



*The President's Daily Brief*

*13 April 1972*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Vietnam is discussed on *Page 1*.

Hanoi has called on its allies and friends to do more to help the North Vietnamese war effort; Brezhnev and Chou En-lai have responded. (*Page 2*)



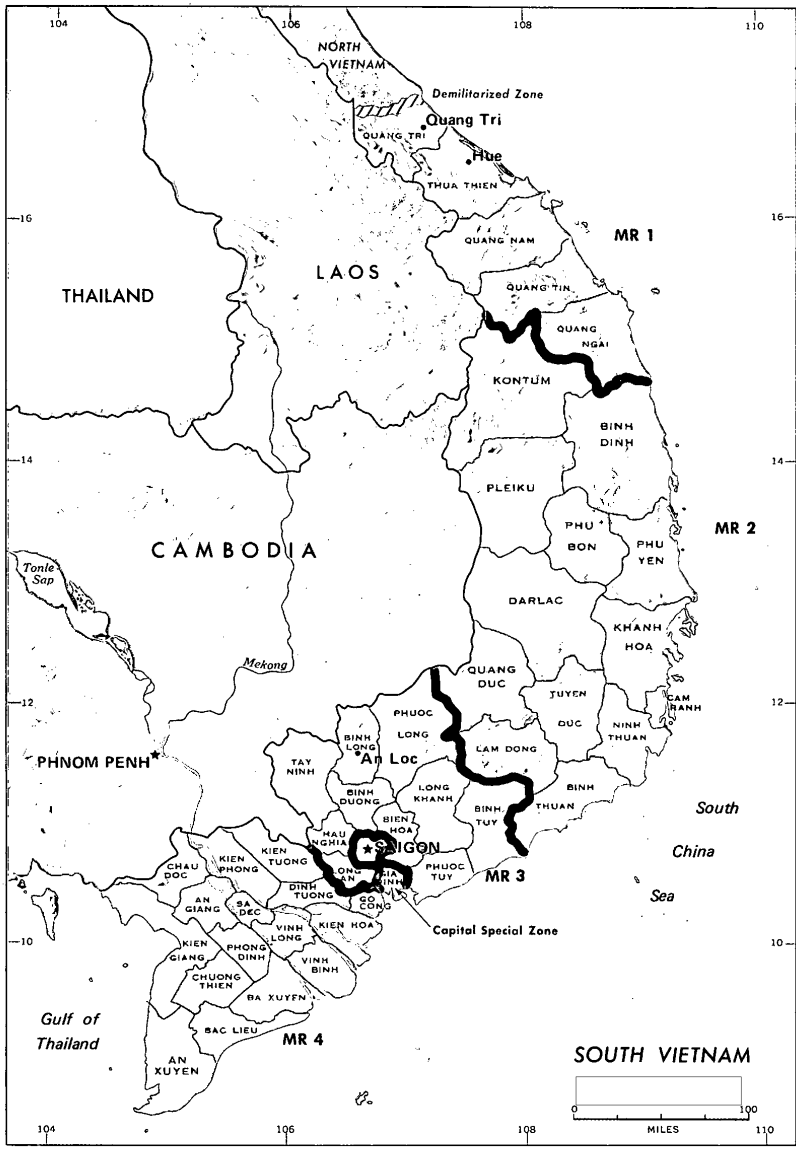
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President Bhutto's draft interim constitution will not satisfy Pakistani opposition leaders. (*Page 5*)

A serious government crisis is brewing in Turkey. (*Page 6*)



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SOUTH VIETNAM

The provincial capital of An Loc is under heavy attack. Pilots have seen as many as 25 enemy tanks in the vicinity of the town. Enemy ambushes along Route 13 are keeping some South Vietnamese reinforcements from reaching the town, although others have been airlifted into the defense perimeter. General Minh, commander of Military Region 3, believes that An Loc is the enemy's main objective in the region at this time. Communications intercepts suggest that a second enemy division is involved in the assault.

There is evidence, however, that Viet Cong units may be preparing to go into action deeper within Military Region 3. Cadre in a Communist command west of Saigon, for example, have been instructed to conduct mortar and sapper attacks in and near the capital as well as in nearby Gia Dinh Province.

In the north, intercepts and increasing artillery and infantry probes provide fresh indications that enemy forces are preparing for new attacks near Quang Tri city and Hue. Prisoner claims that there are now two North Vietnamese tank regiments in Quang Tri Province have been supported by visual sightings.

