



The President's Daily Brief

18 September 1970

27

50X1

~~Top Secret~~



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

18 September 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Jordan is discussed on *Page 1*.

[Redacted] Egypt [Redacted] (*Page 3*)

50X1

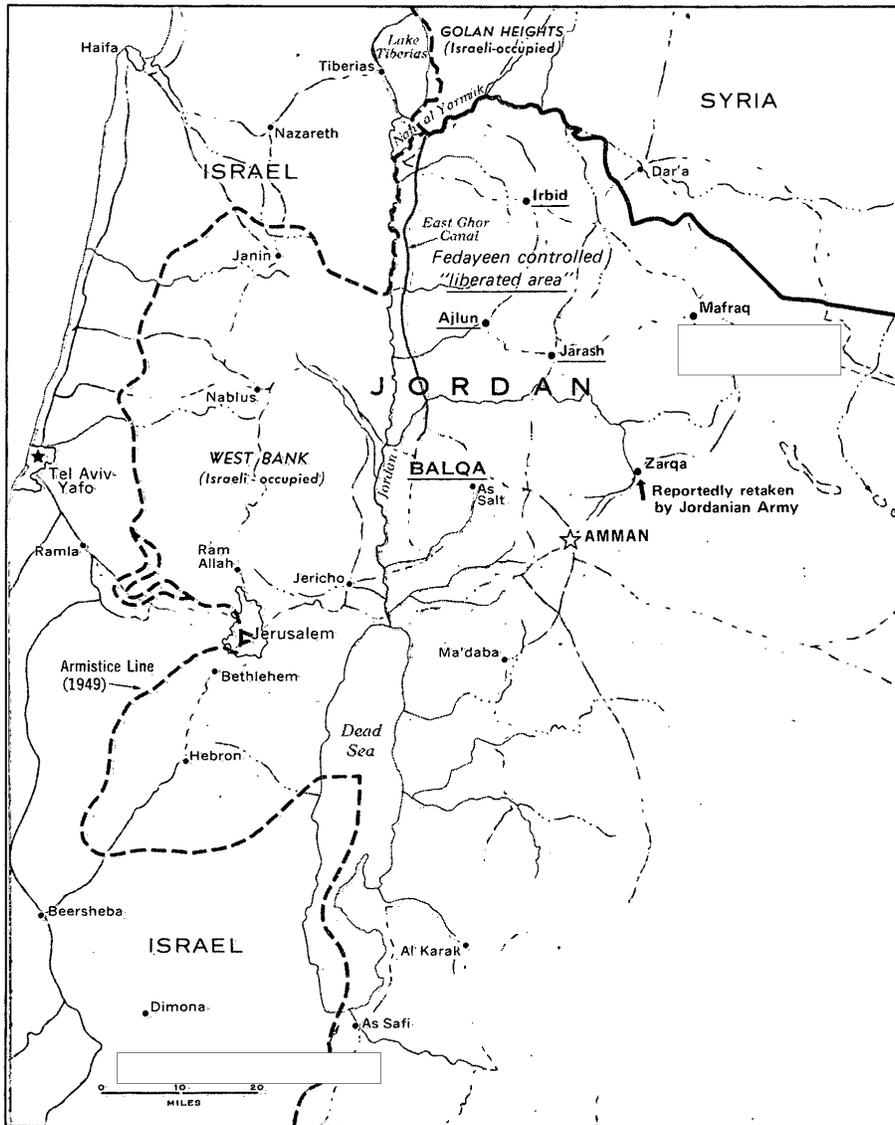
The new Viet Cong peace proposal advanced yesterday in Paris reflects no softening of the Communist position.

[Redacted] (*Page 4*)

50X1

Ambassador Swank's talk with Lon Nol, and the Cambodian military situation, are noted on *Page 6*.

