



The President's Daily Brief

2 March 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted] USSR [Redacted] 50X1
(Page 1)

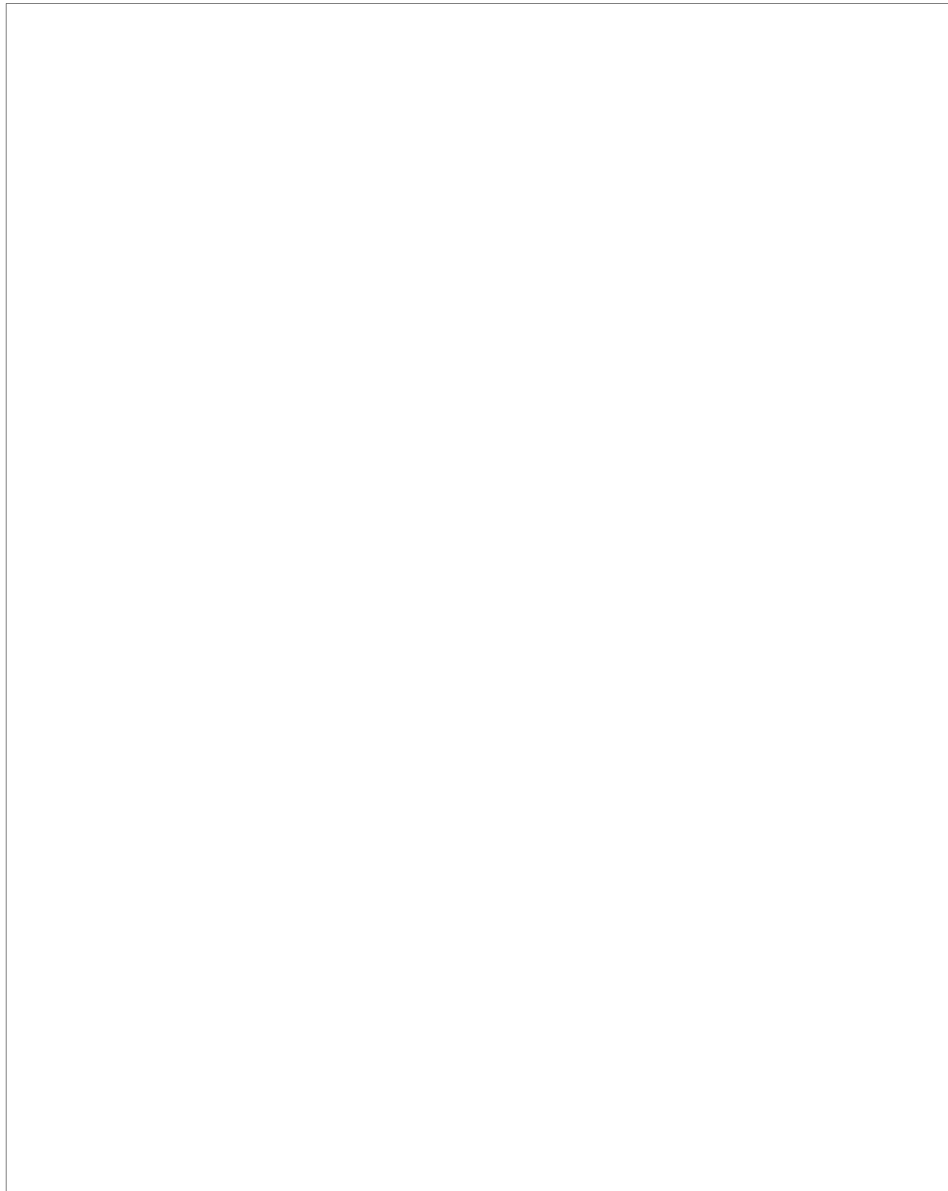
East Pakistanis might react sharply to the postponement of the National Assembly session, posing further serious problems for President Yahya Khan. (Page 2)

[Redacted] Egypt [Redacted] 50X1
(Page 3)

Cambodia's only oil refinery has been hit by an enemy mortar attack. (Page 4)

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Communist China [Redacted] 50X1
(Page 4)



