



*The President's Daily Brief*

*25 September 1970*

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

25 September 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Jordan is discussed on *Page 1*.

In Cambodia, the Communists evidently are making gains in organizing the countryside. (*Page 3*)

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[Redacted] North Vietnam [Redacted] Laos.

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(*Page 5*)

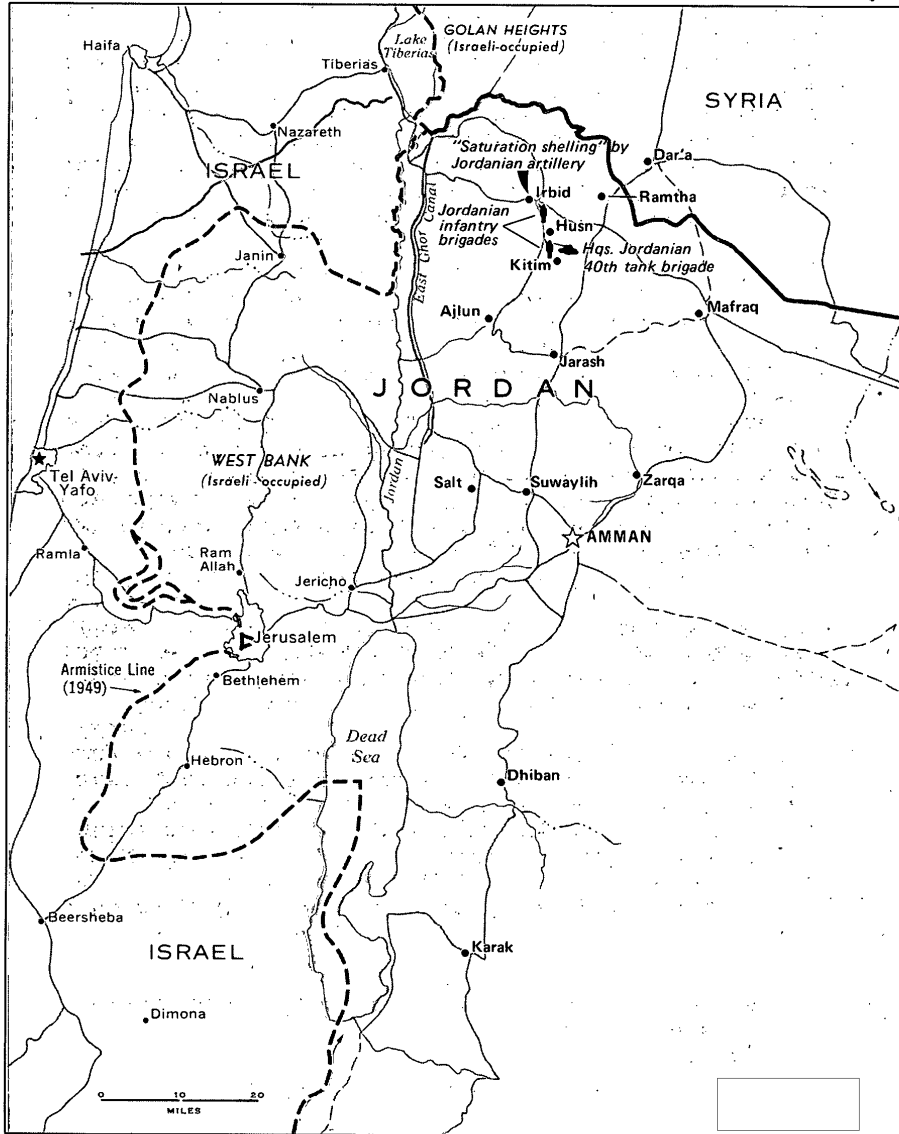
We discuss a Soviet paper on Berlin on *Page 6*.

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Our comment on the Soviet lunar mission appears on *Page 7*.

### JORDAN: Current Situation



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JORDAN

The Jordanian Army evidently is steadily advancing against fedayeen strongholds in the north.

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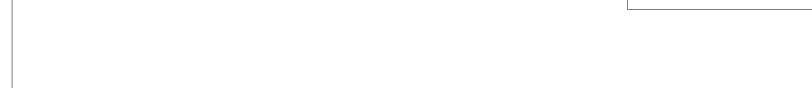
*One of the Syrian brigades which pulled out of Jordan earlier in the week has now left the border area. This suggests that the Syrians probably have no immediate plans to return.*

Severe fighting continues in Amman, where the army opened up with artillery, tanks, and machine guns in the northeast sector yesterday morning,



and the commandos replied by shelling the royal palaces.

