



The President's Daily Brief

August 19, 1976

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Top Secret^{25X1}



Exempt from general
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exemption category 5B(1)(2),(3)
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

August 19, 1976

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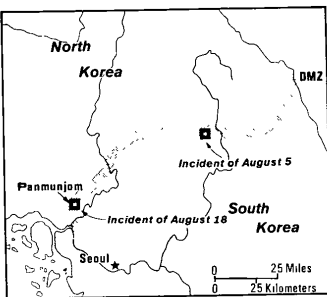
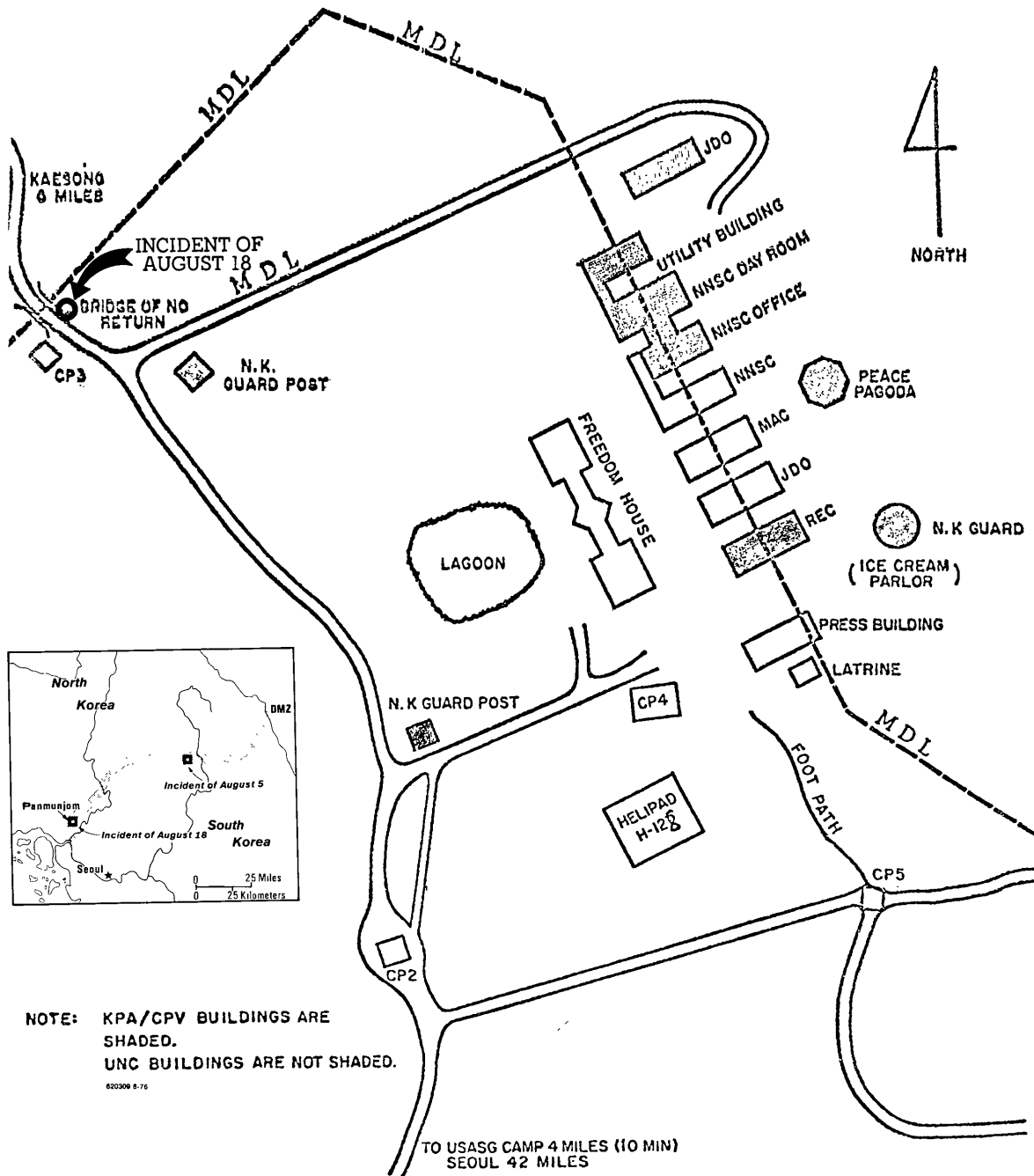
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JOINT SECURITY AREA MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS AREA

[At Panmunjom] SCHEMATIC NOT TO SCALE



NOTE: KPA/CPV BUILDINGS ARE SHADED. UNC BUILDINGS ARE NOT SHADED.

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KOREA: Yesterday's violence at Panmunjom seems designed to underscore North Korea's case that the US is the major source of tension in Korea and to agitate US public opinion over the issue of the US troop presence in the context of an election campaign.

