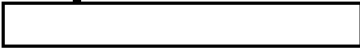


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In accordance with a decision of the Director of Central Intelligence, concurred in by NFIB principals, the *National Intelligence Bulletin* ceases publication with this issue.

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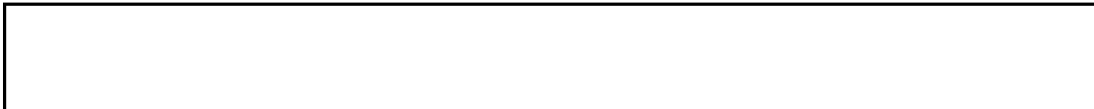
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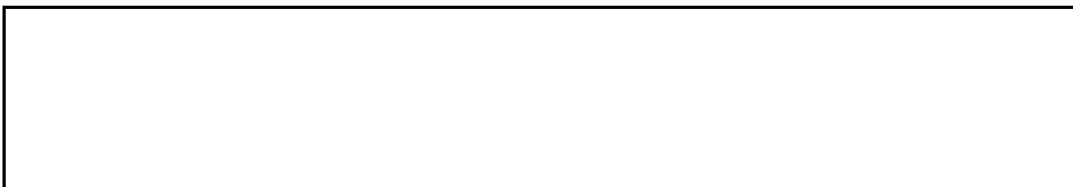


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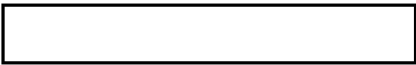
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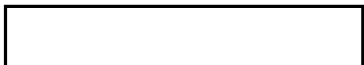
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LEBANON

Christian forces continued to press their offensive in the mountains east of Beirut yesterday, despite the obvious risks to their political victory over the Muslim leftists in the presidential election last weekend.

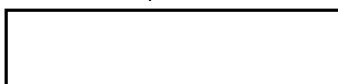
The Christian strategy apparently was to recapture a number of Christian villages on the eve of the election in the hope of improving their bargaining position in future peace talks. The problem now is that neither side is willing or able to stop the fighting, which threatens to spread.

Christian forces launched artillery attacks on a number of leftist positions and reportedly regained some ground near the villages of Tarshish and Aynturah. In most areas the leftists appear to be holding firm. The greatest danger in the current situation is that Fatah commandos based at Aynturah will be drawn into the battle. Some Fatah units apparently have already joined the fight, and the Palestine Liberation Organization has issued a sharp warning to the Christians that it will aid the leftists if the fighting continues.

**The President-elect**

President-elect Ilyas Sarkis is reportedly working with the tripartite truce committee and Yasir Arafat to arrange a new cease-fire that presumably would be enforced by Syrian-controlled Palestinian troops based in the mountain area. Sarkis plans to meet with Christian leaders today or tomorrow; his ability to persuade them to accept a new truce will be the first major test of his leadership. An appeal by Phalanges leader Jumayyil yesterday for an end to the fighting suggests that he, at least, may be prepared to go along with Sarkis.

Sarkis received congratulations yesterday from a broad spectrum of Lebanese politicians including Interior Minister Shamun, who has not been among Sarkis' supporters. Sarkis' attempts to arrange a meeting with Kamal Jumblatt, however, have so far been unsuccessful. In a brief statement made late yesterday, Jumblatt toned down his earlier sharp warnings and avoided mentioning Sarkis' election. The leftist leader said he had been in telephone contact with Sarkis and that a comprehensive statement of the leftist position would be issued today. According to one leftist spokesman, Jumblatt is awaiting a "gesture" from Sarkis.



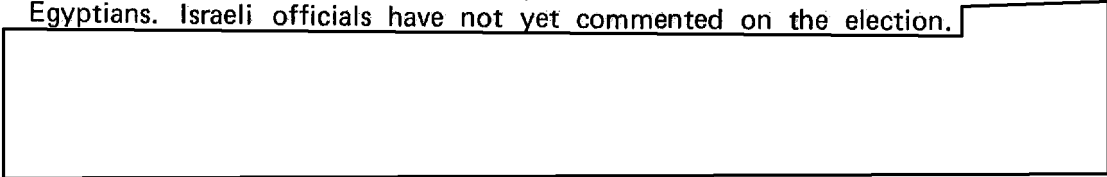
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Despite these hopeful signs, Jumblatt will probably not meet with Sarkis until he can more accurately determine the political repercussions of the current fighting. If it continues, Jumblatt may be able to shift the blame for the political impasse to the Christians.

Most Arab capitals have refrained from extensive comment on Sarkis' election, apparently because of the controversy over Syria's role in the campaign and the uncertainty over whether the new president will be able to assume office.

Israeli commentators are openly pessimistic. They doubt that Sarkis' election will result in a breakthrough toward solving the Lebanese crisis. Israel's largest daily commented that his chances of solving Lebanon's problems are no better than were those of President Franjyah. An editorial in Israel's only English-language daily called Sarkis' election a victory for Syria and a blow to the Palestinians and the Egyptians. Israeli officials have not yet commented on the election.



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ISRAEL

The Israeli cabinet's decision on Sunday barring the establishment of a permanent Jewish settlement near Sebastia in the West Bank's Samaria region leaves unresolved the explosive issue of finding an alternative government-approved site for the settlers.

According to the cabinet's communique, the government will offer the settlers a new site in the near future. The settlers are demanding that they be relocated in Samaria. They want to force the government to reverse its long-held policy of prohibiting Jewish settlements in the region, which is heavily populated by Arabs.

A minister from the conservative Religious Party voiced strong support for the settlers after emerging from Sunday's cabinet session. He called for a stepped-up settlement effort over the next several weeks, pending a government decision on alternative sites.