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Farther south, the government seems to be in good shape. Commandos have been forced out of Karak near the Dead Sea

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King Husayn faces some political embarrassment in the resignation yesterday of his prime minister, Brigadier General Daud. In a statement to the press in Cairo where he was attending the Arab summit conference, Daud, a Palestinian, said his government was being held responsible for something it had nothing to do with--clearly a reference to the show-down with the fedayeen. He added that he wanted to make room for a national civilian cabinet able to restore peace. Husayn accepted the resignation, according to Amman radio, but asked the cabinet to remain in office until a new government is formed.

In a meeting with US Ambassador Brown earlier in the day, Husayn expressed optimism over the disarray of the fedayeen. He expressed the belief that the fedayeen central committee no longer exists, with all its significant members dead, captured, or out of business. Yasir Arafat, he claimed, is finished. Husayn said the extent of fedayeen penetration of his government had taken him by surprise. His own chef, for example, was believed to have been a high fedayeen official, and his driver a fedayeen major.

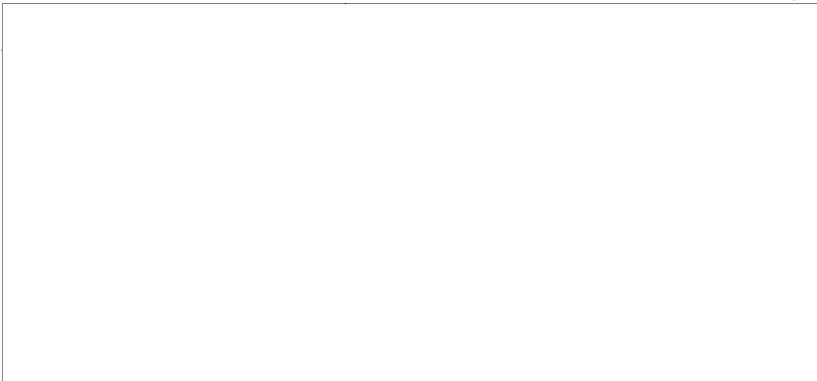
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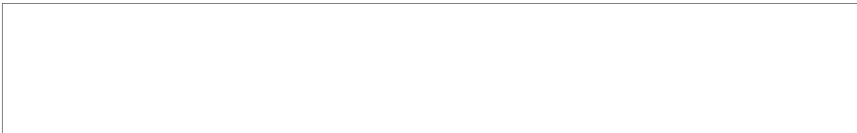
A second Arab peace mission flew from Cairo to Amman late yesterday, apparently in response to an appeal from an emergency meeting of commando leaders in Damascus for a 24-hour cease-fire. Fifteen delegates representing all major fedayeen bodies attended the Damascus meeting, according to Cairo's semiofficial newspaper Al Ahram. This latest peace mission was again headed by Sudanese President Numayri, and included Egyptian, Tunisian, Kuwaiti, Saudi Arabian, and Palestine Liberation Organization central committee representatives.

*Despite increasing pressure from other Arab leaders to end the bloodshed, Husayn now seems to have no intention of stopping until the fedayeen agree to settle on his terms. He is in no mood to compromise and vitiate the heavy price he has already paid, even if he were able to rein in the army. The embittered fedayeen, for their part, probably realize that to accept the King's conditions would spell the end of their movement in Jordan. Thus any agreement on paper resulting from concerted efforts by Nasir and other Arab leaders would almost certainly prove no more than a short-lived stopgap.*

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine reported to the Red Cross yesterday that the hijacking hostages were in good health, well treated, and safe from the fighting. King Husayn told Ambassador Brown that he is prepared to consider trading high-ranking fedayeen for the hostages, although he thinks the commandos may not be willing to do this.



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CAMBODIA

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In Kompong Speu Province the Communists apparently have made propaganda and recruiting gains since early August by capitalizing on the population's antagonism toward South Vietnamese troops.

In nearby Kampot Province, Cambodian Army troops in one key district are said to have reached an understanding with the Communists, allowing them considerable freedom of movement in return for their agreement not to attack the district capital. Large areas of the province are under Communist control. In Kompong Cham Province, the Communists are reported to have established two military training camps for Cambodian recruits. A Viet Cong defector claims that after a training period of three to six months the trainees are assigned to existing Cambodian Communist forces at the province and district level.

*Government officials, although increasingly aware of Communist activities of this sort, are still preoccupied with protecting the country's urban areas, particularly Phnom Penh. In addition, the government's civil action program for rural areas is barely under way, and it probably will be some time before it registers any real results. The Communists, for their part, still have substantial problems to overcome before they have a reliable organization in the countryside to support their military effort.*

On the military front, Communist resistance has again stalled the government's advance along Route 6 toward Tang Kouk village. Enemy opposition does not appear as great as press accounts suggest, but the Cambodians yesterday replaced two battalions after suffering five killed and 77 wounded. Air strikes were to support yet another government move on the village yesterday.

