

CIA/OCI/BRIEF 167-75  
29 OCTOBER 1975

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86-06080R000300040069-1

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PAGE 2 OF PAGES

CLASSIFICATION

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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF: INFO: FILE

INDEX DISSEM BY:  
 NO INDEX  
 RETURN TO PER  
 IF FILES #

EAST ASIA BRIEF 167-754

LAOS-THAILAND: THE LAO ARE TAKING A HARSH LINE TOWARD BANGKOK AND ARE REFUSING TO COOPERATE TO REDUCE TENSIONS ALONG THE COMMON MEKONG BORDER.

VIENTIANE LAST WEEK REJECTED OUT OF HAND A THAI PROPOSAL FOR JOINT MEKONG RIVER PATROLS TO ASSIST IN PREVENTING CLASHES ALONG THE RIVER. THE THAI HAD PROPOSED THIS JOINT EFFORT FOLLOWING SEVERAL BORDER SKIRMISHES EARLIER THIS MONTH. COMMENTING ON THE THAI PROPOSAL, RADIO PATHET LAO ASSERTED THAT PROGRESS ON RELATIONS COULD NOT BE MADE BECAUSE BANGKOK HAD?

--FAILED TO RETURN FORMER LAO MILITARY EQUIPMENT NOW IN THAILAND;

--ALLOWED LAO NON-COMMUNIST EXILES TO CARRY OUT ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND;

--HELPED THE US TO CREATE DISTURBANCES IN LAOS.

VIENTIANE'S POSITION ALMOST CERTAINLY REFLECTS HANOI'S INFLUENCE ON THE LAO COMMUNISTS. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE BEEN CITING THE THAI REFUSAL TO RETURN MILITARY EQUIPMENT THAT CAME FROM SOUTH VIETNAM

DATE:  
ORIG:  
UNIT:  
EXT:

REFERRING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

1	4	7
2	5	8
3	6	9

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO DCI

PAGE OF PAGES

OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 3

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF: INFO: FILE

INDEX DISSEM BY:

NO IND:

RETURN TO PER

IP FILES #

AS A MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK TO IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH BANGKOK. PROGRESS ON LAO-THAI RELATIONS WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO AWAIT A RESOLUTION OF THE IMPASSE BETWEEN HANOI AND BANGKOK. Y

MEANWHILE, THE LAO SEEM TO BE ATTEMPTING TO PRESSURE BANGKOK BY PLAYING ON THAI SENSITIVITIES REGARDING COMMUNIST INSURGENCY IN NORTHEAST THAILAND. A BROADCAST ON OCTOBER 23, AFTER BLAMING THE THAI FOR ALL BILATERAL PROBLEMS, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THAI "PATRIOTIC AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES"—A EUPHEMISM FOR THE THAI COMMUNISTS—WILL EVENTUALLY OVERTHROW THE BANGKOK GOVERNMENT. A PATHET LAO CABINET MEMBER ON OCTOBER 23 ADDED FUEL TO THE ANTI-THAI EFFORT BY PUBLICLY EMPHASIZING HISTORIC LAO CLAIMS TO MUCH OF NORTHEAST THAILAND. HE SAID THAT "SOONER OR LATER" THIS AREA WOULD BE REUNITED WITH LAOS. Y

//FOR THEIR PART, THE THAI ARE TAKING STEPS TO LESSEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT CONFLICTS ALONG THE MEKONG WILL GET OUT OF HAND. THEIR PATROL BOATS HAVE BEEN ISSUED STRICT RULES OF ENGAGEMENT, AND OTHER ARMED FORCES ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN ORDERED NOT TO ASSIST THAI BOATS INVOLVED IN CLASHES WITH THE LAO. {SECRET} // E-2, IMPDET. H

DATE: OCTOBER 29, 1975

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1		4		7	
2		5		8	
3		6		9	

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO DCI

OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

PAGE OF PAGES  
2

CLASSIFICATION  
SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF: INFO: FILE

