



The President's Daily Brief

31 May 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

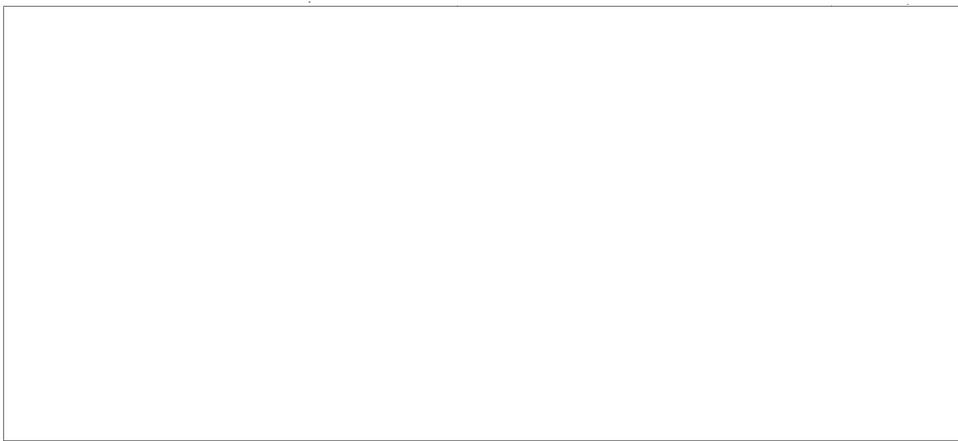
I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

MIDDLE EAST

Saboteurs, presumably fedayeen, last night blew up the US-owned pipeline that carries oil from Saudi Arabia to the Mediterranean. The damage occurred in Israeli-occupied Syria not far from Israel's largest irrigated area. The broken line apparently was shut down within a few hours, but it is too early to tell the extent to which the Israeli water supply has been polluted.

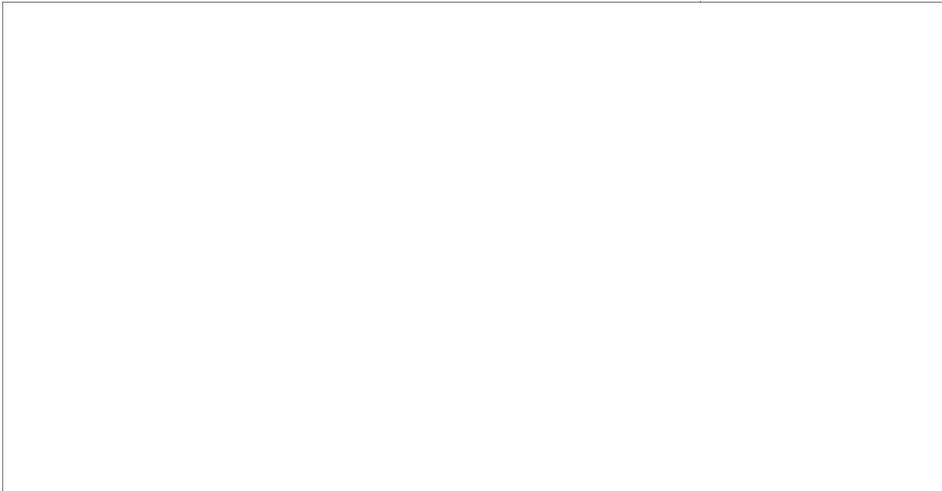
The political and diplomatic repercussions of the incident could be far-reaching. Israel may feel now that it has a good excuse to cut the flow of premium Arab oil to the Mediterranean, especially since its own pipeline bypassing the Suez Canal is scheduled for completion late this year. Moreover, the sabotage may cause Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to consider cutting back on their aid to the fedayeen.

EUROPE



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VIETNAM

Presidents Thieu and Pak used their joint communiqué on Thieu's visit to South Korea as a vehicle for expressing concern not just with the Paris negotiations, but also with the prospect of US steps to "Vietnamize" the war. We note in particular the communiqué's assertion that "any withdrawal" of allied forces should be subject to full consultation, as well as the flat statement that in the absence of a Communist withdrawal, unilateral withdrawal "of even a part of allied troops" would prejudice the security of the remaining forces.

SOVIET AFFAIRS

There is nothing significant to report.

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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

CURACAO

We have had no word so far today on the disturbances in Curacao. US-owned firms came in for their share of damage in yesterday's rioting, but no US citizens seem to have been harmed.

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BOLIVIA



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