There was a marked upsurge of shellings and ground assaults against outposts in the central highlands yesterday, suggesting that larger assaults in Kontum Province may be imminent.

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## NORTH VIETNAM - USSR - CHINA

The North Vietnamese have called on allies and friends to do more to help "fight US aggression." The appeal was issued Tuesday in the form of an open government communiqué. Although largely a propaganda tract designed to buttress Hanoi's view of its current offensive, the document also served to elicit responses from the Soviets and the Chinese, who had been somewhat reticent with their verbal support, partly because of their new relations with the US. Yesterday, the senior North Vietnamese diplomats in Moscow and Peking apparently delivered copies of their government's appeal to Brezhnev and Chou En-lai.

*Prior to yesterday, the USSR had yet to respond officially to a similar request for support made by the North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry on 6 April. Soviet media had reported the foreign ministry call for support, but only after deleting all of Hanoi's critical references to the US. Brezhnev, nevertheless, responded indirectly on 10 April in a communiqué he signed jointly with East German party chief Honecker that condemned US bombing of North Vietnam.*

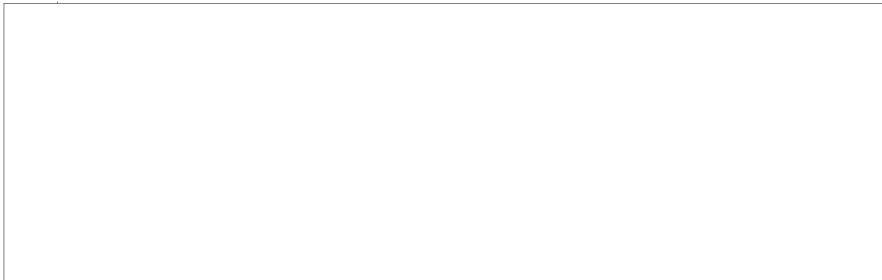
Moscow's press account of Brezhnev's meeting with the North Vietnamese ambassador failed to mention the latest appeal. According to Soviet domestic radio, Brezhnev "exchanged opinions" with his guest on Soviet - North Vietnamese cooperation. Later in the meeting, he demanded an "immediate end to the bombing," and made the first promise since Hanoi began its offensive of continued Soviet "support and assistance." Brezhnev made no threats, however, and said nothing about the fighting in South Vietnam.

As reported by Peking, Chou's statements to the North Vietnamese chargé d'affaires are the highest level of support China has yet offered for Hanoi's offensive. Chou went beyond the Chinese Foreign Ministry's response to Hanoi's earlier request, and said Peking was closely following the US attack on North Vietnam which constituted a "serious incident... expanding the war." He said China would give Hanoi "all-out support and assistance."

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USSR



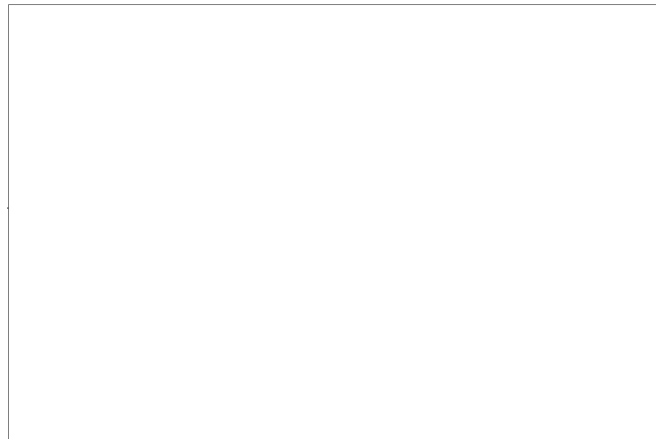
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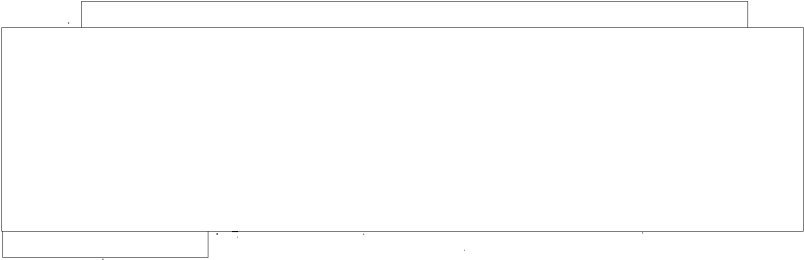
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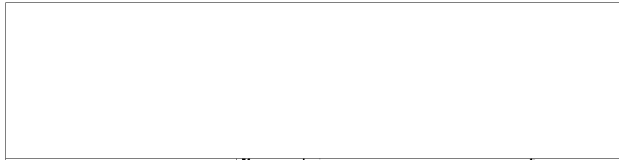
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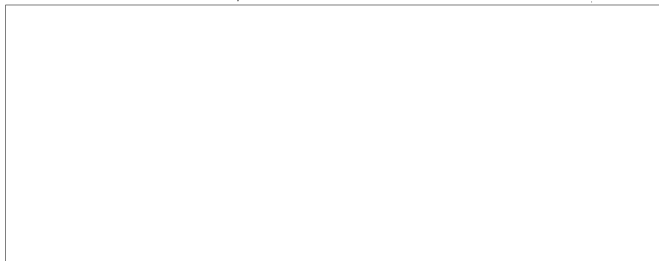
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PAKISTAN-INDIA

