

The President's Daily Brief

19 June 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

19 June 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

An uncommunicative Le Duc Tho has returned to Hanoi, while an ebullient President Podgorny returned to Moscow after predicting an early resumption of the Paris talks. No new major fighting was reported in South Vietnam during the weekend. (Page 1)

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[Redacted] (Page 3)

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President Allende's cabinet reorganization cloaks continuing disunity among the parties of the coalition government. (Page 4)

East German views on relations between the two German states have been tabled in the form of a draft treaty and a declaration of principles. (Page 5)

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VIETNAM

Following President Podgorny's return home from Hanoi, Moscow Radio today demanded that the US "immediately and unconditionally" halt military actions against North Vietnamese ports, put an end to the "Vietnamization" policy in South Vietnam, and resume "constructive talks" in Paris. The broadcast also reaffirmed the USSR's intention to continue supplying "all necessary aid" to the North Vietnamese war effort and once again endorsed the Vietnamese Communists' standard proposals for a peace settlement.

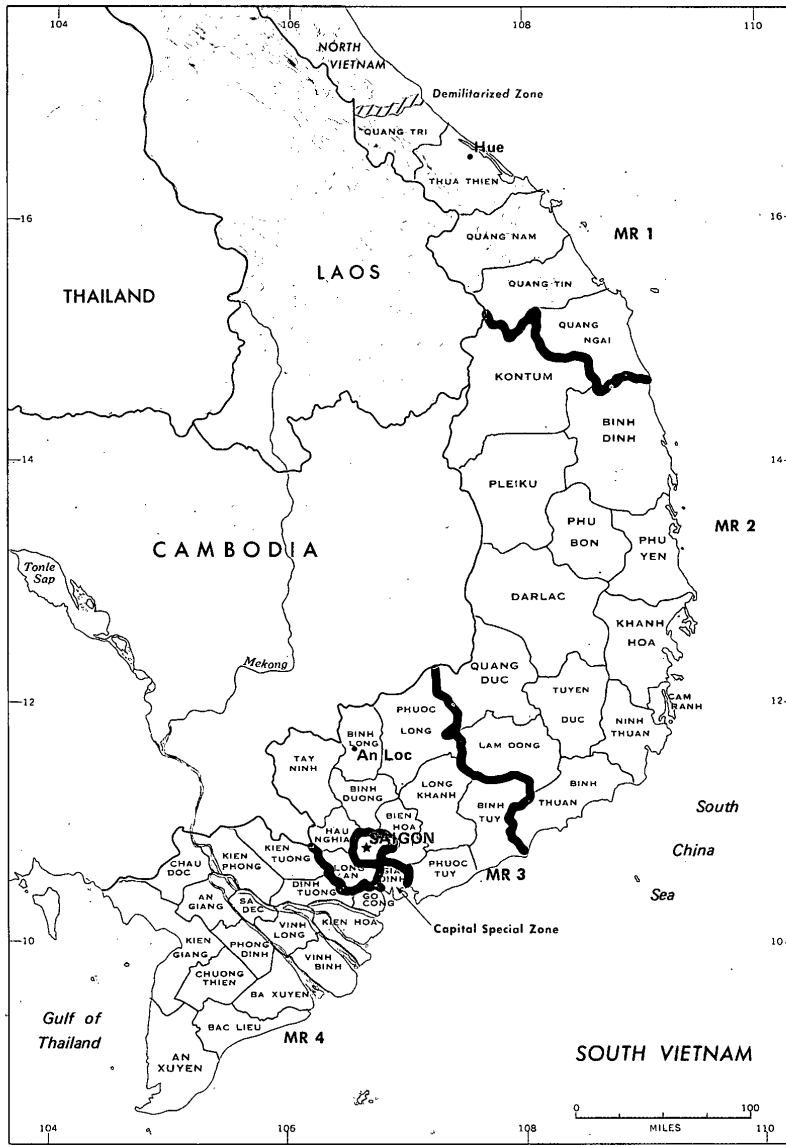
This is Moscow's first word about Podgorny's trip and seems to be a minimum expression of support for Hanoi.

President Podgorny had told reporters in Calcutta, where he touched down en route to Moscow, that his talks with North Vietnamese leaders had gone "as we desired," that the peace talks in Paris would be resumed soon, and that the USSR would do everything possible to bring about a de-escalation of the Vietnam conflict.

