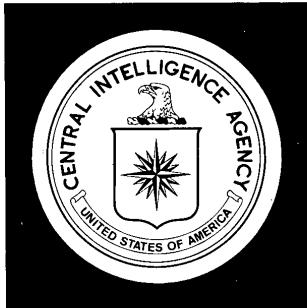


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The President's Daily Brief

April 1, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 1, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Reports received over the weekend reflect a developing sense of crisis on the Golan Heights. (Page 1)

Cambodia's president yesterday announced the dissolution of the three-man High Political Council; it is to be replaced by a slightly larger "executive" body. Meanwhile, the Khmer Communist "defense minister" is to arrive in China today, where presumably he will consult with Sihanouk and his foreign "ambassadors," who are meeting there. (Page 2)

The Thai military is showing new signs of restiveness. (Page 3)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SYRIA-ISRAEL

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Reports received over the weekend reflect a developing sense of crisis on the Golan Heights.



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Cambodian President Lon Nol announced yesterday the dissolution of the three-man High Political Council. It is to be replaced by a slightly larger "executive" body. The new body is supposed to aid the President in examining "important questions" submitted by the government and the army. In addition to Lon Nol, the council reportedly is to be composed of Prime Minister Long Boret, army chief General Fernandez, and former prime minister Sirik Matak.

The High Political Council was supposed to have brought together disparate political factions for a more effective government. It failed to do so, in part because both Lon Nol and Sirik Matak distrusted its third member, former chief of state Cheng Heng, who has been left out of the new grouping.

The new council presumably has the same basic aims as its predecessor. Its effectiveness, however, will depend heavily on whether Lon Nol and Sirik Matak can work together. The notoriously poor relations between the two have led to a recent round of rumors that Matak is plotting a coup.

* * *

Peking announced that Khmer Communist "defense minister" Khieu Samphan will arrive in China today. He presumably intends to consult with Sihanouk and his foreign "ambassadors," who are meeting there, ostensibly to celebrate the Queen Mother's birthday. The talks will probably center on the military situation in Cambodia, possible future strategies for the Khmer insurgents, and the results of Samphan's trip to North Vietnam.

The level of Hanoi's aid to the Khmer insurgency probably dominated the talks between Samphan and the North Vietnamese. North Vietnamese leaders Truong Chinh and Le Thanh Nghi took the occasion of Samphan's visit to reiterate North Vietnam's support for the Khmer Communist political program and to promise that Hanoi's aid would continue. Chinh stated that "no insidious scheme" could prevent Hanoi from assisting the Cambodians.

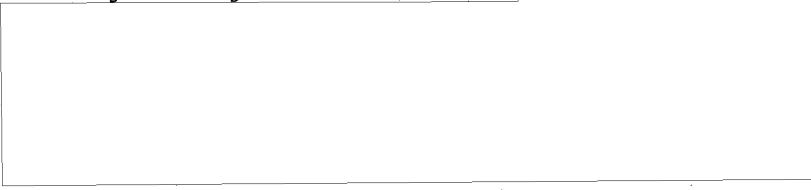
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THAILAND

The Thai military, troubled by the Sanya government's lack of decisive leadership as well as its own diminished influence in national affairs, is showing new signs of restiveness.

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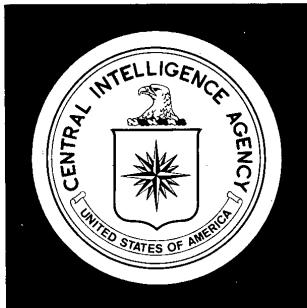


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The President's Daily Brief

April 2, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 2, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Tensions remain high along the Golan Heights [redacted]

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China is sending to the special session of the UN General Assembly next week the highest ranking official ever to head its delegation. He may be highly critical of US business practices in underdeveloped areas. (Page 2)

Arrangements appear to have been completed for the formation this week of a new coalition government in Laos. (Page 3)

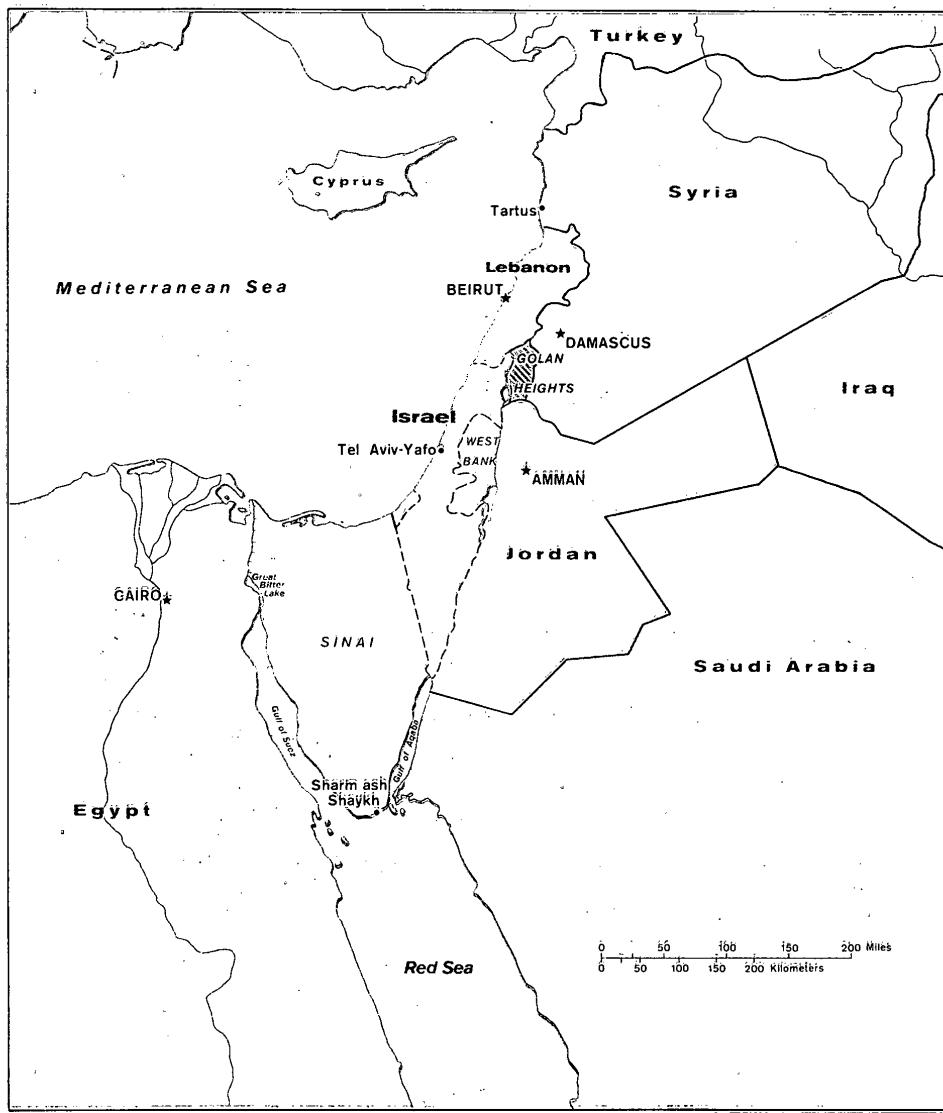
The Soviets have made some concessions at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. (Page 4)

At Annex, we explore in detail China's foreign policy in light of domestic political pressure on Premier Chou En-lai. [redacted]

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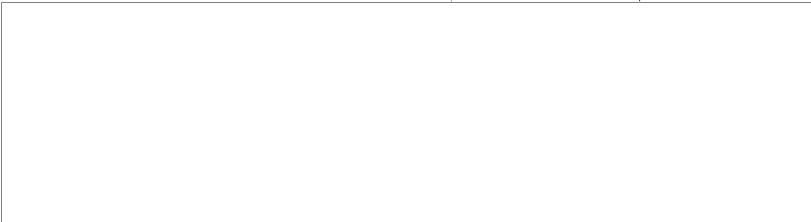
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-SYRIA

Tensions remain high along the Golan front. Israeli and Syrian troops exchanged fire yesterday for the 21st consecutive day. Israeli aircraft flew patrols yesterday over the Golan Heights, and reconnaissance missions over southwestern Syria and Lebanon. In addition, at least seven reconnaissance aircraft briefly penetrated Syrian airspace near Tartus.

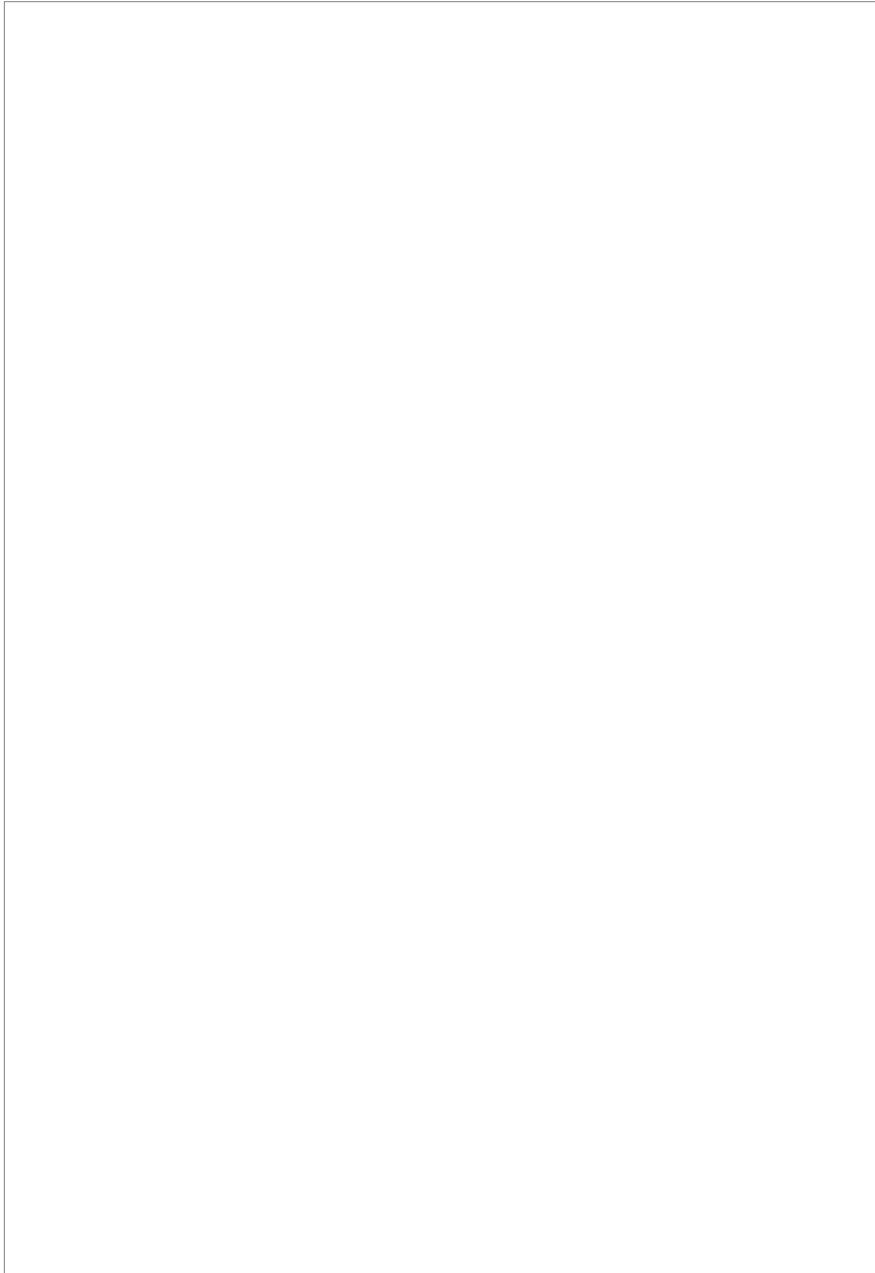
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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CHINA-UN



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LAOS

Lao Communist leader Prince Souphanouvong is on his way to Vientiane to conclude negotiations on a new coalition government.

A delegation of senior Lao Communist officials headed by Souphanouvong should be in Hanoi today, and is to be joined there by Pathet Lao members of the new coalition cabinet and its advisory political council. The entire contingent reportedly will depart for Vientiane tomorrow.

The permanent Pathet Lao representative in Vientiane expects Souphanouvong and Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma, accompanied by all of the coalition government nominees, to proceed to the royal capital of Luang Prabang on Thursday. Ambassador Whitehouse has been informed that Souvanna plans formally to present the new coalition to the King for investiture on Friday.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTE

CSCE: The Soviets have made concessions at the Geneva Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. They still insist on adoption of a statement that would give priority to "inviolability of frontiers," thus legitimizing present boundaries in Eastern Europe, but they have informally agreed to recognize in a separate text the possibility of peaceful changes in borders. This will particularly please the West Germans, who do not wish to foreclose the possibility of German reunification. The Soviets have also agreed to a statement concerning dissemination of printed materials, part of the controversial area of "human contacts." Many other disputed subjects remain on the table; so far there has been no sign of Soviet give in order to conclude the present stage of the negotiations before Moscow's self-imposed goal of June.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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CHOU EN-LAI UNDER POLITICAL PRESSURE

Premier Chou En-lai is under pressure from opponents within the Chinese leadership to show progress on the Taiwan issue. [] failure to act quickly on the issue might leave Chou vulnerable to his opponents--he specifically mentioned Chiang Ching, Mao's wife and leader of the so-called radical camp in the Chinese leadership. These opponents have been seeking ways to introduce criticism of Chou into the anti-Confucius campaign.

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Tough Speaking

With this in mind, [] Chou directed Liao Cheng-chih, a close associate, to give a tough keynote speech at the annual meeting on February 28 commemorating the native Taiwanese uprising in 1947 against the Nationalist government. This speech [] was meant to signal a new Chinese interest in the Taiwan issue.

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Speeches at the meeting, including Liao's, were in fact more strongly worded than those delivered at the meeting last year, which took place in the wake of the announcement that Liaison Offices were being established in Peking and Washington. The speeches this year were not menacing, however, nor did they display a keen sense of urgency.

Despite this, the speeches have been handled by Chinese propaganda outlets in a way that indicates treatment of the Taiwan issue is a subject of high-level wrangling in China. Outlets in Hong Kong did not release the text of a speech by Fu Tso-i, another important speaker at the meeting, for 24 hours; when they did, Fu was quoted as calling for the "liberation" of Taiwan.

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Against Confucius

Foreign policy issues have been an important component of the anti-Confucian campaign since its inception. Thus far Chou--and Mao himself--has seemed determined to preserve the foreign policy followed by Peking during the past several years. Aspects of that policy undoubtedly have been under fire, perhaps from several quarters, for much of the past year. The criticism may have grown more intense since late last month, when Chiang Ching became more active politically after a period of relative eclipse.

Her renewed political vigor may be related to what appears to be an attempt to identify with regional military leaders, who themselves may have come under criticism in the course of the anti-Confucius campaign. One can reasonably speculate that this marriage of convenience may have brought Chou, and perhaps Mao as well, under some pressure, as did a similar joining of hands between the "left" and the provincial military in the period immediately preceding the Tenth Party Congress last summer.

Early last week, for example, Chou rather plaintively remarked in a banquet speech that China, as a socialist country, would of course continue to support revolutionary causes. The Premier has made such public remarks before, but in this instance he did seem to be replying to unnamed critics.

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Political Pressures

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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On another issue bearing on China's relations with the West, Chou seems to be holding the line. A recent article in People's Daily reiterated the importance China attaches to continued imports of advanced technology from the West, noting the necessity of such imports to China's plans for more rapid development.

[Redacted]

The tone of the People's Daily article was distinctly defensive and was apparently occasioned by earlier material appearing in the Chinese media that criticized a tendency toward "over-reliance" on such imports. The basic disagreement in this area seems to be over the proper level of such imports, and not whether China should continue to purchase machinery and technology from the West.

[Redacted]

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Basically Intact

On the basic tenets of Chinese foreign policy, however, the media have continued to carry themes that have been dominant for the past several years. In particular, the press has continued to emphasize

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the idea of an international balance of power, which Peking has considered essential for the protection of Chinese national interests. Peking, for example, has recently found comfort in a spate of items underlining continuing "contention" between the US and the Soviet Union in all parts of the world, and Chou himself pointedly hammered on this theme on the eve of Secretary Kissinger's visit to Moscow.

[redacted] almost certainly right in claiming that Chou is now under pressure--on Taiwan as well as other issues. The rhetoric in which that policy is expressed undoubtedly has undergone a change in recent weeks, but the substance of Chinese foreign policy still appears to be intact.

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Notes by SCS

4/3/74



The President's Daily Brief

April 3, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 3, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The first round of elections to select a successor to deceased French President Pompidou will be held on April 28 or May 5, earlier than either the Gaullists or their leftist rivals would have preferred. (Page 1)

Tel Aviv gave wide publicity yesterday to its reinforcement of the Golan front, as Syrian and Israeli troops continued to exchange mortar, tank, and artillery fire. (Page 2)

Peking's warm reception of Khmer Communist leader Khieu Samphan raises questions as to the future of Sihanouk. (Page 3)

The recent campaign by Egyptian media to discredit the Nasir regime has backfired, and Cairo is attempting to repair the damage done to President Sadat's image among some Egyptians and other Arabs. (Page 4)

Hanoi has made reassessments to several top economic jobs aimed at strengthening long-term economic planning in the North. (Page 5)

Notes on Cambodia, North Korea, Greece, and the USSR - Middle East appear on Page 5.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FRANCE

The first round of elections to select a successor to deceased French President Pompidou will be held on April 28 or May 5--earlier than either the Gaullists or their leftist rivals would have preferred. Gaullist Jacques Chaban-Delmas and Socialist Francois Mitterrand are the main contenders, but there will be several other candidates.

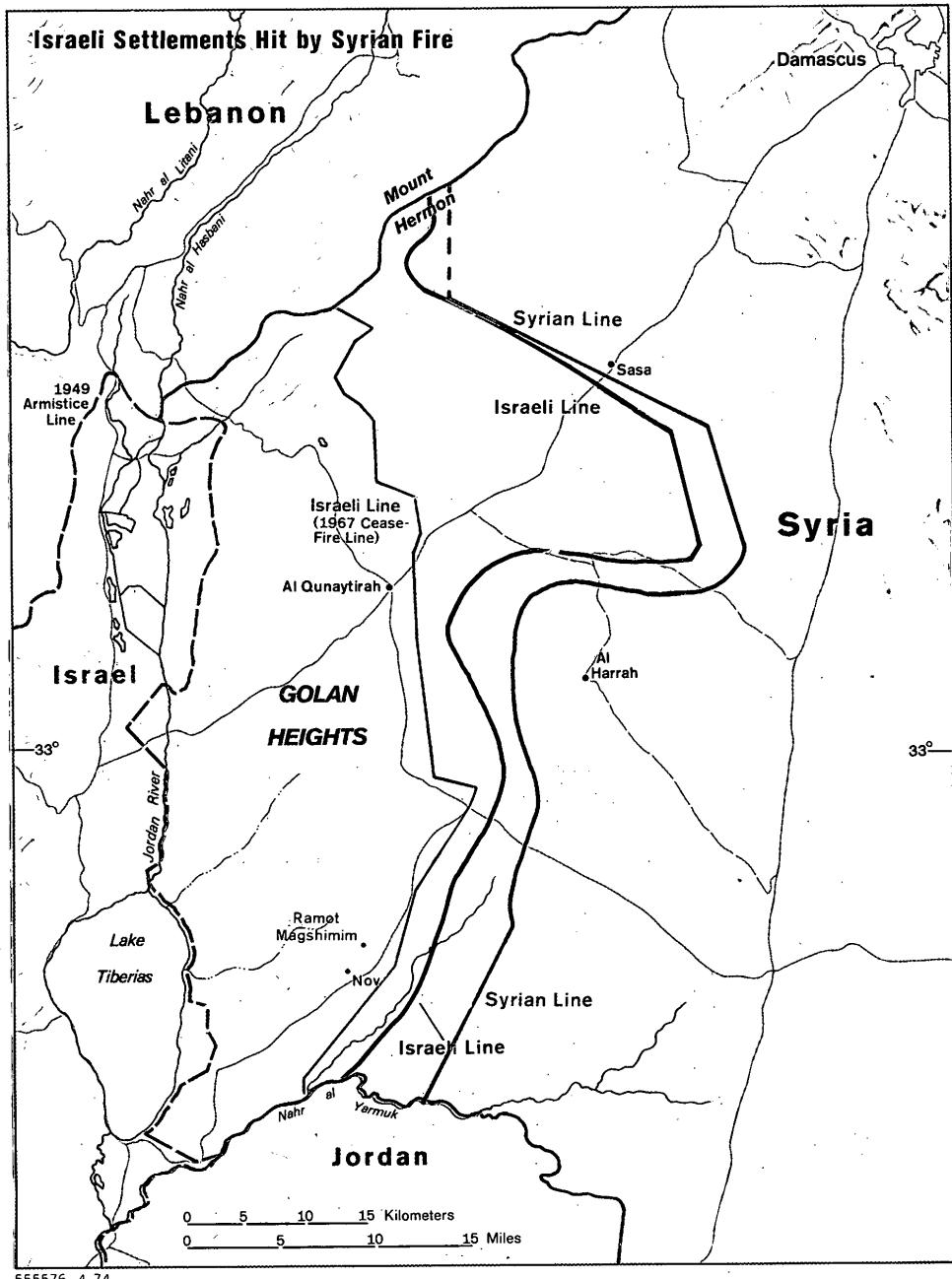
The Communists, Socialists, and left Radicals had hoped an election would not occur until at least next year. They wanted more time to develop an image of international statesman for their leader, Socialist Francois Mitterrand. The alliance also hoped for time to exploit popular dissatisfaction with the government's failure to resolve the country's economic problems.

The leaders of the alliance are still not agreed on how to present their candidates. The Communists want Mitterrand to run as the sole leftist candidate; they fear one of their own would do poorly, exposing the party's weakened position. Mitterrand, however, wants his allies to field candidates so he can run on a moderate platform, rather than be associated with the more extreme portions of the alliance program. He is gambling that he will win enough votes on the first round to make the second, where he hopes to prevail with the additional support of Communist voters.

The governing coalition--Gaullists, Independent Republicans, and a small centrist group--is also in disarray. One of their major problems is that Giscard d'Estaing, the leader of the Independent Republicans, may choose to break coalition unity and run in the first round.

Of the two main candidates, Jacques Chaban-Delmas, 58, is a liberal Gaullist and a former prime minister. At a party congress last November, his Gaullist colleagues indicated that they would support him as a successor to Pompidou. Mitterrand, 57, is the prime mover of the leftist alliance.

Under the present system, no president has been elected in the first round. In view of the many likely candidates, this election probably will be no exception. Uncommitted voters make up some 30 percent of the French electorate and usually determine the outcome.



MIDDLE EAST

Tel Aviv gave wide publicity yesterday to its reinforcement of the Golan front as Syrian and Israeli troops continued to exchange mortar, tank, and artillery fire. The Israeli move apparently was designed to warn Damascus against any renewal of offensive action and to reassure the home front of Israel's military preparedness. Israeli air activity, however, was at a much lower level than on Monday. Syrian shells yesterday struck two Israeli civilian settlements, according to an Israeli spokesman, causing some damage but no casualties. Syrian shelling of civilian targets will heighten pressure within Israel to strike back harder at targets in Syria.

Damascus apparently believes it must maintain military pressure on the Golan front to support its negotiating aims. Israel, however, views this pressure as a military threat

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One result of this prolonged period of growing tension has been that the chances of miscalculation on both sides have increased, and that a minor incident could lead to a major outbreak of fighting.

* * *

A wave of Israeli land purchases that is apparently under way on the occupied Jordan West Bank along the periphery of Jerusalem may further complicate Middle East negotiations. Purchasers are both private individuals and organized groups, such as construction firms.

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CHINA-CAMBODIA

From the Khmer Communist point of view, the visit of "deputy premier" and "defense minister" Khieu Samphan to Hanoi and Peking was intended to emphasize that the Khmer Communists are an independent force that must be reckoned with politically before the fighting can end in Cambodia. Peking's warm reception and the prominence accorded Samphan raise questions as to the future of Sihanouk, whose return to power the Chinese have long proposed as part of a solution in Cambodia.

Chou En-lai's remarks on prospects for a negotiated settlement still reflect the cautious tone that has characterized Peking's statements on Cambodia over the past year. Although Chou made no specific reference to peace proposals, he implied approval of a negotiated settlement in Cambodia by citing the Paris and Vientiane cease-fire agreements as "victories" in Indochina.

Samphan, militant as usual, denounced the US and its "lackeys" for alleged espousal of "sham cease-fire, sham talks, and sham peace." He contended that the Khmer Communists wanted a "genuine peace," not one that would allow the Phnom Penh government to "recuperate and strengthen its forces" in order to go on fighting.

EGYPT

The recent intensive campaign by Egyptian media to discredit the Nasir regime has backfired, and Cairo is attempting to repair the damage done to President Sadat's image among some Egyptians and other Arabs. The belated attempt to back off from the blatant criticism of Nasir that began appearing two months ago, however, has not silenced opponents of Sadat's policies.

Cairo may attempt a new tactic to mollify Arab, and particularly Egyptian, critics and turn the tables on the Soviets, who have been sniping at Egypt's turn toward a more open society.

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NOTES

North Vietnam: Hanoi yesterday announced reassignments to several top economic jobs aimed at strengthening long-term economic planning in the North. The most important change was the appointment of the Politburo's senior economist, Le Thanh Nghi, as Chairman of the State Planning Commission. Vice Premier Nguyen Con apparently has been designated to oversee the development of heavy industry.

Cambodia: The situation is deteriorating at the southwestern provincial capital of Kampot. Insurgent forces just west of the city and around the airstrip are posing a serious threat, despite the government's superior troop strength and firepower. 25X1

[redacted] According to a message intercepted March 31, insurgents in the Kampot area believe they have the ability to enter the city "in the near future."

North Korea: Military exercises involving ground, naval, and air forces continue at a fairly high level, largely in the southwestern and central part of the country. Although the exercises are not coordinated, their purpose is probably to keep units closest to South Korea in their normal high state of readiness.

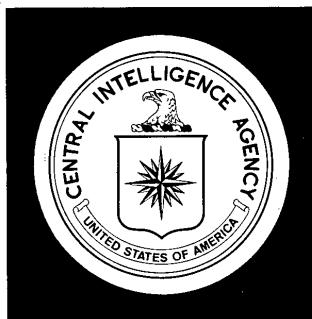
Greece: The US Embassy in Athens has confirmed a build-up of Greek military personnel and equipment on the Turkish frontier. The activity appears to be of a contingency nature, designed to convince the Turks that Greek claims to oil exploration rights in the Aegean Sea must be taken seriously. The junta in Athens may also be deliberately fanning the controversy as a diversion from domestic policy problems and to foster unity within the army.

USSR - Middle East: Moscow and Damascus may have reached a new understanding on using the Syrian port of Latakia to support the Soviet Mediterranean Squadron. Since the October war, Soviet diesel-powered attack submarines and their auxiliary ships have been making almost continuous use of this port for replenishment and minor repair. The bulk of support work for Soviet submarines, however, is still being done at the Egyptian port of Alexandria.

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Noted by DCI

4/4/74



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April 4, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 4, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Egyptian President Sadat lashed out at the USSR last night, in a speech intended to justify to his Arab allies his postwar turn away from Moscow. (Page 1)

King Husayn, who arrives today in Cairo, [redacted]

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[redacted]

Worldwide demand for grain will be up 5 percent this fiscal year, despite high prices and a 10-percent increase in production. (Page 3)

Pathet Lao Chairman Prince Souphanouvong and Lao Prime Minister Souvanna intend to present the new coalition cabinet and advisory council to the King for investiture either today or tomorrow. (Page 4)

South Korea's government announced a new emergency measure yesterday in a further effort to halt renewed student protest. (Page 5)

The Soviets are increasing their reliance on US technology to tap Siberian oil reserves. (Page 6)

A note on Vietnam appears on Page 7.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT

Egyptian President Sadat lashed out at the USSR last night, in a speech intended to justify to his Arab allies his postwar turn away from Moscow. He charged that the Soviets reneged on promises of military aid and that they consistently tried to dissuade Egypt from going to war.

