



The President's Daily Brief

23 September 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

23 September 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Jordan is discussed on Page 1.

[Redacted] Egypt [Redacted] (Page 3)

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Lead forces from the Cambodian Army column on Route 6 pushed toward Tang Kouk yesterday. (Page 4)

In Laos, government forces are improving their defensive positions in the north. (Page 5)

[Redacted] Soviet [Redacted] Chile [Redacted] (Page 6)

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[Redacted] Burmese [Redacted] (Page 7)

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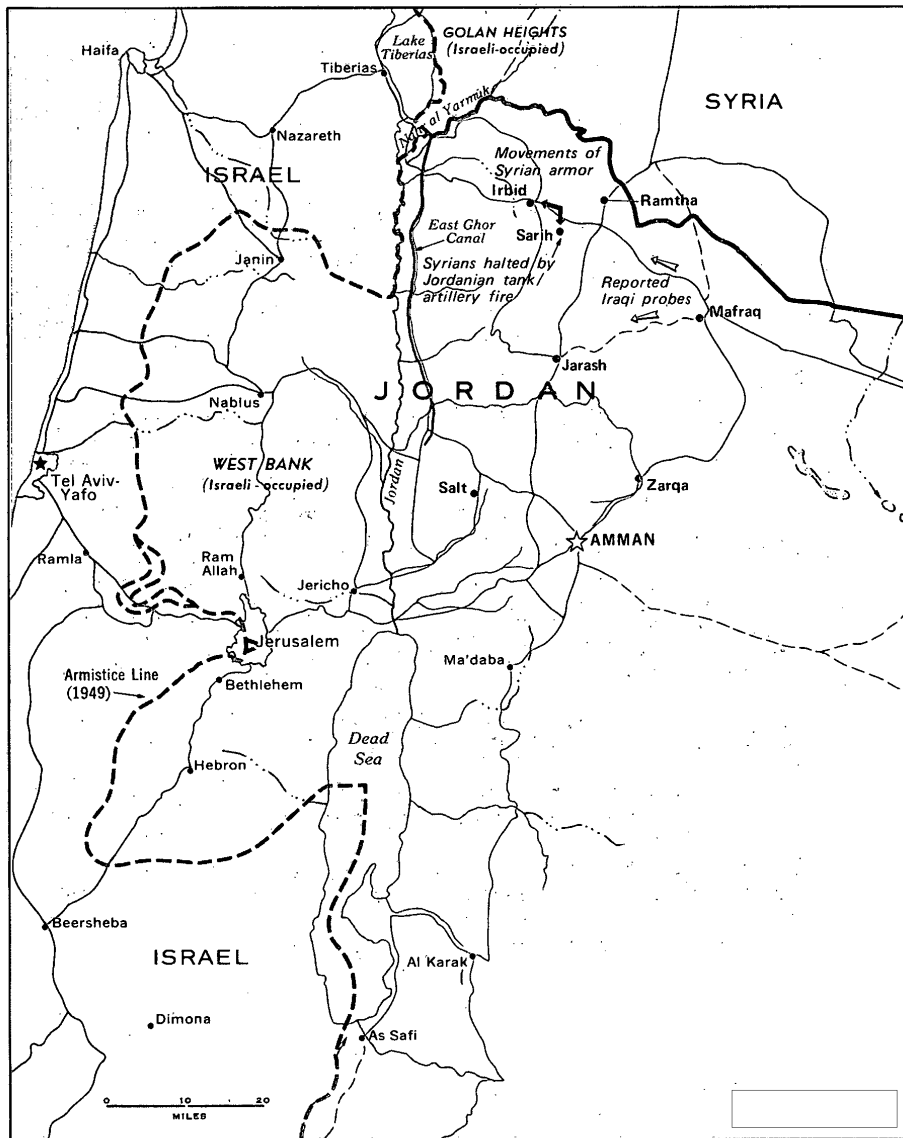
[Redacted] Soviets [Redacted] (Page 8)

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Warsaw Pact countries will engage in one of their biggest military maneuvers next week. (Page 8)

It appears that western oil companies will follow the pattern established in Occidental's recent agreement with the Libyan Government. (Page 8)

