



The President's Daily Brief

14 June 1969

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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

MIDDLE EAST

Gromyko left Cairo yesterday after protracted talks with Nasir and company. He conferred with the Egyptian President at least three times, and with officials of the Foreign Ministry as well. Egyptians present at the latter meeting have told the US representative in Cairo that the discussions were both difficult and detailed. We do not yet have a firm reading on the nature of the discussions, but a good bet would be that a joint counter-proposal to the US propositions for a negotiated settlement was being drafted.

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In a rather frank discussion with the US representative in Cairo, one of Nasir's close advisers alluded directly to the key factor governing Egypt's reluctance to move toward meaningful negotiations: fear of a violently adverse reaction from the man in the street. The adviser said that the government's own sounding of Egyptian opinion on a settlement had produced unclear returns, but he was obviously and not surprisingly worried that any effective steps toward negotiations would result in an uncontrollable spasm among the populace. He twice remarked that it was a "miracle" that the government had remained in power for two years after the 1967 war.



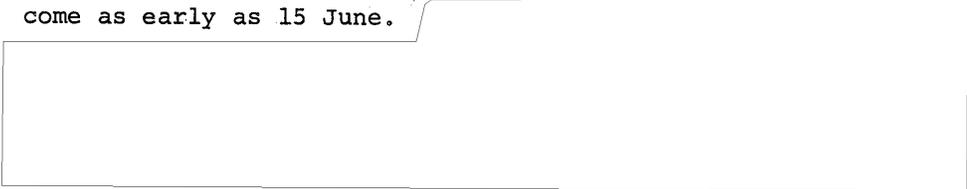
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VIETNAM

Communist shelling increased in the northern provinces on 12-13 June, amid further signs of enemy plans for another intense flare-up of attacks similar to the "high point" of 6-8 June. There are continuing indications that the enemy will concentrate shelling attacks and ground probes at least in the I and III corps areas in a new offensive which could come as early as 15 June.

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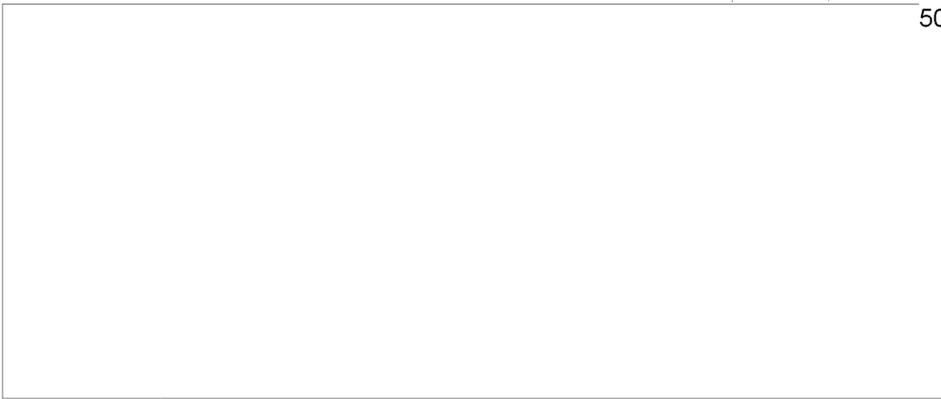
EUROPE

Mayor Schuetz leaves Berlin today on a visit to Poland which has all the overtones of a typical cat-and-mouse game between European statesmen--and between West German domestic political rivals as well. The various participants in the game have a wide assortment of aims

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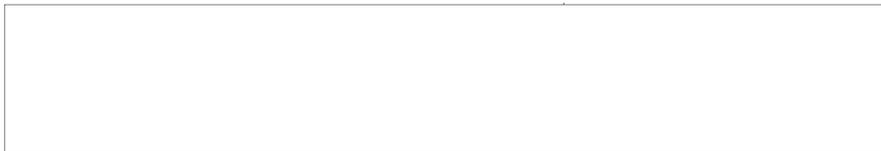


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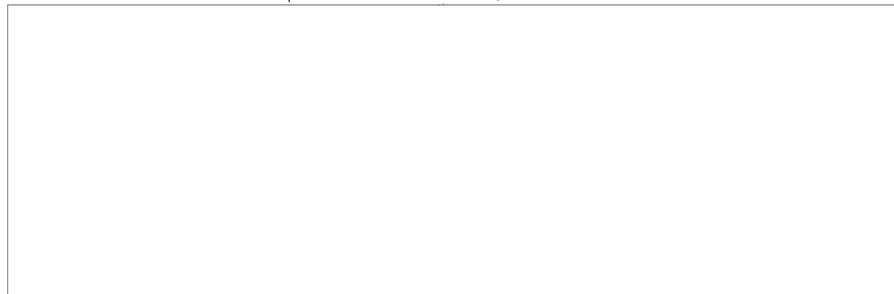


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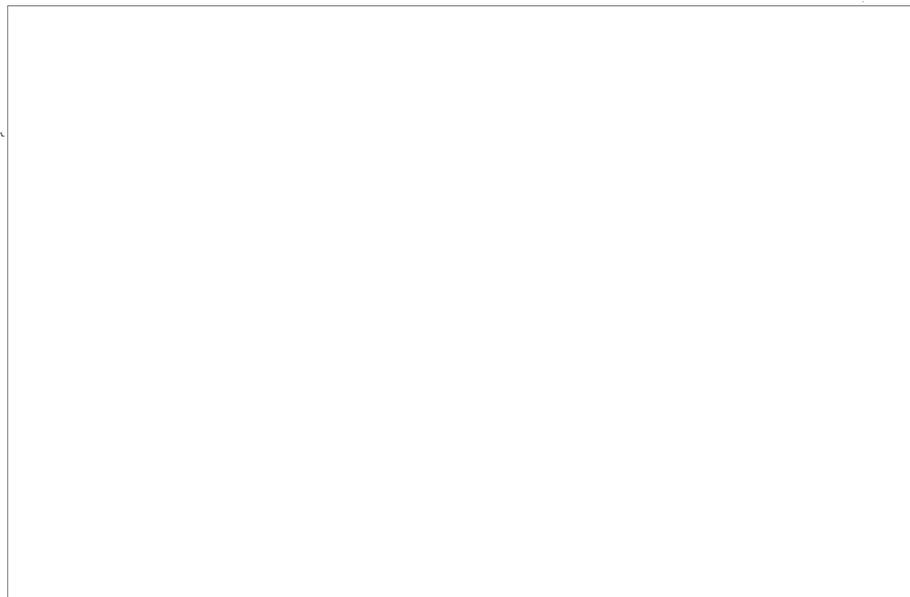
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SOVIET AFFAIRS

Moscow has publicized a note to the Chinese offering to resume "unconditional" border talks in the next two or

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three months. The statement, a response to Peking's polemical call for talks of 24 May, is a bid both to buttress Moscow's position in the face of continuing Chinese propaganda blasts and to forstall further border incidents, which could be especially difficult for the Russians at this time.

The Soviets clearly have the international Communist conference in Moscow in mind, and the new appeal may represent a concession to parties made uneasy by the anti-Chinese direction the meeting has taken this week. Although placing the blame on China for breaking off border talks in 1964 and for all recent "provocations," Moscow sought to strike a note of reasonableness by stressing Soviet interest in early efforts to patch up border differences responsibly. Nevertheless, there is little likelihood that the talks, when they take place, will make much substantive progress.

Soviet military activity along the Sino-Soviet border remains at a high level.

II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

There is nothing significant to report.

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