



The President's Daily Brief

29 May 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

29 May 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[redacted] Pakistan [redacted]

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India. (Page 1)

Tokyo [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 2)

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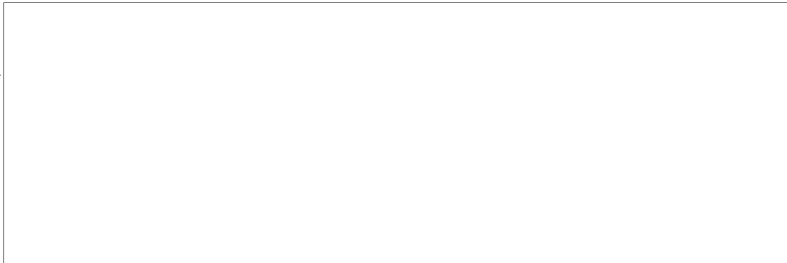
The Soviets have successfully launched another probe toward Mars. (Page 3)

Australia is following through with plans to seek a political dialogue with Communist China. (Page 5)

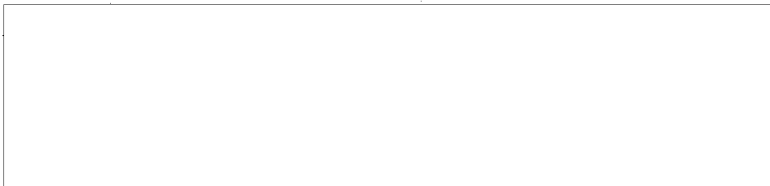
A Soviet nuclear-powered cruise missile submarine has been photographed in the bay at Antilla in eastern Cuba. (Page 7)

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INDIA-PAKISTAN



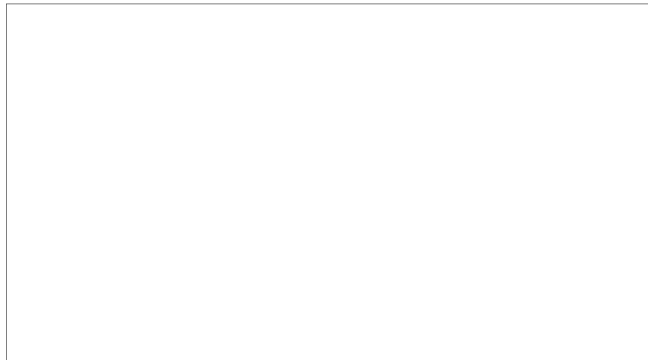
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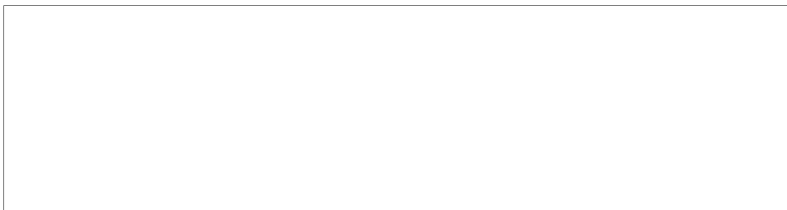
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USSR

Yesterday the Soviets successfully launched a scientific probe toward Mars, the third such launch attempted during the current window. According to TASS, this shot is carrying instruments developed and manufactured by French specialists.

The first probe, launched on 10 May, failed to eject from its low earth parking orbit and was destroyed on re-entry; the second, launched on 19 May, seems to be functioning normally on a Mars trajectory. The two successful vehicles are expected to reach Mars late this year.

The booster used for these three Mars shots was the SL-12, the USSR's largest operational launcher. This booster has suffered 14 failures in 27 firings since its first attempted launch in early 1967. The high number of failures is not unprecedented for the Soviets in their development of space boosters. They accepted an even worse failure rate in the early stages of development of the SL-6, which became a highly reliable booster used for a variety of space missions.

The incentive to persist with a system in the face of failure is strong. The time required to rework the basic design or develop an entirely new system of this size--roughly equivalent to the US Saturn 1--could inflict unacceptable delays on space programs. Also, the cost of developing a new large booster is high: the Soviets spent an estimated \$2 billion on the SL-12 before the first launch attempt. The booster cost per launch--about \$45 million--is relatively low by comparison. Problems that have occurred in all four stages of the SL-12 appear more related to quality control than to basic design deficiencies; Soviet persistence suggests that they have remained confident of their ability to eliminate the difficulties. The recent record--seven successes in the last eight launches--tends to bear out this confidence.