Sadat avoided making invidious comparisons between Cairo's attitude toward Moscow and its improved ties with the US. More than once, he criticized the US as well as the Soviet Union for failing to move toward a Middle East settlement. He seemed to blame the Soviets, however, for US inaction in the past. Charging that the Soviets had deliberately sought to ensure that the Arabs remain militarily inferior to Israel, Sadat said the US had come to believe that Egypt and the Arabs were "motionless corpses."

In effect, Sadat said that Moscow's behavior had forced Egypt to take matters into its own hands. By stressing that the decision to initiate the war was entirely an Egyptian one, Sadat seemed to be warning other Arabs--particularly Syria--not to depend on the USSR to advance Arab aims. Cairo has shown concern recently that Soviet sniping at Egypt's postwar policies, particularly its dealings with the US, might affect Syrian willingness to pursue talks on military disengagement.

Sadat's criticism of the Soviets may presage even sharper attacks in the future. His speech was preceded yesterday by an Al Ahram editorial calling into question the value of the Soviet-Egyptian friendship treaty. Sadat himself avoided the subject, but he laid the groundwork for a later call for modification of the treaty, in the event he concludes that it means too close a relationship with Moscow.

Such a move could endanger Egypt's major source of military aid, however, and Sadat will approach this issue cautiously. He also wants to avoid provoking the Soviets into active meddling in internal Egyptian affairs. The Egyptians have already expressed fear that Moscow may be attempting to foment discontent over Cairo's domestic as well as foreign policies.

JORDAN-EGYPT-FEDAYEEN

King Husayn, who arrives today in Cairo [redacted]

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[redacted] The King may also publicly acknowledge the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the "sole representative of the Palestinian people."

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Sadat's chief concern is to get the PLO involved in negotiations, and he will undoubtedly press Husayn to make a public statement accepting the PLO. Sadat is anxious to bring both the Palestinians and Jordan to the Geneva conference table. He is unlikely, however, to commit himself to either party's position on the West Bank once they have agreed to attend the talks.

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WORLD GRAIN SITUATION

Worldwide demand for grain will be up 5 percent this fiscal year, despite unusually high prices and a 10-percent increase in world production.

To meet the record needs, reserve grain stocks of the major exporters--particularly the US--will be drawn down to their lowest level in 25 years. If demand for wheat reaches 33 million tons, for example, US stocks would drop from 12 million to less than 5 million tons. Consequently, US exports of wheat, rice, and possibly corn, in the next fiscal year will have to come largely out of this summer's harvest.

The world's *wheat* production during this fiscal year has risen 10 percent over last year's level, while demand remains at last year's high level. Uncertainties regarding weather, availability of nitrogen fertilizers, and the size of Indian and Chinese harvests, however, could have an adverse impact on increasing output for the next fiscal year. If one of the major wheat producers suffers a reduced crop, or if there is an unanticipated rise in world consumption, food shortages and record high prices could result next year.

Rice output probably will set records, but still will be insufficient to meet demand. The US crop has increased only modestly. The world market for rice will continue to be characterized by low stocks, shortages, and higher prices.

World production of and demand for *feedgrains* are up substantially over last year. Exports are setting a new record, but the feedgrain market will remain tight for the balance of this year.

LAOS

After more than 13 months of negotiations, the two Lao sides are finally about to accept a new coalition government. Pathet Lao leader Prince Souphanouvong, who arrived in Vientiane yesterday, plans to go to the royal capital of Luang Prabang today with Prime Minister Souvanna. The two leaders intend to present the new coalition cabinet and advisory political council to the King for investiture either today or tomorrow.

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KOREA

The Pak government announced a new emergency measure yesterday in a further effort to halt renewed student protest. It defines antigovernment activity as both Communist-affiliated and subversive and stipulates harsh penalties for organized student political action.

Until now, the regime has been quietly arresting students suspected of trying to generate opposition to President Pak. A rally at Sogang University in Seoul on March 28, however, shook the confidence of the Korean National Police in their ability to control the student situation. The police [redacted]

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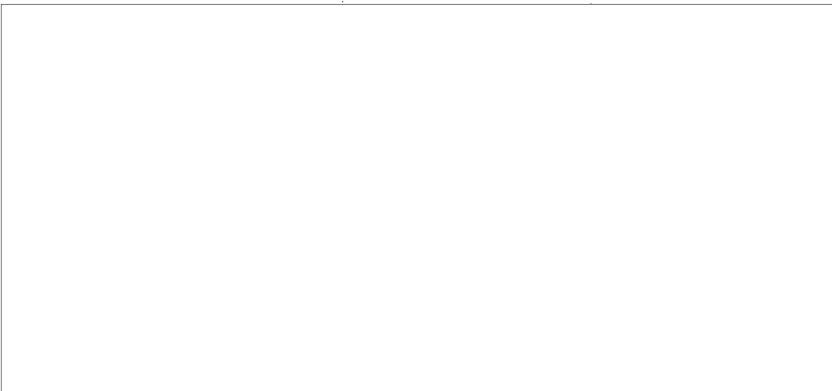
[redacted] appear to believe that coordinated student planning for antigovernment activity has been going on at schools other than Sogang.

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April 19 is the anniversary of the 1960 student uprising that overthrew President Rhee. The new emergency measure seems pointed toward breaking the back of student dissent before that date.

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USSR-US

Moscow is increasing its reliance on US technology to tap Siberian oil reserves. US exports of oil field equipment to the USSR exceeded \$100 million last year. The backlog of Soviet orders with US firms is probably double that amount.

Most of the imports can be used in arctic or permafrost regions; the US has a near monopoly on this type of equipment. In addition, the USSR has a great need to import other advanced production equipment--manufactured mainly in the US--for old, as well as new fields.

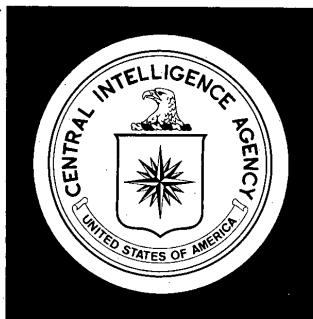
NOTE

Vietnam: The southern part of North Vietnam is apparently experiencing significant rice shortages. An intercepted message last week called the shortage "critical," and another raised the possibility that local disorders could result. In referring to a "Central Military Affairs Committee" directive on the problem, other messages suggest that the shortages are not confined to just a few scattered areas. The problem appears to be principally one of distribution, and the overall rice supply in the country should be adequate to meet aggregate needs.

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April 6, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 6, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Israelis reported yesterday that Jordan was planning to move troops to Syria and had closed its border with Syria to civilian traffic. The Jordanian chief of staff denied, also yesterday, that the border is closed and said there were no plans to send a Jordanian force to Syria. Israel's interest in Jordan's military situation increases our concern that Tel Aviv may be considering military actions of its own. (Page 1) 25X1 25X1

[redacted] (Page 2) 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

The Soviets [redacted] (Page 4) 25X1

[redacted] Oman [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] South Yemen. (Page 6) 25X1

[redacted] West Germany [redacted] (Page 6) 25X1

Israeli Prime Minister Meir will do all she can to preserve her coalition government, which is threatened by the increased pressure on Defense Minister Dayan to resign. (Page 6) 25X1

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-SYRIA-JORDAN

Israeli forces are on a heightened state of alert after another day of artillery and tank duels, and an infantry skirmish as well. Israeli officials are telling their press that the Syrians are building up forces along the front and are evacuating civilians from the area. The press claims that a large number of Syrian tanks are now at the front and that long-range artillery has been moved to forward positions.

The Syrian defense minister has fired back at the Israelis in this press war, saying that Syria is much stronger than it was before the October war, and that it is "prepared to launch an all-out war against Israel to ensure the liberation of all occupied territories."

[redacted] yesterday that it had received reports that Jordan had closed roads leading from northern Jordan to southern Syria to civilian traffic and was planning to send an unspecified number of troops into Syria, perhaps as early as today. The reports were subsequently denied by Jordan Chief of Staff Major General Sharif Zayd Bin Shakir [redacted]

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[redacted] the main road from Amman to Damascus was completely open. He maintained that there were no plans for a Jordanian force to proceed to Syria.

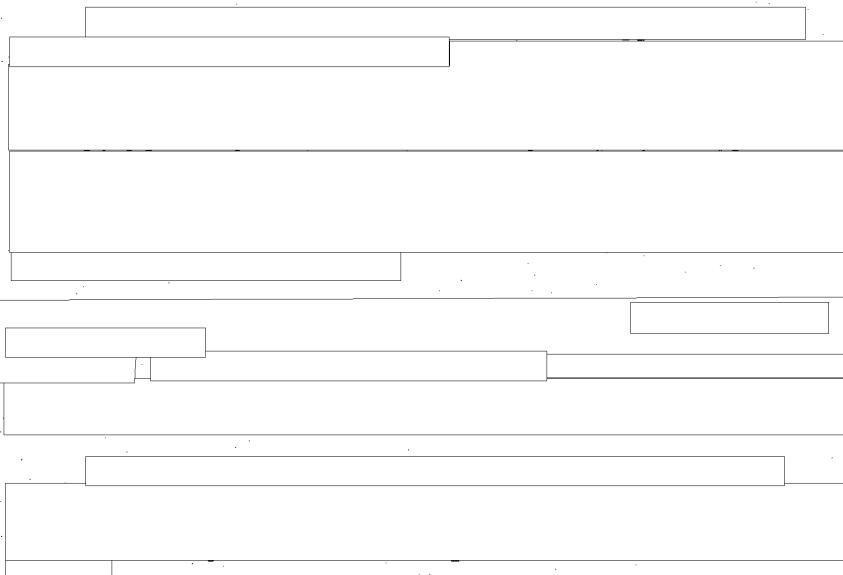
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With tensions as high as they are at present along the Golan Heights front, we believe it unlikely that King Husayn would send Jordanian forces into such a potentially explosive situation. Husayn went to Cairo on April 4, and neither Crown Prince Hassan nor Army Chief of Staff Bin Shakir is likely to act on his own; neither would favor sending troops to Syria in any event.

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[redacted]
Israel's interest in Jordan's military situation increases our concern that Tel Aviv may be considering military action of its own. Prime Minister Meir held an urgent meeting of the cabinet yesterday, at which "the defense minister, the acting chief of staff, and the chief of military intelligence" were present, according to Jerusalem radio.

USSR-SYRIA



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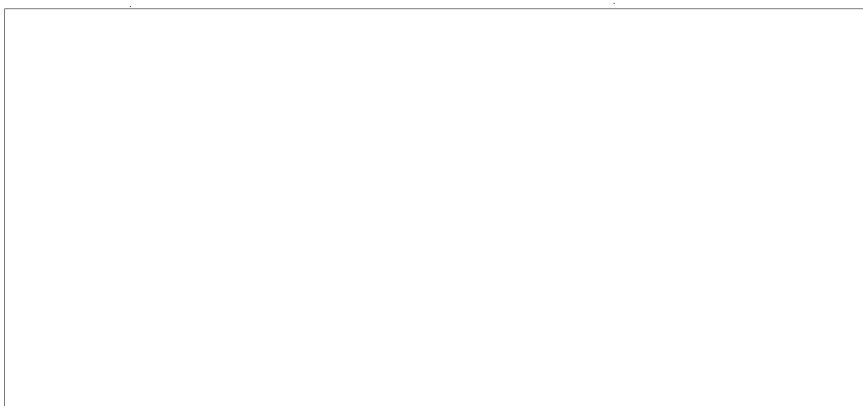
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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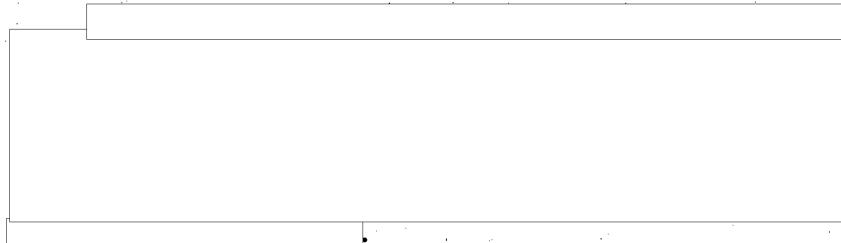


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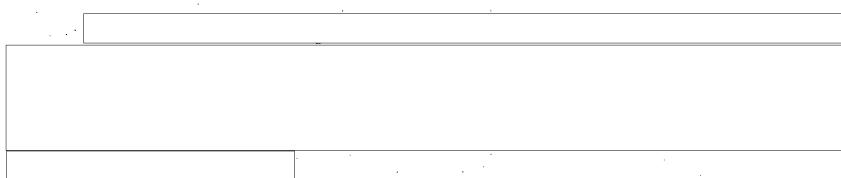
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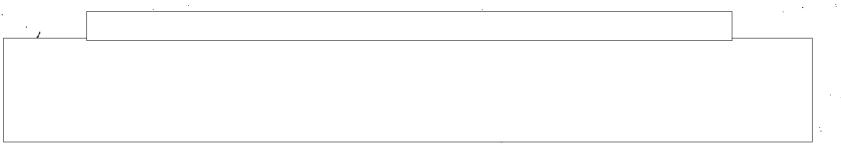
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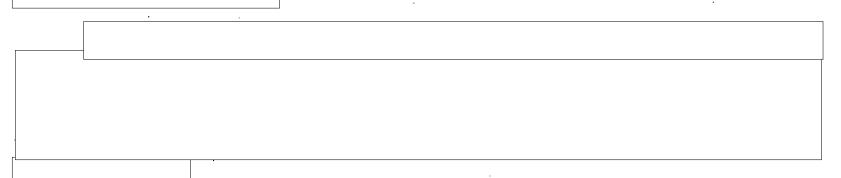
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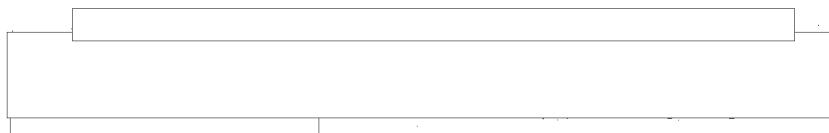
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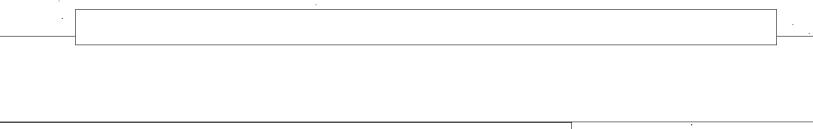
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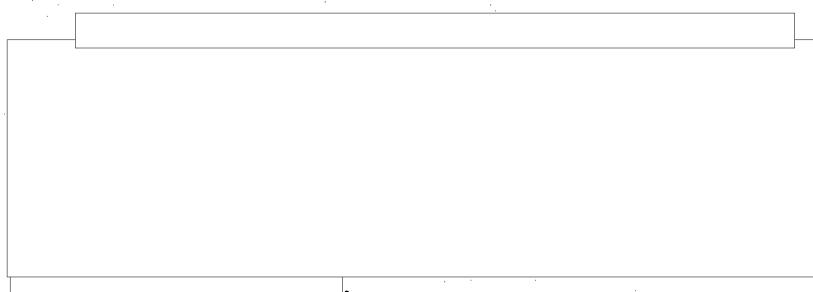
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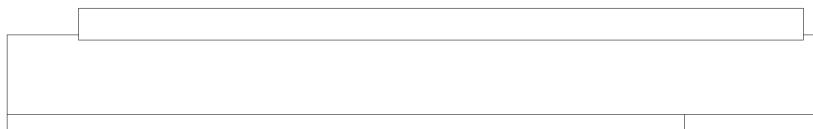
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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NOTES

Oman - Iran - South Yemen: [redacted]

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West Germany - USSR: [redacted]

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Israel: Defense Minister Dayan's political opponents have seized on the recent report criticizing Israel's performance just before and during the initial stages of the October war to step up their demands for his resignation. Prime Minister Meir will do all she can to patch up differences within her party, one of whose factions Dayan leads, before debate on the report in parliament next week. Dayan's forced departure could cause the coalition government to break up, and probably a new election to be called. Dayan's opponents within the coalition probably would prefer that matters not go that far, particularly with the situation tense on the Syrian front.

Top Secret

Note by DCI
4/8/74



The President's Daily Brief

April 8, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 8, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

25X1

A senior Israeli official believes it unlikely that Syria will enlarge the scope of hostilities, which may indicate that Tel Aviv is not considering a major pre-emptive strike at this time. (Page 1)

25X1

Libya's President Qadhafi has transferred some functions to Prime Minister Jallud, perhaps in a move to force his colleagues in the leadership to rally around him. It may not work; Qadhafi is not dealing from a position of strength. (Page 2)

Jordan

Egypt

25X1

(Page 3)

The Cambodian Government's situation at the besieged provincial capital of Kampot has improved, but the government's effort to retake Oudong is foundering. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ARAB STATES - ISRAEL

25X1

25X1

A senior Israeli Foreign Ministry official told Ambassador Keating late last week it was unlikely that Syria would enlarge the scope of hostilities. The official did not believe Egypt would support Syria in a renewal of major fighting on the Golan front and thought Syria would not risk acting alone.

This Israeli official attributed the continued shelling by the Syrians to three considerations: an attempt to pressure Israel as Egypt had done during Egyptian-Israeli disengagement talks, an effort to satisfy those Syrians who oppose Asad's policy of seeking disengagement with Israel, and an attempt to impress upon the Soviets the seriousness of the situation prior to Asad's visit to Moscow on April 10. The Syrians may also be trying to make a similar impression on the US prior to the arrival in Washington this week of a Syrian envoy for disengagement talks.

If this statement is an accurate representation of Israeli Government views regarding Syrian intentions, a major pre-emptive strike by Tel Aviv seems unlikely at this time.

* * *

Israeli military forces maintained a high level of vigilance throughout the Passover holiday. Over 70 air sorties were flown over the Golan front and southern Lebanon on Saturday and another 55 on Sunday. Limited ground fighting between Israeli and Syrian forces occurred both days. For the first time since the cease-fire in October, Israel on Saturday called for air support to drive back a Syrian patrol that had penetrated the Israeli salient.

The Israelis have denied Syrian allegations that they carried out strafing again yesterday.

LIBYA

There is no evidence so far that President Qadhafi's authority was significantly diminished by the transfer of his administrative and ceremonial duties to Prime Minister Jallud or that his move was anything other than a voluntary step. According to the decision--released as a diplomatic note on April 6 but dated April 2--Qadhafi retains all important functions, including his position as commander in chief of the armed forces. The delay in issuing the decision and the absence of Jallud and two other members of the Revolutionary Command Council at the time of the announcement may indicate that Qadhafi's colleagues did not unanimously approve it.

For several weeks there have been rumors of grumbling within the council and the government over Qadhafi's high-handed behavior.

25X1

In the past, when faced with discord, Qadhafi has often left the capital or threatened to resign in order to get his own way. This latest move--whether approved or not by the council--may be another attempt by the Libyan leader to upstage his colleagues. By removing himself from daily administration and seeking the high ground of supreme arbiter and ideologue, Qadhafi may believe he can strengthen his control at home and bolster his flagging image in the Arab world. He is not dealing from a position of strength this time, however, and his partial withdrawal may presage more difficulties.

JORDAN-EGYPT



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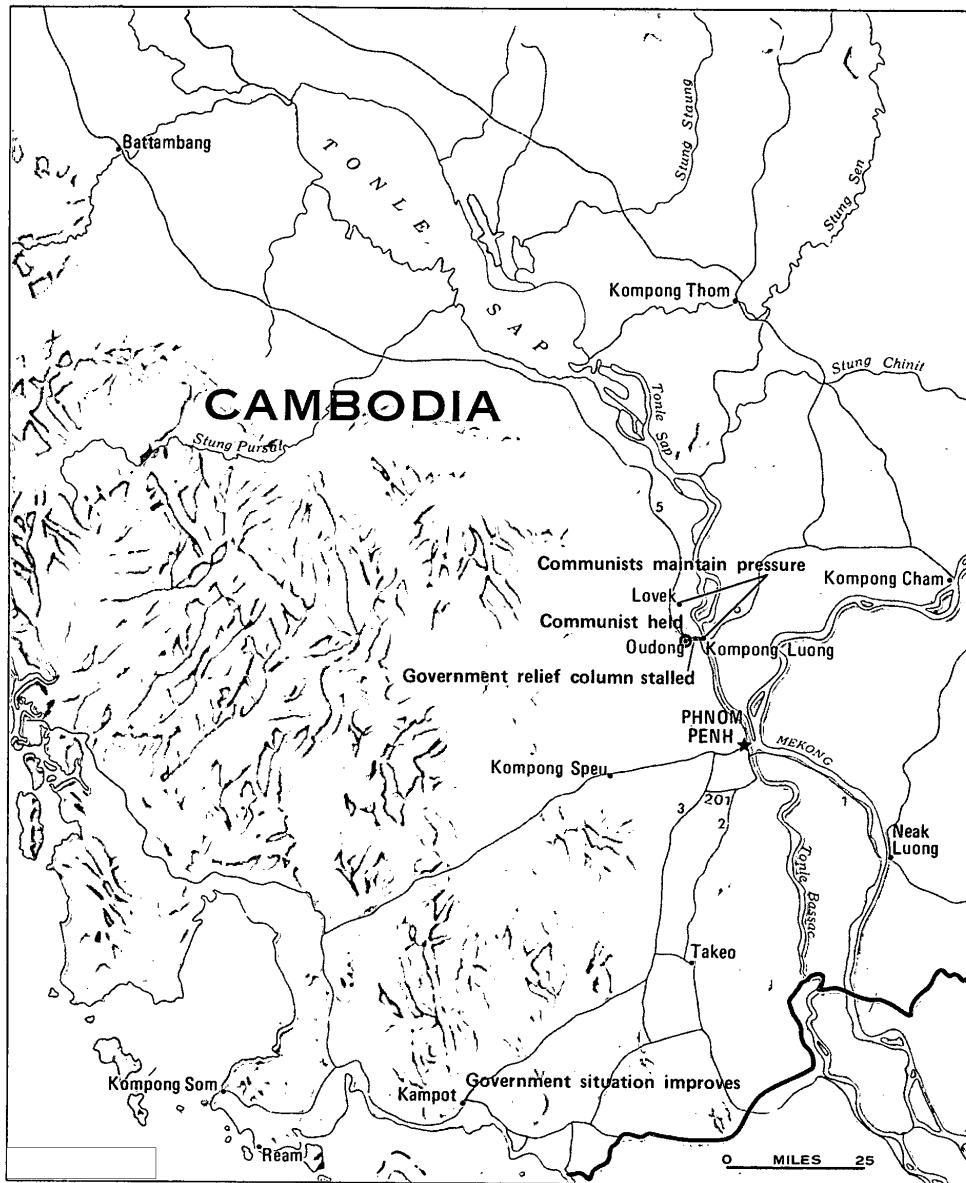
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CAMBODIA

The government's situation at the besieged provincial capital of Kampot has improved. Much of the credit goes to the Khmer air force, which provided timely and effective close air support. Fresh infantry reinforcements have enabled Kampot's defenders to re-establish their northern defensive perimeter and to begin operations to retake territory on their southeastern perimeter.

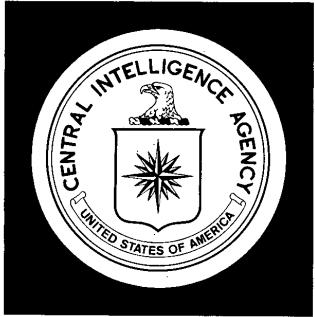
The Khmer Communists, however, are maintaining pressure on the city. Infantry and artillery attacks continued during the weekend, and a few rocket rounds fell in the city. Naval resupply craft approaching Kampot from the south have come under insurgent fire.

Intercepts indicate that the insurgents are determined to capture Kampot. On April 6 the Khmer Communist Central Party Committee urged the senior commander of the operation to "try hard to cut off the enemy immediately; use the forces and artillery at full strength; and do whatever is necessary to completely crush the enemy forces."

Meanwhile, the government's effort to retake Oudong is foundering. Cambodian forces advancing toward Oudong along Route 5 remain stalled a mile short of the town. The government's beachhead at Kompong Luong farther to the east has come under heavy Communist fire, and intercepts indicate that the insurgents hope to destroy the beachhead completely. Its loss would isolate the 2,500-man government relief force.

Northwest of Oudong, insurgent attacks have further reduced the southern and eastern defenses of the government base at Lovek. Some 2,000 Cambodian troops, along with more than 25,000 civilians, are surrounded there.

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The President's Daily Brief

April 9, 1974



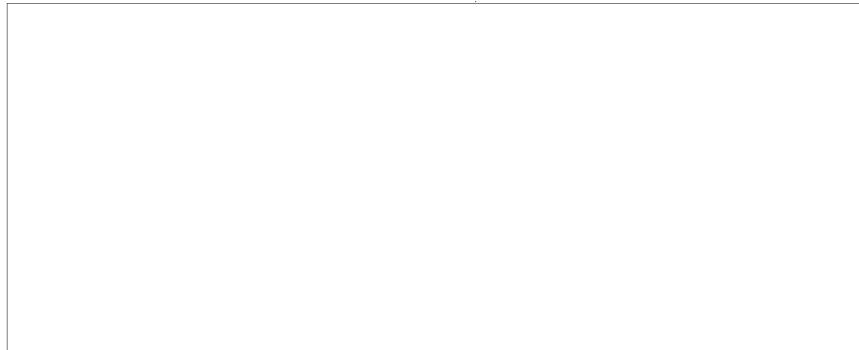
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 9, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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Prime Minister Meir is facing unexpected difficulties in working out a solution to the cabinet crisis brought on by calls for Dayan's resignation. (Page 3)

Army chief Krit Siwara reportedly has persuaded Prime Minister Sanya to reshuffle his cabinet soon, but the changes are not expected to increase direct military participation in the government. (Page 4)

The Iraqi Government is pushing ahead with its plan for Kurdish autonomy despite continued Kurdish resistance to the scheme. (Page 5)

A note on Laos appears on Page 6.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-SYRIA

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ISRAEL-SYRIA

[redacted] crash of the Israeli Phantom yesterday just inside the Lebanese border near Mount Hermon. Syria claims its forces shot the jet fighter down, while Israel asserts that it crashed because of a technical malfunction.

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UN observers confirm that two pilots bailed out of the aircraft and that rescue helicopters entered the area in an attempt to reach them. Subsequent reports indicate that the pilots are in the hands of Lebanese authorities, who have promised to meet with the Israelis today to discuss their return.

The incident follows a weekend of unusually heavy activity by Israeli aircraft. [redacted]

25X1

Action yesterday along the Golan front was limited to artillery and tank exchanges.

ISRAEL

Prime Minister Meir has encountered unexpected difficulties in working out a solution to the cabinet crisis brought on by calls for the resignation of Defense Minister Dayan.

Labor Party leaders are seeking what they call an "elegant solution," which would remove Dayan as defense minister but keep the Labor Alignment and the governing coalition intact. Dayan has suggested that the entire cabinet resign and that Mrs. Meir form a new cabinet in which Dayan would receive a different portfolio.

Mrs. Meir seems favorably disposed to Dayan's offer, but her party is divided. The left-wing Mapam faction is balking at a wholesale cabinet resignation, while Dayan's Rafi faction insists on it if Dayan has to resign. There is some speculation that Dayan will be named minister without portfolio responsible for Arab-Israeli negotiations and the occupied Arab territories. Dayan has said he does not want to be foreign minister.

Considerable difficulties still remain in the path of any cabinet shuffle. Aside from the divisions within the Labor Alignment over the issue, there is some question whether it would be accepted by the other two members of the coalition, particularly by the National Religious Party, which is torn by an internal crisis of its own.

At this stage, Mrs. Meir probably still has a better-than-even chance of somehow resolving the matter and holding the coalition together, thus allowing her to stay on as prime minister.

THAILAND

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Army chief Krit Siwara apparently has prevailed on Prime Minister Sanya to reshuffle his cabinet, probably within the next two weeks.

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[redacted] Sanya is expected to replace the ministers of commerce, finance, industry, and education, and may also change the defense and foreign affairs ministers.

Krit has been pressing for changes largely because of increasing dissatisfaction within the military over the government's handling of pressing economic problems, such as rice distribution and inflation. The changes currently envisioned are not expected to increase direct military participation in the government, but they should mollify many of Sanya's military critics by introducing men who have demonstrated a willingness to work with the military in the past.

