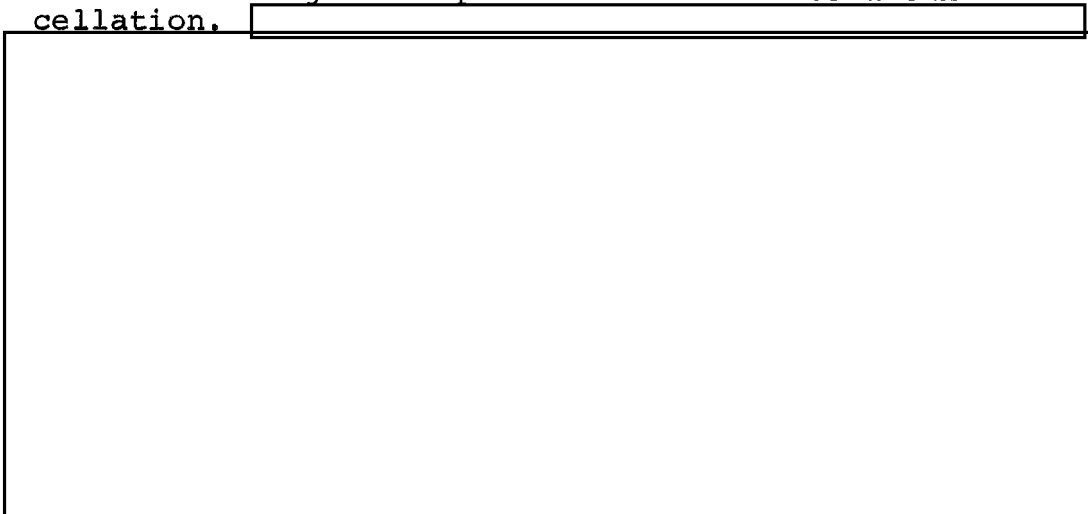
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Dahomey: The national elections scheduled for next month are unlikely to solve the continuing political crisis.

The army officers who have been running the government since they ousted the Zinsou regime last December have announced that national presidential and parliamentary elections will be held, by district, between 9 and 31 March. Four former government heads--Maga, Ahomadegbe, Apithy, and Zinsou--have filed for the presidency. Although the official campaign opening date is not until 2 March, the country is already flooded with scurrilous campaign literature.

Each of the four candidates has a fairly solid personal or regional following, making it virtually impossible for any one of them to win a clear majority. If the elections are held, and there is no military interference, the most likely outcome would be a shaky coalition government ultimately dependent upon the badly divided army. Such a result would return the country to the pattern of the early 1960s and a repetition of the crises, confusion, and coups witnessed during that period.

Despite its divisions, the army appears to be moving toward the elections with determination. It is still possible, however, that one faction or another will stage a coup or otherwise force a cancellation.



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NOTES

India-US: New Delhi plans to close five US cultural centers by 18 May. During the 1950s, India banned the establishment of such centers in cities where there was no consulate or trade mission, but allowed previously established ones to remain. Last December, the entire issue came up for review when the government halted a Soviet attempt to build a center in a nonconsular city. The Indians have now concluded that the easiest solution is to ban all foreign centers regardless of when they were established.

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