

CIA/OCI/BRIEF 135-75  
29 AUGUST 1975

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MIDDLE EAST AFRICA BRIEF 135-75.4

1. LEBANON: GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES MOVED INTO THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF ZAHLAH ON THURSDAY AND HALTED THE SPORADIC ACTS OF VIOLENCE THAT BEGAN LAST WEEKEND.4

UNREST IN THE PREDOMINANTLY CHRISTIAN CITY AND IN A NEIGHBORING MUSLIM TOWN GREW OUT OF SHOOTING INCIDENTS INVOLVING PATROLS OF THE RIGHT-WING CHRISTIAN PHALANGES PARTY MILITIA AND UNIDENTIFIED LEBANESE, SYRIAN, AND PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS. SEVERAL PERSONS HAVE BEEN INJURED IN THE VIOLENCE, WHICH INCLUDED BOMBING ATTACKS IN THE CITY CENTER AND NUMEROUS EXCHANGES OF SMALL-ARMS FIRE.4

AUTHORITIES ARRESTED SOME TROUBLEMAKERS EARLY IN THE WEEK, BUT THIS LED TO CALLS FOR A GENERAL STRIKE, DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE LOCAL GOVERNOR'S HOUSE, AND THE ERECTION OF BARRICADES IN SOME AREAS OF THE CITY.4

THE TWO-MONTH-OLD GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER RASHID KARAMI HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN USING GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES TO PREVENT SIMILAR BUT LESS SERIOUS

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OUTBREAKS OF FIGHTING FROM GROWING INTO WIDER CLASHES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT FORCES, THE PARTY MILITIAS, THE RADICAL FEDAYEEN, AND LEBANESE LEFTISTS. THE SECURITY SERVICES THIS TIME WILL BE HELPED BY THE FACT THAT THE FIGHTING THAT HAS OCCASIONALLY ERUPTED IN BEIRUT AND OTHER PORT CITIES, WHERE THE LEFTISTS AND FEDAYEEN ARE BETTER REPRESENTED AND MORE HEAVILY ARMED, HAS BEEN LIMITED. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS FROM BEIRUT LAST NIGHT, PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS PROTESTING THE ALLEGED DEATH OF A GUERRILLA IN THE ZAHLAH FIGHTING INTERRUPTED TRAFFIC ON THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN THE CAPITAL AND THE AIRPORT.

IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT THE FRAGILE TRUCE BETWEEN LEBANON'S CONTENDING FACTIONS COULD BREAK DOWN WITH THE SLIGHTEST PROVOCATION AND THAT WIDESPREAD FIGHTING COULD ERUPT AGAIN. {CONFIDENTIAL}

2. BAHRAIN: THE EMIR ISSUED A DECREE ON TUESDAY DISSOLVING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. AN ACCOMPANYING ORDER SUSPENDING AN ARTICLE OF THE CONSTITUTION THAT CALLS FOR

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NEW ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF DISSOLUTION SUGGESTS THE RULING FAMILY INTENDS TO DO WITHOUT A LEGISLATURE INDEFINITELY. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF OPPOSITION TO THE EMIR'S ACTION. (CONFIDENTIAL)4

3. RHODESIA: PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH IS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FAILURE EARLIER THIS WEEK OF SETTLEMENT TALKS WITH BLACK NATIONALIST LEADERS.4

IN WHAT WAS A LONGER INITIAL SESSION THAN MANY OBSERVERS AND SMITH HIMSELF HAD PREDICTED, THE BLACK LEADERS APPARENTLY MADE AN IMPORTANT CONCESSION TO SMITH TO KEEP THE TALKS GOING. ALTHOUGH THE NATIONALISTS HAVE LONG MAINTAINED THEY WOULD NOT HOLD DISCUSSIONS INSIDE RHODESIA, THEY REVERSED THEMSELVES AND AGREED TO MEET IN COMMITTEES THERE.4

SMITH, PROBABLY TAKEN BACK BY THIS UNEXPECTED CONCESSION, REFUSED A LONG-STANDING NATIONALIST DEMAND THAT HE GUARANTEE SAFETY FROM ARREST FOR TWO KEY NATIONALIST LEADERS TO RETURN TO RHODESIA FOR THE COMMITTEE SESSIONS. AT THIS POINT, THE MEETING BROKE OFF.4