North Vietnamese politburo member Le Duc Tho returned to Hanoi from Paris yesterday after stopovers in Moscow and Peking. His one-day stop in Moscow has so far been mentioned only in a North Vietnamese news dispatch, suggesting that he had been welcomed and seen off at the airport by a relatively low-ranking Soviet delegation. Peking Radio, which announced Tho's departure for Hanoi yesterday, reported that during his short stay in China, Tho attended a banquet in his honor and later had a "very cordial conversation" with Premier Chou En-lai.

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There were light Communist shellings and ground probes in several areas of South Vietnam during the weekend, but no major new fighting was reported. In the far north, four battalions of South Vietnamese



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Marines have launched another operation into enemy-held territory north of the Quang Tri - Thua Thien provincial border. The marines have encountered little resistance. There continue to be indications from both Quang Tri and Thua Thien that the Communists are moving men and equipment closer to Hue.

In the provinces around Saigon, pressure has eased somewhat, but the government relief column trying to reach An Loc is still stalled south of the town on Route 13. New skirmishing was reported east of Saigon in Phuoc Tuy Province. Fighting is continuing in the Kien Tuong Province - Cambodian border area, but its intensity has diminished and much of it apparently has been initiated by South Vietnamese troops operating across the Cambodian border.

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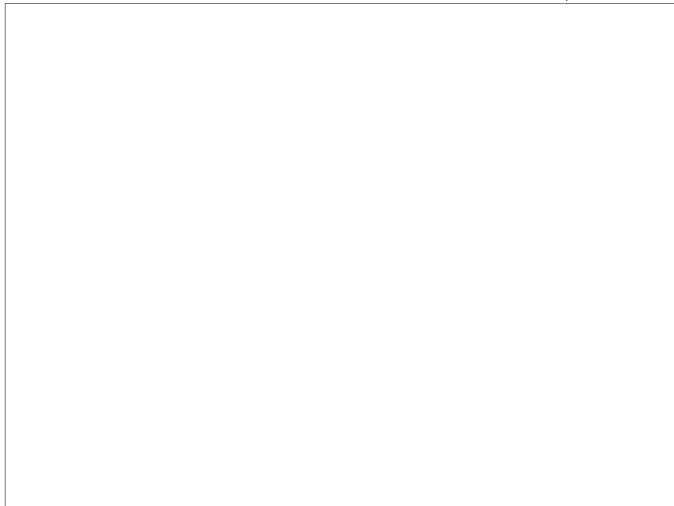
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CHILE

President Allende reorganized his coalition cabinet on 17 June. The Socialists kept the four key posts they previously held and gained two more ministries. The Communists retained the same three seats but filled them with more prestigious party leaders. The Radical Party grudgingly gave up one of its three portfolios and the smaller parties retained one apiece.

The most important change was the replacement of Pedro Vuskovic, who as Minister of Economy had created many problems by his drastic policies. Vuskovic may be heard from again, however. Allende has promised to name him to an important post next week, when he will announce changes in his economic programs.

The shifts do not mean that Allende has solved the internal conflicts in his coalition.

[redacted] the Socialists are furious because Allende and the Communists--at the urging of the Soviet Embassy--are working out an important compromise on economic policy with the opposition Christian Democrats. If the compromise holds, it may result in a slower pace toward nationalization of industries. The Socialists have the largest bloc in the new cabinet, and this may aid them in their campaign to destroy the economic resources of those who oppose the government. Should they attempt this, the compromise would most likely fail.

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Allende was unsuccessful in inducing any military officers to accept a ministry. The one general who became Minister of Mining in April--and resigned along with the rest of the cabinet last week--was frustrated in trying to deal with the coalition's fractious politicians. This experience evidently strengthened the military's distrust of the administration.

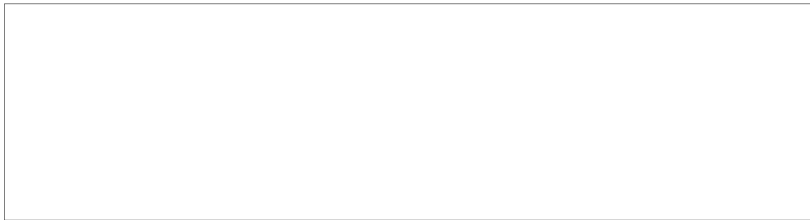
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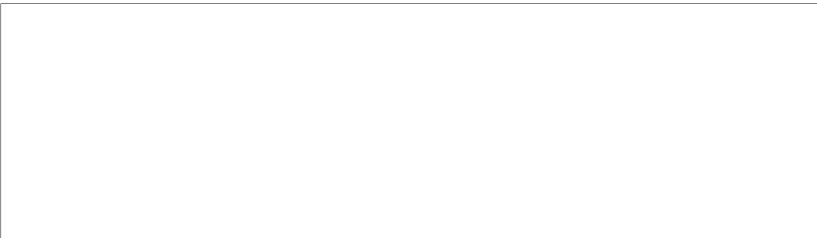
East Germany - West Germany: Pankow on 15 June set forth its views on relations between the two German states in a draft treaty and a declaration of principles. The documents stress the need for the early conclusion of normal diplomatic relations and simultaneous entry into the United Nations. The East Germans reject Chancellor Brandt's proposal for a "special relationship" based on mutual recognition of the concept that the German people, regardless of the political system under which they live, in fact belong to one nation. A clause declaring that an inter-German agreement would not affect previous treaties dealing with the two Germanies appears to be the East's formula for implying recognition of residual Four Power rights in Germany.