INDEX DISSEM BY:  
 NO INDEX  
 RETURN TO PER  
 IN FILES #

WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 167-75.4

1. ARGENTINA: THE NEWLY ANNOUNCED ACCORD WITH SOME ARGENTINE BUSINESS AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IS AN ATTEMPT BY THE GOVERNMENT TO BUY TIME WHILE IT GROPEs FOR SOLUTIONS TO SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.4

TERMED A "SOCIAL TRUCE," THE ACCORD IS AN ATTEMPT TO REVIVE THE "SOCIAL PACT" HAMMERED OUT BY THE LATE JUAN PERON IN 1973. THE LATTER COMMITTED BUSINESS AND LABOR TO LIMIT THEIR RESPECTIVE DEMANDS IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIAL PEACE.4

THE NEW ACCORD COMES AMID THE PROTEST STRIKES AND INCREASED TENSION THAT FOLLOWED PRESIDENT MARIA ESTELA PERON'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY NEW WAGE HIKES. WORKERS FOR SOME TIME HAVE BEEN COMPLAINING THAT THE HUGE INCREASES THEY WRESTED FROM THE GOVERNMENT LAST JUNE HAVE BEEN ERODED BY INFLATION.4

THUS FAR, THERE HAVE BEEN FIVE WALKOUTS AT MAJOR AUTO PLANTS IN BUENOS AIRES AND CORDOBA. BANK WORKERS ARE ALSO ON STRIKE.4

UNION LEADERS, FEARFUL OF LOSING THE SUPPORT OF THE RANK AND FILE, GENERALLY ECHO WORKER SENTIMENT, BUT HAVE AVOIDED A MAJOR

DATE:  
 ORIG:  
 UNIT:  
 EXT:

**OUTGOING MESSAGE**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRD DCI

PAGE OF PAGES

OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

3

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF: INFO: FILE:

INDEX DISSEM BY:  
 NO INDEX  
 RETURN TO PER

IF FILES #

CLASH WITH ECONOMY MINISTER CAFIERO. HE ADVOCATES HOLDING THE LINE ON WAGES AND SEEKS TO THE FUTURE INCREASES TO GREATER PRODUCTIVITY.4

CAFIERO HAS STRONG PERONIST CREDENTIALS AND A LONG ASSOCIATION WITH LABOR, BUT HE CANNOT STAY IN OFFICE INDEFINITELY WITHOUT GIVING THE WORKERS SOMETHING. HE HAS ALREADY COMPROMISED SOMEWHAT BY INCREASING FAMILY ALLOWANCES.4

LABOR LEADERS WHO STILL SUPPORT PERON COULD BE OBLIGED TO BREAK WITH HER EVENTUALLY IN THE FACE OF WORKER PRESSURE. IN THE EVENT, THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE DEPRIVED OF MOST OF ITS REMAINING ACTIVE SUPPORTERS.4

SOME ADMINISTRATION CRITICS, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE MILITARY, MAY WELL HOPE FOR SUCH A DEVELOPMENT, WHICH THEY COULD PRESENT AS FURTHER PROOF OF THE NEED TO REPLACE THE ADMINISTRATION. FOR EVERY OFFICER WHO FEELS THIS WAY, THERE IS UNDOUBTEDLY ANOTHER WHO FEARS THE EMERGENCE OF AN UNDISCIPLINED, LEADERLESS LABOR MOVEMENT THAT WOULD GREATLY COMPLICATE ANY ATTEMPT BY THE MILITARY TO GOVERN THE COUNTRY.4

THE ADMINISTRATION ALSO FACES PROBLEMS IN CONGRESS, WHERE

DATE:  
 ORIG:  
 UNIT:  
 EXT:

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

1	4	7
2	5	8
3	6	9

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CLASSIFICATION: SECRET NOFORN  
 MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

