

The President's Daily Brief

21 September 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

21 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Fighting continues in the coastal lowlands of South Vietnam, while in the north, the enemy prepares for a counterattack near Quang Tri City. (Page 1)

Soviet-Egyptian relations remain cool. (Page 2)

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] Lebanon. (Page 3)

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West German negotiator Bahr is optimistic about reaching an early agreement with East Germany. (Page 4)

Thailand [Redacted] China [Redacted]

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[Redacted] (Page 5)

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[Redacted] narcotics [Redacted] (Page 6)

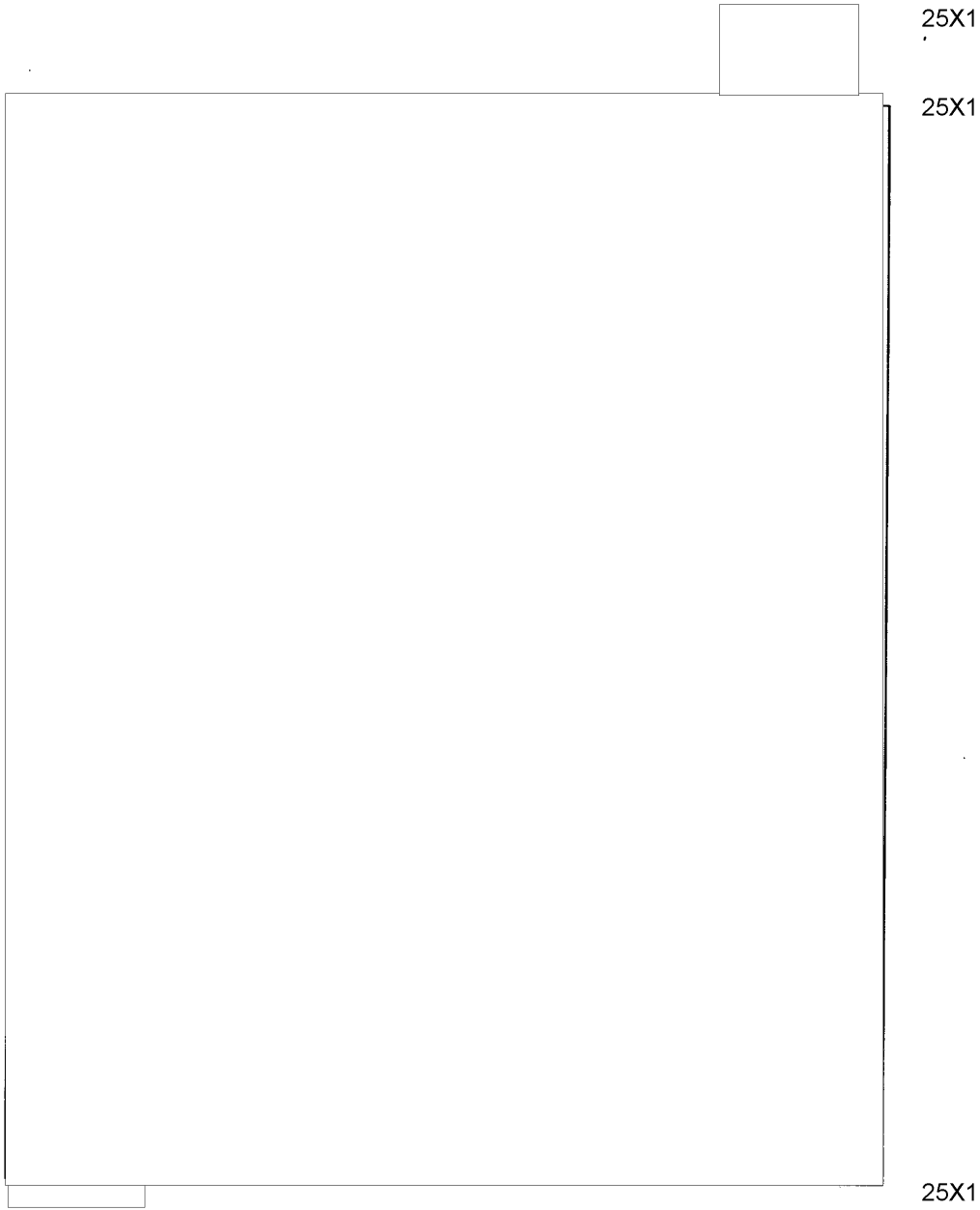
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Even though Libya's effort to send troops to Uganda foundered in Khartoum, the gesture will encourage Ugandan President Amin to continue his confrontation with Tanzania. (Page 7)

