



The President's Daily Brief

January 18, 1975

5

~~Top Secret~~ 25X1

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the Director of Central Intelligence

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LATE ITEM

Cyprus: Thousands of anti-British Cypriots demonstrated violently in Nicosia this morning to protest the evacuation of Turkish Cypriot refugees from the British base at Akrotiri. About 2,000 of them broke into the British consulate, threw its contents into the street, and set the building afire.

Demonstrators also attacked the US embassy with stones and later broke into the compound, setting a vehicle on fire. At last word, the demonstrators were attempting to enter the embassy building.

Another mob was reported heading for the offices of the British Council, a semiofficial trade and cultural group. Police so far have appeared powerless to control the mobs and have called for help from the Cypriot National Guard.

Even while demonstrators were preparing for action this morning, the first planeload of refugees left Akrotiri for Turkey. For now, at least, the British appear to be in control of the road from Episkopi to the airfield and two more trips are planned for the Turkish evacuation plane today.

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As of 0530 EST this morning, the demonstrators were reported out of the US embassy.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

January 18, 1975

Table of Contents

China: The long-awaited National People's Congress may now be in session. (*Page 1*)

USSR: The USSR is developing at least one and possibly other new nuclear weapons test areas. The first silos for the SS-X-18 Mod 1 and SS-X-19 are now operational. [redacted]

25X1
25X1

Cyprus: Greek Cypriots are protesting the evacuation to Turkey of Turkish Cypriot refugees who have been living on a British sovereign base. (*Page 5*)

Portugal: The cabinet met yesterday to discuss the Communist-sponsored unitary labor law that has severely strained the three-party coalition. (*Page 6*)

Notes: Israel-Lebanon; North Vietnam (*Page 7*)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHINA

The long-awaited National People's Congress may now be in session.

The Chinese announced yesterday that the party Central Committee had met the preceding week to deal with issues connected with the congress, which is the highest government "legislative" organ. The delay of a week in reporting the plenum suggests that the announcement it had taken place coincided with the opening of the congress. High-ranking officials who had been brought to Peking for the plenum are still in the capital, and press reports indicate that a large meeting took place last night in the Great Hall of the People.

It is not yet clear how long the congress will last, or whether Peking will release documents connected with its work while the meeting is in session. Chinese officials have restricted travel to Peking, but not to other cities, until mid-February, which suggests the meeting may be fairly lengthy.

The communiqué reporting on the Central Committee plenum indicated that a new state constitution had been approved. Controversy over this document had been a factor in the many postponements of the congress; presumably these debates, in particular the one over whether or not the post of chief of state should be abolished, have now been resolved. The communiqué also reported that the plenum approved a list of state council appointments. Some of these appointments, especially those involving the military, were almost certainly also controversial and were factors in previous postponements of the congress.

Teng Hsiao-ping, a veteran civilian administrator who had been a major victim of the Cultural Revolution, but had been "rehabilitated" in April 1973 and named to the Politburo in December of that year, was further elevated at the plenum to the Politburo standing committee. He was also named a vice chairman of the party. These appointments vault Teng over Chiang Ching and Yao Wen-yuan, the ranking active members of the full Politburo. As members of the notorious Cultural Revolution Group, these two had helped engineer Teng's purge in 1966. The new appointments also elevate Teng above Li Hsien-nien, with whom he has been sharing duties in the day-to-day running of the government since the illness of Premier Chou En-lai.

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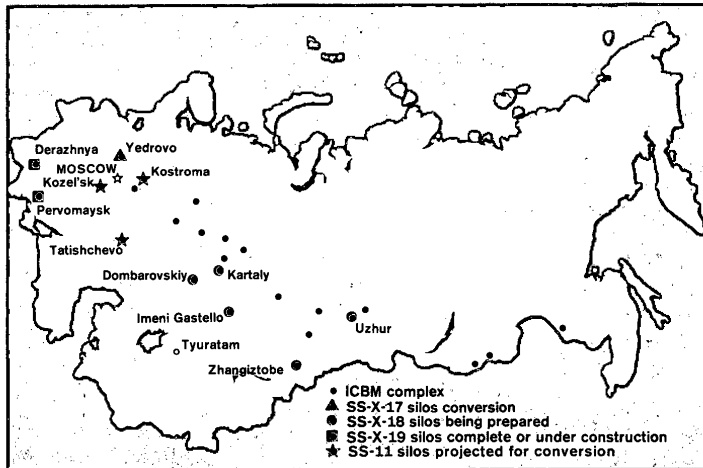
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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Teng's new titles cement his position as Chou's de facto successor as head of government; it is possible that the congress will further confirm this position by formally naming him premier. In any event, Teng's advancement strongly suggests that policies adopted by the congress will not depart markedly from those of the past several years and will not be especially "radical" in flavor.

