



The President's Daily Brief

11 June 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Cambodia is discussed on Page 1.

In Jordan, cease-fire agreements intermixed with ultimatums have led to an uneasy truce between the government and the fedayeen. (Page 3)

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[Redacted] Page 5.

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So far, no Soviet aircraft have challenged the intensive Israeli bombing raids along the Suez Canal. (Page 6)

President Pak is looking for ways to stall the reduction of US troops in South Korea. (Page 7)

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(Page 8)

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[Redacted] (Page 9)

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The Makarios government is alarmed over unfavorable trends in Greek policy toward Cyprus. (Page 10)

Cambodia: Current Situation



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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY***CAMBODIA**

An estimated 1,000 Vietnamese Communist troops supported by artillery and mortars are maintaining heavy pressure against Kompong Thom city and its airport, and only South Vietnamese air strikes have prevented its capture. The government has four battalions at Kompong Thom, but one is composed of young, inexperienced recruits who reportedly are exhausted. Ammunition supplies at Kompong Thom are running low and air resupply efforts are being complicated by bad weather.

Cambodian Army officers in Phnom Penh are planning to move two Khmer Krom battalions immediately from Phnom Penh to Kompong Chhnang on Route 5, southwest of Kompong Thom. They then hope to be able to shuttle these troops in South Vietnamese helicopters to Kompong Thom.

The military situation at Siem Reap has stabilized. The airfield is open, but only to military flights. Communist troops continue to harass the town with sniper fire, and some enemy elements are now said to be hiding out in the ruins at Angkor Wat. A Cambodian military spokesman claimed yesterday that some Lao Communist forces are involved in the fighting at Siem Reap. Although the government has not offered any evidence to support this charge, it is possible such forces are in the area. In mid-May villagers in Sithandone Province in south Laos claimed that a substantial Vietnamese and Lao Communist force crossed into Preah Vihear Province in northern Cambodia. The troops reportedly told the villagers that they previously had been involved in the attacks on Attopeu.

In the northeast, the town of Labansiek in Ratanakiri Province was hit by another mortar attack yesterday. Government counterfire reportedly caused some enemy losses, however. In the south, the Communists attacked a military outpost near Route 4, the vital main road between Kompong Som (Sihanoukville) and Phnom Penh. Government elements there apparently were holding on despite continuing enemy pressure.

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[redacted]
that senior Cambodian Army officers are hopeful that arrangements can be made to train new Cambodian troops in South Vietnam. This subject was discussed initially with Vice President Ky and South Vietnamese Army officers in Phnom Penh during Ky's recent visit.

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The Cambodians want any such training to be conducted by the South Vietnamese, but are particularly insistent that it be carried out with over-all US supervision. They emphasized that the trainees must remain under the close control of their own officers and non-commissioned officers.

[redacted] that eight weeks would be the optimum training period, and that their troops should be fully clothed and equipped in South Vietnam before they return to Cambodia.

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According to a Radio Hanoi broadcast yesterday, Sihanouk's "defense minister" claims he has established a temporary command post in a "liberated area" for the organization, training, equipping, and political education of Sihanouk's "army." He also reported that information centers had been set up in various "liberated areas," and said preparations are under way to install a "liberation radio" in Cambodia.

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JORDAN-FEDAYEEN

Yesterday's second cease-fire agreement apparently succeeded in establishing an uneasy truce in Amman, but the situation remains tense. The new agreement seems to have superseded a short-lived ten-point settlement arrived at between King Husayn and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chief Yasir Arafat early yesterday. The latest cease-fire commits each side to return to their bases and to release all those detained since the beginning of the crisis. Although gunfire generally subsided--at least for a time--following the announcement, [redacted]

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[redacted] shells could still be heard in scattered places, and at least one police post in the southern part of the city was under rocket attack.

The earlier Husayn-Arafat agreement collapsed within hours, possibly as a result of a government ultimatum that the fedayeen meet certain unspecified conditions. A spokesman for Fatah in Beirut stated that at least two refugee camps in Amman were being shelled by government artillery yesterday afternoon, and that army troops had blocked the main roads leading into the capital. He added that a Fatah supply base and two other fedayeen posts were under artillery, mortar, and tank attack at Suwaylih, a village about ten miles northwest of Amman. [redacted]

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Even before the breakdown of the ten-point settlement, however, one of the more radical fedayeen organizations, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), had refused to recognize it and announced stiff conditions for the acceptance of any cease-fire: the withdrawal of all Jordanian Army forces to positions occupied before the outbreak of hostilities; liquidation of all anticommando organizations such as the Bedouin special forces; dismissal from positions of authority of all "anticommando" elements; and the release of all fedayeen under detention. The PFLP is holding over 30 foreigners hostage in two of Amman's hotels and has threatened reprisals if the government does not stop its attacks on fedayeen camps.

