



The President's Daily Brief

February 12, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

February 12, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Bonn's efforts to bring defense questions before the European Community made some notable progress last week when French officials agreed to a discussion of European force reductions in that forum. (Page 1)

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The first of four Mars probes launched last summer passed within about 900 miles of the planet on February 10 and may have landed a capsule on the planet. A second probe will reach the vicinity of Mars today. (Page 4)

South Korea's President Pak Chong-hui is preparing to meet possible large-scale student protests this spring. (Page 5)

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EC-MBFR

Bonn's efforts to bring defense questions before the European Community made some notable progress last week when French officials agreed to participate in a discussion on European force reductions in that forum. The EC political committee at its meeting on February 6-7 established an expert working group to meet at an early date to begin such discussions.

The main task will be to examine in detail the implications of the MBFR negotiations for European integration, especially in the area of defense cooperation. The working group's mandate, however, is broadly worded to include any relevant international negotiations or agreements. By joining the working group, the French will be able to inject issues related to SALT and the US-Soviet agreement on the prevention of nuclear war. Paris has argued repeatedly that both imply a weaker US commitment to the defense of Western Europe.

The greatest obstacles confronting Bonn in its efforts to establish the working group have been Paris' long-standing reluctance to debate defense questions in the EC and its strong opposition to MBFR. West German officials concede that the French, and perhaps the British, might use the new EC forum to speak out against the force reductions talks in the hope of slowing their progress.

The Western participants at the negotiations in Vienna hope to postpone consideration of West European force reductions until a second, later phase of the talks. Nevertheless, West German officials maintain that the time is ripe for the EC, as well as NATO, to reach a consensus on the nature and scope of reductions compatible with Western Europe's security. In Bonn's view, the working group will serve this purpose as well as force Paris to reveal its views more fully on issues related to MBFR.

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FRANCE

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USSR



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USSR

The first of four Mars probes launched last summer--Mars 4--passed within about 900 miles of the planet on February 10, and a second--Mars 5--will reach the vicinity today. It is assumed that a capsule containing instruments was separated from the first probe and landed on the planet's surface. Mars 5 may also attempt to land a capsule.

Two other Soviet probes will arrive in the vicinity of Mars on March 9 and 12. These vehicles, designated Mars 6 and 7, may go into orbit around the planet to perform experiments and serve as data-relay satellites for the instruments on the surface.



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SOUTH KOREA

President Pak Chong-hui is preparing to meet possible large-scale student protests this spring.

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