IRAQ

The Iraqi Government remains determined to push ahead with its plan for Kurdish autonomy despite continued Kurdish resistance to the scheme. The Baghdad government has replaced its five Kurdish ministers--all of whom have supported Kurdish separatist leader Barzani--with five other Kurds, who may be more amenable to the government's plan.

Meanwhile, Barzani's Kurds

25X1

[redacted] have probably exaggerated their accounts of clashes with government forces.

Last week the "Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan," a clandestine broadcasting station under Barzani's control, was heard for the first time since 1970, having been silent during the three years of the now-expired truce.

NOTE

Laos: Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma has announced that Laos will try to revive the Soviet aid agreement of some \$3.5 million signed in 1962. The agreement was suspended the following year because of the withdrawal of the Pathet Lao from the coalition government. Moscow has not responded to Souvanna's statement, but presumably it will be favorably inclined. Souvanna indicated that he would also request assistance from other Communist countries. Annual economic aid for Laos has ranged around \$65-\$70 million. The US has provided most of the aid, which has been used primarily for financing imports.

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Notes by DC
4/10/74



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April 10, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 10, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Israeli Prime Minister Meir denies that she threatened to resign, and appears to be trying to patch up differences in her Labor Alignment brought on by demands for Defense Minister Dayan's resignation.

(Page 1)

25X1

Turkey has given permission to its national petroleum company to drill for oil in areas of the Aegean Sea claimed by Greece. The Greeks are likely to react forcefully. (Page 3)

The agreement hammered out in New Delhi during the past five days by the foreign ministers of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh goes a long way toward normalizing relations on the subcontinent. (Page 4)

There are Notes on: preparations for a Soviet naval exercise in the Mediterranean and Atlantic; [redacted]

[redacted] and the possibility that South Korean dissidents will defy President Pak in an effort to oust him. (Page 5)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

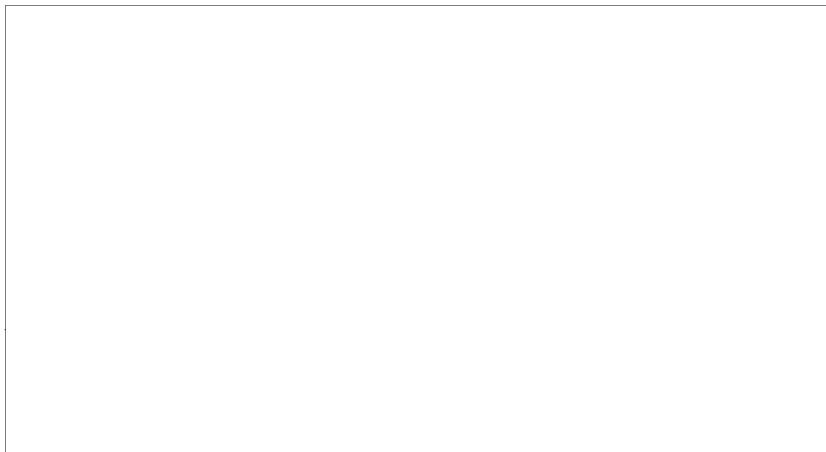
ISRAEL

Israeli Prime Minister Meir has denied that she has threatened to resign. She appears to be pressing efforts to overcome differences within her Labor Alignment brought on by demands for Defense Minister Dayan's resignation. His Rafi faction is determined to prevent his being made the political scapegoat for military shortcomings cited by the commission that investigated Israeli conduct of the war. Dayan's faction is insisting that all cabinet members resign or that none resign.

Sentiment within the government appears to be growing in favor of a solution that would not lead to the resignation of the entire cabinet but would end up with Dayan in another cabinet post. Mrs. Meir is said to favor a cabinet reshuffle along these lines. Such a compromise would appeal to those who worry that Mrs. Meir may refuse to head a new cabinet if the present one is forced out over the Dayan issue. Labor leaders fear that her retirement would lead to an immediate succession struggle, which they believe the party is not now prepared to face. The leaders of Mrs. Meir's two coalition partners, the National Religious Party and the Independent Liberal Party, are said to oppose resignation by the entire cabinet lest such a move aggravate their own internal divisions.

USSR-SYRIA-ISRAEL

25X1



TURKEY-GREECE

Turkey's government has given its national petroleum company permission to begin to explore for oil in areas of the Aegean Sea claimed by Greece. According to a Foreign Ministry spokesman, exploration will begin after the cabinet's decision is published in the official gazette.

Ankara's action may be viewed as a challenge by Greek military leaders, who have readied contingency plans and reinforced the border. Last month the chief of the Greek Navy said that orders had been given to stop oil exploration in Greek territorial waters by force, if necessary.

[REDACTED] 25X1
[REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] 25X1

SOUTH ASIA

The agreement hammered out in New Delhi during the past five days by the foreign ministers of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh goes a long way toward normalizing relations on the subcontinent. The accord provides for the release of the 195 Pakistani prisoners of war who have been held in India since the end of the Indo-Pakistani war for possible war crimes trials in Bangladesh. In return for this major concession by Dacca, Pakistan reportedly has agreed to accept more Biharis--non-Bengalee Muslims--from Bangladesh and to review the applications of still more.

The accord will permit Pakistan and Bangladesh to begin bilateral negotiations on various matters, including the division of the former east wing's pre-1971 debts and assets and the establishment of trade and communication ties. For their part, India and Pakistan have agreed to begin discussions on the resumption of postal and telecommunications and travel links. Other facets of the 1972 Simla Agreement--air links and overflight privileges, trade and economic ties, scientific and cultural exchanges, and cooperation--are to be discussed and implemented as soon as possible.

NOTES

USSR: There are further indications that the Soviets are preparing for a major exercise in the Mediterranean and North Atlantic. Over the past three days, Soviet surface ships and submarines have been positioning themselves near both ends of the Strait of Gibraltar. Their locations would permit them to monitor US and NATO naval forces, especially submarines, during the forthcoming exercise.

25X1

South Korea: Yesterday's suicide by burning of a Christian youth under investigation for antigovernment statements is likely to spark other acts of defiance against the Pak government. Seoul has been relatively quiet since April 3, when the government banned student political activity and decreed harsh penalties, including death, for violators. Political feelings still run high, however, as the more determined student, Christian, and intellectual dissidents seek ways to intensify public pressure for President Pak's ouster.

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NOTE BY D-2
4/11/74



The President's Daily Brief

April 11, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 11, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[redacted] 25X1
the Soviets have halted delivery of military equipment under "old" contracts, and that their economic aid shipments also have ceased. (Page 1)

[redacted] 25X1
Prime Minister Meir's announced intention to resign does not appear to be a ploy to force the Labor Alignment to unite behind her, but a statement of her genuine belief that she no longer commands the support necessary to govern effectively. (Page 3)

As Australia heads for new elections on May 18, neither Labor nor the Liberal-Country coalition is [redacted] 25X1 in a strong position. (Page 4)

The month-long cease-fire on the Iran-Iraq border [redacted] 25X1 appears to be holding.

[redacted] (Page 5) 25X1

Notes on Egypt-Israel, UK-NATO, Tunisia-Egypt, and the USSR appear on Page 6.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT-USSR

[redacted] the Soviets had "just" halted delivery of military equipment under "old" contracts.

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[redacted] deliveries were stopped in late March, and the deputy Tass director in Cairo acknowledged to the US Embassy on Tuesday that arms supplies had been "cut off." The Tass man implied, however, that there is nothing immutable about the Soviet decision.

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[redacted] Although Egyptian claims that Moscow is not fulfilling prewar contracts have been a familiar refrain in recent months, seaborne military deliveries have been maintained at usual levels. The reports could, however, refer to a Moscow decision to halt aid shipments at some future date--after, for instance, deliveries under specific contracts have been fulfilled. The halt would not show up in ship movements for several weeks.

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There have been signs over the past several months that the Soviets have tried to use their military aid to gain leverage with Cairo. The Egyptians have complained--[redacted]

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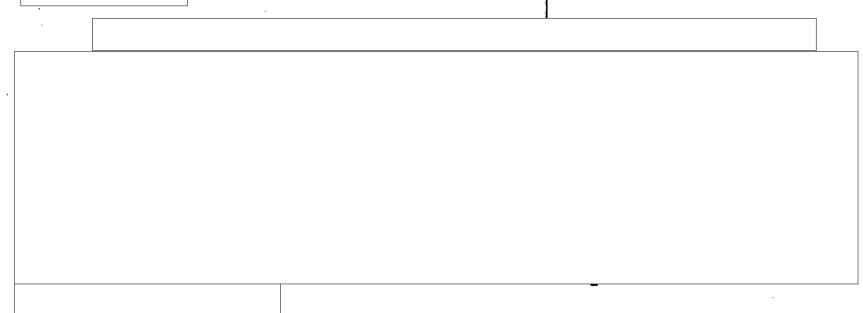
[redacted] publicly--that Soviet compensation for war losses and the general level of military aid have been far from adequate. The communiqué following Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko's trip to Cairo last month did not mention military aid.

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MIDDLE EAST



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ISRAEL

Prime Minister Meir's announced intention to resign does not appear to be a ploy to force the badly divided Labor Alignment to unite behind her, but a statement of her genuine belief that she no longer commands the political support necessary to govern effectively.

She reportedly will head a caretaker government if, as seems probable, she submits her resignation today to President Katzir.

If she resigns, two possibilities exist: Katzir, after consultations with the political parties, can ask Mrs. Meir or someone else, presumably from the Labor Alignment or the rightist Likud, to form a new cabinet; otherwise, the Knesset can vote to call new elections on a date it specifies. Whatever happens, instability and uncertainty are likely to continue for some time.

Labor Party leaders are already casting about for a successor to Mrs. Meir who could keep the Alignment together and form a new cabinet. There are strong pressures from the public and from within the Alignment, however, for a completely new leadership, preferably one untainted by the war last October and by internecine party strife. These sentiments work against the old, traditional front-runners such as Finance Minister Sapir, and favor men like the popular Yosef Almogi, ex-minister of labor and recently elected mayor of Haifa. Almogi has been spearheading efforts over the past several days to keep the Alignment together. Should it prove impossible to form a new cabinet under Labor's leadership, however, the Alignment factions would appear to have no choice but to go to the polls once again.

Until the political crisis is resolved--which could take months--the outlook for a breakthrough in negotiating a Middle East peace settlement is dim. Although a caretaker government could pursue the negotiations, it would not be willing to commit Israel to any binding arrangements beyond perhaps an initial disengagement on the Syrian front pending the formation of a new cabinet.

AUSTRALIA

As Australia heads for new elections on May 18, neither Labor nor the Liberal-Country coalition is in a strong position.

The Labor government, under Prime Minister Whitlam, has fallen short of its domestic goals and has made only uneven progress toward foreign policy objectives.

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Public opinion polls have shown steady slippage in his government's popularity over the past months, and some party leaders fear the party may lose seats in the new elections.

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On the other side, the Liberal-Country coalition is handicapped by infighting among its leaders. The opposition will probably try to play on anxiety over rising inflation and labor trouble.

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The weariness of the public with the Liberal-Country coalition's 23 years of rule brought Whitlam to power in the first place, and he is probably counting on his more dynamic style of leadership to carry the day once again.

IRAN-IRAQ

The month-long cease-fire on the Iran-Iraq border appears to be holding.

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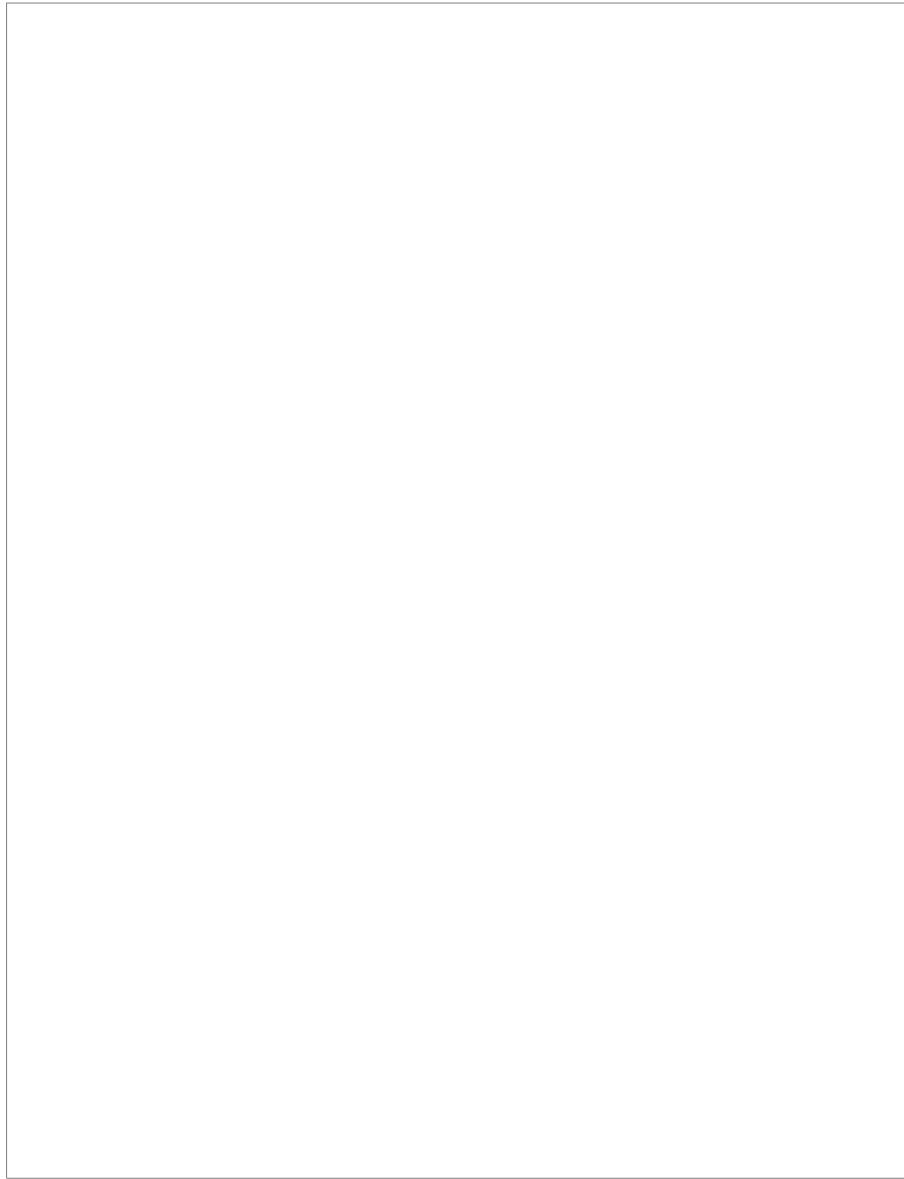
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The arrival of the UN inspection team headed by Luis Weckmann, former Mexican ambassador to Bonn, has been a major reason for the reduction of tension. The UN team began its survey of disputed border areas on April 5; it is scheduled to report its findings to the Security Council by the end of May.

During the cease-fire negotiations between the Baath party leader and the Iranian ambassador to Baghdad, the two countries apparently agreed to attempt again to resolve their problems.

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NOTES

Egypt-Israel:

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UK-NATO: London may reduce its contribution to NATO in order to meet the Labor Party's pledge to cut defense spending. The most likely candidates for reduction are equipment modernization programs, some of which may be delayed or even canceled. These include the European Multirole Combat Aircraft, the improved Sea Harrier aircraft, and a new small aircraft carrier now under development.

Tunisia-Egypt:

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USSR:

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Noted by DCI

4/12/74



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April 12, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 12, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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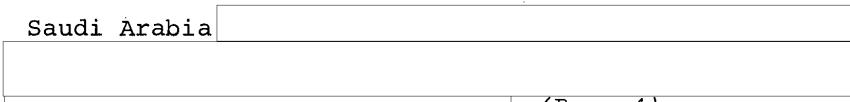


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Yesterday's fedayeen attack on the Israeli town of
Qiryat Shemona is likely to elicit Israeli reprisals.
(Page 3)

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Saudi Arabia



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(Page 4)

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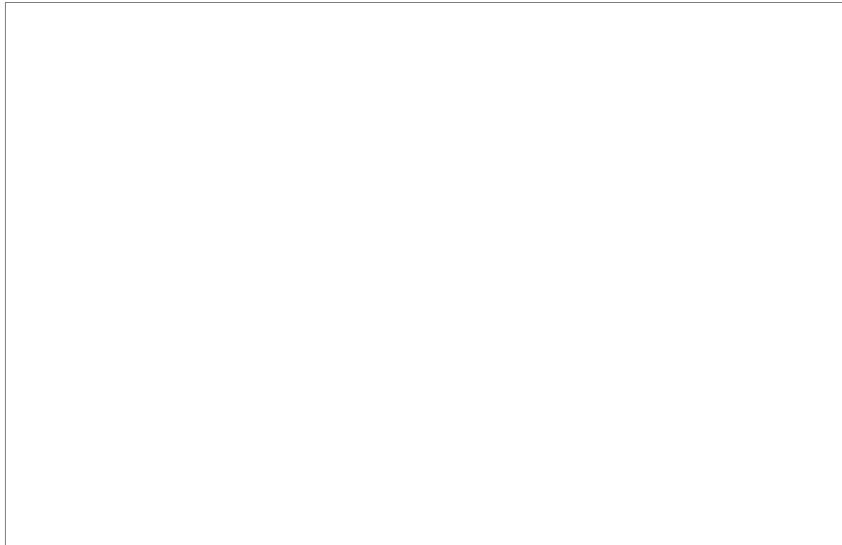
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Notes on USSR-Cuba and Uganda appear on Page 6.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT-ISRAEL-SYRIA

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EGYPT-USSR



ISRAEL-FEDAYEEN

Yesterday's fedayeen attack on the Israeli town of Qiryat Shemona is likely to elicit Israeli reprisals against fedayeen strongholds in southern Lebanon. Tel Aviv recently has avoided such reprisals lest they endanger peace negotiations, but probably will not allow political considerations to deter action in this case because of Israeli civilian casualties, including 18 killed and 15 wounded.

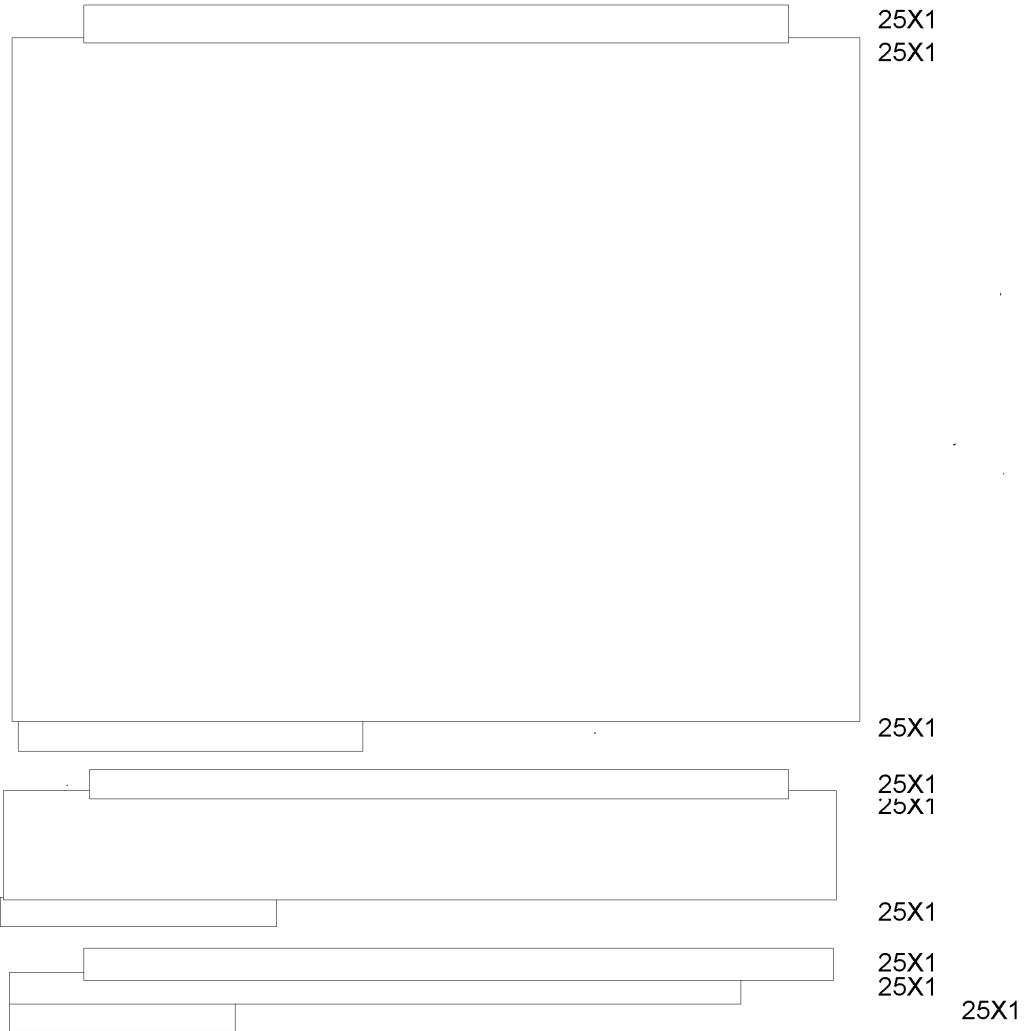
In the past, the Israelis have used a variety of means to strike at the fedayeen concentrations in border areas. Strikes into southern Lebanon usually have involved only ground forces, but on occasion have included helicopter assaults and air strikes.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command, a small terrorist group based in Lebanon, has claimed responsibility for the attack. Led by Ahmad Jabril, its members are among the best trained and operationally sophisticated of all fedayeen. They have been among the most successful of the terrorist groups in mounting operations striking directly at Israel.

The group is not among the constituent members of the Palestine Liberation Organization nor is it closely tied to any Arab government. It does, however, receive some financial and operational support

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SAUDI ARABIA



LIBYA-EGYPT

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Qadhafi's colleagues attach the highest priority to restoring ties with Egypt, and they apparently are growing impatient with Sadat's continued coolness. Although Qadhafi has not fully complied with Sadat's preconditions for normalizing relations, he has curtailed support for some terrorists, initiated fence-mending with other Arabs, and cautiously probed the possibility of improved relations with the US.

Sadat probably will receive a "high-level Libyan envoy" reported by an Iraqi news service to be on his way to Cairo, but he is unlikely to give the envoy much beyond a polite hearing.

NOTES

USSR-Cuba: [redacted]

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[redacted]
25X1

Uganda: President Idi Amin may be losing control of the Ugandan Army to the factions that opposed him in the fighting which took place on March 23-24. Amin's opponents forced him to dismiss the acting army chief of staff, and are pressing him for further concessions. [redacted]

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The President's Daily Brief

April 13, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 13, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

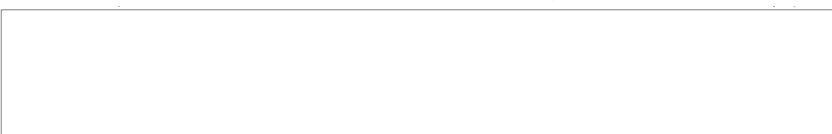
Israeli troops raided Lebanon last night in retaliation for the terrorist attack Thursday on the border settlement of Qiryat Shemona. Earlier yesterday, Syrian troops tried unsuccessfully for the second time in a week to establish positions in the Mount Hermon area. (Page 1)

Both the timing and the brevity of Syrian President Asad's discussions in Moscow suggest that he accepted Moscow's invitation mainly to soothe Soviet sensitivities about the Washington disengagement talks. (Page 2)

European central bankers have indicated that concern over an election victory by Socialist candidate Mitterrand could lead to sizable capital movements from France. (Page 3)

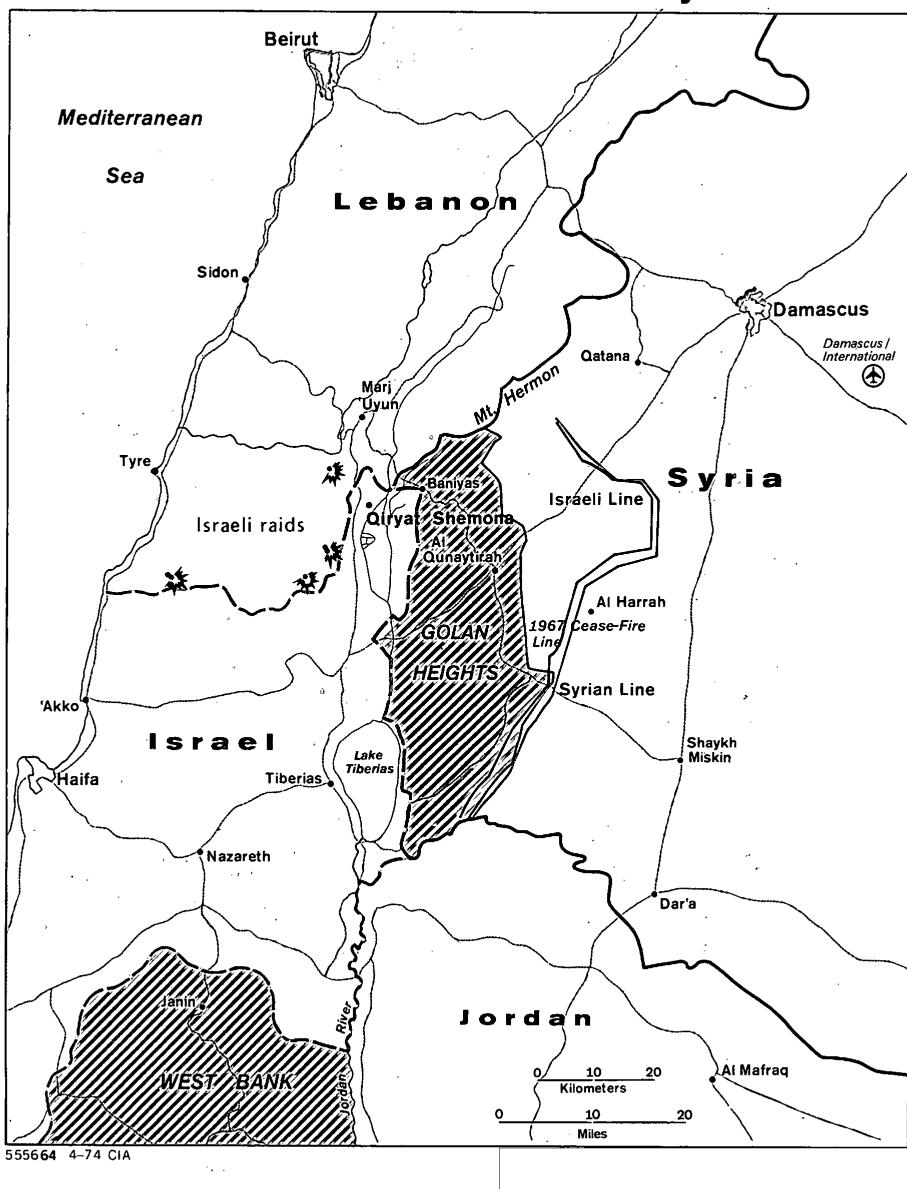
Khmer Communist ground attacks have slackened around Kampot in the past few days, but the southwestern coastal city remains under heavy siege. (Page 4)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

The Syrian Front



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-SYRIA

Israeli troops raided Lebanon last night in retaliation for the terrorist attack Thursday on the border settlement of Qiryat Shemona. The Israelis destroyed houses allegedly used by fedayeen, and seized six border villages before withdrawing after a few hours.

The attack was not as harsh as the Lebanese expected. Tel Aviv avoided larger scale retaliation, presumably because of concern over the fate of two Israeli pilots held in Lebanon and the effect more serious attacks might have on peace negotiations.

Earlier yesterday, Syrian troops tried unsuccessfully for the second time in a week to establish positions in the Mount Hermon area. Heavy exchanges of tank and artillery fire were also reported along the battle lines by both Damascus and Tel Aviv.

Military authorities in Tel Aviv asserted that a ten-man Syrian commando group attempted to take a post on Mount Hermon overlooking Israeli positions. The Israelis say that artillery fire forced the Syrians to withdraw. Last Saturday, the Israelis used air strikes to dislodge a 40-man Syrian unit from the same area.

Israeli aircraft were active yesterday over northern Israel and the Golan Heights.

