



**Director of
Central
Intelligence**

~~**Top Secret**~~

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**Wednesday
2 May 1984**

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CHINA-VIETNAM: More Border Clashes Loom

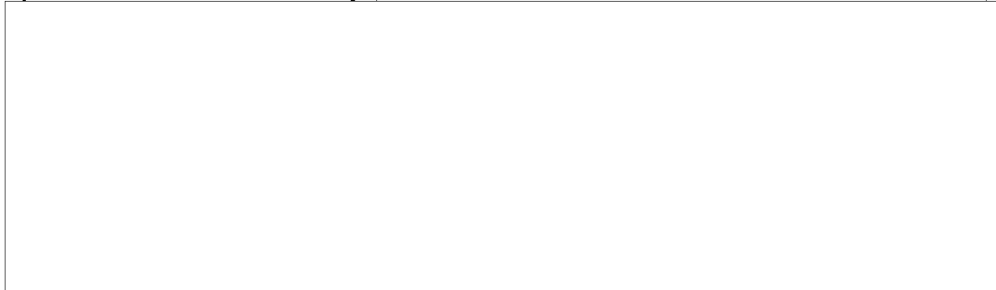
The Chinese apparently are planning to increase the fighting along their border with Vietnam, but probably intend to limit attacks to shallow incursions.

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Beijing has set the stage by accusing Vietnam yesterday in the *People's Daily* of preparing an invasion and warning Hanoi to halt its provocations immediately.

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Comment: Beijing's decision to expand hostilities along the Sino-Vietnamese border as Hanoi winds down its offensive in Kampuchea suggests the Chinese are not merely reacting to Vietnamese actions there, but are intent on signaling that they cannot be intimidated by growing Vietnamese-Soviet military cooperation. Beijing's offensive operations follow the unprecedented joint Soviet-Vietnamese amphibious assault exercises in the Gulf of Tonkin last month. Coming so soon after the President's visit, the Chinese may also want Moscow to think their actions have US approval.

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**AFGHANISTAN-
USSR:**

Insurgent Activity Increasing

The insurgents are offering only token resistance in the Panjsher Valley, but other guerrillas are increasing their attacks elsewhere. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Insurgents attacked Kabul airfield last week, and US Embassy sources report that the insurgents have increased their cooperation in conducting attacks in and near Kabul. Guerrilla activity was also intense in Ghazni, Qandahar, and Herat. [REDACTED]

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Comment: The Soviets' failure to find Masood or to inflict decisive losses on the Panjsher insurgents makes a hollow success of their easy move into the valley. Masood's death would be a psychological blow to the resistance, but the effect would probably be short lived.

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The Soviets soon will have to decide whether to risk leaving a large garrison in the rugged Panjsher Valley or to withdraw and then stage new assaults there. [REDACTED]

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The Soviets will be hard pressed to continue major operations in the weeks ahead, even though recent increases in insurgent cooperation may be limited to the area around the Panjsher Valley. Although some of the insurgent activity may be intended to reduce pressure on the Panjsher guerrillas, much of it is simply the renewal of resistance activity that occurs each spring. [REDACTED]