JORDAN: Current Situation



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JORDAN

Yesterday Jordanian tank and artillery fire effectively prevented the movement of Syrian armor south of Irbid. Any further attempt to push south toward Amman will be hampered by hilly terrain in the area which would force Syrian tanks to use open roads where they would be highly vulnerable to Jordan's antitank fire. The other alternative--a flank attack against Amman--would also be hazardous because the Syrians would have to pass through a concentration of Iraqi forces, whose reaction remains in doubt. Jordanian tank strength in the north is now estimated to be 200 compared to the remaining 170 operational Syrian tanks.

Elsewhere the Jordanians claim to control Zarqa and Salt, but the fedayeen have occupied Mafrag and Ajlun, a small town just north of Jarash. In Amman, heavy fighting continues with heavy concentrations of fire on the Husayn and Wahdat refugee camps.

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There is a pressing need for food and medical care in Amman but Red Cross relief efforts are hampered by sniping.

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So far, the Iraqis have avoided any significant involvement

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As the war continues the Iraqis will come under increasing pressure to demonstrate more than just vocal support for the fedayeen.

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There is no further information on the hostages or progress in the negotiations in Beirut.

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Israeli military traffic continues to move north including civilian vehicles carrying troops-- a clear sign of reserve mobilization.

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(continued)

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The Arab summit conference produced nothing but a delegation to Amman composed of high-level officials from Syria, Tunisia, Kuwait, and Egypt. They hope to meet with Husayn and Arafat and arrange a settlement.

Soviet naval units in the Mediterranean, meanwhile, are keeping close tabs on the movements of US and NATO warships there but have shown no hostile intent nor have they engaged in active harassment. The Soviet Mediterranean squadron, moreover, remains at a strength considered normal for this time of year.



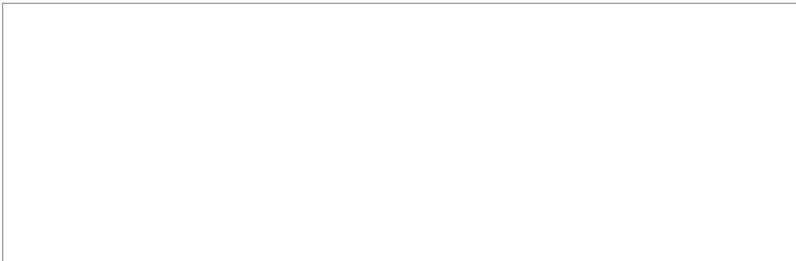
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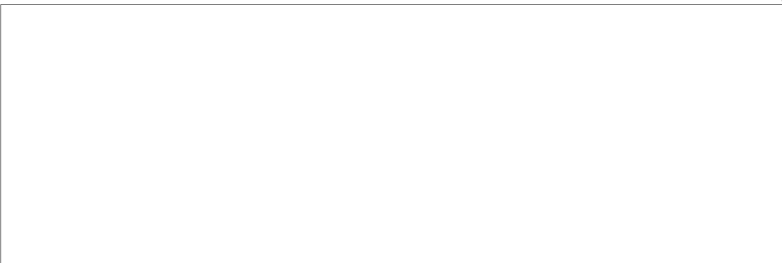
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EGYPT