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The daily exchanges of fire along the battle line, the Syrian ground probes of Israeli positions, the fedayeen attack on Qiryat Shemona, and Israel's retaliation are keeping forces on both sides edgy. The increase in Syrian air activity reflects Damascus' uncertainty as to Israeli intentions in the wake of the Qiryat Shemona attack.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SYRIA-USSR-EGYPT

Syrian President Asad concluded his talks with Soviet leaders yesterday. Both the timing and the brevity of the discussions suggest that he accepted Moscow's invitation mainly to soothe Soviet sensitivities about the Washington disengagement talks. Asad probably also hoped to take advantage of the current strains in Soviet-Egyptian relations to strengthen Soviet support for Syria's negotiating stance and to press Moscow for more military assistance.

In sharp contrast to the recent public attitude of Egyptian President Sadat, Asad was extremely complimentary to the Soviets. At a banquet in his honor Thursday evening, Asad said Syria was eager to expand cooperation with the Soviet Union and to strengthen the two countries' friendship. In addition, he thanked the Soviets for their "constant support" of Syria's objectives in the struggle against Israel.

Moscow gave Asad red-carpet treatment, and the three top Soviet leaders were present for the talks. At a luncheon speech yesterday, President Podgorny referred to agreements with Syria, but no details are available. An end-of-the-visit communique has already been approved, although it probably will not be issued until after Asad leaves.

In his dinner speech Thursday night, Brezhnev made no effort to hide his displeasure with Egyptian and US diplomacy. Referring to the bilateral disengagement negotiations, he criticized "ersatz-plans" aimed at replacing an overall settlement with "partial" agreements. He stressed once again that the Geneva Conference has been set up as the authoritative international forum and it is only there that a settlement "can and must" be worked out.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FRANCE

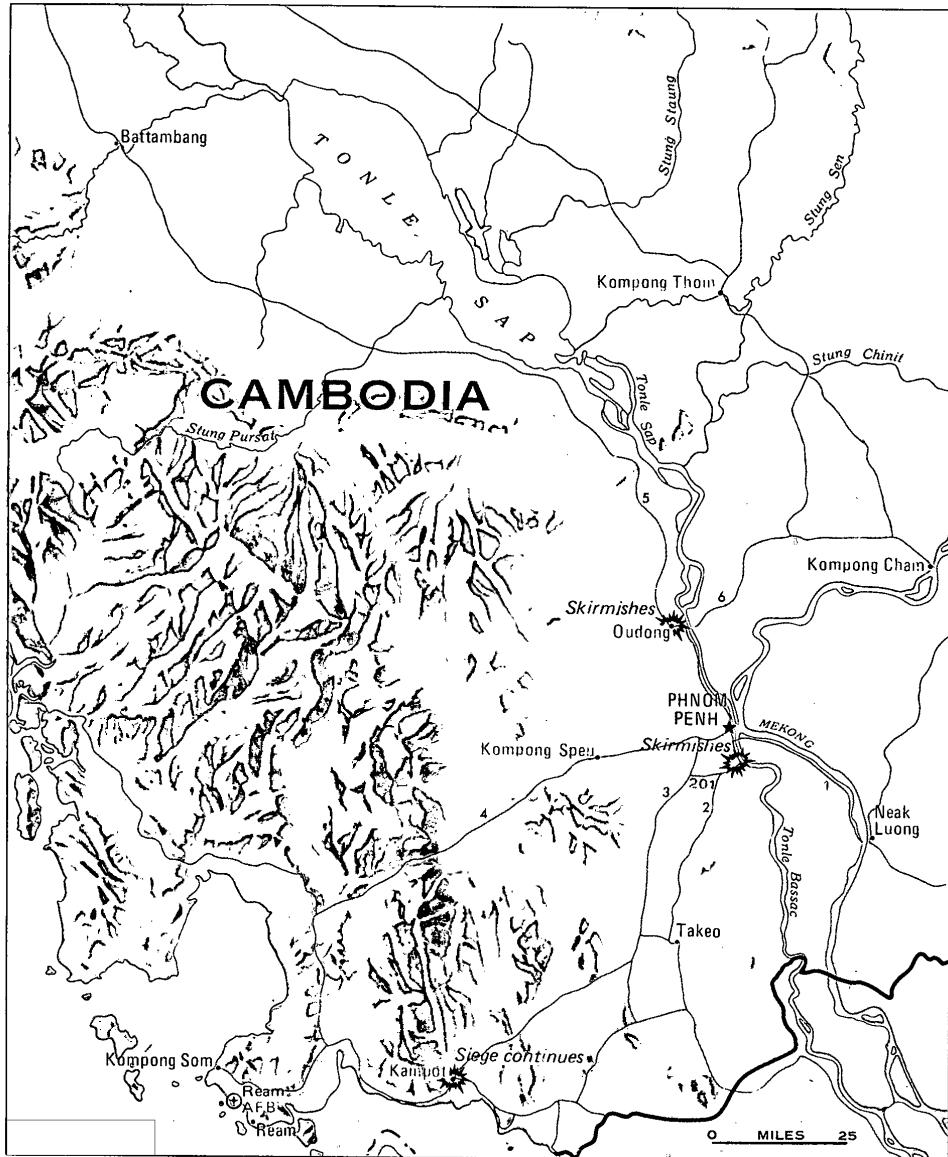
European central bankers at a closed meeting in Basel on April 9 indicated that investors' fears of an election victory by Socialist candidate Francois Mitterrand could lead to sizable capital movements from France. Investors believe that a Mitterrand victory will lead to greater government control of the economy and are seeking safer havens for their funds now, before new capital controls can be imposed. Similar fears during the last presidential election resulted in pressure on the franc.

Substantial movements of capital from France have already begun.

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Large transfers to Switzerland also have been reported. If this trend continues, Paris will have only two options: to accept a weaker franc until after the election or to intervene in the foreign exchange markets and deplete France's foreign exchange reserves.

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NOTES

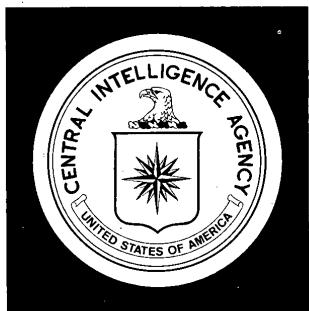
Cambodia: Khmer Communist ground attacks have slackened around Kampot in the past few days, but the southwestern coastal city remains under heavy siege. Communist gunners are still blockading Kampot's main outlet to the sea and are shelling government positions daily. Government morale is holding up well, however. Reinforcements continue to work their way overland from the coast and the Cambodian Air Force is providing effective support. The Communists have been keeping heavy pressure on Kampot for over a month now, and the steady expenditure of ammunition and supplies may be taxing their logistic system. They show no signs of abandoning their campaign, however.

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The President's Daily Brief

April 15, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 15, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Israeli aircraft sorties over the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon were unusually heavy over the weekend, and Israeli military authorities claim that the Syrians are moving SA-7s and conventional antiaircraft artillery to the Mount Hermon area. Israeli President Katzir, meanwhile, is consulting with party leaders about forming a new government, and reportedly will turn to the right-wing Likud if the Labor Alignment has not come up with a candidate within the next two weeks. (Page 1)

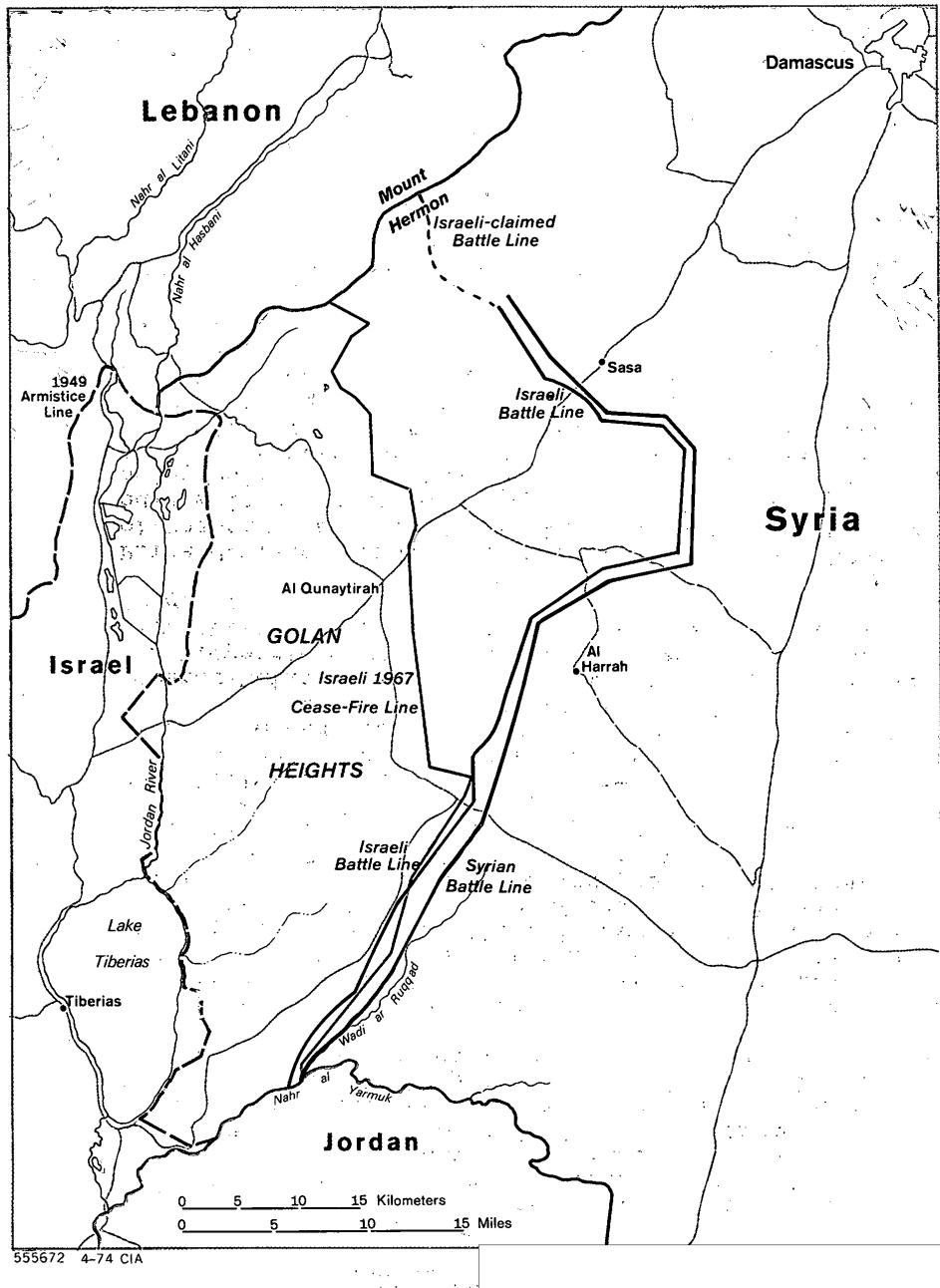
Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia yesterday named his 21-year-old grandson as his successor, removing Crown Prince Asfa Wossen as heir to the throne. (Page 2)

Prime Minister Tanaka will press for ratification of the civil air agreement with Peking, which reportedly will be initialed today, despite possibly damaging political effects to him and Foreign Minister Ohira. (Page 3)

Recent statements by Chinese officials to diplomats in Peking confirm earlier indications that the crew of a captured Soviet helicopter will be tried for espionage. (Page 4)

A note on the USSR appears on Page 5.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-SYRIA-LEBANON

Israeli aircraft sorties over the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon were unusually heavy over the weekend, totaling about 180 on Sunday and more than 50 on Saturday. In yesterday's action, Israeli ground forces also were thrown into the Mount Hermon battle. At least 15 Syrians were killed in the attack. The Israelis admit to only 17 wounded.

Israeli military authorities claim that the Syrians are moving SA-7s and conventional antiaircraft artillery to the Mount Hermon area. The Israelis reported yesterday that the Syrians fired numerous surface-to-air missiles of all types at Israeli aircraft.

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Israeli President Katzir has begun consultations with party leaders over the formation of a new government. According to press reports, if the Labor Alignment has not found a suitable candidate within the next two weeks, Katzir will turn to the right-wing Likud.

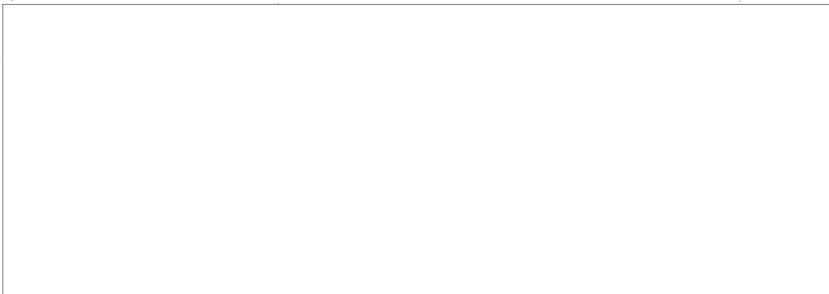
The Israeli cabinet yesterday named Major General Mordecai Gur as chief of staff of the Israeli Defense Forces with the rank of Lieutenant General. Gur, who was serving as military attaché in Washington at the outbreak of the October war, is free of any taint of responsibility for Israel's unpreparedness.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

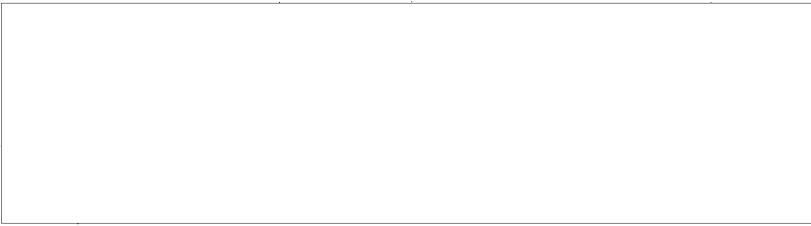
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ETHIOPIA

Emperor Haile Selassie yesterday named his 21-year-old grandson Zara Yacob as his successor, removing Crown Prince Asfa Wossen from the line of succession.



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHINA-JAPAN

Prime Minister Tanaka will press for ratification of the civil air agreement with Peking, which reportedly will be initialed today, despite possibly damaging political effects to him and Foreign Minister Ohira. Taipei has reacted to the agreement by announcing its readiness to suspend air service with Japan, and Tanaka's critics in the right wing of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party will attack the government's failure to reach a prior agreement with Taipei.

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The Taipei government is not averse to cooperating in the effort to weaken Tanaka and Ohira, but the Tokyo air link is important to Nationalist China both politically and economically. In the end the Nationalist leaders will probably consent to new air arrangements on a "private" basis with Tokyo.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHINA-USSR

Recent statements by Chinese officials to diplomats in Peking confirm earlier indications that the crew of a captured Soviet helicopter will be tried for espionage. Peking will probably heavily publicize the trial and attempt to link the incident with the expulsion from China in January of five Soviet diplomats accused of spying. The Chinese could use both events to continue their polemics against alleged Soviet expansionism and worldwide espionage activities.

The Soviets are also spreading the line that the Chinese may hold a show trial of the helicopter crew. Moscow, however, will probably be restrained in its treatment of the trial itself, in line with current efforts to keep comments on Sino-Soviet affairs in a low key.

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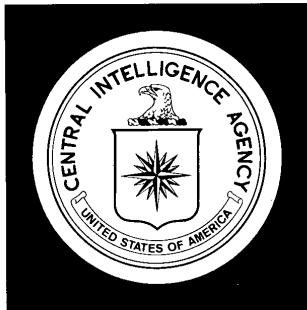
NOTE

USSR: The Soviets early Saturday morning brought down the unmanned spacecraft they had launched on April 3. During the ten-day flight, the craft, probably a modified Soyuz, performed a series of orbital maneuvers that may have been designed to test modifications in the control and propulsion systems. The flight probably is related to a manned mission expected soon and could also be in preparation for the joint Apollo-Soyuz mission scheduled for next year.

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The President's Daily Brief

• April 16, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 16, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

25X1

Latin American representatives at the inter-American foreign ministers' meeting opening in Washington tomorrow will be looking for solid evidence that the US intends to undertake specific actions in their favor.

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(Page 1)

Recent intercepted messages suggest that North Vietnam's troop infiltration for this dry season may be drawing to a close. (Page 2)

25X1

(Page 3)

25X1

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

At the inter-American foreign ministers' meeting, which opens here tomorrow, the Latin Americans will be looking for solid evidence that the US intends to undertake specific actions in their favor. The agenda includes such economic issues as greater access to US markets, technology, and development resources as well as a "code of conduct" for multinational companies. Restructuring of the inter-American system and a general review of US - Latin American relations also are included.

The Washington conference will probably establish means for bilateral and multilateral consultations on a wide range of trade matters. It also may call for setting up special working groups on foreign investment and transfer of technology. In addition, a statement of general principles relating to the conduct of multinational corporations may be approved.

Several issues could strain the fragile unity established at the Tlatelolco Conference last February. One of these is Cuba. [redacted]

25X1
25X1

In addition, a number of Latin leaders are suspicious of US intentions in proposing a new hemisphere "community," and there will be strong pressure to exclude this concept from the final communiqué.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

Recent intercepts suggest that North Vietnam's troop infiltration for this dry season may be drawing to a close. According to an April 12 message, "no southbound troops" will pass through a key transfer point in southern North Vietnam for the rest of the month, and more recent messages confirm that none have arrived. No new groups, except small numbers of specialists, have been detected entering the top of the infiltration system for eight days, the longest interruption since September.

Intercepts from southern Laos indicate that North Vietnamese in the infiltration corridor that is used to move most troops and supplies south have begun removing supplies from storage areas there before closing down for the approaching rainy season. The new Communist road network along South Vietnam's western border, however, is less susceptible to the heavy rains, and Hanoi could move men and supplies along this route well into late summer.

Hanoi has probably already sent more than enough manpower to central and southern South Vietnam to replace losses for several months at the current low level of combat. Few troops have gone to northern South Vietnam, where there has been little fighting, but Hanoi could quickly send men to this area.

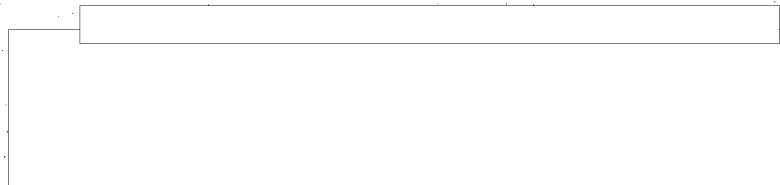
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JORDAN



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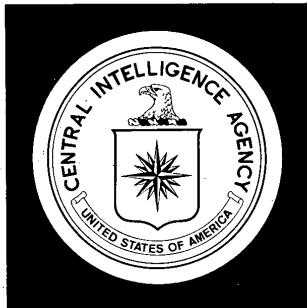


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The President's Daily Brief

April 17, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 17, 1974

25X1

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

25X1

Page 1 Israel

25X1

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Syrian officials reportedly are worried that the Israeli cabinet crisis will delay conclusion of a disengagement accord. (Page 2)

Nationalist China has threatened to close Taiwan's air space to Japanese civil flights if Tokyo signs a civil air agreement with Peking. (Page 3)

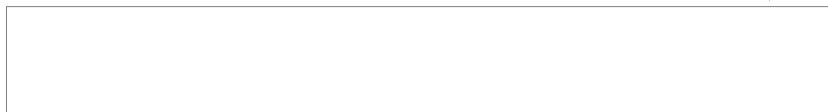
No details are yet available on the accord announced yesterday for the sale of Mirage F-1 jets to Kuwait, but previous reporting indicates that the Kuwaitis wanted at least 16 of these planes. (Page 4)

Notes on USSR - Indian Ocean and Iraq appear on Page 5.

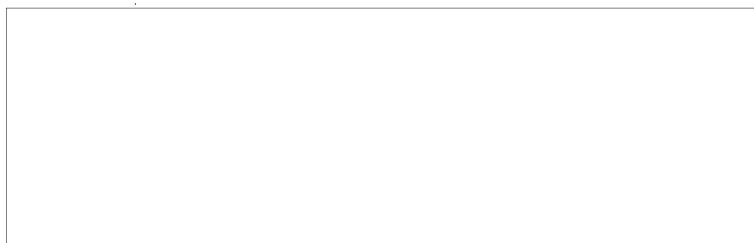
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL



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Israel and Syria yesterday continued to exchange tank and artillery fire on the Syrian front, but at a level substantially lower than over the past weekend. Israeli aircraft flew reconnaissance missions and defensive patrols over the Golan Heights. Damascus claimed that fighting was continuing on Mount Hermon.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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SYRIA-ISRAEL

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Officials in Damascus are worrying that the Israeli cabinet crisis will delay conclusion of a disengagement accord.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NATIONALIST CHINA - JAPAN

Nationalist Chinese Premier Chiang Ching-kuo has threatened to close Taiwan's air space to Japanese civil flights if Tokyo signs an agreement for airline links with Peking. The Nationalist Air Force has been placed on alert and instructed to be prepared to intercept--but not to shoot down--Japanese planes, if such a treaty is signed.

Premier Chiang long ago wrote off Japanese Prime Minister Tanaka as too pro-Peking. Chiang, encouraged by anti-Tanaka right-wingers in Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, now appears to be gambling that the Tanaka government will be forced to suspend the negotiations or perhaps resign. Such an estimate overstates both Nationalist China's influence in Japan and the strength of the Liberal Democratic Party's right wing. The affair is, however, increasing anti-Japanese feeling on Taiwan and will make compromise difficult.

Tanaka, for his part, is not likely to change his course. He plans signature of the agreement within about a week, and its prompt submission to the Diet for ratification, which seems assured. It does not appear that key factional leaders in the Liberal Democratic Party will use the issue to challenge Tanaka's leadership.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

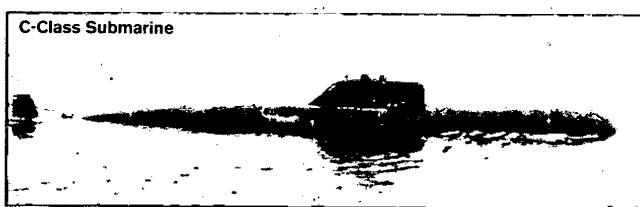
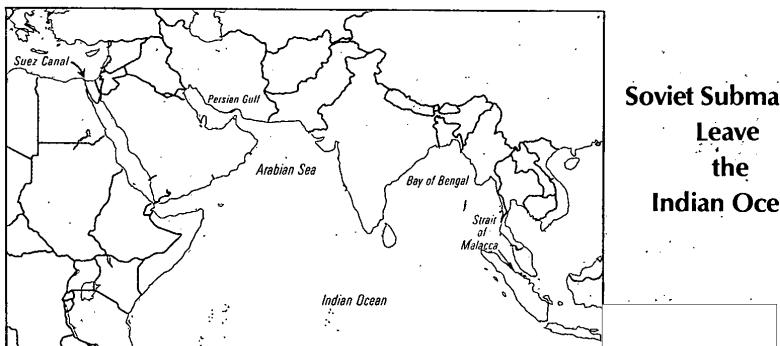
KUWAIT-FRANCE

No details are yet available on the accord announced yesterday for the sale of Mirage F-1 jets to Kuwait, but previous reporting indicates that the Kuwaitis wanted at least 16 of these planes.

The French aircraft may have been selected over competing US F-5 and A-7 planes because Paris attached no restrictions on its use. The Kuwaitis do not want to open themselves to the charge that they have bought arms that cannot be used to help other Arabs against countries like Israel or Iran. Kuwait is still interested in procuring the Franco-British Jaguar aircraft because of its ground support capability. Deliveries of the Mirages are probably at least a year away because of the need to train Kuwaiti pilots.

Kuwait is the first Persian Gulf country to buy the Mirage F-1, although Paris has sold other Mirage aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi. In addition to the F-1s, Paris sold helicopters to Kuwait in February and ground forces equipment several years ago.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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NOTES

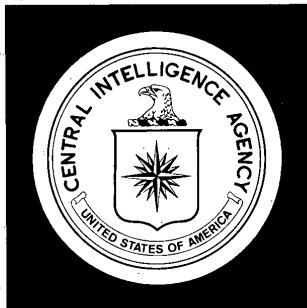
USSR - Indian Ocean: Two Soviet nuclear-powered submarines that have been in the Indian Ocean since late February are being transferred from the Soviet Northern Fleet to the Pacific Fleet. The submarines--a C-class cruise-missile unit and a V-class torpedo-attack boat--are about to pass through the Strait of Malacca and will be the first submarines of their classes to be assigned to the Pacific Fleet. While in the Indian Ocean, the submarines conducted operations in the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea. The C-class apparently trailed the US carrier Kitty Hawk for about a week in the Arabian Sea.

Iraq: The tempo of fighting between the Kurds and the government is gradually accelerating. Communist diplomats in Baghdad, who support the government's position, predict that an offensive will be launched in late April. As many as 65,000 government troops may already be in the north. Baghdad is sending reinforcements and has even begun calling up reserves. Rumors in Baghdad of US material support for the Kurds could lead to trouble for American interests in Iraq.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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The President's Daily Brief

April 18, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 18, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted] Egypt. (Page 1) 25X1

The Syrians are reported to have ordered additional

[Redacted] (Page 3) 25X1

Reports that Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie had removed Crown Prince Asfa Wossen from the line of succession have proven to be inaccurate. (Page 4)

25X1

Radical fedayeen are pressing more moderate guerrilla leaders to resume terrorism against Israel. (Page 5)

25X1

West German [Redacted]

USSR. (Page 5)

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

France [Redacted]

(Page 6)

25X1

[Redacted]

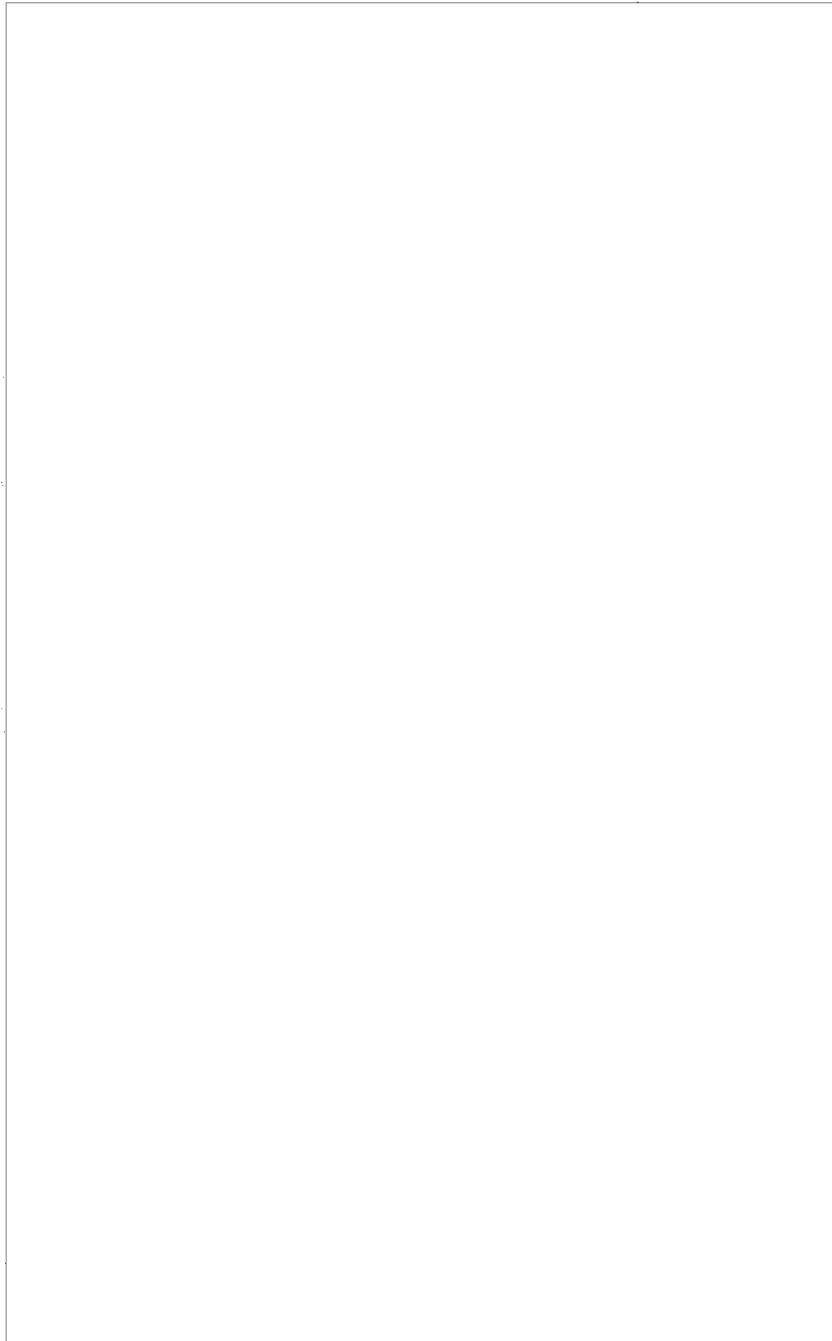
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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USSR-EGYPT



(continued)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SYRIA-ISRAEL

The Israelis and the Syrians exchanged tank and artillery fire on the Golan front again yesterday, but the scale of the action was limited compared with that over the weekend. For the first time since Sunday, Israeli aircraft yesterday engaged in combat missions against the Syrians in the Mount Hermon area. The Syrians apparently limited their response to flying defensive patrols. No Israeli aircraft were reported lost during the action.

