



The President's Daily Brief

24 April 1970

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Top Secret~~

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[Redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 April 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Cambodia is discussed on Page 1.

The Israelis are convinced that the Soviets are playing a large role in the air defense of Egypt. (Page 3)

A Soviet diplomat is dropping hints that the USSR has developed some surprising concessions for arms control verifications. (Page 4)

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[redacted] Panama [redacted] (Page 5)

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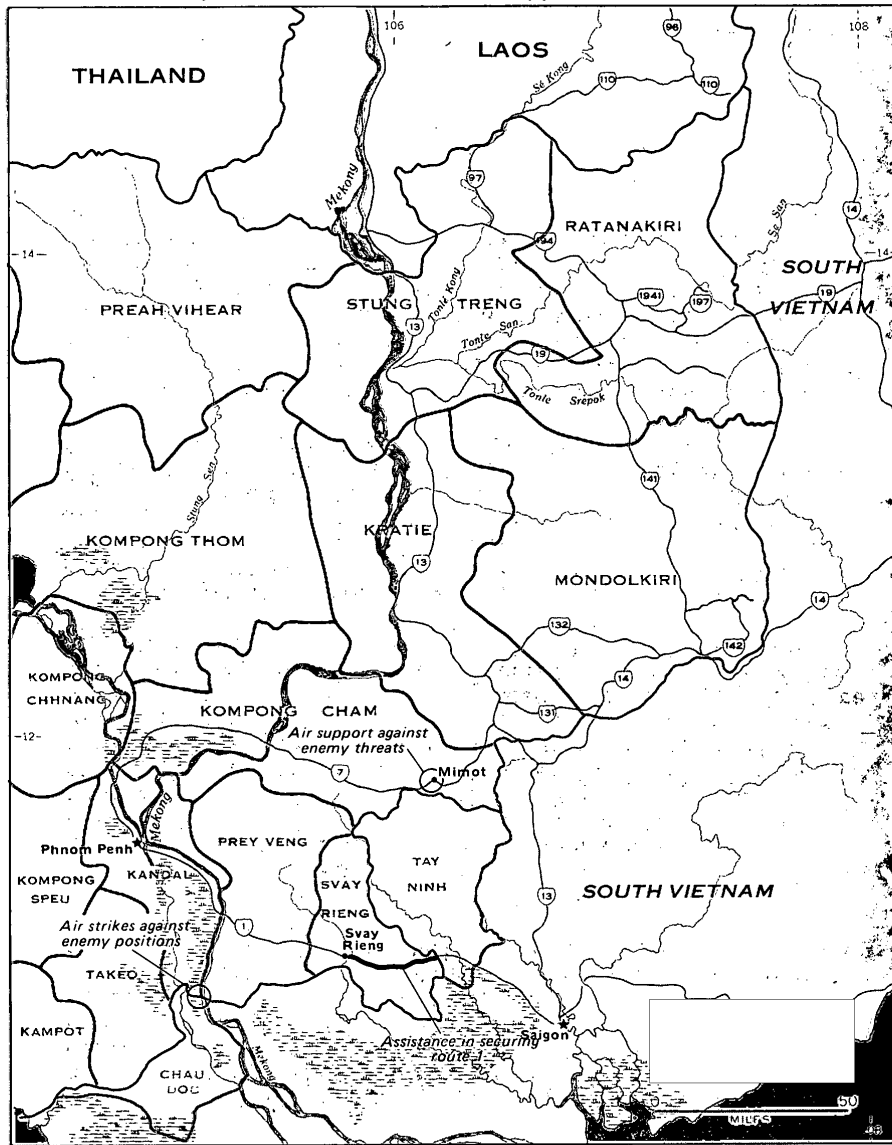
[redacted] Soviet [redacted] (Page 6)

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Cambodia Requests South Vietnamese Support



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CAMBODIA

The Communists continue to claim that their current actions in Cambodia are for relatively limited purposes.

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[Redacted] the Communists yesterday attacked a military regional headquarters in the town of Mimot near the South Vietnam border. Details on the attack are not known [Redacted]

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[Redacted] The situation in other areas was quiet.

