



*The President's Daily Brief*

*7 April 1973*

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~~*Top Secret*~~  
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

France has provided Libya with air-to-air missiles.  
(Page 1)

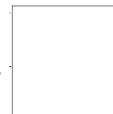
Cambodian forces have made limited progress in clearing Route 1 above Neak Luong, and additional troops have been sent to help clear the Mekong supply route. (Page 2)

The Laotian Government has provided the detailed Communist proposals on the military aspects of the Lao peace agreement. (Page 3)

South Vietnam's regional military commander is still pressing for approval of an operation to break the siege of Tonle Cham. (Page 4)

In Australia, the election of a leftist senator as chairman of a key parliamentary committee will complicate Canberra's relations with the US. (Page 5)

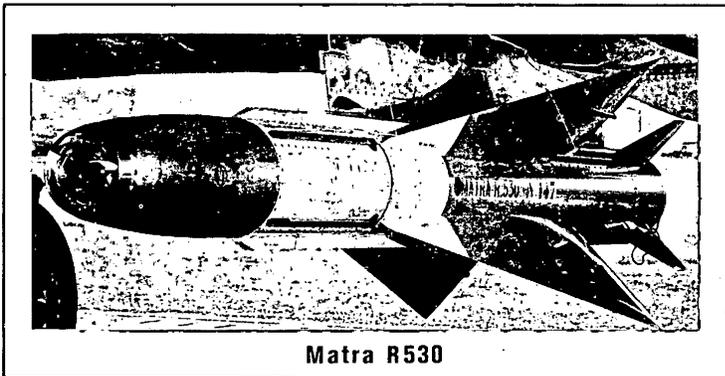
The Turkish parliament finally succeeded in electing a new president, retired admiral Fahri Koruturk. (Page 6)



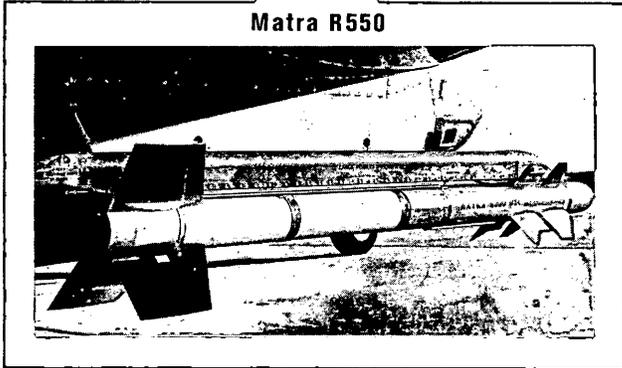
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### Matra Air-to-Air Missiles



Length	10.8 ft	about 8 ft
Weight	430 lbs	175 lbs
Maximum speed	Mach 3.0	unknown
Range	about 10 nm	6.5 nm
Guidance	infrared and semiactive radar homing	infrared



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LIBYA

According to the French military counselor in Tripoli, France has provided Libya with Matra R530 air-to-air missiles. The counselor added that Libya probably would receive the more advanced Matra R550 missile soon.

On April 3, a trained aviation official observed that two Mirages on alert at Uqba bin Nafi Airbase near Tripoli were armed with Matra R530s. According to the source, Libyan ground crews are being trained to handle the Matra R530.

*Until now, Libyan Mirages were believed to have been armed only with 30-mm. cannons. The Mach-3 Matra R530, which has a range of about 10 nm, will significantly improve the capabilities of the Libyan Air Force and acquisition of the Matra R550, France's newest air-to-air missile, will improve them more. The R550 is scheduled to replace the US-built Sidewinder on French interceptors during 1973.*

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## CAMBODIA

Government forces have made limited progress in clearing Route 1 between Phnom Penh and Neak Luong, regaining control over a three-mile section of the highway just west of that town. Three more government battalions have been added to the effort to regain control of the east bank of the Mekong River above Neak Luong.

An 18-vessel convoy is scheduled to move up the river from South Vietnam today. If it does not meet heavy resistance, it should arrive in Phnom Penh Sunday. Eight of the vessels are carrying petroleum supplies.

There are now indications that the Communists may be preparing for some dramatic actions in or near Phnom Penh. Intercepts show that reconnaissance elements of the North Vietnamese 367th Sapper Group are now located about ten miles east of the capital.

*The 367th has been involved in major sapper attacks in the Phnom Penh area in the past, most recently on October 7, 1972.*

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LAOS

The Laotian Government has given the US Embassy the detailed Communist proposals on the military aspects of the Lao peace agreement. The Communists demand that formation of a new government be held in abeyance until agreement is reached on the military questions. The proposals call for:

--a formal demarcation line that would give the Communists control of some areas presently occupied by the government.

