



*The President's Daily Brief*

*23 December 1970*



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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

23 December 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Poland is discussed on *Page 1*, and Chinese depiction of that situation as a crisis over Soviet "revisionist imperialism" is discussed on *Page 2*.

North Vietnamese infiltration, although still at a relatively high rate, has slackened somewhat this month. (*Page 3*)

Debate over China policy is intensifying in Tokyo. (*Page 4*)

[redacted] the Soviets may have offered the Sudan increased military aid to combat its rebels in the south. (*Page 5*)

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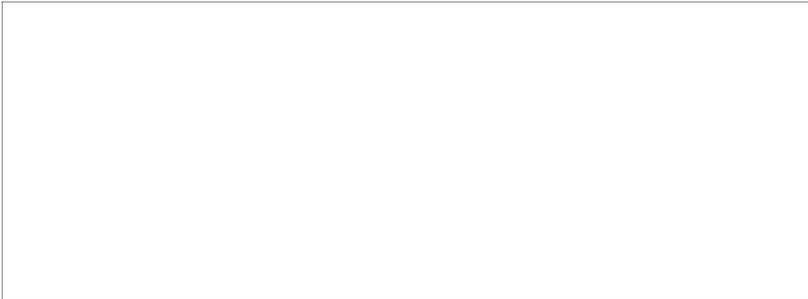
POLAND

Wide publicity is being given to Gierek's meetings with delegations of loyal factory workers. Nevertheless, many workers in Szczecin, as well as some in the tri-city area, have not returned to work. Szczecin authorities have referred a long list of worker demands to Warsaw for decision. Prices and wages are first on the list.

The central press has begun a withering criticism of the old regime's economic policies. Gomulka is not mentioned by name, but the articles implicitly accuse him of ruling autocratically, ignoring reality, and being out of touch with the people. For the new regime to attack past "economic remedies," which often meant more austerity for the workers, will be a welcome development for most Poles. We have no evidence yet, however, on future policies or the timing of changes in the government's leadership.

*Labor dissatisfaction will continue despite the facade of labor support presented in the press. Now that communications have been restored, the severity of last week's violence is becoming more widely known. This is likely to complicate Gierek's efforts to restore calm and move ahead with his program.*

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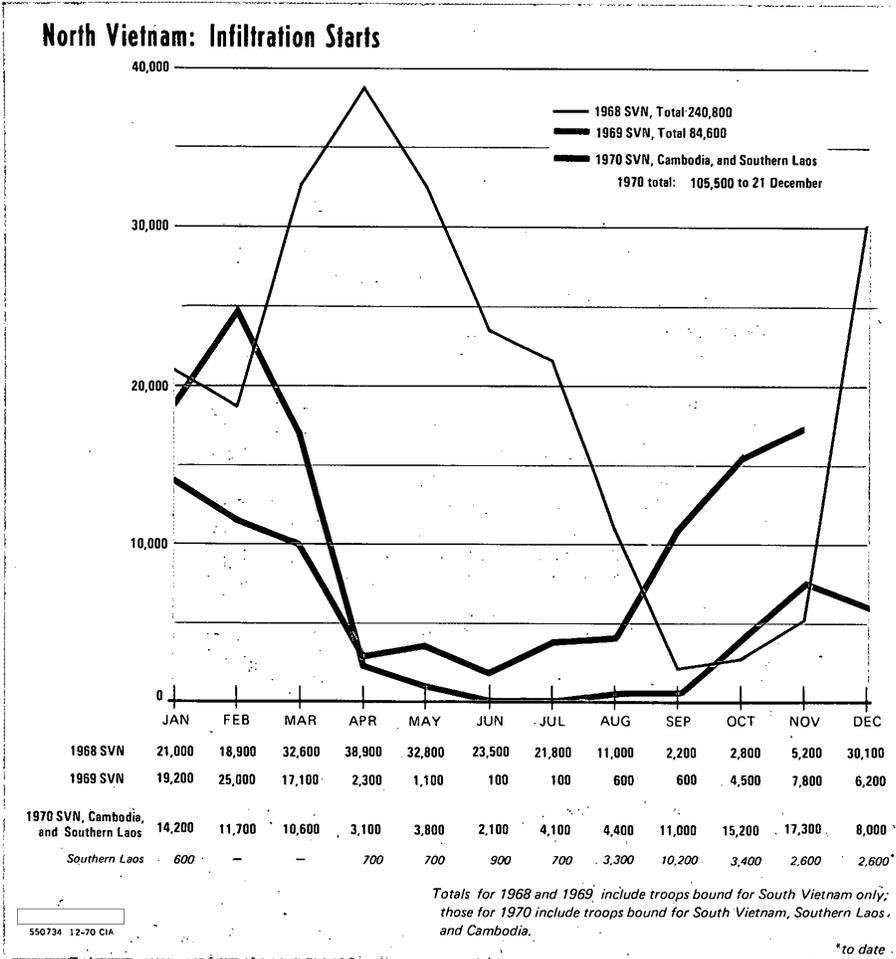


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COMMUNIST CHINA - USSR - POLAND

An article in China's authoritative People's Daily yesterday portrayed the Polish riots as a manifestation of the crisis in Eastern Europe over "Soviet revisionist imperialism." It applauded the fall of the Gomulka regime but charged his successors with the same revisionist sins. The article claimed Moscow "began deploying troops" but stopped short of accusing the Soviets of actually intervening in Poland.

