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# The President's Daily Brief

*December 30, 1974*

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USSR-EGYPT

*General Secretary Brezhnev's visit to Egypt and other Arab states is postponed indefinitely, according to press reports from Cairo this morning. "Informed Egyptian sources" say that differences over military and political questions were behind the postponement.*

Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmi and War Minister Gamasy, who made a hurried trip to Moscow on Saturday, met for 35 minutes with Brezhnev, Foreign Minister Gromyko, and Defense Minister Grechko yesterday, before agreeing to postpone the visit. A joint communiqué is to be issued later today.

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BANGLADESH

*Prime Minister Mujibur Rahman decreed a state of emergency Saturday which restricts civil rights and broadens the government's powers of arrest and detention. The emergency was declared, according to the decree, because "the security and economic life of Bangladesh have been threatened by internal disturbances." Mujib told newsmen that he may take further action.*

Mujib reportedly has been considering the declaration of a state of emergency for some time. The murder of several members of his Awami League recently, including a member of parliament, may have provided a plausible opportunity for his action.

The US embassy in Dacca comments that Mujib has seemed increasingly interested in moving toward an authoritarian setup and that the emergency decree appears part of a trend in that direction. Specifically, Mujib has been weighing a change from the present parliamentary government to a more centralized presidential system as a means of increasing his power to deal with the severe economic and social problems that face Bangladesh. Leading members of his party oppose such a shift.

The public so far is reacting calmly to the decree. The fragmented leftist political opposition may try to mount a protest campaign, but for the time being it is unlikely to get help from anti-government military officers whose support would be necessary for any serious move against Mujib. Military and paramilitary forces have been moved to key positions should their presence be necessary to maintain order.

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CAMBODIA

*Prime Minister Long Boret has apparently shelved plans for an ambitious cabinet reorganization that would increase civilian control over the military. His decision permitted a reconciliation with army Commander in Chief Sosthene Fernandez with whom relations had been strained. The two agreed late last week on increased civilian-military consultation and civilian budgetary control over the armed forces.*

This informal pact between Boret and Fernandez probably holds out more hope for effective cooperation between civilian and military leaders than would the earlier considered cabinet reorganization.

The resolution of the personal feud between Boret and Fernandez will work to the disadvantage of Lon Non, President Lon Nol's controversial young brother. Lon Non has been trying to capitalize on the strained relations between the two leaders to further his own political ambitions.

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NICARAGUA

*Nicaraguan President Somoza has agreed to the principal demands of terrorists who are holding about a dozen hostages in Managua. Somoza has guaranteed the terrorists safe passage to Cuba, will pay them a ransom of at least \$1 million, and will release a number of their imprisoned colleagues--members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front. Preparations reportedly are being made for a flight to Havana possibly today.*

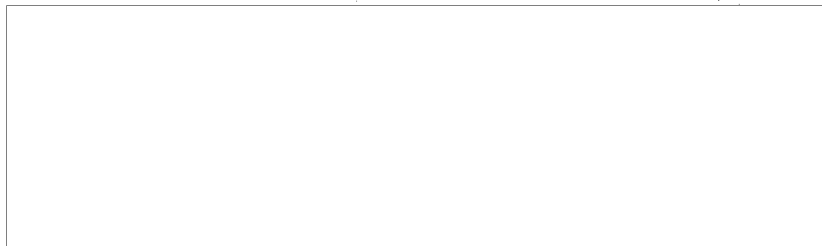
The President has a well-known record of dealing harshly with extremists. This time, he was left with almost no room for maneuver after a well-armed band stormed a suburban Managua home Friday during a reception attended by a number of Nicaraguan luminaries. Some of Somoza's closest associates and two relatives are among the hostages, who include his brother-in-law--Ambassador Guillermo Sevilla-Sacasa, dean of the diplomatic corps in Washington--a cousin, Nicaragua's foreign minister, the mayor of Managua, and the ambassador to the UN. A US citizen and the Chilean ambassador are also among the captives.

The Sandinist group is small, and after repeated losses to government security forces in recent years, most of its members were in jail or exile. The affair over the weekend could help to improve the Sandinists' fortunes.

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Thailand: The government's expulsion of former prime minister Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn from Thailand reduces the danger of serious political disorder in Bangkok. Thanom, who had returned unexpectedly from exile in the US, flew to Singapore yesterday with his family only two days after his arrival in Bangkok. The Singapore government has agreed to allow Thanom to stay temporarily. Some student leaders may try to prolong protest demonstrations over alleged government complicity in Thanom's return. With Thanom out of the country, however, student activists probably will have trouble keeping the issue alive.

Romania: The Romanians, who maintain only minimum military involvement in Warsaw Pact activities, now are trying to pare down even that participation. No Warsaw Pact exercises have been held on Romanian soil in over a decade, and only small ground and air staffs have participated in pact exercises elsewhere. Romania's principal involvement lies in naval cooperation in the Black Sea.

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