

The President's Daily Brief

15 September 1971



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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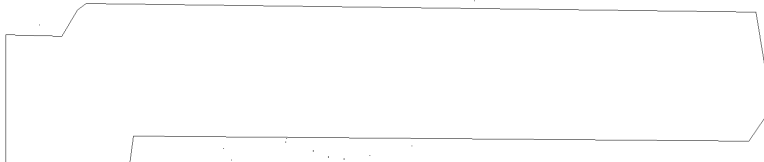
Severe floods have disrupted huge areas of India.
(Page 2)

Recent developments in Malta's search for foreign
aid are discussed on Page 3.

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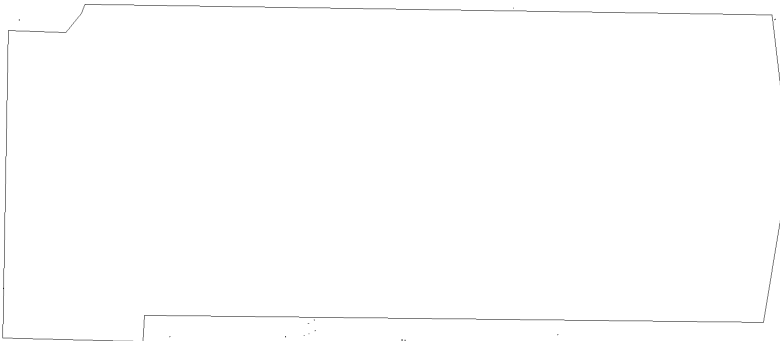
WEST GERMANY - USSR



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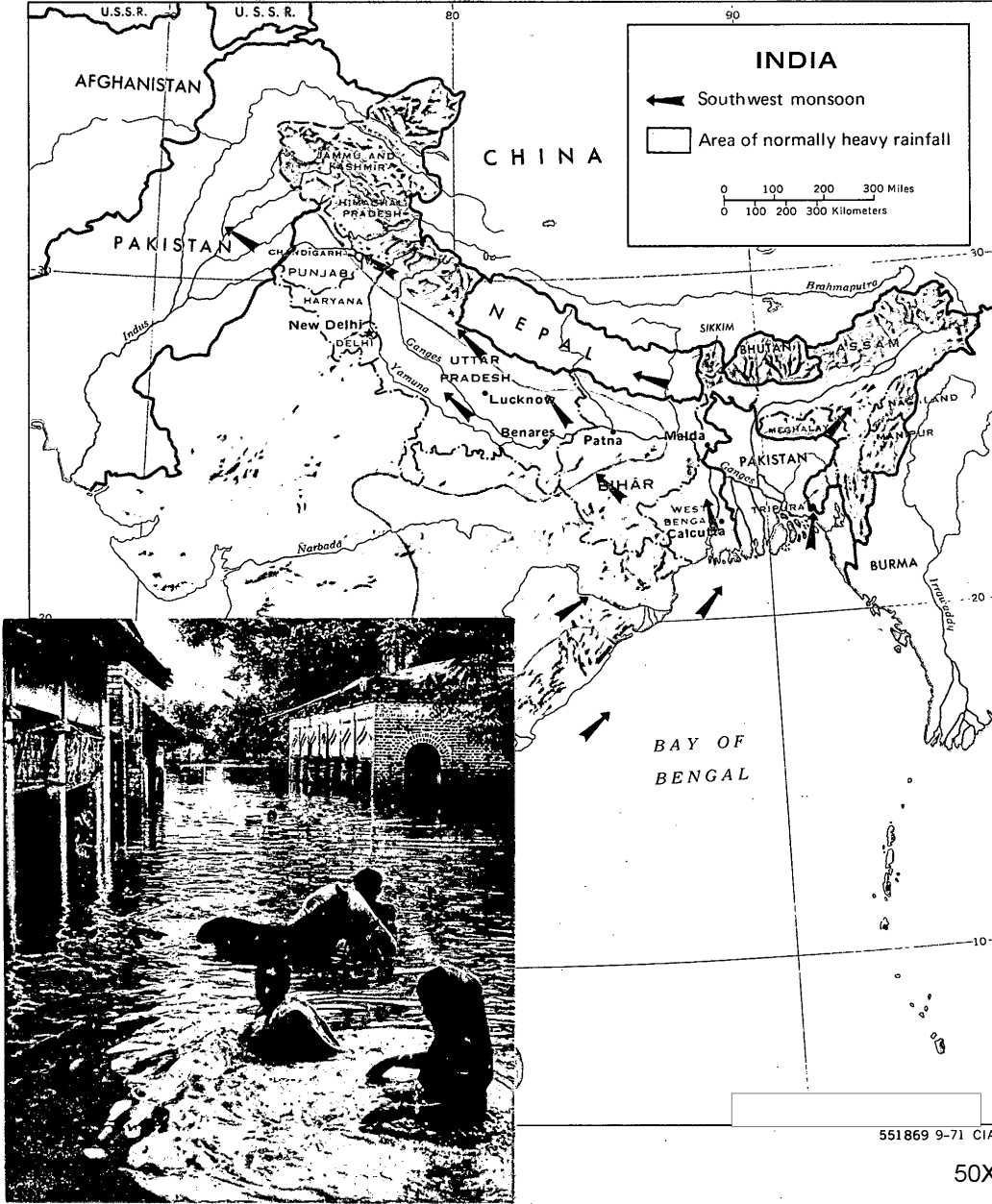


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Serious Flooding Along the Ganges



Flooding in Malda, West Bengal

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INDIA

Exceptionally heavy monsoon rains during the past two months have flooded extensive areas of seven states across 1,000 miles of northern and northeastern India, seriously disrupting both agriculture and industry. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal are the most seriously affected.

Planting of the rice crop has been delayed in areas that normally produce over half of India's rice, and other crops in the same regions are a total loss. Wheat in inadequate storage is spoiling. Communications and transportation are disrupted. Millions are homeless and hundreds dead. Flooded roads and wrecked bridges earlier this month had halted most deliveries of food and other supplies to refugee camps north of Calcutta, but as yet the inundated camps are not suffering from famine.

Indian military operations in the affected states--normally at a low level during the monsoons--undoubtedly have been curtailed even further as a result of the floods. By October, however, the rains should be ended and normal operations will resume.

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NOTE

Malta: The British have told Mintoff that West Germany, Italy, Canada, and Norway are now prepared to enter bilateral discussions with Malta concerning aid and that other allied governments are still considering the matter. Mintoff had recently advised the German ambassador that he was willing to "negotiate bilaterally for up to six months," a considerably longer time for negotiation than seemed likely to be available to the NATO countries last month. He is counting on some \$14 million in bilateral aid from NATO countries apparently because he realizes that the UK-NATO offer of almost \$24 million is unlikely to go any higher.

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