



The President's Daily Brief

5 February 1972

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Top Secret



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

5 February 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Egypt's President Sadat received a promise of more defensive weapons in Moscow, but the communiqué issued after his departure showed no Soviet backing for renewed Arab-Israeli hostilities. (Page 2)

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South Vietnam

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USSR-US

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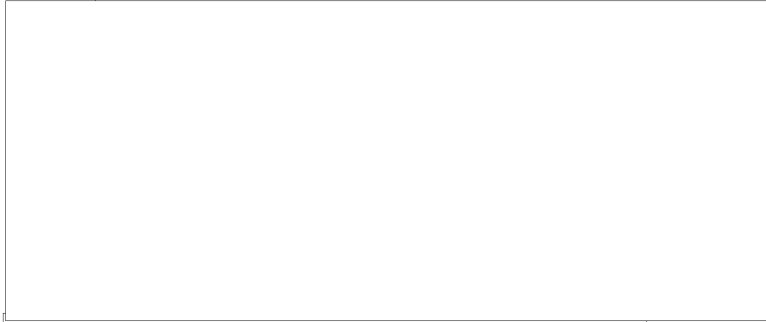
USSR-EGYPT

Yesterday's Soviet-Egyptian communiqué will not inspire confidence among President Sadat's domestic critics. Sadat had set the tone for his trip to Moscow when he said he was going in order to determine the "zero hour" for liberating Sinai. He left the USSR, however, without any open expression of Soviet support for a renewal of hostilities, although the language of the communiqué allows Sadat to say that additional aid for Egypt's defenses will be forthcoming. The wording of the communiqué does not indicate that the Soviets are planning to give Sadat the kind of sophisticated offensive weapons that he says he wants.

Beyond these meager results, the joint statement called for "immediate" resumption of Jarring's mission, most likely as a counter to the US-Israeli agreement for "proximity" talks. Soviet party chief Brezhnev accepted an invitation to visit Egypt at a date to be agreed upon later, but this is not likely to excite Egyptians who seek a resolution of the impasse, either through war or negotiations.

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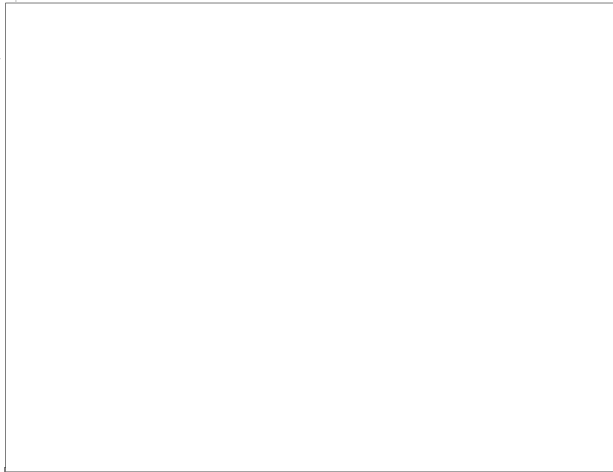
SOUTH VIETNAM



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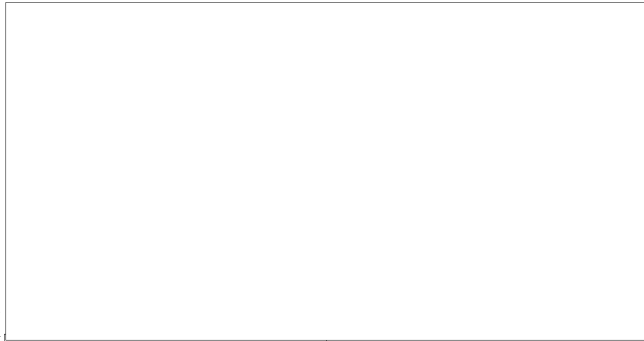
CUBA - LATIN AMERICA



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NOTE

Communist China: Hsu Shih-yu, a ranking moderate military leader, made his first public appearance in eight months earlier this week at a rally in Kiangsu Province. He was identified as retaining all his previous titles: member of the politburo, commander of the Nanking Military Region, and first secretary of the Kiangsu provincial party committee. Hsu's lengthy disappearance was probably related to the events that precipitated the Lin Piao affair, and his political fate almost certainly has been one of the most controversial personnel issues confronting the regime. His reappearance coincides with indications that the fortunes of other moderate military leaders are rising.

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