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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Monday November 8, 1976 CI NIDC 76-261C

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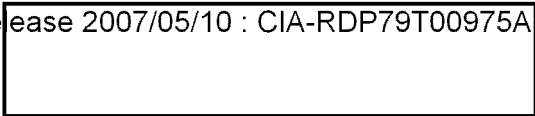
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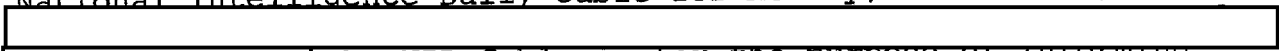
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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Monday, November 8, 1976.



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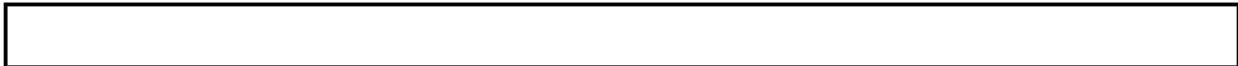
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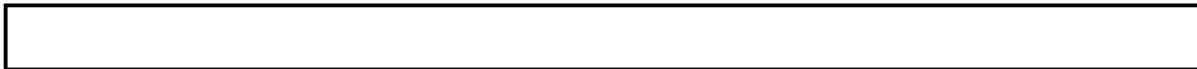
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LEBANON: Situation Report

[redacted] Lebanese President Sarkis yesterday issued a brief, emotional appeal for all combatants to accept the supervision of Arab League peace-keeping troops. He gave no details, however, on how he intends to use the League force, on its composition, or when it will be deployed.

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[redacted] Sarkis has been trying for weeks through private mediation to settle the controversy over deployment of the force, and he apparently decided that any revelation of his plans would only complicate negotiations. He also recently has warned that he might proceed without the agreement of all disputants, and he may have decided, as his remarks implied, that he can no longer afford to delay reinforcing the cease-fire.

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[redacted] Although his address seemed intended mainly to reassure both Christians and Muslims that he would have direct control over the League troops, it also contained an indirect warning that failure to cooperate with his peace-keeping efforts would only prolong the presence of foreign troops on Lebanese soil. In addition, he emphasized that resolution of Lebanon's conflict is directly linked to progress in solving the broader Middle East dispute and that he, therefore, also must consider his full responsibility to the Arab world.

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[redacted] Christian, Muslim, and Palestinian leaders profess willingness to cooperate with Sarkis, but they continue to raise objections to his projected plans for using the Arab security force.

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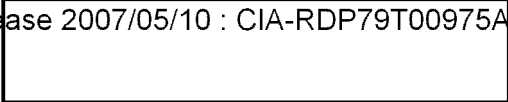
[redacted] Christian extremist Camille Shamun said on Saturday that the Palestinians had failed to comply with the provisions of the Riyadh agreement that called for them to withdraw from their positions. Arab security forces, he said, should implement those withdrawals before trying to enter "peaceful areas where no incidents have taken place"--a reference to the areas of Christian control. Shamun's son has also announced that the Christians will not hand their weapons over to Arab League troops.

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[redacted] The more moderate Phalangist Christians are apparently willing to accept units of the Arab security force in

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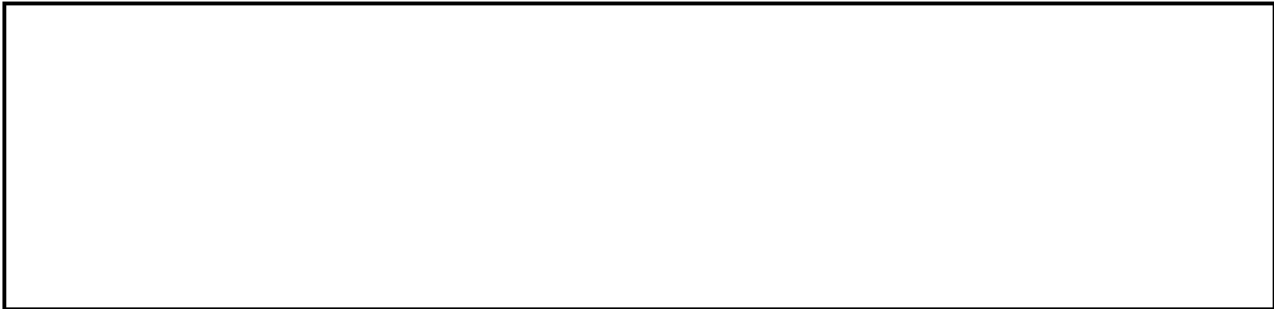
Christian areas, but even they have specified that the troops must be withdrawn immediately in case of "incidents."

