

The President's Daily Brief



25X1
August 19, 1974



6
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Turkish forces continued to advance in Cyprus over the weekend, probably in an attempt to force negotiations. (Page 1)

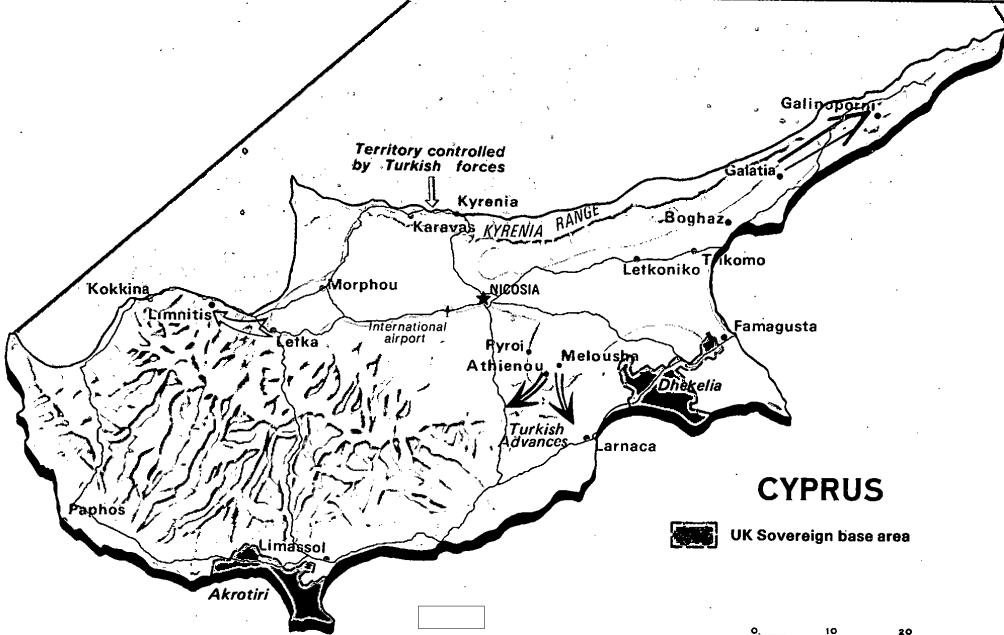
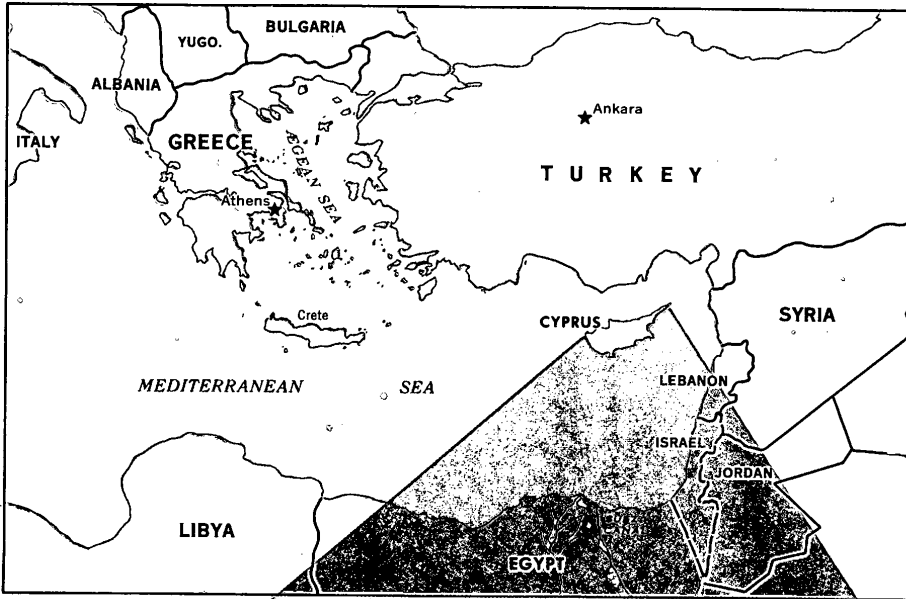
Political dialogue between North and South Korea will be frozen after Seoul's accusation on Saturday that the attempted assassination of President Pak was ordered by North Korean President Kim Il-song. South Korea's relations with Japan, already tense, are also bound to undergo further strain. (Page 3)

In South Vietnam, heavy fighting took place over the weekend in the northern provinces and in areas near Saigon. (Page 4)

The Cambodian government is planning a new delaying tactic to defend its UN seat this fall. (Page 5)

The attempt to form a constitutional government in Thailand is still on course, but behind schedule. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

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GREECE-TURKEY-CYPRUS

Turkish forces continued to expand their holdings on Cyprus over the weekend. Advances beyond the territory the Turks have demanded for an autonomous Turkish Cypriot area are probably intended to force the Greeks to negotiate.

Fighting yesterday continued southeast of Nicosia as the Turks advanced to within eight miles of Larnaca. Turkish units also threatened to cut the road between Nicosia and Limassol--the last major route south from the capital.

In other areas, Turkish army and Cypriot forces continued moving along the Karpas Peninsula, reaching Galinoporni over the weekend. Greek Cypriot national guard units maintained pressure on Turkish enclaves in the western part of the island. The cease-fire continued to be observed in Nicosia and UN forces remained in control of the international airport.