JORDAN: Current Situation



50X1

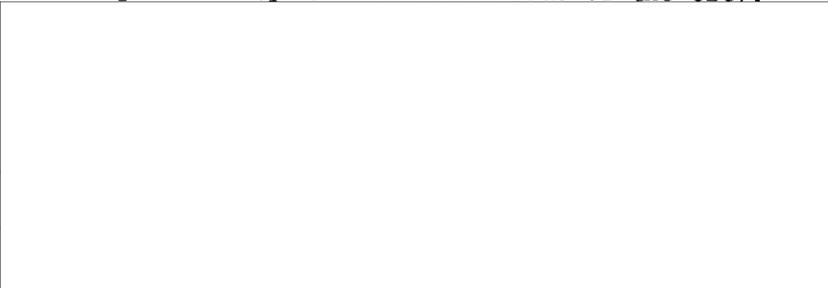
50X1

550027 9-70 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JORDAN

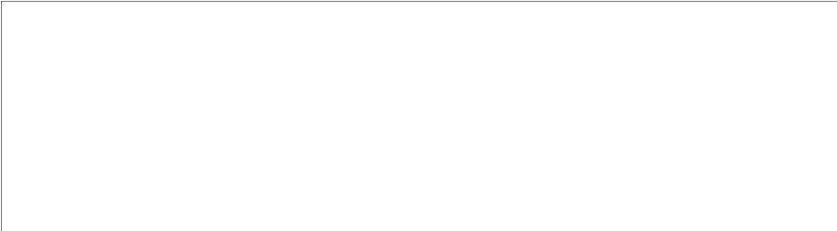
The army appears to have the upper hand in Amman, although stubborn fedayeen resistance continues. Fighting broke out again this morning in the capital, and army artillery shelled some areas of the city.



50X1

The fedayeen, however, have scored decided successes in the north, particularly in the Mafraq area. The commandos announced last night the creation of a "liberated area" in northern Jordan which it was claimed includes the districts of Balqa, Jarash, Ajlun, and Irbid. Administrative governors, in charge of fedayeen military forces in their areas, have been named for each district; the forces of the entire northern area are to come under a newly appointed commander in chief.

50X1



50X1

There have been no indications of Syrian troop movements despite continued pledges of support for the "revolution" by Damascus radio.

50X1



50X1

The former chief of Israeli military intelligence has been quoted in the press as saying that it would be "impossible for Israel to stand idly by should Iraq and Syria intervene in the fighting in Jordan."