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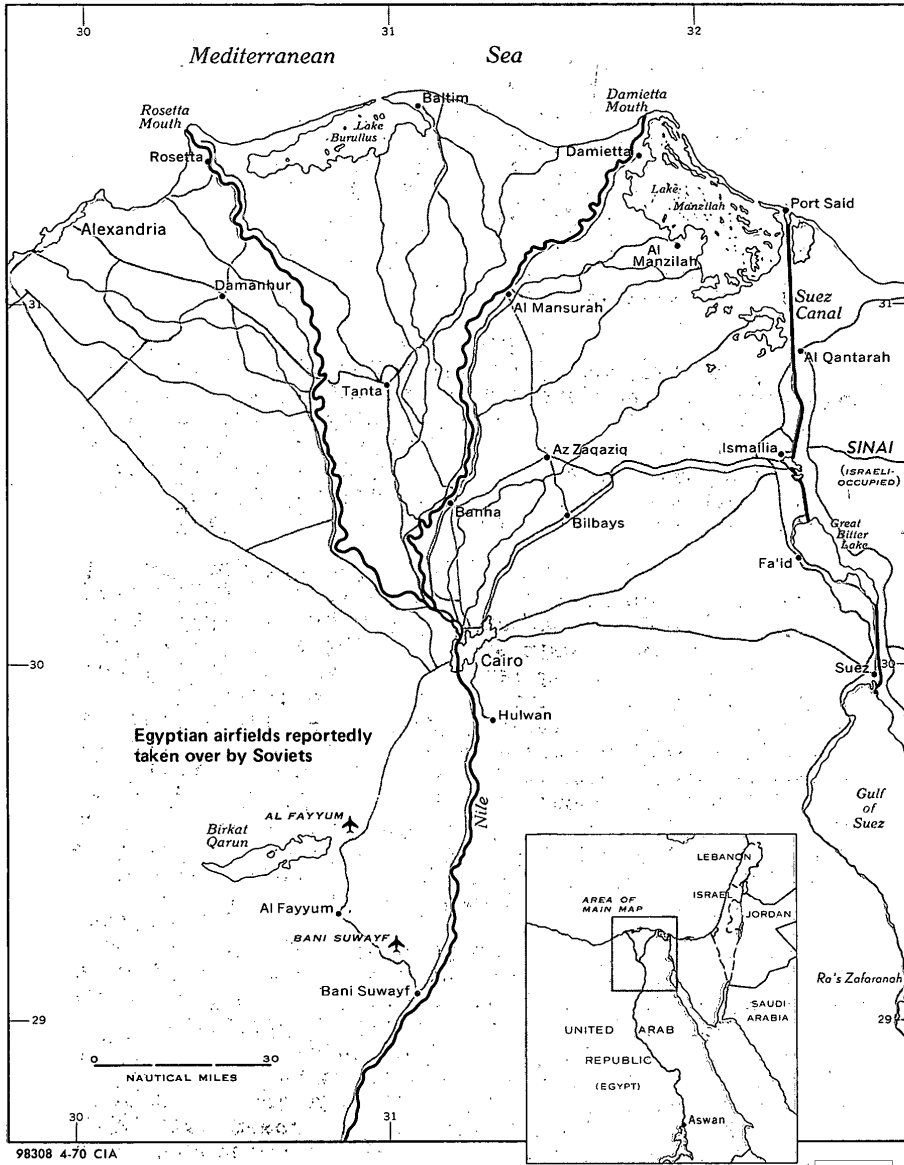
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THE NILE DELTA



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ISRAEL-USSR-EGYPT

[Redacted]

[Redacted] that he believes two major Egyptian airfields located about 50 nautical miles south of Cairo have been taken over by the Soviets and that Soviet pilots conduct all defensive missions south of Hulwan.

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[Redacted] there are "Russian fighter squadrons" in Egypt in addition to the 80-100 Soviet pilots conducting flight training with Egyptian units. He is "ready to conclude" that the Soviets are in the process of taking full responsibility for the air defense of certain areas of Egypt.