PAGE OF PAGES: 4

CONF: INFO: FILE  
 INDEX DISSEM BY:  
 NO INDEX  
 RETURN TO PER  
 IF FILES #

OPPOSITION LEADERS ARE PUSHING FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF CORRUPTION IN HIGH PLACES.4

PERONIST POLITICIANS, WHILE TRYING TO STEER THE INVESTIGATION AWAY FROM THE PRESIDENT, HAVE REVERSED THEIR EARLIER POSITION AND VOTED TO PURSUE THE INVESTIGATION. {CONFIDENTIAL}4

2. BRAZIL: THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT IS ENCOURAGING FOREIGN COOPERATION WITH ITS NEW STATE WEAPONS INDUSTRY, APPARENTLY IN HOPES OF MAKING ITS ARMED FORCES SELF-SUFFICIENT AND EXPANDING THE NATION'S EXPORT MARKET.4

LAST APRIL, PRESIDENT GEISEL FORMALLY PROPOSED THE CREATION OF A PUBLIC ENTERPRISE TO BE KNOWN AS THE WAR MATERIEL INDUSTRY THAT COULD ALSO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR INDUSTRIAL GROWTH AND ADVANCE STRATEGIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. IN JUSTIFYING THE ACTION, ARMY MINISTER SYLVIO FROTA EMPHASIZED THAT STRONGER CENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT CONTROL IS NEEDED BECAUSE "PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPING WITHOUT A CLEAR AND FIXED ORIENTATION, HAD NOT BEEN ENOUGH."4

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT GOVERNMENT SUPPORT IS ALREADY HAVING A MAJOR IMPACT. DURING THE PAST YEAR MORE THAN 100 DIRECTORS OF LARGE

DATE:  
 ORIG:  
 UNIT:  
 EXT:

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

1		5		7	
2		6		8	
3		7		9	

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

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PAGE OF PAGES

OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 5

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF: INFO: FILE

INDEX DISSEM BY:  
 NO INDEX  
 RETURN TO PER

IP FILES #

FIRMS SPECIALIZING IN THE PRODUCTION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAVE VISITED BRAZIL TO EXPLORE INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES. BRAZIL HAS ALREADY CONCLUDED OVER \$100 MILLION IN EXPORT CONTRACTS, INCLUDING MAJOR CREDIT DEALS WITH CHILE AND LIBYA. A RECENT ARTICLE IN THE INFLUENTIAL DAILY JORNAL DO BRASIL EXPRESSED SPECIAL INTEREST IN COOPERATING WITH THE WEST GERMANS, STATING "WE HAVE AN IDEAL COMMUNITY OF INTEREST WITH GERMANY...BRAZIL WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EXCELLENT GERMAN EXPERTISE IN THE PRODUCTION OF ARMS, INCLUDING SOPHISTICATED MISSILES, WITH A GUARANTEED MARKET ASSURED."

ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS MAY BE AS SIGNIFICANT AS STRATEGIC ONES. THE GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO BOLSTER ITS SAGGING BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS POSITION, AND AN UPSWING IN WEAPONS EXPORTS WOULD PROVIDE NEEDED FOREIGN EXCHANGE. ALTHOUGH BRAZIL WILL PROBABLY STILL NEED TO IMPORT SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS FOR SOME TIME, AN EXPANSION IN EXPORTS OF SMALL ARMS, MOTOR VEHICLES, AND TRAINER AIRCRAFT WOULD RESULT IN VALUABLE FEEDBACK FROM FOREIGN BUYERS THAT MIGHT SPEED THE TRANSITION TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 IMPDET.H

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DATE: OCTOBER 29, 1975

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2		3		4	
3		4		5	

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO DCI

OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

PAGE OF PAGES

2

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF: INFO: FILE

INDEX DISSEM BY:

NO INDEX

RETURN TO PER

IP FILES #

MEA BRIEF 167-75.4

1. SPANISH SAHARA: MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI, ACCOMPANIED THIS TIME BY HIS MAURITANIAN COUNTERPART, RETURNED TO MADRID TUESDAY FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS ON SPANISH SAHARA.4

