



The President's Daily Brief

7 March 1973



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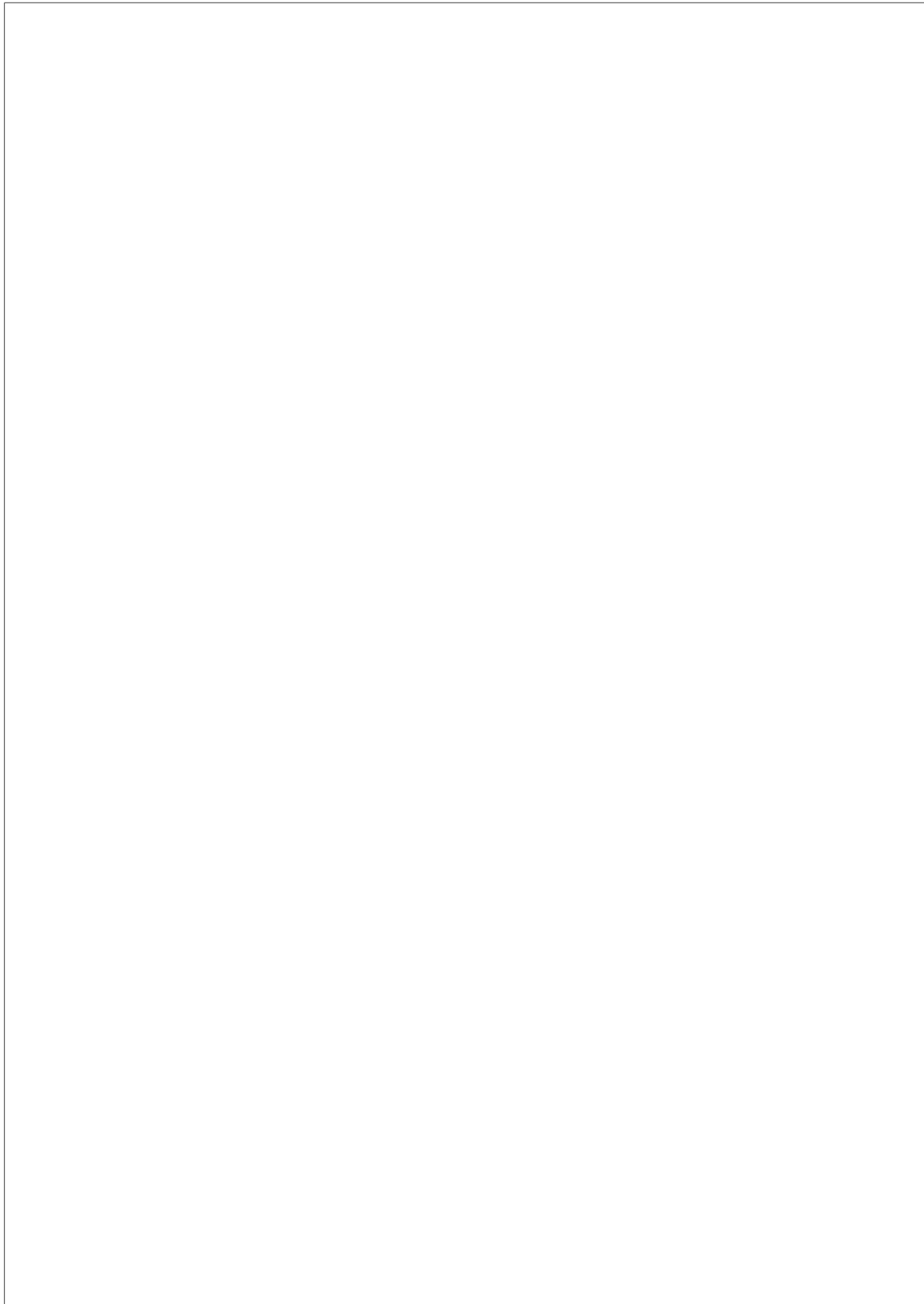
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

7 March 1973



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LATE ITEM

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Fedayeen-Israel: Vehicles containing explosives were found during the night outside three separate buildings housing Israeli businesses in New York City.



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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Sudanese President Numayri is building a case for treating the eight terrorists as separate from the "Arab cause." (Page 1)

More troops have entered the infiltration pipeline in North Vietnam. (Page 2)

Chinese construction crews continue to extend two road spurs in northwest Laos. (Page 3)

In the Philippines, President Marcos has expressed increased alarm over Muslim insurgency in the south and has requested emergency deliveries of US military equipment. (Page 4)

Egypt's President Sadat has imposed stricter censorship and dismissed more writers in a renewal of his campaign against those he believes are out of step with his policies. (Page 5)

Prime Minister Papadopoulos is determined to take strong measures in Greece, including reimposition of martial law, unless order is quickly re-established in the universities. (Page 5)

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SUDAN-FEDAYEEN

In his hard-hitting speech to the National Assembly yesterday, President Numayri not only charged Fatah--the largest and most heavily funded of the fedayeen organizations--with responsibility for the recent assassinations but went on to denounce it for actually working against the Sudanese Government. He said Fatah had contacts with anti-regime forces in and out of the country, that it was trying to embarrass Sudan by staging the Khartoum operation, and that it was attempting to stir up trouble between Sudan and Eritrea. At the same time, he pointed out that Sudan's support for the Palestinian cause is well known.

By connecting the assassinations to more general anti-regime activity, Numayri apparently is building a case for treating the eight terrorists as separate from the "Arab cause." Regarded in this light, Numayri can maintain that they are subject to severe punishment free from outside pressure.