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

the Israelis and the Syrians have tanks on the west side of Mount Hermon on Lebanese territory. Both sides are also using bulldozers to build roads on Mount Hermon's western slope, where the terrain is less rugged and more suitable for military operations.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ETHIOPIA

Reports earlier this week that Emperor Haile Selassie had removed ailing Crown Prince Asfa Wossen from the line of succession have proven inaccurate. Asfa Wossen is still formally slated to be the Em-

peror's successor, followed by Asfa Wossen's only son, Zara Yacob.

25X1

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* * *

Haile Selassie's announcement was made against a background of continuing widespread unrest among the military, workers, and other groups. The government's promises of far-reaching social, economic, and political reforms so far have had little salutary effect. There is no concerted effort to force out the Endalkatchew government, but the ferment is straining the government administration, and efforts to meet wage demands have caused serious budgetary problems.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTES

Fedayeen: The long delay in the Geneva peace talks has given radicals among the fedayeen time to challenge Yasir Arafat's relatively conciliatory approach to Middle East settlement issues on the grounds that he has failed to obtain tangible gains for Palestinians. The radicals are able to point to the terrorists' "success" in the Israeli town of Qiryat Shemona last week, and Arafat, along with other fedayeen leaders, is under pressure to resume terrorism. If the radicals are able to carry out more terrorist attacks in Israel, the large fedayeen organizations, such as Arafat's Fatah group, may have to begin organizing their own cross-border operations to retain the allegiance of their members.

West Germany - USSR: [redacted]

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[redacted]
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Japan-USSR: [redacted]

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[redacted]
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

France:

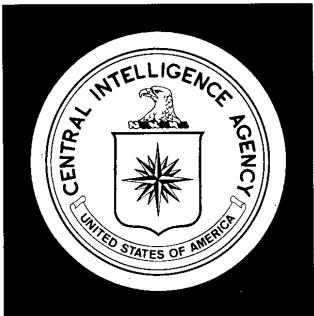
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The President's Daily Brief

April 19, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 19, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Syrian aircraft struck Israeli ground positions yesterday for the first time since the October war. [redacted]

25X1

(Page 1)

President Sadat renewed his criticism of the USSR during a speech yesterday, showing an almost stubborn willingness to placate Moscow. (Page 2)

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[redacted] Israel [redacted]

(Page 3)

Bangladesh [redacted]

Pakistan [redacted]

25X1

(Page 4)

Notes on Ethiopia, Iraq, the EC, and Greece-Turkey appear on Page 5.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-SYRIA

Syrian aircraft struck Israeli ground positions yesterday for the first time since the October war. A Syrian spokesman claimed that the strikes inflicted "huge" losses on Israeli forces in the Mount Hermon area and at other locations along the front.

Tel Aviv has played down the strikes' significance. According to an Israeli military spokesman, the attacks wounded only one soldier and lasted only "a couple of minutes." He claimed, in contrast, that Israeli sorties over the front lasted for more than five hours.

25X1

Damascus claims that its air defense forces shot down an Israeli Phantom, but Tel Aviv denied the claim.

25X1

EGYPT-USSR

President Sadat renewed his criticism of the USSR during a speech yesterday, four days after Foreign Minister Fahmi recommended easing public criticism of the Soviets. Fahmi's appeal followed his meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko in New York on Monday, and Sadat had agreed to tone down press attacks. In his speech yesterday, the Egyptian leader adopted a friendly tone that has been absent lately, but his references to major points of disagreement showed an almost stubborn unwillingness to placate Moscow.

Sadat said he has written Soviet party leader Brezhnev four times in the past six months with "basic and essential demands"--obviously for arms--but has consistently been told they are "being studied." Sadat described this as only a misunderstanding between friends, but expressed "regret" and puzzlement over the reason for it. Sadat also said he has begun to diversify Egypt's source of arms, attributing this decision to a desire for a balance in Egypt's international relations.

Perhaps, Sadat suggested, Moscow is withholding arms because it believes Cairo is abandoning socialism, liberalizing its economy, or improving relations with the US and the West. These are matters that concern only Egypt, he asserted, and comment from the outside "shows bad taste." He repeated a line he has used frequently in recent weeks, that Egypt does not want hostile relations with any state unless that state "begins to antagonize us." Sadat said Egypt will not befriend one state at the expense of any other, and in this context referred specifically to the US and the USSR.

ISRAEL

The Labor Party's five-member selection committee will meet today to decide on a list of candidates to succeed Mrs. Meir as party leader. The list will be submitted to the party's Central Committee on Sunday.

The party's secretary general, in an effort to reduce the number of contenders, yesterday talked to prospective candidates Deputy Prime Minister Alon, Justice Minister Zadok, Foreign Minister Eban, Labor Minister Rabin, Mayor Almogi of Haifa, and Information Minister Peres.

Only Peres, a member of Dayan's Rafi faction, has openly expressed an interest in the position, but the others clearly are available. Peres, however, has only a slim chance.

BANGLADESH-PAKISTAN

25X1



Despite the apparent conciliatory attitude of both parties, the issues left unresolved at the New Delhi conference two weeks ago are complex and certain to be the subject of hard and protracted bargaining. One of the most difficult questions will be the division of prewar Pakistan's assets and liabilities. Dacca will also continue to argue for a Pakistani commitment to take more than the 140,000 Biharis--non-Bengalee Muslims--Islamabad has already agreed to accept.

NOTES

Ethiopia: The military is again demonstrating its impatience with the government's failure to arrest and prosecute corrupt ministers of the previous cabinet. Troops meeting in Addis Ababa--probably drawn from units throughout the country--yesterday demanded of Prime Minister Endalkatchew that the former ministers be placed immediately under at least house arrest. According to a Reuters report that has not been confirmed, the Prime Minister replied that he already had done so. If the arrests have not been made, the military may take direct action to back up its demand, such as detaining the ministers in question or seizing a major city or military installation.

Iraq: Baghdad may have begun a major offensive against Kurdish rebels. The government has intensified ground and air attacks against the Kurds in the last few days. [redacted]

25X1
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EC: West German Foreign Minister Scheel has called an informal meeting of the foreign ministers of the Nine for this weekend, possibly to "educate" British Foreign Secretary Callaghan about the importance of EC ties. The interregnum in France has forced the community to mark time on a number of fronts. Bonn hopes this pause may give the new British Government time to obtain a better understanding of the interdependence of the EC states, particularly in the economic and financial areas.

Greece-Turkey: Tensions between Athens and Ankara over their rival claims to possible offshore oil fields in the Aegean Sea have abated. Turkish Prime Minister Ecevit has said that the issue is a technical problem and should not be allowed to develop into a political crisis. Greek and Turkish officials are scheduled to meet this week in New York to discuss the issue.

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The President's Daily Brief

April 20, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 20, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Heavy fighting along the Golan front increases the risk that one side or the other will undertake major offensive action. (Page 1)

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While the Soviets cannot take much comfort from President Sadat's recent speech, they may view it as an indication that Egyptian anti-Soviet rhetoric will be toned down. (Page 4)

Li Te-sheng, one of China's former vice chairmen, appears to be the latest victim in the anti-Lin, anti-Confucius campaign. (Page 5)

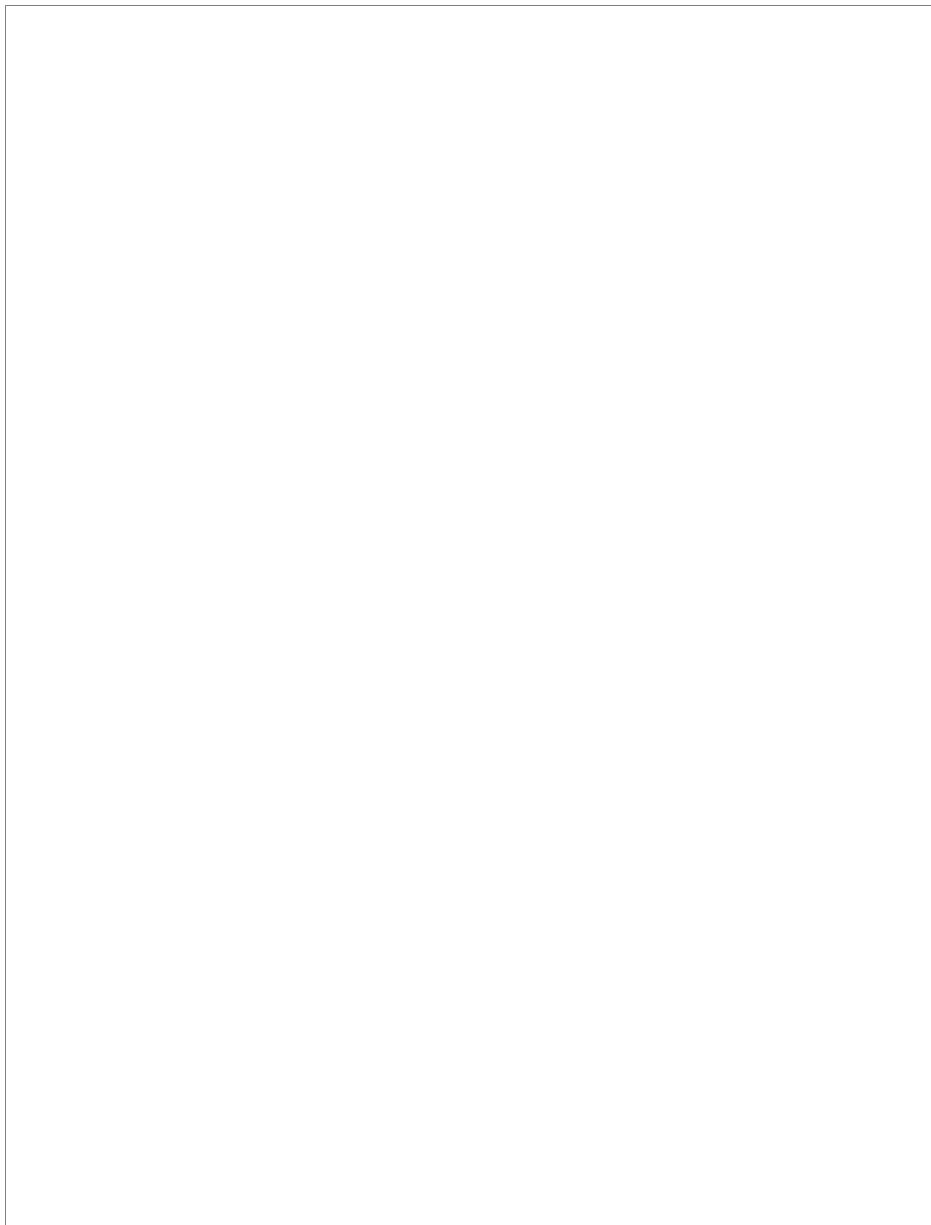
Prime Minister Gandhi is firmly backing better relations with Washington and does not expect this to impair India's close ties with Moscow. (Page 6)

Cambodian Government forces are trying to regain the initiative on several widely separated battle fronts. (Page 8)

Sri Lanka's opposition party has called for a number of peaceful protest meetings on April 21 to protest the government's inability to deal with economic problems. (Page 9)

Notes on the USSR, Iraq, and Niger appear on Page 10.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-SYRIA

Fighting along the Golan front yesterday was marked by heavy Israeli air activity and intensive action by Syrian air defense forces. This increases the risk that one side or the other will undertake major offensive action.

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Israeli Defense Minister Dayan told Israeli television audiences yesterday that Tel Aviv believes there are no political limitations on its military activity and that it will feel free to undertake "territorial expansion" if Syria attempts to capture territory. On the other hand, Dayan also said that, while Tel Aviv will not fold under military pressure, it would not want to do anything to upset the negotiating process.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Mount Hermon has been the focus of contention for both Israel and Syria. Both sides apparently are bent on establishing their domination in the area, and neither appears willing to back off. In the process, the scope of the fighting has grown from small commando actions to clashes involving larger numbers of ground units as well as large numbers of aircraft and surface-to-air missile units.

The intensity of the fighting yesterday increases the possibility either that Syria will initiate a thrust against the Israeli salient or that Israel will undertake pre-emptive action to prevent this. Syrian air strikes in the southern part of the Israeli salient for the past two days, as well as the fighting reported south of the salient yesterday, suggest that the conflict is beginning to spill over into other sectors of the front.

* * *

Israeli aircraft were active early today over the Golan Heights and northern Israel. [redacted]

[redacted] This initial activity is similar to yesterday morning, when Israeli fighters were airborne at the crack of dawn.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

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[redacted] the course of events in the Middle East, and especially in Egypt, has caused disagreement in the Politburo. Such friction seems highly probable and may reduce Brezhnev's freedom, at least in the short term, to pursue detente initiatives.

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Brezhnev, however, continues to have important support in the leadership. Yugoslav President Tito, who is a fairly astute observer of the Soviet scene, recently commented to Senator Kennedy that Brezhnev is in a strong personal position. Tito asserted Brezhnev had placed his men in key positions and that it seems unlikely Brezhnev would face a threat to his personal power position from any quarter in the foreseeable future.

Moreover, in our judgment, Brezhnev has proved to be adept at detecting shifting sentiments in the leadership and pulling back from exposed positions.

Gromyko, as foreign minister, is a logical target for recrimination within the Politburo in connection with the Middle East and with the course of detente in general. He would be a prime candidate if someone has to be sacrificed. His close identification with Brezhnev as a member of the latter's foreign policy "team," however, lends him greater political strength than he might otherwise have.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-EGYPT

The Soviets are not likely to take much comfort from President Sadat's speech on April 18. They would like to think that his reference to improving relations with the USSR means that, at least, he is prepared to tone down the Egyptian anti-Soviet rhetoric of the past few weeks.

Moscow will probably view Sadat's reference to the diversification of Egypt's weapons as a bluff, given the problems involved in replacing the range of Soviet weapons in the Egyptian arsenal. Moscow, nevertheless, will interpret the reference as a signal that Sadat will not switch policy in exchange for Soviet hardware.

Sadat's assertion of Egypt's neutrality and his positive references to the US will also be seen as evidence that he does not plan to abandon his efforts to achieve a more balanced foreign policy. While this comes as no surprise, the Soviets may have hoped that the Gromyko-Fahmi talks would have had a greater impact on Egyptian policy.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHINA

Li Te-sheng, who headed the army's General Political Department until his transfer to command the Shenyang Military Region last December, appears to be the latest victim in the anti-Lin, anti-Confucius campaign. Wall posters labeling him a follower of disgraced Defense Minister Lin Piao have appeared in several provinces as well as in military academies and possibly in Peking. The attacks represent a dramatic reversal of Li's political fortunes. He was one of five vice chairmen chosen at the party congress last August and had been politically active until the rotation of military region commanders.

Whatever the reasons for Li's fall, it is clear that attacks on a number of military men have been authorized at the highest party levels. An authoritative article in Red Flag, written under what may be a pseudonym for Mao, sharply criticized Confucius for allowing "feudal princes" to exercise "sovereign powers" in their own regions, and criticized those who would restore this system.

Peking does not now seem overly concerned if wall posters are seen by foreigners. They are easily visible to anyone traveling by rail, and [redacted] their Chinese guides willingly translated some that attacked Li. Li Hsien-nien, a Politburo member and one of Chou En-lai's principal lieutenants, jokingly told a Western delegation leaving for a provincial tour that they would see "many big character posters, but none attacking you." There have been reports of scattered factional violence, but the campaign generally remains under the control of national and provincial party organizations.

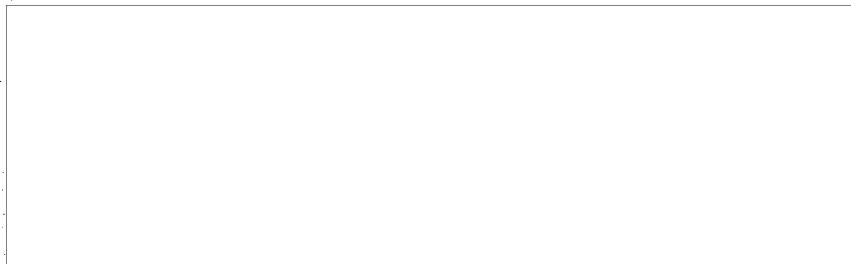
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

INDIA

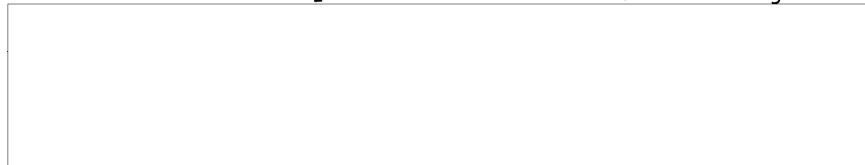
Prime Minister Gandhi is firmly backing better relations with Washington and does not expect this to impair India's close ties with Moscow.



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While New Delhi has shown interest in improved relations since late 1972, only in recent months has Mrs. Gandhi's attitude toward the US been so positive. In large part this reflects India's need for all the economic assistance it can get to offset soaring petroleum prices and food and fertilizer shortages. The Indians have recently made approaches to Washington for assistance "to keep our chins above water," in Foreign Minister Swaran Singh's words.

Next to economic matters, New Delhi's attention is focused on ways to forestall a naval buildup in the Indian Ocean. India has asked both Washington and Moscow to consider an agreement of mutual restraint. New Delhi feels its chances of bringing this about would be enhanced by better relations with Washington.



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(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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Despite her more favorable attitude toward the US, Mrs. Gandhi has told [redacted] that India has the best possible relationship with Moscow, and she appears fully confident of its continuing support. She gives no sign, however, of acceding to Moscow's long-standing request for special naval facilities at Indian ports.

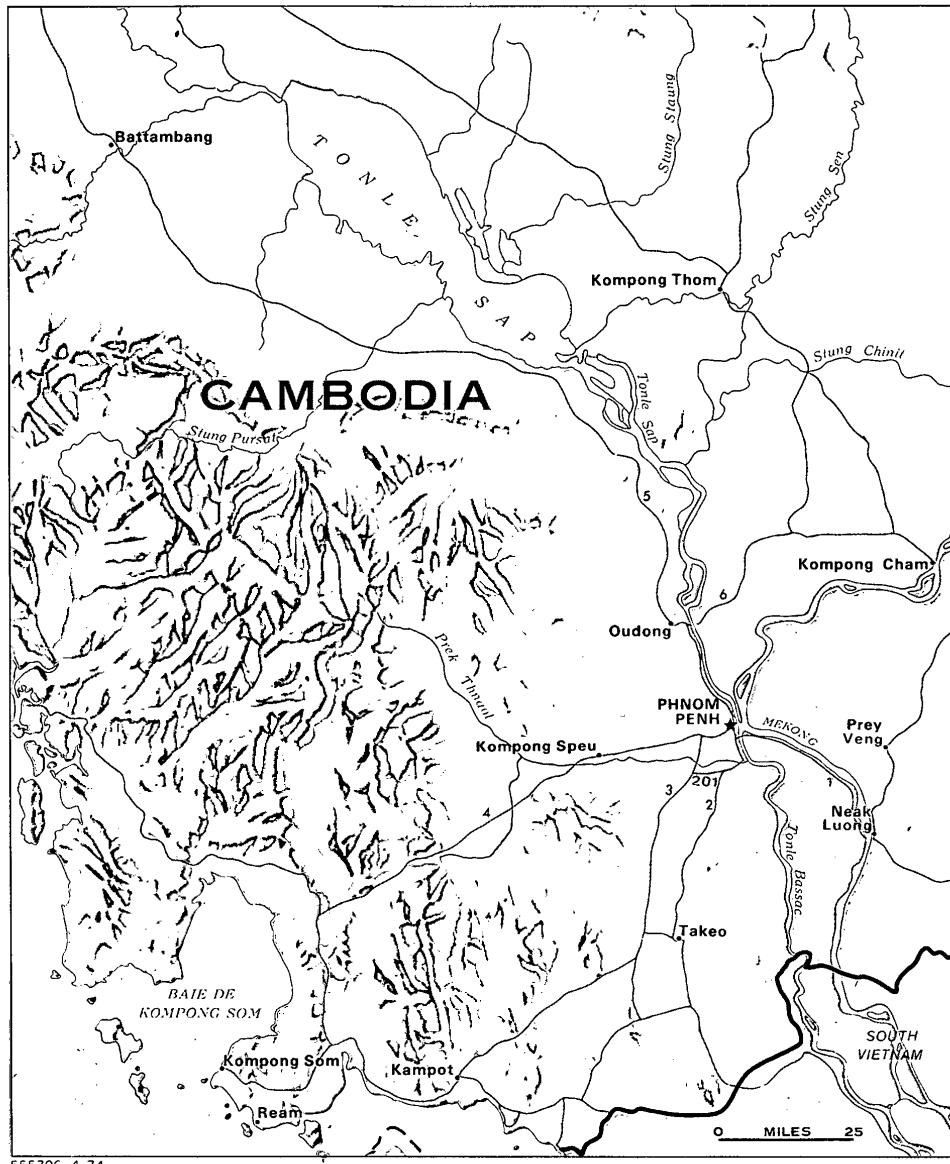
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In sum, New Delhi appears to have decided that its interests are best served by a more balanced foreign policy. [redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

The government is trying to regain the initiative on widely separated battle fronts. Cambodian Army troops at Kampot in the past few days have slightly expanded their northern and southeastern perimeters, but have been unable to reopen the waterway from the south. The Communists apparently are trying to move reinforcements to the area.

Along Route 5 some ten miles north of Phnom Penh, army units have easily retaken several outposts lost late last week. Government forces, however, are meeting stiff opposition southeast of the capital, where Communist rocket sites may be located.

The army high command is sending troops to the provincial capital of Prey Veng in anticipation of attacks there late this month or early in May. According to an intercepted message, over four Communist regiments are scheduled to participate. More than 3,000 government troops are now in Prey Veng, and the high command is planning operations to disrupt the Communist preparations.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SRI LANKA

The opposition United National Party (UNP) has called for 150 "peaceful protest" meetings on April 21 to protest the inability of Mrs. Bandaranaike's government to deal effectively with economic problems. Rally leaders reportedly will demand her resignation and call for new elections.

Mrs. Bandaranaike, aware of popular dissatisfaction over food scarcities, has placed the armed forces on alert. She has also pushed through a law providing harsh punishment for anyone making statements "likely to cause public alarm or public disorders." A cabinet decision banning the UNP meetings is expected.

Any attempts by the government to suppress the gatherings would increase the chances of violence and reinforce the UNP's resolve to begin a civil disobedience campaign on May 1. Moreover, the police and army would be hard pressed to enforce the ban in many scattered locations. The army commander has in the past expressed concern over the ability of the security forces to contain widespread antigovernment outbursts.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR: The Soviets are increasing the capability of their tactical air units to conduct nuclear warfare. [redacted] seven

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more storage sites for nuclear weapons have been completed or are under construction at tactical airfields in the western USSR. In all, 21 storage sites have now been identified at airfields in the USSR and in Eastern Europe. Most of this construction has occurred since 1970, and it has coincided with the widespread introduction into Soviet tactical aviation of aircraft that are assigned nuclear-strike missions. Not all of the airfields that now have storage sites are equipped with newer aircraft suitable for delivering nuclear weapons.

Iraq: The Kurds have announced the formation of their own administration in northern Iraq, according to a Beirut newspaper. The administration is said to be led by an eight-man "executive council" composed of Kurdish ministers who have resigned from the Baghdad government and provincial governors who abandoned their posts to join Kurdish separatist leader Barzani.

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[redacted] the Kurds well organized and apparently willing to continue their fight. Kurdish forces are well-equipped with modern small arms and antiaircraft weapons [redacted]

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Their main vulnerabilities are poor radio communications between units and a lack of hospital facilities.

Niger: The new military government appears basically moderate and likely to focus on the country's domestic problems while continuing ousted President Diori's pro-Western foreign policy. Paris has reacted calmly to the coup and appears ready to accept at face value junta leader Kountche's statement that he does not intend to change Niger's close relations with France. Libyan Prime Minister Jallud visited Niger on April 18-19, probably to discuss the mutual defense pact Diori's government had signed with Libya. Kountche has not clarified his attitude toward the pact.

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The President's Daily Brief

April 22, 1974



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 22, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Fighting on the Syrian front continued over the weekend but at a lower level since Friday's intensive battles. (Page 1)

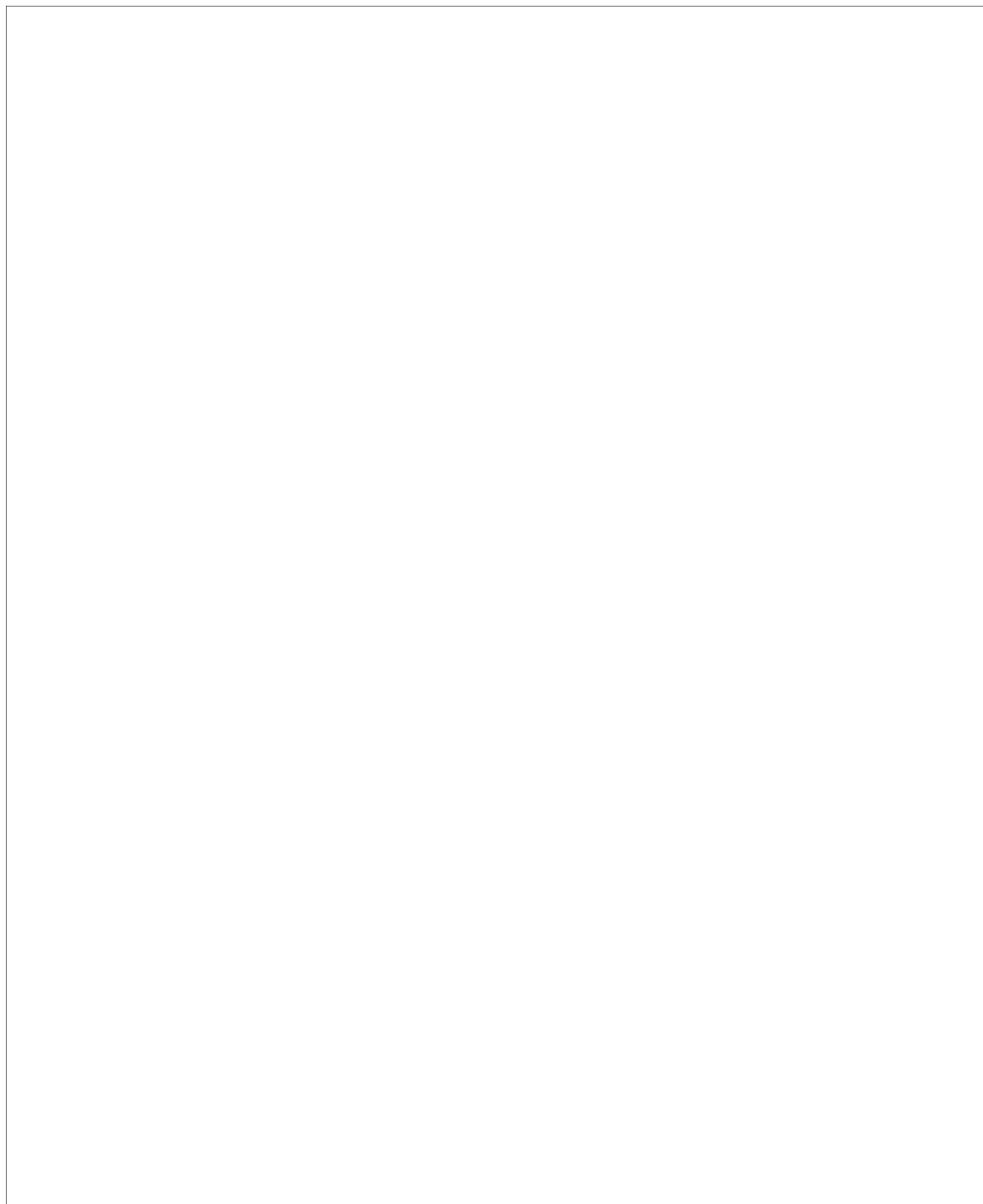
Recent reports support earlier indications that Moscow offered President Asad large sums of aid during his recent visit. (Page 2)

Israel's Labor Party voted yesterday to try to form a new coalition government rather than face another election. The Central Committee intends to vote today on a successor to Golda Meir as party leader. (Page 3)

The civil aviation agreement signed by Japan and China last Saturday looks toward inaugurating regular air service between the two countries on September 29. (Page 4)

PLO leader Yasir Arafat is reported to have suspended PLO subsidies to all non-Fatah fedayeen organizations in hope of dissuading them from mounting cross-border attacks into Israel. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



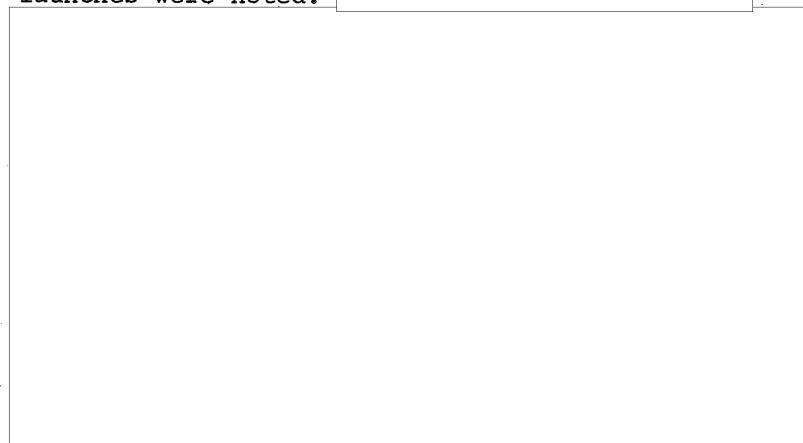
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SYRIA-ISRAEL

Fighting on the Syrian front generally has continued at a lower level since Friday's intensive battles. Artillery and mortar fire was exchanged over the weekend but no surface-to-air missile launches were noted.

