

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

### 1. FRANCO LINGERS AT DEATH'S DOOR

IN A MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR STABLER, JUAN CARLOS CONFIRMED THAT FRANCO'S LATEST HEART ATTACK HAS CAUSED IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE. ALTHOUGH HIS DEATH MAY BE IMMINENT, THE EMBASSY REPORTS A WIDE SPECTRUM OF POLITICAL FORCES INCLUDING THE MILITARY, THE PRINCE, AND FRANCO'S FAMILY ARE WORKING FOR HIS RESIGNATION, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS OCTOBER 24.

THERE IS NO CONSENSUS ON THE FORM A JUAN CARLOS GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE, BUT:

--THE PRINCE HAS INDICATED HE WOULD ASK FOR ARIAS' RESIGNATION AND ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A COALITION WITH BROAD SUPPORT.

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--A KEY NATIONAL MOVEMENT FIGURE BELIEVES A COALITION

GOVERNMENT IS POSSIBLE BUT SUGGESTS THAT TO PLACATE THE RIGHTISTS, THE ARIAS CABINET, MINUS SEVERAL MINISTERS, MIGHT BE RETAINED UNTIL THE MARCH 1976 ELECTIONS.

--THE CHIEF OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE SEES A QUICK DEMISE FOR SUCH FRANCO TAINTED ORGANIZATIONS AS THE "BUNKER" AND THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT. LIKE OTHERS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT, HE AGREES THAT THE PEOPLE WILL PROBABLY SETTLE FOR EVOLUTIONARY CHANGES THAT DO NOT GREATLY THREATEN THEIR TRADITIONAL PATTERNS OF LIFE.

FRANCO'S REACTION TO THE SWIRL AROUND H M REMAINS UNCLEAR. IF HE REFUSES TO LEAVE OFFICE VOLUNTARILY, A VARIETY OF MOVES TO DECLARE HIM INCAPACITATED WILL LIKELY FOLLOW. (THE EMBASSY SPECULATES THAT THE LATEST MEDICAL REPORT THAT FRANCO'S CONDITION HAS SIGNIFICANTLY WORSENERED MAY IN FACT BE THE OPENING STEP IN A FINDING OF INCAPACITATION.) (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 7410, 7411, 7408 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 7409 (EXDIS), 10/23.)

## 2. GREECE: BITSIOS' REACTION TO SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

EMBASSY ATHENS REPORTS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS REACTED CAUTIOUSLY TO THE SECRETARY'S ORAL MESSAGE PASSED BY THE CHARGE AND ANTICIPATES PROBLEMS IN NICOSIA. NOTING HE WOULD DISCUSS THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MESSAGE WITH CARAMANLIS, BITSIOS SAID HIS IMMEDIATE PERSONAL REACTION WAS:

--CAGLAYANGIL'S SILENCE ON TERRITORIAL PERCENTAGES WAS DISAPPOINTING AND DID NOT SUGGEST MUCH TURKISH FLEXIBILITY.

--MAKARIOS AND THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT WILL LIKELY BE SKEPTICAL.

HE ASKED WHETHER WASHINGTON PLANNED TO CONVEY THE TURKISH VIEWS TO MAKARIOS, SUGGESTING IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO TOUCH BASES AND INDICATE TO HIM WE THOUGHT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WAS SERIOUS THIS TIME ABOUT DISCUSSING TERRITORY AS  
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WELL AS OTHER ISSUES. (SECRET) ATHENS 8165 (EXDIS), 10/23.)

## 3. PORTUGAL: KET MODERATE ASSESSES POLITICAL SCENE

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INFORMATION FERREIRA DA CUNHA, AN ANTUNES MODERATE, TOLD AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI OCTOBER 23 THAT THE MODERATES AIMED TO CLEAN THE COMMUNISTS OUT OF THE

MINISTRIES, RESTORE MILITARY DISCIPLINE, AND GAIN CONTROL OF THE MASS MEDIA. HE ADDED THAT:

--THE "NINE" HAD DISCOVERED THE PRESIDENT MAKES DECISIONS "MUCH EASIER IF WE MAKE THEM FOR HIM."