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In support of his theory, [Redacted] cites several recent operations conducted by Soviet pilots in response to Israeli actions. On April 18th, eight Soviet-piloted late-model MIG-21s chased two Israeli photoreconnaissance aircraft from the vicinity of Al Fayyum to within a few miles of the western shore of the Gulf of Suez. On the 20th, Soviet aircraft conducted defensive patrols south of Hulwan between the Nile and the Gulf while the Israelis were bombing the north end of the Suez Canal. Finally, on the 22nd, while the Israelis flew a patrol along their side of the median line of the Gulf, the Soviets flew a parallel patrol over Egypt a few miles inland from the Gulf.

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[Redacted] says this Soviet support accounts for the increased aggressiveness of the Egyptian Air Force in recent weeks. The Israelis have not been deterred by these signs of greater Soviet activity,

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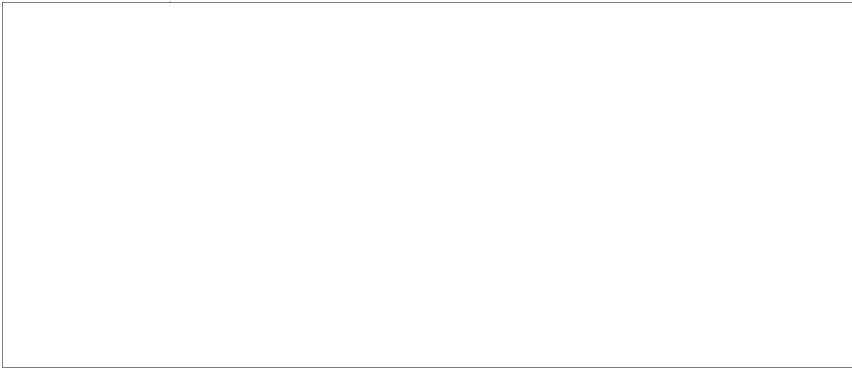
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SALT

Before the Vienna talks opened, Yuly Vorontsov, chargé d'affaires in the Soviet Embassy here, dropped two small hints that the USSR might at some point change its position on verification.

During a conversation on SALT last month, Vorontsov told a State Department officer that, in connection with an unspecified subject before the Geneva Disarmament Committee, Moscow had studied some "surprising" possibilities for verification on national territory.



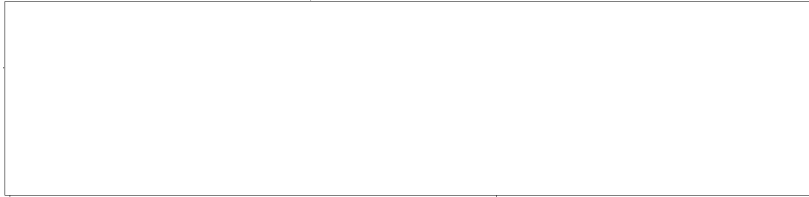
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It is unclear why Vorontsov is taking this line, but the fact that he has dropped the same hint at least twice suggests that he is acting on instructions. It is conceivable that the USSR is prepared to offer some concession on verification. If so, it is likely to fall well short of US proposals for detailed adversary on-site inspections and, given the slow pace at which Semenov is unveiling the Soviet position at Vienna, will probably not be forthcoming soon.

