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National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

5 January 1979

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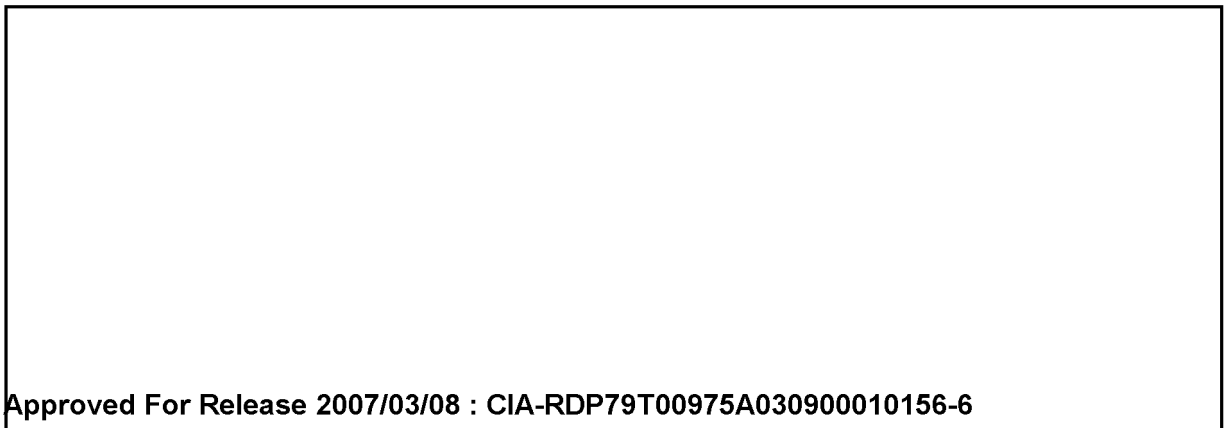
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On 8 January the *National Intelligence Daily* will change format. It will be distributed to the same readers and will continue to be coordinated in the Intelligence Community. Late items, appearing in a section of *Overnight Reports*, will be uncoordinated.

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[Redacted]

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RHODESIA: Pressure on Mozambique

//Over the past month, Rhodesian forces have launched attacks in Zambia and Mozambique against government installations and forces that support Rhodesian nationalist guerrillas. These attacks may reflect a change in Rhodesian Government policy stemming from frustration over the inability of Rhodesian security forces to curtail guerrilla activity inside Rhodesia. Until recently, the Rhodesians have sought to avoid Zambian and Mozambican military targets when striking at Rhodesian guerrilla installations in these countries.//

[Redacted]

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//In mid-December, Rhodesian aircraft bombed a Zambian Army base at which Zimbabwe African People's Union guerrillas are being organized into conventionally armed and trained battalion-sized units.

[Redacted]

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//Since early December, Rhodesian forces have attacked Mozambican Army storage facilities, a military convoy, and road and rail bridges in an effort to disrupt the flow of supplies to the insurgents.//

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

Last weekend, Rhodesian jets bombed Mozambican Air Force facilities at Beira airfield, according to sources of the US Embassy in Maputo. Damage apparently was light; civilian flights resumed on the evening of the attack. Beira airfield has been used as a staging base for flights to and from Tanzania and Ethiopia shuttling arms, recruits, and trained guerrillas for the Zimbabwe African National Union.

[Redacted]

//Rhodesian security officials have become alarmed by the increasing infiltration of guerrillas as well as by guerrilla buildups along Rhodesia's borders with Zambia and Mozambique. The Rhodesian officials have also noted that their raids have not resulted in any expanded role for the Soviets and Cubans in those countries. As the fighting inside Rhodesia expands, and security forces step up their efforts to disrupt staging and training operations, the Rhodesian Government is likely to draw even less distinction between guerrilla and government installations during raids into neighboring countries.//

[Redacted]

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SPAIN: Reaction to Assassinations

//Anger and frustration are reportedly running high in the Spanish military in the wake of the assassination of two Army officers this week by the Basque terrorist organization ETA. Emotional denunciations of Prime Minister Suarez and his government, and occasionally even of the King, have become more frequent within the military since the killings, according to a Spanish Government official. The US Embassy also reports that senior members of the King's household are becoming seriously concerned about the psychological climate within the military.//

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//Military reactions have been fanned by an ETA communique issued this week declaring an "offensive" against Spanish Army leaders. ETA killed two Army officers in Madrid last summer and a naval officer in the Basque region in October, but until now the terrorists have seemed reluctant to launch an all-out campaign against the military.//

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//In a desperate bid to prevent agreement between Madrid and Basque moderates on regional autonomy statutes, however, ETA has apparently decided to gamble on provoking military intervention or a harsh crackdown that would force Basques to choose between the government and the separatists.//

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The promulgation of Spain's new constitution last week greatly reduced the possibility of military intervention. Under the old laws, the King had the power to replace the government, and the generals could have applied pressure on him to do so. Now, any change of government must be approved by parliament and--though the majority of military leaders would prefer a more rightist government--most of them are reluctant to break the law.

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It is unclear how the armed forces would bear up to a concerted terrorist campaign--especially if popular troop commanders were attacked. Military leaders are aware that imposing martial law on the Basque region would play into ETA's hands. At a minimum, the military would be likely to exert intense pressure on the government to crack down on the Basques. This course, too, would carry with it the danger of further polarizing forces in the Basque region.

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TURKEY: Government Survives Vote

//The Turkish Government of Prime Minister Ecevit yesterday survived a motion of censure brought on by the unrest late last month that led to martial law in 13 provinces. The vote demonstrates that Ecevit remains in control of his party, but he apparently had to pay a political price for his victory.//

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The National Assembly refused by a vote of 226 to 210 to support a motion accusing the government of gross negligence during the rioting in Maras that left more than 100 persons dead. The motion was presented by opposition leader Suleyman Demirel, who hoped to draw defectors from Ecevit's two-vote majority in the 450-seat assembly.

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[REDACTED]

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Ecevit has always kept a wary eye on his left- and rightwing rivals. Occasionally he has adjusted his policies slightly to take their views into account. Most often, however, he has ignored them, feeling safe in the knowledge that the rank and file supported him.

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//With his government under criticism from all sides, Ecevit probably realized he could no longer either ignore his rivals or placate them with minor concessions. Although he probably will make some additional cabinet changes to mollify them, he is not likely to make far-reaching policy changes. Ecevit remains Turkey's most popular politician and he knows that none of his rivals in the party could muster sufficient support to remove him as party leader.//

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[Redacted]

BRIEFS

USSR

A sizable portion of the Soviet winter grain crop may have been damaged by freezing temperatures, which reached -25 degrees Celsius in some areas late last month. Hardest hit were the northern Ukraine and the middle Volga valley, which together account for about a third of the winter grain area. Earlier in December, unseasonably warm temperatures and rain melted the protective snow cover in both regions. [Redacted]

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More complete weather data will soon be available,

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[Redacted]

Problems at planting time last fall had already reduced the total area sown with winter grains by more than 10 percent from the previous year. [Redacted]

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Argentina-Chile

//Chilean naval ships and military aircraft sent to the Beagle Channel during the buildup there have left the area, but 8,000 ground personnel remain. The Argentine fleet and air units have also reportedly left the area; about 25,000 Army and naval infantry troops remain deployed, [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

//Both sides in the Beagle Channel dispute are participating in efforts to find a peaceful solution, but neither appears optimistic and they are maintaining their forces in a state of readiness. Even after the recent withdrawals, the level of forces on both sides is significantly higher than it was before the buildup began about a year ago.// [Redacted]

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