



The President's Daily Brief

10 April 1973

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

10 April 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Communists are using Sihanouk's alleged trip to the "liberated zone" in Cambodia to reinforce his claim to be Cambodia's "legitimate" chief of state. (Page 1)

Israeli forces attacked six guerrilla sites in Lebanon last night, apparently killing three fedayeen leaders. The raids followed swiftly Arab terrorist actions in Cyprus earlier yesterday. (Page 2)

[Redacted] Somalia [Redacted] (Page 3) 25X1

Pakistan and Algeria [Redacted] (Page 4) 25X1

[Redacted] Libya [Redacted] (Page 5) 25X1

There are indications that the long deadlock in Czechoslovak - West German negotiations on establishing diplomatic relations may soon be broken. (Page 6)

[Redacted] 25X1

In Argentina, the Peronists are still trying to halt the terrorism that is threatening to obstruct the peaceful transfer of power. (Page 8)

North Vietnamese troops in Laos have driven government defenders from three positions southeast of the Plaine des Jarres. (Page 9)

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CAMBODIA

The Communists are using Sihanouk's alleged trip to the "liberated zone" in Cambodia to reinforce his claim to be Cambodia's "legitimate" chief of state. There is also evidence that Hanoi is seeking to convince anti-Sihanouk elements among the Khmer Communists to take a more tolerant attitude toward their "commander in chief." The North Vietnamese-controlled radio of the "National United Front of Cambodia," for example, reported that the three ostensible leaders of the insurgency all paid their respects to Sihanouk on his arrival and escorted him on his travels.

This is the clearest indication thus far that the North Vietnamese are willing to support Sihanouk's restoration to a position of power in Cambodia.

Sihanouk, talking with a French journalist in Hanoi, quoted Chinese Premier Chou En-lai as having said no new military equipment would be turned over to the Khmer Communists because the Paris Agreement bans such deliveries. According to Sihanouk, Chou said that it would be up to the insurgents to "multiply" the military "capital" already received from China.

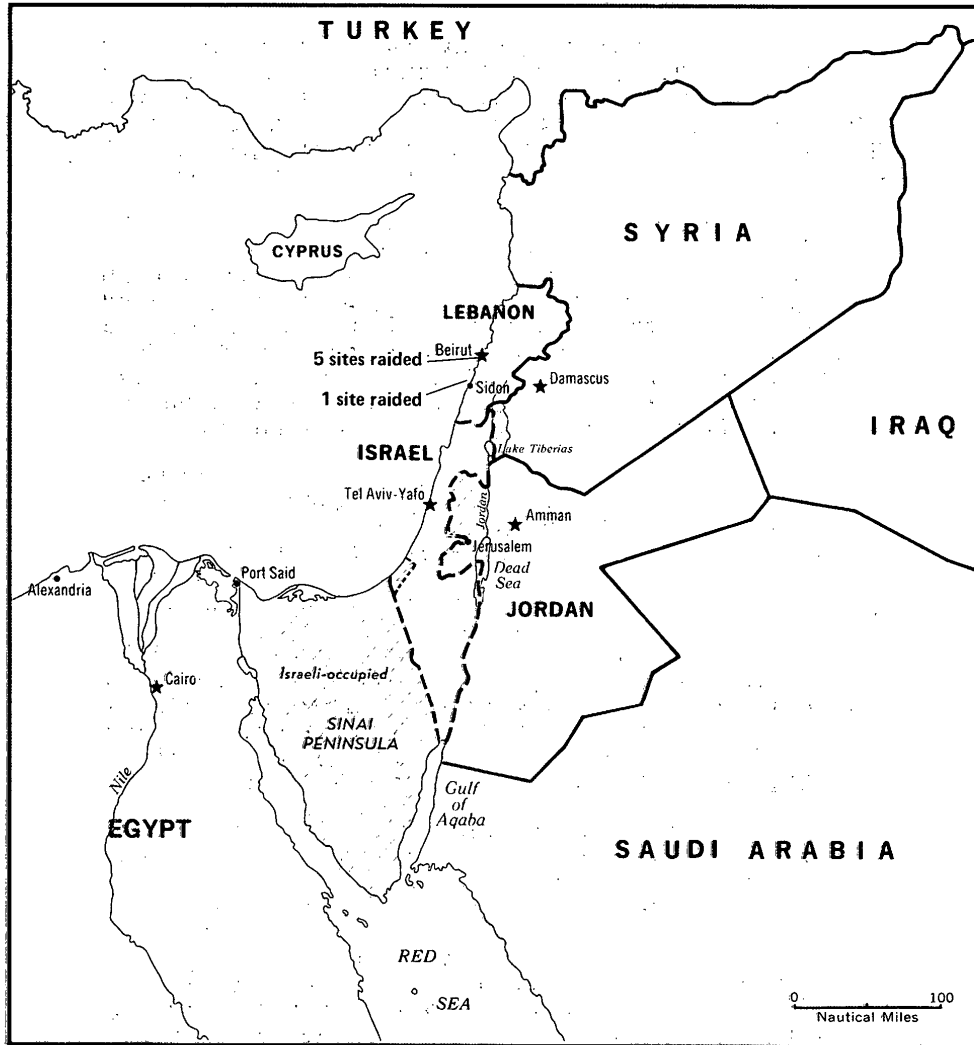
The Communists can sustain the fighting without additional aid from Peking--provided Hanoi continues its logistical support.