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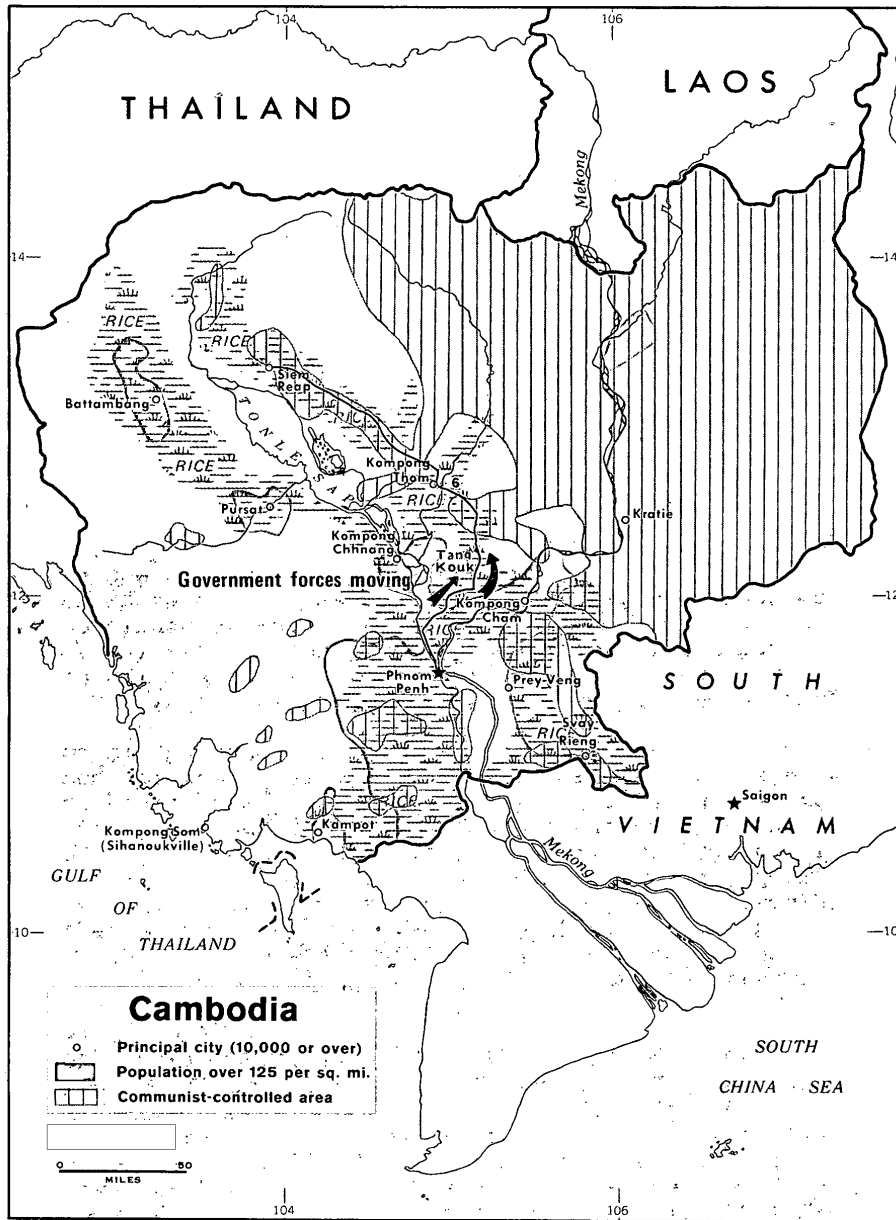


