

The President's Daily Brief

19 October 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Indians are continuing to draw attention to their preparations to meet any hostile actions on the part of the Pakistanis. (Page 1)



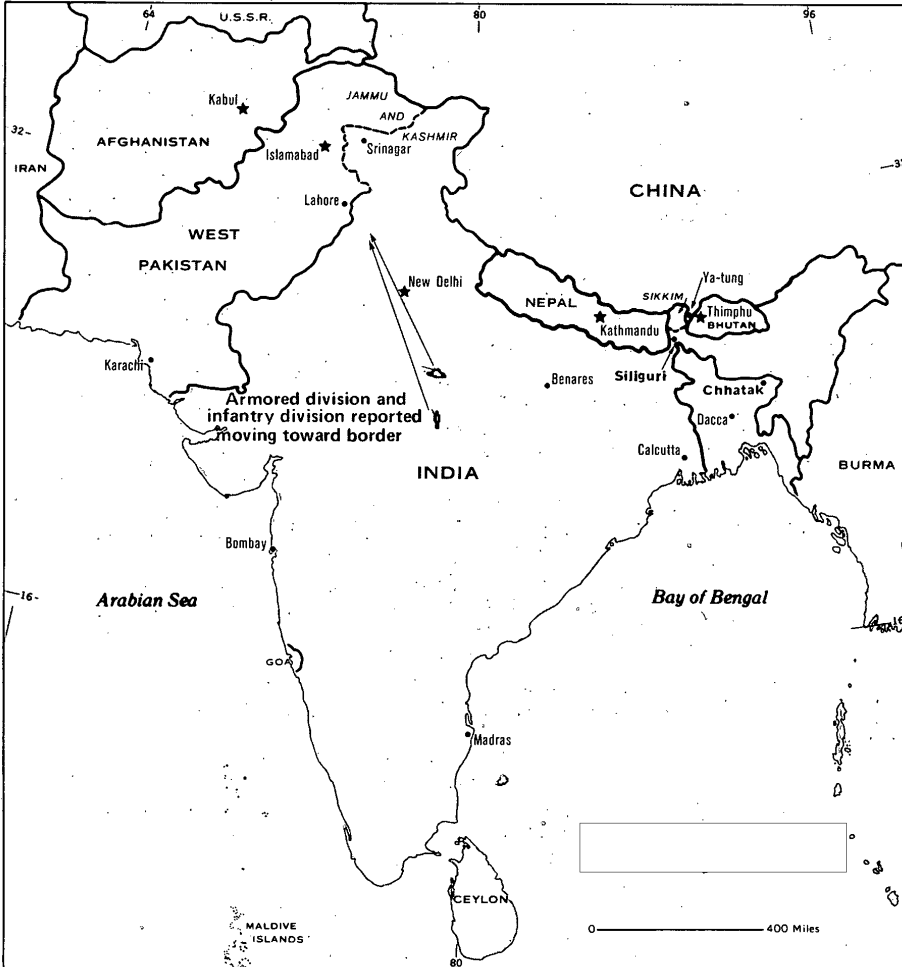
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The capabilities of the South Vietnamese forces in the central provinces to deal with a Communist threat in the months ahead are discussed on Page 4.

The UK high commissioner on Cyprus favors submitting the latest Greek-Turkish proposal to Makarios immediately, if it is to have a chance of acceptance. (Page 5)

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INDIA and PAKISTAN



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INDIA-PAKISTAN

India's 1st Armored Division is moving toward the West Pakistan frontier, according to an Indian Defense Ministry press leak.



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We have no confirmation that the armored division has moved, but support vehicles of the infantry division have been seen passing through New Delhi. The Indians by the leak may be intending to warn the Pakistanis against military action and to encourage foreign pressure against Islamabad for a political solution to the East Pakistani problem.

The 1st Armored is regarded as the bellwether division. If it and the infantry division are in fact moving closer to West Pakistan, India will have made virtually all the major troop movements that could be expected in preparation for hostilities. Similarly most, if not all, of the divisions in West Pakistan have by now taken up war positions.



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"wall-to-wall" Indian troops in the Siliguri gap, convoys of "hundreds" of trucks, and trains carrying troops, artillery, and armor. Movement of troops into this area would place them in a good position for an attack or to defend India's most vulnerable supply line.

There has been a new spate of charges by both sides of unprovoked shellings across the Indian - East Pakistani border in an area where exchanges of fire have been endemic for several months. In addition, the Indian press is reporting an upsurge of guerrilla activity in East Pakistan, including the capture of the town of Chhatak and a number of raids on West Pakistani troops.

(continued)

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These guerrilla incidents have not been confirmed, however, and Indian press claims of Bengali victories have at times been purely imaginary. A Bangla Desh representative in contact with the US Consulate General in Calcutta admitted that plans to inject large numbers of guerrillas into East Pakistan had slipped somewhat.

