

*The President's Daily Brief*

14 November 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

14 November 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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[Redacted]

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The Libyans are seeking large amounts of Western military equipment, and have secured a major arms package from Italy and a lesser one from Britain. At least some equipment is likely to end up in Egyptian hands. (Page 3)

On Page 4 we discuss the outlook for the Japanese elections called for 10 December, including their significance for the factional balance within the ruling party.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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USSR-SYRIA

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LIBYA

The Libyans are seeking large amounts of Western military equipment. A joint Libyan-Egyptian arms purchasing mission now in London has obtained some small arms [redacted]

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[redacted] The Italians recently agreed to a deal involving a major arms package, in exchange for favorable terms to the Italian state-owned oil firm operating in Libya. This agreement may encourage the Libyans to reiterate their request to purchase F-5 aircraft from the US, citing US oil interests in Libya as a bargaining tool. Libyan Prime Minister Jallud also recently tried to buy additional French arms, including tanks and light armored vehicles, rockets, and long-range artillery.

*The Libyans are likely to turn at least some of these arms over to Egypt, which could provide Cairo with a partial alternative to Soviet weapons. The French will require the Libyans to adhere to terms similar to those in the 1969 Mirage aircraft contract that forbids third-country use of the arms, but such stipulations will become meaningless if the prospective merger between Egypt and Libya, scheduled for September 1973, is carried out.* [redacted]

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**JAPAN**

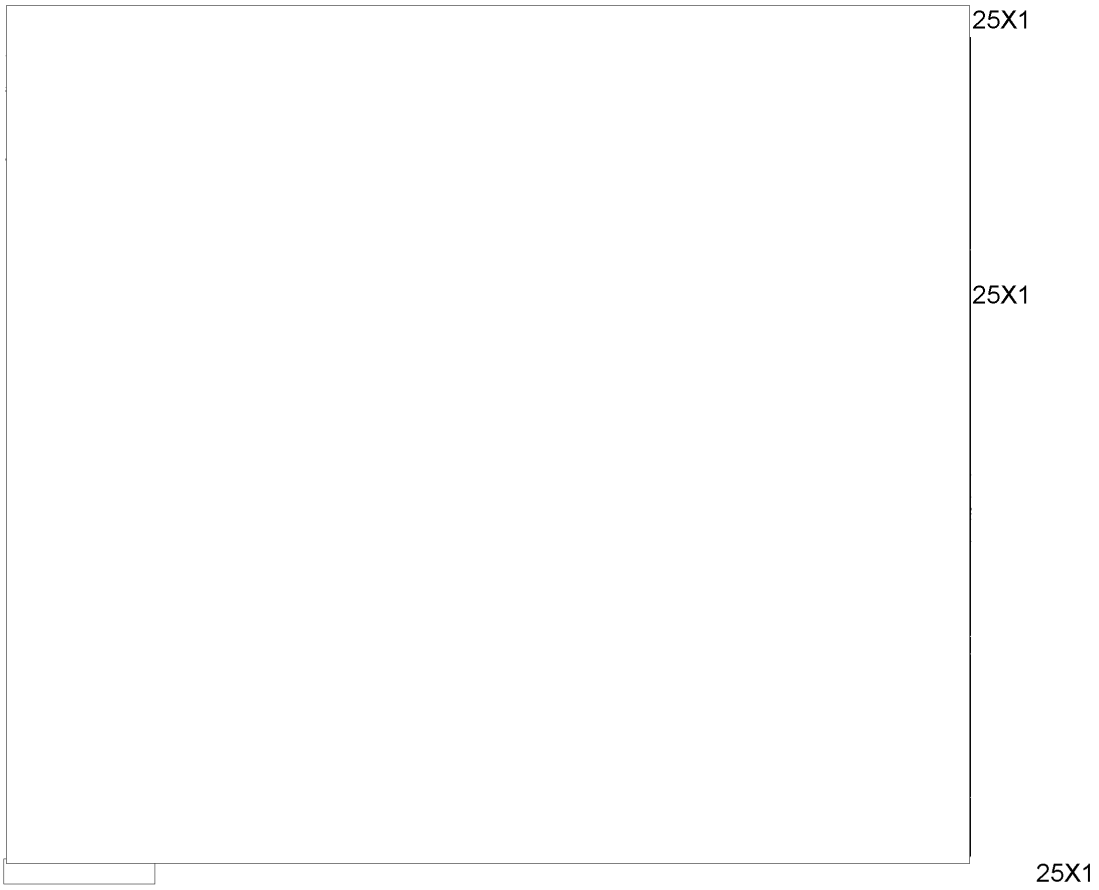
*The Liberal Democrats should retain a comfortable majority in the parliamentary elections scheduled for 10 December. Broad public support for Prime Minister Tanaka's normalization of relations with Peking, and his unprecedented personal popularity, have dimmed the opposition's hopes of recouping losses suffered in the elections three years ago.*

*With rather modest prospects for gains by the opposition, Japanese public attention will be on competition among the Liberal Democrats. In many cases, the voters will choose among candidates representing factions of the same party as well as among the parties.*

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**NOTE**

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