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The President's Daily Brief

July 3, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

July 3, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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[redacted] Plesetsk missile and
space center [redacted] equipment that may be
related to development of a land-mobile ICBM. (Page 1)

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The Soviets have begun to convert SS-9 silos at the Uzhur and Kartaly complexes for their new large ICBM, the SS-X-18. (Page 2)

The USSR continues to make steady progress building the two Kiev-class aircraft carriers at Nikolayev, on the Black Sea. (Page 3)

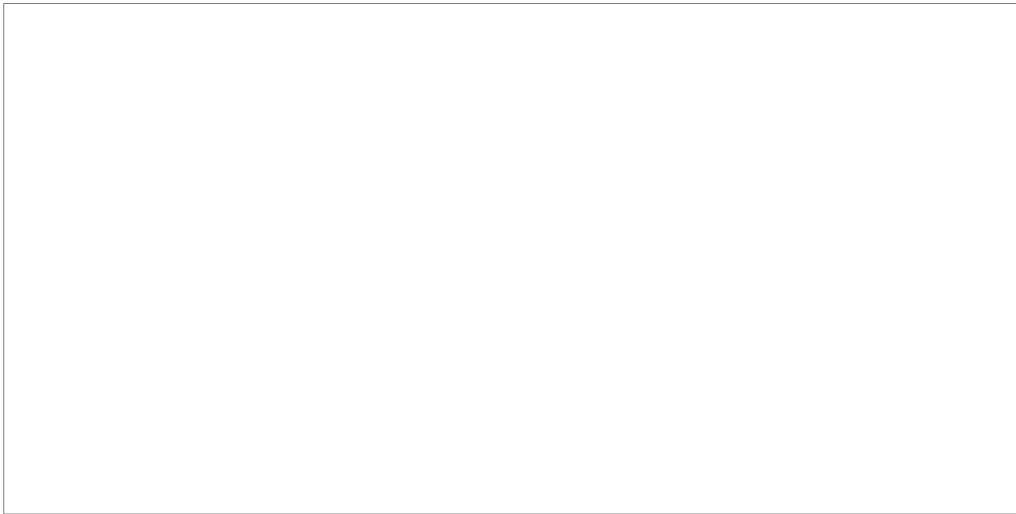
European Community officials are concerned that the Community may be discriminated against if allocation of US uranium enrichment services becomes necessary. (Page 4)

The price of gold dropped \$6 to \$137 an ounce yesterday, its lowest level in five months. (Page 5)

Notes on France, Iran-USSR, and USSR-Algeria appear on Page 6.

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[redacted] of the Plesetsk missile and space center [redacted] equipment that may be related to development of a land-mobile ICBM. A new missile, the solid-propellant SS-X-16, has been launched from Plesetsk four times in the past month. Whether or not it has been tested from a mobile launcher, however, cannot be determined from the evidence so far available.

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[redacted] five pieces of equipment [redacted] in a clearing a half mile west of a soft launch site associated in the late 1960s with the mobile SS-X-15. At least four of the pieces of equipment were 45 to 50 feet long, and may be trucks of a type associated in the past with short-range ballistic missiles. We do not believe, however, that a vehicle for transporting and launching a missile was present.

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Two mobile vans used for troposcatter communications [redacted] at Plesetsk. A mobile strategic missile system would require a mobile communications system capable of performing well in a post-strike nuclear environment. A troposcatter system, in which the signal is deflected by the troposphere over a distance of at least 75 miles, would fulfill this requirement.

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At another soft launch site which was used in the past for the mobile SS-X-15, [redacted]

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[redacted] This structure is about 160 feet long and has been in place since the spring of 1972, when flight-testing of the SS-X-16 ICBM began at Plesetsk.

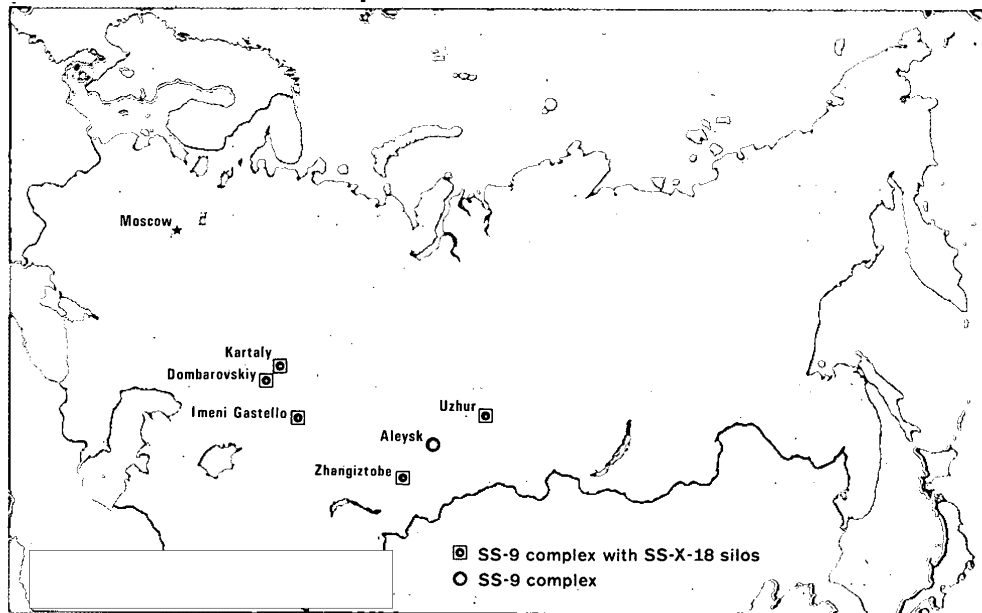
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Although it has not been possible to determine a launch point for all 17 firings of the SS-X-16, there is evidence to suggest that a number of them have come from SS-13 silos. The SS-X-16, believed to be a follow-on to the older SS-13 ICBM, is deployed in 60 silos at the Yoshkar Ola ICBM complex.

