



The President's Daily Brief

25 June 1973

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Pyongyang's sharp reaction to Seoul's announcement of a new flexible foreign policy makes it clear that the North remains reluctant to give up entirely any prospect of reunification of Korea on Communist terms. (Page 1)

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Bolivian President Banzer is

scheduling national elections and a return to constitutional rule. (Page 2)

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KOREA

Pyongyang has once again made it clear that it opposes any moves toward a "two-Koreas" settlement. Reacting sharply to Seoul's announcement of a new and more flexible foreign policy, Premier Kim Il-sung on Saturday flatly rejected membership in the United Nations until a "confederation" of the two states is achieved. While insisting that the North and South should not join the UN separately, he affirmed that any discussion of the Korean question at the UN this fall should include a North Korean observer.

Kim clearly remains reluctant to give up entirely any prospect of reunification on Communist terms and is concerned that a dual-membership formula could win broad international support for a permanent division of the peninsula.

To offset the effect of South Korea's moderation, Kim recited a litany of complaints against Seoul for the present impasse in the North-South talks. He again called for a mutual reduction in armed forces, the withdrawal of US troops, an end to US military assistance, and an expansion of contacts between the peoples of the North and South.

Kim expressed particular concern over the degree to which big-power politics could affect the Korean situation, charging that Washington tries to "maintain colonial domination by suppressing small countries, while improving its relations with big ones."

Despite this implied criticism of Peking, Chou En-lai quickly offered "firm" support for the views expressed by Kim.

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BOLIVIA

President Banzer has announced that the country will return to constitutional rule in 1974. His plans call for holding elections next February for a national assembly, which will then select a president. [redacted] opposition parties will be permitted to enter candidates, but will be strictly regulated so that Banzer's National Popular Front will hold a strong majority in the new assembly.

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[redacted]

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NOTES

France-EC:

[redacted] contrary to earlier indications, Paris is not prepared to have the EC compensate the US for trade losses resulting from the community's enlargement from six to nine members. [redacted]

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Cambodia: The High Political Council has finally named Major General Sosthene Fernandez to the newly-created post of commander in chief of the armed forces, according to a Cambodian press release. Fernandez will also retain his job as army chief of staff. The filling of the new position had been sharply disputed within the Council for two months, largely because Prime Minister In Tam opposed Fernandez for personal reasons. Fernandez' authority will still be circumscribed, however, if President Lon Nol continues to function as supreme commander.

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