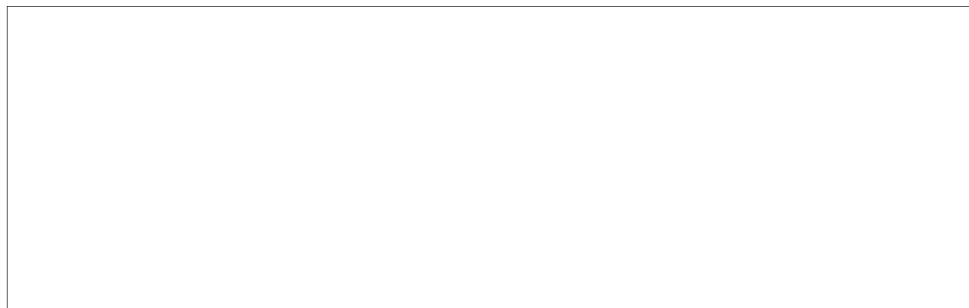
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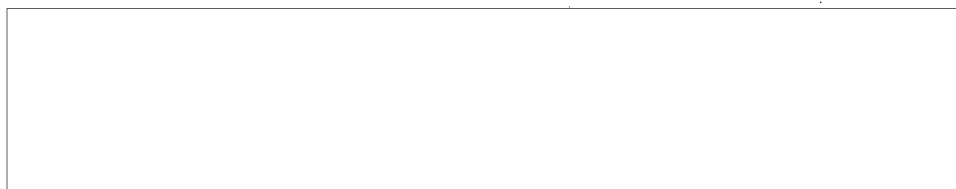
IRAN:**Chemical Weapon Prospects**

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Iran's UN delegate last month said Iran is capable of manufacturing chemical weapons and, if the Iraqis continue to use them, Iran may consider doing so. The Speaker of the Iranian National Assembly made a similar statement in a speech on Radio Tehran on 23 March.

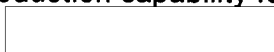


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Comment: Although Iran has the general scientific expertise for a chemical weapons program, it lacks experience in weapons development and production. Nonetheless, Iran probably could develop a production capability for lethal chemical agents within one to two years.



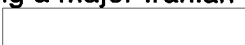
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Iran, however, could rapidly assemble a small stockpile of chemical weapons using riot control munitions, refurbished Iraqi dud munitions, or munitions employing dual-purpose industrial chemicals. Iran may also try to purchase nerve or mustard agent munitions from a friendly country, but such a sale is unlikely because of the political repercussions if it became known publicly.



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Once Iran has chemical weapons, Tehran is likely to use them if its diplomatic efforts to stop Iraqi use are futile. Urgent battlefield requirements, however, such as stopping a major Iraqi offensive or supporting a major Iranian thrust, might force Tehran into an earlier decision.



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CANADA:**Liberals' Election Prospects Brighten**

The ruling Liberal Party moved ahead of the opposition Tories for the first time since 1981 in the Gallup Poll announced yesterday, and a continuing lead may prove an irresistible inducement for the new Liberal leader to call a snap election this summer.

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The new poll—taken in late March—showed the Liberals with 46 percent and the Tories with 40 percent. As recently as last September, the Tories held an advantage of 62 to 23 percent.

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Comment: The Tories appear to be largely responsible for their sudden slide in the polls. Since becoming party leader last June, Brian Mulroney has refused to take positions on major issues such as national energy policy and social welfare programs. He insists that if Canadians want to know about Tory policies “they will have to elect us.”

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In addition, the Tories recently indulged in a highly publicized spate of party infighting over minority language rights. Intraparty bickering, more than any other factor, probably keeps the Tories from establishing themselves in the public mind as a credible alternative government.

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Prime Minister Trudeau's decision to retire in June almost certainly has helped to spur the Liberal resurgence. Polls consistently have shown that Trudeau, rather than the Liberal Party, is the main source of voter dissatisfaction, and his impending departure probably has encouraged the return of many disaffected Liberals to the party's ranks.

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Moreover, Trudeau's announcement brought on a leadership contest to choose his successor, and the resulting campaign has put the Liberals at the center of media reporting throughout Canada. Seven candidates are in the contest, led by former Finance Minister John Turner. If the Liberals remain ahead in coming polls, the party's hierarchy probably will not permit a fractious leadership convention, but will urge the delegates simply to choose Turner.