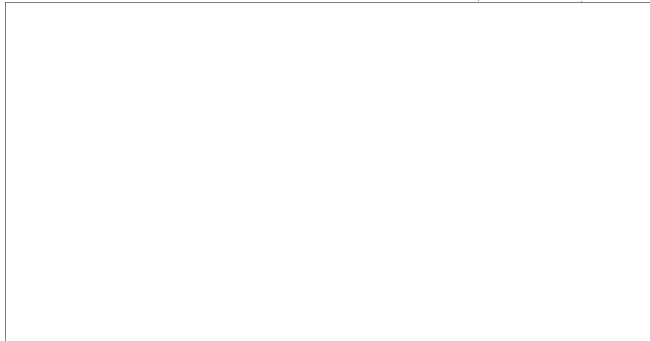
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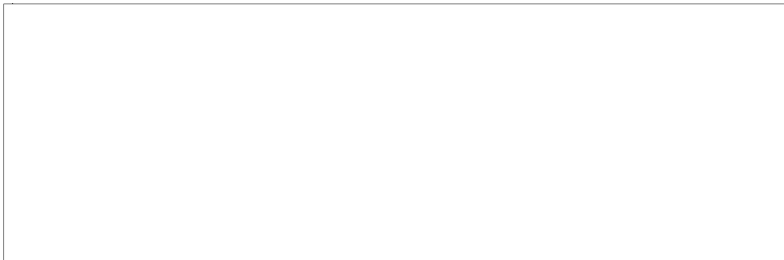
SOUTH VIETNAM



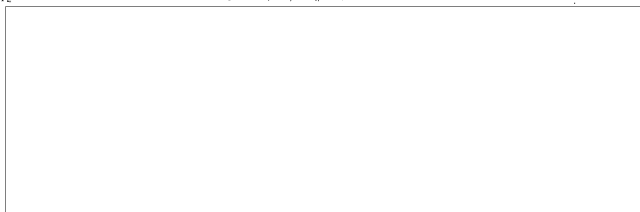
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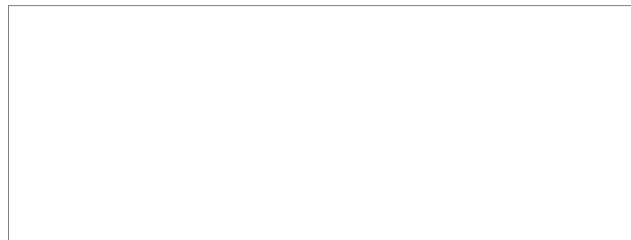
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AUSTRALIA - COMMUNIST CHINA

Prime Minister McMahon has announced that the government has followed through with plans to try to open a political dialogue with Communist China. The US Embassy in Canberra reports that the approach was made by the Australian ambassador in Paris, who saw his Chinese counterpart last Thursday. The Australians said they were prepared to discuss matters of mutual interest such as trade and the presence in China of Australian citizens in "unofficial" capacities. Although Australian Foreign Ministry officials were surprised at the speed of the Chinese response, they are doubtful the discussion will be fruitful because Canberra is still unwilling to move toward establishing diplomatic relations.

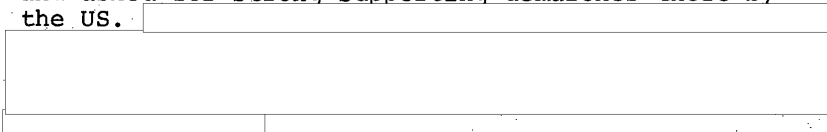
The government has been on the defensive regarding its China policy since April when Peking refused to discuss the purchase of Australian wheat and implied that the reason was Canberra's stand on recognition. This has produced considerable pressure on the government from agricultural interests to assume a more flexible attitude toward China. The opposition Labor Party has also sought to capitalize on the China question by reminding the country that it favors recognition of Communist China, and it has arranged a visit in June by party members to Peking to discuss trade.

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NATIONALIST CHINA - US

On 11 May Nationalist Foreign Minister Chow Shu-kai specified to Ambassador McConaughy certain very limited conditions under which he claimed Taipei might not feel compelled to break ties automatically with any state that recognizes Peking. Chow said Taipei could maintain relations only if Peking were not recognized as "sole legal government of China," "government of all Chinese people," or similar phrases; if Peking's claim to Taiwan were not included in the formula; and if asked to remain, Taipei must continue to be accepted as the "government of the Republic of China."

