



The President's Daily Brief

14 April 1973



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

14 April 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Rumblings within the Libyan Revolutionary Command Council and the military may be causing President Qadhafi serious difficulties. (Page 1)

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[Redacted] (Page 2)

Arabstates are continuing to press for Security Council condemnation of Israel's attack on the fedayeen in Lebanon and may seek Israel's expulsion from the UN. (Page 3)

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[Redacted]

[Redacted] India (Page 5)

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In Chile, leftist militants continue to create disturbances in Santiago and outlying areas, but President Allende's efforts to discredit them are influencing some of their allies to shift ground. (Page 6)

Arab terrorists have attacked an American-owned oil refinery in Lebanon. (Page 7)

Laotian Government troops are reported to have abandoned all positions near Tha Viang. (Page 7)

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LIBYA

[redacted] President Qadhafi is again trying to force some Revolutionary Command Council members to surrender their military commissions. The Libyan media reportedly received instructions early this month to avoid any references to the rank of five RCC members, including Prime Minister Jallud. Over the last several days, only Qadhafi, Chief of Staff Major Yunis, and Commander of the Popular Militia Major Humaydi have been accorded their military rank, while all other council members have been referred to simply as "Brother" or "RCC member."

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Qadhafi has long hoped to phase out the RCC and replace it with a civilian governmental structure more like Egypt's, but his colleagues have adamantly resisted any changes that would separate them from their power base in the army. Qadhafi's efforts to force some council members to assume civilian status last July set off serious infighting, and Qadhafi was forced to back down.

This time, however, [redacted] the collegium will be dissolved on September 1, when the formal union between Egypt and Libya is to be announced, and that RCC members will then be given the choice of either returning to the army or becoming civilians.

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Although we have no firm evidence that Qadhafi is losing his grip on the reins of power, his leadership appears to be facing a critical test. Qadhafi's colleagues have reservations over the merger with Egypt, and may force a showdown with Qadhafi

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LIBYA

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UN

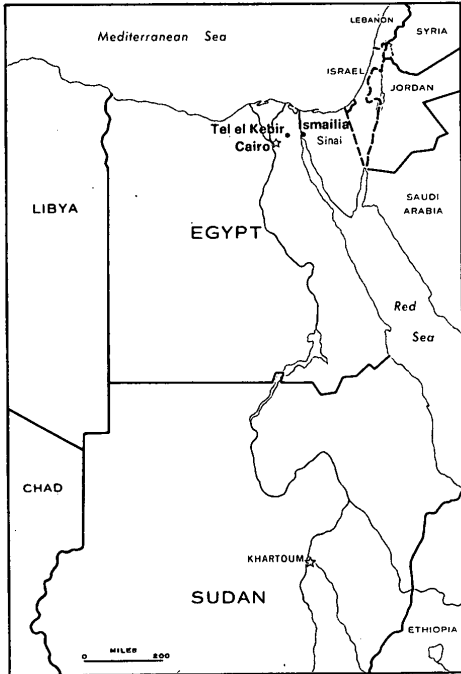
Arab states are continuing to press for Security Council condemnation of Israel's attack on the fedayeen in Lebanon. Despite Lebanese assurances that it will support a balanced resolution condemning all forms of violence, Beirut appears to be bowing to pressures for censure of the Israeli raids alone.

In view of the current composition of the Council, the Arabs probably can command the nine votes needed to pass such a resolution unless a major power exercises its veto. They most likely will exploit this situation to embarrass the US. That apparently is Israel's conclusion, and the Israeli representative has confided that he is relying on a US veto.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Zayyat's arrival in New York yesterday indicates Cairo's interest in exploiting the Lebanese situation for its own purposes. Zayyat probably will attempt to broaden the agenda to include a general examination of the Arab-Israeli standoff in hopes of generating pressure on Israel to offer more acceptable terms for a settlement. In support of this effort, Cairo may try to press for a strong anti-Israeli resolution with broad international support in order to isolate the US.

Before leaving Egypt, Zayyat also hinted that he would seek Israel's expulsion from the UN because of its so-called "crimes." The USSR's endorsement yesterday of Israeli expulsion may well prompt Zayyat to pursue that line when he addresses the Council on Monday. US officials know of no actual resolutions prepared for Monday's session, however, and a formal proposal for expulsion would have little chance of success.

