



*The President's Daily Brief*

*1 November 1972*

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

1 November 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

A Communist spokesman in Paris has criticized the US for not signing the truce agreement yesterday, but added that the US must respect the text of the accords and sign them as soon as possible. Meanwhile, South Vietnamese President Thieu has used his toughest language to date in denouncing the proposed peace agreement. *(Page 1)*

The possibility of a cease-fire is inducing the Cambodian Government to pay greater attention to possible military and political approaches to the Khmer Communists. *(Page 2)*

In Chile, opposition moves to impeach four members of President Allende's cabinet have provided the occasion for the resignation of all 15 ministers. Allende may now seek to form a "technical" cabinet with some military participation. *(Page 3)*

The unrest in Bolivia over devaluation appears to be easing. *(Page 4)*

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VIETNAM

In a prepared statement to the press, the spokesman for the PRG delegation in Paris, Le Van Sau, criticized the US for not signing the truce agreement on 31 October, but went on to say that the US must respect the text of the accords and sign them as soon as possible. Similarly, a broadcast over Hanoi's domestic service yesterday avoided any hint of a deadline, stating only that the US was responsible for the prolongation of the war.

Meanwhile, Moscow continues to hold back from a formal endorsement of North Vietnam's statement of 26 October. The Soviets appear to be waiting for some sign that the issues currently dividing Washington and Hanoi are close to being resolved before making any authoritative statement in support of the North Vietnamese. A Pravda commentator yesterday issued a comparatively mild call for early US signature of the agreement. He noted that Hanoi's deadline had expired and disparaged as "unconvincing" the argument that South Vietnamese President Thieu must be brought aboard.

\* \* \*

President Thieu, in a National Day address on 1 November, used his toughest language to date in denouncing the proposed peace agreement. As in similar statements during the past week, Thieu did not attack the US directly, but denounced those individuals and organizations that would "sell out" the country. Thieu continued to claim that he is not an obstacle to a peace settlement and called on the Communists to hold serious talks.

\* \* \*

Emissaries of President Thieu now touring various Far Eastern countries apparently are exercising restraint. US Ambassador Lydman in Kuala Lumpur, for example, has been told by Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Ismail and South Vietnam's Ambassador Quang that the weekend visit of Ambassador to the US Phong produced no requests on the part of Saigon. Phong explained his government's objections to the Communist proposals and Saigon's concern that Hanoi was trying to exploit the imminence of the US elections to force a premature settlement. According to both sources, Phong did not present his case as a criticism or rebuttal of the US position and his listeners were generally sympathetic.

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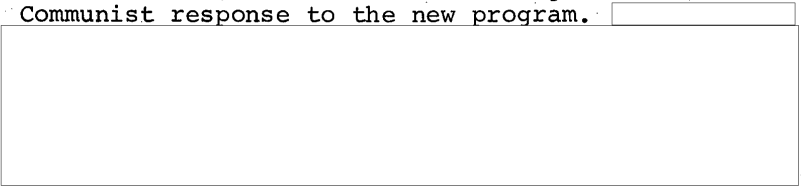
CAMBODIA

The possibility of a cease-fire is inducing Phnom Penh to pay greater attention to possible military and political approaches to the Khmer Communists. Chargé Enders reports that the government is embarking on a program aimed at rallying as many Khmer Communist troops as possible. As a first step, instructions have been passed to all provincial leaders and to all Cambodian Army field commanders to try to contact local Khmer Communist elements in order to persuade them to rejoin government ranks.

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Thus far, there has been no significant Khmer Communist response to the new program.

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*Lon Nol and other Cambodian leaders are now only beginning to delve into the political aspects of the Khmer Communist problem. There are no indications as yet that Phnom Penh has begun to think about the question of high-level negotiations with the Khmer Communists aimed at a broad political settlement.*

*Nonetheless, the question of coping with the Khmer Communists appears to have impressed upon Lon Nol the need for stronger political support for the government. Lon Nol has asked former Democratic Party head In Tam to play a major role in the new rallier program, but he is still reluctant to accept such a post. Lon Nol has also shown some signs of interest in Sirik Matak's proposals for the inclusion of opposition elements in the government, and has added Matak to the committee working on the government cease-fire program.*

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CHILE

Opposition moves to impeach four members of President Allende's cabinet provided the occasion for the resignation of all 15 ministers yesterday. Allende has accepted the resignation of two of the targets for impeachment, the interior and education ministers (both are preparing to run for Congress next March), but has not yet indicated how he will deal with the other resignations.

*Allende may be preparing to form the kind of "technical" cabinet with some military participation that he has long wanted. The service chiefs remain divided in their attitude toward participating, however. Some are reluctant to join the cabinet, lest a political advantage accrue to Allende. Others, possibly including Army Chief Prats, hope that as part of the cabinet they could moderate official policies. Of the principal government parties, the Socialists are less attracted to military participation than are the Communists, but even they might find certain officers acceptable.*

The government meanwhile has offered to reopen negotiations with the strikers. Our latest reports indicate that some protest leaders still hope to hold out, but the resolve of others is weakening. Shutdowns continue to be widespread but uneven, and essential services and supplies are being maintained with the aid of the armed services.

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NOTE

Bolivia: The government is making headway in its efforts to defuse the crisis over devaluation. Troops overcame pockets of worker resistance in La Paz yesterday and the government claims that negotiations to end strikes have been successful.

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