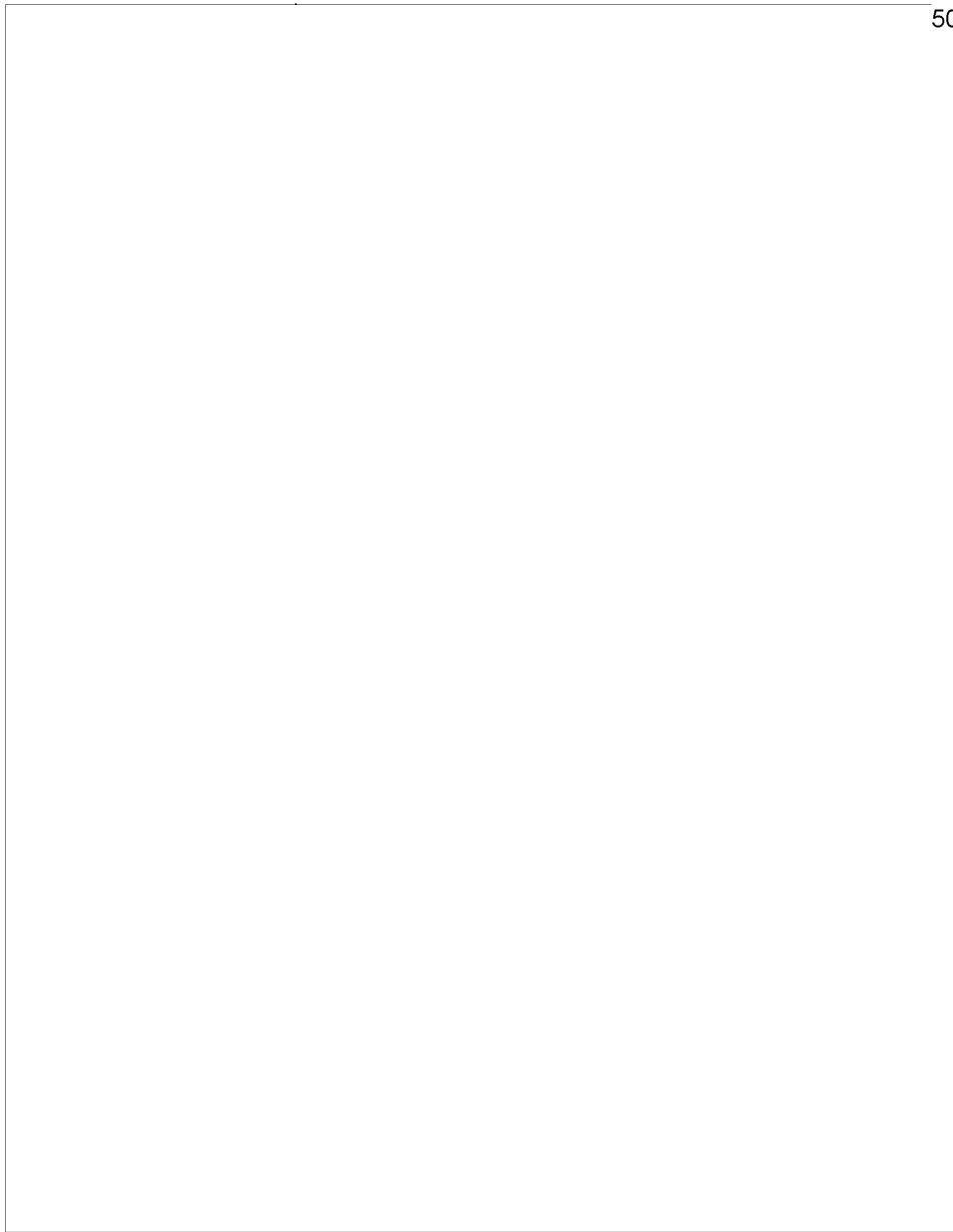
On 25 May, Chow assured McConaughy that these conditions have been clearly presented to Ankara and Tehran, which are currently negotiating with Peking, and asked for strong supporting demarches there by the US.



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Chow's proposals appear to be a tactical move made within the context of Chiang Kai-shek's continuing determination not to allow coexistence with Communist Chinese diplomatic representatives, or any derogation of Nationalist claims to represent all of China. Chow's conditions effectively rule out any formula likely to be acceptable to Peking. The failure of the Nationalists to present forcefully Taipei's "new policy" and the ambassadors' instructions to leave Ankara and Tehran if recognition formulas are unacceptable further suggest that the Nationalists' apparent flexibility may only be for the benefit of the US.



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NOTES

USSR-Cuba: U-2 photography [redacted] showed an E-II class nuclear-powered cruise missile submarine in the bay at Antilla in eastern Cuba. The submarine was tied up alongside the Ugra-class submarine tender that arrived in Cuba [redacted]. The E-II class carries eight antiship missiles having a range of 220 nautical miles. This is the second visit of an E-II to Cuba; one of these units made a two-week visit to Cienfuegos in May 1970.

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USSR-Syria: [redacted]

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