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The latest cease-fire arrangement may not prove to be any more viable than its predecessors. Earlier Wednesday afternoon, the central committee of the PLO was still insisting on the dismissal of three high-ranking army officers, including the King's uncle--terms that Husayn would find difficult to swallow. Even if the King succeeds in arriving at an acceptable compromise with the more moderate fedayeen organizations, the radical groups--particularly the PFLP--will be difficult for either side to control.

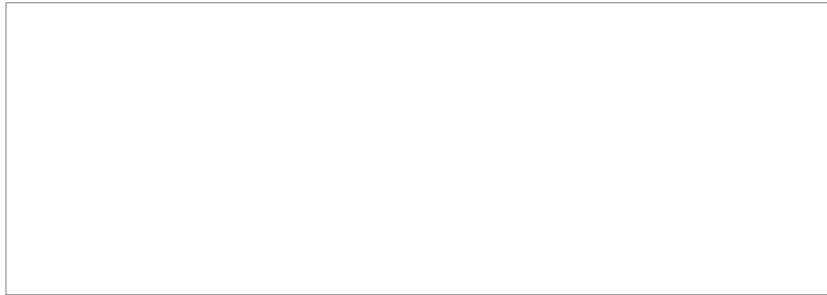
Meanwhile, Husayn is coming under increasing pressure from Arab leaders to stop the shedding of Arab blood. Iraq has requested an urgent meeting of the "frontline" states--Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq--to find a settlement.

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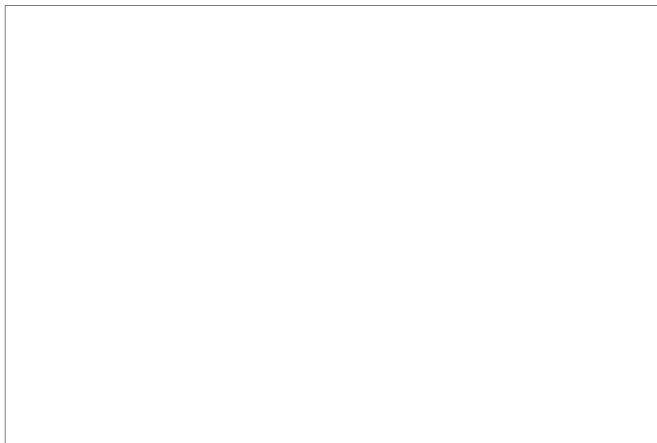
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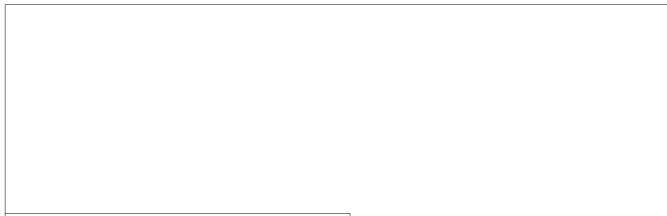
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ISRAEL-EGYPT

Despite daily Israeli Air Force saturation raids along the Suez Canal, no Soviet aircraft have been reported active in the Canal area. The occasional Egyptian aircraft that have risen to meet the Israeli attacks have been driven off or shot down. Tel Aviv is intent on suppressing the construction of anti-aircraft emplacements--both gun and missile--along the canal. The secondary purpose of the raids--"eliminating Egyptian military pressure"--has been virtually achieved in the northern canal sector, according to the Israeli press.

By "military pressure" the Israelis probably mean the small-scale UAR raids that have raised the Israeli casualty rate in recent weeks. Egyptian troops are not likely to cross the canal in strength. Even General Bar Lev, the Israeli chief of staff, has said publicly that he did not believe the UAR would attempt a major assault across the canal.

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SOUTH KOREA

Evidence continues to accumulate that President Pak, however haltingly, is beginning to face up to the prospect of a reduction of US forces in Korea (see The President's Daily Brief of 8 June). While making clear his strong opposition to any cutback prior to 1975, Pak has emphasized to Ambassador Porter that the key to South Korean concurrence is what the US is prepared to give in return. Pak flatly stated that until he knows the nature and extent of US plans for modernizing South Korean forces he cannot agree to any withdrawal.

Meanwhile Pak apparently has not entirely given up the idea that if he can persuade the US to underwrite the use of Korean troops in Cambodia he will obtain a lever to forestall the cutback in US troops in South Korea. Prime Minister Chong Il-kwon has on several occasions informally indicated to the embassy that Seoul wants to enter the Cambodian conflict.

