

The President's Daily Brief

July 19, 1974

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~~*Top Secret*~~

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

July 19, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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The focus of the Cyprus problem shifts to the UN today.

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(Page 1)

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Jordan's King Husayn won indirect agreement from President Sadat yesterday to Jordan's right to negotiate the return of the Israeli-occupied West Bank without Palestinian interference. (Page 3)

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[Redacted] Italian [Redacted]

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(Page 4)

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The USSR apparently will carry out underground nuclear testing again this year at Novaya Zemlya. There is no evidence that the impending entry into force of threshold test ban treaty has prompted any increase in high-yield testing. (Page 6)

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[Redacted] Ethiopia [Redacted] (Page 7)

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Cambodian government forces are on the offensive on several battlefronts. (Page 8)

Notes on Saudi Arabia, France, and the USSR appear on Page 9.

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CYPRUS

Archbishop Makarios will ask the UN Security Council today for a resolution declaring him the legitimate head of government in Cyprus, calling for the withdrawal of the Greek officers in the Cypriot National Guard, and pledging nonrecognition of the Sampson government.

The US mission in New York reports that withdrawal of the Greek officers of the Cypriot National Guard has become the "irreducible minimum" that nearly all Security Council members want in a resolution. The draft being circulated by five non-aligned members of the council contains that provision, but avoids the question of Makarios' position.

The Soviets want to make the resolution tougher by referring to Makarios as President of Cyprus, alluding to Greek interference in Cyprus, and demanding the immediate end of Greek military intervention. The UK is also proposing amendments to toughen the resolution.

Turkish Prime Minister Ecevit returned home this morning saying he is "closer to finding a solution."

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[Redacted]

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Athens has told the NATO Council that Greek officers "placed at the disposition of the Cypriot government" will be replaced in stages. Athens is apparently referring to the National Guard officers who took part in the coup rather than to the Greek mainland contingent due to be replaced today during its semi-annual rotation.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

In an attempt to create a responsible image for itself, the new government on Cyprus has been broadcasting a report that Glafcos Clerides, Makarios' constitutional successor, has agreed to continue as the Greek Cypriot representative in "enlarged" talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities. The Yugoslav ambassador to Cyprus told the US embassy, however, that Clerides has categorically denied to him that he is willing to serve the Sampson government.

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EGYPT-JORDAN

King Husayn won indirect agreement from President Sadat yesterday for Jordan's right to negotiate the return of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. The joint communiqué issued at the conclusion of Husayn's three-day visit to Alexandria noted that both Jordan and Egypt agree on the need for a disengagement agreement on the Jordanian front as the next step toward a Middle East settlement.




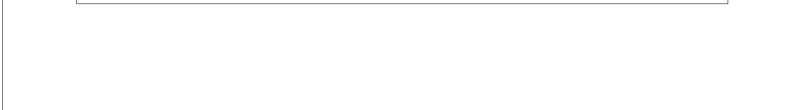









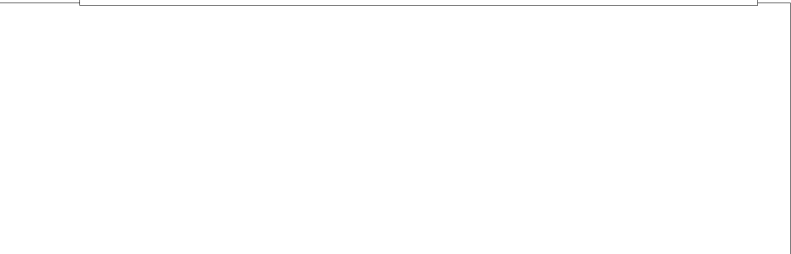

Husayn has been pressing this position for some time. Because it implies exclusion of the Palestinians in the next stage of negotiations, however, Sadat had previously avoided the issue.

The communiqué accords the Palestine Liberation Organization the status of legitimate representative of Palestinians outside the Kingdom of Jordan, and supports the need for an independent PLO delegation at Geneva. The communiqué defers PLO presence at Geneva until an unspecified "appropriate time" and refers only to the Palestinians' right to "self-determination." The West Bank, for which both Jordan and the Palestinians consider themselves the primary spokesman, is not mentioned. The communiqué calls for continued and regular coordination with Syria and the Palestinians.

The Egyptian-Jordanian statement marks Sadat's first attempt to take a public stand in his effort to coordinate the conflicting Jordanian and Palestinian positions. Sadat will face bitter criticism from the Palestinians, however, for they will interpret his accord with Husayn as an abandonment of the Palestinian cause.