 The Phalangists held a "military review" on Saturday, including a parade of tanks and armored cars--presumably an effort to stress their ability to police their own areas.


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 Leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt is still stressing that withdrawals have to be balanced between both sides, and saying that it is "illogical and unacceptable" to hand over heavy weapons until a "national understanding" has been reached on the problems--including the need for political, economic, and social reforms--that brought about the civil war in the first place.


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 Although Damascus announced on Friday that it was placing its troops in Lebanon at the disposal of Sarkis as members of the Arab League force--which would have enabled Sarkis to begin moving those troops into contested areas--no effort has as yet been made to use the security forces to enforce the Riyadh agreement.

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 The Christians apparently believe such a move is imminent, however, and that the troops will move from Jazzin to Sidon, open the roads from Sidon to Beirut and from Alayh to the airport, and take up positions along Beirut's confrontation line.

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EGYPT: Election Results

[redacted] President Sadat on Saturday asked Prime Minister Salim to form a new cabinet following receipt of parliamentary election returns giving the pro-government slate a strong majority. The new cabinet will probably be named today.

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[redacted] Salim submitted his resignation as a formality after Sadat's inauguration to a second term on October 16, but he was asked to stay on in a caretaker role until the parliamentary election.

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[redacted] Near-final returns give the pro-government organization within the Arab Socialist Union 275 of the People's Assembly's 348 elected seats. Twelve additional seats are reserved for appointment by Sadat.

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[redacted] Although the ASU is Egypt's only legal political party, candidates were permitted this year for the first time to form opposition groups within the party and to run openly on opposition platforms. Members of the ASU's leftist organization have taken only two seats; the rightist organization, 12. Independents running outside the sponsorship of any ASU group won 48 seats.

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[redacted] No comprehensive breakdown of the independents' political sentiments is available. Some will undoubtedly lean toward the government, but many are known leftists, and probably a sizable number will take an opposition stance.

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[redacted] Although no serious challenge to government policies is expected from the new Assembly, it may prove to be less manipulable than its predecessors.

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[redacted] //The new cabinet will reflect few changes except in the economic sector. [redacted]

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[redacted] Sadat and Salim are expected to replace the present ministers of finance and economy.//

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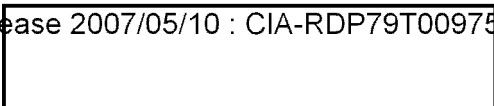
[redacted] //Foreign Minister Fahmi and War Minister Gamasy are expected to retain their portfolios. [redacted]

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USSR-CHINA: Relations

 The message China has sent to the Soviet Union commemorating the 59th anniversary of the Russian Revolution is essentially the same as one broadcast last year and contains no new initiatives.


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 The government-to-government message reaffirmed China's standard position that contention over issues between the two countries should not interfere with normal relations. Unlike last year's statement, the current message makes no specific reference to continuing negotiations over disputed border areas.


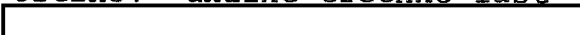
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 Meanwhile, Chinese officials attended Soviet receptions in Moscow, Peking, and elsewhere honoring the revolution. The Chinese representation at the Peking gathering was at the same low level as previous years.

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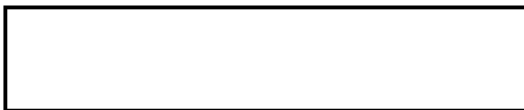
 Peking's top diplomat in Moscow sat through the Kremlin's annual reception for the first time in several years. The leading Soviet speaker's comments on Sino-Soviet relations did not contain the sharply worded criticism of China and the late Mao Tse-tung that had prompted walkouts by Chinese envoys in the past.

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 In his speech yesterday at the anniversary parade in Moscow, Soviet Defense Minister Ustinov--unlike Grechko last year--avoided mention of China. 