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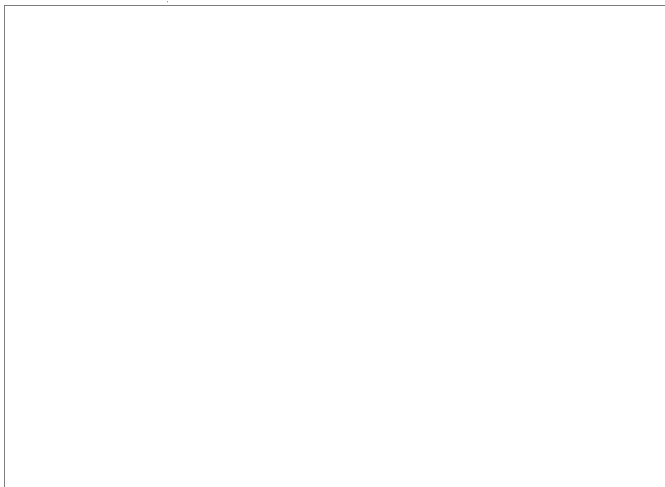
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SOUTH VIETNAM

Heavy fighting continues in Quang Ngai Province, most intensely against Mo Duc and Duc Pho district capitals and around Landing Zone Dragon. Sporadic clashes are occurring near Que Son in Quang Nam Province and around Communist-held Tien Phuoc in Quang Tin Province, where the government is making little headway in an effort to retake ground lost last month. Light ground action continues at several locations in Binh Dinh Province.



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On the northern battlefront, enemy shellings and ground action are at the lowest level since the South Vietnamese Marines started their campaign in late July to retake the Quang Tri citadel. There are continuing indications, however, that the Communists will soon attack government positions south of the city. Intercepts show that the North Vietnamese 304th Division is slated to receive substantial amounts of mortar, rocket, and artillery ammunition as well as foodstuffs. Large amounts of anti-aircraft ammunition also are being distributed and, according to one message, enemy tanks have been moved to "attack" positions.

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EGYPT-USSR

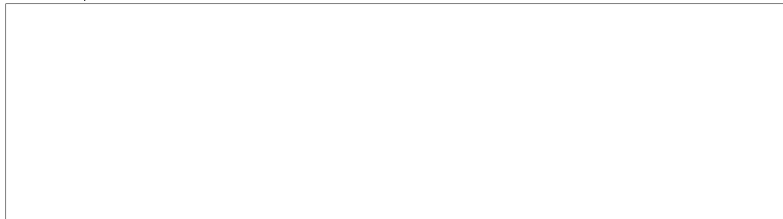
The chill between Cairo and Moscow persists. Although the spate of press polemics that broke out in late August has tapered off, both the Soviet and the Egyptian ambassadors remain on home leave. Moreover, Moscow's continuing pique over the expulsion was recently expressed by a public lecturer in Leningrad who called Sadat a "reactionary" and a "religious fanatic."

Although a public lecturer is not normally an official spokesman on Soviet policy, in this instance we believe the commentary accurately reflects Moscow's frustration with Egypt. We doubt that either side wants a complete rupture, and both sides appear to be trying to maintain useful ties. The Soviets are still sending military hardware and continuing their economic assistance projects in Egypt. The Soviet Mediterranean Squadron still uses Egyptian port facilities. Nevertheless, Cairo is hedging its bets by looking for supplementary, or perhaps alternate, sources of arms and spare parts in Western Europe and elsewhere.



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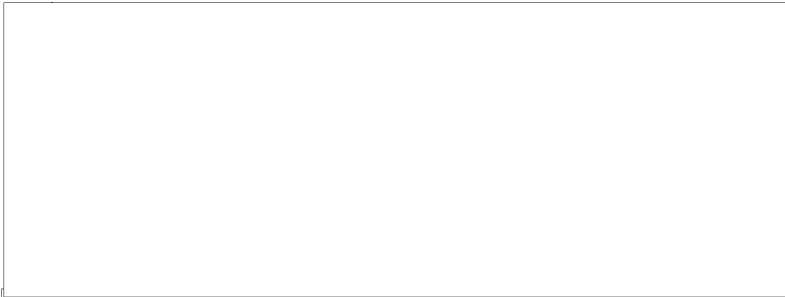
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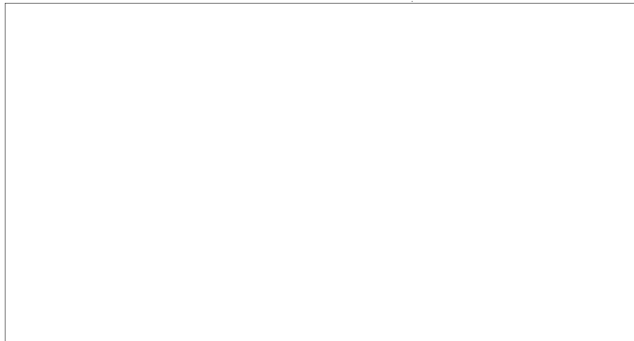
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WEST GERMANY - EAST GERMANY

