



# The President's Daily Brief

*17 December 1973*

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

December 17, 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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[Redacted]

[Redacted] Pro-fedayeen disorders are occurring on the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan. Palestinian leaders have failed to agree on the formation of a state or on participation in the Geneva talks. King Faysal remains adamant about the return of East Jerusalem to Arab control.

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[Redacted]

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(Page 1)

The EC summit produced guidelines for action on energy problems. (Page 3)

Poland has agreed to repatriate large numbers of ethnic Germans in return for West German economic aid. (Page 4)

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Brezhnev may have postponed his trip to Cuba. (Page 5)

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Saudi Arabia [Redacted]

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[Redacted]. (Page 5)

[Redacted] Kuwait [Redacted]

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(Page 5)

Turkey's President has asked for an end to two months of caretaker rule with the formation of a coalition government embracing all parties with ten deputies in parliament. (Page 5)

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ARAB STATES - ISRAEL

The US Consul in Jerusalem reports that developments in the Israeli-occupied West Bank of Jordan are beginning to resemble the 1967-68 period, when women and students led widespread public disorders. Israeli authorities on December 15 arrested a number of women demonstrators, including the wife of a former Jordanian cabinet minister. The Israeli military government has also closed the 250-student Anglican Arab College, the West Bank's only significant college and long a center of Palestinian nationalist activity. The Consul believes that these Israeli efforts to forestall trouble are, in fact, virtually certain to lead to disorder.

The Israeli Government has publicly reiterated that Israel will not talk with Syrian representatives at Geneva until Damascus provides it with a list of Israeli POWs and allows International Red Cross representatives to visit them. Even if Syria eventually produces such a list, it might prove to be a bitter disappointment to Israel.

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[Redacted]

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Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasir Arafat failed last week to convince the PLO Executive Committee to adopt a unified position

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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the rejection of Arafat's proposals reflect several other factors that have influenced the thinking of the PLO Executive Committee since the cease-fire:

--fedayeen dissatisfaction with the allegedly "passive role" of the USSR in the search for a Middle East settlement;

--[Redacted] fear that the Fatah-led PLO would dominate an independent Palestine;

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--Israel's continued "intransigence," as manifested in the Kilometer 101 talks;

--Iraq's well-orchestrated campaign to discredit the moderate PLO leadership and to develop an opposition front within the PLO.

King Faysal, meanwhile, is reported to be adamant that East Jerusalem revert to Arab control. The political officer of the Saudi Embassy in Cairo informed the US Interests Section over the weekend of Faysal's view that an Arab flag--Jordanian or Palestinian--alone must fly over East Jerusalem. The King, he claimed, will not accept any "open city" plan. The Saudi said Faysal hopes that he has convinced Secretary Kissinger of the Arabs' moral as well as legal right to the city.

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

The EC summit meeting adopted guidelines for concerted action on energy problems. Between now and early February the EC Commission is to draw up an inventory of energy resources, examine the effects of energy shortages on the EC's economy, and make proposals for a common energy market. The Commission's mandate pointedly omits mention of oil sharing--presumably still unpalatable to France and Britain--and leaves considerable leeway to each state in deciding how to limit energy consumption.

The program is a commitment toward solving longer range aspects of the energy problem, and includes accelerated research on new sources of energy and creation of a European uranium enrichment capacity. The statement suggests no date for beginning negotiations on comprehensive cooperation arrangements with oil-producing countries.

There was only an indirect response to Secretary Kissinger's call for an Energy Action Group in a reference to the usefulness of studying the consumer countries' problems "within the framework of the OECD."

Four Arab foreign ministers--from Algeria, Tunisia, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates--came to Copenhagen and succeeded in using the summit to publicize Arab demands on Europe. They apparently received no more from the Nine, however, than a reiteration of the EC's November declaration. Summit participants, moreover, conveyed their irritation by publicly cautioning about the negative effect of Arab oil measures on European public opinion.

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WEST GERMANY - POLAND

Bonn and Warsaw edged closer to resolving their problems during Foreign Minister Olszowski's visit to Bonn in early December. Lower level negotiators are expected to work out the final shape of an accord before Polish party chief Gierek makes his long-awaited visit to West Germany next spring.

The Germans regard Polish concessions on emigration as a major breakthrough. The Poles agreed to permit 50,000 ethnic Germans to emigrate next year, and [redacted] an additional 50,000 will be allowed to depart in each of the following two years.

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The Germans had insisted that this concession was required before Bonn could justify granting long-term economic aid. The Poles had previously sought a \$1.2 billion credit, but last week Bonn held to an offer of \$400 million. The Germans are willing to negotiate the terms, leaving open the possibility that they will provide the loans at 4 percent interest as the Poles have requested--less than half the current market rate in the Federal Republic.

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The current optimism in Bonn contrasts sharply with the mood only a few weeks ago. [redacted]

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NOTES

USSR-Cuba: General Secretary Brezhnev may have postponed his trip to Havana.

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted] Brezhnev has been scheduled to go late this month to be on hand in early January for celebrations marking the 15th anniversary of Batista's flight from Cuba.

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Saudi Arabia - Japan:

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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Kuwait:

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[Redacted]

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Turkey: In a major address on December 15, Turkish President Koruturk asked caretaker Prime Minister Talu to form a coalition government embracing all parties that have at least ten deputies in parliament. Talu is an independent. The President also recommended that election laws be revised in order to prevent new elections from yielding the same results as those of October 14, when no party received a mandate. Koruturk did not say whether the eligible parties have agreed yet to serve in such a coalition. Other attempts over the past two months to put together a coalition government failed because key parties refused to participate.

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