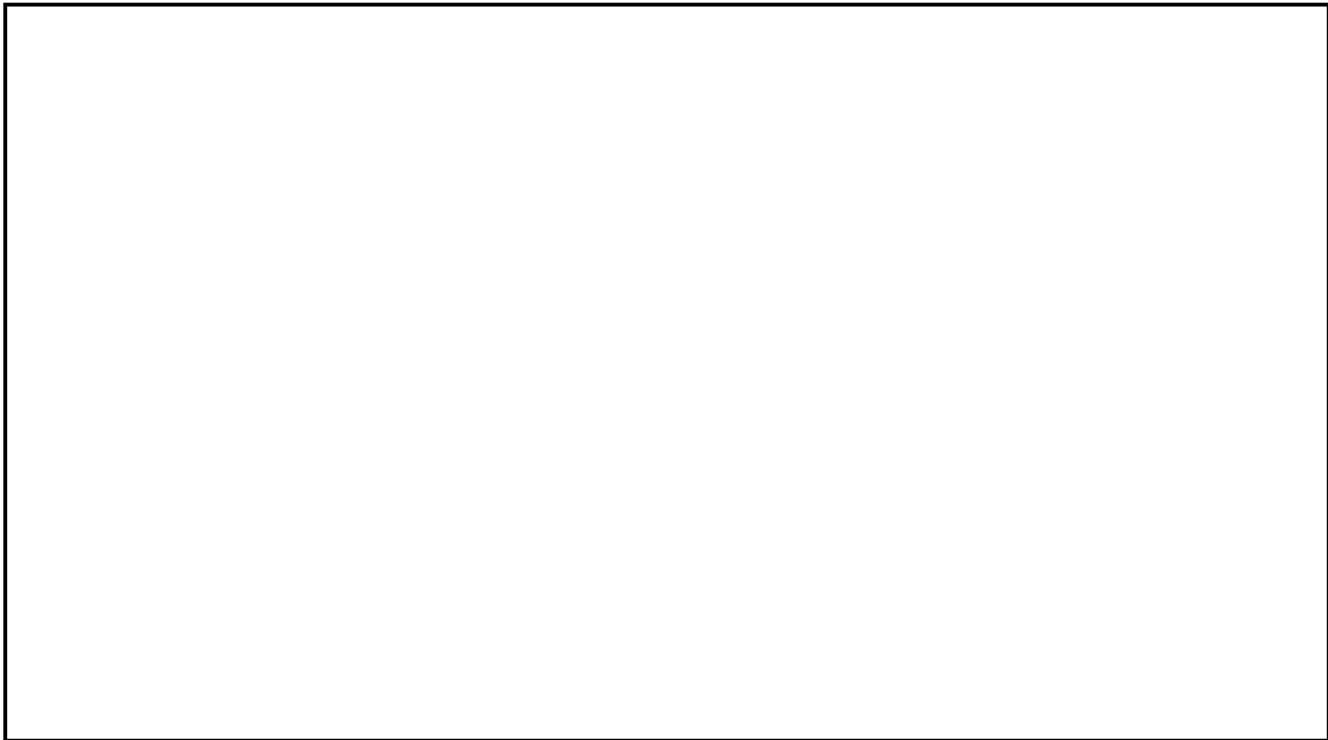
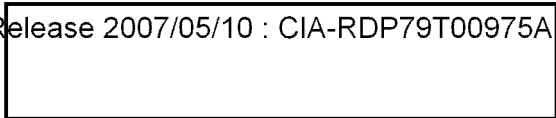
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USSR-JAPAN: Return of MIG-25

 //The USSR and Japan reportedly will sign agreements today regarding the return of the MIG-25 flown to Japan by a Soviet defector in September. According to the US defense attache in Tokyo, a Soviet freighter is to arrive at the port of Hitachi on Sunday to pick up the aircraft.//

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 //The return of the MIG-25 will remove a major irritant in Soviet-Japanese relations, and both countries seem anxious to put the problem behind them. The USSR probably will go ahead with two planned Soviet ministerial-level visits to Japan dealing with economic matters that it had threatened to postpone. The Soviets were reluctant to carry out the threat because some useful business is likely to be transacted, and because the USSR, with its political standing in Tokyo so low, can ill afford setbacks in Soviet-Japanese economic cooperation.

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POLAND: Workers' Appeal

[redacted] Nearly 900 workers at an important tractor factory have petitioned party leader Gierk to reinstate the 126 workers fired after the demonstrations there last June. The factory was one of the main centers of opposition to the price increases proposed at that time.

