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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Thursday 10 November 1977

CG NIDC 77/261C

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
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State Dept. review

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Thursday, 10 November 1977

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The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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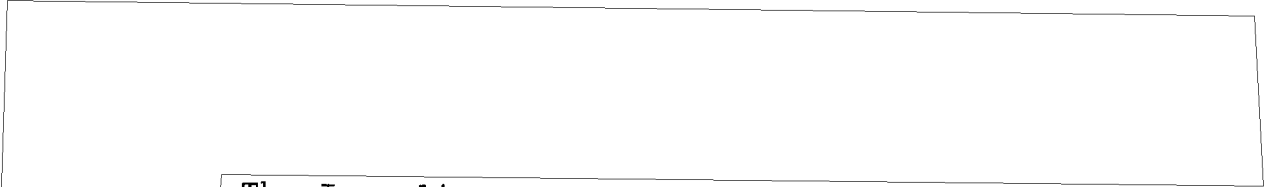
Egypt-Czechoslovakia
Yugoslavia
France
USSR

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ISRAEL-LEBANON: Military Situation



The Israelis appear to be warning the Palestinians that they will retaliate even more severely if attacks on Israeli border villages continue. Israel's chief of staff said in a press interview yesterday that the Israelis would refrain from using further force if the cease-fire is maintained, but the Israelis appear to have made some preparations near the border should they choose to take further military action.

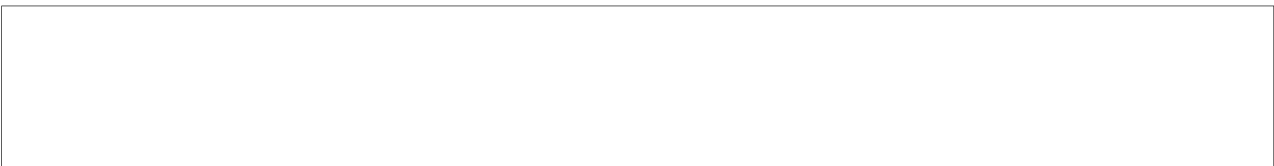
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The Israelis could draw on parts of three armored divisions that are within 40 kilometers of the border and mechanized border police units already in the area.

If the Israelis do launch ground operations into southern Lebanon, they probably will attempt to clean out Palestinian strongholds in the immediate border area. They would most likely use company-size units in operations in both the western and central sectors. They also might attempt commando raids against guerrilla camps near Tyre. In addition, the Israelis probably would lend ground, and possibly air, support to Lebanese Christian forces to drive the Palestinians from strongholds near Al Khiyam.

We have detected no unusual military activity by Syrian forces in either Syria or Lebanon. We believe that the Syrians probably will take some precautionary measures.



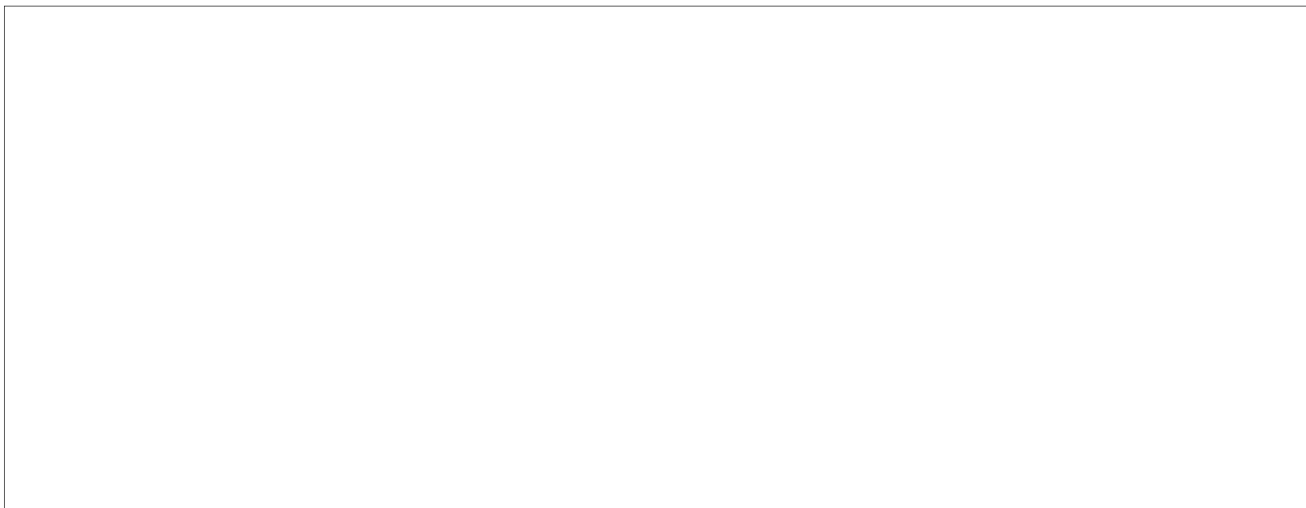
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OPEC: Oil Price Situation Report