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SOUTH VIETNAM



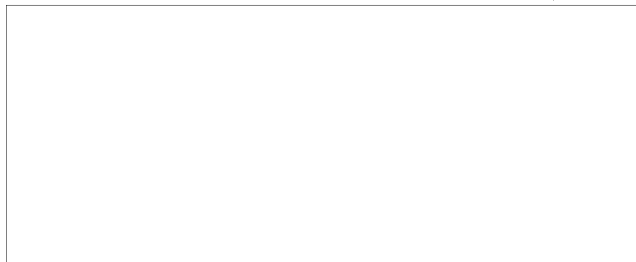
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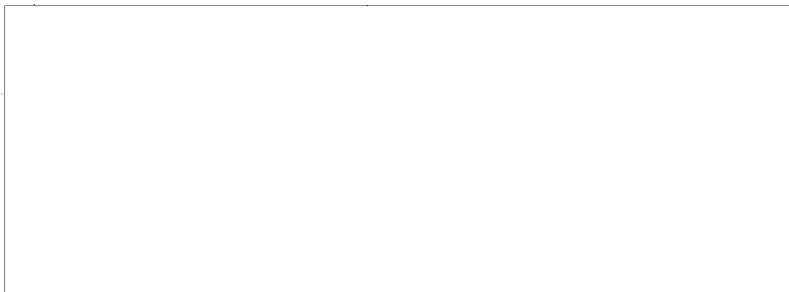
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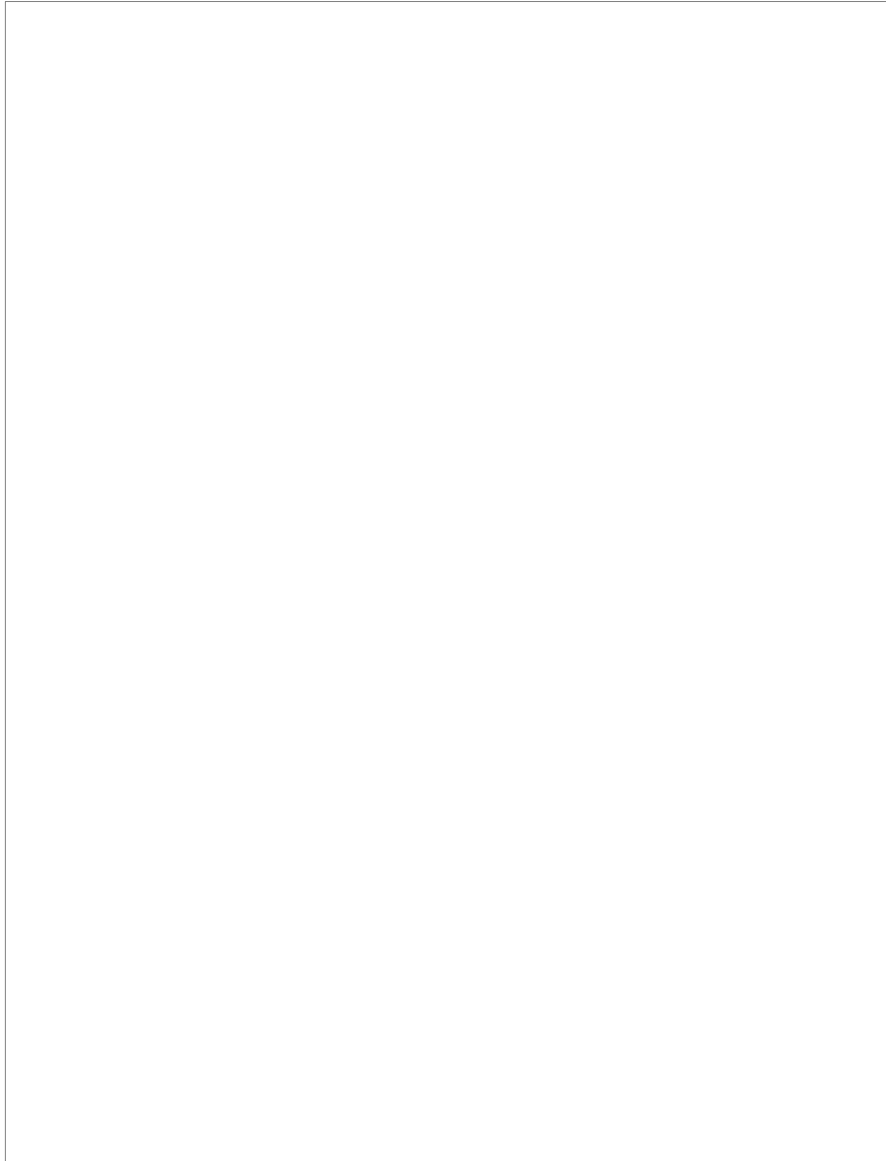
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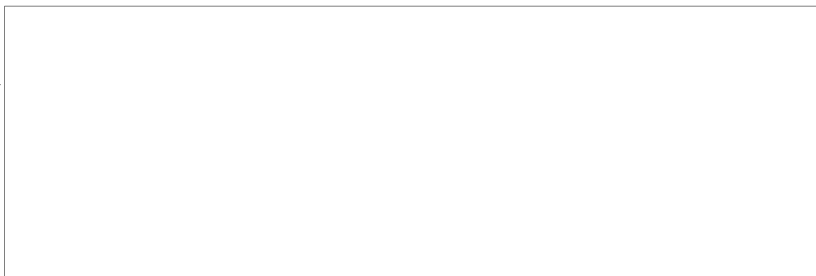