The tempo of negotiations on a general treaty is picking up. West German negotiator Bahr told allied ambassadors on 19 September that considerable progress was made during the latest round of talks on 13-14 September, and a Bonn Foreign Ministry official has stated that, if the "necessary political decisions" are made, the negotiations can be completed within a month. Both added, however, that several fundamental issues remain to be settled, including Bonn's demand that the treaty refer to a common nationhood. The two sides also still differ on how each state will be represented to the other.

Bahr said his optimism stems from East Germany's willingness to consider seriously Bonn's proposals for improvements in travel and other practical matters. The West Germans are also pleased that the two sides have managed to draft several treaty articles covering lesser issues.

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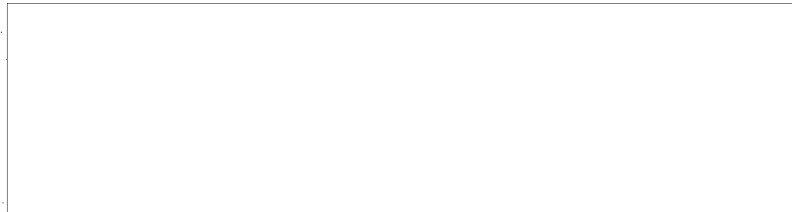
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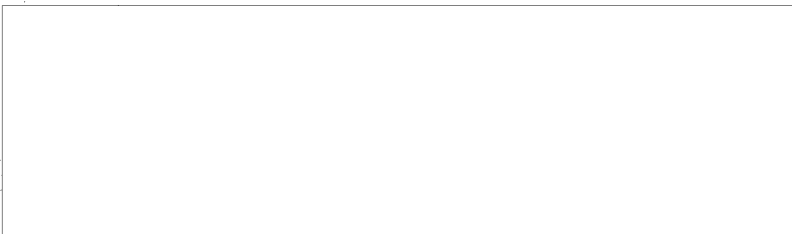
THAILAND-CHINA



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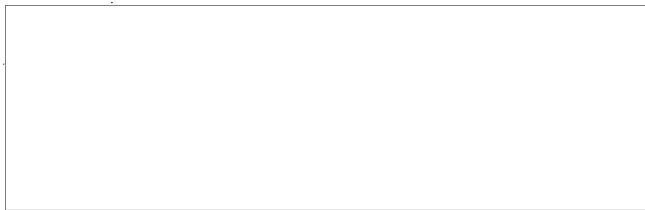
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LATIN AMERICA - NARCOTICS

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UGANDA

According to a Sudanese Foreign Ministry statement, five Libyan transport aircraft carrying 400 armed troops bound for Uganda were denied permission to overfly Sudan yesterday and were forced to land in Khartoum. Sudanese officials sequestered the arms on board and will send the troops back to Libya today.