The ebullient prince repeated his opposition to negotiations or compromise with the Lon Nol government, but played down the possibility of a direct Communist assault on Phnom Penh. Sihanouk claimed flamboyantly that, in view of US air support, it would be better to wait and let the "gangrene" within the capital run its course.

* * *

According to the US Defense Attaché, the Mekong is now sufficiently under control between Phnom Penh and the South Vietnamese border to enable the safe passage of the remainder of the river convoy. The remaining eight vessels, still in South Vietnam, will depart for Phnom Penh later today.

Israelis Raid Guerrilla Sites in Lebanon



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ISRAEL-FEDAYEEN

Israeli forces attacked six guerrilla sites in Lebanon last night, apparently killing three fedayeen leaders. The raids followed swiftly Arab terrorist actions in Nicosia earlier yesterday.

An Israeli military intelligence spokesman said that about a company of paratroops were transported by sea to five locations near Beirut and one near Sidon in southern Lebanon. The Beirut targets included the residences of leading Fatah figures; press sources [redacted] indicate that Black September Organization leader Muhammad Yusuf Najjar, Fatah General Command member Kamal Adwan, and Palestine Liberation Organization spokesman Kamal Nasir were killed. Other Beirut sites attacked included two Fatah weapons manufacturing facilities, Fatah's headquarters for its Gaza Strip operations, and the headquarters of Nayif Hawatmah's Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The target near Sidon was a vacant Fatah vehicle repair facility.

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The Israeli spokesman claimed that some resistance was encountered, despite the surprise. Four Israelis were wounded, but all forces were returned by sea to Israel. The spokesman emphasized the attacks were part of Israel's policy of hitting those responsible for international terrorism.

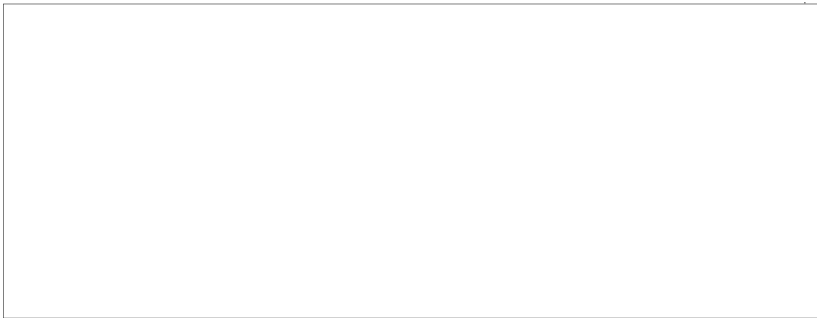
The Arab terrorist actions in Nicosia apparently were the work of the Black September Organization. Fedayeen terrorists had generally refrained from direct action in Cyprus to avoid the risk of having the island denied to them as a transit stop and contact point for operations elsewhere. [redacted]

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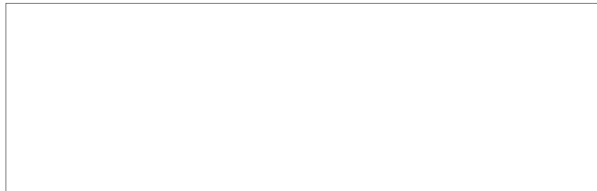
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SOMALIA