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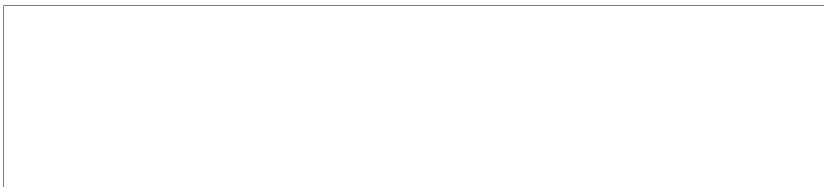


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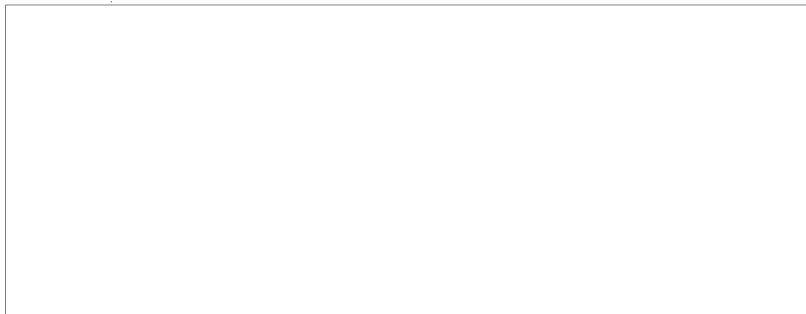
LAOS



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USSR-BERLIN

*The Soviets have presented their first written proposal on Berlin following the agreement between Ambassadors Abrasimov and Rush early this month to compare notes. The paper makes some ostensible concessions to the Allied interest in gaining improvements in access to and movement within Berlin, but still does not accept this as an acceptable subject for four-power negotiations.*

Instead, the proposal states that "under an understanding between the USSR and GDR" certain unspecified measures will be taken to facilitate visits of West Berliners to "the territory of the GDR" and that there will be as "uninterrupted an implementation as possible of the necessary peaceful ties between West Berlin and foreign countries."

In return, the Soviets ask that the three Western powers agree to prevent "third countries"-- meaning the West Germans--from doing anything in West Berlin which would affect the "legitimate rights and interest" of others or "complicate" the situation in West Berlin. The proposal indicates that a long list of "impermissible" West German activities relating to Berlin initially submitted by Abrasimov last June remains valid.

*The Soviets did not directly address themselves to the Allied proposal that the East acknowledge Bonn's right to represent the interests of West Berlin in dealing with other countries. However, there is still no give in Moscow's insistence that West Berlin is an independent entity.*

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NOTES

Egypt:

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USSR:

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recovery of Luna-16 yesterday went smoothly and the space capsule carrying lunar soil samples was found promptly in Soviet central Asia after landing by parachute. According to a TASS announcement, an electric drill gathered the samples in the Sea of Fertility at depths of up to 14 inches. The amount of lunar soil brought back is unknown

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[Redacted] The pattern of movement of Soviet space event support ships suggests that another lunar mission, possibly a circumlunar probe, may be attempted during October.

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USSR-Italy

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Yugoslavia: In recent speeches, Tito and Premier Ribicic have expressed serious concern over the crisis in Jordan. Both warned against any outside intervention in Jordan, and Ribicic had particularly harsh words for the fedayeen extremists whose "thoughtless and adventuristic air hijackings" precipitated the crisis. Tito urges a political settlement for several reasons, including his long friendship with Nasir, his support of the Arab cause, and concern that Yugoslavia might somehow be drawn into a clash between the superpowers.

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