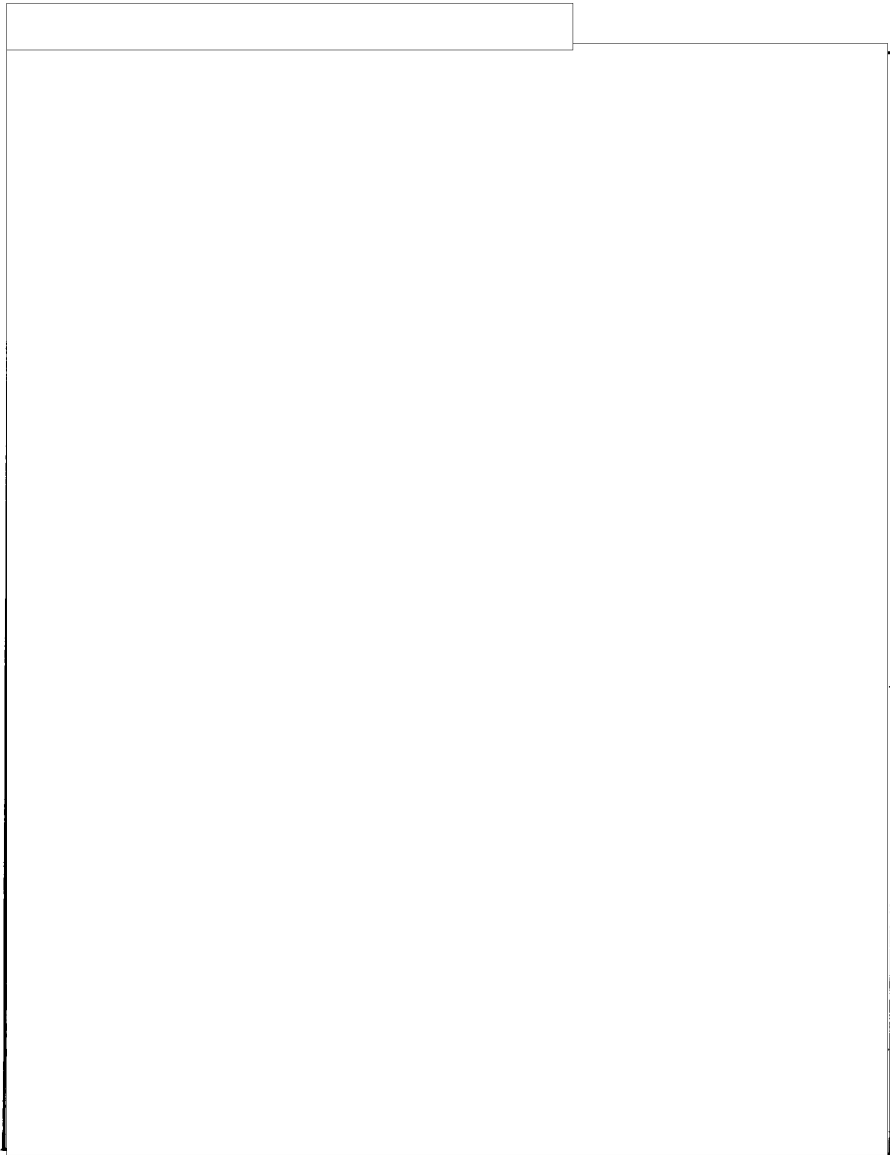


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Libya's gesture will almost certainly encourage Ugandan President Amin to continue his confrontation with Tanzania. Amin has asserted that a new force composed of Tanzanians, guerrillas, and white mercenaries, is on the way to Uganda from Tanzania and will have to be stopped before they enter the country. He has threatened to destroy the alleged invaders' Tanzanian staging areas.

In turn, President Nyerere is angry about Uganda's repeated bombing of a Tanzanian village during the fighting between the Ugandan Army and the rebels. He has warned of serious consequences if the raids continue.

Nyerere no doubt would like to retaliate if there are further attacks, but his assets are limited. Tanzania has no combat aircraft and only some 1,500 troops on the Ugandan border.



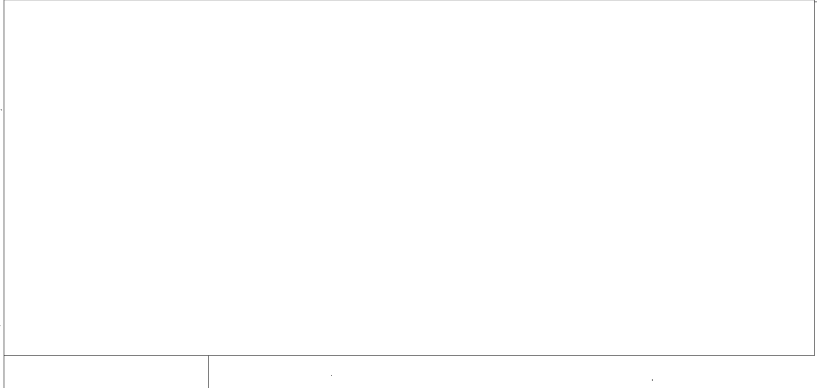
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NOTES

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Chile: The annual independence day military parade on 19 September was uneventful. The marchers were at their colorful best for high-ranking visitors, including the commanders of the Soviet Air Force and the French Navy. Reflecting the strains of the past week, President Allende closed the celebration with a speech pointedly praising the military and police forces for their dedication in supporting the constitution and protecting civilians from violence provoked by extremists.

Bahamas: Prime Minister Pindling's landslide victory in Tuesday's election amounts to a strong mandate for his pledge to seek full independence by next July. London has said that the "will of the people" will be respected. Formal talks on independence are likely to begin in London this December. Pindling made it clear during the election campaign that his government expects to set a high price for continued US operation of the four defense-related installations in the Bahamas following independence. Revenue from base rentals would help to bolster the deteriorating economy and offset the anticipated loss of British support after independence.

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