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SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER, WHOSE HEAVY PRESSURE ON SMITH WAS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MEETING AT VICTORIA FALLS THIS WEEK, HAS NOT INDICATED HIS REACTION TO SMITH'S ADAMANT STAND. PRETORIA CAN STILL EXERT HEAVY ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON RHODESIA IF VORSTER DECIDES TO PRESS SMITH FURTHER. (CONFIDENTIAL)4

4. NAMIBIA: A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF NAMIBIA (SOUTH-WEST AFRICA), OPENS IN WINDHOEK, THE TERRITORIAL CAPITAL, ON SEPTEMBER 1. IT IS SPONSORED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.4

SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER CLAIMS THAT THE DELEGATES, REPRESENTING MOST OF THE TERRITORY'S 12 ETHNIC GROUPS, ARE FREE TO CHOOSE ANY FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR NAMIBIA—EVEN INDEPENDENCE FOR THE WHOLE TERRITORY AS A UNIFIED STATE. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, MAKE ALMOST INEVITABLE THE EMERGENCE OF A LOOSE FEDERAL SYSTEM THAT WOULD MAINTAIN WHITE CONTROL OF THE TERRITORY'S MAJOR MINERAL RESOURCES.4

THE DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE HAVE BEEN CHOSEN

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DOMINATION WILL MOTIVATE DELEGATES FROM THE SMALLER TRIBES TO BACK THE WHITES IN VOTING FOR A FEDERAL SYSTEM THAT WILL PERPETUATE THE PRESENT ETHNIC HOMELANDS. ALTHOUGH THE OVAMBOS THEORETICALLY MIGHT CONTROL A POPULARLY ELECTED CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, THE TRIBAL LEADERS WHO WILL GO TO THE CONFERENCE ACTUALLY WANT MAXIMUM AUTONOMY FOR OVAMBOLAND.4

A FEDERATION MIGHT INVOLVE NO MORE THAN COSMETIC CHANGES IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICY OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT THAT HAS LONG INCURRED BROAD INTERNATIONAL CENSURE. ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE "PETTY APARTHEID" RULES THAT PRETORIA HAS APPLIED IN THE WHITE SECTOR OF NAMIBIA HAVE ALREADY BEEN LIFTED, VORSTER HAS NOT PROPOSED TO ABANDON THE BASIC DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES THAT HAVE KEPT NON-WHITES FROM ADVANCING IN THE TERRITORY'S MODERN INDUSTRIES.4

INSIDE NAMIBIA, THE MOST ARTICULATE OPPOSITION TO SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT HAS COME FROM THE SOUTH-WEST AFRICAN PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION, WHICH WANTS NAMIBIA TO HAVE A UNIFIED, POPULARLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH ITS MEMBERSHIP IS

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PREDOMINANTLY OVAMBO, THE PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION IS THE ONLY NAMIBIAN NATIONALIST GROUP THAT IS RECOGNIZED BY THE UN OR THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY. ITS FOREIGN-BASED GUERRILLAS HAVE SELDOM PENETRATED NAMIBIAN TERRITORY, BUT ITS YOUTH WING ORGANIZED A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE BOYCOTT OF OVAMBO LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN 1973—THE FIRST POPULAR ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN NAMIBIA. TO OFFSET THE FIASCO, SOUTH AFRICAN ADMINISTRATORS HELD A NEW ELECTION IN OVAMBOLAND LAST JANUARY AND ACHIEVED A 55-PERCENT TURNOUT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS.4

VORSTER MAY HAVE NO ILLUSIONS THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE UN. HIS PRIMARY INTENTION IS TO SHOW THAT THERE IS NO SERIOUS NAMIBIAN OPPOSITION TO SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. IF VORSTER'S CASE IS TO GAIN CREDENCE, THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE MUST BE PUBLICIZED AND ANY DRAFT CONSTITUTION MUST EVENTUALLY BE SUBMITTED TO A FREELY CONDUCTED REFERENDUM. MEANWHILE, THE SOUTH AFRICAN AND TRIBAL AUTHORITIES MUST REFRAIN FROM