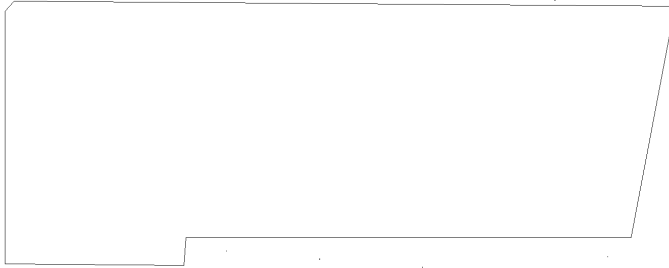
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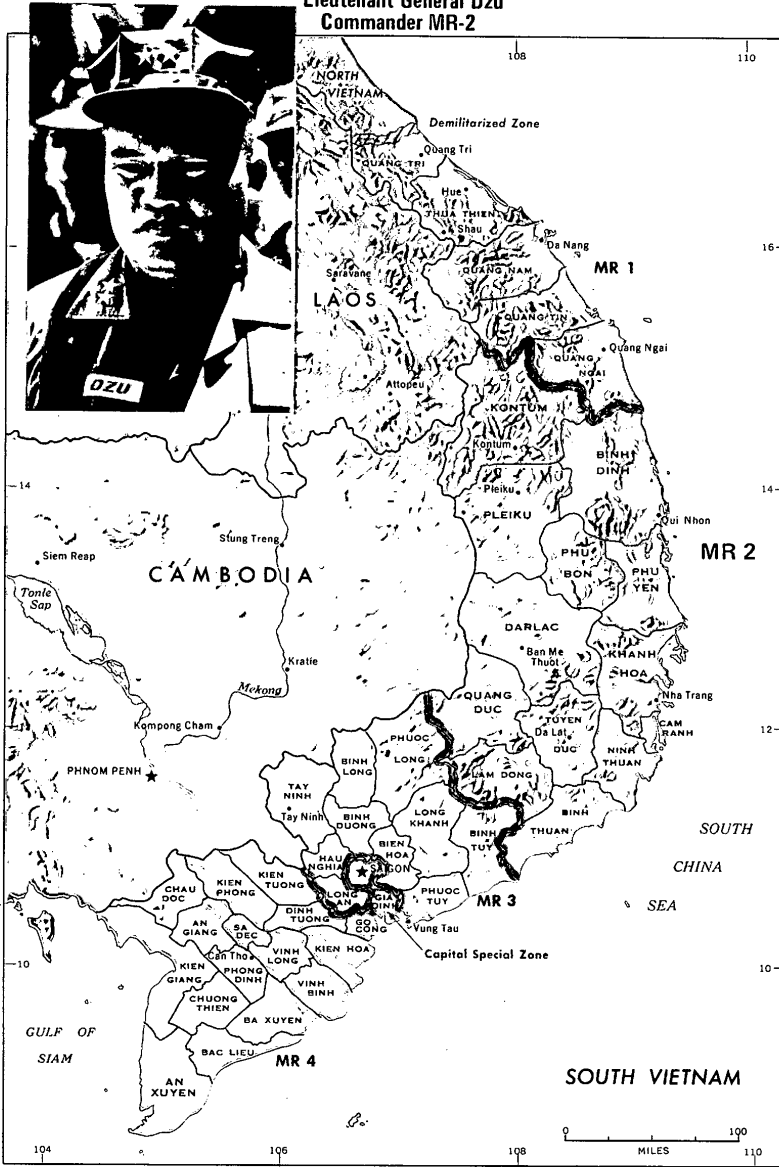
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Lieutenant General Dzu
Commander MR-2



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SOUTH VIETNAM

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Although Dzu's two divisions appear to have improved in the past year or so, it is still questionable whether they are capable of holding off the North Vietnamese Army units ranged against them unless they continue to receive heavy US air and artillery support. In addition, Dzu's operations will be hampered by the poor performance of the territorial security forces in his region, considered to be among the worst in South Vietnam. The Viet Cong are still strongly entrenched in many districts of Military Region 2, but there is at least surface improvement in the security of several provinces, partly as a result of prolonged inactivity by Communist main force units. The situation is still sufficiently unsettled, however, that local government control will probably suffer a severe setback if the Communists are willing to pay the cost of mounting strong attacks this winter.

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CYPRUS

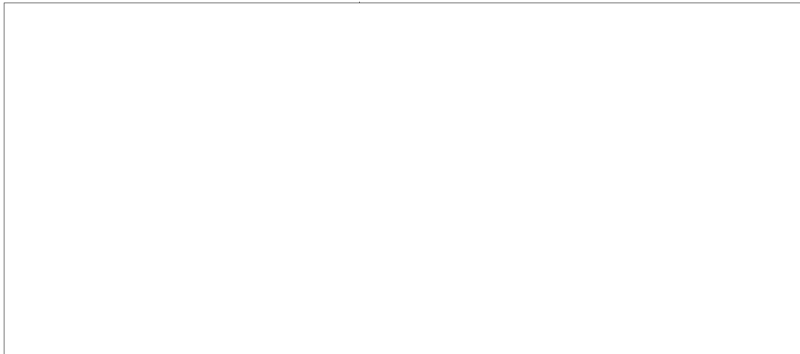
The UK high commissioner on Cyprus is recommending that UN Secretary General Thant immediately present to Archbishop Makarios the latest Greek-Turkish proposal for revitalizing the intercommunal talks. The high commissioner believes, after talking with Makarios, that the Greek Cypriot leader would find it difficult to reject the plan so long as it has strong backing from all other parties concerned.

The proposal, formulated in talks at the UN, would add a representative of the UN to the talks between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, as well as provide for the participation of constitutional law experts from Greece and Turkey. Makarios earlier had termed the proposal "totally unacceptable," regarding it as mainland pressure on him to grant the Turkish Cypriots greater autonomy.

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