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# The President's Daily Brief

*November 6, 1975*

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Table of Contents

Angola: The fighting has escalated dramatically.  
(Page 1)

Lebanon: The security situation in Beirut has improved enough to permit the resumption of some vital services, but the city remains extremely tense. (Page 3)

Bangladesh: The situation remains unsettled following General Musharraf's seizure of power Monday and President Mushtaque's resignation yesterday. (Page 4)

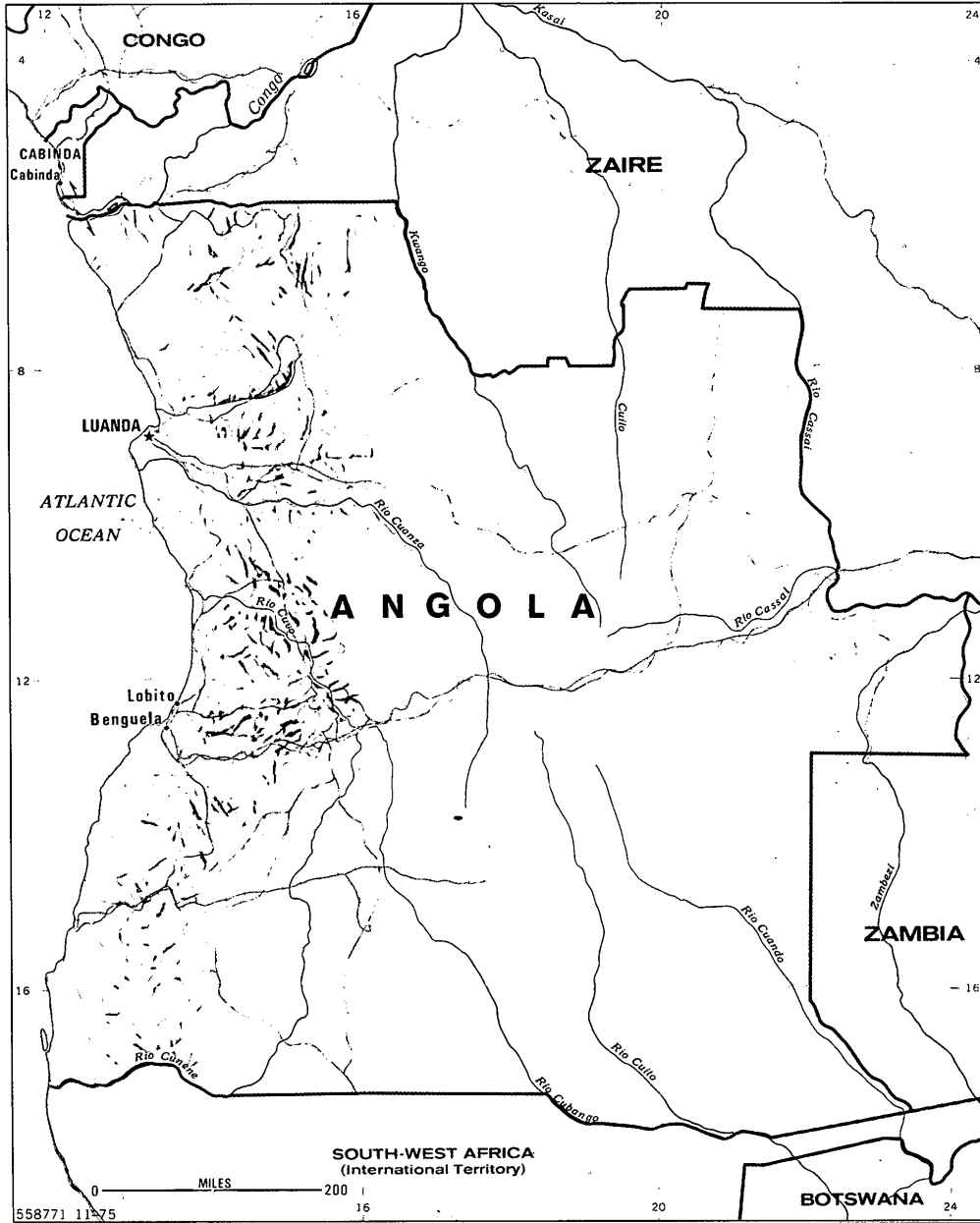
Spanish Sahara: Spain and Morocco have reached an understanding designed to reduce the threat of a major clash during the march of Moroccan volunteers into the colony. (Page 5)

Argentina: President Peron announced last night that she does not intend to resign or ask for a leave of absence. (Page 7)

Note:  (Page 8)

25X1

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ANGOLA

*The fighting has escalated dramatically. The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola reportedly has lost the major rail and port complex of Benguela-Lobito and is under heavy attack in Cabinda by forces of a Zairian-backed Cabindan separatist group.*

The joint military force of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, supported by South African and former Portuguese army advisers, reportedly captured Benguela early this week after encountering only token opposition from the Popular Movement.