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[redacted] According to a Western news service, the petition stated that reinstatement of the workers is "indispensable in view of the nation's hard situation, the tense atmosphere in our plants, and difficulties with fulfilling our plans due to shortages of experienced members."

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[redacted] The leadership has already tried to conciliate the public by freeing those workers imprisoned for rioting. A decision to rehire all who were dismissed would give the workers further proof of their new-found power and underscore the regime's weakness.

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[redacted] On the other hand, government indifference or an unwillingness to budge could risk open confrontation. The Gierk leadership will probably seek a compromise solution such as reinstating only those workers who played relatively minor roles in the riots at the plant.

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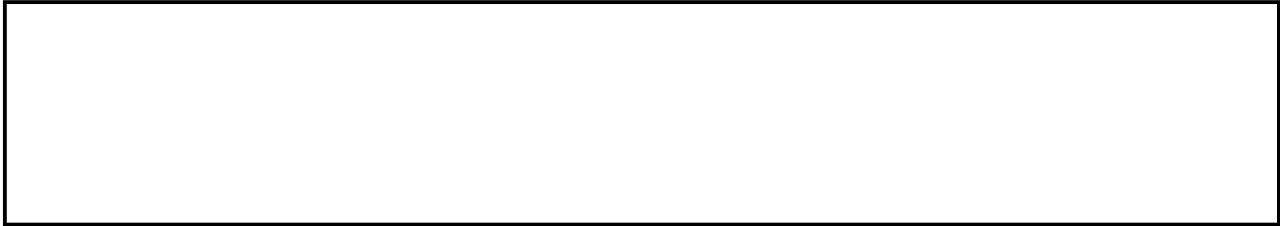
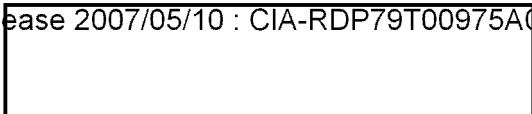
[redacted] Should the petition movement spread, however, the Polish leaders will probably have to take a tougher position to maintain public order and control. [redacted]

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USSR-CUBA: Commercial Aircraft

[redacted] Cuba has received its first Soviet-built YAK-40 short-range commercial passenger aircraft. [redacted]

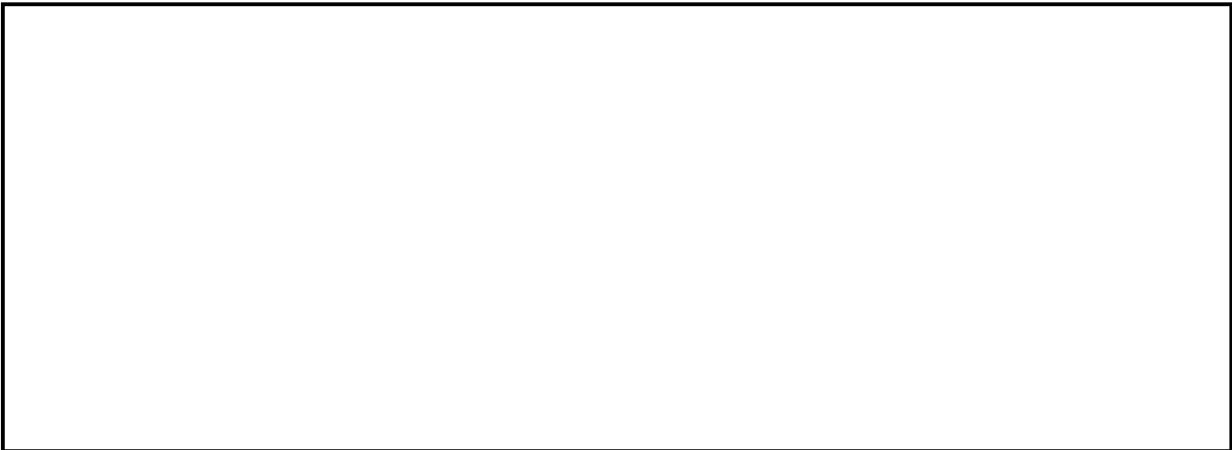
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The YAK-40 has a passenger capacity of about 28, a range of about 1,200 kilometers (755 miles), and a short-take-off-and-landing capability.//