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Current Situation



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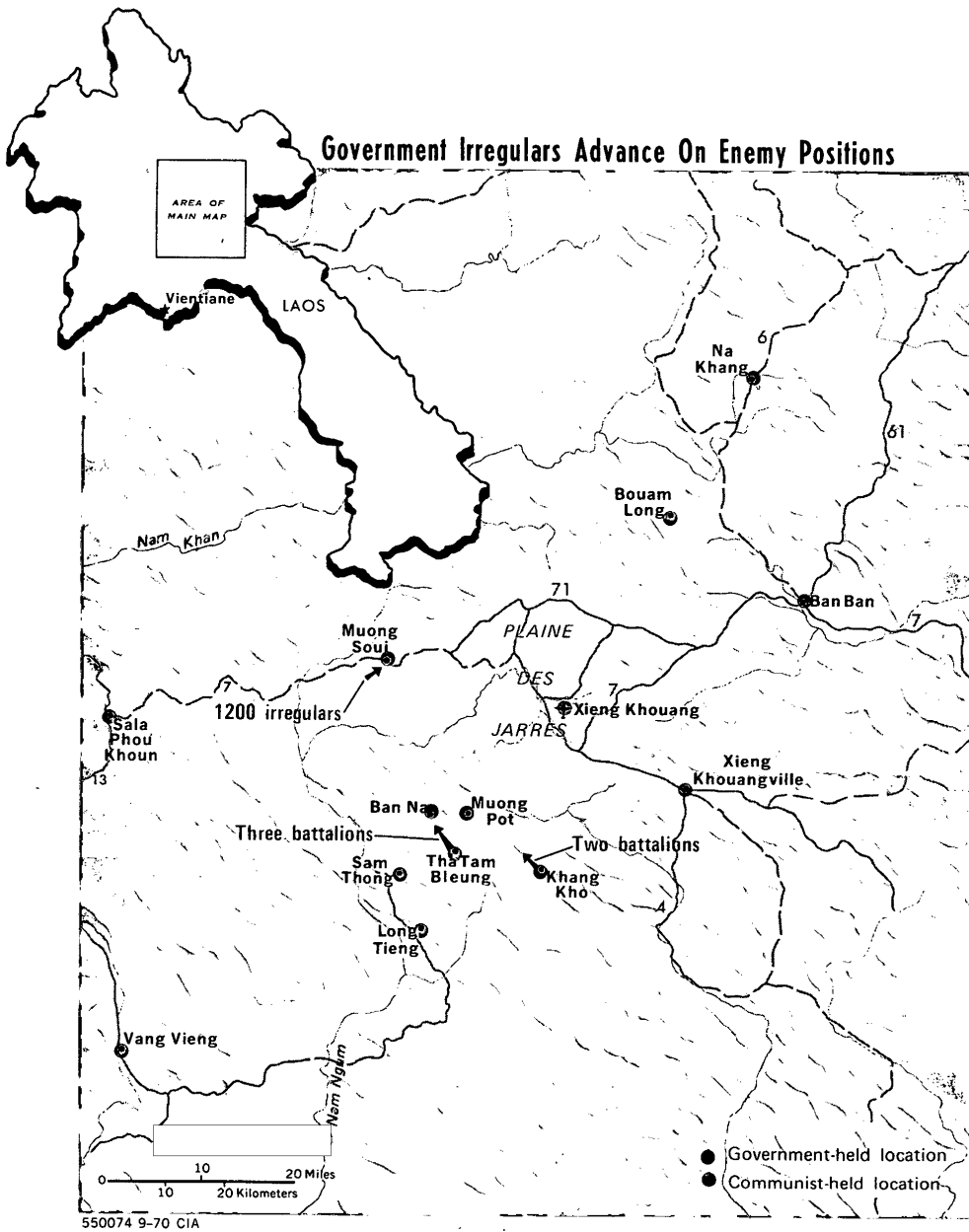
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CAMBODIA

An additional infantry battalion has joined the three government battalions pushing northeast toward Tang Kouk. This force made no significant contact with the enemy yesterday, but the main government column further back on Route 6 was harassed with rocket and recoilless rifle fire. Although press accounts claim that Cambodian Army elements have re-taken Tang Kouk, a US aerial observer was unable to spot any government forces there yesterday.

The government's second river convoy to Kompong Thom city returned to Kompong Chhnang city without incident on 21 September with 1,200 Vietnamese refugees. The deputy chief of staff of the Cambodian Army has told Ambassador Swank that the success of the river operations has temporarily eased the pressure on Kompong Thom and, consequently, there is less urgency attached to the effort to reopen Route 6 to the city.



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LAOS

Government forces near the Plaine des Jarres are attacking in several areas. Three guerrilla battalions have driven to within three miles of Ban Na, a key hilltop position guarding Communist lines of communications south of the Plaine. To the south-east, two government battalions are advancing toward Muong Pot. Government irregular forces closing in on the deserted town of Muong Soui have encountered only scattered opposition from the five companies of Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese troops believed to be in the area.

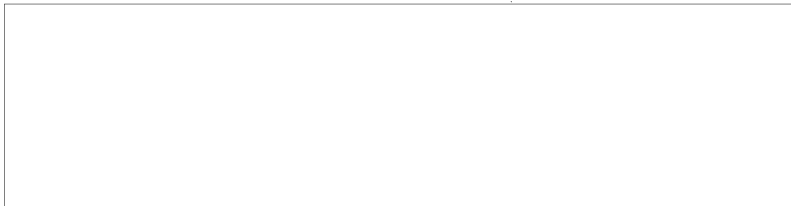
The purpose of these government operations is to improve defensive positions in anticipation of another Communist dry season drive toward the Long Tieng complex and west toward the Route 7 and 13 road junction. For their part, the Communists have been determined to maintain a presence south of the Plaine this summer to frustrate any attempt by the government to repeat last year's rainy season success.