--a prohibition on the integration of irregular forces into the Lao Army and the dismantling of all irregular bases, including enclaves such as Bouam Long.

--the closure of refugee settlements and the return of the refugees within 30 days to their places of origin.

--the establishment of only six permanent locations for teams of the Joint Military Commission, none of which is near either the infiltration corridor to South Vietnam or the North Vietnamese border.

--no expanded role for the International Control Commission.

--the withdrawal of all "foreign" troops in three phases to be completed within 60 days of the formation of a new government.

*These are clearly maximum positions. Despite the many details covered, the proposals fail to address several contentious points. They contain no procedures, for example, for the accounting of US personnel missing in Laos or for the replacement of war materiel.*

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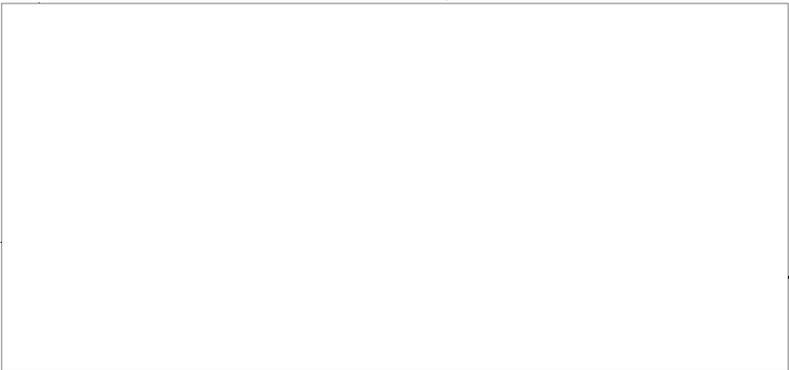
SOUTH VIETNAM

South Vietnam's commander for the region around Saigon, General Minh, is still pressing for approval of an extensive military operation to break the Communist siege of Tonle Cham. This calls for extensive air strikes and an assault by an artillery-supported infantry division.

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AUSTRALIA

*The election of a leftist Labor senator, John Wheeldon, as chairman of the parliamentary committee on foreign affairs and defense will complicate US-Australian relations. Wheeldon is a sharp critic of US Indochina policy and US installations in Australia. His committee can be expected to become a focus of opposition to the construction of a US-sponsored OMEGA navigational aid station in Australia. Prime Minister Whitlam and Defense Minister Barnard both favor the project, but they may now have trouble getting it past Wheeldon's committee and other left-wing roadblocks in parliament.*

*Although the Prime Minister can still count on the support of a majority of Labor parliamentarians on most important questions, Wheeldon's victory points up the difficulties Whitlam has in enforcing discipline on the party's left wing.*

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NOTES

Turkey: Fahri Koruturk was elected president yesterday, ending a 25-day deadlock. The 70-year-old senator and retired admiral was elected as a compromise candidate on the 15th ballot. Koruturk was commander of the navy when the military took power in May 1960, although he was not a member of the coup group. Koruturk retired from the navy shortly after the coup, served for four years as Turkey's ambassador in Moscow, and was appointed to the Senate by former president Sunay in 1968.

India-Bangladesh-Pakistan: P. N. Haksar, Prime Minister Gandhi's special envoy to Bangladesh, apparently failed to persuade Dacca to drop its demand that Pakistan recognize Bangladesh before the release of any of the 90,000 Pakistani POWs held in India. Following talks with Haksar, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Hossain said yesterday that Dacca still plans to bring some of the prisoners to trial for war crimes.

Terrorism: The North Atlantic Council meeting this week confirmed that while member states think measures should be taken against terrorism, they are unwilling to do anything collectively. The foreign ministers of the European Community, who talked about terrorism last month, were similarly leery of taking meaningful collective action lest they anger the Arab states and draw the fire of the fedayeen.

EC-USSR: The EC Commission has approved the sale to the Soviet Union of 200,000 metric tons of butter from community stockpiles. The community paid \$2,244 per ton for the butter and the sale price of \$400 per ton represents a loss of nearly \$370 million. The EC's growing butter stocks, now over 400,000 tons, seemed likely to exceed storage capacity by the end of the year, and the Commission argued that it was cheaper to sell butter at giveaway prices than to stockpile it. This will further arouse the critics of the common agricultural policy but may help the Commission reduce the butter-support level in the coming year.

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