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EUROPEAN BRIEF 135-75.4

1. PORTUGAL: PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER ALVARO CUNHAL MADE A DRAMATIC APPEAL THURSDAY NIGHT FOR A SUMMIT CONFERENCE OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN POLITICAL LEADERS FOR WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A LAST-MINUTE EFFORT TO AVERT CIVIL WAR.4

CUNHAL'S APPEAL WAS MADE AT A HASTILY ASSEMBLED MIDNIGHT PRESS CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS A REAL DANGER THAT A RIGHTIST GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FORMED, THAT THERE WAS A GROWING FEELING IN THE COUNTRY THAT A RECOURSE TO FORCE WAS INEVITABLE, AND THAT THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID THE WORST WAS TO FIND A COMMON POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT CRISIS IMMEDIATELY.4

HE ANNOUNCED HIS PARTY WAS PREPARED TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES; MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT GONCALVES GOVERNMENT; THE MILITARY'S REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, INCLUDING THE ANTI-COMMUNIST ANTUNES GROUP; RIVAL FACTIONS IN THE MILITARY; REPRESENTATIVES OF PARTIES ALLIED TO THE COMMUNISTS; AND, THE COMMUNISTS' ARCH-RIVAL, THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF MARIO SOARES. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT CUNHAL IS CONCERNED ABOUT GONCALVES' STAYING POWER AS PRIME MINISTER.

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POLITICAL DISSENT COULD INSPIRE PROTESTS THAT MIGHT TEST THE COHESIVENESS OF SPAIN'S DOMINANT POLITICAL AND MILITARY FORCES.4

A TOUGH NEW ANTITERRORIST LAW, APPROVED BY THE CABINET LAST FRIDAY, IMPOSES AN AUTOMATIC DEATH PENALTY ON ANYONE CONVICTED OF KILLING A MEMBER OF THE SECURITY FORCES. THE LAW ALSO PRESCRIBES THE SAME SENTENCE IN CASES WHERE A KIDNAPING RESULTS IN THE DEATH OF A HOSTAGE. THE DECREE WILL BE APPLIED RETROACTIVELY TO AT LEAST 16 ACCUSED TERRORISTS ALREADY UNDER DETENTION.4

THE FIRST TEST OF THE LAW BEGAN ON THURSDAY IN THE TRIAL OF TWO BASQUES CHARGED WITH KILLING A MEMBER OF THE PARAMILITARY CIVIL GUARD. SPANIARDS ARE LIKELY TO COMPARE THE TRIAL WITH THE FAMOUS BURGOS TRIAL OF 1970, IN WHICH SIX BASQUE TERRORISTS WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH.4

FRANCO COMMUTED THEIR SENTENCES TO 30 YEARS IMPRISONMENT, BUT NOT BEFORE THE VERDICT HAD LED TO WIDESPREAD DEMONSTRATIONS, INVOLVING STUDENTS, WORKERS, AND THE CHURCH, AND ADVERSE REACTION FROM ABROAD. THE AFFAIR ALSO REVEALED SERIOUS DISAGREEMENTS AMONG VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE POWER ELITE AS TO THE DIRECTION FUTURE

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DEVELOPMENTS IN SPAIN SHOULD TAKE.4

IF A SIMILAR STORM OF PROTEST ARISES THIS TIME, THE STRAIN ON SPAIN'S RULING CIRCLES COULD BE COMPOUNDED BY PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THE CASES OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS RECENTLY ARRESTED FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITY.4

THE ANTITERRORIST LAW'S PROVISION FOR CLOSING NEWSPAPERS THAT SHOW SYMPATHY FOR THE TERRORISTS AND THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT THREAT TO RESORT TO LEGAL ACTION AGAINST PAPERS SPREADING RUMORS ABOUT FRANCO'S STEPPING DOWN ARE LIKELY TO ADD FUEL TO OPPOSITION PROTESTS AND FURTHER DIVIDE REGIME SUPPORTERS. THE CURRENT EDITIONS OF THREE OF SPAIN'S MOST INFLUENTIAL WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS WERE SEIZED ON AUGUST 27, THE DAY THE NEW LAW CAME INTO EFFECT.4

