



The President's Daily Brief

23 November 1973



45

25X1

~~Top Secret~~

Exempt from general
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652
exemption category 5B(1), (2), (3)
declassified only on approval of
the Director of Central Intelligence

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

23 November 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted] Given Israeli concerns about a second surprise attack, the possibility of preemptive action by Israeli forces is high. (Page 1)

25X1

President Tito appears to have made a major step toward a Yugoslav-Soviet rapprochement at the expense of ties with the US and Romania. (Page 3)

[Redacted] (Page 4)

25X1
25X1

In Laos, the Communists have finally agreed to hold today the first formal session of the joint commission to implement the peace agreement. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ARAB STATES - ISRAEL

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

UN observers have reported a strengthening of Syrian positions near Sasa. [Redacted]

25X1

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

The UN observers may have seen some of these units being redeployed or perhaps reinforced. [Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

Egyptian and Israeli representatives are to meet again today at Kilometer 101 to continue discussions on disengagement of forces. The chief Egyptian representative yesterday told reporters that each side had presented two alternative proposals. Differences remain, he added, but "we are still trying." Cairo domestic radio, meanwhile, broadcast a report on the meeting, citing the UN commander's comment that the talks were "beneficial." After publicly forecasting earlier that Thursday's talks were to have been "decisive," Egypt's mild treatment of the inconclusive meeting could be a mask for hostile intentions.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Because of the political and military setbacks that the Israeli Government would incur as a result of a second Arab surprise attack, the possibility of an Israeli preemptive attack is high.

Israel and Egypt nevertheless have completed the exchange of prisoners, and an official Egyptian spokesman has expressed hope that an Arab-Israeli peace conference would begin "within the next few weeks." Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam has said his government would attend a peace conference "if it is convened in accordance with our concept." When asked whether he expects further military action, however, Khaddam would not rule it out, saying it was part of the battle, which also has complementary political and economic facets.

Syrian President Asad plans to visit Cairo today for talks with President Sadat. The Egyptian press reports he will then fly to Algiers for the Arab summit, which begins Monday. Syrian and Egyptian leaders appear confident that Sadat's position on the cease-fire and negotiations will prevail at the conference. Iraq and Libya are the only states not represented, and a low-level Libyan delegation may yet appear. Egypt's semi-official paper, Al Ahram, has called on all Arab governments to attend as a demonstration of solidarity.

Meanwhile, the Organization of African Unity adopted a resolution simultaneously hailing Egypt's "October war of liberation" and condemning Israel for its "act of aggression on October 6." The resolution called on Israel to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories and urged that African states continue to withhold diplomatic relations from Tel Aviv until it does so.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

YUGOSLAVIA-USSR-ROMANIA

President Tito's exceptionally friendly talks with Brezhnev in Kiev last week appear to have been a major step toward a new rapprochement with the Soviets. The warm language of the communiqué published after the meetings significantly exceeds anything produced earlier. Moreover, this time, the communiqué failed to list long-standing Yugoslav requirements on the right of socialist states to differ and on the obligations of the USSR to respect Yugoslav sovereignty.

The document twice referred to "trust" and mutual understanding. Although Tito has said privately that he trusts Brezhnev, he has never before used the word in a formal document.

It is quite likely that the "trust" between the two is based in large part on Tito's militant support of the Arabs and his solid support for Soviet policy in the Middle East. From the Soviet standpoint, Tito's position has also had the welcome effect of estranging Belgrade from Washington.

Part of the "trust" must also result from Yugoslav pressure on the Romanians to support Moscow's policy in the Middle East and to abandon their attempts to play an independent role in the area.

25X1
25X1

Tito's new closeness to the USSR has provoked criticism and concern at home. Public uncertainty is such that rumors alleging a US-Soviet agreement to partition Yugoslavia have been officially denied and blamed on the US and its allies. So far, however, no public explanations of Tito's turn back to the East have been made.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ARGENTINA

A number of sources in Buenos Aires report that Peron has been brought home from the hospital and is resting comfortably after his heart attack,

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

The chain of succession to President Peron is murkier [Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted] His wife, as vice president, remains next in line, but she has little prospect of governing. The President of the Senate, who would be next in line, is holding that post only in an acting capacity, and according to our embassy's interpretation of the constitution, is not, therefore, a potential successor. The line passes thus to Raul Lastiri, president of the lower house and one of the men who held the presidency during the transition from military rule.

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Laos: The Communists have finally agreed to hold today the first formal session of the joint commission to implement the peace agreement. The commission's convocation comes two months after the signing of the protocol to the February peace accords, and is an important step toward formation of a coalition government.

Top Secret