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ECUADOR:**Troubles Surround Presidential Runoff**

A victory by center-leftist Rodrigo Borja, a slight favorite in the presidential runoff on Sunday, would increase the risk of intervention by the conservative military. [REDACTED]

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The US Embassy notes that senior officers have reaffirmed the military's commitment to the election. [REDACTED]

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Most center-left and some leftist parties, according to the Embassy, endorse Borja. [REDACTED]

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The Embassy believes that conservative candidate Febres Cordero's support from business interests, improved campaign, and strength in the populous coastal area make him a strong contender. [REDACTED]

Comment: A win by Borja—particularly a close one—almost certainly will prompt fraud charges from the military and tend to divide the officer corps. The conservative high command may not reach a consensus that Borja presents a serious enough threat to warrant intervention. The vehemence of some antileftist officers, however, leaves considerable leeway for intervention even without consensus. [REDACTED]

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Both candidates have distinct advantages in a close race. Borja is aided by the leftward shift of the electorate and by the assistance of the government. Febres Cordero has more personal appeal as well as strong support along the coast. [REDACTED]

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BOTSWANA-US:**Masire's Visit**

Botswana's President Quett Masire will try to use a working visit to Washington beginning next Monday to improve his stature at home before the parliamentary election slated for later this year.

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Comment: Masire and his ruling Botswana Democratic Party are unlikely to face a serious challenge in his country's multiparty elections. Although there are no outstanding bilateral issues between Botswana and the US, he hopes to return home with specific promises of closer cooperation.

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Masire appreciates the substantial economic development and food assistance that Botswana has received from the US. He recently asked for more emergency food relief to cope with the prolonged drought. Masire also hopes to use the visit to attract private US investment.

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In addition, Masire will want to discuss Namibia. Botswana is encouraged by the disengagement agreement between South Africa and Angola and hopes the accord can serve as the basis for a broader settlement, according to Embassy reporting. Masire is still skeptical about South Africa's sincerity, however, and may urge the US to keep pressure on Pretoria to implement the UN plan for Namibia.

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The Botswanan leader also may raise his country's recurrent border problems with Zimbabwe, a result of anti-Mugabe dissidents using eastern Botswana as a sanctuary. Some Botswanan officials are concerned that, if Botswana were to sign a security agreement with South Africa, Zimbabwe would demand a similar pact.

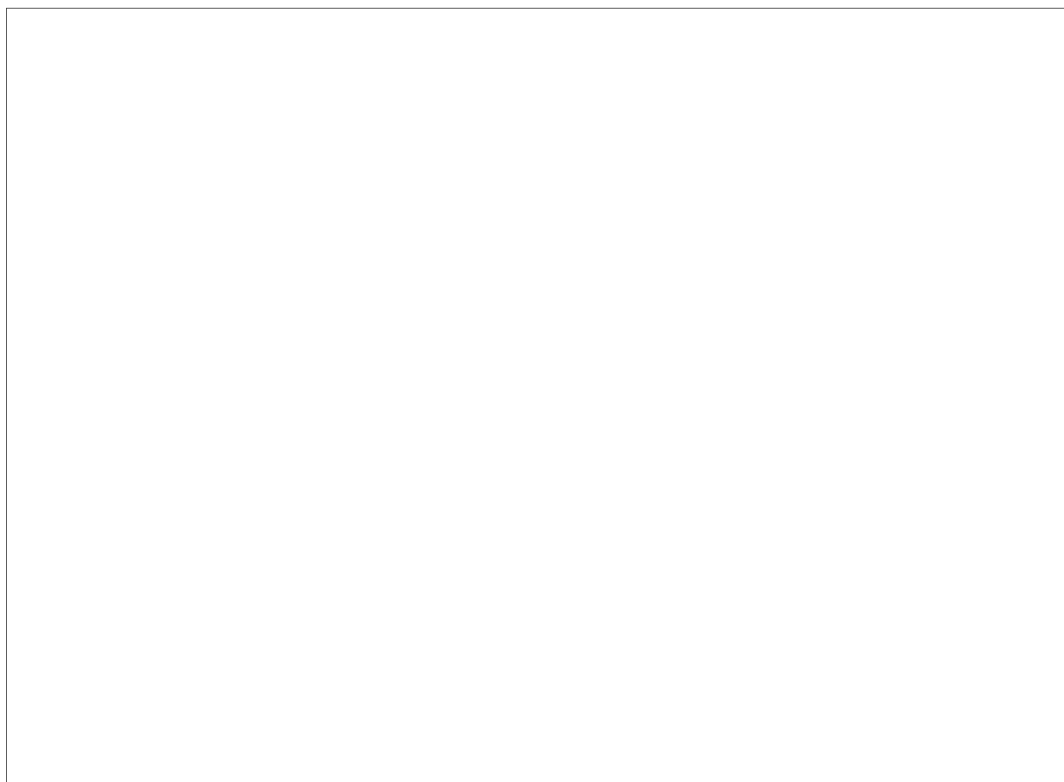
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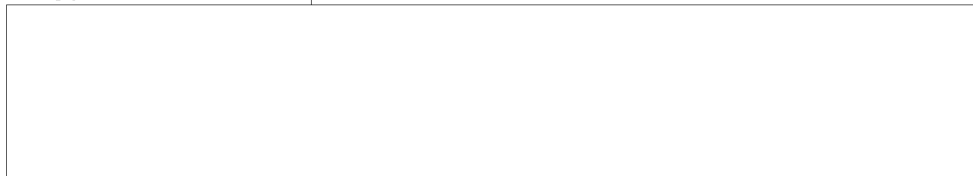