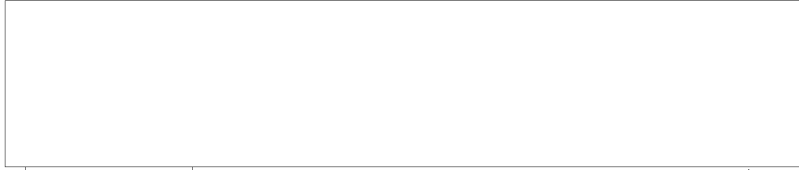
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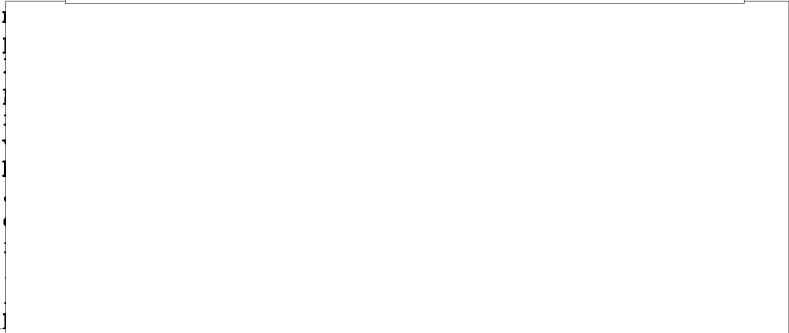
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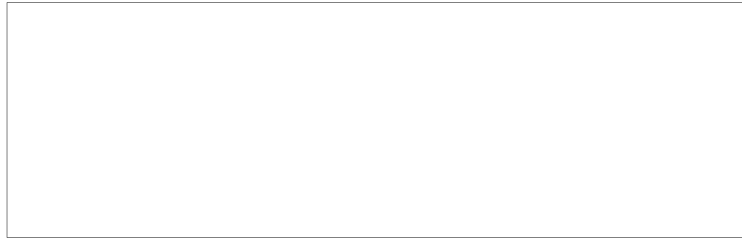
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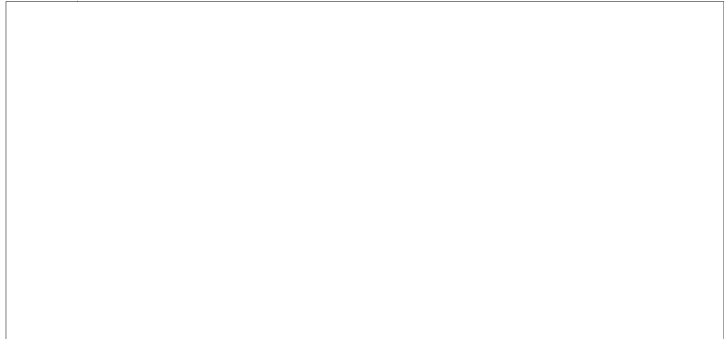
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USSR

Underground nuclear testing apparently will be carried out on Novaya Zemlya again this year, but probably not for a month or more from now. There is no evidence that the impending entry into force of the recently negotiated threshold test ban treaty has prompted any increase in high-yield testing.

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Novaya Zemlya, a large island in the Soviet Arctic, is the normal site of Soviet nuclear tests

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Between the signing of the Limited Test Ban Treaty in 1963 and the end of 1972, the Soviets exploded only one nuclear device annually on the island.

