



The President's Daily Brief

28 July 1971

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Ceylonese Government officials are concerned that last spring's insurgency may soon be renewed.
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The party splintering evident in the Japanese Diet session that just ended will intensify as speculation grows that "lame duck" Prime Minister Sato will step down early. (Page 2)

Moscow's criticism of the campaign of "bloody terror" against the Sudanese Communist Party may be only the first step in efforts to pressure General Numayri to call off his reprisals.

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CEYLON

Government officials are increasingly concerned over the possibility that this spring's insurgency will soon be renewed.

--On 26 July, Home Minister Felix Bandaranaike told the Australian High Commissioner that an attack might take place within a day or two, possibly against selected targets in Colombo. He thought the group that attacked the US Embassy last March would be responsible, estimating the group's strength at 2,500.

--The army commander, who also has reports of imminent trouble, says that the government has stopped releasing persons detained during the earlier disorders. Many of the 1,200 already set free are said to have returned to their villages, threatened local head men for having supported the government, and then disappeared into the countryside.

--Other officials foresee a new wave of violence beginning in August, with the People's Liberation Front, which was primarily responsible for the spring disorders, directing the effort. In north Colombo and outlying areas, posters have begun to appear containing, in addition to standard Front slogans, passages in what seems to be a code. Security officials fear these may contain instructions for future attacks.

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JAPAN

Only strenuous, last-minute efforts by the leadership of the Liberal Democratic Party succeeded last week in blocking the introduction of a resolution in the Diet calling for the immediate normalization of relations with Peking. The resolution was supported by dissident elements in the ruling party as well as by the opposition parties.

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similar joint effort by dissidents and the opposition two weeks ago resulted in the defeat of the Liberal Democrats' official candidate for speaker of the Upper House.

The breakdown in Sato's party discipline results in part from the growing view of party members that Sato is a "lame duck," and that the succession struggle is under way. Party splintering will intensify in the next few months with growth of speculation that Sato's accumulating troubles will cause him to step down early.

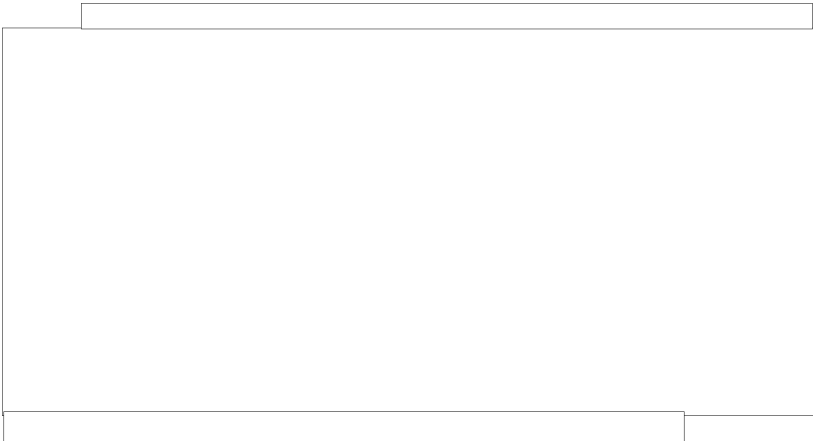
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USSR-SUDAN

TASS criticism of the campaign of "bloody terror" against the Communists may be only the first step in a Soviet effort to instigate a public outcry against further persecution of the Sudanese Communist Party. The toughest statement to date was issued by the USSR Central Trade Unions Council on 27 July which "condemned" the execution of the head of the Sudanese Workers' Union and demanded an end to the persecution of trade unionists. The Soviet press has not been friendly to Numayri's sudden return to power, and Moscow--the predominant source of Sudanese military assistance--has some leverage to use in trying to press the General to call off his reprisals. Inasmuch as the Secretary General of the Sudanese Communist Party was executed last night, we think Numayri is unlikely to discontinue his purge, which he doubtless regards as an internal matter.

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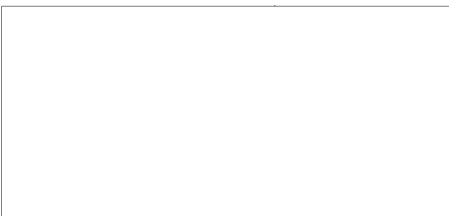
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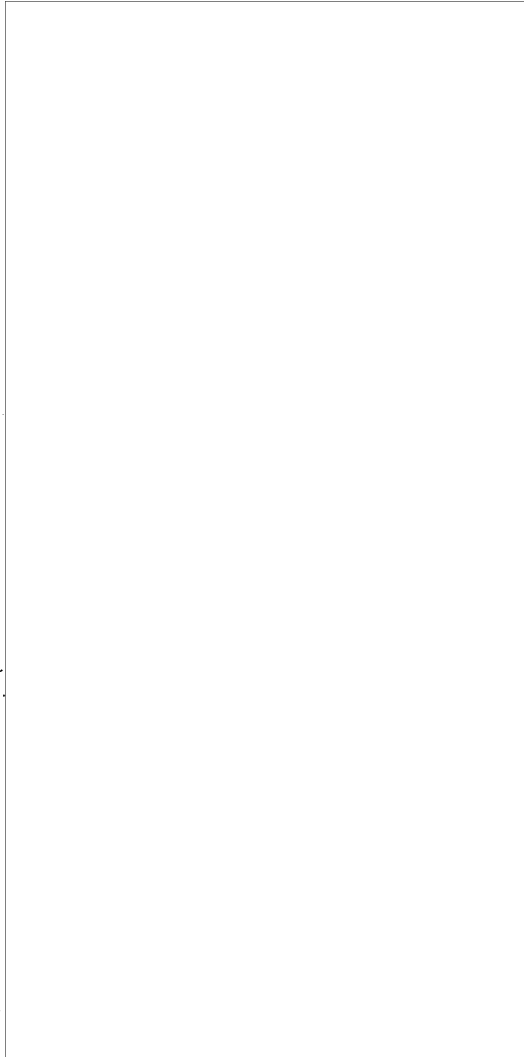
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NOTES

Communist China: [redacted]

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South Vietnam: As part of a special antinarcotics program launched last month National Police carried out a series of raids last weekend in Saigon and the delta. Police confiscated about 345 pounds of opium and 80 pounds of heroin, while arresting 19 suspected drug smugglers.

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The antinarcotic program, scheduled to last until mid-September, will be an interesting test of the government's willingness to take measures against large drug traders, [redacted]

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