Beginning early this spring, North Korean propaganda has charged almost daily that the US is undertaking provocative measures in the South. Since early June, North Korean personnel in the Joint Security Area have engaged in minor harassment of US personnel.

Pyongyang almost certainly intended US casualties to result from the incident at Panmunjom. A North Korean radio broadcast termed the incident a US provocation and warned that any such incidents in the future would be met forcefully.

On August 5--only a few hours after an exchange of fire on the DMZ--a North Korean statement, issued at a high level, alleged that the US and South Korea have now "completed" war preparations. The statement was the first issued from this level since 1969 that was directed specifically at US actions in the South.

North Korea is working hard to get the nonaligned conference in Colombo to issue a harsh anti-US statement. Pyongyang's efforts in Colombo are intended to affect the prospects in the General Assembly debate on the Korean issue this fall. A resolution has already been introduced which once again calls for American withdrawal from Korea.

Should Pyongyang perceive the beginning of a domestic debate over the advisability of the US troop presence in Korea, further controlled acts of violence can be expected.

President Kim Il-song is not likely, however, to undertake high-risk military provocations that might result in serious clashes with South Korean forces. Kim has acknowledged publicly that he is relying on trends in international

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opinion and on developments in South Korea to create opportunities for advancing his goal of reunification on North Korean terms.

Pyongyang domestic radio reported this morning that all Korean army personnel "and other units" had been put on a "war posture."

[Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] There is [Redacted] other evidence of any unusual North Korean military activity or deployments, although North Korean military forces are in position to launch a major assault across the DMZ with little or no warning.

The North Koreans have agreed to attend a meeting at the Military Armistice Commission early this morning Washington time.

The Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State does not believe current information is sufficient to be certain that yesterday's incident was planned from Pyongyang. State/INR believes the incident could have resulted from local North Korean action.

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LEBANON: The Christians are continuing to shell areas in the mountains east of Beirut, apparently as a prelude to a full-scale assault.

Shelling has centered around Kahalah, Alayh, and other villages near the Beirut-Damascus highway. Heavy firing also occurred in the area of Aynturah and Mutayn.

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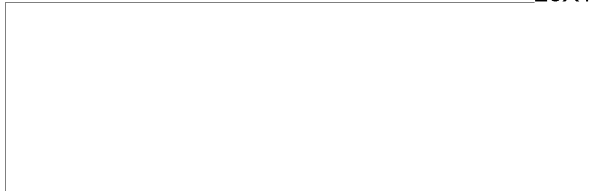
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Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have been trying for several days to gather support for an Arab summit under the auspices of the Arab League to discuss again the Lebanese situation.

Egyptian President Sadat, who is en route to Saudi Arabia for a quick visit, yesterday approved the idea. His move may be chiefly intended to placate the Saudis who have been annoyed by Egypt's anti-Syrian activities in Lebanon.

Sadat's agreement to attend a summit, combined with Saudi and Kuwaiti pressure, will make it more difficult for Syrian President Asad to resist approval of the meeting.

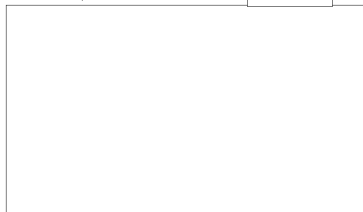
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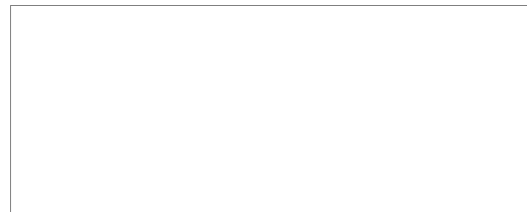
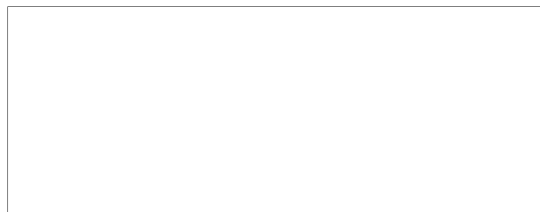
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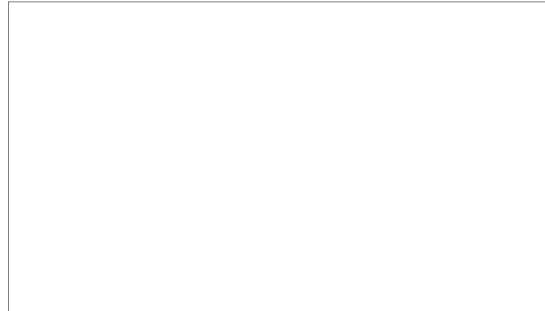
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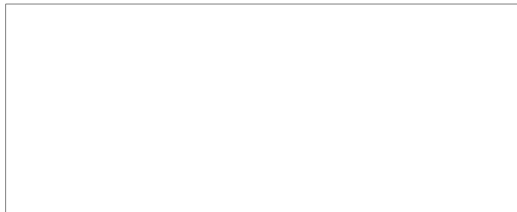
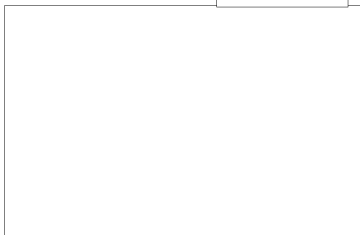
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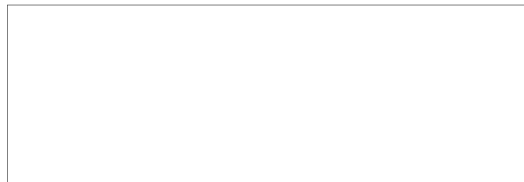
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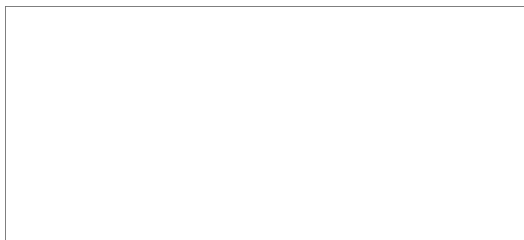
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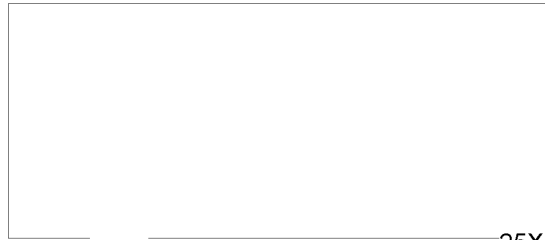


