

The President's Daily Brief

31 December 1973



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

December 31, 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Arab and Israeli



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(Page 1)

Notes on North Korea [redacted] a Japanese emissary to the Middle East, the South Vietnamese military situation, and Spain's newly designated premier appear on *Page 3*.

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ARAB STATES - ISRAEL

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Press reports from Israel yesterday stated that Israeli troops had been placed on a high state of alert on both fronts. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

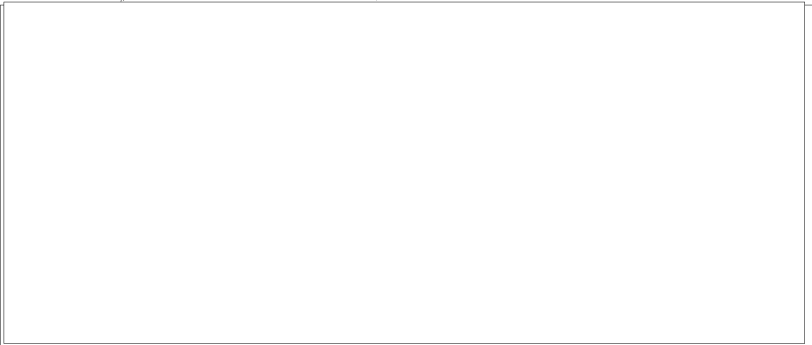
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The atmospherics in Egypt, however, do not indicate any rising tension. Cairo media continue to report in a positive tone on the resumption of the disengagement talks, and say that ambassadorial delegations may convene on January 15, possibly to be followed by a meeting of the participating states' foreign ministers. Officials in Cairo seem

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relaxed, according to the US Interests Section. President Sadat reportedly is in Aswan where he will meet with Foreign Minister Fahmi and others during the next several days.

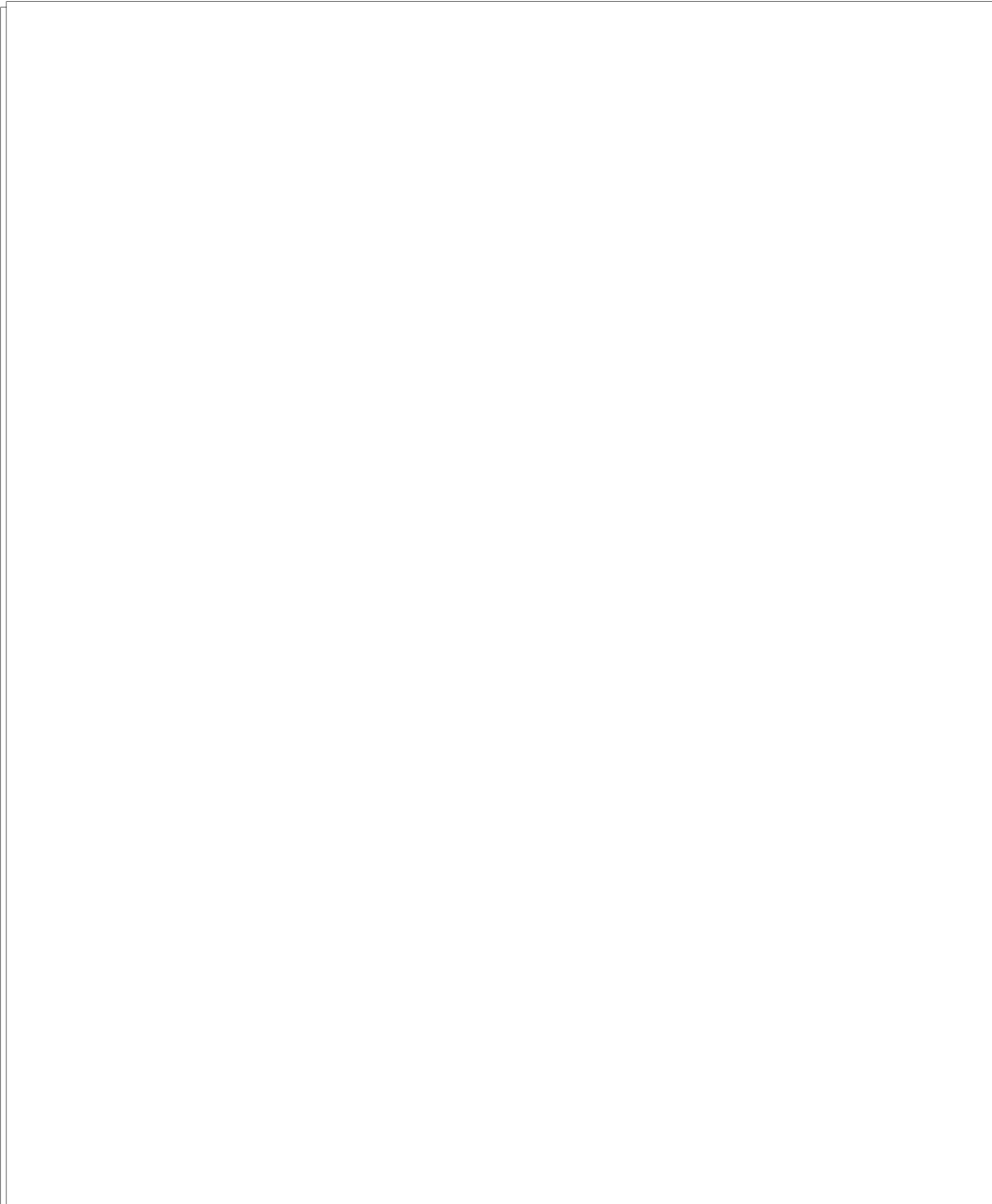


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NOTES

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Korea:

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[Redacted]

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Japan - Middle East: Minister of International Trade and Industry Nakasone will visit Iraq and Iran in early January in a further effort to improve Japanese access to Middle East oil.

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[Redacted]

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During his last visit to the Middle East in mid-1973, Nakasone made a special effort to avoid identifying Japanese interests with those of other oil-consuming countries.

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South Vietnam: Government troops appear to be holding their own in the new fighting that has begun in Quang Duc Province. According to a Saigon spokesman, North Vietnamese forces initiated the fighting on December 28 with artillery and infantry attacks against two government troop positions.

Spain: General Franco's choice of Interior Minister Carlos Arias Navarro as premier indicates that the new government will increase the emphasis on law and order. Arias has a reputation for toughness dating from 1957 to 1965 when he headed Spain's security services. He lacks ties to any political faction, and is a staunch supporter of Prince Juan Carlos, Franco's designate as future king. The interim government underlined its own firm opposition to dissent on Saturday by imposing maximum sentences on ten labor leaders who had been trying to promote a labor union independent of official control.

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