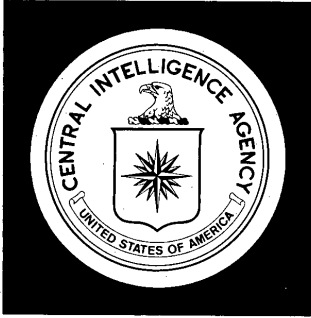


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The President's Daily Brief

April 6, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 6, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Israelis reported yesterday that Jordan was planning to move troops to Syria and had closed its border with Syria to civilian traffic. The Jordanian chief of staff denied, also yesterday, that the border is closed and said there were no plans to send a Jordanian force to Syria. Israel's interest in Jordan's military situation increases our concern that Tel Aviv may be considering military actions of its own. (Page 1) 25X1

[Redacted] (Page 2) 25X1

[Redacted] 25X1

The Soviets [Redacted] (Page 4) 25X1

[Redacted] Oman [Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] South Yemen. (Page 6) 25X1

[Redacted] West Germany [Redacted] (Page 6) 25X1

Israeli Prime Minister Meir will do all she can to preserve her coalition government, which is threatened by the increased pressure on Defense Minister Dayan to resign. (Page 6) 25X1

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-SYRIA-JORDAN

Israeli forces are on a heightened state of alert after another day of artillery and tank duels, and an infantry skirmish as well. Israeli officials are telling their press that the Syrians are building up forces along the front and are evacuating civilians from the area. The press claims that a large number of Syrian tanks are now at the front and that long-range artillery has been moved to forward positions.

The Syrian defense minister has fired back at the Israelis in this press war, saying that Syria is much stronger than it was before the October war, and that it is "prepared to launch an all-out war against Israel to ensure the liberation of all occupied territories."

[redacted] yesterday that it had received reports that Jordan had closed roads leading from northern Jordan to southern Syria to civilian traffic and was planning to send an unspecified number of troops into Syria, perhaps as early as today. The reports were subsequently denied by Jordan Chief of Staff Major General Sharif Zayd Bin Shakir [redacted]

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[redacted] the main road from Amman to Damascus was completely open. He maintained that there were no plans for a Jordanian force to proceed to Syria.

With tensions as high as they are at present along the Golan Heights front, we believe it unlikely that King Husayn would send Jordanian forces into such a potentially explosive situation. Husayn went to Cairo on April 4, and neither Crown Prince Hassan nor Army Chief of Staff Bin Shakir is likely to act on his own; neither would favor sending troops to Syria in any event.

[redacted]

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Israel's interest in Jordan's military situation increases our concern that Tel Aviv may be considering military action of its own. Prime Minister Meir held an urgent meeting of the cabinet yesterday, at which "the defense minister, the acting chief of staff, and the chief of military intelligence" were present, according to Jerusalem radio.