THE QUICKENING PACE OF DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS AND THE INCLUSION OF MAURITANIA, WHICH IS ALIGNED WITH MOROCCO ON THE SPANISH SAHARA DISPUTE, SUGGEST THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN ARE MAKING PROGRESS. AN UNDERSTANDING MAY BE NEAR THAT WOULD PARTITION SPANISH SAHARA BETWEEN MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA AND GRANT SPAIN MILITARY BASES AND VARIOUS ECONOMIC CONCESSIONS.4

THE THREE COUNTRIES HAVE REASON TO SETTLE THE SAHARA DISPUTE QUICKLY. MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA WOULD LIKE A NEGOTIATED FAIT ACCOMPLI IN HOPES OF HEADING OFF A DEBATE ON SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE DISPUTED TERRITORY IN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS FALL. SPAIN WOULD LIKE TO SETTLE THIS CONTENTIOUS ISSUE BEFORE JUAN CARLOS ASSUMES POWER TO SPARE HIS NEW GOVERNMENT AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN AND FORESTALL OR AT LEAST LIMIT THE SIZE OF MOROCCO'S PLANNED MASS MARCH INTO SPANISH SAHARA.4

DATE:  
 ORIG:  
 UNIT:  
 EXT:

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

1		4		7
2		5		8
3		6		9

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MR. OCI

OM: 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

PAGE OF PAGE

3

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF.

INFO: FILE

0 INDEX DISSEM BY:

0 NO INDEX

0 RETURN TO PER

9 IF FILES #

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THAT THE SPANISH MILITARY

IS CONCERNED THAT IF KING HASSA GOES THROUGH WITH HIS PLANNED MARCH OF 350,000 PEOPLE, THE SITUATION WILL GET OUT OF CONTROL. MADRID MIGHT ALLOW A SMALL NUMBER OF MOROCCANS TO MAKE A SYMBOLIC ENTRY INTO SPANISH SAHARA, BUT THE MILITARY HAS INDICATED IT WILL NOT ALLOW LARGE NUMBERS OF MARCHERS TO CROSS THE BORDER AND CONTINUE ON TO EL AAIUN.//4

//THE MILITARY REPORTEDLY HAS A DETAILED PLAN WHICH IT INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT SHOULD LARGE NUMBERS OF MARCHERS CROSS THE BORDER. SPANISH BORDER GUARDS REPORTEDLY WOULD EVACUATE THE BORDER AREA SHORTLY BEFORE THE MOROCCANS ARRIVED; PROPAGANDA WOULD THEN BE DISTRIBUTED TO DISCOURAGE THE MARCHERS FROM CROSSING. IF THE MOROCCANS PERSISTED, THE SPANISH MILITARY WOULD ATTEMPT TO DISSUADE THE MARCHERS BY MAKING APPEALS OVER LOUDSPEAKERS AND USING TEAR GAS. IF THE MARCHERS REACHED A POINT SOME 18 TO 24 MILES INTO SPANISH-HELD TERRITORY, HOWEVER, THE SPANISH WOULD ESTABLISH A LINE OF MILITARY RESISTANCE AND USE FORCE TO STOP THE MARCHERS. THE MILITARY

DATE:  
ORIG:  
UNIT:  
EXT:

TRANSMITTING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

OUTGOING MESSAGE

1	1	7
2	5	8
3	6	9

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO DCI

PAGE OF PAGES

OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

4

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

- INDEX DISSEM BY
- NO INDEX
- RETURN TO. VER
- IP FILES #

REPORTEDLY FEELS THAT IT CANNOT PERMIT THE MARCHERS TO ENTER EL AAIUN BECAUSE IT WOULD BE UNABLE TO CONTROL THE EXPECTED VIOLENCE. #//4

