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The President's Daily Brief

July 28, 1975

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

July 28, 1975

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TURKEY

The Turkish government is beginning to implement its decision to take control of US bases and has asked for assurances that operational activity at the bases has been suspended. Turkish officials still do not seem sure about the extent to which they want to modify defense relations with the US, however, and they are leaving themselves room for maneuver.

Operations related to the primary mission of four US-run common defense installations ceased yesterday in response to the Turkish note of last Friday. All activities at the Incirlik installation are continuing, however, because of the difficulty in distinguishing between NATO-related activities which are permitted by the Turkish note and others that are prohibited. Other US installations and facilities are continuing to operate normally.

Turkish commanders are set to take over control of the four designated [redacted] installations tomorrow. Director General for International Security Affairs Yavuzalp told Ambassador Macomber yesterday that instructions to Turkish commanders call on them to treat US military personnel as "members of a friendly and allied force."

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US officials in Turkey are particularly concerned that the Turks will insist on having access to highly sensitive areas within the installations.

According to a Turkish radio broadcast, the Turkish government has called for an extraordinary meeting of the NATO Council to explain its actions against the US bases.

Operations were continued at the bases through Saturday when it appeared that the Turkish government--having made a major publicity impact by its announcement of the suspension and takeover--would refrain from zealously implementing its decision. An inquiry by the acting chief of the General Staff about the status of operational activity on Saturday, however, led to the suspension of operations yesterday.

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Turkish officials have thus far been vague about other steps they will take. Yavuzalp, for example, told the US ambassador yesterday that the extent of the shutdown did not "exceed" Turkish requirements, but he did not elaborate. Nor did he comment when the ambassador informed him that the cessation of operational activity has been delayed by a day and that all activities were continuing at Incirlik.

Prime Minister Demirel appears to have left the details of altering Turkey's defense relationship with the US in the hands of the Turkish General Staff. The General Staff has usually argued for moderation in reacting to the embargo, but pique may cause them to take actions that will be difficult to reverse when passions cool.

According to a preliminary embassy assessment, the ability of the US forces to carry out their mission will depend as much on the zeal with which the new restrictions are interpreted and carried out as on the restrictions themselves.

Reaction by the political opposition and press has been outrage at the decision of the US House of Representatives to continue the embargo. The opposition has given grudging approval to the moves of the Demirel government against the bases. Principal opposition leader Ecevit called for even stronger measures and for a general review of Turkish foreign policy.

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PORTUGAL

The installation of an executive triumvirate--presumably to reduce differences within the ruling military--is more likely to heighten those disagreements.

Present evidence suggests that differences between security chief Otelo de Carvalho and Prime Minister Goncalves are wide and unbridgeable. This is probably no less true of Otelo and the third member of the triumvirate, President Costa Gomes, who appealed in the assembly meeting for a slowdown in the revolution because it was out of touch with the people.

[Redacted]

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Reaction to the new triumvirate from the Communists--whose support for the latest change was lukewarm at best--suggests that they may be apprehensive about the elevation of Otelo--whom they have good reason to fear--to such a position of authority. It must also be evident to the Communists that not only has their future become directly linked with that of Goncalves, but also that the moderates--both in the military and in the democratic parties--are far from ready to capitulate.

It remains unclear at this point how the moderate military officers will move. Aware that their effort to unseat Goncalves would fail in the radical assembly last week, key moderate officers refused to attend despite entreaties by Costa Gomes and others. Instead, they held their own meeting at the foreign ministry.

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[Redacted]

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Although a move by the moderates could come this week, they may delay a decision until Foreign Minister Antunes, who will accompany Costa Gomes to Helsinki, returns to Portugal.

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Both the Socialists and the moderate leftist Popular Democratic Party have expressed opposition to the new triumvirate. The Socialists sought to identify the party with the pro-Western remarks made by Costa Gomes during the assembly, while both the Socialists and the Popular Democrats denounced the new governing body as illegal.

A Socialist protest rally on Saturday night in Evora--some 75 miles east of Lisbon--was attacked by the Communists, resulting in dozens of injuries. Portuguese troops were required to intervene as some 6,000 Socialists and Communists battled with clubs and rocks. Yesterday Socialist leader Mario Soares addressed another protest demonstration in the north, and Catholics in the far northern town of Braganca defied the military by holding a rally protesting the seizure of the church radio. The Popular Democrats were said to be planning a rally on the island of Madeira.

Whether the triumvirate can temporarily bridge the differences within the government may become clear when and if a new cabinet is announced, either today or tomorrow. Any respite in the country's turmoil is likely to be brief, given the economic problems that are expected to come to a head in the next few weeks and the problems in the Azores and Angola.