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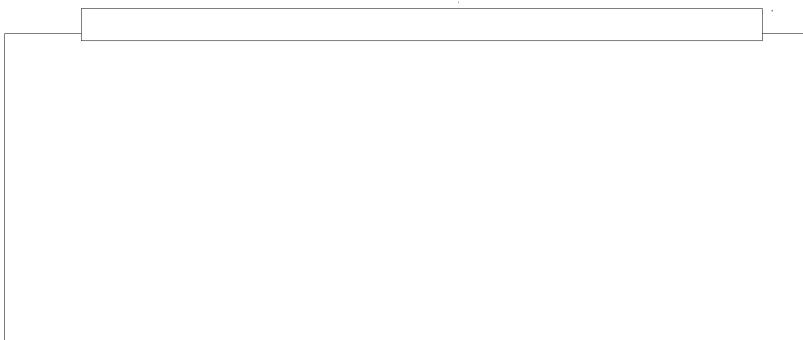


An Iraqi news source reported Saturday that Syrian authorities had closed two air corridors over Syria to civilian airliners. The action may have been taken as a precaution because of heavy Israeli air activity over portions of Syria on Friday.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-SYRIA

Recent reports support earlier indications that Moscow offered President Asad large sums of aid during his recent visit, perhaps in the neighborhood of several hundred million dollars in economic credits. While welcoming such aid, Asad is not likely to get over-involved with the USSR on economic projects. Prior to Asad's Moscow trip, the Syrians had made a strong pitch for EC participation in Syrian industrial development. Moreover, with an influx of Arab aid, Syria is in a better position to choose its suppliers.



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL

The Central Committee of Israel's Labor Party voted yesterday to try to form a new coalition government rather than face a new election. The committee members put off until today balloting to name a successor to Golda Meir as party leader. If they fail to agree on a successor, however, they could reverse themselves and seek an election.

Motions calling for a new election were narrowly defeated yesterday, despite a warning by Finance Minister Sapir, who implied that Labor would not be able to form a new government without another election. Sapir, who played a key role in the talks that helped reconstitute Mrs. Meir's governing coalition last month, claimed that both of Labor's coalition partners, the National Religious Party and the Independent Liberal Party, are balking at the prospect of yet another attempt to mold a new government.

The only declared candidates to succeed Mrs. Meir are Labor Minister Yizhak Rabin and Information Minister Shimon Peres. Foreign Minister Eban reportedly will announce his candidacy before the deadline, which is noon today. Thus far Rabin appears to be the favorite, but it is possible that the party may have to dig deep into its ranks for a compromise candidate.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JAPAN-CHINA-TAIWAN

The civil aviation agreement signed by Japan and China last Saturday looks toward inaugurating regular air service between the two countries on September 29--the second anniversary of their establishment of diplomatic relations. The pact was achieved after more than a year of complex negotiations.

Japanese Foreign Minister Ohira, in a supplementary statement to the agreement, noted that Tokyo now no longer recognizes the Nationalists' airline or its flag insignia as that of a "state." Taipei reacted strongly to the agreement and Ohira's statement by carrying out its earlier threat to terminate operations on the Japan-Taiwan route by China Air Lines and Japan Air Lines. Taipei also closed Taiwan's airspace to all Japanese aircraft.

Although disturbed by the Nationalists' action, the Tanaka government has reacted calmly. It is complying with Taiwan's demands but endeavoring to play down the situation to leave room for future negotiations. Ohira has described Taiwan's move as "regrettable," but he has pledged Tokyo's continued desire to maintain good relations with Taipei through non-governmental means. He expressed his belief that the air link "could and should be restored" in time, noting that one reason for the long delay in signing the agreement with Peking was Tokyo's desire to find some way to preserve commercial air ties with Taiwan.

Taipei's action has drawn support from pro-Taiwan interests within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, and Tanaka and Ohira seem certain to be in for further criticism from these elements. Nonetheless, the LDP's top executives intend to submit the air agreement to the Diet--probably this week--where favorable action seems assured.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FEDAYEEN - ARAB STATES

Yasir Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization and Fatah, [redacted] suspended PLO subsidies to all non-Fatah fedayeen organizations. The success of the terrorist attack on Qiryat Shemona by a group not affiliated with the PLO has increased pressure on Arafat to allow Fatah to revert to more spectacular forms of terrorism. By cutting off funds, Arafat hopes to dissuade these groups from mounting other cross-border operations and thus decrease pressure on himself to adopt similar tactics.

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Arafat's move, however, will not prevent the small, radical fedayeen groups from continuing their terrorist activities. [redacted]

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[redacted]
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[redacted]
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[redacted]
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* * *

Despite the financial difficulties that the fedayeen may be experiencing, certain Arab states seem to be in line for increased assistance. The Kuwaiti Parliament on Saturday approved a grant of more than \$500 million to Syria, Egypt, and other "front-line" states. This comes on the heels of Saudi Arabia's cash handout of \$100 million to Egypt last Wednesday.

The amounts involved are not large for either Kuwait or Saudi Arabia, considering their substantial oil revenues. Both also regularly make payments to Egypt under agreements reached in Khartoum in 1967. Egypt annually has received \$91 million from Kuwait and \$100 million from Saudi Arabia.

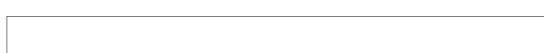
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The President's Daily Brief

April 23, 1974



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 23, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Labor Minister Yitzak Rabin, narrowly elected yesterday to succeed Mrs. Meir as Labor Party leader, faces an uphill struggle to forge a new cabinet. His chances do not seem good and new elections may have to be called this year. (Page 1)

Fighting on the Golan front yesterday was down for the third straight day from the intense level of last Friday. (Page 2)

Cambodian Government forces are in trouble 20 miles northwest of Phnom Penh. (Page 3)

The Burmese Government has more than held its own against the Communists in northeast Burma during the fighting this dry season. (Page 4)

Notes on USSR-Cuba and China appear on Page 5.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL

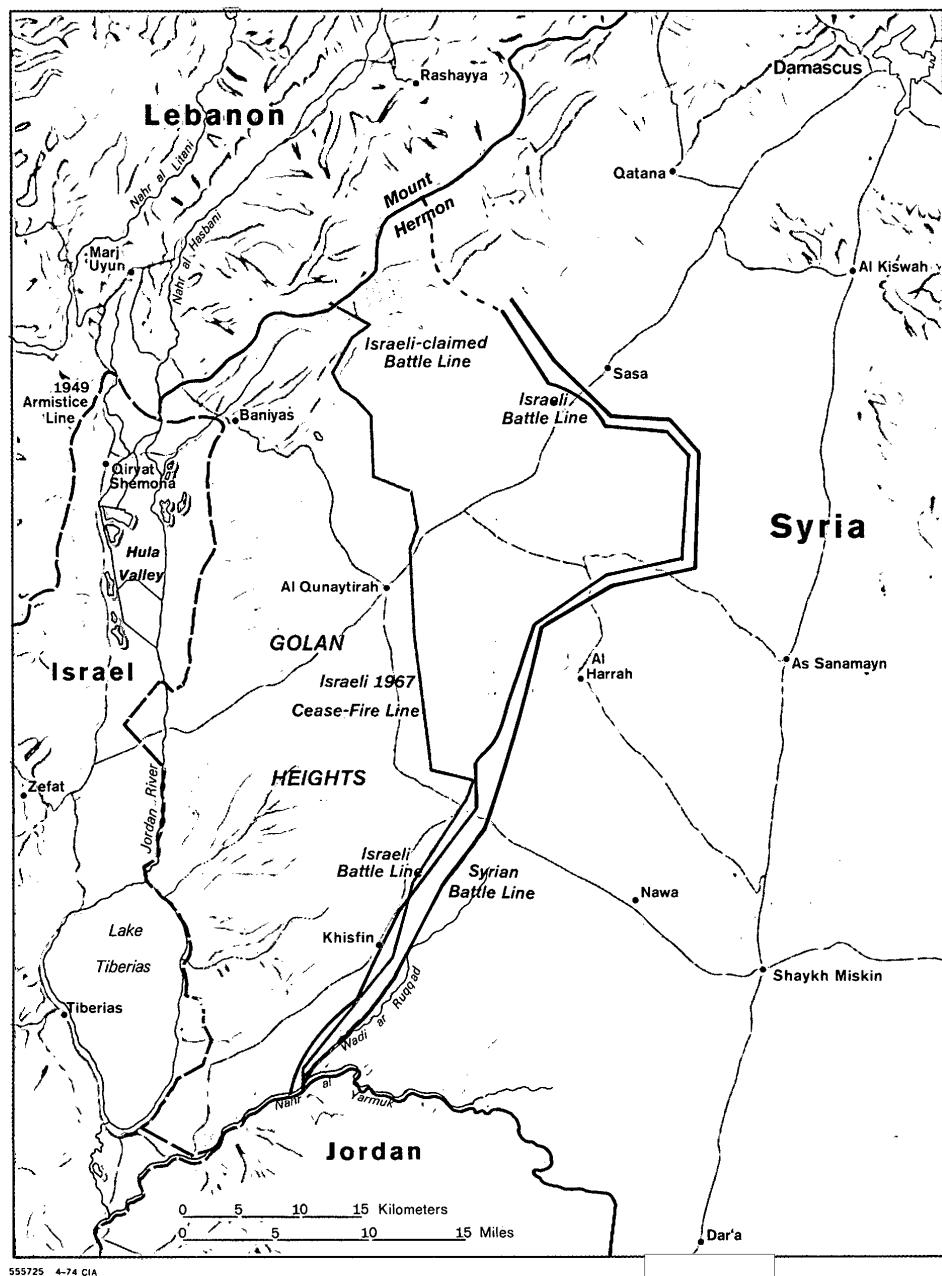
Labor Minister Yitzak Rabin, narrowly elected yesterday to succeed Mrs. Meir as Labor Party leader, faces an uphill struggle to forge a new cabinet. His chances do not seem good and new elections may have to be called this year.

Rabin's first task will be to convince the faction-ridden Labor Party to unite behind him, particularly the group led by Dayan and Shimon Peres. Peres, the only other candidate, made a surprisingly strong showing, an indication that opposition to Rabin within Labor is fairly widespread. The Labor Minister's other major hurdle in forming a cabinet is the reluctance of Labor's coalition partners--the National Religious Party and the Independent Liberal Party--to reconstitute the Labor-led coalition.

Rabin, only 52, is much younger than most of the country's national leadership. He is relatively untainted by the controversy about the government's handling of the war last October and has steadily gained popularity over recent months.

As prime minister, Rabin almost certainly would not significantly alter Israel's current domestic policies or its position on a Middle East settlement. He is pessimistic about Israel's chances of negotiating successfully with the Syrians.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-SYRIA

Fighting on the Golan front yesterday was down for the third straight day from the intense level of last Friday. Syrian and Israeli forces exchanged tank, artillery, and small arms fire in the Mount Hermon area as well as along other sectors of the front.

[redacted] 25X1

According to an Israeli military spokesman, Syrian aircraft yesterday overflew portions of the Israeli salient in what probably was a reconnaissance mission. Israeli fighters were dispatched to intercept the aircraft, but no contact was made.

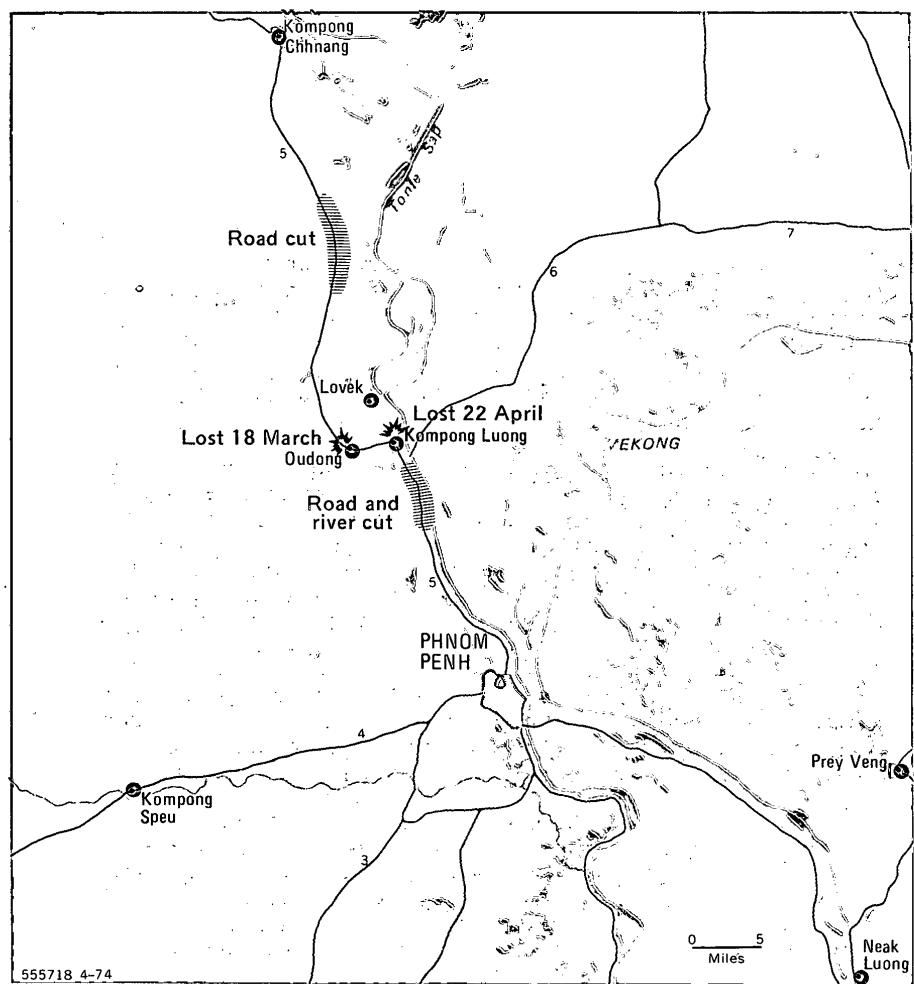
Israeli military authorities have officially denied a story in a Lebanese newspaper that Israeli forces are occupying a hill in Lebanon west of Mount Hermon.

[redacted] 25X1

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA: Phnom Penh Area



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

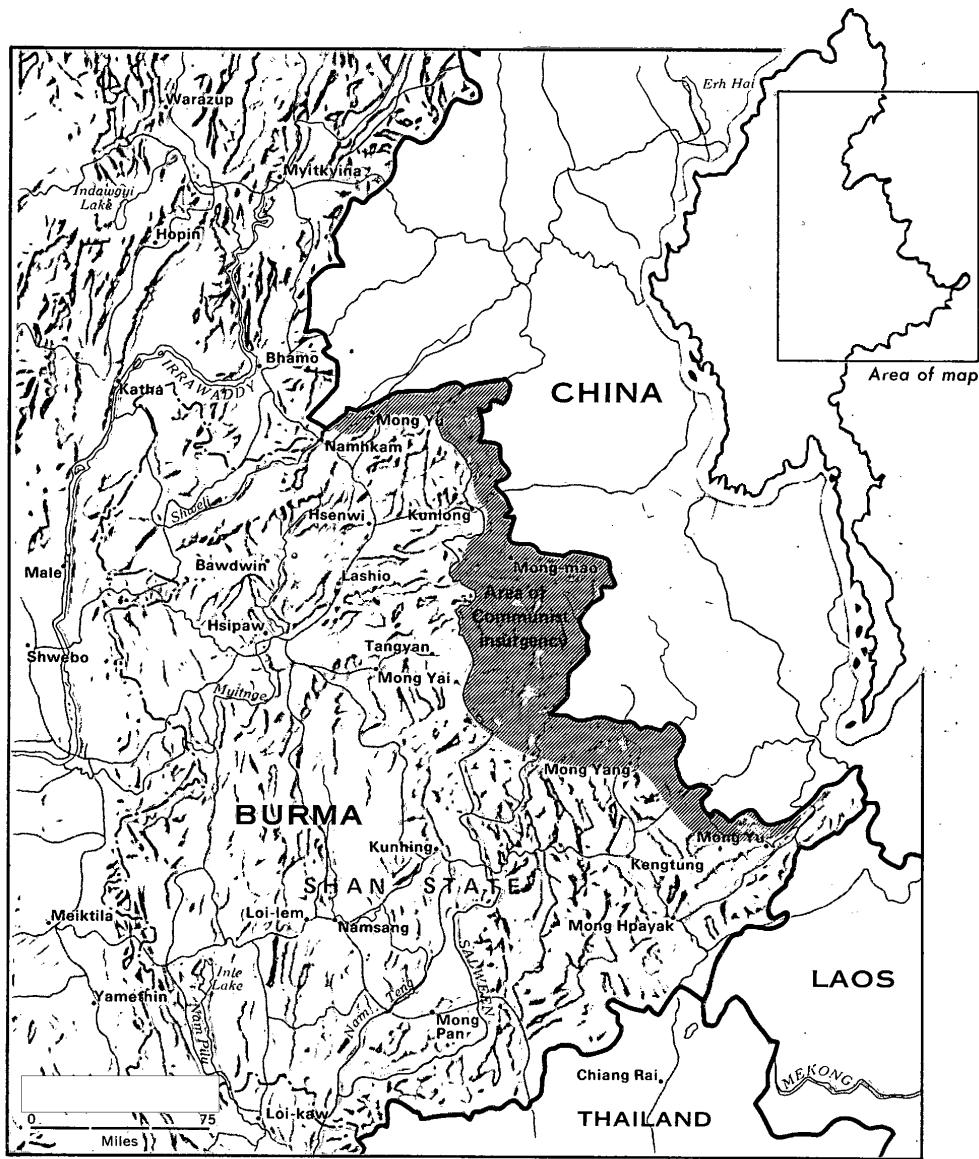
Government forces are in trouble 20 miles northwest of Phnom Penh. Although press reports of the loss of Kompong Luong over the weekend are overdrawn, the setback reduced Cambodian Army holdings in the area to the former training complex at Lovek, a few miles northwest of Kompong Luong.

Over 3,000 troops and 25,000 civilians are now isolated at Lovek. These include survivors from Kompong Luong; about half of the 1,900-man force formerly stationed there have arrived so far.

The Cambodian Army high command will have to decide in the next few days whether to make a stand at Lovek or to evacuate. A successful defense would depend heavily on the ability of the air force to provide tactical and logistic support. If Lovek is abandoned, government forces could be extracted by helicopter or could try to move overland to the Tonle Sap River, where they could go north to Kompong Chhnang by boat.

The Communists are likely to focus attention on Lovek soon. Recent intercepted messages show that a continuing flow of ammunition is going to insurgent units in this area, and Communist gunners are being urged to block passage of the Tonle Sap River just south of Kompong Luong.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

BURMA

The Burmese Government has more than held its own against the Communists in northeast Burma during the fighting this dry season. When the monsoons begin late next month, Communist troops in that area will hold less territory than had been anticipated at the beginning of the year. The Communist threat to Kengtung, an important government administrative center in eastern Shan State, has abated since the Burmese Army routed a Communist unit and pushed it back toward the border.

It is unlikely that any major action will occur in the next few weeks. Burmese Army forces in the area are stretched too thin for significant initiatives. The Communists seem content to dig into their present positions as they prepare to wait out the monsoons.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Krivak-Class Guided Missile Destroyer



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR-Cuba: Two Krivak-class guided-missile destroyers, now in the mid-Atlantic, appear to be headed for Cuba and participation in May Day celebrations. This would be the first visit there of this class of destroyer, although Soviet Navy ships have made ten previous port calls. Earlier visits to Cuba have usually included a submarine; there is as yet no firm evidence that one is accompanying these destroyers.

China: [redacted]

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[redacted]

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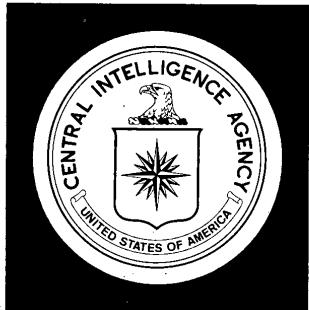
[redacted] construction has taken place [redacted] The Chinese have excavated channels and turnaround areas to improve access from the sea to Pattle, Money, and Duncan islands.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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The President's Daily Brief

April 24, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 24, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Israeli air strikes on the Golan front yesterday were an attempt to prevent Syria from completing a road to the top of the ridge line on Mount Hermon, according to Tel Aviv. (Page 1)

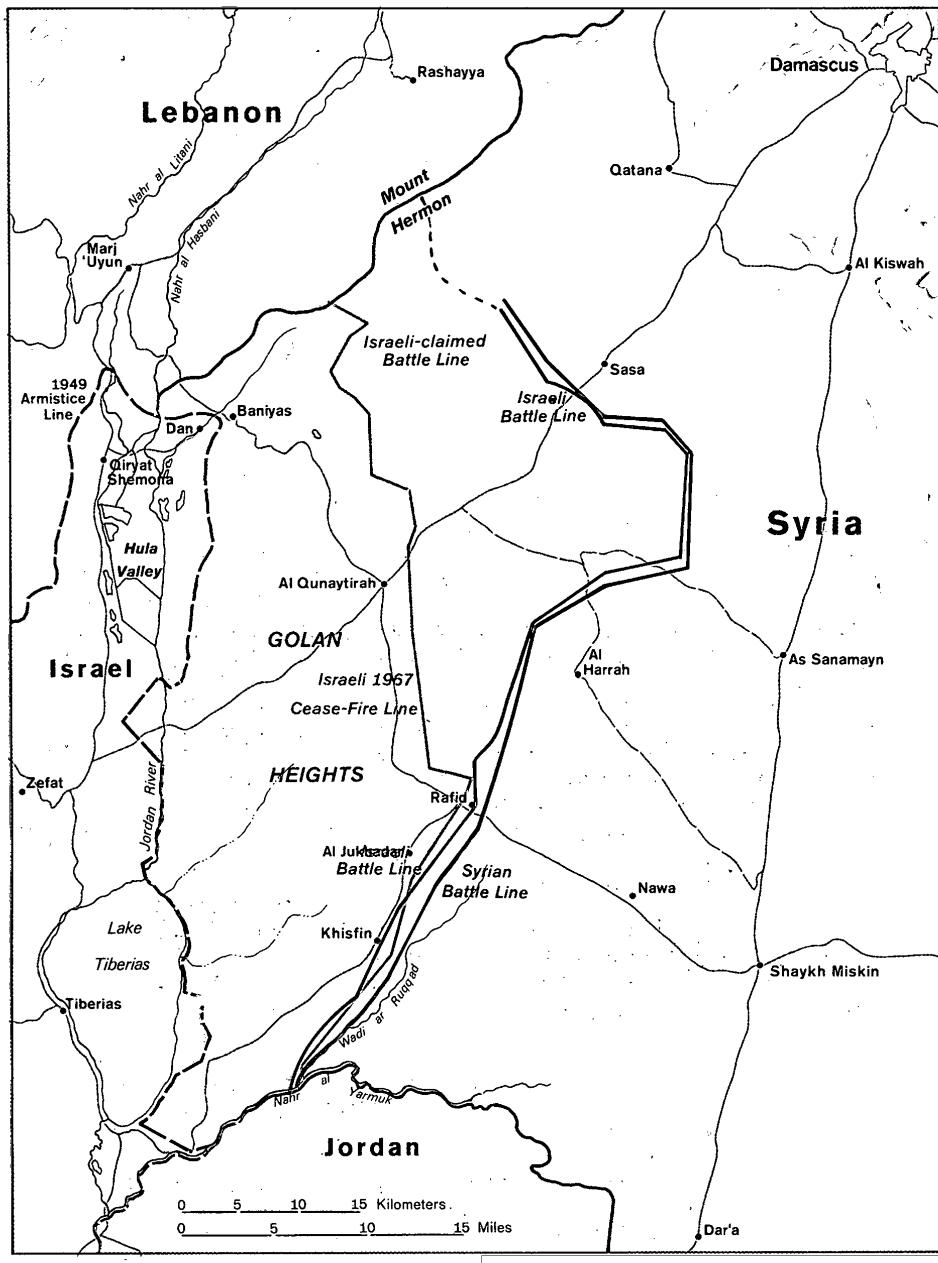
The EC foreign ministers seem to have improved the atmosphere in the community at their informal meeting in West Germany last weekend. (Page 2)

The turmoil in Ethiopia is not only straining the regime's ability to govern but is also posing problems for moderate reformists in the military. (Page 3)

Thai Assembly Speaker Khukrit Pramot, a well-known publisher and confidant of King Phumiphon, is emerging as the most likely successor to Prime Minister Sanya. (Page 4) 25X1

Notes on the USSR, Venezuela-Cuba, [redacted] appear on Page 5. 25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-SYRIA

Fighting on the Golan front remained at a moderate level yesterday. Israeli military authorities have said that the Israeli air strikes yesterday were aimed at preventing Syria from completing a road to the top of the ridge line on Mount Hermon. The road would enable Syrian armor and artillery to move to the mountain's summit. Israel has already completed such a road.

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According to several news stories from Beirut, Syria is using "multi-headed" surface-to-air missiles recently received from the USSR. Although the system was not further identified, the stories may refer to an armored reconnaissance vehicle carrying four SA-7 launchers. This weapon has been reported present in Syria, but has not been firmly identified there.

Both Damascus and Tel Aviv have troops on the Lebanese side of Mount Hermon. Israel now occupies most of the dominant peaks on the mountain--including the main one. The Syrians on the Lebanese side of the mountain have the shoulder-fired SA-7 surface-to-air missile with them, but no Syrian SA-6 sites are known to be there. No Israeli SAM sites are on the Lebanese side of Mount Hermon.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EC

The EC foreign ministers seem to have improved the atmosphere in the community at their informal meeting in West Germany last weekend. They decided to resume work on a report on European union due by the end of 1975, and they agreed that political consultations with the US should not be formalized.

