

The President's Daily Brief

12 January 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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

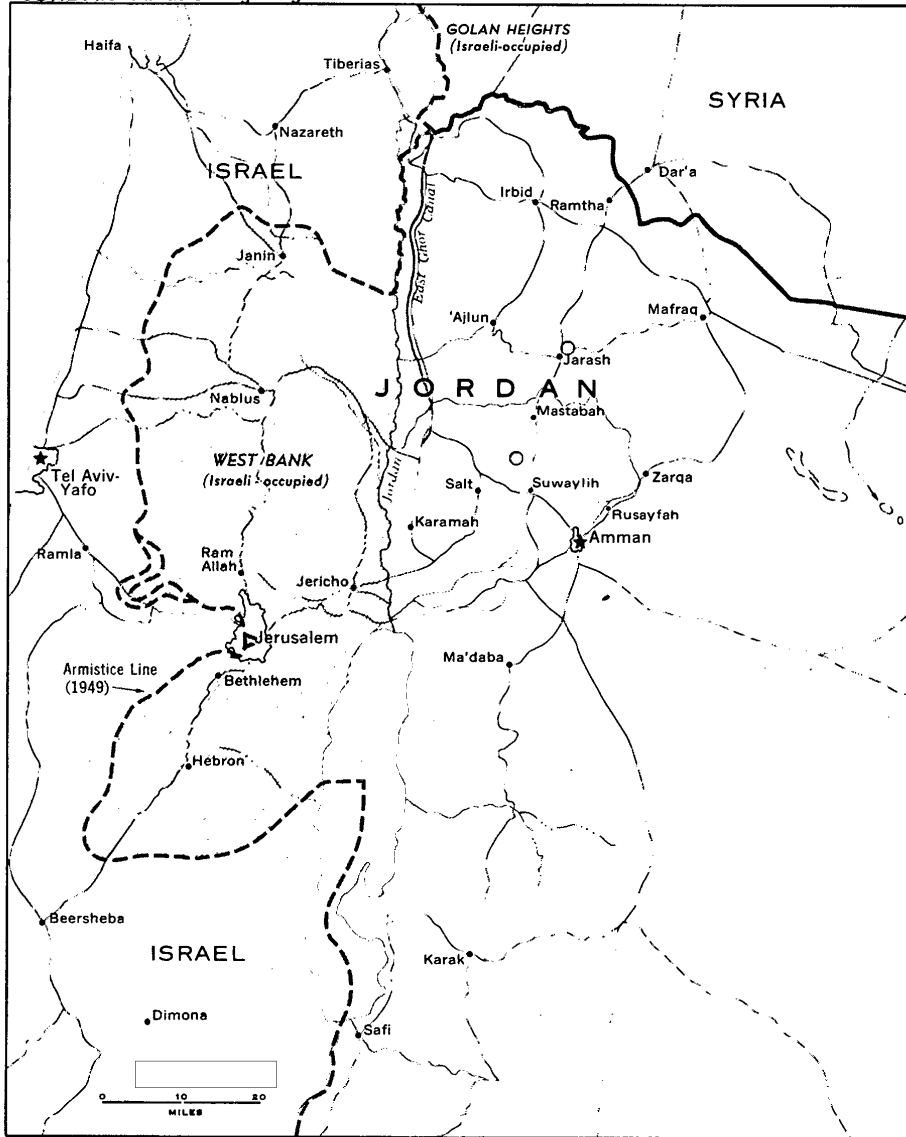
In Bolivia, the government has moved quickly to put down a clumsy coup attempt and may be able to capitalize, at least for a time, on the episode. (*Page 2*)

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JORDAN: Areas of Fighting



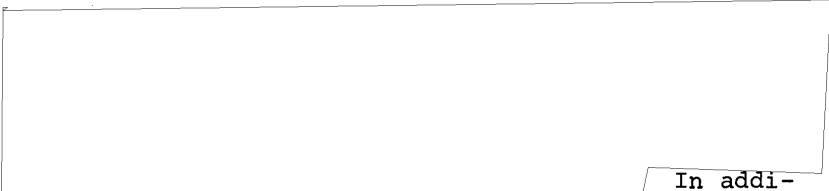
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JORDAN

Fighting is continuing north of the capital on the outskirts of Jarash and to the west of the Amman-Jarash road, but the intensity has eased. In Amman, however, the situation remains tense. Small-arms fire persisted in the city throughout the day yesterday, keeping schools and businesses closed and the streets empty.

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 In addition, another group of commandos from the Saiqah organization sought and obtained army escort to the Syrian border.

These fedayeen actions are in contrast to the continuing stream of accusations being leveled against the government by Palestinian propagandists. In particular, they seem to belie Yasir Arafat's claim that the situation is "about to explode" because of the government's "liquidation plan" against the fedayeen.

Premier Tal has invited cease-fire supervisor Ladgham to return to Jordan to assess the situation. Ladgham left Cairo this morning for London to meet with King Husayn, but is due to return to Egypt this evening. The Jordanian parliament is holding an emergency session this morning in anticipation of the scheduled meeting in Amman of delegations from the Arab states.


The Jordanian Government is generally maintaining a cool front even though it is concerned over the situation--especially over the future of Arab financial subsidies. The emphasis on patriotic fervor, emerging on special radio and TV programs, could be a clue that the army and the Crown Prince are prepared to press on with their tough policies despite Arab fulminations.

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NOTES

Bolivia: The half-baked attempt at a military coup in La Paz was put down handily yesterday, and there are no reports of disturbances in the country's interior. The attempt was apparently launched prematurely by dissatisfied officers who acted to avoid transfer to remote military posts. The neutralization of these military plotters should relieve some of the pressure that President Torres has been under during his three months in power. Labor and student groups supported Torres during this crisis, however, and their demands on the government for "revolutionary" action may rise several decibels.

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