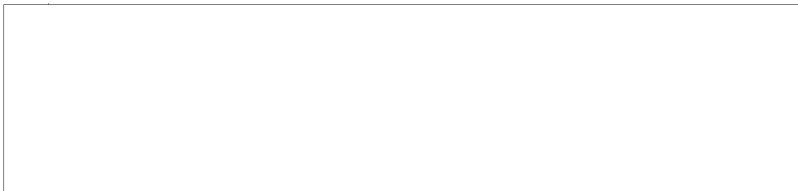
President Bhutto has given party leaders the text of a draft interim constitution that will be presented to the National Assembly when it convenes tomorrow. The constitution would give provincial administrations increased powers, but place the provinces in the hands of presidentially appointed governors. The US Embassy in Islamabad believes that unless Bhutto is willing to compromise and accord some real authority to the opposition forces, the National Awami Party and others may walk out of the National Assembly.

*The draft fails to live up to the impression Bhutto had been giving that the provincial governments would have a considerable degree of autonomy. Most strikingly, there is no provision for provincial assemblies to choose chief ministers who would actually run the governments, as is the case in the Indian states.*

*Bhutto may yet compromise, however. Yesterday he told reporters that provincial power should indeed lie with chief ministers responsible to party majorities. He might also indicate a short duration for the interim constitution--perhaps running only until August when martial law is scheduled to end.*

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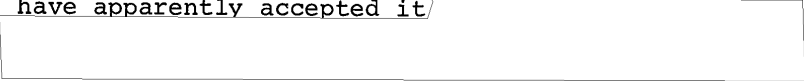




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TURKEY

The Turkish Government appears to be approaching its most serious political crisis in over a year. Prime Minister Erim, increasingly frustrated over continuing leftist terrorism and his inability to push broad social, economic, and political reforms through Parliament, has again tendered his resignation. This time, President Sunay and the military have apparently accepted it



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*Acting through Sunay and the military-dominated National Security Council, Erim had sought from Parliament both temporary authority to rule by executive decree and a temporary halt in partisan political activity. The major political parties, however, unanimously rejected both these requests, even though this raised the possibility that the military would assume direct authority.*

*There are no obvious candidates to succeed Erim--and he may be asked to serve again--but the search is under way to find a candidate acceptable to the political parties and the military. Unsuccessful in their aim of achieving a workable non-partisan government, military leaders may now accept a coalition government, which they hope would be more successful in working through normal parliamentary procedures.*

*To compound the problem, the military--traditionally the guardian of the republic and protector of the constitution--appears to be sharply split over how to deal with the current political crisis, and impatience and frustration could result in a military takeover regardless of parliamentary developments.*



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NOTE

Lebanon-Fedayeen-Israel: The number of fedayeen in the Arqub area of southern Lebanon has reached the level which existed just prior to the Israeli raids in late February, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Because the Lebanese Army has imposed strict controls on guerrilla activity, the fedayeen are planning new tactics for infiltrating into Israel. Even if no raids materialize, the mere presence of large numbers of fedayeen in southern Lebanon might cause the Israelis to strike at the guerrilla concentrations.

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