~~FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY~~

USSR-SYRIA

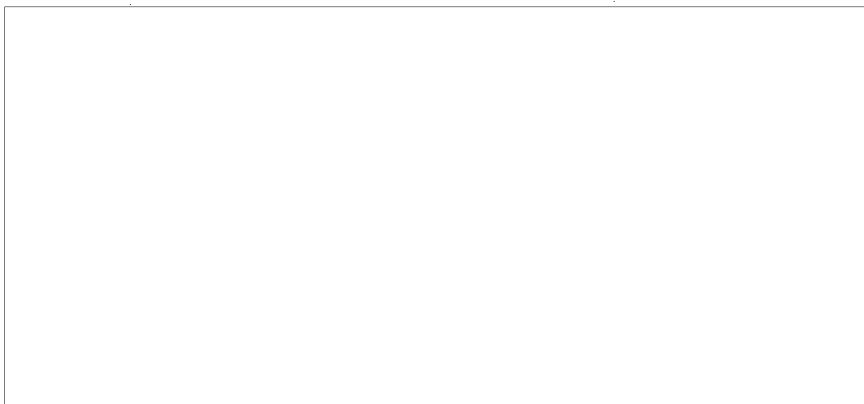
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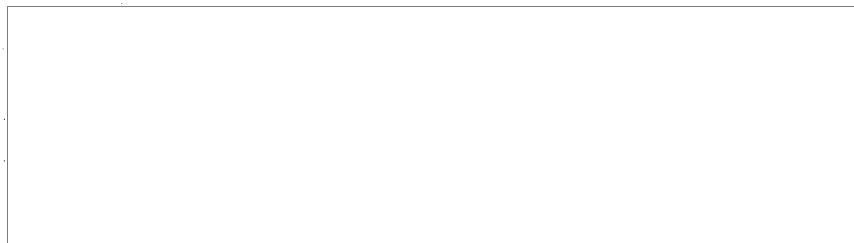
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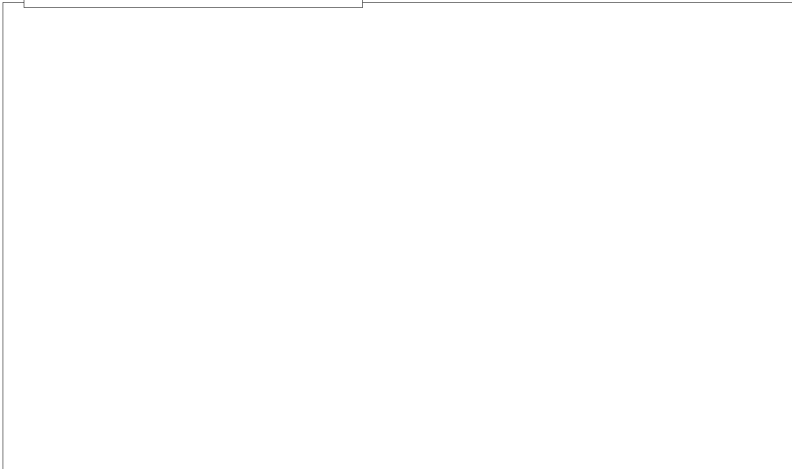
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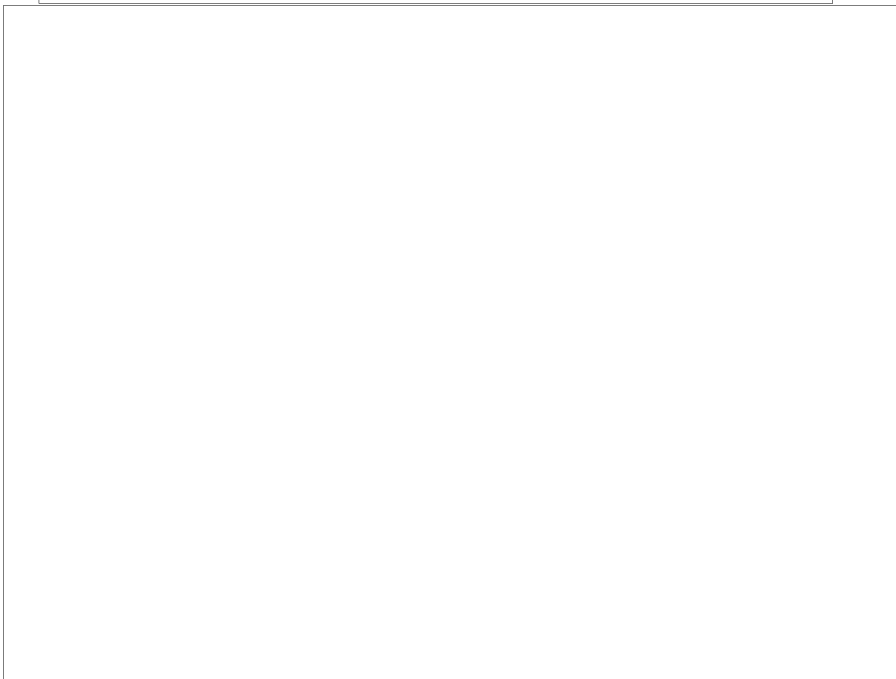
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NOTES

Oman - Iran - South Yemen: [redacted]

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West Germany - USSR: [redacted]

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Israel: Defense Minister Dayan's political opponents have seized on the recent report criticizing Israel's performance just before and during the initial stages of the October war to step up their demands for his resignation. Prime Minister Meir will do all she can to patch up differences within her party, one of whose factions Dayan leads, before debate on the report in parliament next week. Dayan's forced departure could cause the coalition government to break up, and probably a new election to be called. Dayan's opponents within the coalition probably would prefer that matters not go that far, particularly with the situation tense on the Syrian front.

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