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LIBYA-CHAD-FRANCE: Possible New Libyan Policy

Libyan leader Qadhafi stated in an interview on Monday that he is prepared to withdraw his forces from Chad, in order to remove the "pretext" for the French military presence. He repeats, however, that an alternative to rebel leader Goukouni or President Habre has to be found to lead Chad.

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Comment: Growing public discontent—in part directed at Libyan involvement in Chad—may be prompting Qadhafi to consider a unilateral withdrawal from Chad.

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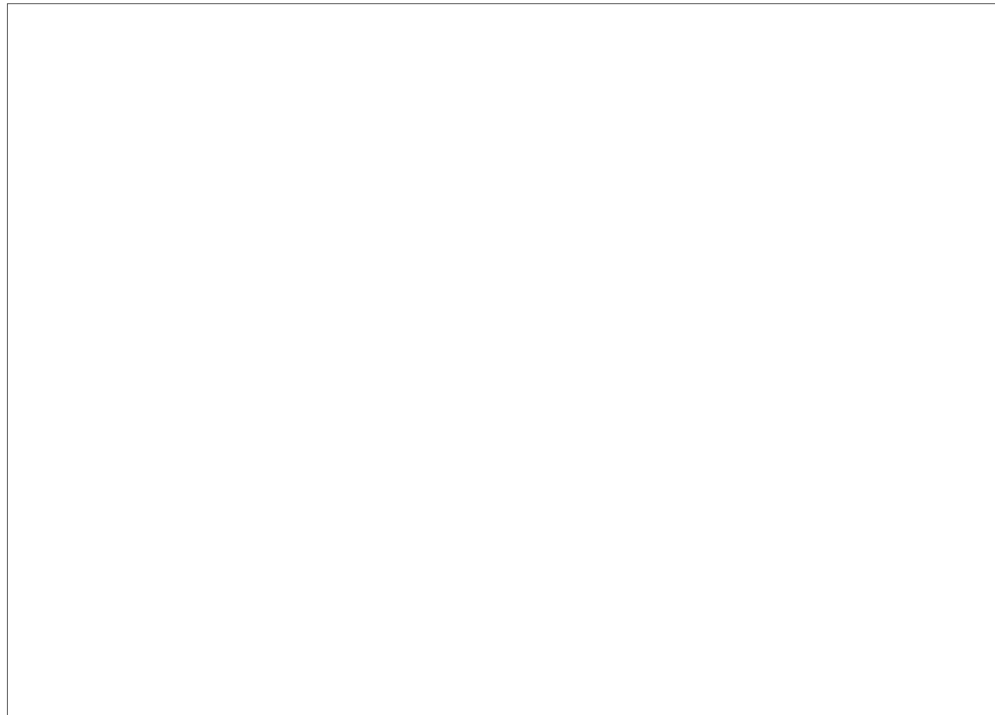
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COLOMBIA: Implications of Assassination

