



The President's Daily Brief

18 February 1972



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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

18 February 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] China [Redacted]
[Redacted] Pakistan [Redacted]
[Redacted] (Page 2)

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The North Vietnamese are deeply worried over the possibility of new political alignments arising in Asia and among the three great powers as a result of big power summitry. (Page 3)

Cambodia [Redacted]
[Redacted] (Page 4)

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The Indians may be willing to enter into informal talks with President Bhutto in advance of formal talks. (Page 5)



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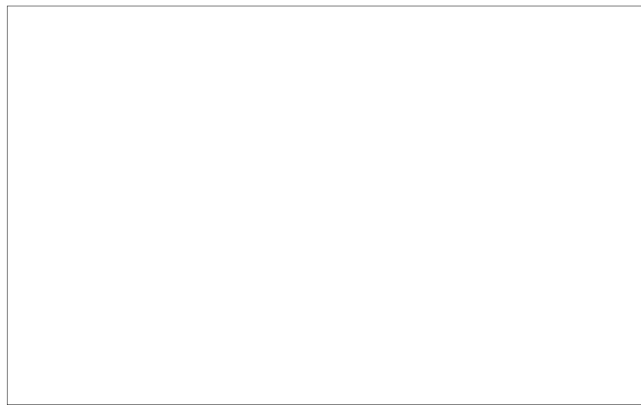
CHINA-PAKISTAN



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NORTH VIETNAM

Recent articles in both the party's newspaper and its theoretical journal have given vent to an apprehension over big-power summitry muted since last August. The articles express a fear that the US will be able to exploit dissensions within the Communist world to bring about "a detente among various big countries while continuing to intimidate small nations." The Soviet Union and China are both named more than once in this connection. One article refers to a speech by President Nixon last July which allegedly envisaged five superpowers (including the USSR and China) determining the future of the world.

Hanoi even lectures Peking and Moscow directly. "Because these socialist countries have become increasingly strong in every respect, how can they accept the view that Nixon has a new concept and a practical, intelligent attitude," the theoretical journal demands. "It is certain that with all of its policies the United States will always consider the USSR, the PRC, and other socialist countries as its dangerous enemies."

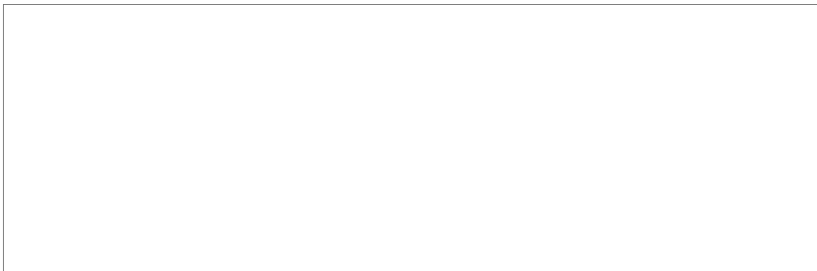
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These articles, together with other published warnings [redacted] suggest how deeply the North Vietnamese are worried over new political alignments they see developing in Asia and among the three great powers. While they may believe they still can play the Soviets and Chinese off against each other, their long-standing distrust of big power maneuvering obviously persists.

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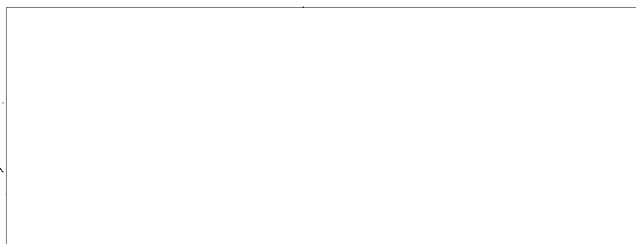
CAMBODIA



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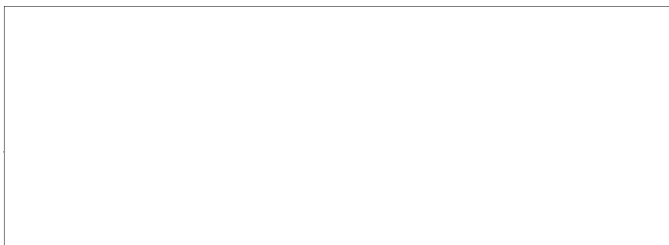
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INDIA-PAKISTAN

Indian Joint External Affairs Secretary Chib told US Embassy officers on 15 February that Islamabad must adopt a more conciliatory posture toward New Delhi before Indian public opinion would countenance a more forthcoming government attitude. He added that for peace talks to succeed, Bhutto must indicate a willingness to soft-pedal "confrontation" and agree to a comprehensive review of all outstanding problems--presumably including the Kashmir boundary issue. Chib stated that such a conciliatory Pakistani gesture need not be "wholly public."

The Indians may be signaling a willingness to enter informal discussions with President Bhutto prior to formal peace talks. New Delhi seems to be trying to give an appearance of flexibility, partly to head off any movement for third-party mediation through the United Nations.

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