50X1

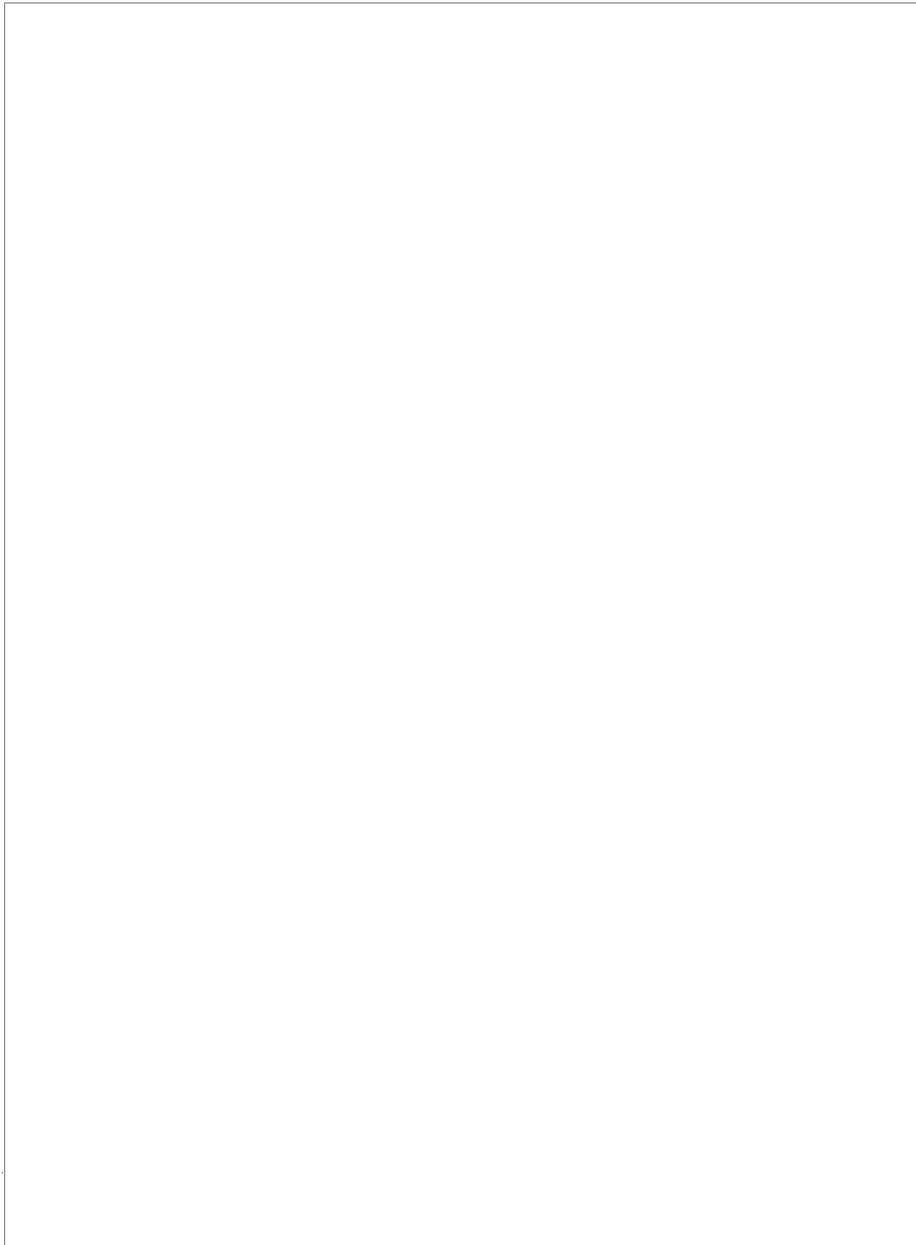
(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Egypt's chief of staff flew to Amman yesterday with a joint message from Nasir, Qaddafi of Libya, and Numayri of the Sudan. Press reports indicate that the three leaders have drafted an eight-point plan for Jordan, and that a meeting of Arab kings and heads of state is to be convened in Tripoli soon. The Arab League, meeting in Cairo yesterday, issued an appeal for an immediate end to the fighting.

There has been no authoritative word on the location or welfare of the hostages, but a TWA representative in Amman says that he has been assured that there is no immediate concern for their safety. General Majali has decreed that the Jordanian armed forces and security forces, as well as the fedayeen and private citizens, are "directly responsible" for ensuring the safety of all foreigners in Jordan. Jordanian Army commanders have been ordered to look for the hostages and free them as quickly as possible.

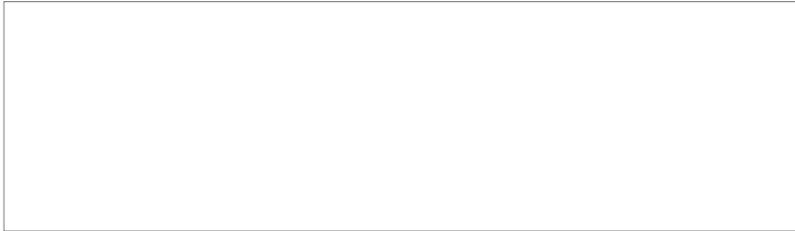
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



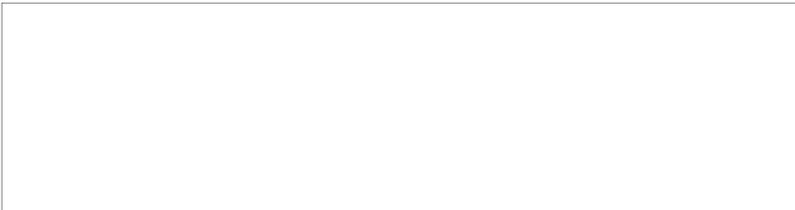
50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