THE THREE GOVERNMENTS MAY SEEK A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ENDORSING WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS THEY ARE ABLE TO WORK OUT. SPAIN HAS CONSISTENTLY SOUGHT UN APPROVAL FOR ANY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DECOLONIZATION OF SPANISH SAHARA. MOROCCO, FOR ITS PART, IS BEGINNING TO REFER TO ITS ONGOING CONTACTS WITH MADRID IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF LAST WEEK THAT CALLED ON ALL PARTIES TO BEGIN A DIALOGUE. 4

ALGERIA, WHICH OPPOSES A TURNOVER OF THE TERRITORY TO MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA, REMAINS THE CHIEF STUMBLING BLOCK TO AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE. ACCORDING TO AN ALGIERS RADIOBROADCAST, FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA, WHO IS STILL AT THE UN, SENT A MESSAGE TO SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM LAST WEEKEND ENDORSING HIS CONSULTATIVE MISSION TO MOROCCO, MAURITANIA, ALGERIA, AND SPAIN, WHICH ENDED TUESDAY.

DATE:  
ORIG:  
UNIT:  
EXT:

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO DCI PAGE OF PAGES

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CLASSIFICATION  
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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR      DATE-TIME GROUP      CITE      MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

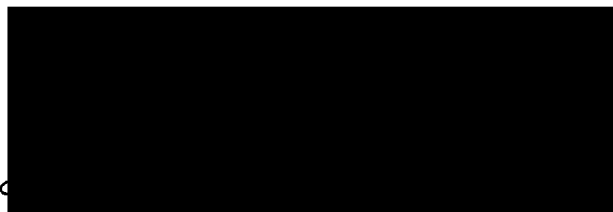
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INDEX      DISSEM BY:  
 NO INDEX  
 RETURN TO      PER  
 IP FILES      #

BOUTEFLIKA MADE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT WALDHEIM SHOULD CONFINE HIMSELF TO SEEKING A REDUCTION OF TENSIONS IN THE AREA AND THAT THE ADOPTION OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES FOR DECOLONIZATION SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE ADDED THAT THESE MEASURES MUST BE IN ACCORD WITH A RECENT REPORT BY A UN FACT-FINDING GROUP AND AN ADVISORY OPINION BY THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE, WHICH HAD THE EFFECT OF WEAKENING MOROCCO'S CLAIM TO THE TERRITORY. {SECRET NOFORN} E-2, IMPDET.H

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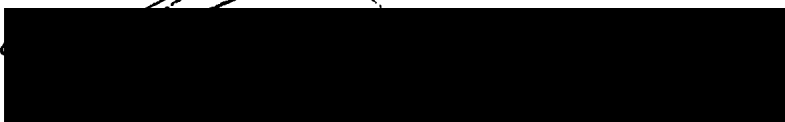
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DATE: OCTOBER 29, 1975

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010069-4

1	00608R000300010069-4	7	
2		8	
3		9	

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE CGI ACP TOG TPE MRO DCI

PAGE OF PAGES

OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

3

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

INDEX DISSEM BY:  
 NO INDEX  
 RETURN TO PER  
 IF FILE# #

CIVIL GOVERNOR'S OFFICES IN FARO, IN THE SOUTHERN ALGARVE RESORT AREA, AFTER THEY WERE OCCUPIED TO PROTEST THE RECENT REMOVAL OF THE PRO-COMMUNIST GOVERNOR. SOLDIERS RUSHED TO THE SCENE AFTER A COMBINED ASSAULT ON THE OFFICES BY THE SOCIALISTS AND POPULAR DEMOCRATS RESULTED IN A BRAWL IN WHICH TEN PEOPLE WERE INJURED.4

IN ANOTHER INCIDENT SOUTH OF LISBON, AN INFANTRY REGIMENT INTERVENED TO PREVENT VIOLENCE WHEN LEFTIST FARM WORKERS OCCUPIED THE LOCAL FARMERS' GUILD.4

