



The President's Daily Brief

July 20, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

July 20, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Turkish troops have opened a broad beachhead on the north coast of Cyprus and have landed paratroops in the vicinity of Nicosia. The initial Greek response was menacing.
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The Salyut space station remains in orbit, and another Soyuz spacecraft with cosmonauts aboard is expected to be launched in the coming weeks. (Page 2)

Almost all fedayeen groups have been quick to condemn the Egyptian-Jordanian communiqué issued on Thursday as a "retreat" from the position adopted at the Arab summit last year that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people. (Page 3)

Egypt reportedly has reached agreement with Iraq to begin immediate cooperation in several fields, including petroleum and construction. The Egyptians claim the Iraqis have also agreed to supply Egypt with badly needed spare parts for Soviet military equipment. (Page 4)

The US embassy in Lisbon believes the new cabinet is somewhat to the left of its predecessor, but not markedly so. (Page 5)

Notes on Italy, Spain, and Laos appear on Page 6.

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CYPRUS

Turkish troops from about 40 ships and landing craft have opened a broad beachhead on the north coast of Cyprus about 15 miles north of Nicosia. The US embassy in Nicosia reported last night that Turkish paratroops were being dropped in the vicinity of the Cypriot capital, including the Turkish sectors of the city and roads leading to the northern coast and the airport. Evidently, the Turks intend to secure an area in the capital and then link with forces advancing inland from the coast.



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Turkey's immediate goals are to establish its forces on the island and then to negotiate. Before the Turkish landings, Assistant Secretary Sisco reported his distinct impression that the Turks saw the situation as an ideal time to achieve by military intervention their long-standing objective of partitioning the island.

Greek leaders told Sisco this morning that unless there is an immediate Turkish cease-fire, they plan to declare union with Cyprus and war against Turkey.

* * *

As of 5:30 this morning, no Soviet military reaction has been detected to the Turkish landings. Soviet airborne divisions were alerted earlier this week.

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USSR



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The Salyut 3 space station remains in orbit,
and another Soyuz spacecraft with cosmonauts aboard
is expected to be launched in the coming weeks.

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FEDAYEEN-JORDAN-EGYPT

Almost all fedayeen groups have condemned the Egyptian-Jordanian communiqué issued Thursday at the end of King Husayn's visit to Egypt. PLO Chairman Arafat labeled it a "retreat" from the position adopted at the Arab summit last November that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

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This criticism is aimed directly at President Sadat, who supported the summit resolution declaring the PLO the sole representative of the Palestinian people. Since then Egyptian officials have displayed little enthusiasm for this pro-PLO position, but Cairo did not begin to shift its stand until Husayn's visit.

[Redacted]

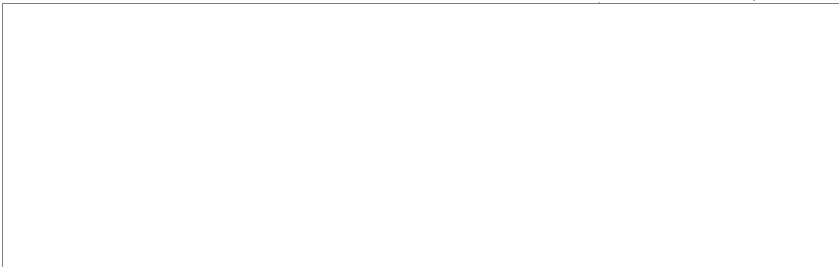
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IRAQ-EGYPT

President Sadat's personal representative, Ashraf Marwan, reportedly reached agreement with Iraqi leaders during his recent visit to Baghdad to begin immediate cooperation in several fields, including petroleum and construction. The Egyptians also claim the Iraqis agreed to supply Egypt with badly needed spare parts for Soviet military equipment without informing the Russians.



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Sadat undoubtedly views the prospect of improved relations with Baghdad as a useful reminder to Moscow that Cairo should still be considered the political center of the Arab world, and to Syria that Egypt can develop ties with the most radical of the Arab states.

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PORTUGAL

The US embassy in Lisbon believes the cabinet installed on Thursday is somewhat to the left of its predecessor, but not markedly so.

The slightly leftist coloration of key figures among the eight military men in the 17-man cabinet is somewhat balanced by the departure of certain prominent leftists, including some who obstructed decisions on economic and labor laws. The important economic and finance ministries are held by centrist economists.

The Armed Forces Movement is well-represented in the cabinet, and its leaders have stated that they want no more bickering there. They say they will make sure that this is the last cabinet before the constituent assembly election, now planned for March.

The new government will undoubtedly move vigorously to carry out the program of the Armed Forces Movement. The new minister of interior--a military man--has come out in favor of elections soon for municipal and parish councils. Such elections would permit various parties to unseat the many local authorities installed after the April coup by the communist-dominated Popular Democratic Movement.

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NOTES

Italy: After protracted discussions among the three major trade union confederations about the government's austerity program, Italian labor leaders have decided not to defy the government on this issue, but rather to press for changes in the measures. Union leaders did not yield to pressure from militants for a nationwide general strike, but did designate July 24 a "day of struggle" on which local labor leaders may call brief work stoppages. The unions have called for an immediate meeting with high government officials to present their requests for modifications in the austerity program.

Spain: General Franco's relapse yesterday apparently has raised serious questions about his chances for recovery and has led to the transfer of routine chief-of-state functions to Prince Juan Carlos. Madrid remains calm, but a security alert has been reinstated.

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Laos: Non-communist Deputy Prime Minister Leuam Insisiengmay and Pathet Lao Deputy Prime Minister Phoumi Vongvichit are still unable to agree on how to handle government business during Prime Minister Souvanna's convalescence. Leuam is also at loggerheads with senior non-communist leaders over the organization of the Vientiane side's nascent political front group. Many of the non-communists reportedly favor replacing Leuam with Interior Minister Pheng Phongsavan if he does not back down on the organizational issue.

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