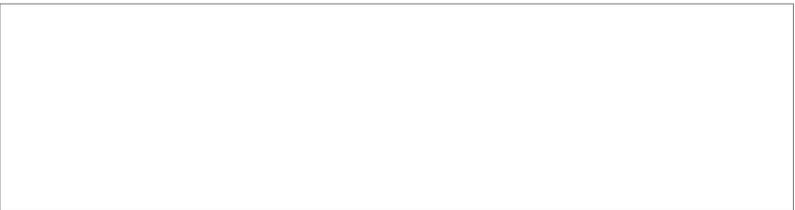
EGYPT



50X1



50X1



50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

The new Viet Cong peace proposal presented in Paris yesterday reflects no softening of the Communist position. The Communists' two basic demands--a US commitment to full withdrawal and a new government in Saigon--are unchanged. The new proposal says that if the US agrees to get out by June 1971, the Communists will not fire on the troops as they leave, a gesture they have suggested many times in the past. This is the first time the Communists have assigned such a specific date, however.

Two points of the new proposal are both more explicit and unyielding than the ten points of May 1969. The Communists now say flatly that Thieu, Ky, and Khiem must be eliminated from talks about a political settlement and from negotiations for a coalition government. They also make a cease-fire for all forces in South Vietnam contingent on the signature of a general peace settlement. The ten points had fuzzed the question of Thieu and his associates and had left open the possibility of a cease-fire before a general settlement.

The only new sweetener in Madame Binh's proposal is an offer to talk about the release of Communist-held prisoners. The language used on this issue is vague enough to include prisoners held by Hanoi, and a North Vietnamese spokesman at a press briefing following the formal session acknowledged that the Viet Cong proposal covers pilots captured in North Vietnam.

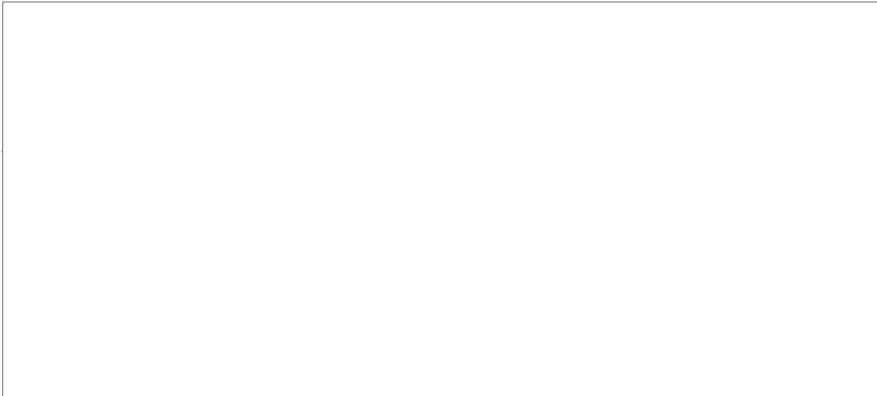
Such a package seems aimed at increasing pressure on South Vietnam and the US by appealing to the peace sentiment in both countries. The Communists may also believe that the prisoner issue offers the kind of incentive that is needed to encourage US concessions on other issues.

One Communist military headquarters in the South acknowledged that the proposal was aimed at the peace gallery. An intercepted message of 17 September explaining the new peace maneuver to the troops claimed that the initiative was timed to coincide with the coming US elections.

