



*The President's Daily Brief*

*8 September 1969*

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~~*Top Secret*~~

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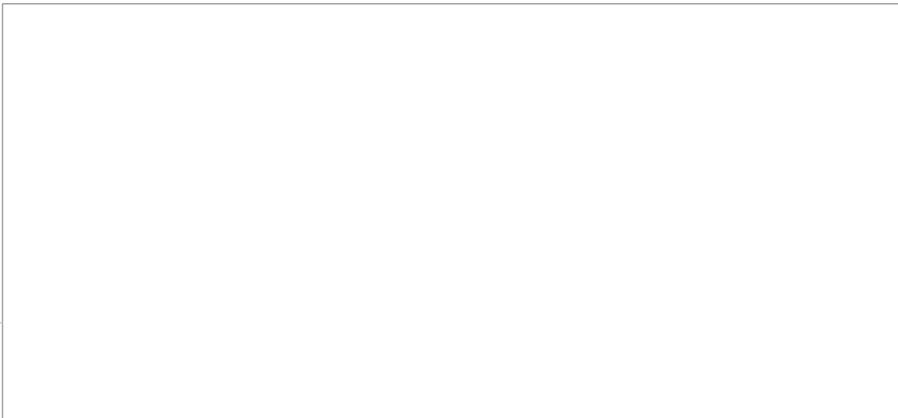
MIDDLE EAST

The two Israeli prisoners are well and the Syrian Government may be getting ready to release them, according to an Italian diplomat stationed in Damascus. The Italian confirms that the Syrians were deeply embarrassed when the hijackers landed in Damascus. The release of the two Israelis, he says, has been delayed both by the international hue and cry over "Syrian piracy" and by the intransigence of extremists within Syria. He thinks the Syrians are now hunting for a gesture from the US which they can use to save face with the extremists.

The Italian's version of the Syrian rationale for detaining the Israelis probably is right as far as it goes. We are fairly certain, however, that Damascus was also hoping Israel could be pressed into releasing the two Syrian pilots it holds. The recent conciliatory signs thus suggest the Syrians have given up this hope.

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FRANCE-ISRAEL



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EUROPE

The problems of the European Communities will probably dominate Pompidou's talks with Kiesinger this week in Bonn.



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We assume Pompidou will do his best not to be pinned down, and the Germans are unlikely to press him too hard.

In one important respect, German attitudes apparently have moved closer to those of France. Bonn now seems ready to try for an early agreement on the common agricultural policy, even though this could make British accession more difficult. Von Staden of the German Foreign Office tried to sweeten this pill by insisting to US officials that British interests would be kept in mind during any CAP negotiations, and by asserting that a CAP settlement need not be "everlastingly permanent."

BRAZIL

Brazilian security officials claim they are hot on the trail of Ambassador Elbrick's kidnapers. Even if the culprits are caught, however, the ruling triumvirate's days probably are numbered.



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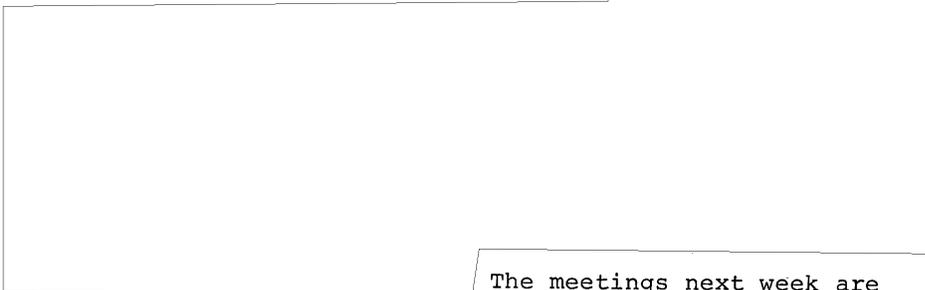


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IRAN

Negotiations between Iran and the western oil consortium on revenues for 1970 will begin in London this week. As usual, there is a large gap between Iranian demands and consortium revenue estimates.

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The meetings next week are likely to be a prelude to many months of stiff negotiations.

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