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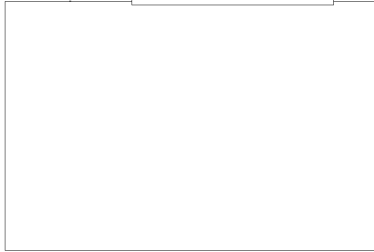
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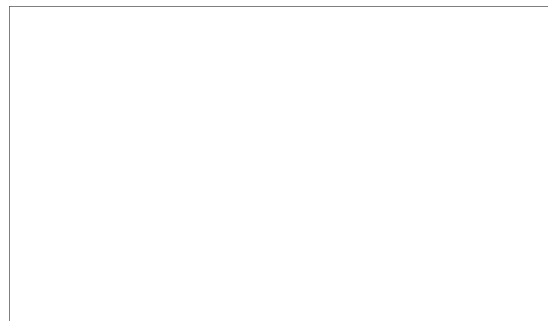
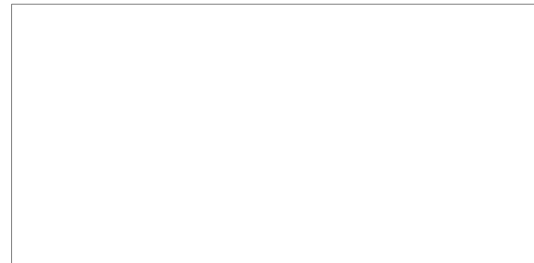
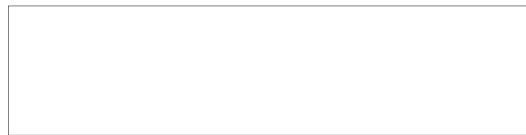
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NOTES

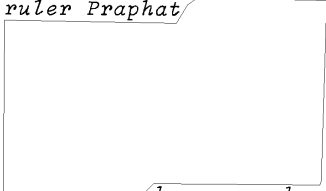
A new Soviet statute defines, for the first time, the rights of the accused.

We do not know how seriously the authorities will regard these rights, but the new statute appears to be a move in the direction of controlling arbitrary action of officials. General Secretary Brezhnev heard harsh criticism of the Soviet record on individual rights and freedoms from West European Communists at the conference of European communist parties in late June. This may have had something to do with the timing of the law.

Among other things, the legislation obliges authorities to submit within 24 hours a written statement of the circumstances of the arrest to the public prosecutor. He, in turn, must approve within 48 hours further detention or order the release of the suspect. The apprehended person, if not released, has the right to retain personal documents related to the case and to meet with his defense attorney in private.

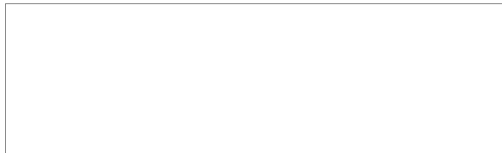
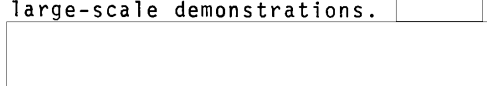
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Former Thai military ruler Praphat



has agreed to be placed in the custody of the army.

The Praphat episode could easily precipitate a crisis situation for the 4-month-old Seni Pramot government which is already on a potential collision course with a newly aroused student movement. Praphat's determination to stay will probably prompt student leaders to begin mobilizing their forces for large-scale demonstrations.



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