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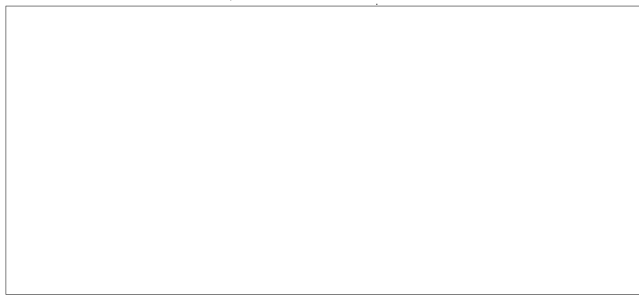
USSR-CHILE



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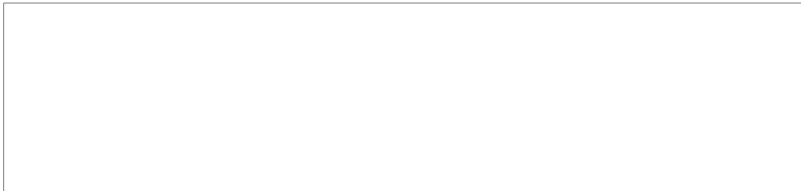


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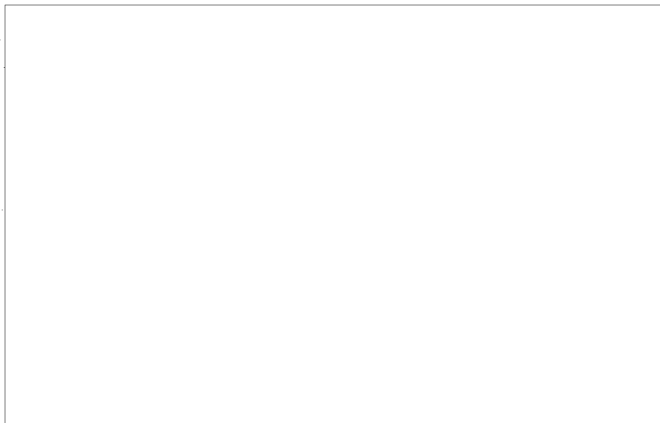
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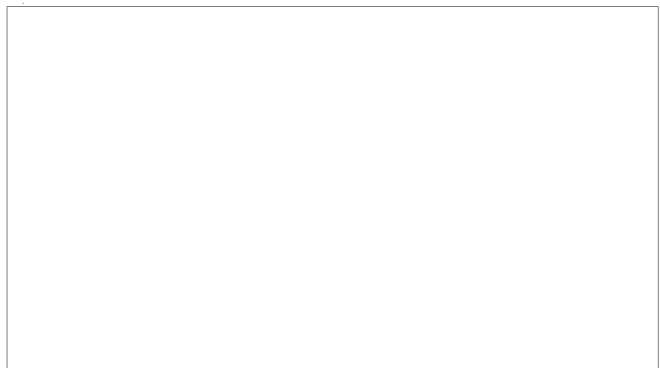
BURMA-THAILAND



