



The President's Daily Brief

February 8, 1975

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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CYPRUS

Turkish forces on Cyprus are on the move, suggesting that they may be getting into positions for a new military operation to round out the Turkish-held portion of the island. The meeting yesterday between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot negotiators made no progress, but the negotiators did agree to meet again on Monday.

The reports of Turkish military movements include:

--UN observers reported three exchanges of fire in the past two days, as Turkish forces apparently tried to improve their firing positions.

--A US embassy officer saw about 1,000 Turkish commandos in battle gear awaiting transport near Kyrenia yesterday.

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connnaissance aircraft were active west of Nicosia yesterday. 25X1

--UN observers saw a group of Turkish tanks moving southeast from Nicosia, also yesterday.

--UN observers saw up to 20 Turkish tanks moving south form Kyrenia Thursday night.

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[redacted] reiterated
yesterday that the Turks today, or on Sunday at the latest, will carry out their plan to clear the Greek national guard out of several positions around Nicosia and to the west. 25X1

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No progress was made yesterday in the meeting between Greek Cypriot negotiator Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash on the two issues currently being debated--control of Nicosia airport and the return of Greek Cypriot refugees to their homes in the Turkish-controlled area.

Denktash did read a statement reaffirming the Turkish wish that the talks continue. Clerides, however, took note of Denktash's earlier statement in which he threatened to declare an independent Turkish Cypriot state. He warned that such a move would cause the talks to be discontinued. Denktash said that, but for "outside intervention," he would now be the president of an independent Turkish Cypriot republic.

Should the Turks take military action, the Greek Cypriots may turn to such forums as the UN Security Council.

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AUSTRALIA

Prime Minister Whitlam defended the presence of US defense and scientific installations in Australia at the Labor Party's biennial conference this week. He said Canberra would not exercise its option to give notice later this year of an intention to terminate the lease

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The party's left wing proposed to change the wording of the party platform to imply that the presence of the bases impinges on Australian sovereignty and is therefore unacceptable. Whitlam declared, however, that changes over the past year to bring all the bases under joint administration satisfied Australian sovereignty. Whitlam also turned aside leftist objections to the secrecy of some of the installations, saying that he and other officials with a need to know were fully informed as to the functions of these bases.

While standing firm on the bases, Whitlam accepted a proposal to allow the Viet Cong's provisional government to open an information office in Australia. Nevertheless, he strongly opposed a resolution put forward by Deputy Prime Minister Cairns, the most prominent leftist in the party and a longtime Viet Cong sympathizer, calling for immediate diplomatic recognition of the provisional government. Cairns' resolution was his first direct challenge to Whitlam's foreign policy since he became deputy prime minister last June.

Whitlam compromised on the Viet Cong issue partly to avoid souring his close working relationship with Cairns, to whom he has delegated primary responsibility for dealing with Australia's economic problems. Whitlam is also anxious to avoid serious party wrangling in view of the possibility of national elections later this year.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

Prime Minister Khiem [redacted]

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[redacted] assumes the US Congress will not approve the request for \$300 million in supplemental assistance for South Vietnam. The Prime Minister concluded that failure to receive this additional American support would not mean the difference between "survival and defeat," but would keep the South Vietnamese military on the defensive and would hurt President Thieu "politically and psychologically."

Khiem's remarks reflect President Thieu's own thinking on the prospects for additional US support. Anticipating heavy fighting in the weeks ahead, Thieu is now publicly taking a more pessimistic line.

Regarding the presidential election slated for October, Khiem said Thieu agrees that another one-man election must be avoided. At the moment, many South Vietnamese political parties are reluctant to enter a candidate in a presidential race they could not hope to win. Khiem reasoned that the government might have to consider returning to the provisions of the earlier, 1967 election law, which did not require that a candidate be sponsored by a political party. This could result in a large number of candidates and make a majority victory impossible. Khiem nevertheless was confident that the government's candidate would win with a strong plurality.

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NOTES

The two Soviet cosmonauts in the Salyut 4 space station are expected to return to earth aboard their Soyuz 17 spacecraft on Sunday. They have been in orbit since January 10.

* * *

The Ethiopian army has not broken through the rebel encirclement of Asmara.

Resupply convoys are stalled along main roads leading into the city, and supplies continue to be brought in by air. Next week, the ruling military council apparently intends to announce a decision to nationalize all agricultural land, a step that is almost certain to provoke a violent reaction from both peasants and landowners.

* * *

South Korean President Pak will win the referendum scheduled for February 12; the referendum is designed to validate his leadership under the authoritarian 1972 constitution.