President Betancur has declared a nationwide state of siege and probably will adopt a more vigorous antinarcotics policy following the assassination on Monday of Justice Minister Lara. No group has claimed responsibility, but it is widely believed that drug traffickers killed Lara in retaliation for his strong campaigns against them. The US Embassy reports Lara had received numerous threats from drug kingpins and was planning to resign later this month. 

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Comment: The murder doubtless is intended to deter the government's current drive against drug dealers and to intimidate Lara's successor. It is likely, however, to produce a popular outcry that will prompt Betancur to launch an even more vigorous campaign against the narcotics industry. He may reverse his opposition to widespread herbicidal spraying of marijuana and coca plants and to extradition to the US of Colombian nationals accused of trafficking.

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POLAND: May Day Demonstrations

The authorities had little difficulty controlling demonstrators—about 10,000 altogether by the latest estimate—who turned out in five cities in response to calls from underground chapters of Solidarity. The US Embassy reports that in Gdansk Lech Walesa infiltrated the official parade with some Solidarity supporters and shouted slogans while passing near the reviewing stand. In Warsaw, special riot troops were not even deployed, as regular police dispersed a crowd of about 1,000 outside the city's cathedral. [REDACTED]

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Comment: Walesa's presence probably took the authorities by surprise, and he may experience increased harassment as a result of his uncharacteristic involvement in street demonstrations. The regime will hesitate to arrest him, however, particularly with church-state negotiations over the release of the 11 Solidarity leaders and their advisers at a critical juncture. Demonstrations tomorrow, Poland's prewar constitution day, are also likely to be smaller than in the past. [REDACTED]

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INDIA: Split in Sikh Movement

Growing factional disputes in the Sikh movement have resulted in a formal split within the Sikh Akali Dal Party, according to the US Embassy. Nearly one-third of the party's members left the moderate faction this past weekend to join the more militant extremists. The breakaway group complained that the party leadership is weak and prone to compromise with New Delhi. [REDACTED]

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Comment: The split not only strengthens the extremists but reduces prospects for a negotiated settlement between New Delhi and the Sikhs. Longstanding personal and political animosities between rival Sikh leaders have led to the recent rise in vendetta killings, which preceded the break. [REDACTED]