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VIETNAM

More troops have entered the infiltration pipeline in North Vietnam. An intercepted North Vietnamese message disclosed that two infiltration groups totaling more than 1,100 combat troops will move through the Vinh area on 10 and 11 March. Both groups are earmarked for the two northern provinces of South Vietnam, and they should arrive by early April.

[redacted] other groups--
[redacted] may have
moved south toward the same area unde- 25X1
tected. [redacted] North Vietnamese
troops are now estimated to have started
south since [redacted]
[redacted] the cease-fire went into ef- 25X1
fect.

Since early September 1972, approximately 85,000 North Vietnamese troops have started south--about the same number that departed during the 1971-72 dry season. The Communists suffered heavy casualties in South Vietnam last year, and current infiltration is intended to rebuild forces in the northern and southern portions of the country. The flow of fresh troops to the central part of South Vietnam has not been heavy, and it appears that the Communists are not fully replacing losses in this area.

Continued infiltration since the cease-fire indicates Hanoi's intention to maintain a relatively large force in South Vietnam thereby enabling it to retain the option for military or political action.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Chinese crews in northwest Laos have extended a motorable road, begun late last year from Nam Tha near the China border, some 45 miles to the southwest. Aerial photography also shows preliminary clearing extending on toward an existing road leading north from Ban Houei Sai, a government-held town on the Mekong River bordering Thailand.

At their present pace, Chinese crews could easily connect the two roads before the onset of the rainy season in mid-May.

When the Chinese built a road to Pak Beng, some 20 miles north of the Thai border, in mid-1972, Thai leaders expressed considerable concern. If the new construction continues toward Ban Houei Sai, Bangkok's anxiety over Peking's intentions will be further aroused.

Photography [redacted] revealed that the Chinese are still working on a road leading from Muong Sing--also near the China border--toward Burma. Preliminary clearing extends to within 11 miles of the Burma border on the Mekong.

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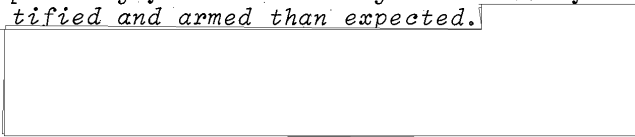
No government units are in this area, and a motorable road could be completed before the rains begin.

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PHILIPPINES

President Marcos on Monday requested emergency deliveries of US military equipment--particularly helicopters--to overcome what he calls a deteriorating military situation in the south. Marcos claims that Muslim actions are "taking on the nature of a definite secessionist movement," and he raised the specter of another Bangladesh.

A government military campaign recently launched against Muslim strongholds apparently found the insurgents better fortified and armed than expected.



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Government spokesmen are publicly blaming "foreign interests" for contributing to rebel strength. Within diplomatic channels, Marcos is being more explicit, charging Malaysia with providing arms and training.

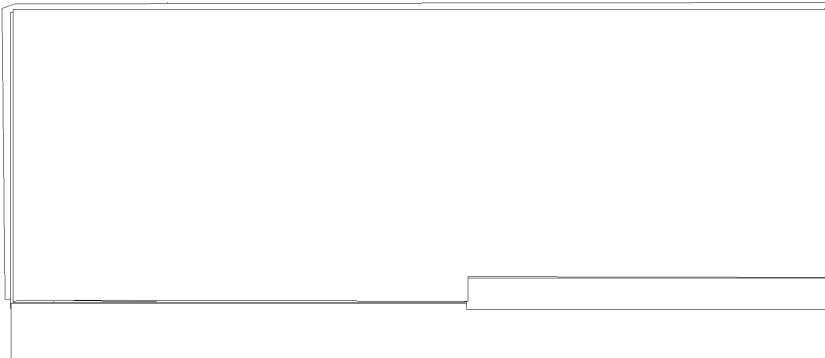
Public charges of foreign involvement may be intended to rally popular nationalist sentiment and boost support for Marcos' regime. These charges, on the other hand, could have serious consequences for the continued development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and for regional unity in general.

By expressing greater alarm about the long-standing Muslim problem, Marcos apparently believes he improves his chances of persuading the US to increase its military aid program. Marcos' request for US military aid may also be designed to obtain tangible evidence of Washington's support for his administration.

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NOTES



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Egypt: President Sadat has imposed stricter censorship and dismissed 65 more writers in a renewal of his campaign against those he believes are out of step with his policies. Journalists and editors are particularly suspect to Sadat because many are leftist-oriented. In addition to internal effects, Sadat believes that domestic criticism and the appearance of disunity hamper his diplomatic efforts to deal with the Israeli dispute.

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Greece: Prime Minister Papadopoulos is furious over the continuing student unrest. He is determined to take strong measures, including reimposing martial law, unless order is quickly re-established in the universities. Papadopoulos and other Greek leaders are worried that the dissidence will spill over into other segments of society. Some students have returned to classes, but a vocal minority in Athens University continues to protest.

South Vietnam: Activity among potential "third-force" aspirants is picking up. Big Minh, one of the more prominent such figures, has publicly signaled his availability, although in private he indicated he was more interested in a government position than a role in the National Council of Reconciliation and Concord. Some An Quang Buddhists and South Vietnamese exiles are interested in serving on the NCNRC, however. Both the Communists and the Thieu government are continuing their attempts to influence potential "neutralists." The Viet Cong, for instance, are urging their exile contacts in Paris to return to South Vietnam so as not to be overshadowed by third-force elements they do not control, such as Minh and former emperor Bao Dai.

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