



The President's Daily Brief

June 17, 1975

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LATE ITEM

TURKEY

The Turkish government has decided to wait 30 days before taking any action against US bases in the country, according to the US chargé d' affaires in Ankara. After 30 days, Ankara again will review bilateral relations and US base rights.

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Turkey: An announcement is due today on how the security council decided to react to the US arms embargo. (Page 6)

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ITALY

With all of the votes counted, the Italian regional elections have revealed a decisive shift to the left, marked by unprecedented gains for the Communist Party. The Christian Democrats remain number one, but just barely. Only partial returns are available from provincial and municipal contests, but they point in the same direction.

The parties of the left--the Communists, Socialists, and a small party to the left of the Communists--obtained over 47 percent of the vote. The lion's share went to the Communists, who achieved an all-time high of 33.4 percent, more than 5 percent over their 1972 performance and nearly 6 percent above their vote in 1970. Yesterday's advances by the Communists exceed any they have registered since World War II. Even in their most optimistic projections, the Communists had not expected to win more than 30 percent. In addition to their regional gains, early municipal returns suggest that the Communists have become the plurality party in some major cities, including Rome, Milan, and Turin.

The Christian Democrat's total of 35.3 percent almost matched its postwar low in the 1946 constituent assembly election. Although the Christian Democratic losses are a major blow, they are not in the range expected by pessimists in the party who feared a loss of around 5 percent. The fact that the Communists appear to be drawing almost as many votes as the Christian Democrats, however, will overshadow that.

The Socialist Party, with 12 percent, picked up about 2 percent over its 1972 and 1970 totals. The impact of the Socialists' increase will be magnified by the fact that they are the only party in the center-left governing majority that advanced.

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The losers were the parties of the right, with the Conservative Liberals continuing their steady decline and the Neo-Fascists dropping back closer to their postwar average of about 5 percent.

The left will interpret the vote as a call for change; that was the common thread in the Socialist and Communist campaigns. At the minimum, the outcome is likely to:

--Build more pressure behind Communist chief Berlinguer's proposal for a "historic compromise" designed to bring his party into the government.

--Give the Socialists a strong hand to play in their push for treatment as political equals by the Christian Democrats in the center-left coalition. The Socialists will now appear more than ever to be the only barrier to entry into the government by the Communists.

Both the Communists and Socialists have until now opposed an early parliamentary election. Pressures will probably increase in both parties to try to bring about such an election, however, in the hope of transplanting the regional gains to the national level.

The immediate problem for party leaders is whether to leave the two-party Moro government in place until next fall, when the Christian Democrats and Socialists have scheduled party congresses. Just prior to the balloting there seemed to be a consensus in favor of avoiding a government crisis now. Party leaders, particularly the Socialists, now will be rethinking the matter. When the government crisis does come, it could be among the most difficult and protracted of the postwar period.

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PORTUGAL

The dispute has been renewed over the Socialist Party's newspaper, Republica, which was closed by the government after Communist printers took it over nearly four weeks ago. Republica was to have been turned back to the Socialists yesterday.

Last-minute conditions levied by the Socialists to head off more trouble from the printers, according to press reports, prompted the internal security officer in charge of the building to hand the keys over to representatives of a Communist-dominated workers' committee. He also gave keys to Republica's editor, who has refused to reenter the building as long as Socialist control of the paper remains in doubt.

If the government permits the workers to assume control of Republica, the Socialists may feel compelled to pull out of the government, as they had threatened if the Armed Forces Movement did not give the paper back to them.

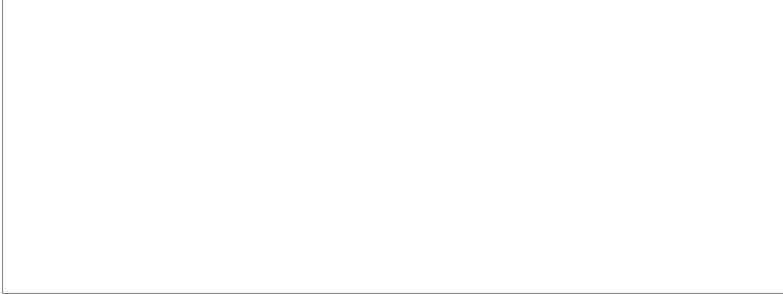
Security forces armed with tear gas formed a cordon around the Republica building last night, but a crowd, mostly Socialists, gave them no trouble. The security men barred both management and labor from the building overnight. It is to be opened at 8:00 AM today.

Rumors have also been rife in Lisbon, meanwhile, about a marathon session of the Revolutionary Council said to have been held last weekend. Military leaders were said to be attempting to resolve disputes over whether to abolish political parties and over what form of socialism Portugal is to have.

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SYRIA-ISRAEL



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TURKEY

The Turkish national security council issued an uninformative communiqué following yesterday's extraordinary meeting on how to react to the US arms embargo. Prime Minister Demirel has promised that Foreign Minister Caglayangil will make an announcement this morning.

Demirel has said Turkey must take counter-measures against the US because of new indications that the arms embargo will not be lifted and because he is under domestic pressure in Turkey. In fact, we have no evidence of an increase in pressure on Demirel, either from the general public or from the military. Even his political opposition, led by former prime minister Ecevit, has refrained from inflammatory statements.

Demirel, rather, appears to have seized the issue as a chance to strengthen his own political position. He may well have reasoned that he could only gain from bringing matters to a head. If the embargo were lifted, he would be credited with forcing the US to back down; if the embargo were maintained, he would only have anticipated the development and begun the steps he would have been forced to take anyway.

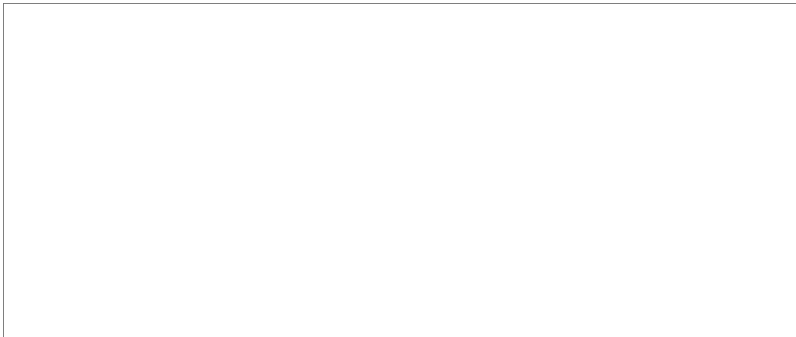
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NOTES

Hanoi has begun moving some of its main-force combat units back to North Vietnam.

Intercepts reveal that the headquarters of the 1st Corps--Hanoi's mobile strike force--is back in central North Vietnam. Other messages indicate that two of the corps' divisions also have begun moving northward. Hanoi still has 19 infantry divisions in the South, four of them from the strategic reserve. Since the fall of Saigon, these units have been engaged in mopping up remaining pockets of resistance and providing transportation, communications, and some administrative expertise in the countryside. The bulk of these forces presumably will remain until a new political and administrative system has had time to take hold.

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US-Zairian relations may be headed for a difficult period.

A number of middle and high-ranking military officers have been arrested for allegedly planning a coup to depose President Mobutu, and rumors have been circulating in Kinshasa for about a week that the US was involved. Mobutu himself may have inspired the rumors. He has tried for some time to erase the pro-US reputation he has in much of Africa and has increasingly resorted to anti-US outbursts.

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