



The President's Daily Brief

12 July 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The attempt to overthrow the monarchy in Morocco failed, but the imposition of military rule is likely to compound the discontent that pervades the country. (Page 1)

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the Soviets have intensified efforts to prevent the outbreak of war between the two countries such as occurred in 1965. (Page 2)

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Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has characterized foreign aid to 6.5 million refugees from East Pakistan as next to nothing. Only \$120 million has been pledged so far. (Page 4)

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MOROCCO

The ill-managed attempt to overthrow the monarchy on Saturday has failed. King Hassan, who escaped unscathed from a three and a half-hour siege at his summer palace near Rabat, the capital, quickly transferred all civil and military power to General Oufkir, his ruthless minister of interior, who now has a free hand to round up the rebels and clean out the army. The King has pointed to the director of his military cabinet, Brigadier General Medbouh, as the instigator of the coup attempt.

Medbouh, who was killed in the fray, has long been cited for his loyalty to the King

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It seems likely that the naming of Oufkir will only compound the discontent that pervades the country.

The rebel force consisted mostly of some 1,400 young enlisted men, led by a handful of officers. They attacked the palace during the King's birthday celebration attended by the diplomatic corps and top Moroccan officials and businessmen. Subsequently they seized key points in Rabat and broadcast over the radio that the King was dead and a republic under a revolutionary command council had been established. In all about 200 persons were killed, including 158 of the attackers, several top leaders, and the Belgian ambassador.

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In an emotional press conference on Sunday, the King derided the amateurishness of the plot and also claimed that a foreign hand was behind it; he described the coup as being like the Libyan one.

Whether or not Libya had foreknowledge of the coup attempt, the Libyan Revolutionary Command Council quickly broadcast on Saturday its support for the rebels and for what it viewed as "Arab revolution" against a monarchy.

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USSR-INDIA-PAKISTAN



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The Soviets, however, appear in fact to be troubled by India's dark hints of military intervention, and have intensified their efforts to prevent another war between India and Pakistan like the one in 1965.

On 9 July an authoritative commentary in Izvestiya provided a pointed reminder to India and Pakistan of Moscow's desire that war be avoided on the subcontinent. The article noted that local clashes have in the past frequently led to broad military conflicts, and urged that India and Pakistan find a peaceful solution to their problems over East Pakistan. It specifically endorsed Mrs. Gandhi's rebuff to those in India who advocate war with Pakistan.

Soviet officials in India are voicing similar concern. In recent remarks by the Soviet consul general in Madras to a group of Indian politicians, for example, the Soviet diplomat seemed preoccupied with the need to avoid a military conflict between India and Pakistan.

[redacted] the consul general assured the group that the USSR is "standing by" India--he cited Moscow's help with the refugee problem and its remonstrances to the Pakistanis--but he stressed with much conviction that it would be very bad if India should drift into war and urged that every effort be made to prevent this.

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China:

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COMMUNIST CHINA

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NOTE

India: Foreign aid commitments for the East Pakistani refugees in India are mounting very slowly. Only \$120 million in assistance had been pledged for refugee relief as of early this month. This sum is far short of the estimated \$400 million required to cover only six months of adequate care for the approximately 6.5 million refugees now in India. Prime Minister Gandhi has characterized the aid as "practically next to nothing." The US commitment of \$70.5 million has been by far the largest. Most of the relief contributions to date have been channeled through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, who is coordinating the international relief program. The presence of 5 million refugees in West Bengal alone has produced a sharp increase in food prices and a substantial drop in wages.

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