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[redacted]

SS-X-18 Silos at SS-9 Complexes



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[REDACTED]

the Soviets have begun to convert SS-9 silos at the Uzhur and Kartaly complexes for their new large ICBM, the SS-X-18. At the Dombarovskiy complex, where conversion of one group of SS-9 silos has been under way for over a year, work has apparently begun on a second group.

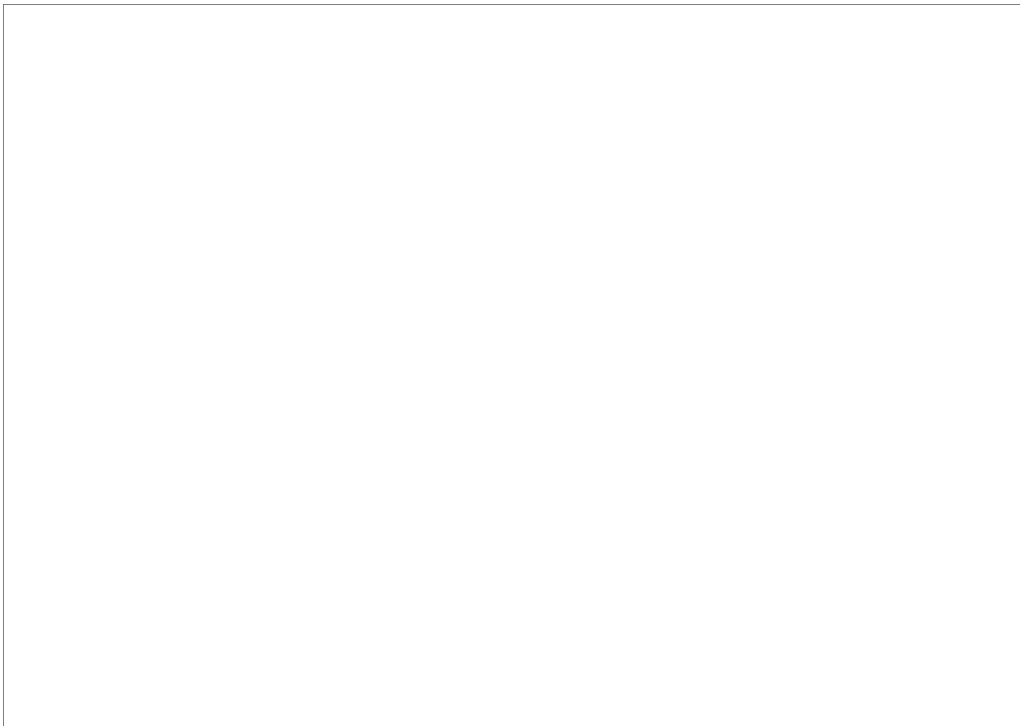
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The Soviets started to build four new silos for the SS-X-18 at each of five SS-9 complexes in late 1970. In early 1973, they began to convert the group of six SS-9 silos near the four new silos at the Dombarovskiy complex. When completed later this year, the four new silos and the six converted ones at Dombarovskiy will form a single group of ten SS-X-18 silos. Because the Strategic Arms Limitation Agreement prohibits starting any new ICBM launchers, the second group of SS-9 silos now apparently being converted at Dombarovskiy probably will contain only six silos.

The SS-9 silos now being converted at Kartaly and Uzhur are also located with the four new SS-X-18 silos at each complex. Ten silos for the SS-X-18 could be completed at each of these complexes by late 1975 or early 1976.

The SS-X-18 has been undergoing flight-testing from Tyuratam since October 1972. Two versions of the missile are being tested. Development of an SS-X-18 with a single re-entry vehicle could be completed by late 1974 or early 1975. Unless the test program for the MIRV version, which is equipped with at least six re-entry vehicles, is accelerated, at least another year of testing probably will be required before it becomes operational.

