



*The President's Daily Brief*

*12 October 1971*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Kosygin's visit to Algeria and Morocco does not appear to have accomplished much. (Page 2)

Yahya Khan has ended his ban on political activity in preparation for the elections to fill East Pakistan's vacant seats in the national and provincial assemblies. (Page 3)

Prime Minister Erim's apparent decision neither to resign nor to seek an early vote of confidence has for the moment eased the crisis in Turkey. (Page 4)

Argentine President Lanusse appears to have emerged politically stronger from last week's unsuccessful army revolt. (Page 4)

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COMMUNIST CHINA

*Despite the behind-the-scenes tension within the politburo, the Chinese are trying to preserve a facade of normality. Chou En-lai's decision to accompany Haile Selassie on his visit to Shanghai on Sunday fits this pattern. The regime also apparently intends to go ahead with the major Canton Trade Fair scheduled to open on Friday.*

*Lin Piao and "missing" military leaders remain out of the limelight. Although recent provincial radio-broadcasts have referred to "instructions of Vice Chairman Lin," these appear to be presented in an historical context. We conclude from these references that local authorities are still ignorant of the leadership situation.*

*There are still no signs that internal security has deteriorated in China. The military air stand-down, however, continues into its 30th day.*

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USSR - NORTH AFRICA

Kosygin's week-long visit to North Africa does not appear to have accomplished much. The makeup of the delegation accompanying the Soviet premier indicated that economic matters would dominate the talks, and in both Algeria and Morocco Kosygin called for an expansion of commercial dealings. Nevertheless, no new accords were signed in Algiers, and in Rabat, only relatively unimportant agreements were concluded covering reciprocal port usage and the supply of hydroelectric power plant equipment.

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*There is no indication that Kosygin's talks in Algeria have narrowed the political differences between Moscow and Algiers. The Algerians have been critical of the Soviets for their support of the Arab-Israeli cease-fire, and apparently refused to show any willingness to back efforts toward a Middle East political solution. Boumediene, moreover, is on record demanding the departure of all foreign naval forces--including Soviet--from the Mediterranean. Soviet-Algerian economic relations have been strained by Algiers' marked preference for Western expertise and its apparent reluctance to draw on Soviet credits other than in the metallurgical field.*

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PAKISTAN

Yahya Khan has ended the six-month ban on political activity in preparation for the elections in December and January to fill East Pakistan's vacant seats in the national and provincial assemblies. In his proclamation of 10 October, however, Yahya set stringent limits on activities of parties and individuals, specifically banning the propagation of any views "prejudicial to the ideology, integrity, or security" of Pakistan. Violators will be subject to fines and to imprisonment up to three years.

*As with other recent steps ostensibly aimed at improving the domestic political situation and restoring civilian rule, this latest action is unlikely to mollify the disaffected East Pakistanis. The Awami League, which last year won 167 of the East's 169 national assembly seats and 288 of 300 seats in the East wing's provincial assembly, is still banned. The disqualification of most Awami League legislators and the likelihood that many of the "acceptable" ones will decline to take their seats, will undermine the legitimacy of the new assemblies in the eyes of the East Bengalis.*

*Despite the anticipated widespread lack of cooperation by the East Pakistani populace in the election process, and the threat of guerrilla disruptions, as of now Yahya intends to adhere to his election timetable and to convene the assemblies shortly thereafter.*

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NOTES

Turkey: Prime Minister Erim's apparent decision neither to resign nor to seek an early vote of confidence has for the moment eased the crisis caused by the withdrawal of Justice Party ministers from the government last week. The leader of the Justice Party has also helped to calm matters by indicating that his party's action did not necessarily mean it would oppose Erim on a confidence motion.

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Argentina: President Lanusse appears to have emerged politically stronger from last week's unsuccessful army revolt. Lanusse received the full support of the navy and air force as well as most army units. He was also endorsed by a large number of civilian political and labor groups. Lanusse's rapprochement with the Peronists and his economic policies will be sources of continued dissension at various levels within the military. His success in putting down the revolt and his popular plan to return Argentina to elected government in 1973 will, however, discourage potential coup plotters.

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