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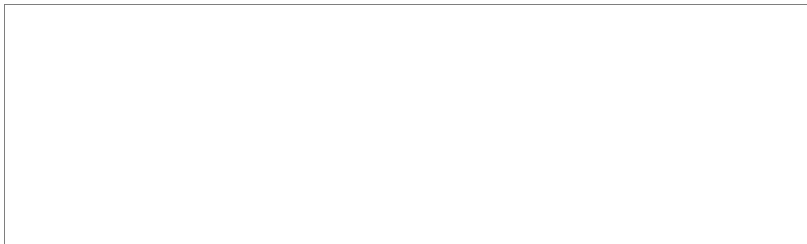
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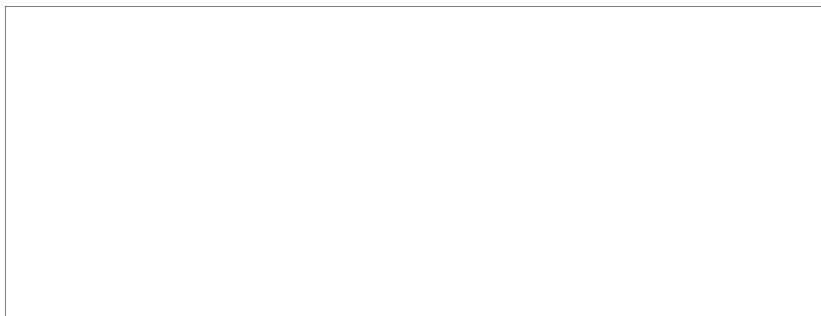
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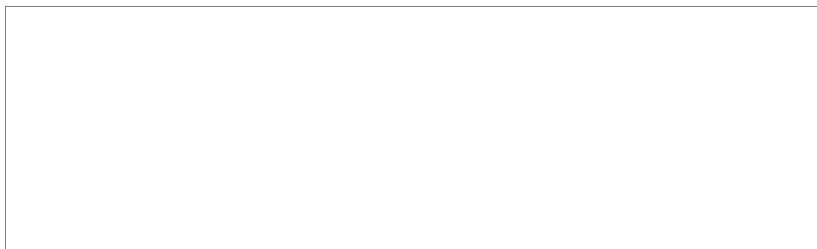
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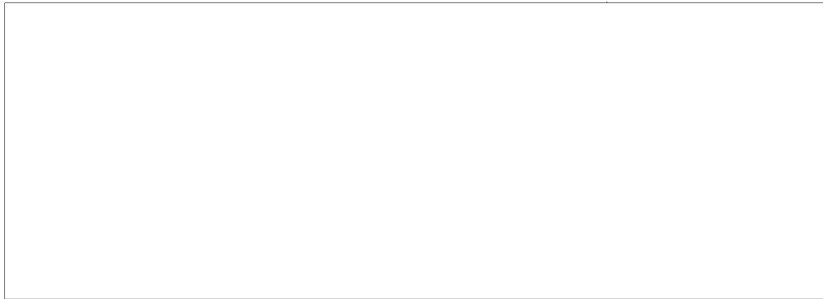
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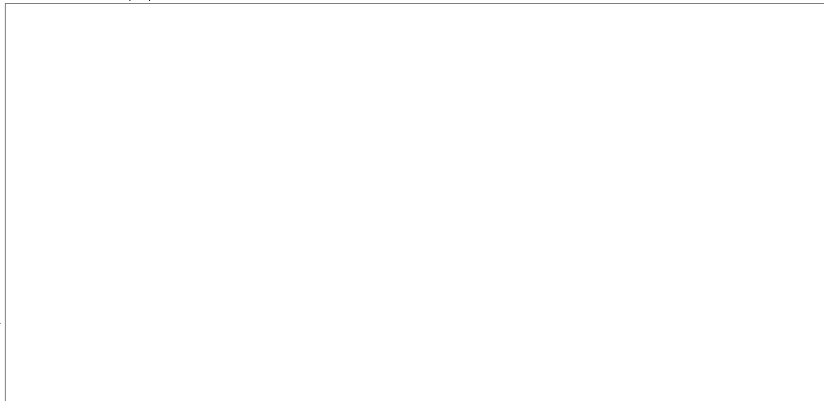
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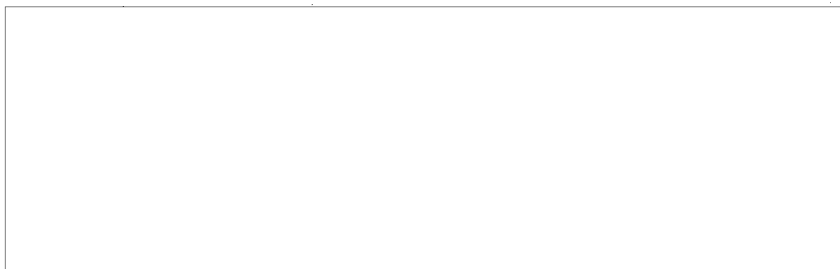
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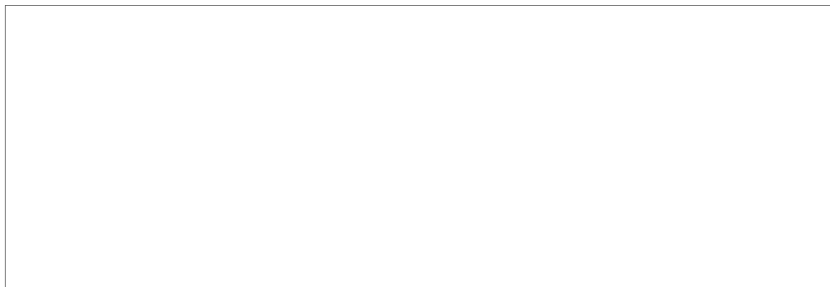
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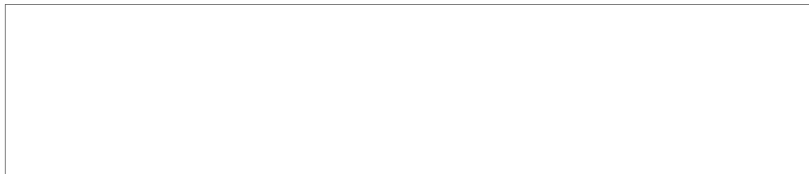