The extremist Gush Emunim religious settlement group, which is sponsoring the settlers, yesterday launched what may be only the first in a series of mass demonstrations protesting the cabinet's decision and demanding that the government support the right of Jews to settle anywhere in the West Bank.

The ruling coalition's left-wing Mapam Party strongly opposes the Gush Emunim's demands. It favors limiting settlements to strategically important locations in order to leave open the option of territorial compromise in peace negotiations with the Arabs. Mapam is likely to organize counterdemonstrations protesting the efforts of the pro-settlement groups.

Arab governments have not yet reacted to the Israeli cabinet's decision. They will be highly critical of the Israeli government for not immediately forcing the illegal settlers near Sebastia to move and for pledging to increase Jewish settlements elsewhere in the Israeli-occupied territories.

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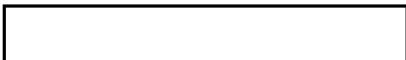
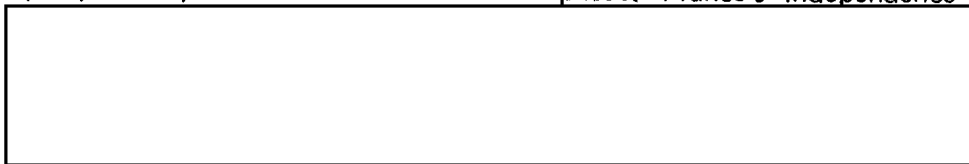
FRENCH TERRITORY OF THE AFARS AND ISSAS

Prime Minister Ali Aref continues to suffer political setbacks. Three associates have resigned from the government in the past few days, as well as from the ruling National Independence Union Party. This raises the parliamentary opposition to at least 19 out of the 40 deputies.

The resignation of Muhammed Elabe, the minister of public works, transport, and tourism and Aref's closest confidant, was probably the catalyst for the other two resignations. Elabe reportedly resigned in protest over the security forces' handling of anti-Aref demonstrations in his home town.

There appears to be little Ali Aref can do to arrest the continuing erosion of his position. The pro-Somali opposition party, the African People's Independence League, is determined to oust him prior to independence. Many Afar tribal leaders, Aref's main supporters, have steadily shifted into opposition because of his close relations with the Ethiopian military government—which is conducting a military campaign against Afars in Ethiopia—personal rivalries, and his inability to solve internal problems.

Aref's reverses place France in a troublesome position. Paris still plans to hand over power to Ali Aref upon independence. At present, no other political figure in the territory has the necessary following to replace Aref. His loss of support within his own party and parliament will further complicate France's independence formula.



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CHILE

In the wake of Secretary Simon's visit last week, the military junta appears to be signaling its intention to relax some of its policies for handling human rights. In addition to releasing 49 political prisoners, including four high officials of the former Allende government, the junta has pledged to expedite requests for parole.

Officials of President Pinochet's government have also indicated an intent to resume talks with the UN Human Rights Commission, broken off last July when Pinochet abruptly barred the visit of the commission's investigating team. That decision provoked severe criticism from the UN and Western countries that had supported the UN bid. At its meeting in February, the UN commission issued a report condemning Santiago's internal security practices; the report was based largely on accounts by Chilean exiles.

The government's agreement to reopen discussions with the UN group could lead to talks on ground rules for a new look at Chile's human rights record and possibly a visit by an international fact-finding group, though this is by no means guaranteed.

In his talks with Secretary Simon, Foreign Minister Carvajal claimed that at least 41 officials have been prosecuted for human rights abuses. Public knowledge of government efforts to curb maltreatment by punishing those responsible should have a sobering impact on security forces and should improve Chile's standing abroad.

Further progress on human rights may be achieved as the Pinochet government prepares for the meeting of the OAS General Assembly in Santiago next month. The Inter-American Human Rights Commission has the Chilean situation on the agenda, providing extra incentive to show proof that security practices are being reformed.



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INDIA-USSR

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's planned visit to Moscow from June 8 to 12, which was announced over the weekend, will be her first trip to the Soviet Union—India's closest ally—since 1971.

India's internal political problems, which led to the imposition of a national emergency last June, probably account in large part for Gandhi's repeated postponement of plans to reciprocate General Secretary Brezhnev's trip to India in 1973. With the domestic situation now under control, her government is giving increased attention to foreign affairs.

In Moscow, Gandhi will probably express appreciation for Soviet support of her authoritarian moves under the emergency. She is not likely, however, to reverse India's long-standing refusal to grant special port privileges for Soviet naval ships.

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Earlier this year, New Delhi shifted the emphasis of its foreign policy somewhat, with a view toward improving relations with China and Pakistan while maintaining close ties with the USSR. India will soon send an ambassador to Peking for the first time since 1961, the year before the Sino-Indian war.

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USSR

The appointment of General Secretary Brezhnev as Marshal of the Soviet Union on Saturday may be a step toward publicly recognizing him as the official having formal command authority over the armed forces in peacetime. The rank was conferred by decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Brezhnev reportedly has already been designated to act as supreme commander in chief in the event of war, but there has been no evidence that he has had any unilateral authority to issue orders to the armed forces in peacetime.

The appointment late last month of Dmitry Ustinov, a fellow civilian Politburo member, as defense minister has accentuated the need for creation of a more comprehensive, unified military-political command structure for the armed forces. Brezhnev becomes the first top Soviet party leader since Stalin to hold such a high military rank, one grade above that of Ustinov, who was made a General of the Army when he was appointed defense minister.

The Tass announcement also reiterated the recent public identification of Brezhnev as chairman of the Defense Council, a subcommittee of the Politburo that considers national security matters.

Brezhnev received a second honor over the weekend when a bronze bust of the party leader was unveiled in his home town, Dneprodzerzhinsk. This is the first time Brezhnev has been so honored.



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