



The President's Daily Brief

19 May 1973

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~~*Top Secret*~~ ^{25X1}

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Archives

TOP SECRET

May 19, 1973

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

19 May 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The recent flurry of Arab military activity has slowed, casting doubt [redacted] that Egypt may undertake operations against Israel in June. (Page 1) 25X1

[redacted] agreement between Lebanon and the fedayeen meets the government's major objectives, but the willingness of the guerrillas to abide by the new restrictions remains in doubt. (Page 2) 25X1

The Pakistanis are increasingly frustrated over their inability to get talks going with the Bengalis, who still seem basically uninterested in compromising on their preconditions for talks. (Page 3)

[redacted] Greek [redacted] (Page 4) 25X1 225X1 25X1

[redacted] the EC [redacted] (Page 5) 25X1 25X1 25X1

Communist military action in South Vietnam during the first half of May was somewhat below the post - cease-fire average. (Page 6)

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ARAB STATES - ISRAEL

The recent flurry of Arab military activity has slowed. Although Arab military readiness has increased as a result of the earlier activity, there is no evidence that the Arabs are preparing for a major attack against Israel.

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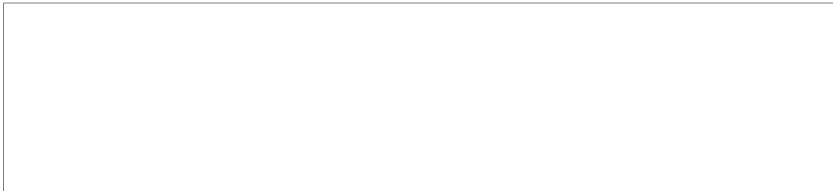
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This information casts doubt on continuing reports that Egypt may undertake operations against Israel in June. Previous activity seems to have been intended as a means of pressuring the international community--

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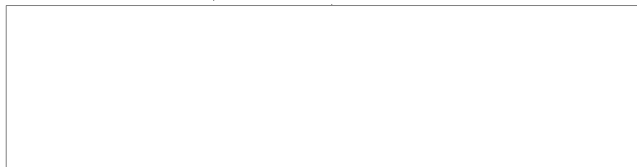
LEBANON-FEDAYEEN

[redacted] protocol signed [redacted] May [redacted] by the government and the fedayeen [redacted] meets the government's major objectives. It provides for the removal of crew-served weapons from refugee camps to depots in southeastern Lebanon under joint army-fedayeen control. The guerrillas will continue to be denied entry to the area near the Israeli border, and armed fedayeen are banned from Lebanese towns and villages.

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[redacted] also provides for Lebanese police posts outside refugee camps, although authority over the camps will remain in fedayeen hands. The enforcement of Lebanese law in the enclaves is to be the responsibility of both sides. A joint committee will implement the agreement.

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The willingness of the guerrillas to abide by the restrictions remains in doubt, however. Not all the fedayeen organizations took part in the negotiations, and extremist fringe groups may not feel bound by the accord. Even those who signed may view the agreement as a mere expedient to prevent another army assault.



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PAKISTAN-BANGLADESH-INDIA

The Pakistanis are increasingly frustrated over what they see as Indian and Bengali misinterpretation of their "conciliatory" response to the joint India-Bangladesh proposal of mid-April. They say they are willing to begin talks immediately on all issues in dispute and are preparing a note that will clarify this for Dacca and New Delhi.

Islamabad remains opposed to war crimes trials in Dacca that would appear to convict Pakistan of genocide. Pakistani officials, however, have told the US privately that they might accept trials of individual Pakistani soldiers for specific criminal acts. They also seem willing to accept some Bihari refugees on humanitarian grounds, but not all 250,000 of them.

The Bengalis still seem uninterested in compromise and are determined to hold the trials in such a way as to make a settlement more difficult. They are also adamant that Pakistan recognize Bangladesh before talks begin.

The Indians see themselves increasingly in the middle, claiming not to know what the Pakistanis really want, and unable to shake the Bengalis' determination to hold the trials. They insist they will accept anything that Dacca and Islamabad agree to.

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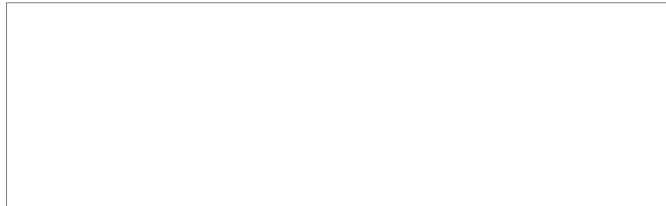
GREECE



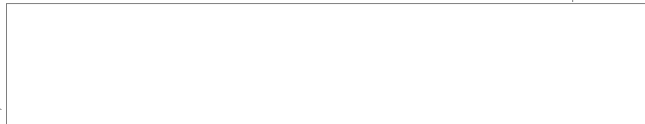
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SOUTH VIETNAM

Over-all Communist military action during the first half of May was somewhat below the post - cease-fire average. Only in several delta provinces have the Communists been openly aggressive. The bulk of the attacks, concentrated in Chuong Thien and Dinh Tuong provinces, have consisted almost exclusively of shellings of government outposts and other fixed positions.

Elsewhere, Communist shellings against the outer defense line west of Hue have increased, and the Communists incurred heavy losses in one sharp engagement in northern Binh Dinh Province in mid-week.

The Communists' actions in the delta seem aimed at protecting vital infiltration routes. Their other activity appears intended to counter government forces trying to expand the area of their control.

Earlier this month, [] Communist [] claimed they would increase small-scale attacks. The Communists are capable of stepping up the tempo of such activity and could do so with little prior warning.

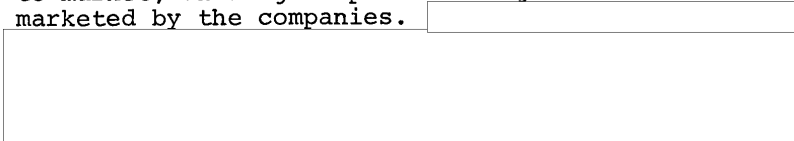
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NOTES

Nigeria: Lagos is ready to sign a participation agreement with the major foreign oil companies operating in Nigeria, ignoring a plea from Libya to stall for better terms. The agreement allows 30-35 percent government ownership, more oil for Nigeria to market, and higher prices for government oil marketed by the companies.

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Italy: Giulio Andreotti's fragile centrist coalition is threatened with the loss of Republican support, without which it could not survive another vote of confidence. The Republicans are demanding the ouster of Andreotti's minister of posts and communications, and threaten to withdraw support of the coalition if he is retained. Andreotti--who has not dismissed the minister--is trying to head off parliamentary discussion of the issue, at least until the Christian Democratic Party Congress in early June. He is trying to avoid any further erosion of his position before the Congress, which will debate the question of a new center-left coalition.

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