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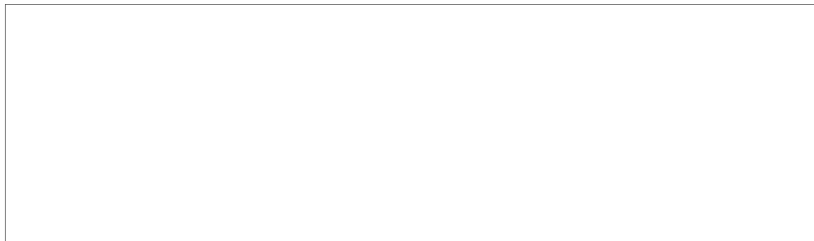
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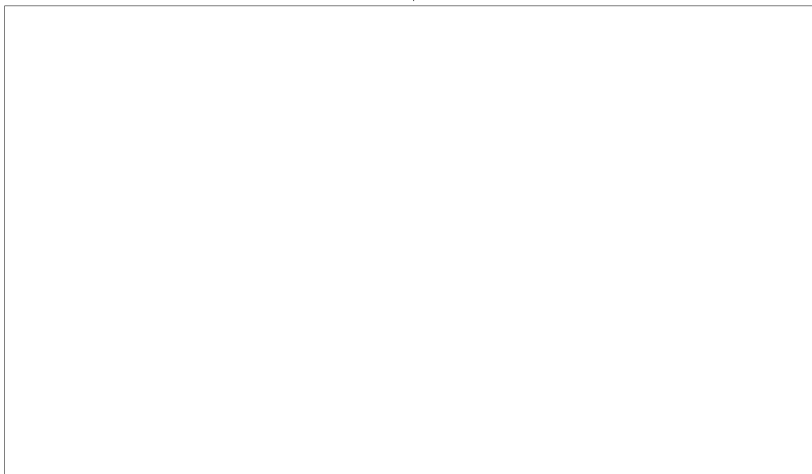
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