The informal nature of the session apparently fostered frank discussions among the eight ministers present--the caretaker Belgian Government was not represented. This frankness was most obvious, perhaps, in the dialogue on European union. Foreign Minister Callaghan said he was not opposed to the goal of union by 1980, but added he still was not sure what the concept meant.

A consensus of sorts emerged that national states and borders would be retained but that, above the national level, there would be a "federal or confederal level entailing both integration and intergovernmental cooperation." A European government with independent powers would have a parliament composed of a house of states and a house of the peoples. These ideas are similar to those put forth earlier by the French.

On consultations with the US, the French seem to have given way somewhat on their previous insistence that the Nine could consult only after unanimous agreement among themselves. A senior British official yesterday cautioned that this new attitude is still tentative and could be reversed if the US were to press for an explicit commitment on consultation.

No extensive discussions were held on the EC proposal to offer wide-ranging cooperation to the Arabs, reportedly because the Arab oil embargo is still in force against Denmark and the Netherlands. The proposal had stalled earlier over the question of consultation with the US. On the evening of April 21, however, West German Chancellor Brandt in Algiers characterized his talks there as the beginning of a European-Arab dialogue. EC leaders still have not decided on the form and specific content of the dialogue.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ETHIOPIA

The turmoil in Ethiopia is not only straining the regime's ability to govern but is also posing problems for moderate reformists in the military. Agitation by civilian groups seeking redress of grievances may force military leaders to adopt drastic measures that they would prefer to avoid. The government may have adopted a firmer position yesterday; according to late, unconfirmed press reports, it has banned unauthorized demonstrations, ordered the prosecution of striking government employees, and directed the armed forces and police to take "all necessary steps" to maintain law and order.

Declaring a state of emergency would restore partial calm and ease the pressure on the government. The military, however, would be left with the responsibility of enforcing the measure, putting it in the position of cracking down on civilians whose interests it claims to champion.

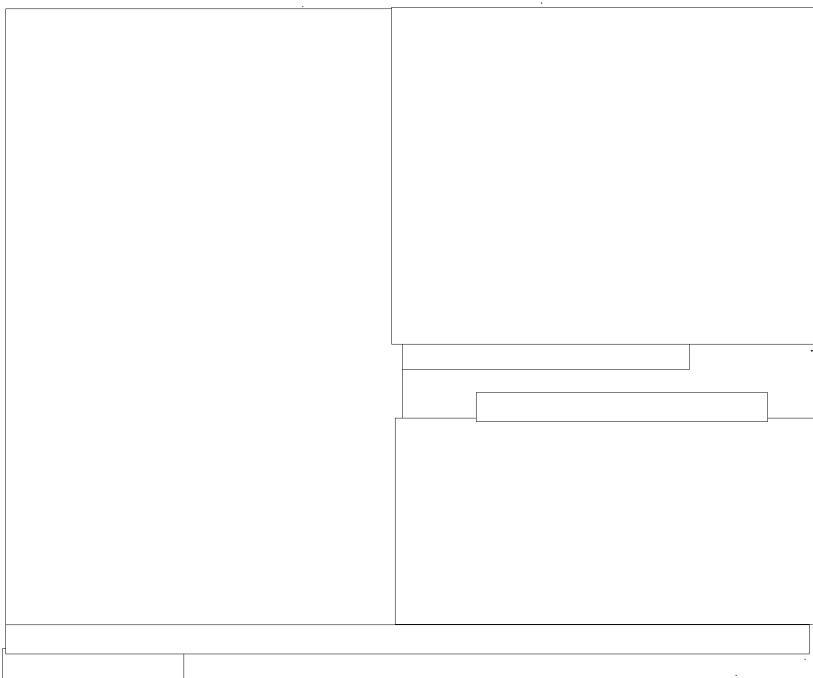
An outright takeover would likewise leave moderate military leaders with the problem of restoring order without resorting to severe repression. In addition, they would have to assume the day-to-day administration of the government. If a moderate military government failed, a takeover by radicals in the military or a counterrevolt by the nobles and landowners could result. The moderates prefer to avoid such eventualities by keeping the civilian government in power.

Prime Minister Endalkatchew's government, meanwhile, can disclaim any responsibility for the turmoil unleashed by the military's revolt. Its efforts to cope with strikes, demonstrations, and rural unrest give an excuse for not moving ahead with the political and social reforms sought by the military.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THAILAND



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR: The Soviets have stepped up the pace of flight-testing for their TU-144 Charger supersonic transport.

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Soviets have said that the TU-144 will be in commercial service in 1975. If no major problems develop, they will probably meet this goal.

Venezuela-Cuba: The re-establishment of diplomatic relations with the Castro regime is regarded as a certainty in Venezuela, with only the timing and details yet to be worked out. In early April an emissary of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez is reported to have spent six days in Havana for conversations with Fidel Castro and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, the Cuban deputy prime minister for foreign relations.

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Last week, a leading Venezuelan politician told newsmen that resumption of ties with Cuba seems imminent.

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The President's Daily Brief

April 25, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 25, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

A military uprising is under way in Portugal this morning. A group calling itself the Armed Forces Movement apparently plans to set up a "National Junta of Salvation" and restore civil liberties.
(Page 1)

Israeli Chief of Staff Gur does not expect the exchanges on Mount Hermon to lead to a major escalation.
(Page 2)

The next major target in the Khmer Communist campaign against exposed government enclaves will probably be Prey Veng City, 30 miles east of Phnom Penh.
(Page 3)

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Notes on the USSR-Cuba and the USSR - Indian Ocean appear on *Page 5*.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PORUGAL

A military uprising is in progress in Portugal this morning, the state-supported news agency has acknowledged. Troops have blocked access to the Defense Ministry and, according to press reports, a group calling itself the Armed Forces Movement has taken over a radio station. The troops apparently plan to set up a "National Junta of Salvation" and restore civil liberties.

It is not clear, as of 0430 EDT, whom the forces represent or what is the extent of the uprising. There are reports that the military rebellion has spread to the north of the country.

Last month a military company stationed 50 miles from Lisbon marched to protest the firing of General Antonio de Spinola, the deputy chief of staff of the armed forces, and his boss, General Costa Gomes. The march was stopped by troops loyal to the government who forced the dissidents to return to their barracks. They then surrendered and were arrested.

Spinola was fired because far rightists were outraged over his proposal--in a recent book--to loosen Portugal's ties to its African territories. The government arrested some 200 military supporters of General Spinola, but refrained from further arrests reportedly to avoid any greater stirring up of the military.

Military dissidents are apparently again manifesting discontent with government policy [redacted] The strength of the dissidents is not yet clear.

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ISRAEL-SYRIA

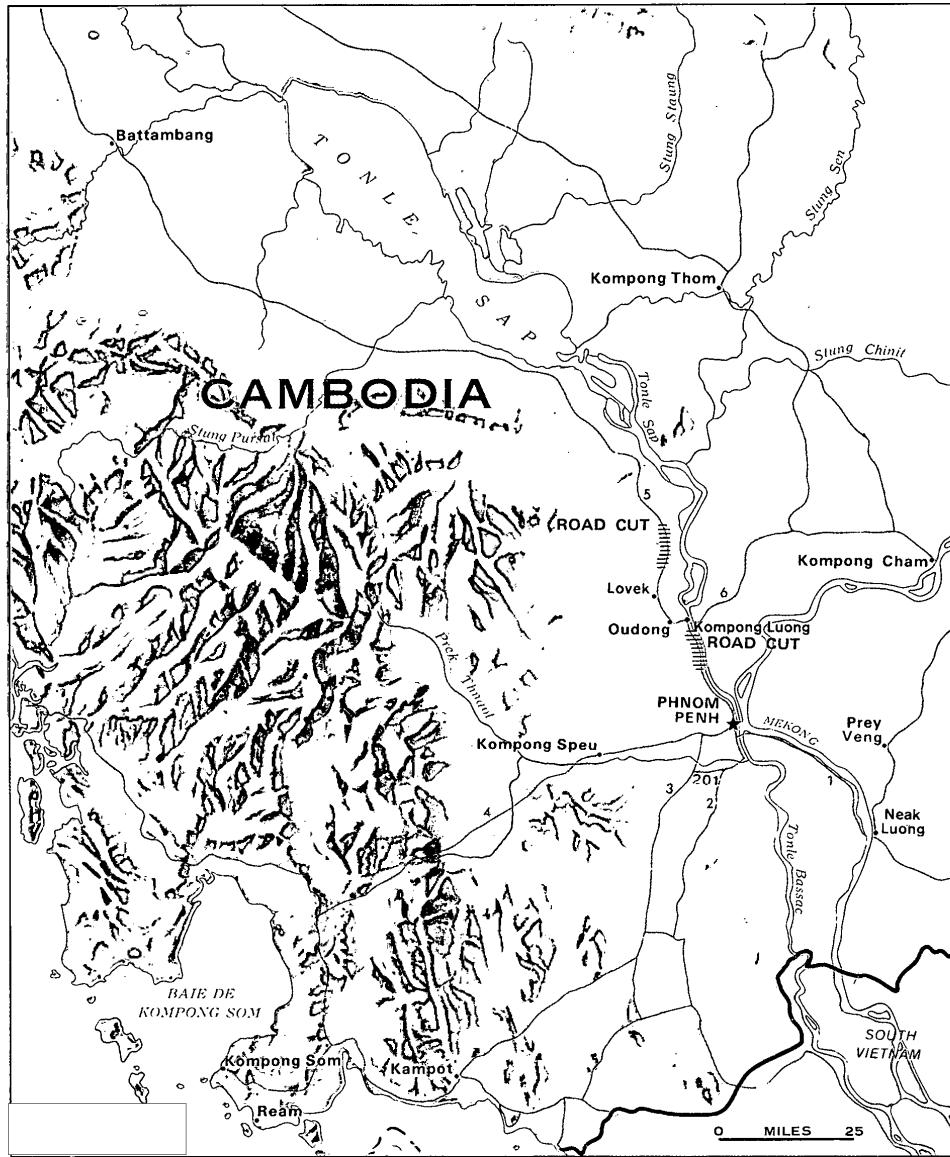
[redacted] has said that
he does not expect the exchanges on Mount Hermon to
lead to a major escalation. Fighting nevertheless
increased yesterday on the Golan front. [redacted]

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Israeli and Syrian aircraft struck targets in
the Mount Hermon area and in the southern sector of
the front. Damascus claims to have downed two Is-
raeli aircraft, but Tel Aviv said that all of its
planes returned safely. [redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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CAMBODIA

The recent loss of Kompong Luong will give a fresh push to the Khmer Communist campaign against exposed government enclaves in the countryside. The Communists are trying to follow up their success at Kompong Luong by moving against the nearby government base at Lovek. Intercepted messages between Communist units point to the provincial capital of Prey Veng, 30 miles east of Phnom Penh, as their next major target. As many as three Communist infantry regiments, one artillery regiment, and five local militia battalions have been designated to participate in attacks scheduled to begin in late April or early May.

The government is aware of the Communists' plans. The garrison at Prey Veng has been reinforced [redacted]

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[redacted] Prey Veng is near insurgent base areas, however, and the terrain around the city is favorable to the Communists' operations.

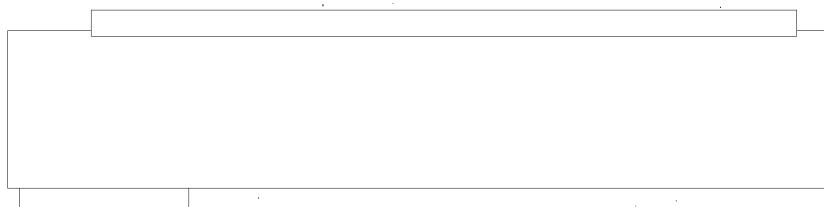
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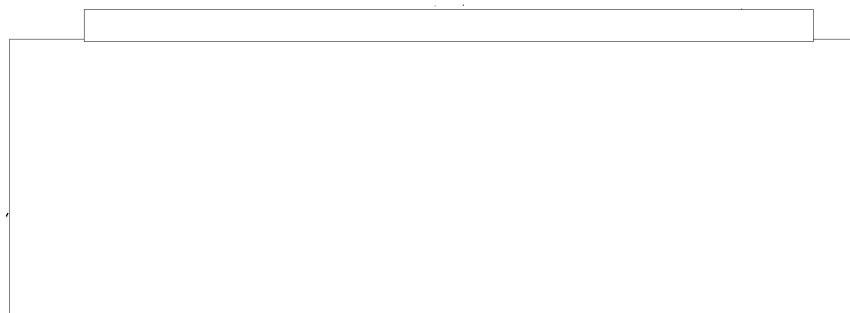
SOUTH VIETNAM



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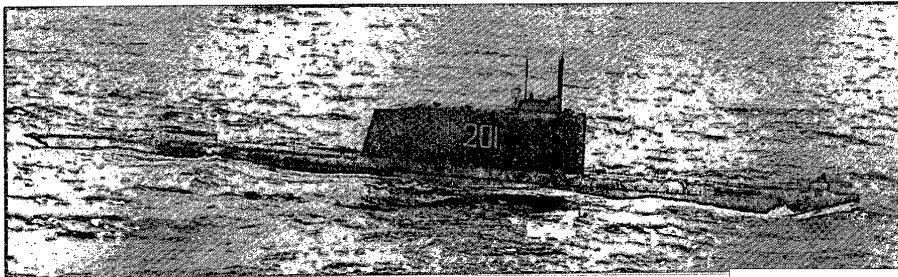
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Soviet G-11 Class Ballistic Missile Submarine



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NOTES

USSR-Cuba: A Soviet diesel-powered ballistic-missile submarine rendezvoused yesterday east of Bermuda with the Krivak guided-missile destroyers that are en route to Cuba. The submarine--a G-II class unit--and the destroyers are expected to arrive in Cuba in time for May Day celebrations. The submarine carries three SS-N-5 ballistic missiles that have a range of 700 miles and are capable of carrying nuclear warheads. This will be the first G-class submarine to visit the island since April 1972.

USSR - Indian Ocean: The Soviets are dodging Indian requests that they come out publicly in support of naval limitations in the Indian Ocean. For the past several months, New Delhi has been trying to get the Soviets to announce that they would "freeze" the level of their naval presence in the Indian Ocean provided other naval powers do the same. Two weeks ago, [redacted]

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[redacted] Deputy Foreign Minister Firyubin told [redacted] that a "freeze" would leave the Soviets in an unacceptably inferior position to the US. Firyubin strongly implied that US plans for a naval base at Diego Garcia had complicated the issue. Moscow is seeking to portray the US, abetted by Communist China, as the instigator of big-power rivalry in the Indian Ocean.

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The President's Daily Brief

April 26, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 26, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Portugal's new leader, General Antonio de Spinola, publicly pledged last night to work toward the early re-establishment of constitutionality. He promised to respect Portugal's international commitments.
(Page 1)

The Kremlin is still exuding confidence about the future of detente, even though such confidence is marred by concern about the near-term outlook.
(Page 2)

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President Sadat's decision to elevate Minister of Economy Hijazi to first deputy prime minister confirms his determination to continue Egypt's liberalized economic policy despite criticism from the Soviets and radical Arabs. *(Page 4)*

The arrest of an employee of Chancellor Brandt's office as an East German spy will fuel attacks on Ostpolitik by the opposition. *(Page 5)*

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The "Notes" page

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PORtUGAL

General Antonio de Spinola, Portugal's new leader, publicly pledged last night to work toward the early re-establishment of constitutionality. He said a constituent assembly and then a president of the republic will be chosen in free elections. Spinola himself is a likely candidate for president.

Spinola also promised to honor all Portugal's "international obligations under established treaties."

The seven-man junta set up by the officers who seized power early yesterday asserts that the country is under complete control. There are no reports of resistance and the coup itself was almost bloodless.

In his speech last night Spinola made only generalized reference to the principal issue that sparked the coup--Portugal's policy toward the wars in its African territories. The insurgents have consistently asserted that they will accept nothing less than complete Portuguese withdrawal from Africa and independence for the territories. They are not disposed to accept Spinola's plan for increased autonomy within a federal system.

The insurgencies will continue in Africa and may even grow as the rebels seek to benefit from the sudden change in Lisbon.

The governments of Rhodesia and South Africa, long suspicious of Portugal's staying power in Africa, will now be inclined to the view that they have no choice but to expand their military forces. Rhodesia, in particular, sees Mozambique as the key to its own security and, in its defense plans, has consistently defined Mozambique as a buffer against increased insurgency in Rhodesia.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

The Kremlin's recent pronouncements on detente continue to show confidence that, despite obstacles, a patient pursuit of its "peace offensive" will pay off. The defensive quality of some of these statements suggests, however, that Soviet leaders are concerned about the near-term outlook.

Speaking at the Soviet Communist youth congress in Moscow this week, Brezhnev said the words "peace offensive" indeed aptly describe the Soviet foreign policy line, which he claimed is progressing steadfastly though not without certain difficulties. Brezhnev blamed the Maoists in Peking and "imperialist circles" for attempting to undermine Soviet detente policies, but the Soviet leader maintained that his gradualist, step-by-step approach would produce positive results.

Politburo candidate-member Ponomarev, in a recent speech, said that Brezhnev's policies have resulted in the Kremlin's voice being listened to everywhere with "massive attention." Ponomarev noted, however, that "stubborn efforts" will be required if the "systematic provocations" against Moscow's peace policies are to be overcome and if detente is to become irreversible. Ponomarev defensively asserted that there was no reason to change Soviet foreign policy merely because of "temporary political situations."

In a somewhat different vein, Moscow's leading Washingtonologist, Yury Arbatov, has assessed the prospects for detente in an article written especially for United Press International. Addressing US-Soviet relations, Arbatov says that the improvement so far in bilateral relations may not prove to be lasting if steps are not taken soon to give it more substance. Arbatov argues that Soviet students of American affairs regard the present US commitment to detente as "very complicated and contradictory." He alleges that the US has tried to interfere in Soviet internal affairs, presumably emigration policies, thus endangering mutual trust and confidence. If obstacles to trade and other economic matters are not removed, Arbatov writes, there may be a serious setback in relations.

Arbatov further warns that the arms race may grow unless measures are taken soon to go beyond certain unspecified provisions of the ABM treaty concluded in May 1972. This may be an allusion to an issue that might be raised at the forthcoming summit in Moscow.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-SYRIA-LEBANON



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* * *

Fighting on the Golan front yesterday was light; UN patrols reported only intermittent artillery and small arms fire. Israeli aircraft flew reconnaissance missions and defensive patrols over both the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon, but no ground-attack missions or aerial combat was detected.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT

President Sadat went forward with his long-planned cabinet reorganization yesterday, and moved Economy Minister Hijazi up to a newly created post of first deputy prime minister. Hijazi is the author of Egypt's liberalized economic policy; his elevation confirms Sadat's intention to pursue this policy despite criticism from the Soviets and the radical Arabs.

Hijazi will be prime minister in all but name; Sadat retains the formal title. Sadat's retention of the prime ministership is chiefly a public relations gesture. He assumed the post in March 1973 when he formed a "confrontation cabinet" to centralize planning for the war.

His original plan was apparently to make Hijazi prime minister, but when the plan surfaced following the disengagement agreement with Israel, Sadat was criticized for paying too little attention to the still uncompleted "confrontation." He responded by pledging to remain in the post until the last Israeli soldier had left Arab territory.

The new cabinet has few new faces. Foreign Minister Fahmi retains his post, as does War Minister Ismail, who has been given the additional position of deputy prime minister. Ismail is now one of three deputy prime ministers under first deputy Hijazi. Each of the three also holds a ministerial portfolio.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY

The arrest yesterday of Guenter Guillaume, an employee of the chancellor's office, and five others as spies for East Germany will enable the opposition Christian Democrats to play on public sentiment that has become more skeptical of Ostpolitik over the past year. The Christian Democrats will point to Guillaume as proof that the policy has not moderated the basically hostile attitude of the Pankow regime.

Brandt reportedly had been contemplating an early meeting with East German chief Honecker to reinvigorate Ostpolitik and thus help reverse Social Democratic losses both in the polls and in several recent state and local elections. If the Guillaume affair becomes a major political issue, this meeting presumably would have to be put off. The first test of the impact of the Guillaume affair on the voters will come in an important state election in Lower Saxony on June 9.

Brandt cannot afford to soft-pedal prosecution of the suspects, but he will probably take the public position that the affair does not, in the long run, prove that Ostpolitik is not a valid policy. He will get considerable sympathy from the outset as being but the latest victim of East German espionage, and this could increase if the opposition tries to make too much of the affair. Brandt will hope that the case will prove to have as little political impact as did the Steiner affair of 1972, in which an opposition deputy and sometime East German agent was bribed to keep Brandt in power.

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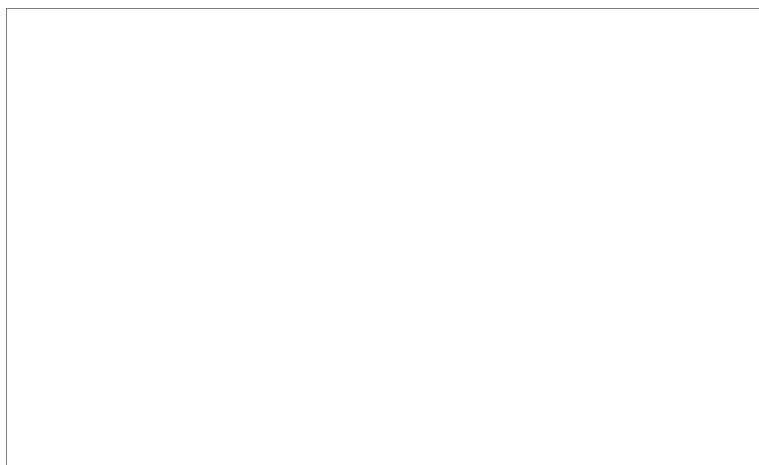
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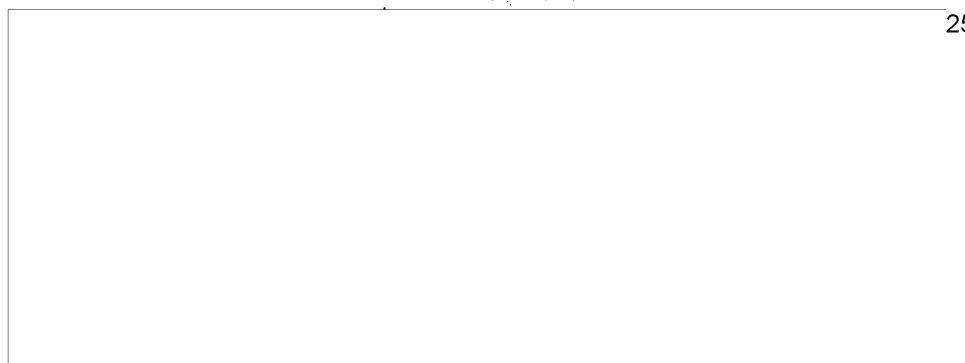
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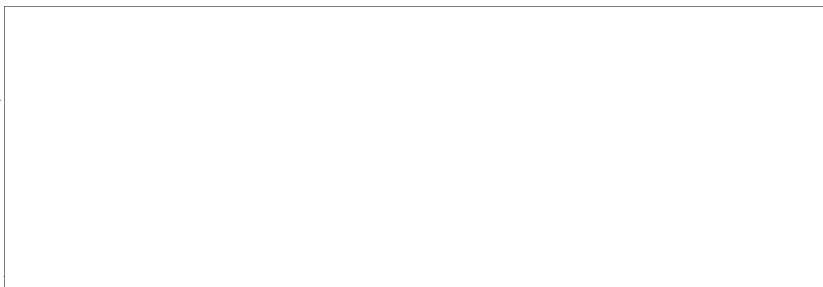
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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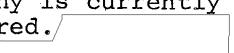
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West Germany - Middle East: After a five-day visit to Algeria and Egypt, Chancellor Brandt is projecting the idea that he succeeded in improving European-Arab relations. At both stops, the "European" aspect of Brandt's visit--Germany is currently in the EC Council chair--was underscored.

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Despite all the fanfare, it will probably be some time before concrete steps toward closer EC-Arab cooperation are taken, mainly because most community members do not want to complicate further their relations with the US.

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The President's Daily Brief

April 27, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 27, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

General Spinola, Portugal's new ruler, appears to be off to a good start. (Page 1)

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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The Ethiopian Prime Minister fears a possible military take-over. (Page 4)

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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Adverse weather is posing a serious threat to Soviet crops. (Page 7)

Chile [Redacted] Peru [Redacted]

(Page 8)

25X1

The fighting is spreading in Iraq between the Kurds and the government. (Page 9)

Afghanistan President Daoud is consolidating his position at the expense of leftists who brought him to power. (Page 9)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PORtUGAL

General Spinola appears to be off to an auspicious start in consolidating his control over the country and giving his new government a reformist image. There was only one serious disturbance in Lisbon yesterday; the country generally appears calm, and much of the population is jubilant.

Although Spinola himself is hardly a liberal, most of his pronouncements yesterday were intended to give the impression that the country is heading in a new direction. The limitations he has said will be put on the scope and functions of the secret police will be widely popular. The lifting of censorship will also enhance the reformist appearance of Spinola's new government.

Despite these moves, however, it appears that the junta is going to move cautiously toward "democratizing" the country. The junta plans to invite civilians to participate in a provisional government that will be set up in three weeks, but the military will choose its president and he will most probably be Spinola. The election of a national assembly is promised only within the next year.

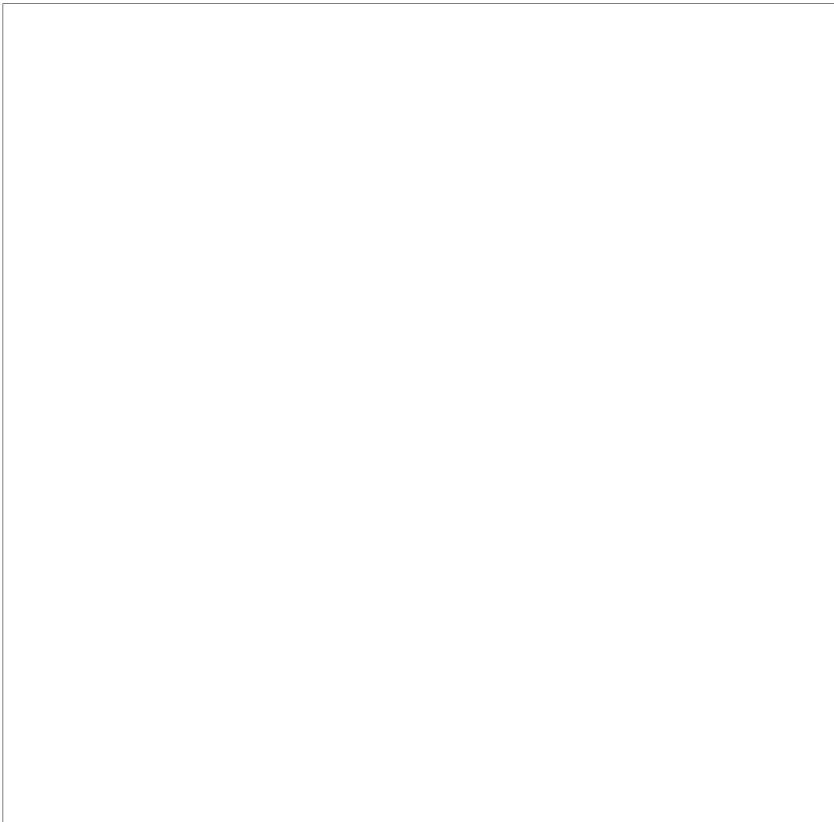
Portugal's African territories remain calm. Local residents are receiving uncensored news accounts of the events in Lisbon. Spokesmen for the liberation movements operating in Angola have repeated their traditional demands for "complete independence" for all the territories. Thus far, none of the insurgent groups has taken military advantage of the situation.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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SYRIA-USSR



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-SYRIA

Fighting was light on the Golan front yesterday
for the second successive day.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ETHIOPIA

Prime Minister Endalkatchew and his cabinet fear that the military may be planning an outright takeover of the government as the only way to end the continuing strikes, demonstrations, and rural unrest.