Mao Tse-tung remained in Changsha, in Hunan Province, throughout the Central Committee plenum. He still appears to be in southern China, and it therefore seems likely that he will miss at least the opening phases of the congress. Mao does not hold a government post and he is not obligated to attend a strictly governmental conclave such as this. He did, however, attend the previous National People's Congress ten years ago as a delegate from Peking. The Chairman has remained out of the capital since July, about the time that central directives first indicated that active preparations for the congress were under way.

Mao's prolonged absence from Peking while important events were transpiring there is not easily explainable. He has met with a steady stream of foreign visitors, which tends to indicate that health is not a limiting factor on his movements. Mao has obviously been kept informed of developments in the capital, and an air shuttle has operated between Peking and his residence in Hunan.



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USSR

The USSR is developing at least one and possibly other new test areas at the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Weapons Proving Ground, apparently in anticipation of implementing the US-Soviet nuclear threshold treaty in April 1976.

Once the treaty becomes effective, the Soviets will be required to provide specific test information, such as calibration yields and geologic data, for those test areas used after the treaty enters into force. Information provided on older areas, where existing weapons were developed, would permit the US to refine its estimates on the yields of these weapons. Soviet concern over this prospect probably is prompting the development of the new test areas.

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The first silos for two of the new Soviet ICBMs, the SS-X-18 Mod 1 and SS-X-19, probably are now operational. Work is continuing on additional silos for these missiles as well as a group for the SS-X-17. The SS-X-19, which carries six warheads, is the first Soviet strategic missile with MIRVs to be installed at an operational complex.

The first launch group of ten silos for the SS-X-18 was completed at the Dombrovskiy ICBM complex late last year. [redacted]

[redacted] in early December the Soviets were in the process of installing a missile canister in one of the silos. By now, missiles probably have been installed and checked out in all ten silos in the group.

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The SS-X-18 Mod 1, which carries a large, single warhead, is believed to be the missile system being installed in the newly completed silos. The Mod 2, the MIRV version of the SS-X-18, has been fired 14 times and probably will require additional testing before it is ready for the field.

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The Soviets may be testing several different MIRV payload configurations on the Mod 2. Since last summer, SS-X-18s have carried four re-entry vehicles similar to those in previous MIRV tests and four smaller ones with higher re-entry speeds.

A group of ten SS-11 silos has been converted to the SS-X-19 silo configuration at the Derazhnva ICBM complex. [redacted]

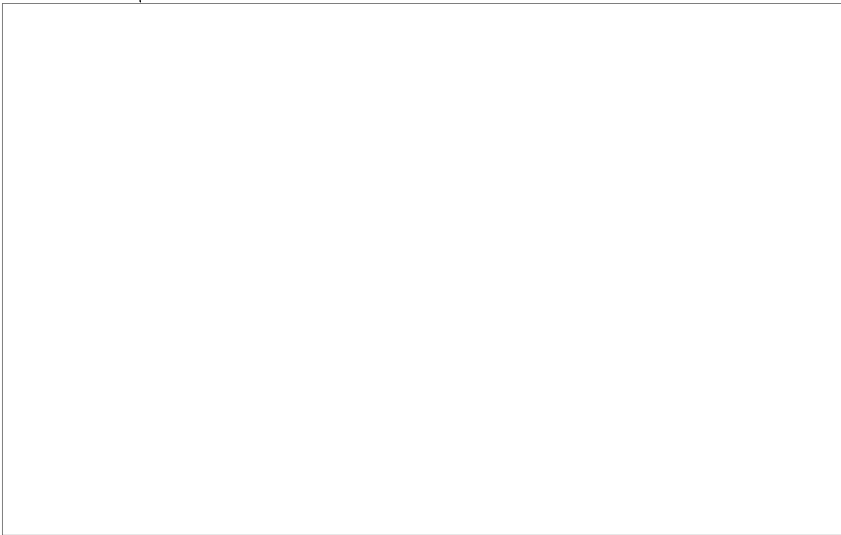
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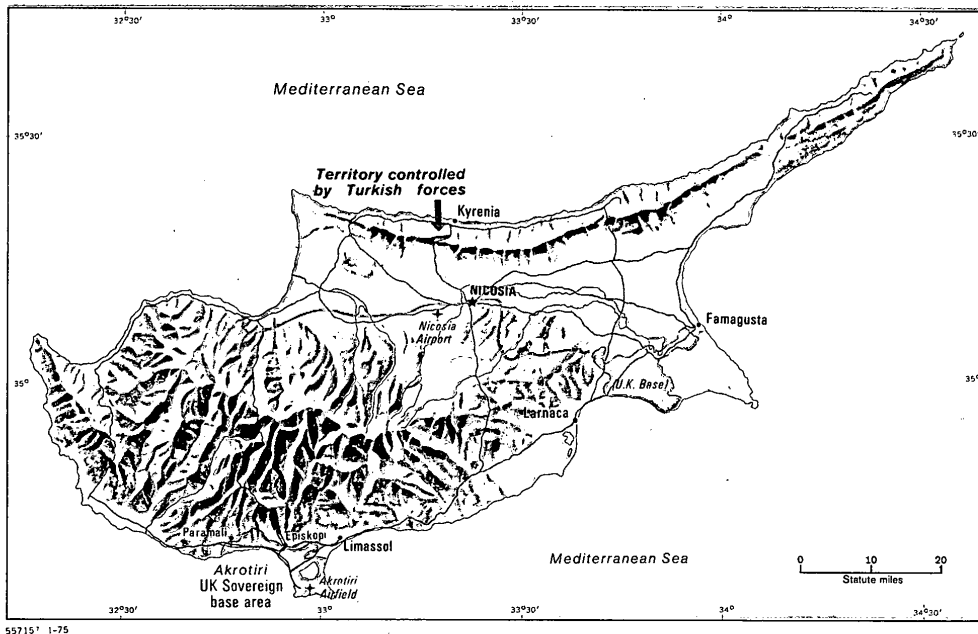
[redacted] that one missile in the group was being fueled. A similar group at the Pervomaysk ICBM complex may also be complete.

