



The President's Daily Brief

10 February 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Greek Government is dismayed over Makarios' acquisition of Czech arms and is worried that the Turks will intervene unilaterally if Athens cannot control the Greek Cypriots. (Page 1)

An editorial in the Soviet publication Kommunist pinpoints Brezhnev as the principal Soviet advocate of detente and makes it clear he will be the chief participant in President Nixon's talks in Moscow this May. (Page 2)

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CYPRUS

Greek Foreign Minister Palamas told Ambassador Tasca on Tuesday of his government's dismay over the recent arrival of a shipment of Czech arms on Cyprus. Palamas said that Athens now regards President Makarios as an obstacle to any Greek-Turkish agreement on Cyprus, and implied that the Greek Government would like to see Makarios replaced. When asked how Athens proposed to get Makarios to turn over the arms, Palamas referred to the special rights of intervention that Greece and Turkey have under the London-Zurich accords. Palamas concluded by stating--without clarification--that the arms question "would be settled in a few days." A high-level Greek Government meeting yesterday dealt with the Czech arms problem and with ways to resume the intercommunal talks.

Mainland Greek officials have several reasons for their sharp reaction. Makarios did not consult Greece before importing the arms. He has refused to turn them over to the Greek-controlled National Guard. Athens suspects that the arms will be given to the Communists, who could become Makarios' allies in opposing any coup attempt by General Grivas.

The Greeks especially fear that Ankara will conclude that Athens cannot control the Greek Cypriots and so consider intervening unilaterally.

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Turkish Foreign Minister Bayulken told Ambassador Handley last Saturday that an arms shipment to the Turkish community "might have to be considered."

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USSR

An editorial in the January issue of Kommunist unequivocally identifies Brezhnev as the Soviet Union's principal advocate of detente. The editorial makes it clear that he will be the chief participant in the President's talks in Moscow next May, citing his "very important" negotiations with Pompidou and Brandt last year. Brezhnev's name is not associated with passages critical of the US or its allies, whereas Premier Kosygin and President Podgorny are identified with Soviet support of North Vietnam and Egypt.

The editorial justifies Moscow's current peace offensive as entailing no sacrifice of Soviet positions. It defends the development of relations with the US, including SALT and President Nixon's visit to Moscow, and assures its readers that no "unstable foreign policy compromises" will result. At pains to explain the Presidential visit against the background of parallel US and Chinese policies during the recent crisis in the Indian subcontinent, the editorial stresses the "defeat" of the USSR's adversaries, thus implying that it is Washington, not Moscow, which requires the visit more.

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NOTES

Chile-USSR:

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Vietnam: The North Vietnamese are continuing to improve their logistic roadnet into northern South Vietnam. Photography of late January shows an extension of Route 102 apparently heading for storage sites just north and west of Fire Support Base Fuller near Route 9. The other two roads that cross the DMZ farther west are in the final stages of construction, and some segments in the Khe Sanh area and farther south are already in use.

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