The Popular Movement apparently fell back to concentrate its forces in defense of Lobito, the territory's major port and the Movement's key resupply point in central Angola. As of yesterday, however, Popular Movement forces were reported to have been pushed out of the port city after heavy fighting.

Heavy fighting also broke out yesterday in Cabinda between the Popular Movement and the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda, a small separatist group which has been supported by Zaire for the past year or so. Troops from Zaire, and perhaps from Congo as well, may be involved in the fighting.

Press reports out of Brazzaville indicate only that Congolese forces are mobilizing to defend Cabinda from an invasion by mercenaries. Zairian news reports claim, however, that the fighting broke out following a Congolese "invasion" of the enclave. The Zairian government announced that its own military forces along the Zaire-Cabinda border have been placed on alert.

Zairian President Mobutu has been planning to intervene in Cabinda for some time in order to force the Popular Movement to give up Cabinda before independence.

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Zaire may be using a Congolese "invasion" as a pretext to justify its own involvement.

The Popular Movement has about 1,500 troops in Cabinda, a force probably about equal to that from Zaire. In addition, the Movement has the support of several hundred Cuban personnel, reinforced with armor, who arrived in the Congo last month as part of a larger force and were sent to Popular Movement bases on the Congo side of the border with Cabinda. Portuguese troops in Cabinda, who number only about 100, will not be able or willing to stop the fighting.

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LEBANON

*The security situation in Beirut has improved enough to permit the resumption of some vital services, but the city remains extremely tense.*

Security forces have made some progress in removing barricades from city streets, although their task has been complicated by the efforts of warring factions to improve their positions. Christian and Muslim militiamen are still occupying areas of the hotel district where only a tenuous truce is in effect. For the first time in several days, fuel and food supplies are being replenished. Some banks are scheduled to open today, which should encourage citizens to respond to government calls for a return to normal business activity.

A meeting on Tuesday between Prime Minister Karami and Interior Minister Shamun is receiving wide publicity. The feuding leaders apparently have agreed to cooperate in the interest of public security. The uneasy reconciliation will ease the task of the cabinet in dealing with immediate problems, but rivalry between Karami and Shamun will continue to impede efforts of the national dialogue committee to find political solutions.

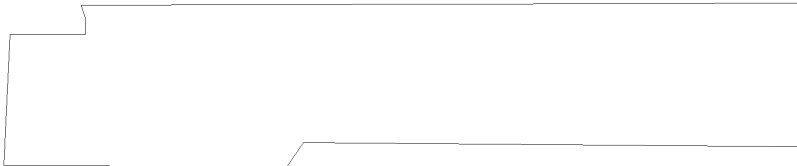
BANGLADESH

*The situation in Bangladesh remains unsettled following General Musharraf's seizure of power Monday and President Mushtaque's resignation yesterday.*

A. M. Sayem, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, has been named to succeed Mushtaque. Sayem, a respected non-political figure, presumably will be a figurehead, with real power wielded by Musharraf and other officers on a "military council" reportedly being formed.

Mushtaque had come under considerable criticism because of the killing of five to ten imprisoned high-level officials of the late president Mujib's government. Most of the killings apparently were perpetrated early Monday by military followers of Mushtaque who were involved in the coup against Mujib in August. The deaths triggered a partially successful protest strike in Dacca yesterday.

Reports that troops loyal to Musharraf's main rival, ousted army chief of staff General Zia ur-Rahman, were moving on Dacca have not been confirmed, but Zia retains considerable popularity within the armed forces.



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SPANISH SAHARA

*Spain and Morocco have reached an understanding designed to reduce the threat of a major clash during the march of unarmed Moroccan volunteers into Spanish Sahara, which begins today. Even so, some violence is likely.*

Prince Juan Carlos told Ambassador Stabler yesterday that Madrid and Rabat have agreed that the marchers will come only a few miles into Spanish Sahara and stay only a short time in the border area from which Spanish troops have been withdrawn. The Prince added that a token delegation of some 50 Moroccans will be allowed to go on to the territorial capital of El Aaiun.

The area beyond which the marchers are not supposed to go is delineated by clearly marked minefields, according to another Spanish official. Juan Carlos said Spanish forces will use every means at their disposal to prevent the Moroccans from moving beyond the agreed area.

King Hassan made no mention of the agreement with Madrid during his short speech yesterday announcing that his green march would proceed today. At the same time, he gave no indication of how far into the territory the marchers will proceed, suggesting that he may intend to honor the agreement.

Hassan stressed the need for order and discipline during the march and told the Moroccan volunteers to be "hospitable" to any Spaniards they encounter. Hassan did not threaten to use force if the Spanish put up armed resistance, but he assured the marchers that if "anyone else" fires on them the Moroccan army will defend them. He was obviously referring to Algeria and the Polisario Front, a pro-Independence group of Saharans backed by Algeria.