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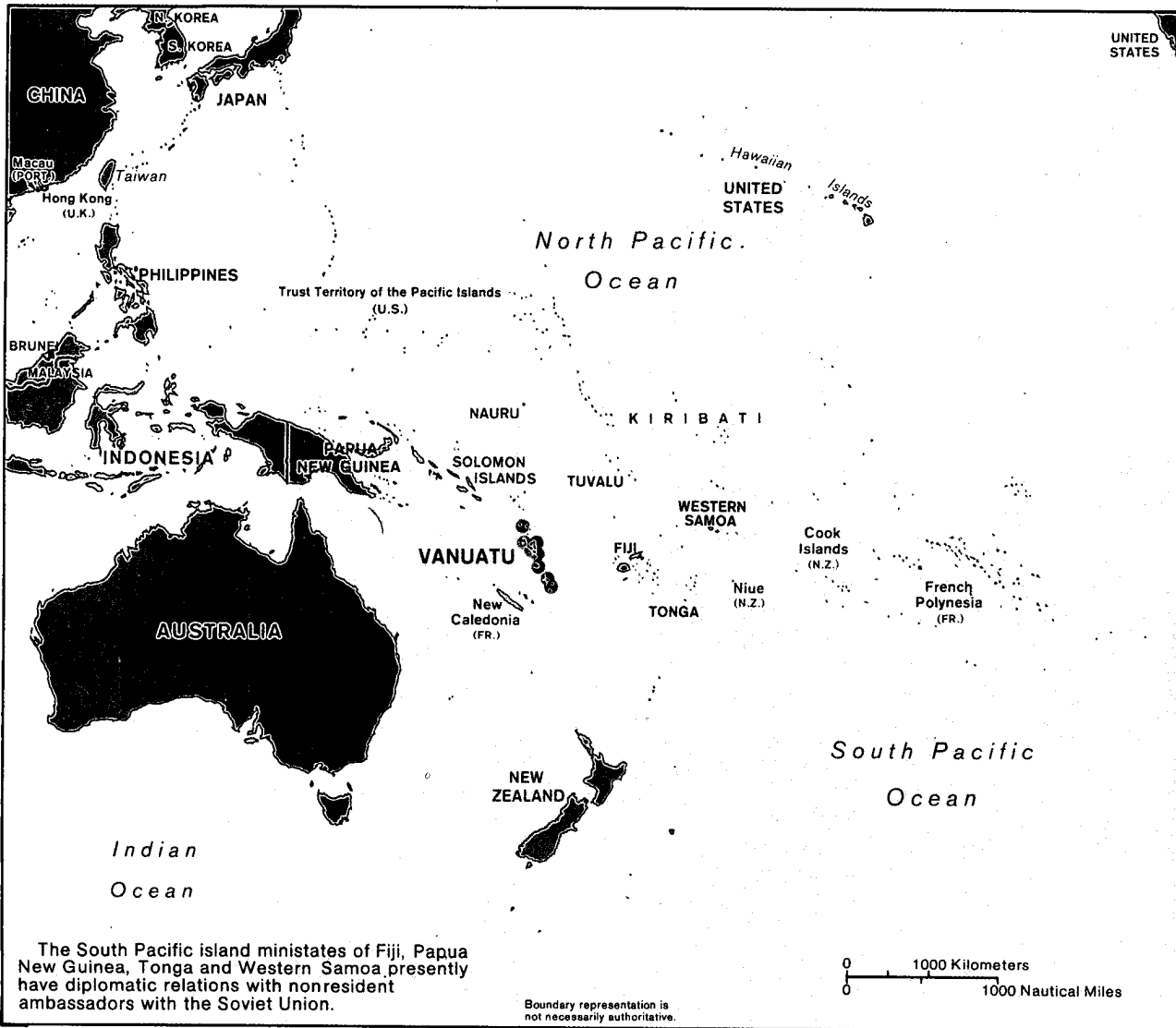
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In Brief**USSR**

- **Soviets** continue trying to establish a foothold in South Pacific . . . Soviet Ambassador to **Australia** paid private visit to **Vanuatu** last month . . . Prime Minister, however, reportedly avoided meeting with him.

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Asia

- **Philippine** President Marcos ordered 10-percent pay raise for government workers yesterday . . . underscores his preoccupation with election politics . . . move likely to upset IMF and foreign creditors, who expect sharp budget cuts.

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Middle East

- Despite Armenian terrorist attack on **Turkish** diplomat in **Tehran**, Prime Minister Ozal's visit there successful . . . two sides agreed to seek \$700 million increase in bilateral trade . . . Iran now Turkey's largest trading partner and primary source of crude oil.

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- **Israeli** press says suspects in last Friday's attempted bombing of Arab buses are from radical wing of West Bank settlement movement . . . Shamir will stress it is a small group of extremists.

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- Former Prime Minister Begin of **Israel** to end his political career . . . will not run for seat in Knesset this July.

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Africa

- Unrest growing over **Nigerian** Government's inefficient handling of currency conversion . . . likely to become more chaotic before changeover ends on Sunday . . . possible resort to force to control mobs will further tarnish government's image.