Army units yesterday arrested ministers of the former cabinet, some provincial governors who were in the capital, and the former mayor of Addis Ababa. Middle-level police officers arrested several senior police officers, possibly including the former national police commander, General Yilma Shibeshi. The government removed Shibeshi from his post yesterday, in response to demands for his ouster from police in Eritrea.

The military is patrolling Addis Ababa and has blocked roads leading out of the city.

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The military is clearly out to force compliance with its demands for swift prosecution of former officials for corruption. The government's reluctance to do this has been a major source of friction.

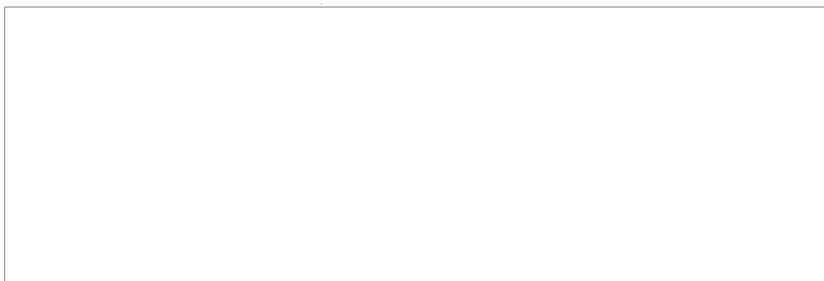
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CHINA - NORTH VIETNAM



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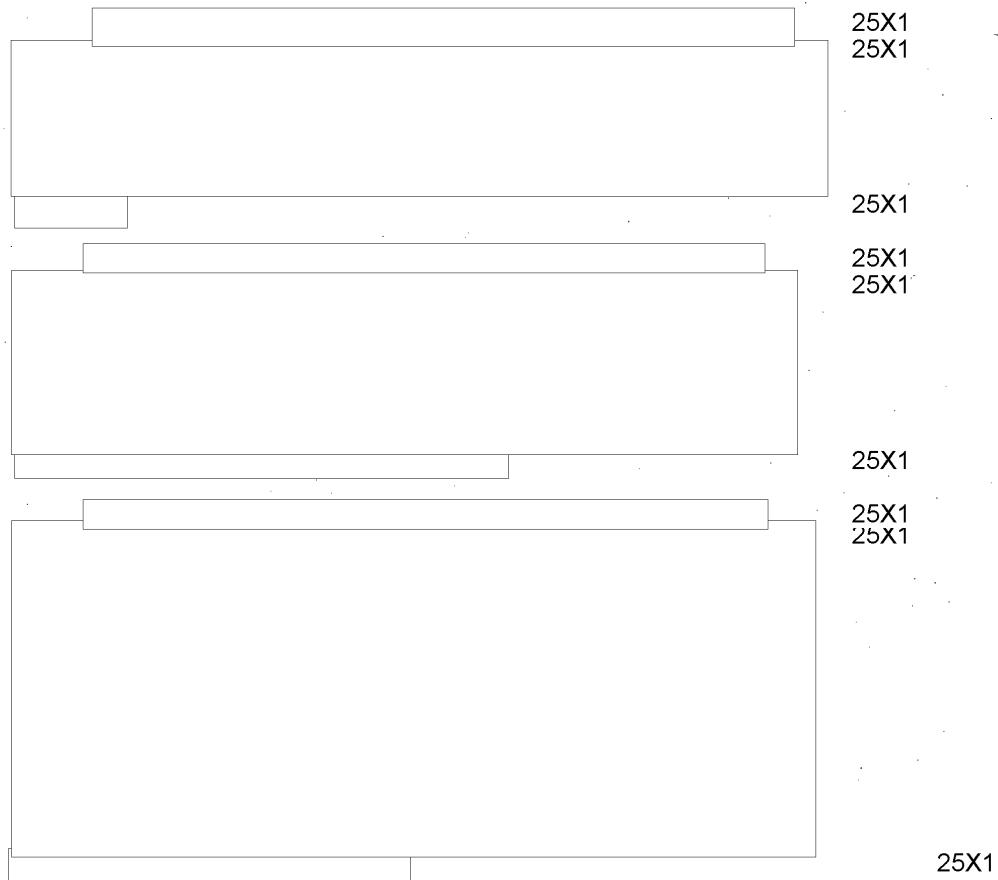
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The Chinese, at the same time, are increasing deliveries of food to North Vietnam to help alleviate shortages. In good years, North Vietnam produces only three fourths of its food and will remain dependent on China and other countries for the rest.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

Adverse weather is posing a serious threat to Soviet crops. Rainfall over the western part of the country has been well below normal for several months. In a recent meeting with US Senator Roth in Moscow, Deputy Minister of Agriculture Kuznetsov estimated that up to 10 million hectares of the 35.5 million sowed last fall will have to be resown, compared with an average of 3 to 5 million in recent years.

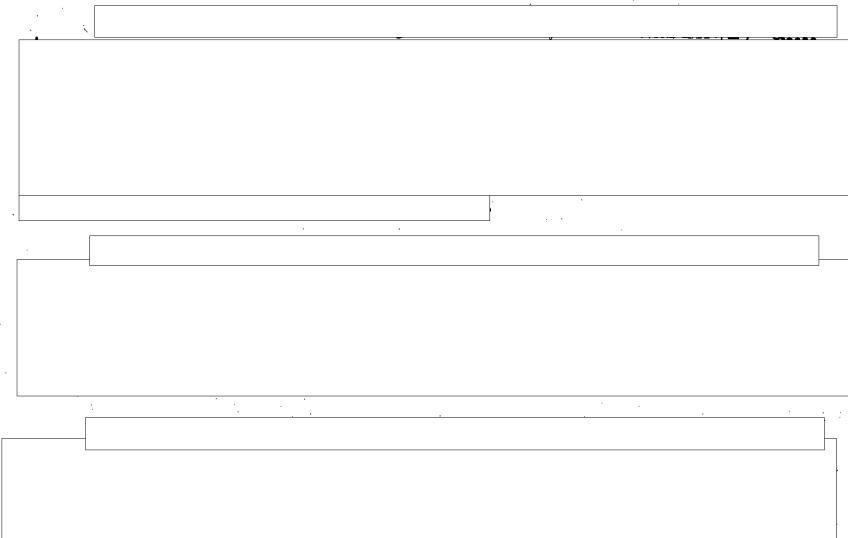
In 1972, a bad crop year, about 10 million hectares of fall-sown crops required reseeding. Losses in fall grain output usually can be offset somewhat by resowing in the spring, but only feed grain--not food grain--can be used for resowing.

Prospects for the spring crops are also being jeopardized by a cold snap and snowstorm which hit the European USSR the middle of this month and hindered spring sowing. The area planted is now one third less than that at this time last year. Because the season is still early, favorable weather conditions over the next few weeks would bring a substantial improvement in the spring crop picture.

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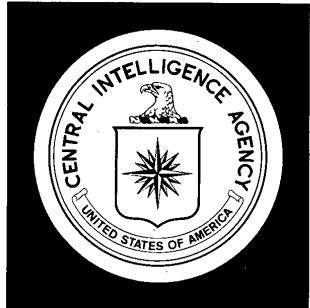
Iraq: Heavy fighting between the Kurds and government forces is spreading. All efforts to reach a negotiated settlement appear to have been abandoned. The Kurds have declared an all-out war against the Baathist regime in Baghdad. The government, although announcing a 30-day extension of its amnesty offer for Kurds who left their government jobs, has warned the Kurdish rebels to cease fighting immediately and surrender their leaders to the government or face a "broad" attack.

Afghanistan: President Daoud is consolidating his control over the government at the expense of the leftists who helped him take power last July. He has expelled some leftists from the cabinet, and has made some key appointments designed to ensure loyalty of the armed forces. Ambassador Eliot thinks Daoud intends to complete his purge by July 17, the first anniversary of his assumption of power. Leftists who feel threatened might attempt to challenge Daoud soon in order to preserve what power they have. It is unlikely that such a move would succeed.

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The President's Daily Brief

April 29, 1974



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 29, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Fighting on the Golan front increased over the weekend after several days of relative quiet. (Page 1)

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The junta in Portugal is concerned that the enthusiastic response to announced moves toward liberalization could conflict with its determination to maintain order. (Page 3)

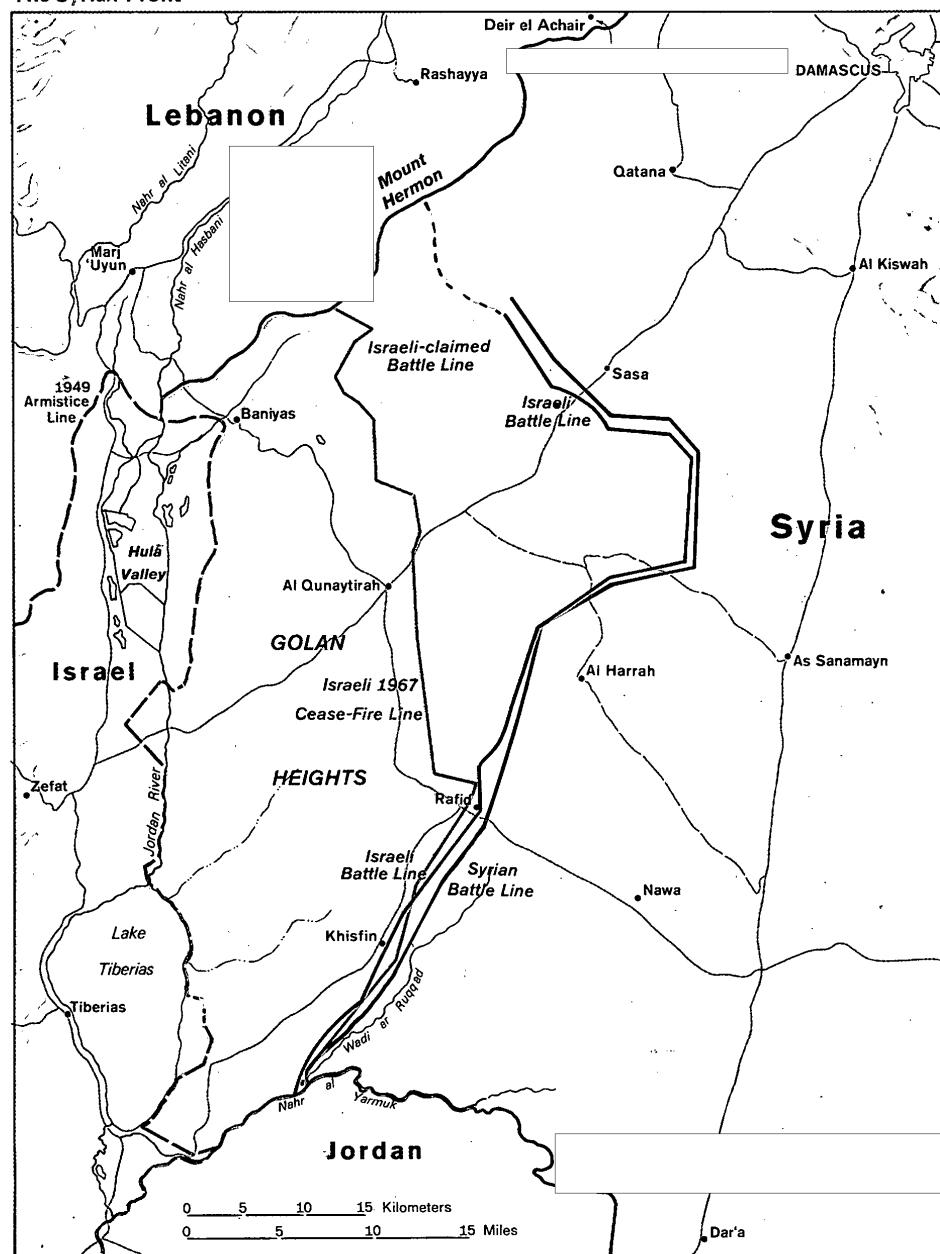
In Ethiopia, the military have ended their arrests of former ministers; they continue to proclaim their support for Prime Minister Endalkatchew's government. (Page 4)

Recent remarks by a senior North Korean official shed light on Pyongyang's current tactics aimed at getting rid of the UN Command in the South and obtaining a US commitment to total military withdrawal. (Page 5)

A note on a major Soviet economic venture in Latin America is on Page 6.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

The Syrian Front



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-SYRIA

Fighting on the Golan front increased over the weekend after several days of relative quiet. Sharp exchanges of tank and artillery fire occurred on both Saturday and Sunday. In yesterday's action, Israeli and Syrian aircraft were detected flying combat operations for the first time since mid-week.

Israeli military authorities announced on Saturday that 14 Israeli soldiers had been killed and seven injured during the day's fighting. Six died in a helicopter crash that apparently was caused by a mechanical failure. Since the cease-fire in October, the Israelis admit to having lost 40 dead and 99 wounded on the Syrian front.

Tel Aviv

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announced that Israeli aircraft attacked Syrian targets on Mount Hermon and south of the salient into Syria. Damascus said that Syrian aircraft struck Israeli positions on Mount Hermon.

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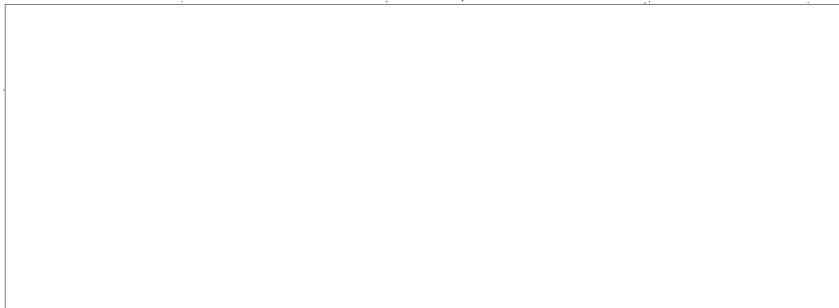
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-CHINA



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On the same day, Pravda reiterated Moscow's contention that the helicopter downed in March was on a mercy mission and was not engaged in intelligence activities, as charged by Peking. This was the first significant publicity Moscow has given the incident since its second formal protest nearly a month ago, which has been officially ignored by China. There have been repeated rumors that the Chinese intend to try the helicopter crew.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PORtUGAL

The junta has largely consolidated its control. It is concerned, however, that the enthusiastic response to announced moves toward liberalization could conflict with its determination to maintain order. Although General Spinola has implied that political parties, including the Socialist Party and the Communist-dominated Democratic Electoral Commission, will be legalized, the junta has warned that it will set limits on political activity should freedoms be "abused."

The junta apparently does not plan to consult other groups in choosing the provisional president and government. Although censorship has been abolished, an ad hoc commission will "control" the media until new press laws are promulgated. The armed forces will deal with crimes against "the established political order" just as under Caetano.

The new regime has given precedence to consolidating its power in Portugal proper. Apparently it prefers to postpone detailed consideration of policy toward the African insurgencies. It has replaced governors-general in the African territories, as it did provincial governors in Portugal, and has directed their immediate subordinates to take charge. So far, no civil disturbances have been reported from any of the territories.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ETHIOPIA

Addis Ababa is reported calm. Military forces are less in evidence, but some patrols continue.

Fifteen former cabinet ministers and five other former officials charged with corruption are being held at the headquarters of the Fourth Army Division in Addis Ababa. A coordinating committee formed by representatives of the armed forces and police to direct the arrests stated on April 27 that the officials would be held pending the decision of a committee of inquiry appointed last month to investigate allegations of widespread official corruption.

The coordinating committee said the armed forces and police support the cabinet and Emperor Haile Selassie. The committee urged the Ethiopian people to follow the cabinet's directives, stated its opposition to strikes and demonstrations, and appealed to striking workers to return to work. It demonstrated the military's determination to end the country's wave of strikes by arresting eight executives of the Addis Ababa bus company for questioning in connection with the bus drivers' strike.

Despite their current expressions of support for the government, some members of the moderate reformists that dominate the military probably question the ability of the Endalkatchew cabinet to restore order and proceed with promised reforms. They may decide to take a firmer hand in running the country's affairs if severe disorders continue for long.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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KOREA

North Korean Vice Premier Chong Chun-ki stated, during a tour of African countries earlier this month, that Pyongyang wants a firm US agreement in principle to withdraw its forces from the South.

[redacted] the Vice Premier asserted that such an agreement should be reached through bilateral talks with the US, but the precise timing of withdrawal could be decided in later discussions involving other parties--presumably including the South Koreans. Chong further stated that Pyongyang regarded US withdrawal as opening the way for reunification of the peninsula under the North by political or "other" means, including subversion.

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Chong's statement is part of a current effort by Pyongyang to enlist international support for its recent proposal for bilateral talks with the US. The stress on bilateral negotiations, however, is only a tactic in North Korea's effort to make some progress on the troop withdrawal issue--with or without direct negotiations.

Pyongyang hopes the fall session of the General Assembly will vote to end the UN Command, and calculates that this development would stimulate international pressure on the US to withdraw its forces. The North Koreans are probably also signaling that they are not prepared to discuss any other issues--such as the restructuring of the Armistice Agreement--until their requirement on the US troop question is satisfied.

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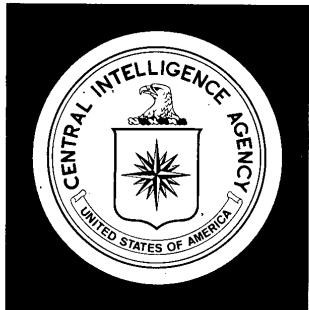
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NOTE

USSR-Argentina-Uruguay: The USSR has been awarded a \$50-million contract by Argentina and Uruguay to install six turbines at the Salto Grande dam project located on the border between the two countries. This will be the first major Soviet economic venture in either country and one of the first in Latin America other than those Moscow has undertaken in Cuba and Chile. The Soviet bid was 30 percent below the lowest made by the other bidders, which included US, Japanese, West European, and Yugoslav firms. In addition to a 4-percent interest rate over 15 years, the Soviets agreed to accept payment in goods rather than cash.

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The President's Daily Brief

April 30, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 30, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[redacted] Israel / Syria
(Page 1)

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[redacted]

Venezuela's President Perez announced sweeping economic measures yesterday, including the surprise nationalization of the US-dominated iron ore industry. (Page 3)

[redacted] USSR

(Page 4)

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[redacted] Soviets

(Page 5)

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Notes on Iraq, North Vietnam, and Argentina appear on Page 6.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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ISRAEL-SYRIA

Fighting continued around Mount Hermon again yesterday, with both Israeli and Syrian aircraft active over the battle area.

Israeli planes flew [redacted] sorties during the day, some of which were apparently directed against Syrian efforts to complete a road to the top of Mount Hermon. The Israelis have stated repeatedly that they will not permit the road to be built.

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[redacted]

Syrian aircraft also struck Israeli positions on Mount Hermon yesterday afternoon. A dogfight ensued in which Damascus claims to have downed six Israeli aircraft while admitting the loss of two MIG-21s. The Syrians claim to have brought down another Israeli plane by ground fire. Tel Aviv claims to have destroyed four Syrian aircraft and admits no losses.

* * *

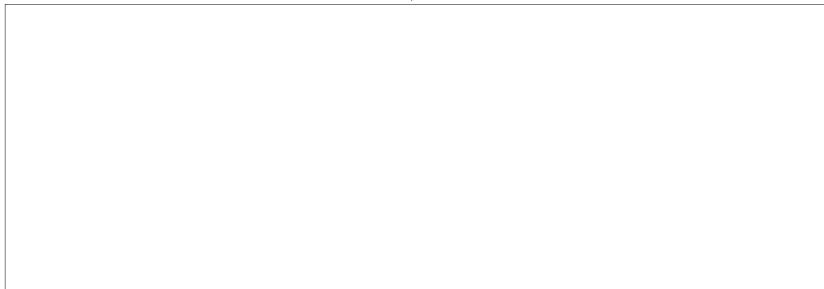
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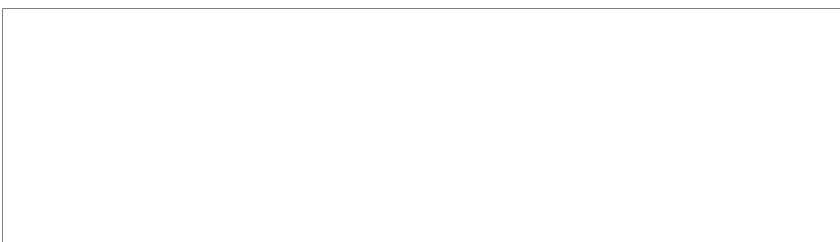
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USSR-SYRIA



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VENEZUELA

Venezuela's President Perez has announced sweeping economic measures that include the surprise nationalization of the US-dominated iron ore industry. Announcing action against the Orinoco Mining Company, a subsidiary of US Steel Corporation, and Iron Mines of Venezuela, a subsidiary of Bethlehem Steel, Perez said yesterday that although concessions to mine iron ore had been granted these companies until the year 2000, "we are taking them back now." Both companies do the bulk of Venezuela's iron ore mining and export two thirds of their production to the United States.

Perez did not go into details about how the companies will be nationalized or what, if any, compensation will be paid. Since the President's left-of-center Democratic Action Party controls a majority of seats in the Congress, the nationalization is considered a virtual certainty.

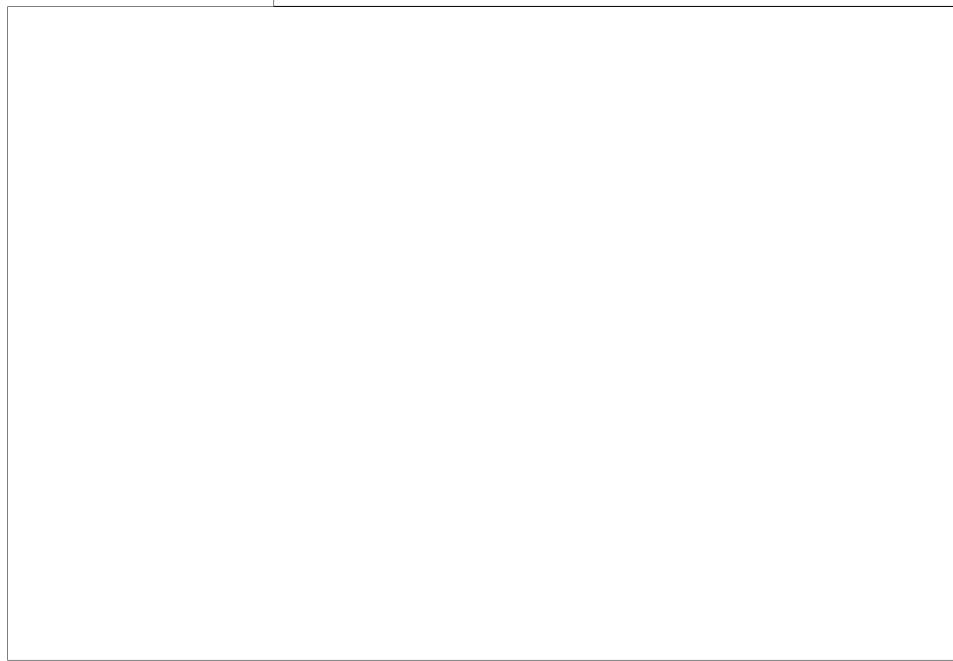
The nationalistic, antiforeign-investment tone of the speech, as well as the sweeping plans Perez announced to restructure the economy, caught many by surprise. He has been in office less than two months, and has a massive election mandate for moderation. He has not been under pressure from leftist or nationalistic groups to move against the companies, and was expected to focus on "social justice issues."

Perez also announced measures to implement the Andean Pact's foreign investment code, which is very restrictive of foreign investments. He said a broad range of industries dealing in domestic goods and services will be reserved to Venezuelans. Foreign companies will have three years in which to sell a minimum of 80 percent of their shares to Venezuelan nationals. Transfer of control will be under the supervision of an agency to be created for this purpose and called the "Superintendency of Foreign Investment." Among those companies affected by the decree are the chain stores operated by Sears and by the Rockefeller family.

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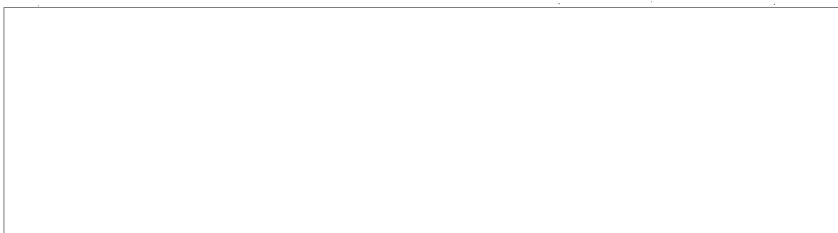


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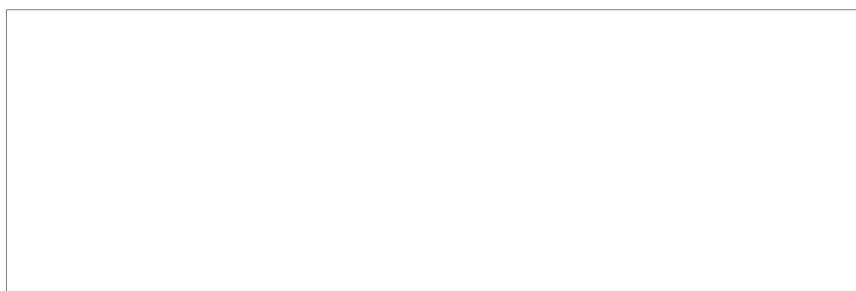
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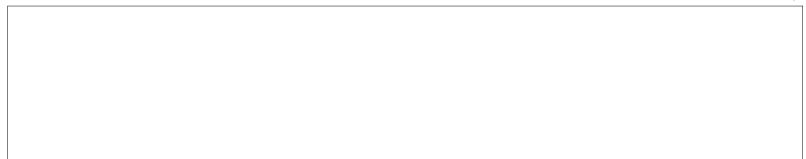
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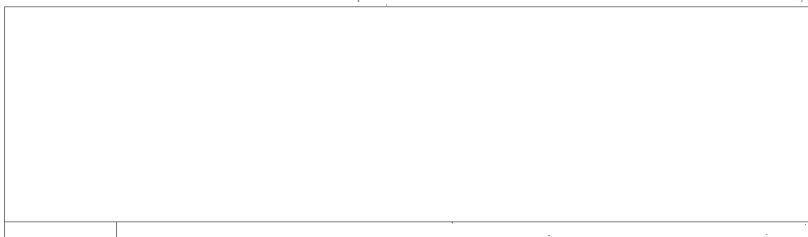


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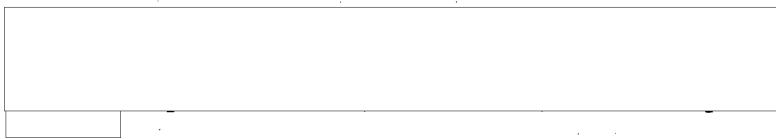
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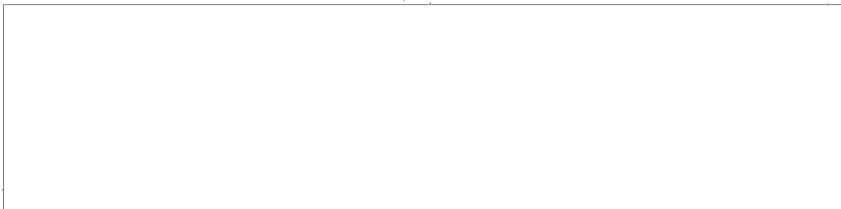
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NOTES

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Iraq:

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North Vietnam: Hanoi's promotion of Van Tien Dung, number two in the military hierarchy, to the rank of full general confirms that he is being groomed to succeed Defense Minister Vo Nguyen Giap. Dung--the youngest member of the Politburo--is apparently an advocate of large-scale conventional warfare, and is closely associated with the current effort to modernize the North's armed forces. Giap, the only other figure holding such rank, dropped from public view late last year and may be seriously ill.

Argentina: Leftist and rightist factions of the Peronist movement may clash when they gather to hear Peron speak from the presidential palace on May 1. Over 1 million people are expected to assemble in the center of the capital for what government organizers are calling a huge "fiesta." The labor day ritual, which has traditionally been observed with great fanfare by Peron's working class following, will occur at a time when politically motivated violence has hit a peak.

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