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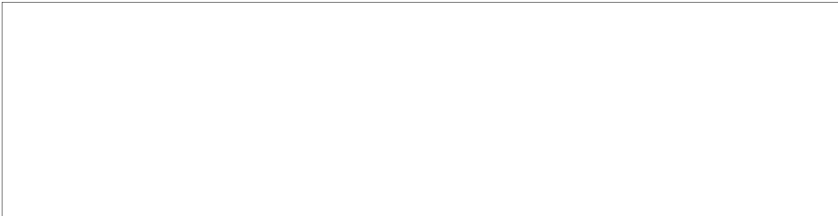
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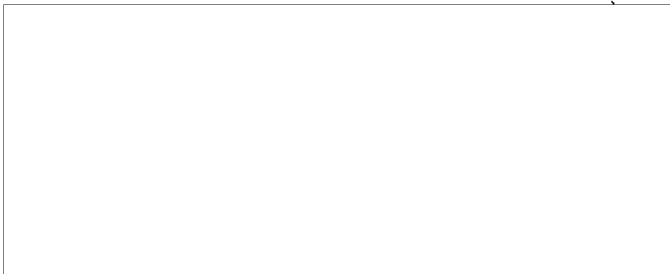
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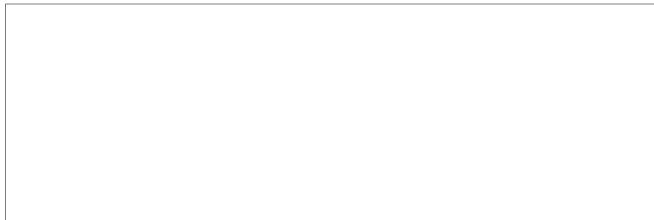
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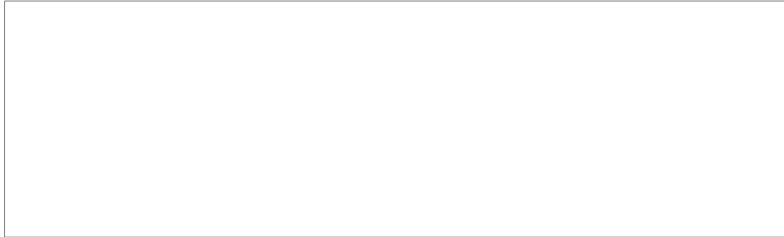
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PAKISTAN-USSR



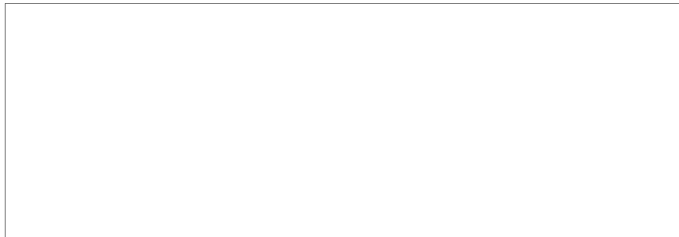
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CYPRUS-GREECE

The Makarios government is becoming alarmed over what it sees as threatening aspects of Greek policy toward Cyprus. One such item is Athens' failure to muzzle General George Grivas, a fiery proponent of Cyprus' union with Greece (enosis). Another is Athens' continued retention on Cyprus of similarly minded "activist" Greek officers serving with the Cyprus National Guard. A further ominous sign, in the eyes of the Makarios government, was the resumption of publication in Athens of a pro-Grivas, pro-enosis newspaper, which in the past had been subsidized by the Greek Government.

Despite public protestations of solidarity, relations between Nicosia and Athens have shown signs of strain ever since the attempt on Makarios' life last March.



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At the time of the March events the Cypriots grew suspicious that a secret deal had been reached between Greece and Turkey, aimed at deposing Makarios and dividing up the island. These fears have been revived by recent consultations in Rome between the Greek and Turkish foreign ministers. A joint move of this nature is unlikely in the foreseeable future, but some other Greek-sponsored action against Makarios remains a possibility.

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NOTE

USSR-Berlin: At the Four Power meeting on Tuesday, Soviet Ambassador Abrasimov again insisted that West Germany cease all political activity in West Berlin and attacked West German representation of West Berlin's interests abroad. His remarks are pertinent to the negotiating package which Bonn secretly proposed to the US last week. That proposal, which was not tabled at the meeting, would have the Three Powers insist on Soviet acceptance of the legality of their position in West Berlin, but would concede some limitation on Bonn's right to represent West Berlin abroad. Abrasimov's comments suggest that Moscow remains determined to sever Bonn's legal ties with West Berlin.

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