THE PORTUGUESE ARMY, AND PARTICULARLY CHIEF OF STAFF FABIAO, HAVE COME IN FOR HARSH CRITICISM BECAUSE OF LAX DISCIPLINE AND THEIR FAILURE TO ENSURE PUBLIC ORDER. AN ARMY SPOKESMAN SAID MONDAY THAT 18 PERCENT OF THE ARMY WILL BE DEMOBILIZED WHILE FABIAO IS AWAY THIS WEEK ON A VISIT TO WEST GERMANY.4

ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED A SERIES OF MEASURES INTENDED TO STOP THE FLIGHT OF CAPITAL AND STRENGTHEN THE ESCUDO. FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS BY PORTUGUESE NATIONALS HAVE BEEN SEVERELY LIMITED AND VIOLATORS FACE PRISON TERMS RANGING FROM TWO TO EIGHT YEARS.4

DATE:  
ORIG:  
UNIT:  
EXT:

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICER

COMMUNICATING OFFICER

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010069-4

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010069-4

1				7
2				8
3				9

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

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OMF 0      0      0      0      0      0      0

PAGE OF PAGES

4

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

INDEX      DISSEM BY:

NO INDEX

RETURN TO      PER

IF FILES      #

MEANWHILE, THE APPROACHING END THIS WEEK OF THE GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED AIRLIFT OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES COULD SPELL ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS FOR AZEVEDO'S GOVERNMENT. NEARLY 200,000 RETURNEES WILL HAVE REACHED PORTUGAL BY OCTOBER 31. THE INCREASINGLY EMBITTERED AND FRUSTRATED REFUGEES HAVE REFRAINED FROM TAKING DIRECT POLITICAL ACTION, REPORTEDLY FOR FEAR OF REPRISALS AGAINST FRIENDS AND RELATIVES STILL IN ANGOLA. LAST WEEKEND, HOWEVER, A GROUP BELIEVED ASSOCIATED WITH THE REFUGEES CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR A BOMB ATTACK ON THE LEFT-WING ANGOLAN CULTURAL CENTER. THE GROUP, WHICH BLAMED THE GOVERNMENT REFUGEE AGENCY FOR THE PLIGHT OF THE RETURNEES, SAID IT HAS DECIDED TO "ANSWER FORCE WITH FORCE AND VIOLENCE WITH VIOLENCE."

// ANOTHER REFUGEE GROUP, CALLED THE LIBERATION FRONT OF PORTUGAL, SENT A DELEGATION TO THE US EMBASSY LAST WEEK TO ASK FOR ARMS, MONEY, AND ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT. // (SECRET)Y

2. LEBANON: THE FIGHTING IN BEIRUT'S COMMERCIAL AREA WAS HEAVY THROUGHOUT TUESDAY. BY LATE AFTERNOON, HOWEVER, THE PHALANGIST MILITIA SEEMED TO BE ON THE DEFENSIVE AND WAS WITHDRAWING FROM

DATE:  
ORIG:  
UNIT:  
EXT:

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010069-4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO DCI

PAGE OF PAGES

OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

5

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF: INFO: FILE

- INDEX DISSEM BY:
- NO INDEX
- RETURN TO PER
- NO FILES #

THE LUXURY HOTEL DISTRICT IT SEIZED OVER THE WEEKEND.Y

PRIME MINISTER KARAMI TUESDAY ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF A TEN-MAN "SECURITY COMMITTEE" TO PUT INTO EFFECT A CEASE-FIRE THAT WAS CALLED LAST SUNDAY. HE SAID THE GROUP, WHICH INCLUDES THE COUNTRY'S MAJOR POLITICAL LEADERS, WOULD BE MEETING IN HIS OFFICE UNTIL THE FIGHTING STOPS. THE COMMITTEE WILL PROBABLY NOT SUCCEED. MOST MEMBERS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO REACH THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE BECAUSE OF CONTINUED FIGHTING, AND ONE SOCIALIST LEADER KAMAL JUMBLATT, HAS SAID HE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE.Y