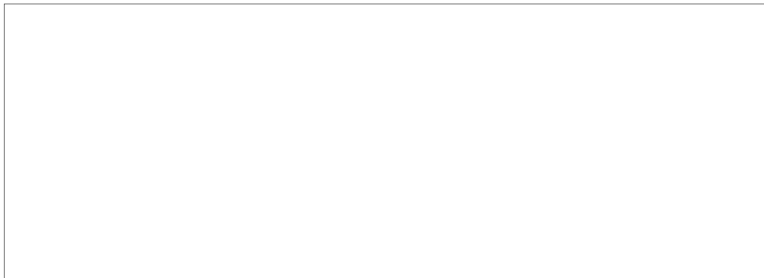
Pak apparently sees the referendum as a useful tactic in suppressing domestic dissent. In particular, Pak wants to demonstrate to his domestic audience and the US Congress that, however vocal, his opposition has relatively little support nationally. [redacted] the President will follow up the vote with major changes in the structure of the government party. He may also reshuffle the cabinet and make a conciliatory gesture to the opposition. In the end, perhaps, what appears to be a meaningless political exercise might serve some useful purpose.

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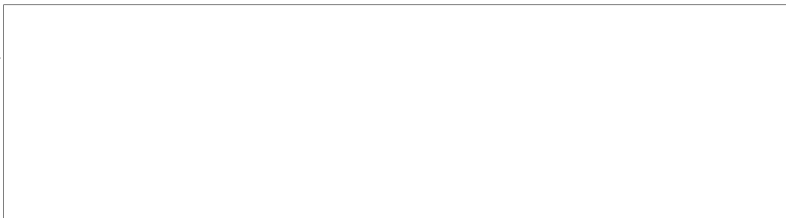
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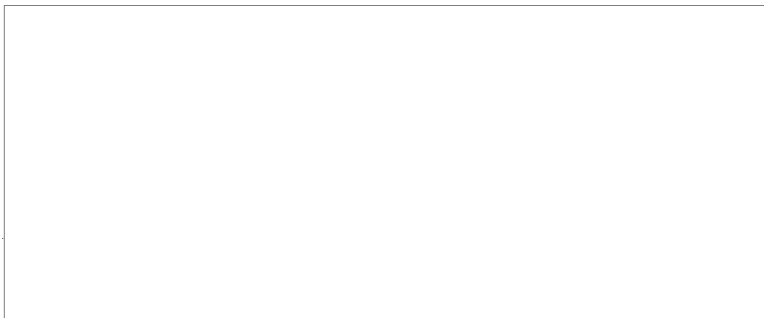