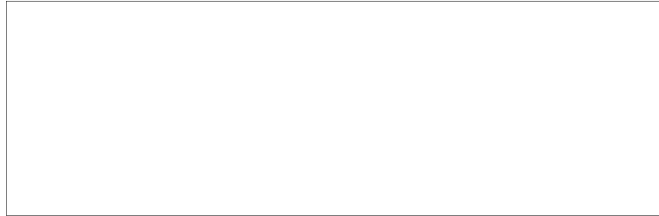
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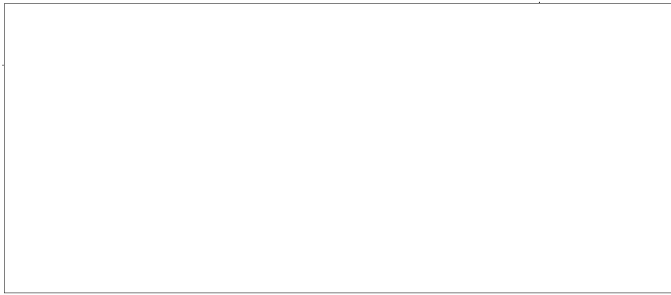
USSR



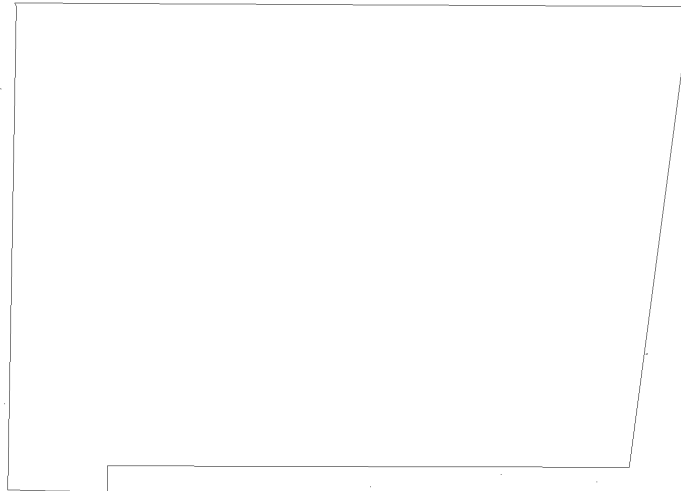
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PAKISTAN

In his statement yesterday postponing the convening of the National Assembly, which was to have met tomorrow to begin drafting a new constitution, President Yahya Khan cited the inability of East and West Pakistani politicians to compose their differences and the refusal of the major West Pakistani party to attend. Yahya added that when conditions improve sufficiently, he will call the assembly into session "immediately."

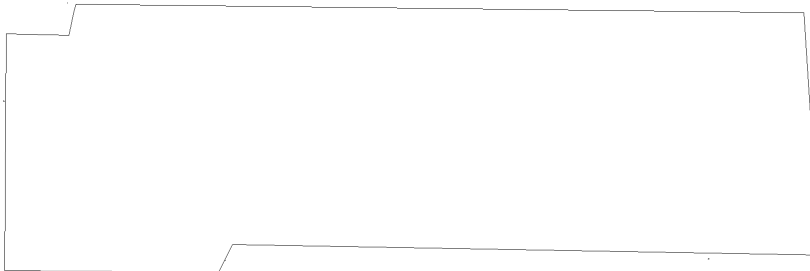
The major point of disagreement between East and West Pakistan has been the East's insistence on a constitution that would limit the central government's responsibilities to defense and foreign affairs. East Pakistanis had hoped to use their majority in the assembly to push through this program despite West Pakistani objections.

In reaction to Yahya's announcement, there have been pro-independence demonstrations in Dacca, East Pakistan's capital. A spokesman for Mujibur Rahman's Awami League, the majority party in the assembly, has called for general strikes today and tomorrow. Mujib himself has bitterly criticized the postponement, and will have more to say on the subject in a major address scheduled for 7 March.