[redacted] //The YAK-40 has been a successful aircraft within the USSR, but export sales have been a disappointment. Aeroflot operates about 500 of the aircraft, mostly on feeder routes in rural Siberia. Despite a major push to export the aircraft in recent years, only about 50 have been sold--most to the East European market.// [redacted]

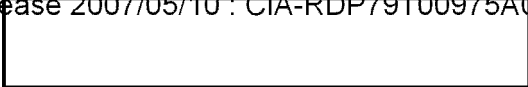
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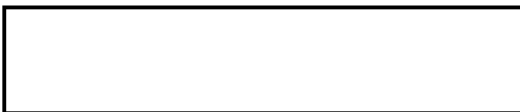
ITALY-FRANCE: Talks

 //French Socialist leader Mitterrand and Italian Communist chief Berlinguer reportedly are planning to hold talks in Rome later this month.//

 Berlinguer's desire to meet with Mitterrand reflects the Italian Communists' policy of working for closer relations with West European Socialist and Social Democratic, as well as Communist, parties. During the last year, for example, the Italian Communists have held informal discussions with officials of the British and Dutch Labor parties and with various Scandinavian Social Democrats.

 These contacts seem designed to underline the Italian Communists' professed commitment to democratic values--which Berlinguer has also sought to emphasize in joint communiques with the French, Spanish, and British Communist parties during the last year. In addition, the Italians apparently believe that such discussions will ultimately enhance the ability of the left to influence social and economic policies throughout Western Europe, particularly within the context of the EC.

 //While in Rome, Mitterrand may also arrange to meet with Italian Socialist leader Craxi. The latter will be aware, however, that Mitterrand is coming to Rome mainly to



[redacted]

see Berlinguer. Craxi has been trying to broaden his own contacts with West European Socialists and Social Democrats in order to distinguish the Italian Socialists from the Communists and to underline the latter's continuing relations with Moscow//

[redacted] //Mitterrand's main motive is to enhance his image. He knows he is accepted by the French voters as a consummate politician and a strong alternative voice on domestic issues, but feels he needs to show that foreign leaders are willing to deal with him as an equal. Mitterrand would also like to be accepted as a spokesman on southern European affairs.//

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[redacted] He recognizes that the evolution of the Italian situation, and particularly Berlinguer's actions, could strongly influence French voters' assessments of the risks involved in supporting the left in the legislative elections in 1978. He may well expect reassurances from Berlinguer that the Italian Communists will not press their advantages too aggressively.

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CIEC Approaches Final Stages

[redacted] //The Conference on International Economic Cooperation's agreement last month in Paris to schedule a ministerial review conference in mid-December does not obscure the fact that little progress was made at the Paris meeting in resolving the issues.//

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[redacted] //The delegates agreed to establish working groups that will meet this week in Paris, prior to the next, and perhaps last, round of talks before the ministerial conference. The groups have been directed to harmonize the points of view expressed in papers presented by the 19 developing and eight industrialized states participating in CIEC.//

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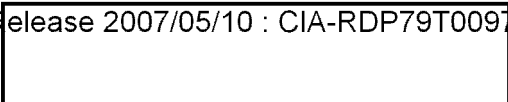
[redacted] //The topics for discussion are far-ranging and include methods of increasing the developing countries' access to new markets, plans for increasing the pace of industrialization in the Third World, and the transfer of technology from the industrialized states to the developing states.//

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[redacted] //Sharp differences, particularly on energy and on debt relief for developing countries, will be difficult to

