CHAD: Military and Political Activity

As many as 1,200 Chadian dissidents last week moved south from Faya-Largeau to positions just north of the 16th parallel. Government officials in N’Djamena indicate that Libya continues to send arms and supplies from the occupied north to dissidents in the south and east. Government officials tried to meet last week in Congo with leaders of one dissident faction. The US Embassy in Brazzaville reports that the French Ambassador also is encouraging dissidents to reconcile with President Habre.

Comment: The threat of rebel attacks in the north and Libya’s apparent attempts to resupply southern dissidents indicate Tripoli intends to maintain pressure on Habre. The President has reached an accommodation with some southern rebels, but the Libyan resupply effort may encourage others to increase acts of sabotage against the government. Habre’s moves to open a dialogue with dissident leaders are likely to reflect his concern that an increase in fighting could quickly erode his control in the south. Reconciliation efforts by Paris probably are aimed at a diplomatic settlement in hopes of avoiding military conflict with Tripoli.

YUGOSLAVIA: Military Involvement in Politics

The “threatening attitudes” of Yugoslav generals have induced civilian leaders to be more wary of opposing them on high-priority military programs. The military played a role late last year in forcing the resignation of Finance Minister Florijancic, who unsuccessfully disputed the Army’s budget requests for 1984. Florijancic later clashed with Prime Minister Planinc on another issue, and she forced his removal from office. Defense Minister Admiral Mamula has since warned that funds for arms modernization cannot be reduced.

Comment: Florijancic was the only leader to fall during the military’s unprecedented push for a broad purge of officials who obstruct the government’s stabilization program. Although the military hierarchy has since stayed on the political sidelines, the generals probably will again put pressure on the regime for more decisive action on economic stabilization at the next plenum later this month.