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Special Analysis**LEBANON:****Bleak Prospects for New Government**

The coalition government announced by Prime Minister Karami on Monday will at best produce a temporary respite in the Lebanese civil war. It relegates to ministerial committees the most troublesome issues, including basic reforms in the distribution of political power among the religious groups, the revision of the constitution, and the command structure of the Lebanese Army. Factional leaders already are squabbling over the makeup of the cabinet, and they are likely to revert to armed combat as their longstanding political disagreements and personal hatreds come to the surface.

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Karami named Druze leader Walid Junblatt, Shia leader Nabih Barri, and Christian leaders Camille Shamun and Pierre Gemayel to the new cabinet, but it remains unclear whether they will participate. They are angry that Karami did not consult them before the appointments, and Barri has said that his portfolio carries no real power. They probably also resent Karami's efforts to take a dominant position by naming himself Foreign Minister as well as Prime Minister.

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The US Embassy says the Karami government will try to set up a 32-man constituent committee and a military council to consider the problems of the political system and the Army. The cabinet presumably will not address these problems until the committees have made recommendations.

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Endemic violence around Beirut, however, may cripple the new cabinet in its infancy. Consideration of political issues cannot begin in earnest until the government establishes a firm cease-fire, but the cycle of fighting has developed a momentum of its own. Street militias have grown accustomed to daily battles with rival groups, and factional leaders do not have enough control to stop the fighting.

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Extremists on both sides probably will try to sabotage the new government by instigating clashes. The Christian Lebanese Forces militia and radical Shia groups, among others, refuse to recognize Karami's authority and could use violence to play a spoiler role.

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Continuing Political Discord

Even if a cease-fire can be maintained, the fundamental problem of Christian intransigence in the face of Druze and Muslim demands for political and economic power will disrupt the new government. Despite the setbacks to Christian militia forces and the Lebanese Army, President Gemayel and the Christians in the new cabinet still appear unwilling to accept reforms that would seriously diminish Christian political predominance.

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The Druze and Muslims remain determined to exploit their military victories to achieve political gains. They want to strengthen the Muslim Prime Minister at the expense of the Christian President, balance the ratio of Muslims and Christians in the parliament and civil service, and reorganize the command of the Lebanese Army. [REDACTED]

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The Shia Muslims, in particular, will no longer settle for paper guarantees. Even moderate Shias, frustrated by the gap between their large numbers and their limited political and economic power, expect far-reaching changes in the government. Christian and Sunni Muslims, however, share a desire to deny power to the Shias. [REDACTED]

Personality Problems

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The fundamental political disagreements are complicated by deep personal antagonisms between leaders in the coalition cabinet. Many of them are barely on speaking terms after years of blood feuds. The hatreds that plagued the reconciliation conferences in Switzerland will impede cooperation within the new cabinet. [REDACTED]

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Most Druze and Muslims doubt that any progress can occur as long as Gemayel remains in office. They are convinced that he is a Phalangist at heart and will never yield on key issues affecting Christian power. In a situation where strong leadership would be necessary to bring the factions together, Gemayel commands neither the respect nor the authority to arbitrate among them. [REDACTED]

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Implications

Despite the inclusion of factional leaders in the cabinet, the new government is unlikely to be able to arrange a settlement. Fighting may subside in the short term as the warring groups adopt a wait-and-see attitude toward the Karami government, but a political deadlock eventually will prompt militia leaders to return to the battlefield. [REDACTED]

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Continued instability guarantees that Lebanon will remain vulnerable to Syrian manipulation. Damascus, however, has become wary of deeper involvement in Lebanon and appears unwilling to impose a settlement at this time. President Assad, moreover, is preoccupied with the internal power struggle in Syria. [REDACTED]

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Karami, hoping to draw attention away from internal political problems, probably will focus his government's efforts on ending the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. [REDACTED]

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