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Once the marchers cross the border, the situation could easily get out of control. [redacted]

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The pro-Algerian position Moscow recently has adopted toward the Spanish Sahara dispute has led to a deterioration in Soviet-Moroccan relations.

In the UN, the Soviets have sided with Algeria's view that the Spanish Sahara question should be resolved by granting self-determination to the colony's inhabitants.

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King Hassan has shown his displeasure with Moscow's position by canceling the visit of a Soviet delegation that was to put the final touches on a major Soviet-Moroccan phosphates agreement. This agreement is important to Moscow because the Soviets want improved access to develop Moroccan phosphates to supplement the USSR's sagging domestic production.

ARGENTINA

*President Maria Estela Peron announced last night from the hospital that she does not intend to resign or ask for a leave of absence. Nevertheless, her emotional state appears to be deteriorating rapidly and her political position seems all but lost.*

The President reportedly has responded to the defection of her last strong supporter--labor leader Lorenzo Miguel--by isolating herself in a Buenos Aires clinic, apparently refusing to meet with anyone except her physician and her private secretary. Sources of the US embassy say she has had a special telephone line installed so she can talk directly with her former mentor, Jose Lopez Rega, now in exile in Spain.

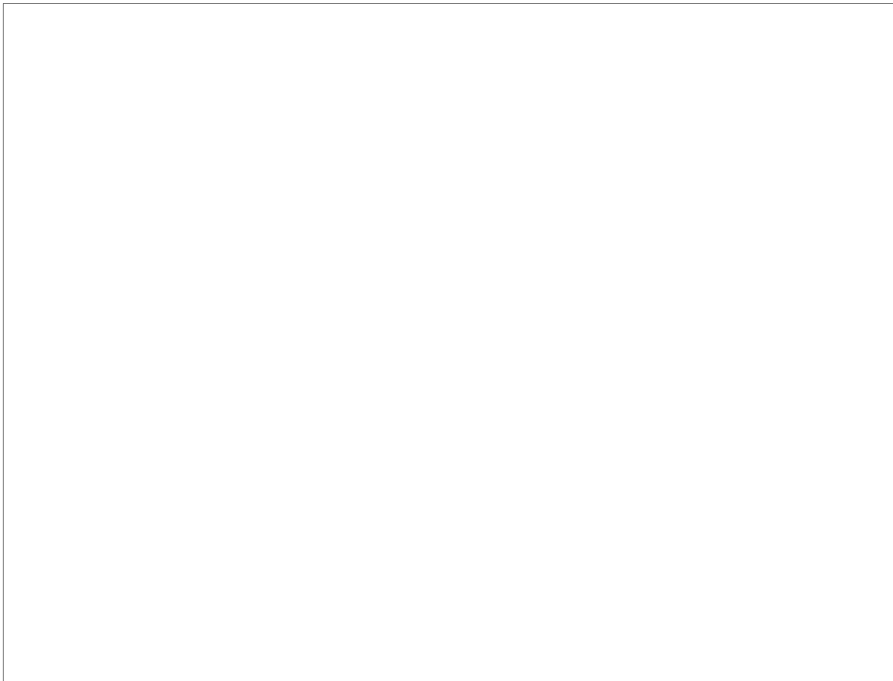
There seems no hope for any arrangement that would allow her to remain in office, even as a figurehead.

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The generals are waiting in the wings in the hope that civilian leaders can come up with a solution. Peronist labor leaders and politicians have been meeting since yesterday trying to agree on how to get the President out of office and what to do after that. Many observers expect Senate President Italo Luder, who was acting chief executive during Peron's vacation last month, will again become interim president until an election can be held.

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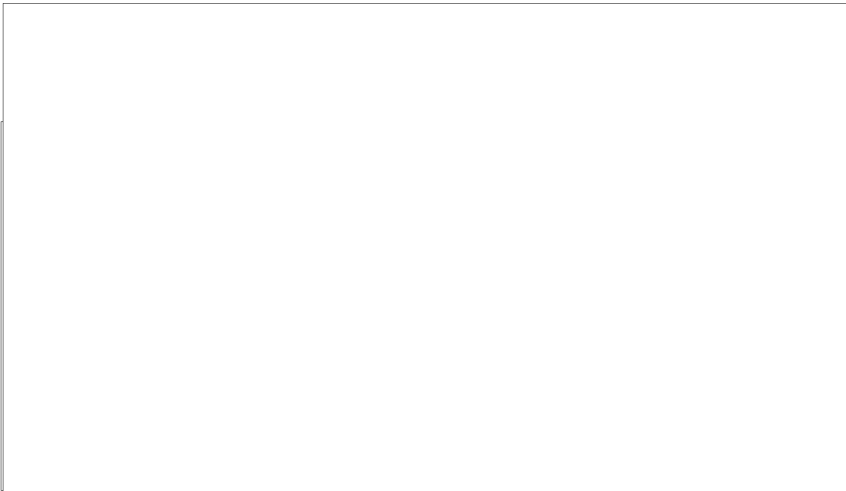
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