--THE COMMUNISTS, WHO ARE ON THE DEFENSIVE, CONTINUE TO CONCENTRATE ON PUSHING THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND OBLIGING THE GOP TO TURN ANGO-LA OVER TO THE MPLA.

--PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO WAS FIRM IN THE FACE OF FRONTAL ATTACKS, BUT WAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO LOW KEY PRESSURE FROM THOSE AROUND HIM--NOTABLY TWO LEFTIST MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: WHILE I AM NOT AS PESSIMISTIC AS MOST OF MY NATO COLLEAGUES NOR AS OPTIMISTIC AS FERREIRA DE CUNHA, I AM INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT IS BEGINNING TO MAKE HEADWAY WITH ITS OVERALL STRATEGY. BUT THE COURSE IS STILL UPHILL. (CONFIDENTIAL)  
LISBON 6176, 10/23.)

#### 4. INDIA: NO TIMETABLE FOR A RETURN TO DEMOCRACY

MRS. GANDHI'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, P.M. DHAR, TOLD DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS THAT INDIA WOULD NOT ABANDON DEMOCRACY. DHAR NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT:

--THE PRE-EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT WAS INCAPABLE OF DEALING WITH GRAVE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STRAIN IN A COUNTRY THAT HAS ADOPTED A TYPE OF POPULIST DEMOCRACY.

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--ALTHOUGH THE COUNTRY IS STILL NOT IN EQUILIBRIUM, THE PUBLIC MUST HAVE A VOICE IN A COUNTRY AS LARGE AS INDIA.

--BEFORE PARTY POLITICS CAN RESUME, THE COURTS AND THE PARLIAMENT MUST BE TRIMMED AND SIMPLIFIED AND DISCIPLINE IN PARLIAMENT MUST BE REESTABLISHED. (SECRET)  
NEW DELHI 14119 (EXDIS), 10/23.)

#### 5. SOVIET VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST

ACCORDING TO A FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE, ASAD DURING HIS MOSCOW VISIT CONFIRMED HIS NEGATIVE VIEWS ON SINAI II BUT IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET QUESTIONING WAS UNWILLING TO GIVE "CONCRETE INDICATIONS" OF SYRIAN IDEAS ON GENEVA AND PLO

PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS. THE SOURCE INDICATED THAT:

--ASAD WAS AGAINST A GOLAN DISENGAGEMENT BECAUSE "POLITICAL AND PERHAPS MILITARY" CONDITIONS WERE UNFAVORABLE, AND ONLY TOTAL LIBERATION OF THE AREA WAS ACCEPTABLE.

--THE SOVIET POSITION IS THAT NO FURTHER MOVEMENT SHOULD BE ACHIEVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITHOUT SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION.

--DURING ARAFAT'S NOVEMBER VISIT TO MOSCOW, THE SOVIETS INTEND TO SOLICIT HIS VIEWS ON THE SECRETARY'S IDEA OF "LARGE CONSULTATIONS" AND URGE THE PLO TO INSIST ON GENEVA AS A MEETING PLACE FOR ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. (THE SOURCE ALSO NOTED SOMEWHAT TENTATIVELY THAT THE SOVIETS ARE STILL AWAITING SPECIFIC DETAILS FROM US ON THE "LARGE CONSULTATIONS." (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 15302 (EXDIS), 10/23.)

6. UNEF MANDATE RENEWED

THE SECURITY COUNCIL VOTED 13-0 TO RENEW THE UNEF MANDATE FOR ONE YEAR. CHINA AND IRAQ DID NOT PARTICIPATE. (UNCLASSIFIED) USUN 5275, 10/23.) INGERSOLL  
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