DIFFERENCES ALREADY EXIST WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS THE HANDLING OF DISSENT, THE PROPER WAY TO DEAL WITH TERRORISTS, AND THE GENERAL ADVISABILITY OF LOOSER POLITICAL CONTROLS. THOSE FAVORING A TOUGH APPROACH HAVE SEEMED TO BE IN THE ASCENDANCY RECENTLY.4

A STRONG REACTION, HOWEVER, COULD LEAD TO A MORE FORCEFUL

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STAND BY SOME SPANISH LEADERS, SUCH AS PRIME MINISTER ARIAS, WHO ARE SEEKING TO IMPROVE SPAIN'S IMAGE AND WHO BELIEVE THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE A SMOOTH TRANSFER OF POWER IS TO BEGIN NOW TO EASE POLITICAL RESTRICTIONS. (SECRET)4

9. USSR-PORTUGAL: THE MOST RECENT SOVIET COMMENTARY ON PORTUGAL SHOWS A SLIGHT INCREASE IN RHETORICAL INTENSITY AND EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN, BUT DOES NOT DEVELOP ANY NEW POSITIONS.4

AMPLIFYING EARLIER SOVIET CRITICISM OF WESTERN INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGAL, TODAY'S PRAVDA NOTES THAT THE SOVIET PEOPLE "WATCH WITH ALARM" WESTERN MACHINATIONS IN THE COUNTRY. WESTERN COMPANIES AND ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS ARE NOW ACCUSED OF MOUNTING A VIRTUAL ECONOMIC BOYCOTT AGAINST PORTUGAL. PEKING IS ATTACKED MORE FORCEFULLY. WHEREAS PREVIOUSLY THE CHINESE WERE ACCUSED OF INTERFERING IN ANGOLA AND THE AZORES, THE LATEST SOVIET ARTICLE ASSERTS THAT THEY ARE ALSO PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS.4

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THE SOVIETS STILL SEEM CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH REBUTTING WESTERN CHARGES THAT THEY ARE INTERFERING IN PORTUGAL, RATHER THAN LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR DEEPER INVOLVEMENT. PRAVDA AGAIN CITES THE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE, RHETORICALLY QUESTIONING WHETHER ALLEGED WESTERN ACTIONS IN PORTUGAL ARE COMPATIBLE WITH CSCE PRINCIPLES, BUT REITERATES THE VIEW THAT PORTUGAL'S FATE SHOULD BE DECIDED BY THE PORTUGUESE THEMSELVES.

THE SOVIETS AGAIN DRAW A PARALLEL BETWEEN THE PRESENT SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AND CONDITIONS IN CHILE BEFORE THE OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE, BUT STRIKE A SOMEWHAT MORE DEFIANT NOTE. IN A BROADCAST ON THURSDAY A SOVIET COMMENTATOR ASSERTED THAT "PORTUGAL MUST NOT BE ANOTHER CHILE." CALLING AGAIN FOR UNITY OF "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES, HE ADDED A NEW WRINKLE BY WARNING PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST LEADER SOARES THAT THE SOCIALISTS WILL NOT BE SPARED IF "REACTION" TRIUMPHS.

WHILE THE SOVIETS SEEMED SOMEWHAT MORE BELLI-

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GERENT IN THE CONTEXT OF CHILE, THEY MAY HAVE BALANCED THIS BY SHOWING RELATIVE MODERATION ON ANOTHER SUBJECT. IN REPORTING THE ALLIANCE THAT THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS HAVE FORMED WITH SEVEN LEFTIST GROUPS, THEY DESCRIBED IT AS "SET UP TO ORGANIZE A JOINT REBUFF TO REACTION" AND HAVE NOT YET REPEATED CUNHAL'S STATEMENT THAT THE NEW FRONT WOULD CARRY OUT "OFFENSIVE ACTION" AGAINST GROUPS TO ITS POLITICAL RIGHT. (CONFIDENTIAL)4

4. ROMANIA-PORTUGAL: THE ROMANIANS ARE ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE A VISIT BY PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU TO LISBON, PROBABLY IN EARLY OCTOBER.4

CEAUSESCU HAS FREQUENTLY TRIED, WITH VARYING SUCCESS, TO INJECT HIMSELF AS AN "HONEST BROKER" INTO COMPLEX INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS. THESE VENTURES INTO WORLD DIPLOMACY ENHANCE CEAUSESCU'S PRESTIGE AT HOME AND PROVIDE A USEFUL WAY TO FLAUNT ROMANIA'S INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY COURSE.4

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CEAUSESUCU APPARENTLY HOPES TO STOP OVER IN LISBON EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER HIS SCHEDULED VISIT TO CANADA ON OCTOBER 8-11. PORTUGUESE DIPLOMATS IN BUCHAREST SAY THAT LISBON IS ATTEMPTING TO "ACCOMMODATE" THE ROMANIAN LEADER, BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER THE VISIT CAN BE ARRANGED.