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LIBYA-PAKISTAN-ALGERIA

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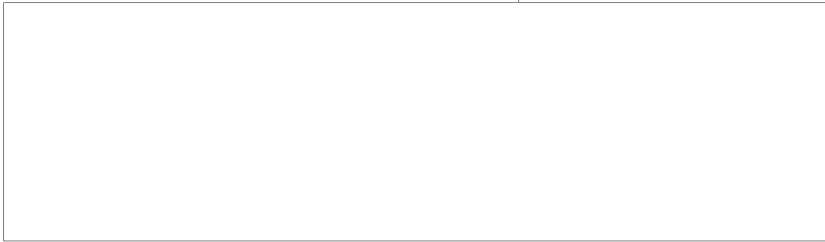
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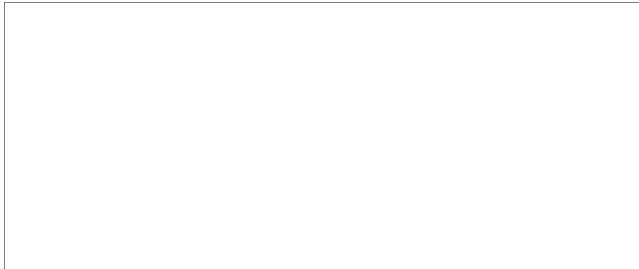
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ALGERIA-LIBYA



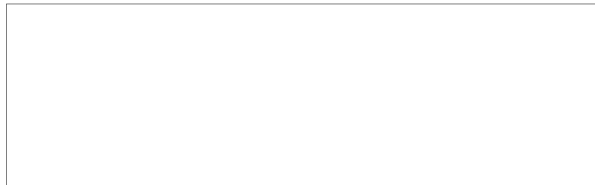
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CZECHOSLOVAKIA - WEST GERMANY

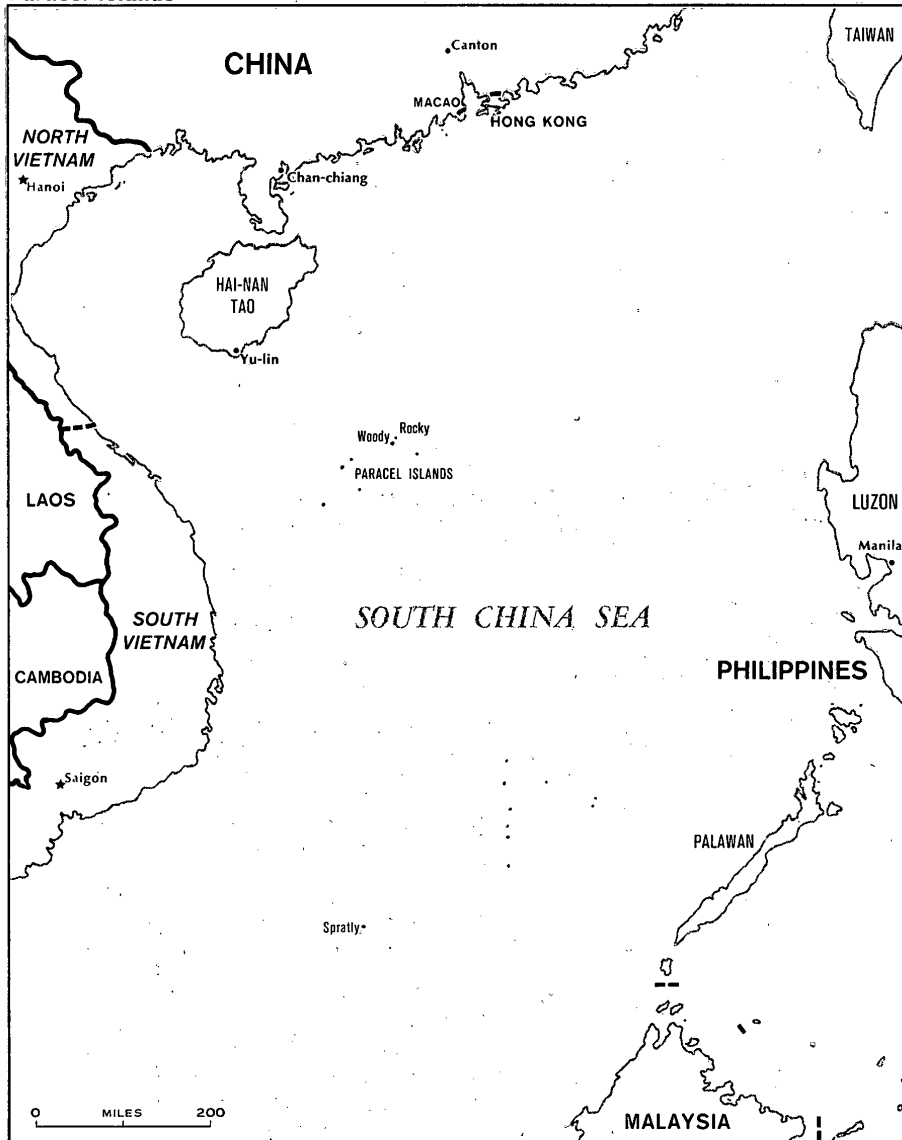
Talks on establishing diplomatic relations between Czechoslovakia and West Germany resume in Bonn on Thursday. [redacted]