Commenting on the continuing Turkish advances, President Clerides reportedly told the senior UN representative on Cyprus that the immediate objective should be to pin down the line of farthest Turkish advance to permit some form of negotiations to begin. Clerides said that he recognizes that the Greek government has boxed itself in with public statements of its unwillingness to negotiate unless the Turks pull back to positions held prior to the second round of fighting. He was prepared to tell Athens, however, that he must be given a free hand to salvage what he can through negotiations.

The UN representative has suggested to the US ambassador that it might be more realistic to drop the concept of another Geneva meeting of the guarantor powers, encouraging instead negotiations in Nicosia between Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash. In such an arrangement the Turkish side might also include military and diplomatic representatives from Ankara.

The US embassy in Nicosia comments that at a minimum Clerides must be given authorization from Athens and be assured that he will not be branded a traitor when the talks end the idea of enosis.

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1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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Greek Defense Minister Averoff has already admitted [redacted] he now thinks that the Cypriots will have to settle the problem themselves and that division of the island will probably be necessary. [redacted] the Turkish Cypriots should be given no more than 20 percent of the island.

25X1

25X1

Turning to Greek actions, Averoff said Athens' decision to withdraw from the NATO integrated military command is firm. Averoff told the US ambassador that his government recognized the complexities of the disengagement process and would proceed slowly. He said he would issue a clarifying statement today that would indicate that "certain technical arrangements" would not be touched. According to the US embassy, his implication was that bilateral arrangements with the US would be respected.

Averoff told the ambassador that the NATO pull-out was necessary to relieve the deep sense of humiliation brought on by events on Cyprus. He said the move had been extremely popular among Greeks and had markedly strengthened Karamanlis' position.

Greek authorities have eased the ban on air traffic to and from US air bases. US military aircraft may now operate into and out of Athens airport from the west with a minimum of six hours' notice.

Meanwhile, anti-US demonstrations continued in many parts of Greece. In the first major clash between police and demonstrators since Karamanlis took power, at least six people were injured in an attempted march on the US embassy in downtown Athens. Demonstrations also took place on Crete, but there were apparently no major threats to the US base at Iraklion.

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SOUTH KOREA

Seoul's accusation that the attempted assassination of President Pak on Thursday was ordered by North Korean President Kim Il-song--true or not--will have the following effects:

--Political dialogue between North and South will be frozen.

--Inasmuch as the assassin provides a link between anti-Pak activists in Japan and the North Korean apparatus there, support is given to Pak's argument that all dissenters are tools of the Korean Communists.

--South Korea's relations with Japan, already tense, are bound to undergo further strain. At the least, President Pak will insist that Tokyo place tighter restrictions on leftist activity among the 600,000 Koreans who live in Japan.

The Japanese have already shown that they want to prevent the assassination attempt from harming ties to Seoul. Prime Minister Tanaka is attending the funeral of Pak's wife today and will use the occasion to confer privately with President Pak.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

Heavy fighting took place over the weekend in the northern provinces and in areas near Saigon.

Minh Long district town in Quang Ngai Province fell on Saturday after heavy ground and artillery attacks by the communists. This is the second district town overrun this month in the northern provinces.

In Quang Nam Province, the communists are maintaining heavy pressure on three district towns south and southwest of Da Nang. On Saturday, communist gunners fired rockets at the Da Nang air base, damaging one aircraft and injuring many civilians. The northern provinces will probably remain the scene of heavy fighting as the communists push to increase their territorial holdings.

Closer to Saigon, government forces have fended off tank-supported communist attacks near the Cambodian border southwest of Tay Ninh City and along Route 13 in Binh Duong Province. The regional commander believes he has enough troops at his disposal to thwart communist initiatives in the area.

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CAMBODIA

The Cambodian government is planning a new delaying tactic to defend its UN seat this fall.

After sounding out friendly countries, Prime Minister Long Boret has concluded that the simple deferral maneuver that saved Phnom Penh's UN seat last year would not be successful at this fall's General Assembly. Accordingly, with the help of Indonesian Foreign Minister Malik, Boret has worked out a slightly different approach.

Phnom Penh recognizes that a pro-Sihanouk resolution will almost certainly be inscribed on the General Assembly agenda. Boret's plan is to offer an amendment which would call for the establishment of a UN team to investigate the situation in Cambodia firsthand. The amendment would defer action on seating at the UN until the team submits a report to the General Assembly next year.

Djakarta has promised to lobby hard for Boret's amendment, and it has Philippine backing as well. Australia and Japan also seem sure to support it. If Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand fall into line, Boret's plan would have a reasonable chance for success.

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THAILAND

The attempt to form a constitutional government is still on course, but behind schedule.

After the collapse of the military regime last October, there were promises that a new constitution would be promulgated and elections held within six months. The constitution is still under study in the National Assembly, which is not likely to act for at least another month. The draft constitution calls for national elections within 90 days of its promulgation.

No active military officers will be running for political office when elections are held. Indeed, one of the more unusual features of Thai politics since last fall is the military's reluctance to get involved politically.

The effective performance of civilian Prime Minister Sanya over recent months has helped to dampen speculation in Bangkok about the "inevitability" of a return to military rule. Sanya's tough handling of a recent civil disturbance went a long way toward easing the concern of many army officers that civilian rule means weak leadership and political instability. The civilian government's responsiveness to public opinion and Sanya's good relations with the National Assembly have established a pattern that is likely to ease the country's transition to representative government.

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