Developmental flight-testing of the SS-X-19 evidently has been completed, and series production of the missile probably is under way. Crew training firings may also have started. For these reasons, we believe that the recently converted silos are equipped with SS-X-19 missiles.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CYPRUS

Tensions are high around the British sovereign base of Akrotiri, in southern Cyprus, following a violent clash yesterday between Greek Cypriot demonstrators and British base personnel. More demonstrations are planned this weekend. The demonstrators are protesting British plans to begin evacuating several thousand Turkish Cypriot refugees to Turkey today.

British officials state that a group of about 500 demonstrators clashed with British forces at the edge of the base yesterday, resulting in injuries on both sides and the death of a Greek Cypriot youth. The British are bracing for more violence, particularly when the funeral for the youth is held, probably today or tomorrow. The principal British concern is to keep open the main road separating the Turkish Cypriot refugees in Paramali and Episkopi from the evacuation airfield in the southern part of the base. The two are separated by some ten miles of open country and the refugees' movement to the air base could be subjected to interference by Greek Cypriots at many points.

The potential for trouble will increase if Greek Cypriots prevent the airlift by blockading the Turkish Cypriots or if intercommunal clashes occur outside the British base. In case of a blockade, which the British would be unwilling to break, the Turkish government might consider a sea-lift of the refugees. Should Turkish Cypriots outside the base be threatened, Ankara might well order its forces on the island to move into the Greek Cypriot sector in a rescue operation.

Anti-British demonstrations in all major Greek Cypriot towns yesterday and Thursday were generally orderly, but two British properties in Limassol were bombed and several vehicles burned. More protest marches are planned for this weekend and, in view of rising tensions, they are likely to be less orderly. Greek Cypriots, many of whom are refugees driven from their homes in the north, are particularly incensed that the Turkish Cypriot refugees will eventually be resettled on Greek Cypriot properties in the Turkish-held sector of the island.

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PORTUGAL

The Portuguese cabinet met yesterday to discuss the Communist-sponsored unitary labor law that has severely strained the three-party coalition. Results of the meeting are not yet available.

The non-communist parties in the government oppose the law because they believe it will facilitate the Communist Party's control of the country's labor movement. The Communists already dominate the nation's single labor confederation.

The Armed Forces Movement, which shares power with the three political parties, has announced its support for the law. Some of the Movement's leaders may be having second thoughts, however, because of the heavy opposition the law has encountered.

The Lisbon press yesterday gave considerable coverage to a Socialist Party rally at which the monolithic labor concept was denounced and the need to preserve workers' freedom emphasized. Justice Minister Zenha told an enthusiastic audience at the rally that "the working class is not the property of any political party or of the state."

Failure of the cabinet to approve the law would be the most serious defeat the Communists have sustained since they entered the government. It could reduce their influence among a group in which they have been strong. Most of the other setbacks they have suffered have been among groups in which they were trying to establish or increase their influence.

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NOTES

Israeli and Lebanese forces exchanged artillery fire again yesterday, but fighting in southern Lebanon generally slackened.

Israeli patrols and fedayeen guerrillas fired across the border at each other Thursday night. The Israelis have made no incursions into Lebanon since Thursday, according to the Lebanese defense ministry.

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North Vietnam is maintaining a moderately heavy flow of troops through the infiltration pipeline this dry season.

We estimate that some 30,000 troops have moved south in the past two months. Total numbers are still below those of previous years when heavy fighting has taken place. Of the total, more than 16,000 are destined for southern South Vietnam, about 8,000 for the central highlands, and approximately 1,000 for the northern provinces of the country. The other 5,000 probably will be used to strengthen combat and logistic units along the infiltration system. Some of the troops apparently have already arrived in the provinces north of Saigon, and others in the pipeline probably will reach their destinations during the next few weeks. The new troops should enable the communists to sustain their forces in moderate fighting for this dry season.

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