JUMBLATT DISMISSED THE NEW COMMITTEE AS AN OUTDATED ATTEMPT AT "TRIBAL RECONCILIATION." HE INSISTED THAT LEBANON'S PROBLEMS MUST BE SOLVED THROUGH FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS. DESPITE THIS ATTACK AND HIS MANY OTHER POLITICAL DIFFERENCES WITH KARAMI, JUMBLATT ALMOST CERTAINLY PREFERS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER RESIST EFFORTS BY RIGHT-WING CHRISTIANS TO FORCE HIS RESIGNATION.Y

A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN KARAMI AND INTERIOR MINISTER SHAMUN WAS AVERTED TUESDAY WHEN PARLIAMENT AGAIN FAILED TO MUSTER A QUORUM. IN FACT, AN AIDE TO PHALANGIST LEADER JUMAYYIL WAS KILLED YESTERDAY

DATE:  
 ORIG:  
 UNIT:  
 EXT:



**OUTGOING MESSAGE**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7

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CLASSIFICATION  
**SECRET NOFORN**

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR DATE-TIME GROUP CITE MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF: INFO: FILE

INDEX DISSEM BY:  
 NO INDEX  
 RETURN TO PER  
 IP FILE #

IN THE CONTINUING FIGHTING AROUND THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING. HIS DEATH WILL LEAD TO PHALANGIST CALLS FOR REVENGE AGAINST THE FAR LEFT AND WILL REINFORCE JUMAYYIL'S REFUSAL TO MAKE POLITICAL CONCESSIONS. {SECRET}Y

3. YUGOSLAVIA: BELGRADE'S STRONGEST CAMPAIGN AGAINST PRO-SOVIET SUBVERSIVES IN AT LEAST FOUR YEARS CONTINUES TO GAIN MOMENTUM. A LOCAL OBSERVER REPORTS THAT 123 COMINFORMISTS ARE NOW IN YUGOSLAV JAILS AWAITING TRIAL.Y

DENUNCIATIONS OF THE COMINFORMISTS ARE POURING IN FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE COUNTRY. THE PARTY WEEKLY KOMMUNIST SET OFF THE ANTI-STALINIST CAMPAIGN TWO WEEKS AGO WITH A STINGING ATTACK ON "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES AND TRAITORS" WHO COVERTLY UNDERMINE THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIAL SYSTEM. TOP LEVEL PARTY AND GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN HAVE FOLLOWED UP WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO THE DESIRES OF THE SUBVERSIVES TO ATTACH YUGOSLAVIA TO THE SOVIET "CAMP." MANY OF THESE HINTS OF SUSPICION ABOUT MOSCOW'S AT-

DATE:  
 ORIG:  
 UNIT:  
 EXT:

**OUTGOING MESSAGE**

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY  
 AGE COI ACP TOB TPE MRO DCI PAGE OF PAGES  
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CLASSIFICATION  
**SECRET NOFORN**

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR DATE-TIME GROUP CITE MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF: INFO: FILE

INDEX DISSEM BY:  
 NO INDEX  
 RETURN TO PER  
 IF FILES #

TITUDE TOWARD THE TITO REGIME HAVE BEEN BROADCAST TO THE USSR.4

THE ANTI-STALINIST HUE AND CRY DERIVES FROM BELGRADE'S AWARENESS THAT THE FALTERING ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE THIS YEAR COULD CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A SMALL BUT HIGHLY ORGANIZED GROUP--LIKE THE COMINFORMISTS--TO UNDERMINE THE TITO SYSTEM. WARY THAT THE GROUP MIGHT BE GATHERING STRENGTH FOR A STRONG POST-TITO DRIVE FOR POWER, THE REGIME APPEARS DETERMINED TO IMPRISON ALL THE POTENTIAL STALINISTS IT CAN FIND BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.4