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PANAMA



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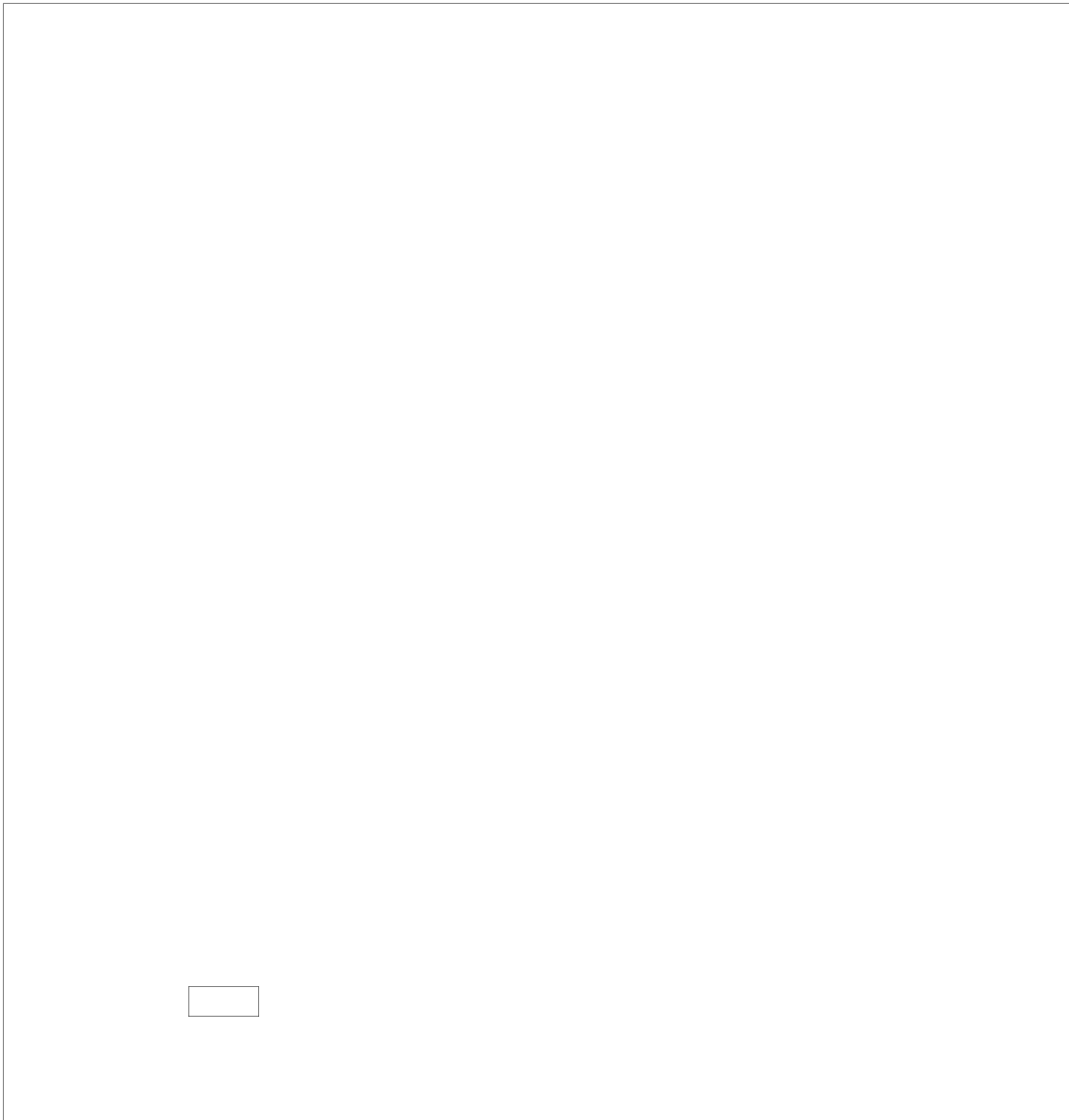


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USSR

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NOTES

European Communities: Formal adoption of the EC financing regulations early this week has helped clear the way for membership negotiations with Britain and other applicants. The French had made it clear that they would not agree to the opening of membership negotiations, which are scheduled for June or July, until the financing question was settled.

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USSR:

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Trinidad-Tobago: Negotiations between the government and rebel spokesmen are continuing. Prime Minister Williams told Ambassador Symington yesterday that although he is disposed to continue the talks, neither he nor any of his cabinet is willing to meet all of the rebels' demands which include the release of all detainees and a general amnesty for the military mutineers. Williams said that a hard core of about 40-50 dissidents remain at large. Williams now appears confident and apparently is playing for time to put his forces in the strongest possible position if the rebels are not willing to surrender on the government's terms.

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