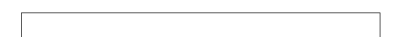
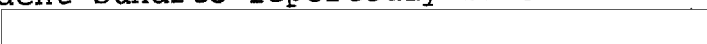
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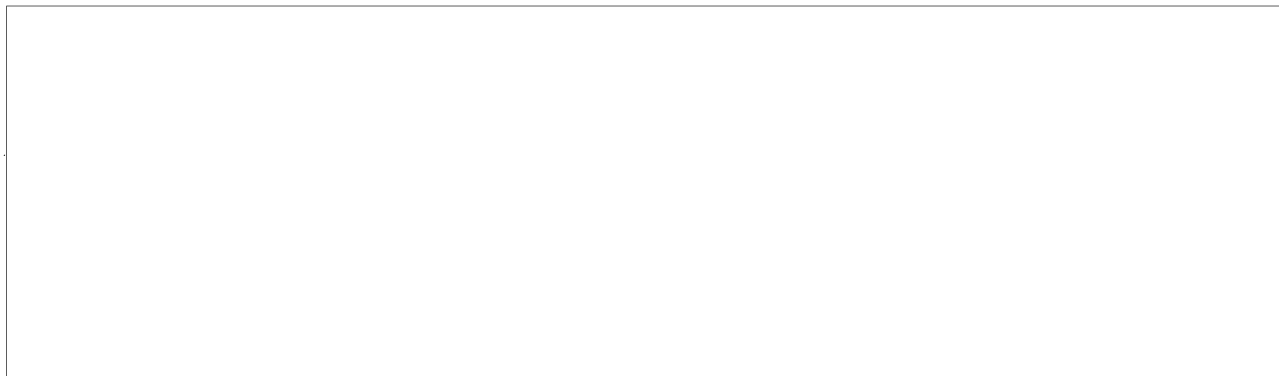
 //The US Embassy in Djakarta has reported that Indonesian Oil Minister Sadli has reacted negatively to the recent US demarche on OPEC oil prices. He stated the US is not supported by the other major oil importing countries such as Japan and that the OPEC countries disagree with US assessment of the causes of inflation and the economic impact of increased oil prices.//

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 //Sadli said he thought the OPEC majority would advocate a price rise of 5 to 10 percent unless it judged that such a hike would undercut their short-run financial interests. For his part, President Suharto reportedly favors an increase of 5 to 7 percent. 

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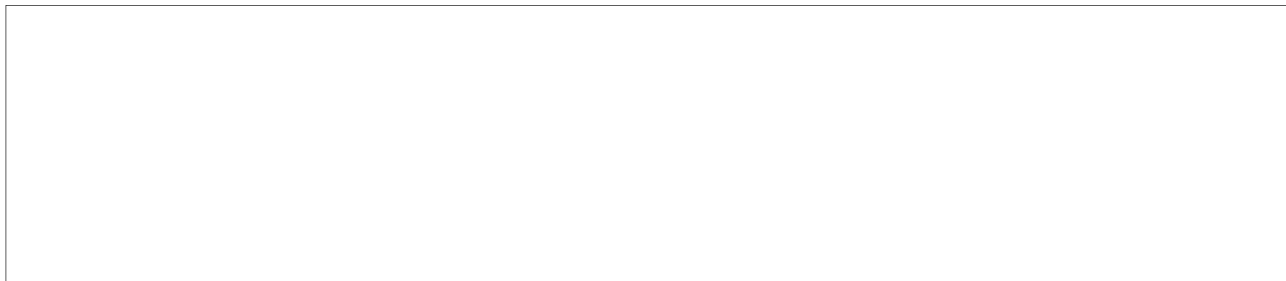
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POLAND: Severe Meat Shortages

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 *The apparent worsening of meat shortages in Poland will increase the prospects for strikes, demonstrations, and other civil disorders until the regime releases the supplies it is evidently stockpiling for the Christmas season.*


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 A Polish foreign trade official told a US Embassy officer that the meat situation is probably worse now than any time since World War II.


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 Occasional fights requiring police intervention have broken out at state-controlled meat stores where people must now reportedly stand in line "for the better part of a day" if they hope to get anything. The wife of a US Embassy officer recently noticed a "near panic scene" in a meat store just after a delivery. Silesian miners, the elite of Polish workers, staged strikes at the end of September because of meat shortages.

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 A Polish East-West trade expert blamed shortages on large exports of meat; he said that the government is more interested in earning hard currency than supplying the domestic market. The regime, however, has cut meat exports sharply since the June 1976 riots. It has also imported 130,000 tons of meat so far this year, compared with 72,000 tons in 1976.

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 Earlier Government policies that dampened incentives for private farmers to expand livestock production and poor harvests since 1975 are major reasons for the shortages. The severe problem has presumably been exacerbated as well by the




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official practice of limiting supplies to the market in late October and November to ensure adequate stocks for the Christmas season.

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 In the meantime, the regime will react to any outbursts by shifting supplies, as it did when the Silesian coal miners went on strike. Even so, the number of simultaneous emergencies the regime can effectively handle is limited.

