



The President's Daily Brief

28 November 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The postponement of scheduled high-level visits in Eastern Europe suggests that a Warsaw Pact meeting may be held next week. (Page 1)

An Egyptian approach to Jordan concerning a joint command seems to have several tactical political purposes. (Page 2)

Turkish Prime Minister Demirel's position appears increasingly shaky because of infighting among members of his party. (Page 3)

On Page 4 we wrap up the aftermath of Sunday's raid on Conakry.

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WARSAW PACT

The Poles have suddenly postponed a visit of the Austrian foreign minister, and East Germany's Ulbricht has postponed a visit to Romania. Both visits had been scheduled for 2 December. The Austrians were told that Polish Foreign Minister Jedrychowski had to leave the country to attend a meeting that was not called at Polish initiative. A Romanian Embassy official in Washington says that the Ulbricht visit was postponed because a Warsaw Pact summit meeting will be held in East Berlin from 2 to 4 December.

Such a meeting could have been arranged by Eastern European Communist leaders who were gathered in Budapest this week for the Hungarian party congress. Ulbricht did not attend the Hungarian affair but he could have been informed of a decision to assemble Pact members by Gromyko, who made a quick trip to East Berlin on 25 November. Speeches made at the Hungarian congress reflected the differences between East Germany and its allies over the proper response to West Germany's Ostpolitik, and one purpose of a conference would involve an attempt to work out a common front.

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ARAB STATES

King Husayn told Ambassador Brown Wednesday the Egyptians have proposed deploying four Iraqi divisions along his frontier with Israel. The Egyptian chief of staff, Sadiq, told the King that Cairo is convinced that renewed hostilities with Israel are "imminent" and claimed that Syria and Iraq are now ready to participate actively in a joint command inside Jordan. The Cairo press reports that the reactivation of the Eastern Command also was pressed by Syrian Premier Asad in his talks with President Sadat yesterday. The subject is to be discussed further when Husayn visits Cairo next week.

Assuming Husayn's account is accurate, the Egyptian proposal seems more a political tactic than a reflection of a serious belief that the war is about to be renewed. The Egyptians may have calculated that the King would report their concern to the US and that this, coupled with Cairo's current allegations of a major Israeli military build-up, would generate pressure toward an early resumption of the Jarring talks.

The approach may have had the additional purpose of discouraging any separate talks between Israel and Jordan.

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Cairo also is aware that the Israelis have more than once stated their willingness to deal unilaterally with the Jordanians through Jarring. The Egyptian proposal will put Husayn on the defensive in Cairo and may cool his desire for an Arab summit meeting.

The Israelis have never had to worry over any serious threat from the Eastern Command area, and the prospects for any effective joint Arab military operation are still not good. Nevertheless, discussions, if not real planning, may continue even though the Arabs recognize that a coordinated "second front" is mere fantasy. The Egyptians may be looking for a psychological advantage to occupy the Israeli military strategists with at least a potential threat on their other flank. Egyptian complaints about weakness on the "eastern front" could serve too as a device for Cairo's use in "explaining" willingness to negotiate on Middle East issues.

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TURKEY

Prime Minister Demirel's position appears increasingly shaky because of infighting among members of his Justice Party, which kept the Lower House of Parliament from electing a speaker for nearly a month.

On Thursday, on the 36th ballot taken since Parliament returned from its summer recess on 1 November, the Lower House approved Demirel's third choice for the office of speaker. During the extended imbroglio at least two deputies, including the previous speaker, resigned from the Justice Party. Together with other dissidents they announced plans this week to form a new party.

The schism basically represents a struggle between Demirel's moderates and party conservatives over personalities rather than issues. Last spring dissident conservatives were ousted for failure to follow party discipline. Demirel received overwhelming support at last month's party convention and the conservatives were left in minority position. The conservatives, however, have enough strength in Parliament--about 20 percent of the Justice Party's seats--to disrupt the government's business. New elections which might reduce their number are not scheduled until 1973.

Future votes on the budget and other sensitive issues will be potentially dangerous for Demirel, whose image as party leader has been damaged. Prolonged instability could lead to direct or indirect military intervention.

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GUINEA

Logistic and other difficulties continue to impede the dispatch of direct military aid by African countries. Sierra Leone has set up a small military base camp inside Guinea, but no other country has yet sent troops. Nigeria has sent arms but has not yet determined how to transport to Conakry the force it has pledged. An Algerian study mission that visited Conakry has returned home and announced that unspecified material help will be provided.

Anti-Portuguese fever is still running high in many African countries. In Santa Isabel, capital of Equatorial Guinea, a number of Portuguese were seriously beaten on 25 November, and Portuguese-owned residences and businesses were systematically sacked, apparently with official sanction. Student demonstrations in Ivory Coast and Nigeria against Portuguese and alleged NATO involvement in the Conakry raid were dispersed by police, however.

In Conakry itself, where conditions have largely returned to normal, there are extensive signs of physical damage from the commando raid. Army headquarters in downtown Conakry was completely destroyed. Guinean forces are [redacted] reported to have suffered at least 100 killed in the fighting.

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NOTE

USSR: Last night the Soviets fired a modified version of the SS-13 ICBM from Plesetsk approximately 4,700 miles to an impact area in the mid-Pacific. This was the second extended range firing of the modified SS-13 within the past few days. The system has been tested 12 times since the first launch was detected in January 1970. Four Soviet instrumentation ships remain in the impact area, which the Soviets have closed to shipping and aircraft until 30 November.

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