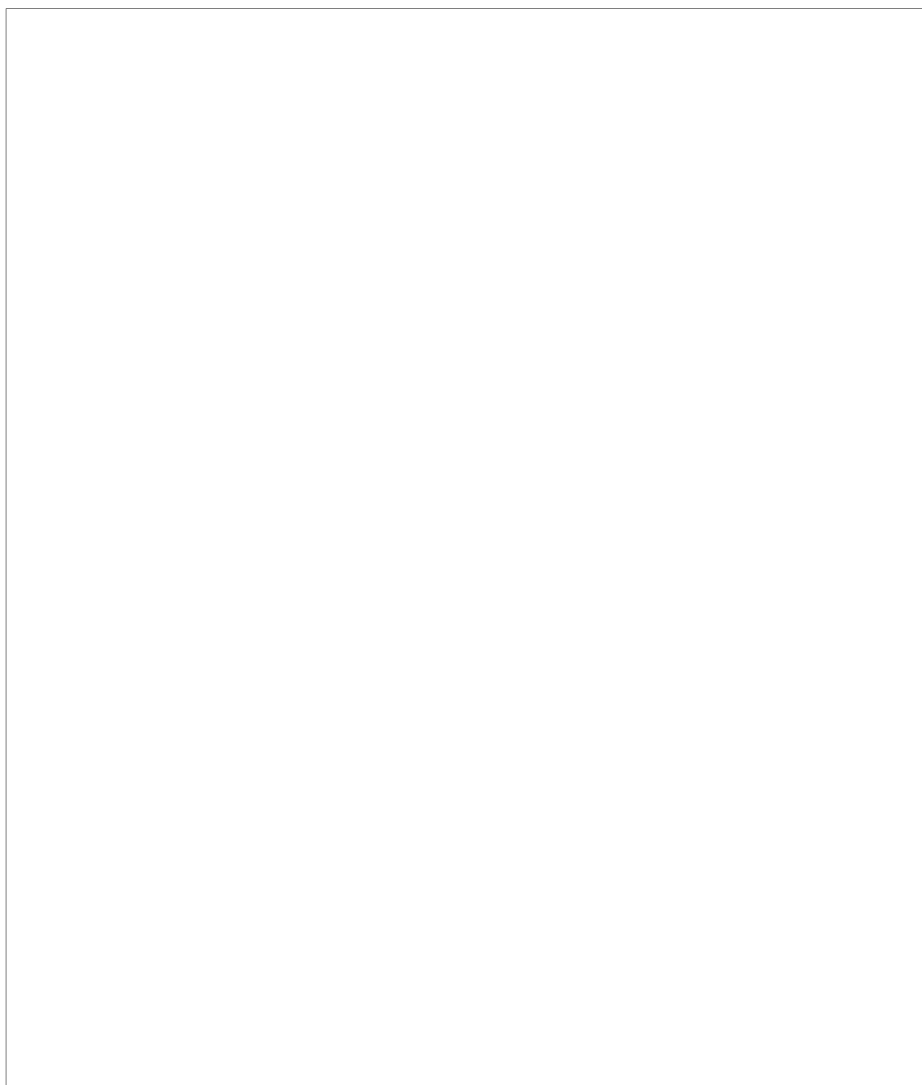
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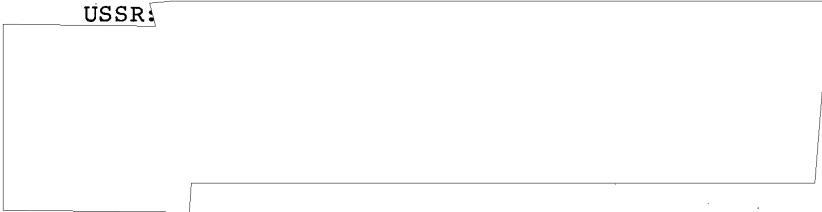


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NOTES

USSR:



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Warsaw Pact: Combined Warsaw Pact military maneuvers are expected to begin next week in East Germany. They may be the first to involve participants from all of the Pact countries. Hungary and Bulgaria have announced that units of their armed forces will take part and, according to the Romanian military attaché in Sofia, Romania will send staff elements but no troops. The "southern tier" countries have not previously participated in maneuvers in East Germany. Observers are expected from Mongolia, North Korea, North Vietnam, and Yugoslavia.

Libya: Three of the four western partners in the Oasis Oil Company have agreed to the same increases in the posted price that formed the basis of the government's earlier agreement with Occidental. As with Occidental, the increased posted price will not be retroactive but instead the tax rate will be raised. The agreements with Occidental and members of Oasis cover about half of current Libyan crude output and will increase revenues by at least \$115 million annually. It now is almost certain that agreements with the remaining companies will follow this pattern.

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