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25X1 [redacted]

THAILAND-VIETNAM: Diplomatic

25X1 [redacted] //Thailand and Vietnam have agreed to exchange diplomatic missions at the charge d'affaires level before the end of the year. Both sides reportedly have approved a joint communique that will be signed after the new Thai Government is established.//

25X1 [redacted] //Vietnam has agreed to accept 100 Vietnamese currently resident in Thailand and to release three Thai fishing vessels and their crews that apparently were captured in waters claimed by Hanoi. As in their negotiations last year, both sides used symbolic gestures to finesse the treatment and ultimate disposition of the Vietnamese community in Thailand and left a basic resolution of the thorny issue for the future.//

25X1 [redacted] Although diplomatic relations were established between the two countries in August 1976, the anti-Vietnamese cast of former Prime Minister Thanin, who came to power in October 1976, embittered relations and forestalled the opening of embassies. The two sides have moved toward normalizing relations for several months as the pragmatic Thai Military Council and Foreign Ministry overcame Thanin's doctrinaire objections. [redacted]

BRIEFS

USSR - Middle East

25X1 [redacted] The chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Near East Department, Mikhail Sytenko, arrived home yesterday after a nine-day visit to Syria, Jordan, and Egypt. Sytenko, who will head the Soviet delegation to any future Geneva peace conference on the Middle East, took soundings on Arab attitudes toward reconvening the conference. Apparently his talks did not go well. Syrian and Egyptian accounts of the talks merely acknowledged that "views were exchanged," phrasing that suggests there was a certain amount of discord.

25X1 [redacted] In Damascus Sytenko met with Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam, who snubbed the Soviet official during his visit to Syria in February because of Soviet criticism of Syrian military intervention in Lebanon. During Sytenko's recent visit,

[Redacted]

the two sides quarrelled over last month's US-USSR statement on the Middle East

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[Redacted] The main impression left by Sytenko, according to the Syrians, was that Moscow is eager for a return to Geneva.

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[Redacted]

Egypt-Czechoslovakia

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[Redacted] Egypt and Czechoslovakia signed a trade protocol for 1978 yesterday in Cairo, according to the official Egyptian news service. The new protocol includes the same commodities that have been traded between the two countries this year with

[Redacted]

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the exception of raw cotton. In August, Egypt announced the suspension of cotton exports to the USSR and Czechoslovakia; the move was in response to the Soviet embargo of arms and spare parts to Egypt and their refusal to allow Czechoslovakia to deliver tanks already paid for by Egypt. There were no reports of talks on the arms supply problem while the Czechoslovak trade delegation was in Cairo. [redacted]

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Yugoslavia

25X1 [redacted] President Tito may be preparing to dampen public speculation about his rift with his wife. Rumors attribute Madame Broz' disfavor to her alleged intrigues with Serbian generals and Tito's resultant anger to her interference in government affairs. Yugoslav sources are now saying that Madame Broz will make a public appearance--her first in over four months--at the National Day celebrations on 29 November. A cameo appearance would carry the message that she is back in favor, but only as long as she stays on her best behavior. Although such a move would dampen rumors somewhat, it would not repair the considerable damage that has already been done to the regime's image. [redacted]

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France

25X1 [redacted] Representatives of the liaison committee of the French Left Alliance met yesterday in Paris for the first time since talks on updating the Left's Common Program broke down on 23 September. Communist spokesman Charles Fiterman described the meeting, which was requested by the Socialists, as "completely negative"; he said that the Socialists did not make any new concessions or proposals. None of the parties seems to have changed its positions and no date was set for another meeting.


25X1 [redacted] The talks followed an unusually bitter exchange between Communist leader Marchais and Socialist leader Mitterrand last weekend. Both still maintain they are willing to reopen negotiations, but each continues to blame the other for the breakdown in the Alliance. The Communists and the Socialists probably needed to make some new gesture of goodwill to improve their credibility with the substantial portion of the voters who still back the Left Alliance. [redacted]

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USSR

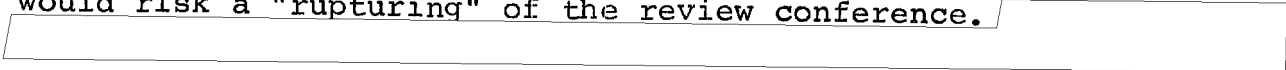
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 The Soviets yesterday for the first time criticized the US record on human rights at the CSCE review conference in Belgrade. Soviet delegate Vorontsov raised the Wilmington 10 case as an example of alleged gross violations of human rights in the US.

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 Vorontsov was replying to a statement by US Ambassador Goldberg, who had referred to the "harassment, arrest, and imprisonment" of Soviet dissidents, and Czechoslovakia's expulsion of some US journalists. The Soviet delegate termed Ambassador Goldberg's statement "polemical" interference in the USSR's domestic concerns and again warned that a "disruptive" US approach would risk a "rupturing" of the review conference.

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