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ETHIOPIA

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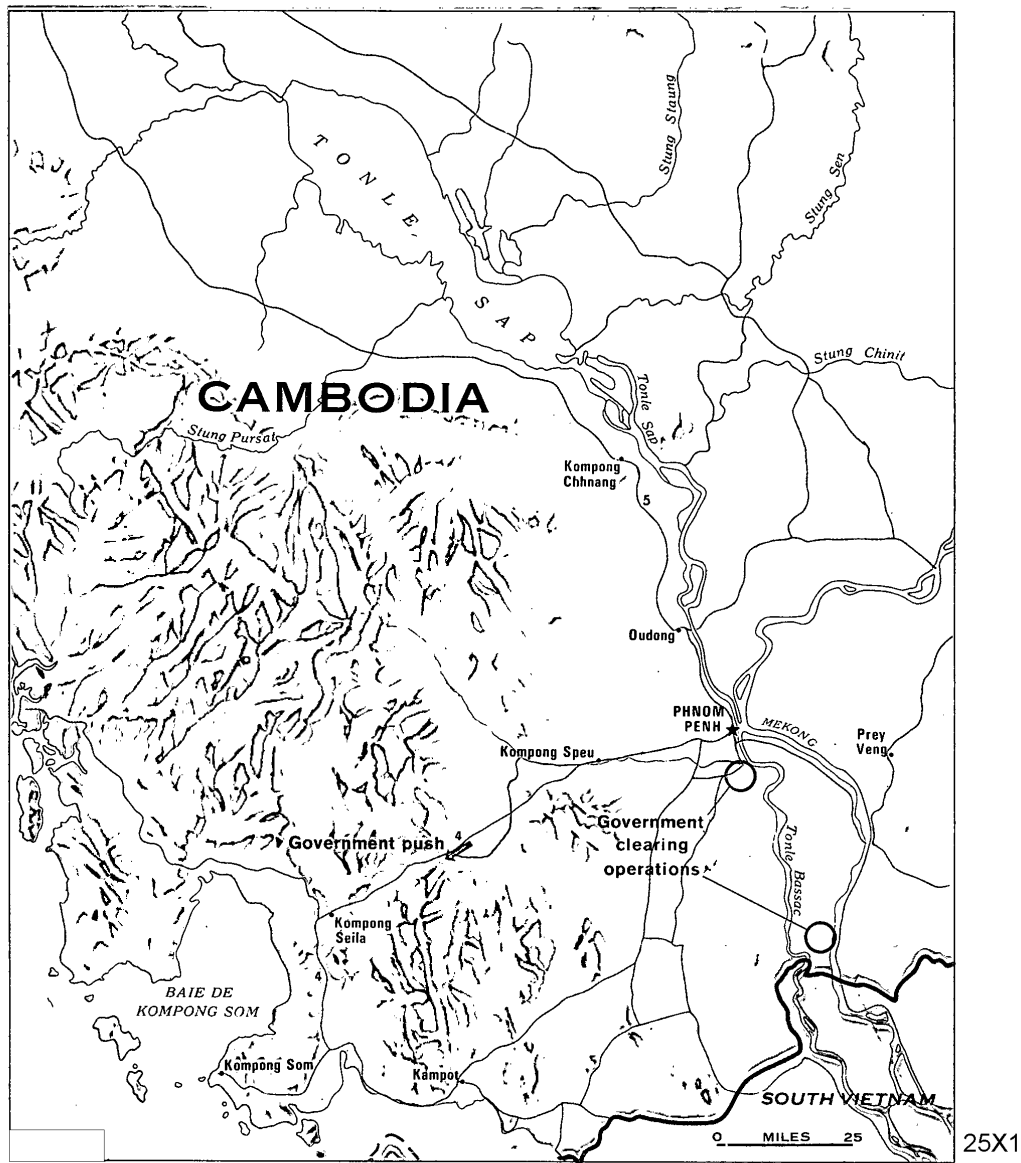
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CAMBODIA

Government forces are on the offensive on several battlefronts. Northwest of Phnom Penh, Cambodian army units pushed out from Oudong on July 16, killing 180 Khmer communist troops in stiff fighting just south of the town.

To the northeast of the capital, army commanders are reinforcing positions on both banks of the Tonle Sap River, which is now open. A large civilian river convoy moved 5,000 tons of foodstuffs from the provincial capital of Kompong Chhnang to Phnom Penh early in the week. Government clearing operations are also continuing along the Bassac River just southeast of Phnom Penh and along the lower stretches of the Mekong River.

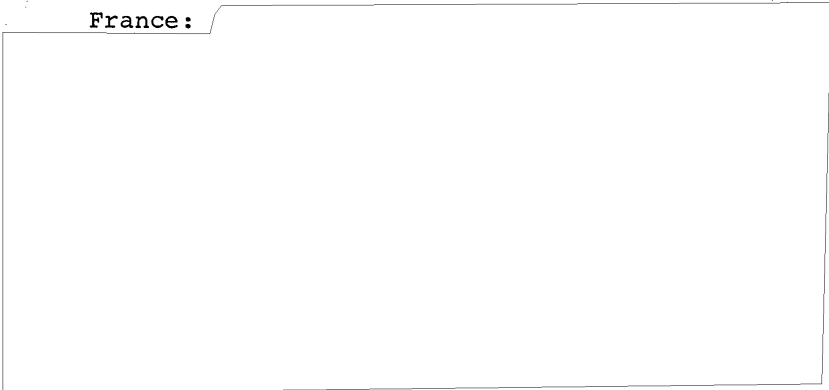
On the Route 4 front, the government task force that last month relieved an isolated garrison west of Kompong Speu City is now pushing on toward Kompong Seila. That town has been under steady attack since mid-May, and over half of its 2,000 government defenders have been killed or wounded. Farther south, army units at the coastal city of Kampot are moving to retake outposts abandoned in the face of insurgent ground attacks late last week.

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NOTES

Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia is removing gold stored in the US on the grounds that it decided last December to comply with a law requiring that gold backing for its currency be held domestically. The move is scheduled for completion in mid-September. The gold is officially valued at \$109 million and insured for the open market value of about \$350 million. Riyadh made the decision when Saudi-US relations were at a low point, but Saudi officials maintain that the timing was coincidental. Since the October war, a major Saudi concern in placing its assets has been to limit risk of seizure. Saudi Arabia recently purchased gold in Switzerland that will also be stored in Jidda.

France:



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USSR: The Soviet cosmonauts aboard Soyuz 14 are scheduled to touch down in the Soviet Union about 8:20 EDT this morning.

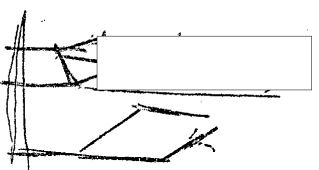


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The Salyut is expected to remain in orbit, and probably will be visited by other cosmonauts in the coming weeks.

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