BEHIND THIS PASSIONATE REACTION LIES A DEEP-SEATED FEAR THAT MOSCOW'S BENEVOLENCE TOWARD BELGRADE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS ONLY MASKED AN ULTIMATE SOVIET PLAN TO RESTORE YUGOSLAVIA, BY WHATEVER MEANS, TO THE SOVIET ORBIT. THE CURRENT EASING OF THE REGIME'S USUAL STRICTURES AGAINST ANTI-SOVIET PROPAGANDA IS APPARENTLY MEETING AN OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC

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**OUTGOING MESSAGE**

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8	
2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9	
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PAGE OF PAGES  
8

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DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF: INFO: FILE

- INDEX DISSEM BY:
- NO INDEX
- RETURN TO PER
- IP FILES #

RESPONSE FROM THE MASSES. LAST FRIDAY, KOMMUNIST STERNLY WARNED THOSE WHO "SLANDER" HONEST COMMUNISTS AS "COMINFORMISTS" THAT ONLY THE SUBVERSIVES STAND TO GAIN FROM THE SPREAD OF DOUBTS ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP.

UNTIL RECENTLY, THE DETAILS OF THE CONSPIRACY, ITS SIZE, AND PLANS FOR TRIALS WERE KEPT UNDER WRAPS, BUT THE PARTY AND FRONT GROUPS ARE NOW FILTERING OUT INFORMATION WHICH IMPLIES THAT SOME SENTENCES MAY BE DOLED OUT SOON. <sup>A</sup> ALTHOUGH THERE ARE OCCASIONAL RUMORS OF A PUBLIC SHOW TRIAL, INSIDERS ARE NOW SUGGESTING THAT THE TRIALS WILL BE HELD IN CAMERA AND THAT THE RESULTS WILL BE CAPEFULLY USED TO FEED THE CURRENT "VIGILANCE" CAMPAIGN.

ACCORDING TO LOCAL OBSERVERS, THE BELGRADE DIPLOMATIC CIRCUIT IS ABUZZ WITH SPECULATION ABOUT A NEW DOWNTURN IN RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW, BUT A FULL BREACH IS NOT EXPECTED. SO LONG AS BELGRADE DOES NOT INDULGE IN OVERTLY ANTI-SOVIET ALLEGATIONS AND MOSCOW

DATE:  
ORIG:  
UNIT:  
EXT:

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

1				7	
2				8	
3				9	

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AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO DCI

OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

PAGE 9 OF 9 PAGES

CLASSIFICATION  
SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF: INFO: FILE

INDEX DISSEM BY:

NO INDEX

RETURN TO PER

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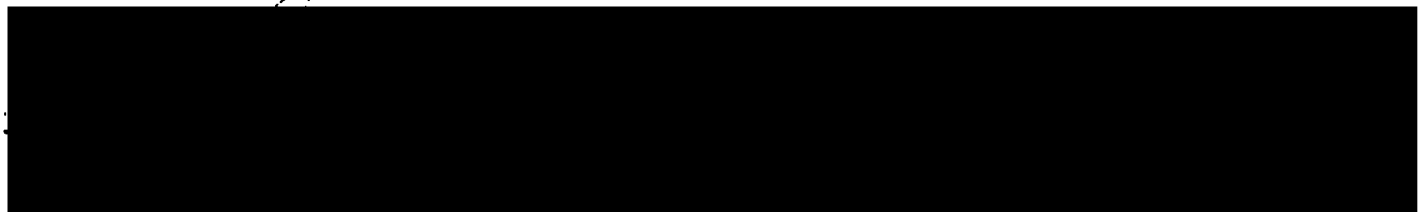
HOLDS ITS ANGER IN CHECK, THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE LIKELY  
 TO MAINTAIN THEIR UNEASY RELATIONSHIP. {CONFIDENTIAL}  
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