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EGYPT

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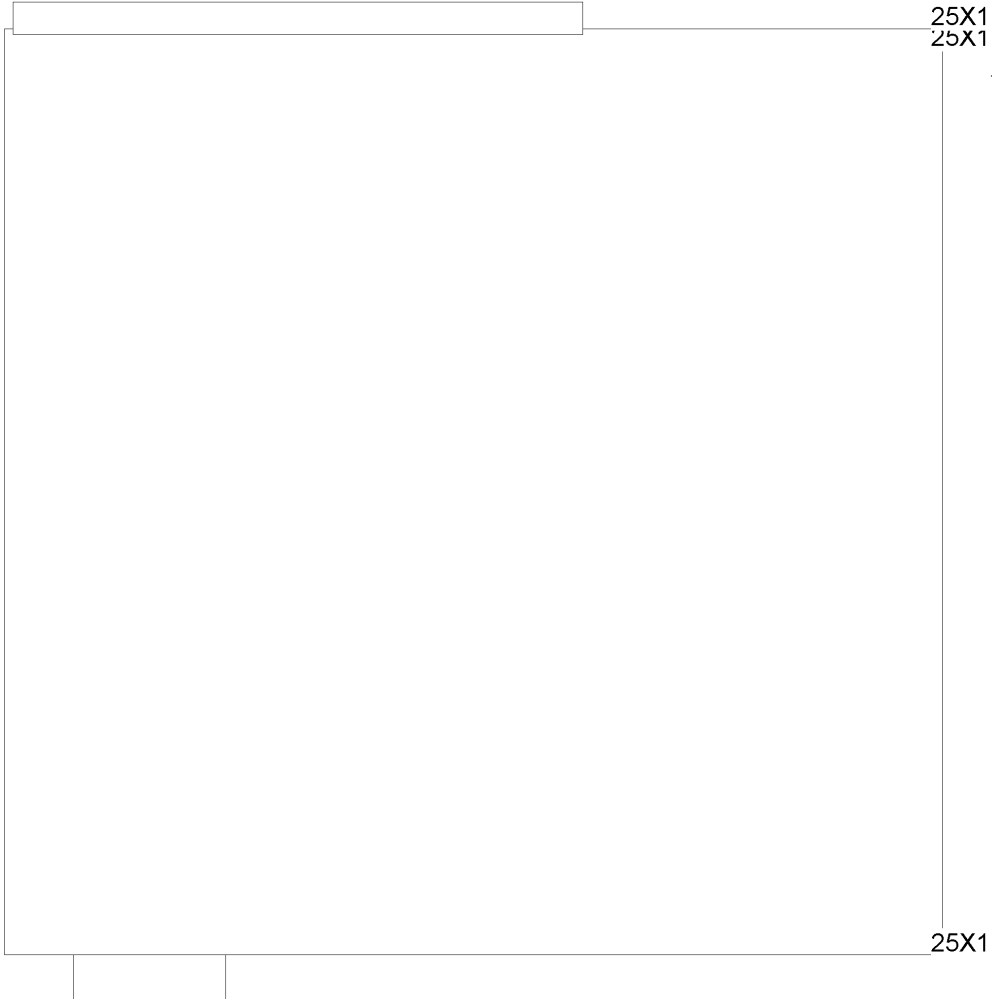
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INDIA

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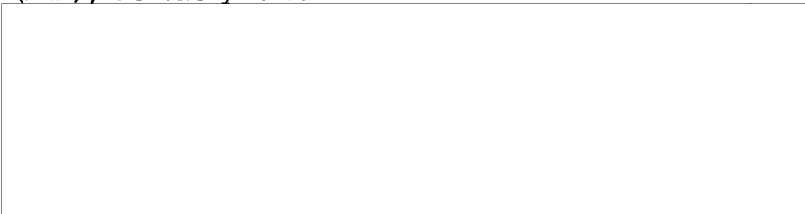
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CHILE

Leftist militants continue to create disturbances in Santiago and outlying areas, but President Allende's efforts to discredit them are influencing some of their allies to shift ground.