CEAUSESUCU'S APPARENT DESIRE TO USE PORTUGAL'S PROBLEMS TO ENHANCE BUCHAREST'S INTERNATIONAL STANDING IS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE COMMENTARY BY ROMANIAN MEDIA ON THE CRISIS. THE ROMANIAN PARTY DAILY'S MOST RECENT EDITORIAL ON THE SITUATION IN LISBON CONDEMNED ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS AND WARNED THAT ANTI-COMMUNIST VIOLENCE WILL ONLY BENEFIT PORTUGUESE RIGHTISTS. WHILE THIS ECHOES MOSCOW'S RHETORIC, THE EDITORIAL ALSO STRONGLY LAMENTED THE LACK OF COOPERATION BETWEEN PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS--A LINE THAT WILL SURELY IRK SOVIET PROPAGANDISTS. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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5. YUGOSLAVIA: YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER MILOS MINIC OPENED THE DEBATE AT THE LINA MEETING OF NONALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS ON TUESDAY BY TAKING CONTROVERSIAL POSITIONS THAT INCLUDED REJECTION OF ARAB PROPOSALS TO EXPEL OR EXCLUDE ISRAEL FROM THE UN.

MINIC ARGUED AGAINST THE SYRIAN RESOLUTION ON ISRAEL BY ASSERTING THAT THE UN CHARTER SHOULD BE OBSERVED IN SEEKING ANY SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL. HE MADE IT PLAIN, HOWEVER, THAT BELGRADE BELIEVES TEL AVIV IS ILLEGALLY OCCUPYING ARAB LAND AND IS THEREBY CONTINUING THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. MINIC RECOMMENDED THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AS A USEFUL MEANS OF ACCELERATING A "COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION" TO THE SITUATION. HE ALSO REPEATED YUGOSLAV INTEREST IN FORMING A NONALIGNED GROUP TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON ISRAEL.

IN OTHER SENSITIVE AREAS, MINIC CHIDED THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES FOR FAILING TO "ALLOCATE PART OF THEIR FINANCIAL RESOURCES" FOR THIRD WORLD DEVELOP-

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MENT PROJECTS AND CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF A  
 SYSTEM OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE FOR THIRD WORLD COUN-  
 TRIES WHO FACE A THREAT TO THEIR SECURITY.

NINIC SAID THE NOYALIGNED SHOULD UNITE BEHIND A  
 YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL FOR A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE  
 OR, FAILING THAT, SUPPORT A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE  
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EAST ASIA BRIEF 135-75.4

1.//LAOS: THE LAO COMMUNISTS OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTING A CAREFUL PLAN TO RE-EDUCATE LAO ARMY OFFICERS WHO DID NOT FLEE THE COUNTRY FOLLOWING THE COLLAPSE OF THE COALITION. THE OFFICERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH PAST CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH THE US, HAVE BEEN HUMILIATED AND MANY HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED TO COMMUNIST TOWNS DEEP IN THE HINTERLANDS FOR INDOCTRINATION. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ANY HAVE BEEN EXECUTED OR PHYSICALLY ABUSED, BUT THE CONDITIONS IN SOME OF THESE AREAS RESEMBLE CONCENTRATION CAMPS.//4

//IN LATE JUNE AND EARLY JULY MANY LAO ARMY OFFICERS AND SOME CIVILIAN OFFICIALS WERE REQUIRED TO ATTEND TRAINING SEMINARS AT LOCAL MILITARY FACILITIES TO LEARN THE NEW "POLITICAL REALITIES." THE EXPERIENCES OF ABOUT 250 OFFICERS WHO ATTENDED A SEMINAR AT CHINAIMO CAMP NEAR VIENTIANE SEEM TYPICAL.

