



The President's Daily Brief

30 April 1973

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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April 30, 1973

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Chancellor Brandt's primary goal during his visit to Washington is to reaffirm Bonn's commitment to close ties to the US and to NATO. (Page 1)

Cambodian President Lon Nol has bowed to demands that all important executive decisions by the new high political council be taken by majority vote. (Page 2)

The North Atlantic Council has decided to accept a compromise that will give Hungary less than full status at the MBFR preparatory talks. (Page 3)



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WEST GERMANY

Chancellor Brandt's primary goal during his visit to Washington is to reaffirm Bonn's commitment to close ties to the US and to NATO. Brandt has been concerned by charges that he has allowed Bonn's relations with the US to deteriorate. He has strongly rebutted this and sees his trip as a demonstration of continuing harmony with Washington.

Brandt intends to probe for details of the new Atlantic cooperation concept unveiled in Dr. Kissinger's speech. He told Ambassador Hillenbrand on April 26 that he was generally impressed by the speech, but intends to seek clarification of certain problem areas. He questions, for example, whether it is possible to deal with major political, economic, and military problems as a whole, and he is uncertain how Japan can be associated with the Atlantic Alliance.

Other matters of particular interest to Brandt are the Middle East situation and Brezhnev's trip to Bonn next month. Brandt's recent talks with Tito have convinced the German leader that Sadat's precarious position urgently requires progress toward a solution.

Bonn is dissatisfied with Soviet interpretations of the Four-Power Berlin Agreement. Brandt notes that despite an exchange of personal letters with Brezhnev, there has been no satisfactory progress with Moscow regarding West German representation of West Berlin's interests.

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CAMBODIA

President Lon Nol met with the three other members of the new high political council on Saturday and bowed to their insistence that all important executive decisions be taken by majority vote. Later the same day, Lon Nol promulgated the decree officially establishing the council and naming him its president and Cheng Heng its vice-president.

Sirik Matak

[redacted] has been greatly encouraged by the relative speed and ease with which the council was formed and its powers defined. Matak said that he had hoped to be the vice-president, but that he deferred to Cheng Heng in the interest of unity when it became clear that Cheng Heng attached considerable importance to the position. The other council member, In Tam, has told US Embassy officers that he, too, is satisfied with the trend of events thus far.

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The council will hold its first meeting today to discuss the selection of a new cabinet. The three major political parties reportedly will be asked to submit recommendations on ministerial appointments and on policy matters.

Although Lon Nol seems sincere in his interest in getting the council under way, he evidently has some reservations about its effectiveness.

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NOTES

MBFR: The North Atlantic Council has decided to accept a compromise that will give Hungary less than full status at the MBFR preparatory talks. The Council also instructed the Allied delegations in Vienna to leave the matter of an agenda to the later negotiations unless an agreement could be reached quickly.

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