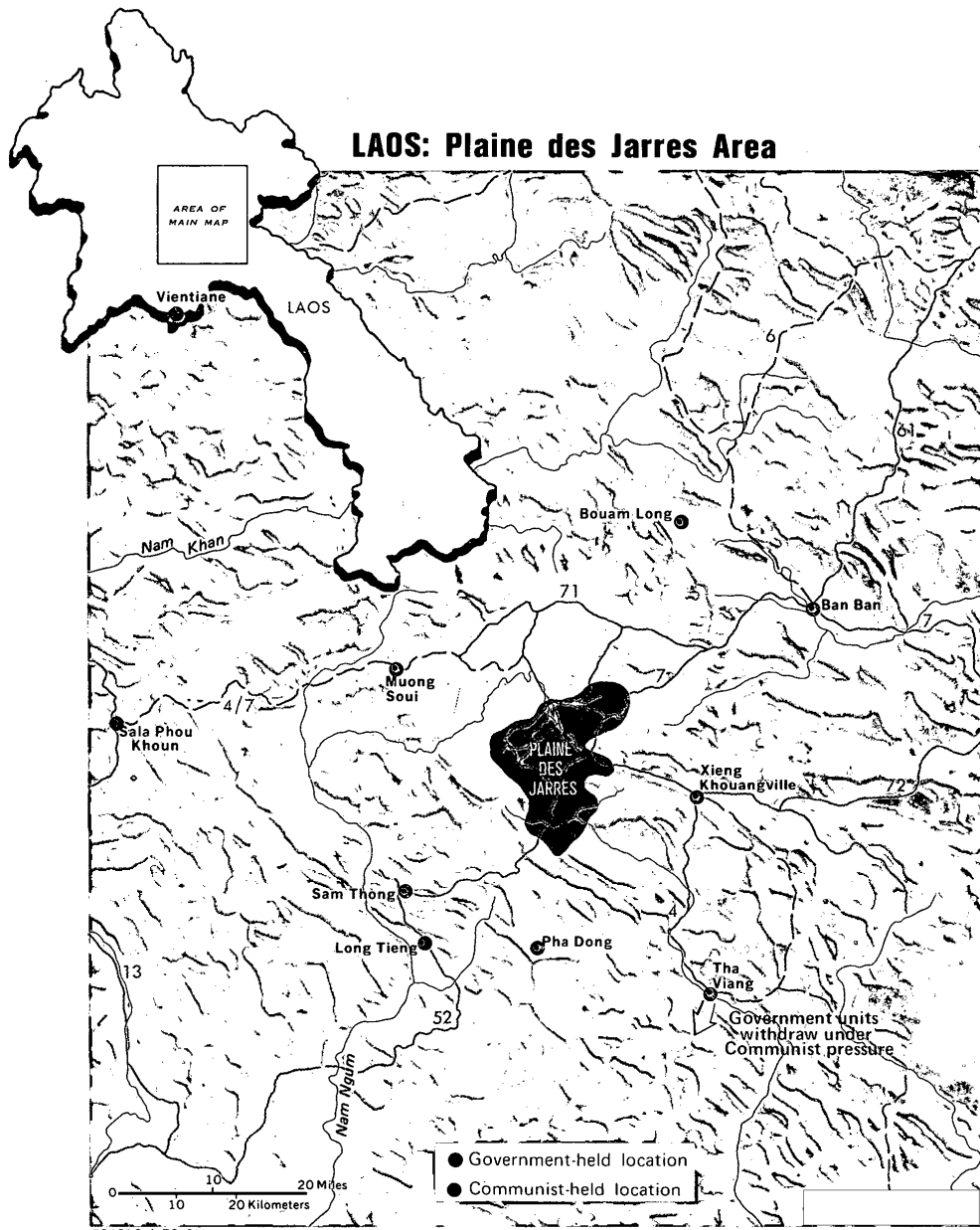
In the government coalition, several former supporters of Chile's most extreme leftist organization, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), recently have criticized the disturbances.



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A spokesman for Allende charged on April 10 that the MIR is involved in a plot by the extreme right-wing Fatherland and Freedom to lure workers into uprisings.

Extremists of both left and right clearly are trying to promote civil disorder. Whether they are indeed in collusion is less certain, but Allende's charge that they are may be intended as a warning to the MIR and its allies that the President is ready at last to crack down on their efforts to create violence.



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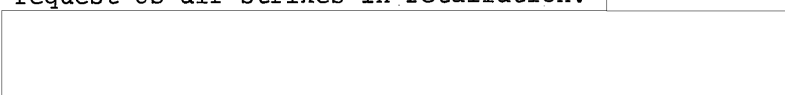
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NOTES

Lebanon-Terrorists: Arab terrorists struck early this morning at an American-owned oil refinery near the coastal city of Sidon. According to press reports, they succeeded in damaging oil storage facilities in what was an apparently skillfully executed operation. The terrorists had made repeated threats of action against US interests since the Israeli raid Tuesday into Lebanon. They may have viewed Sidon as a particularly appropriate site for their action because a guerrilla base there was one of the targets hit by the Israelis.

Laos: Government troops--half of whom are Thai volunteers--abandoned all positions near Tha Viang late on April 12, according to a preliminary report. Heavy North Vietnamese artillery and ground attacks are reported to have caused heavy casualties. Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma may request US air strikes in retaliation.

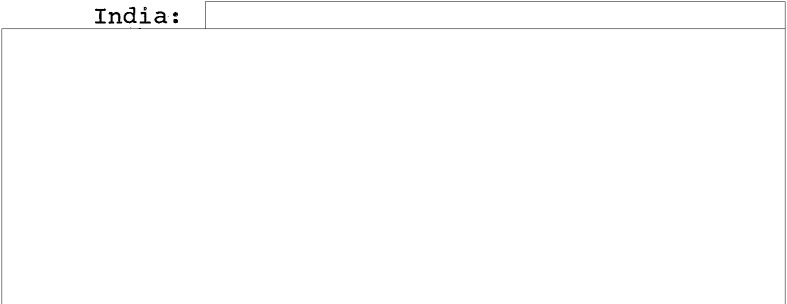
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European Communities: France this week again sought to include soybeans--a major US agricultural export to the community--in the EC's protectionist farm support system. Most EC members, however, are reluctant to introduce another contentious issue into US-EC relations. Although the Commission rebuffed the French proposal, Paris could still press for inclusion of soybeans as part of a package deal on farm support prices.

India:



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Czechoslovakia - West Germany: Czechoslovak and West German negotiators yesterday agreed to a compromise formula on the Munich Agreement of 1938. "Compromise" is probably diplomatic language intended to disguise the fact that Prague has abandoned its long-standing demand that Bonn recognize the invalidity of the agreement ab initio. The negotiators also announced that formal talks on a non-aggression treaty and related matters will begin in early May.

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