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IN THE HINTERLANDS AND WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE FATE OF THE PARTICIPANTS. THE SESSIONS ARE SUPPOSED TO LAST FROM TWO TO THREE MONTHS, BUT MOST LAO EXPECT IT TO BE CONSIDERABLY LONGER. ONE KNOWLEDGEABLE LAO OFFICIAL BELIEVES THAT MANY WILL REMAIN FOR MORE THAN A YEAR. HE BELIEVES THAT MOST OF THOSE WHO FULLY GRASP AND ACCEPT THE COMMUNIST TEACHINGS WILL BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO VIENTIANE, BUT SOME WILL REMAIN TO WORK AT POSTS IN THE HINTERLANDS.//4

//THIS RE-EDUCATION EFFORT PROBABLY SERVES SEVERAL COMMUNIST PURPOSES. ONE IMPORTANT GOAL ALMOST CERTAINLY IS TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THE OFFICERS WHILE THE REMAINDER OF THE COALITION IS DEMOLISHED. THE MOVEMENT OF MOST OFFICERS FAR FROM THEIR HOMES PRECLUDES THEIR FLIGHT AND ENSURES THAT THEY WILL NOT BE IN CONTACT WITH POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME ELEMENTS IN VIENTIANE OR ACROSS THE MEKONG IN THAILAND.//4

//THE COMMUNISTS PROBABLY ALSO HOPE THAT SOME OF

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THE OFFICERS WILL DEMONSTRATE A WILLINGNESS TO CO-OPERATE IN THE NEW ORDER. TECHNICIANS AND CAPABLE MIDDLE GRADE OFFICERS AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY IN COMMUNIST RANKS. REFORMED OFFICERS COULD BE PUT TO GOOD USE EITHER IN VIENTIANE OR WITH COMMUNIST UNITS IN THE BACK COUNTRY. {SECRET}//4

2. BURMA: AUTHORITIES IN RANGOON HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN A NEW GET-TOUGH CAMPAIGN AGAINST LAWBREAKERS IN RECENT WEEKS. THE EFFORT, WHICH BEGAN SHORTLY AFTER THE STUDENT AND LABOR DISTURBANCES LAST JUNE, HAS CENTERED ON POLITICAL DISSIDENTS AND ECONOMIC CRIMINALS. LAST MONTH, THE CRACKDOWN WAS BROADENED TO INCLUDE HUNDREDS OF "BAD CHARACTERS"--VAGRANTS, SQUATTERS, AND PETTY THIEVES. 4

PENALTIES ARE ALSO BECOMING MORE SEVERE. STUDENTS AND WORKERS FOUND GUILTY OF PARTICIPATING IN THE DISTURBANCES ARE NOW BEING GIVEN STIFFER SENTENCES THAN THOSE INVOLVED IN SIMILAR DISORDERS LAST YEAR.

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SOME STUDENTS HAVE RECEIVED EIGHT-YEAR JAIL TERMS, WHILE WORKERS GOT UP TO 16 YEARS. EVEN PETTY CRIMINALS ARE SUMMARILY SENTENCED TO TERMS OF UP TO SIX YEARS, AND TRAFFIC LAWS ARE BEING STRICTLY ENFORCED.

CHARGES OF CORRUPTION, NEGLECT, AND INDISCIPLINE HAVE BEEN LEVIED ON SEVERAL HUNDRED LOW LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ALTHOUGH THE REGIME NORMALLY TURNS A BLIND EYE TO BLACK MARKET OPERATIONS, RAIDS HAVE BEEN MADE ON RANGOON WAREHOUSES, AND NEARLY 100 SMALL PRIVATE INDUSTRIES IN THE CAPITAL HAVE BEEN CLOSED FOR RESELLING RAW MATERIALS PURCHASED FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

HARD-LINE ELEMENTS IN THE ARMY APPARENTLY ARE BEHIND THE TOUGH TACTICS. THE MILITARY HAS ADMINISTERED RANGOON DIRECTLY SINCE THE RIOTS LAST DECEMBER, AND SOLDIERS, RATHER THAN POLICE, ARE NOW MAKING HOUSE TO HOUSE SEARCHES IN LOWER CLASS SUBURBAN AREAS. ARMY PATROLS ARE AGAIN STOPPING LONG-HAIRED YOUTHS ON THE STREETS AND GIVING THEM FREE HAIRCUTS, AS THEY