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LATIN AMERICA - CUBA

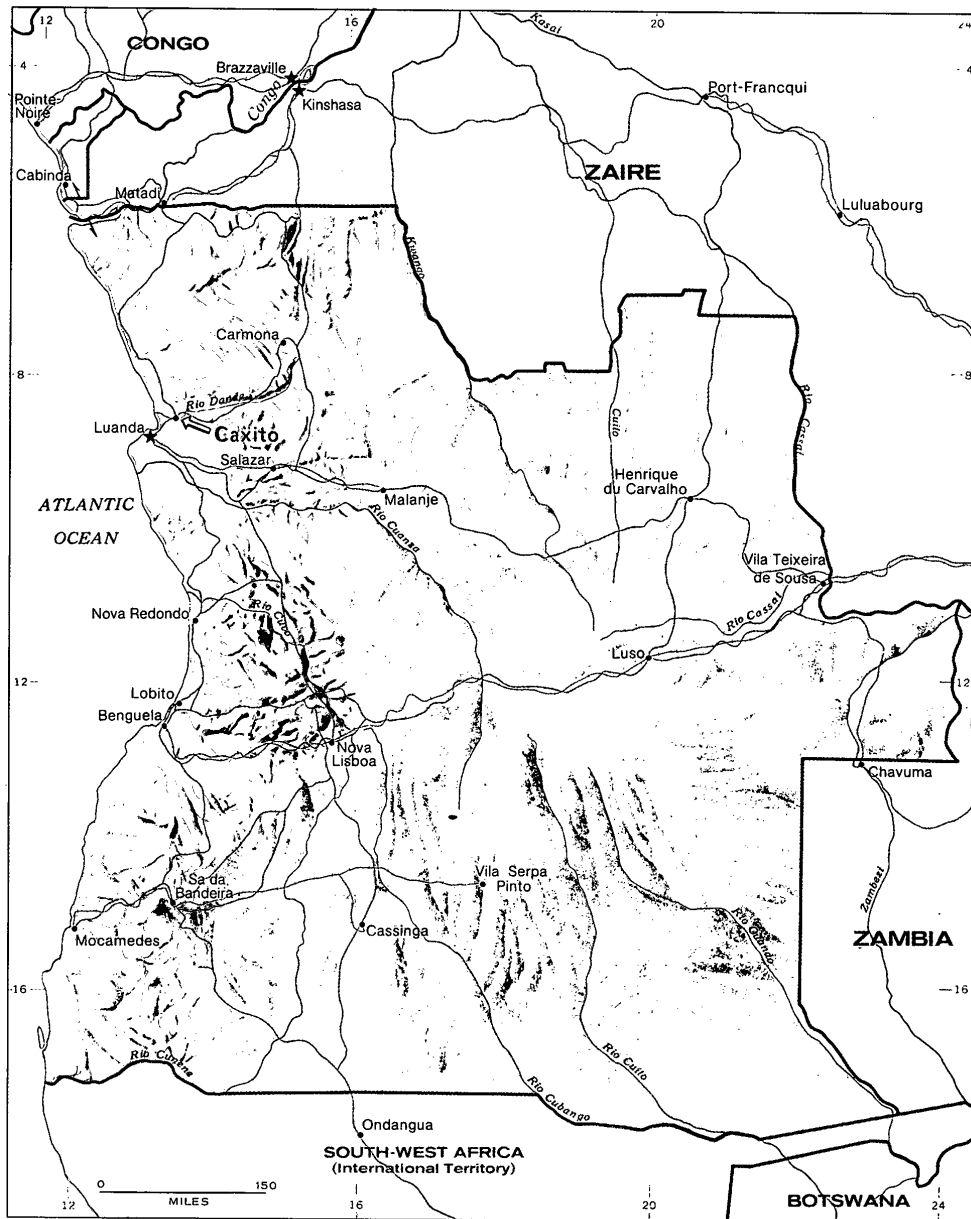
The OAS seems certain to move tomorrow on the Cuba sanctions issue. The resolution being offered to the OAS foreign ministers, who will be meeting at San Jose, Costa Rica, will grant freedom of action to treaty signatories regarding their conduct of relations with Cuba. A second development affecting Cuba's relationship with Latin America will be a meeting in Panama, also tomorrow, which is to establish a new regional economic group.

The resolution that will be presented at San Jose will ignore the substance of the 1964 charges against Havana. Relations with Cuba would become a bilateral matter rather than one controlled by the OAS.

Representatives of about 15 governments, including Cuba, will meet in Panama to create a purely Latin American association--the Latin American Economic System--that in some ways will parallel the OAS. One of the functions of the new organization will be to serve as a forum for Latin and Caribbean governments to work out their differences so that they can present unified positions to the US in the OAS.

Despite its obviously improved status, Cuba is a long way from respectability in Central and South America. Strongly anti-communist governments, particularly Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay, will continue to regard Castro as a pariah. Other governments that are less hostile but nevertheless cool toward Havana will critically examine Cuba's conduct within Latin organizations such as the new economic group.

ANGOLA



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NOTES

The National Front for the Liberation of Angola does not appear to have moved its forces much beyond the town of Caxito that it captured last week.

The Front's plans for further action may be determined partly by the need for continued logistic support from Zaire and the results of fighting elsewhere in Angola with forces of the rival Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola. The Portuguese have switched signals since last week when the Portuguese commander ordered his troops to establish a perimeter around the city to protect it against an offensive by the Front. The Portuguese high commissioner told the US consul general on Saturday that he intended to follow a policy of strict neutrality, implying that the Front would not be opposed. He said he doubted that the Front had the strength to enter Luanda.

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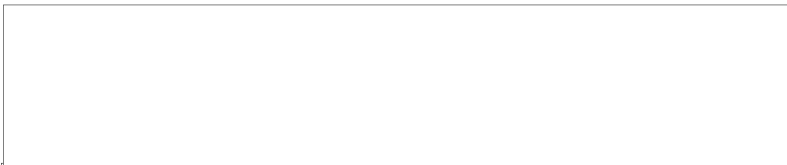
Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko has made clear to Ambassador Stoessel that Moscow will try to avoid taking a position on the question of Israeli expulsion or suspension from the UN.

Gromyko claimed that Moscow had no firm advance warning of Arab intentions to press for Israeli expulsion. He argued that any General Assembly decision to exclude Israel from its sessions--either by expulsion or suspension--would go against the UN Charter. Gromyko said the UN Charter must be preserved as it stands. He reiterated Moscow's view that Israel should seek its security in the territorial guarantees of the "strongest powers."

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The Chinese placed an earth satellite in orbit on Saturday.

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This is the third satellite the Chinese have launched. The other two were launched in 1970 and 1971

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