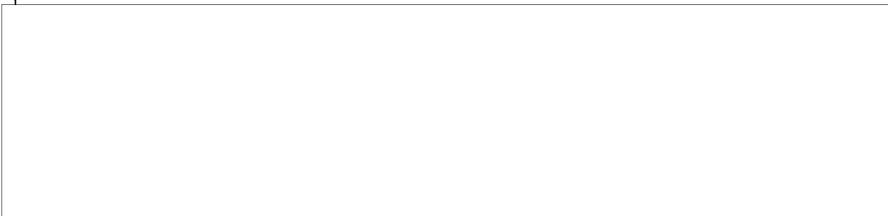


50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



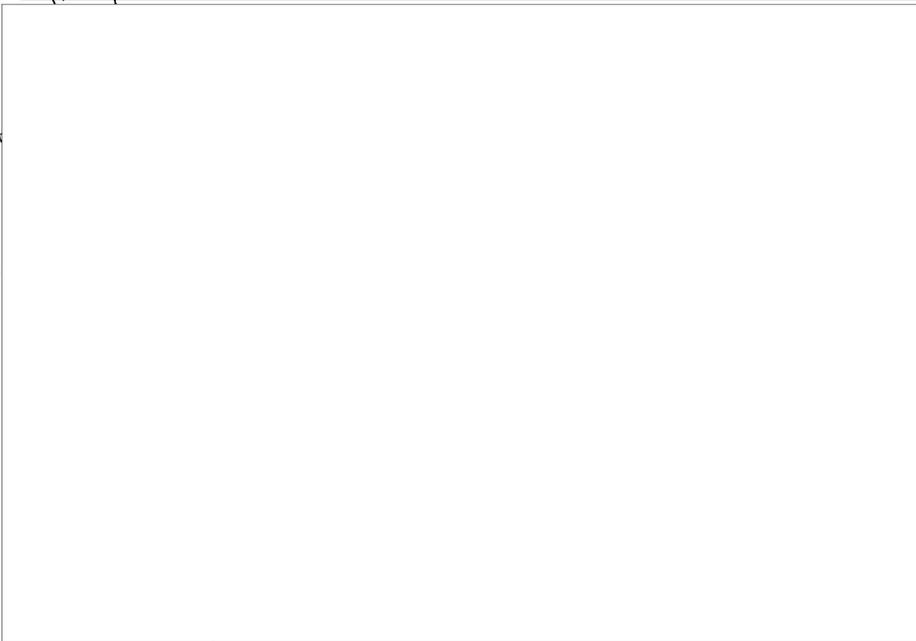
50X1



50X1



50X1



50X1

No DIS
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

In a wide-ranging talk with Ambassador Swank in Phnom Penh yesterday, Lon Nol again indicated that he is strongly convinced the enemy can be defeated. The Cambodian leader also said that he will continue to push the military mobilization program, and still plans on an eventual force of 210,000 men. Touching on more immediate military matters, he showed no apparent concern over Communist attacks on government forces trying to drive through to Kompong Thom.

Lon Nol's continuing optimism has caused some observers to conclude that he is too sanguine. Australian Ambassador Feakes, for example, recently said he fears Lon Nol has become dangerously overconfident about the present situation.

* * *

Elements of the Cambodian Army task force strung out on Route 6 between Tang Kouk and Skoun repulsed enemy probing attacks yesterday but again failed to advance farther north. The government is moving additional forces to the area, however. Two battalions have already been sent from Skoun to provide security along Route 6 in an attempt to keep it open. Two battalions from Kompong Chhnang are scheduled to join the task force today. Phnom Penh also has alerted three more battalions to help out, if necessary. Meanwhile, another river convoy arrived in Kompong Thom city yesterday bringing additional food and ammunition.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

International Aviation: A number of nations, including France, Canada, West Germany, Belgium, and Australia, have expressed a variety of concerns over the anti-hijacking proposals to be offered by the US at the special session of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal today. They believe bilateral civil air agreements cannot be legally abrogated through such multi-lateral actions in an international agency. A more pervasive, though often unstated, concern is the effect of an air service boycott on other economic interests in the Middle East. The threat of the Arab Air Transport Federation to take countermeasures against foreign firms boycotting Arab airports or airlines has added to the economic anxieties of these governments.

Top Secret