



The President's Daily Brief

21 September 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted] Chinese Communists [Redacted] 50X1
(Page 1)

Further steps by Islamabad toward increasing civilian influence in the government are unlikely to appease the East Pakistanis. (Page 2)

Ky and Big Minh may try to form an antigovernment front in South Vietnam. (Page 3)

[Redacted] Japan [Redacted] 50X6
(Page 4)

Heath and Mintoff have agreed on the procedures and timing for negotiating a new British defense arrangement with Malta. (Page 5)

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COMMUNIST CHINA

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PAKISTAN

The government has announced that by-elections will be held from 25 November through 9 December to fill East Pakistan's vacant seats in the national and provincial assemblies.

The seats to be filled in the by-elections became vacant last month when Pakistan's military rulers disqualified 79 of the 167 Awami League members elected to the National Assembly and 195 of the League's 288 provincial assembly members.

President Yahya has also agreed to submit the new constitution to be drawn up by the government to the National Assembly for its consideration instead of simply proclaiming it. The new procedures for the constitution leave Yahya with a veto power over changes recommended by the assembly. Also, if the assembly fails to make its suggestions within 90 days, the government's draft automatically becomes final.

These new measures follow Yahya's amnesty for most insurgents and the appointment of a civilian governor and cabinet. There is little chance that any of these gestures will make much of an impression on either the East Pakistani populace or the leadership of the Awami League. A large number of potential legislators have already been disqualified and many of the "acceptable" candidates would probably refuse to take up their legislative duties under these arrangements.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

Big Minh met with Ky last weekend and expressed interest in Ky's plan for a "United National Front" of all opposition groups, [redacted]

[redacted] Minh refused to give a firm commitment of support, but he said he was ready to oppose Thieu actively and to work with Ky. The immediate goal of Ky's new front will be to force cancellation of the presidential election on 3 October through large-scale demonstrations.

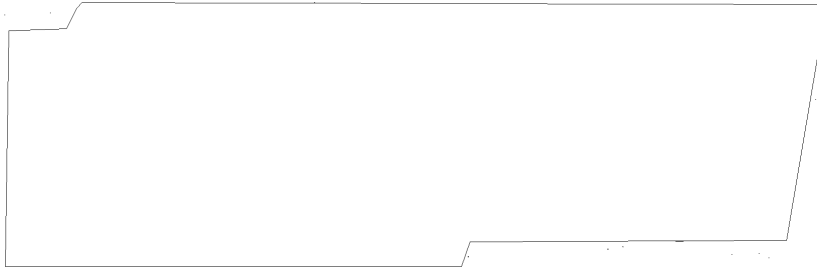
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Minh has been politically quiet since he withdrew from the presidential election last month, but he may have decided that with overt opposition to Thieu growing, he should try to play a more active role as an antigovernment leader. Personal rivalries have blocked the creation of similar coalitions in the past, and could hamper cooperation between Minh and Ky now, but Minh could bring with him elements that probably would not join with Ky by themselves.

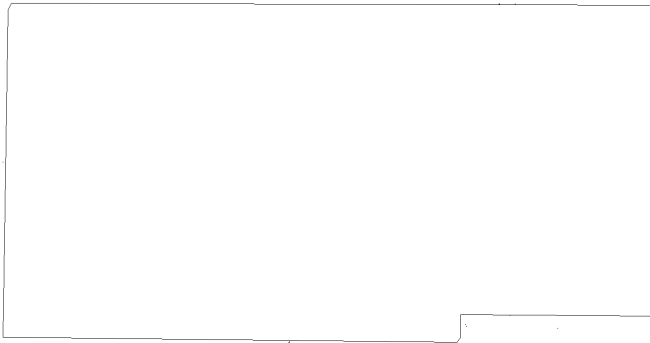
Ky has been discussing his plans with other antigovernment groups, and he hopes his front can coordinate the activities of all groups opposed to Thieu.

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JAPAN



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MALTA-UK

In their talks on 18-19 September in London, Heath and Mintoff agreed that financial terms of a new defense arrangement are to be worked out within three months. Mintoff implied his acceptance of the NATO cash aid offer--which the British hope can be increased to \$24 million--provided that additional bilateral aid from individual NATO countries is negotiated promptly. London promised to pay half of the annual UK-NATO package by 30 September, subject to NATO approval of these arrangements.

Mintoff agreed to renew distribution of duty-free fuel to British forces on Malta and to restore London's veto over third country military use of Malta's airfields and harbors.

Mintoff told Heath that regular visits of the US Sixth Fleet, suspended in June, will be permitted, but added that "very occasional" courtesy visits by Soviet naval forces would be required to maintain the island's neutrality. He said that major servicing of US combat vessels will not be possible because Malta's drydocks are being altered to handle only commercial vessels.

Mintoff apparently has decided that further tough bargaining would not produce a better Western offer. In addition, his concern over the quid pro quo that Libya or the USSR might extract in return for substantial aid could have inclined him toward a settlement with London. He will very likely concentrate now on striking the best possible bargain in bilateral aid negotiations with NATO countries.

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