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25X1 National Intelligence Daily Cable for Friday August 20, 1976. 25X1 The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials. CONTENTS Page 1 LEBANON: Situation Report USSR-JAPAN: Economic Relations Page 2 PORTUGAL: Socialists vs Communists Page 3 25X1 MALTA: Violent Parliamentary Campaign Page 5 Page 7 SOUTH AFRICA: Latest Rioting 25X1 THAILAND: Protest Rally Planned Page 8 25X1

	LEBANON: Situation Report	
25X1	The Christians in Lebanon are still delaying the start of their campaign in the mountains east of Beirut, apparently hoping that threats will weaken the Palestinians' will to resist.	
25X1	The Phalanges Party has asked the commander of the Arab League peacekeeping forces to convey demands that the Palestinians withdraw from their positions in Mount Lebanon, agree to a timetable for the cessation of hostilities on all fronts, and accept Syria's conditions for holding a meeting of the fourparty truce committee that was supposed to supervise the implementation of the Syrian-Palestinian agreement signed in Damascus on July 29.	
25X1	The Palestinians are unlikely to accept these demands. The leftist radio has already issued a statement rejecting Syria's demand that leftist parties friendly to Syria be represented in the leftist delegation of the truce committee. Failure to agree on this issue led to the repeated postponement of a committee meeting and helped make the Damascus agreement a dead letter.	
25X1	Extreme leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt attempted to whip up support at a rally yesterday for what he called "the decisive battle of the mountains," which he compared to "another Tall Zatar." This indicates that the extremists are not amenable to a serious settlement attempt.	
25X1	A few days ago Syrian forces reportedly entered Hammana near the Beirut-Damascus road—a key supply line for Palestinian forces in the Mount Lebanon area—but later withdrew. The Syrians presumably wanted to demonstrate the vulnerability of the Palestinian supply route; they are still positioned near Hammana and dominate the road.	25X1

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USSR-JAPAN: Economic Relations  General Secretary Brezhnev's decision last week to stand in for ailing Premier Kosygin and meet with a group of Japan's top industrialists underscores the importance the USSR attaches to its economic relations with Japan.
Brezhnev's action is designed to give a new impetus to Soviet economic ties with Japan and to elicit additional Japanese involvement in Siberian development projects. The USSR may calculate that the Japanese industrialists will be receptive because of their pessimism regarding short-term prospects for increased Japanese economic dealings with China. Brezhnev was probably also influenced by Foreign Minister Miyazawa's

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harder public line on China, which has improved political relations between Moscow and Tokyo.

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The prospects for trade relations are much brighter.
Last year Japanese exports to the Soviet Union reached a record \$1.6 billion, and this year Japanese sales through May were

PORTUGAL: Socialists vs Communists

plants.

Portuguese Communists on Tuesday warned Prime Minister Soares' Socialist minority government that they will actively oppose any "anti-worker" legislation.

running some 10 percent about the comparable period last year. Moreover, despite concern in Tokyo over the size of the USSR's debt, Japan appears willing to furnish trade credits on a selected basis to purchase Japanese goods. Recently, Tokyo supplied a \$450-million credit line to Moscow for six complete

The party statement strongly reiterates Communist leader Cunhal's earlier threat to mobilize workers to resist proposed legislation that would establish some government control over labor. These remarks were made last week during the national assembly debate on the Socialist government's program and were sharply criticized by Soares.

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few months of the new government.

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	MALTA: Violent Parliamentary Campaign	
25X1	The first round of campaigning for Malta's parliamentary election on September 17 and 18 was marked by violent clashes between Prime Minister Mintoff's Labor Party supporters and the opposition Nationalists. Violence may flare again during major party rallies scheduled for the four remaining weekends before the election.	
25X1	A mass Labor rally in Valletta marking the final session of the outgoing parliament and the official opening of the new parliament building last weekend quickly turned into a riot when Labor supporters ransacked several Nationalist Party offices and attempted to demolish the Nationalists' printing press. Labor Party militants later disrupted Nationalist meetings in outlying areas.	
25X1	Violence has increased during the last year as tensions have grown between the two parties. Under Mintoff, the police have been slow and ineffective in dealing with political violence and have frequently appeared to go easy on Labor instigators.	
25X1	The election is likely to be close, and the outcome will hinge largely on Mintoff's ability to persuade voters that he can continue his nonaligned foreign policy and still attract enough international financial support to replace the crucial	
25X1	income Malta will lose after the withdrawal of British forces in 1979.	25X1
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ch Africa Wednesday soutside the city of deaths by police gun- n black townships near  when thousands of adults ol students who had ting broke out after tear gas. The rioting me arson and looting y, yesterday morning returned to work in  prominent blacks med at heading off fur- t 60 arrests have been week. The arrests may	
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on full alert.

25X1	An estimated 40,000 demonstrators from student and labor groups yesterday demanded Praphat's immediate arrest. Although the crowd was told of Praphat's decision to leave, student leaders still want to force Praphat to trial and they plan to hold another rally today. The size and intensity of the demonstration should be a good indicator of whether the protests are running out of steam or building into a political crisis for the Seni government.	
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25X1	The Seni government, by delaying Praphat's departure for another week, played into the hands of the student organizers, giving them more time to arouse support. The students see the Praphat episode as an opportunity to revive their nearly moribund political movement.	

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