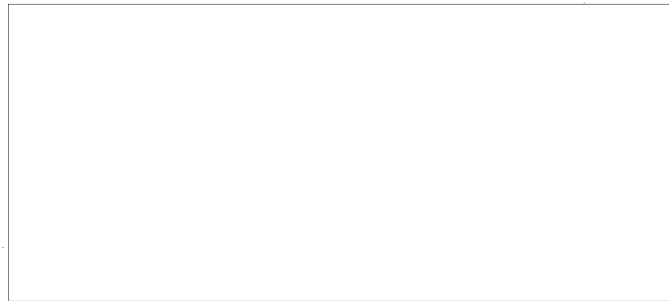
Yahya is aware that he risks a strong East Pakistani reaction, but he presumably decided that the alternative--disorders in West Pakistan and unrest within the predominately West Pakistani army--would be worse. Should Mujib take a strong stand, possibly even proclaiming East Pakistan's independence, Yahya could face another dilemma: whether to let East Pakistan secede or try to hold the country together by force. The latter course would be extremely difficult in view of strong separatist sentiment among the 70 million East Pakistanis, and the limited army and police forces available in the province.

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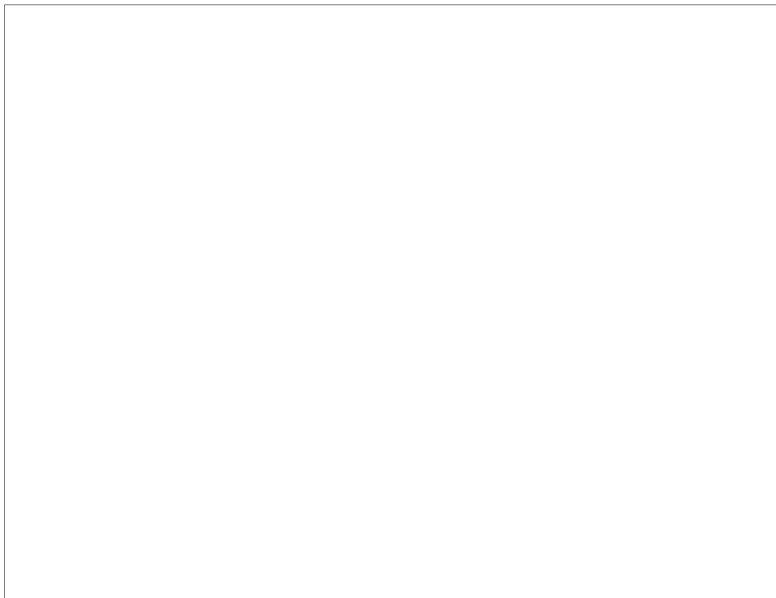
EGYPT



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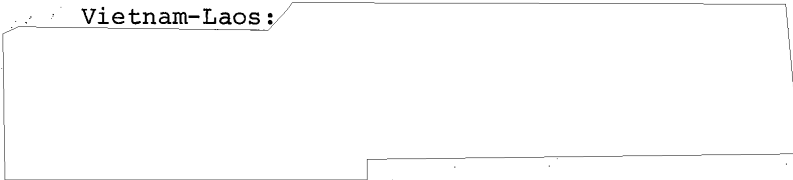
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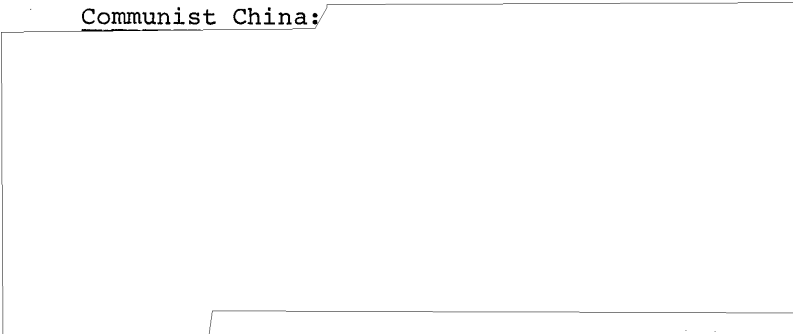
Cambodia: A Communist mortar attack against the country's only oil refinery at Kompong Som early today destroyed two thirds of its oil storage capacity. Government troops stationed there apparently suffered only minor losses repelling a ground attack that followed the mortar barrage. Later, another mortar attack was directed against the airfield outside Kompong Som. These are the first enemy attacks in the vicinity of Kompong Som. Only limited amounts of petroleum have been moved from Kompong Som to Phnom Penh on Route 4 since that highway was reopened in January. The government will now be more dependent than ever on the Mekong River convoys from South Vietnam to maintain essential petroleum stocks in Phnom Penh.

Vietnam-Laos:



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Communist China:



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