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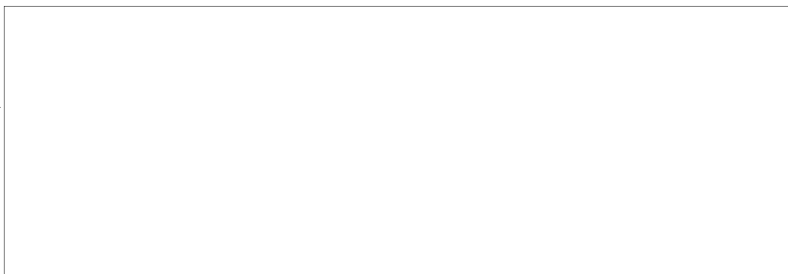
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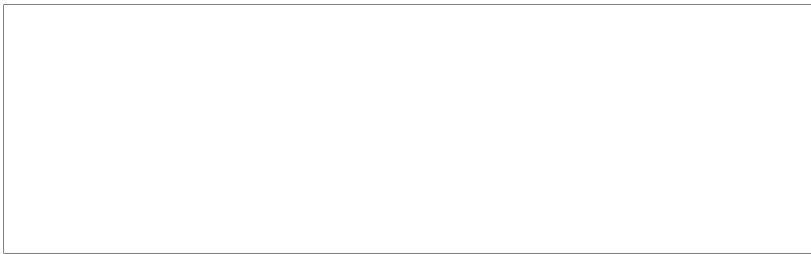
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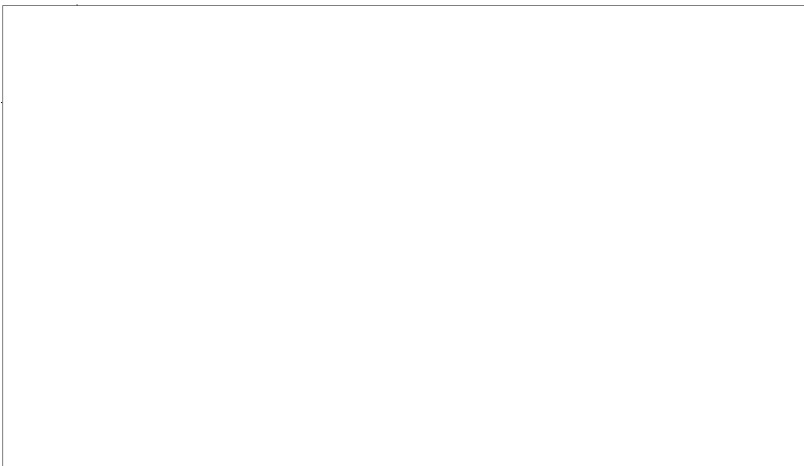
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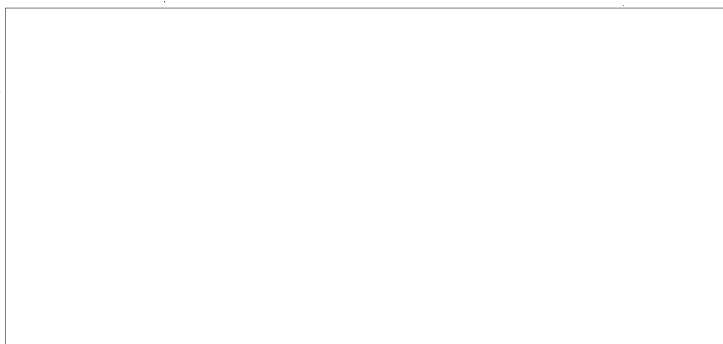
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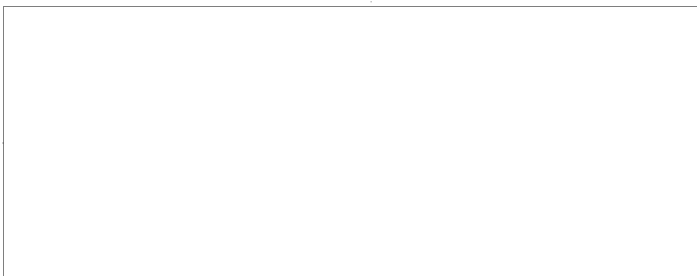
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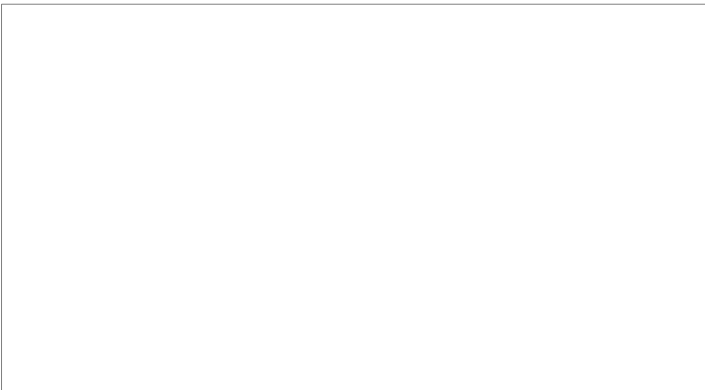
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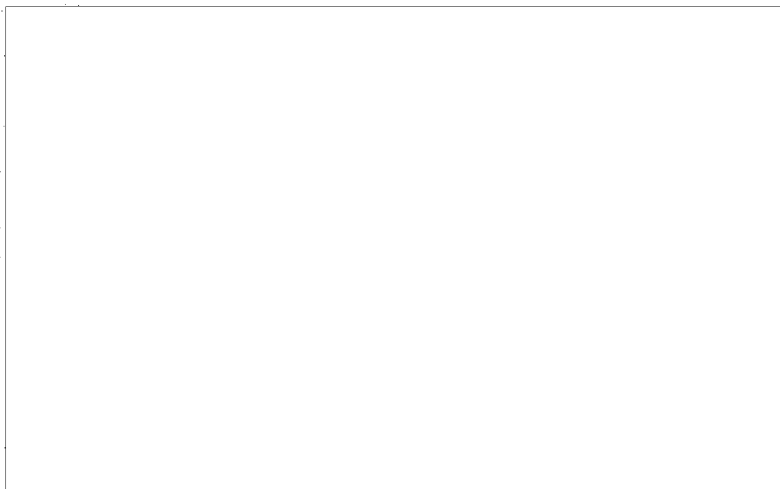
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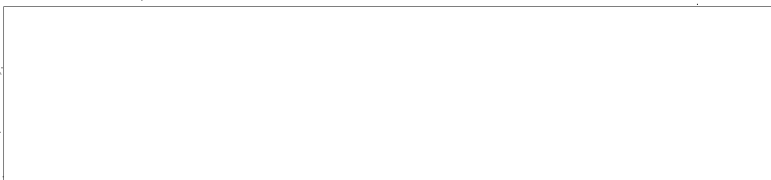
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