[redacted] Prague is willing to drop its demand that West Germany recognize the invalidity of the 1938 Munich Agreement ab initio--the issue that has deadlocked the negotiations for almost a year.

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Prague's intransigence was out of step with the USSR's pursuit of detente, and the Czechs apparently are responding to Soviet pressure to work out a compromise. Since late last year, support for ab initio has been largely missing from Soviet and East European statements. Success in the talks would also open the way for Bulgaria and Hungary to establish relations with West Germany.

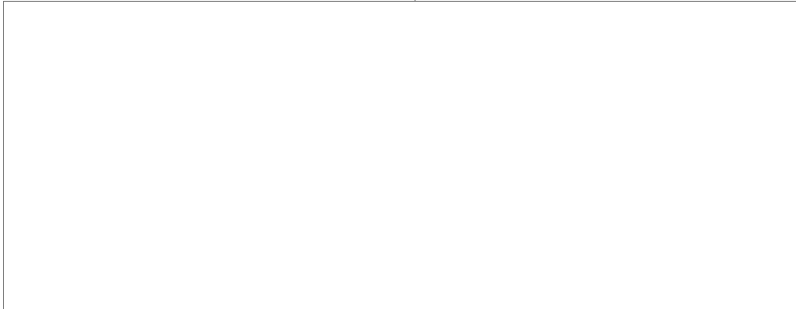
Parcel Islands



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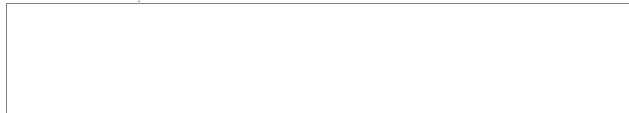
CHINA



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The Chinese have been expanding their facilities on Woody and nearby Rocky Islands during the past two years. [redacted] a long quay at Woody and storage facilities on both islands apparently large enough to hold some three million gallons of petroleum. Military forces and AAA have also been identified.

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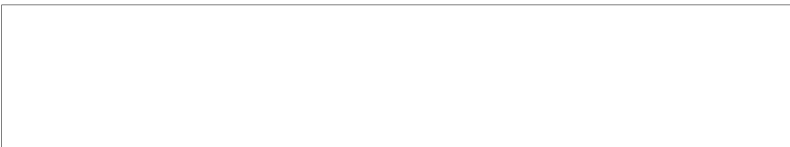
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The Chinese Communists have occupied the islands since the mid-1950s, but South Vietnam, as well as Taiwan, also claims them.

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ARGENTINA

The Peronists are still trying to halt the terrorism that is threatening to obstruct the peaceful transfer of power. President-elect Campora has called on terrorists to observe a truce that will give him a chance to prove he is "on the right path." He also speaks of amnesty for political prisoners, apparently in hope of attracting the support of radical leftist youth.



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While Campora was asking for support over nationwide radio, another foreign businessman was kidnaped. There is still no ransom demand for the retired Argentine admiral who was kidnaped last week.

Having argued that terrorism would subside if they won the election, the Peronists now find themselves in a difficult position. Although military leaders still pledge to turn over power to Campora on May 25, they are likely to seize on the new violence to press for a continued major role in maintaining domestic order.

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NOTES

Laos: North Vietnamese troops have driven government defenders from three positions near Tha Viang southeast of the Plaine des Jarres. Three other positions nearby held despite receiving heavy fire. The North Vietnamese have elements of two infantry regiments in the area and, according to intercepts, are preparing to use artillery in additional attacks.

Portuguese Guinea: Evidence is mounting that the insurgents are now using surface-to-air missiles. Since March 28, the Portuguese have announced that at least two of their military aircraft have been downed by rocket fire. If true, the most likely weapon is the Soviet SA-7, a hand-carried missile that is effective against the type of aircraft the Portuguese use against the rebels. The inability of the rebels to counter Portuguese airpower has been an important factor in the stagnation of the insurgency since late 1968.

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