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DID IN DECEMBER.4

THE AUTHORITIES HAD ORIGINALLY ACTED WITH CON-  
 siderable restraint in dealing with the most recent  
 disturbances in Rangoon. Senior officials met with  
 student and worker groups to explain the government's  
 policies. The regime has been unwilling or unable,  
 however, to come up with new solutions to alleviate  
 Burma's underlying economic ills, and authorities  
 apparently have concluded that they must use force  
 to keep the situation from getting out of hand.

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**WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 135-75-4**

**//CHILE: SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MILITARY OFFICERS IN CHILE ARE EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET IS PLACING TOO MUCH CONFIDENCE IN THE JUDGMENTS OF A SMALL GROUP OF EXTREMELY CONSERVATIVE ADVISERS. THE TOTALITARIAN VIEWS OF THIS GROUP APPARENTLY HAVE HAD A MAJOR IMPACT ON DECISIONS MADE RECENTLY IN THE JUNTA'S NAME.//4**

25X [REDACTED] **THAT CIVILIAN ADVISER JAIME GUZMAN WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN PERSUADING THE PRESIDENT TO ADOPT POLICIES LIKE THE CANCELLATION OF A VISIT TO SANTIAGO OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS STUDY GROUP THAT SUBSEQUENTLY AROUSED STRONG CRITICISM OF THE REGIME AT HOME AND ABROAD. RESENTMENT OF THE POWER ARROGATED BY GUZMAN IS SHARED BY GENERAL LEIGHT, A KEY JUNTA MEMBER, WHO BLAMES GUZMAN FOR INFLUENCING PINOCHET TO CANCEL THE VISIT.//4**

25X1C [REDACTED] **THAT GUZMAN IS MANEUVERING TO EXERT TIGHTER CONTROL OVER THE NEWS MEDIA IN CHILE. GUZMAN IS SAID TO BE RIGIDLY OPPOSED TO A FREE PRESS AND EAGER TO CLAMP MORE RESTRICTIVE CONTROLS OVER IT. PINOCHET MAY YET HEED**

**SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM**

**THE WARNINGS OF THOSE WHO OPPOSE MORE REPRESSIVE MEASURES.//4**

**//PINOCHET SEEMS TO BELIEVE HIS OWN FREQUENT ASSERTIONS THAT THE REGIME HAS STRONG POPULAR SUPPORT. THIS CONFIDENCE IS BASED ON OPINION POLLS AND ON CAREFULLY ARRANGED VISITS TO AREAS OUTSIDE SANTIAGO. HE ONLY GRUDGINGLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SERIOUSNESS OF CHILE'S ECONOMIC PLIGHT AND THE DISCONTENT CAUSED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S HEAVY-HANDED SECURITY ACTIONS.//4**

**//FOR THE MOST PART, PINOCHET SEEMS TO LISTEN ONLY TO WHAT HE WANTS TO HEAR, AND HIS CLOSEST COLLABORATORS ARE PROBABLY PLAYING ON THIS TENDENCY.//4**

**//THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THAT A PUBLIC GESTURE TOWARD RELAXING ITS STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS LONG OVERDUE, AND WE HAVE FIRM REPORTS THAT MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED WHEN PINOCHET DELIVERS AN ADDRESS ON SEPTEMBER 11, THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF ALLENDE'S OVERTHROW.//4**

**//ALLEVIATION OF THE STATE OF SIEGE RESTRICTIONS AND A SHIFT OF JUDICIAL AUTHORITY FROM MILITARY TO CIVILIAN COURTS ARE DISTINCT POSSIBILITIES.//4**

SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM

//SO FAR, HOWEVER, THERE IS LITTLE REASON TO BELIEVE  
THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS READY TO OBSERVE THE SPIRIT AS WELL AS THE LE  
LETTER OF ITS OWN LAWS. MORE OFTEN THAN NOT IT LOOKS THE OTHER  
WAY WHEN SECURITY FORCES IGNORE THE LAW. {SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM}//  
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