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The Soviets are continuing to make steady progress in building the two Kiev-class aircraft carriers at Nikolayev, on the Black Sea.

[redacted] a surface-to-air missile launcher has been installed on the carrier that the Soviets began building first. In addition, an electronics dome and a fire-control radar were seen on its superstructure for the first time. Additional hull plating has been added to the second carrier. This ship is now about 600 feet long; the first carrier measures about 900 feet.

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Kiev-class carriers will probably carry a mix of 30 to 40 helicopters and vertical and short take-off-and-landing aircraft. They will be armed with surface-to-air missile launchers, antisubmarine rocket launchers, and perhaps torpedoes. The first carrier will probably be operational by 1976.

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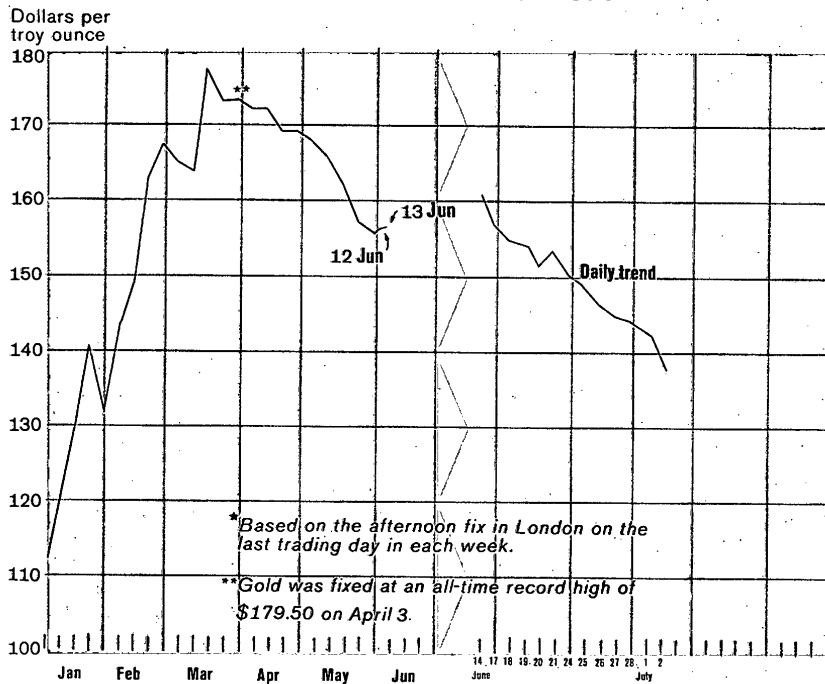
EC-US-URANIUM

European Community officials are concerned that the Community may be discriminated against if allocation of US uranium enrichment services becomes necessary. EC Commission Vice President Soames is particularly worried about the political significance of the US decision to supply enriched uranium to Egypt and Israel when there were outstanding requests from "long-standing satisfactory customers" in the EC.

Some Community officials concede that EC customers were tardy in submitting contract requests to meet the deadline of June 30 for US services on reactors going into operation from 1978 to 1982. They nevertheless have implied that the US signed the provisional contracts with Egypt and Israel when it was refusing to sign contracts with EC customers.

The Commission, which is the statutory middleman in contracting for enrichment services for EC members, is clearly worried about meeting future Community energy needs and also presumably fears a new debate over the reliability of the US as a supplier.

London Free Market Gold Price* 1974



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GOLD

The price of gold dropped \$6 to \$137 an ounce yesterday, its lowest level in five months. Gold dealers, who expected the present two-week-old trend to stabilize at \$140 an ounce, now appear resigned to prices of \$130 or less. They blame the decline on reduced demand.

Soaring interest rates make holding gold very expensive; interest rates for short-term Eurocurrencies exceeded 16 percent last month. Speculators who borrowed to buy gold at previously attractive prices are now selling the metal to avoid losses.

South Africa has kept its gold sales at an even level this year. It could decide to slow its sales and thus maintain some minimum gold prices, but such action would be in the face of its rising needs for foreign exchange.

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NOTES

France:

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[Redacted]

Iran-USSR: Iran is threatening to double the price of the natural gas it exports to the Soviet Union. Negotiations between the two have broken down; the Iranians supply nearly 350 billion cubic feet of gas to the USSR annually and are in a strong bargaining position. In addition, Tehran has notified the Soviets and West Germans that it will not take part in discussions on exports of gas from Iran to the USSR and from the USSR to West Germany. Trilateral talks on ways to increase these exports were to begin Monday.

USSR-Algeria: The USSR has recently reinstated arms deliveries to Algeria as part of an effort to improve its position among Arab states.

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Soviet Defense Minister Grechko visited Algiers in late May, but no new military agreement was announced. The USSR is Algeria's main arms supplier, however, and a \$100-million military credit extended by Moscow in early 1971 has not been drawn on extensively.

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