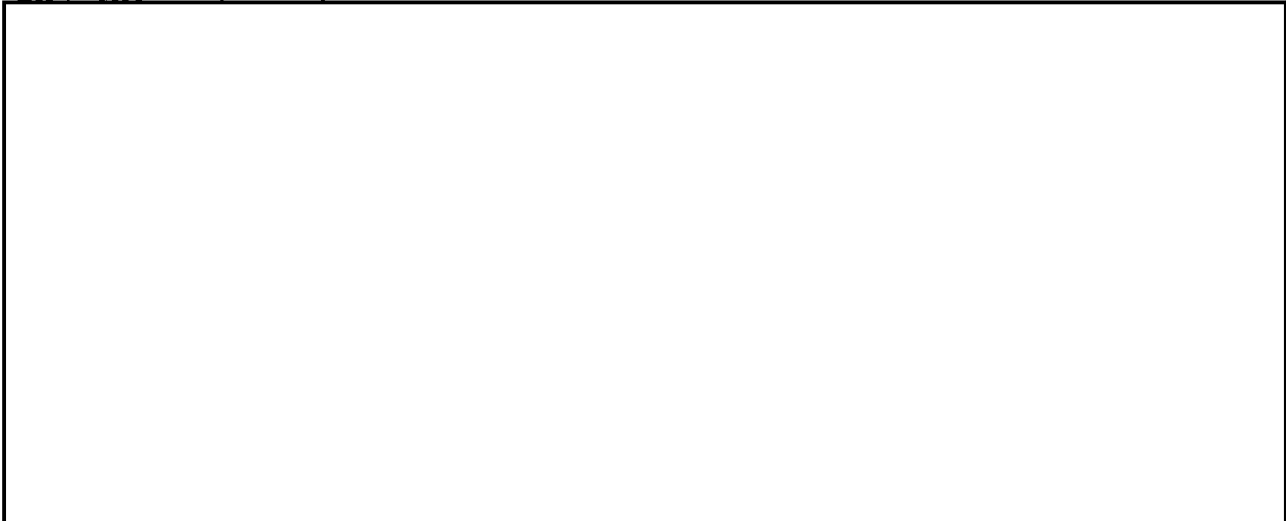
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reconcile, and the developing states are unified in expressing growing pessimism--both publicly and privately--about achieving their goals.

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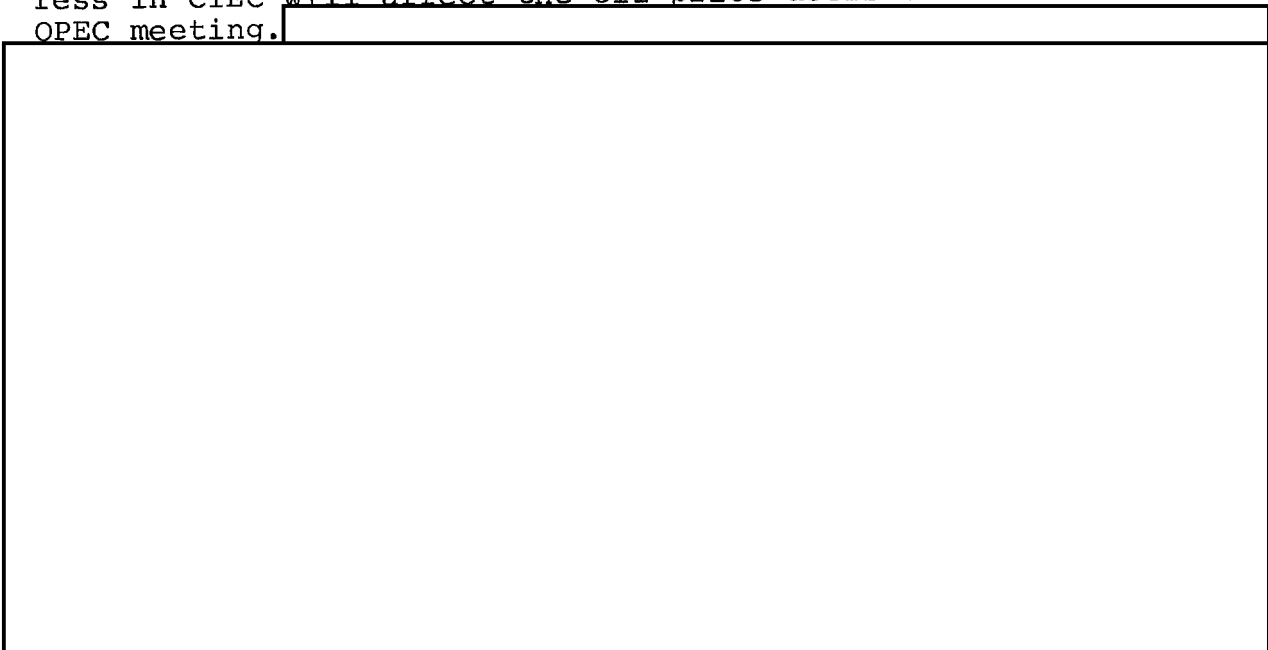


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//How well the industrialized countries will stick together in responding to these pressures remains unanswered. Some West Europeans talk as though they believe progress in CIEC will affect the oil price decision in the December OPEC meeting.

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