*This diatribe is a rare break in China's year-long stand-down of polemics against the USSR. While crude and unconvincing, Peking's commentary has the value of keeping alive the specter of Soviet intervention in other areas of Eastern Europe. On the other hand, it writes off any chance of establishing a better rapport with the new Polish leadership.*



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## NORTH VIETNAM

So far in December, some 8,000 troops have been detected entering the infiltration system. Around 3,300 are heading for northern South Vietnam, 2,600 for southern Laos, and only 2,100 for COSVN which controls Communist activities in Cambodia and southern South Vietnam. The infiltration pace has slackened somewhat this month, and unless departures increase rapidly in the next week, the total will be substantially less than the 17,000 registered in November.

*Nevertheless, there has been a relatively high rate of infiltration since September, which we believe is related to North Vietnam's drive to enlarge its armed forces. In The President's Daily Brief of 2 November we discussed North Vietnamese press statements which called for additional mobilization and recruitment.*

*Cumulative analysis of internal North Vietnamese messages suggests that the military call-up got under way soon after the fall of Sihanouk last March. An increase since then in the number of messages dealing with induction problems suggests that twice as many men will be drafted in 1970 as were called up in 1969.*

*There is no sign, however, that the call-up is as massive as in 1967, when Hanoi was preparing for the offensives of 1968. Nor is there any indication so far of a substantial build-up of Communist combat forces in either South Vietnam or Cambodia.*

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JAPAN - COMMUNIST CHINA

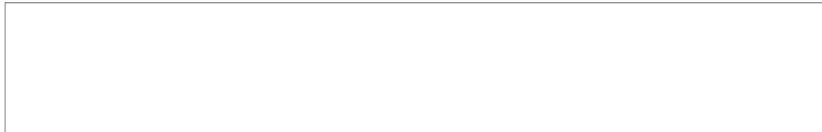
Domestic pressures are mounting on the Japanese Government to take a stand more independent of the US on the China issue, a theme which is getting heavy emphasis from opposition groups and from the media. Some dissident Diet members within Prime Minister Sato's own party are seeking to expedite the restoration of relations with mainland China.

Officials in the Foreign Office are actively debating a number of proposed policy changes. Some prefer to await the outcome of next year's UN debate on Chinese representation, while others insist that the international current is running against Taiwan, and that the Sato government will be at a serious political disadvantage if it waits too long to change its present policy. Sato, however, is not prepared to act hastily and believes that consultation with Washington should precede any decision.

*Although Tokyo continues publicly to embrace a "China-is-one" approach, there is also considerable sentiment in government and business circles for pursuing more openly its de facto "two-China" policy, partly because of Japan's large economic stake in Taiwan.*

*For this reason, as well as China's attitude toward the present Japanese leadership, Tokyo is not sanguine over the prospects for normalizing relations with Peking in the near future. With Upper House elections approaching in June, however, Sato may wish to make some well-publicized overture to Peking regardless of its chances of acceptance.*

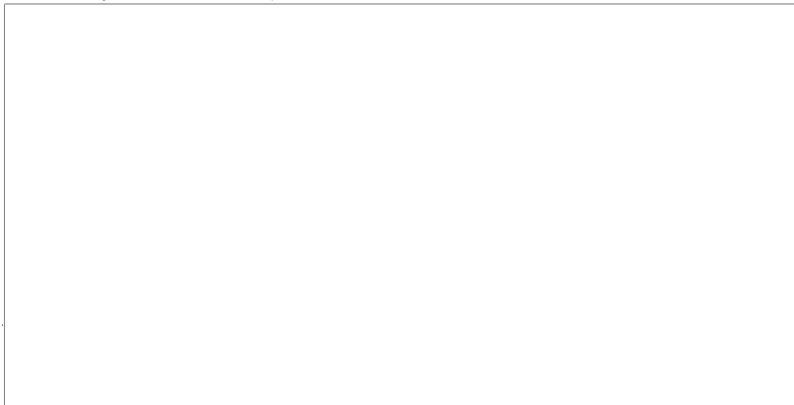
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USSR-SUDAN

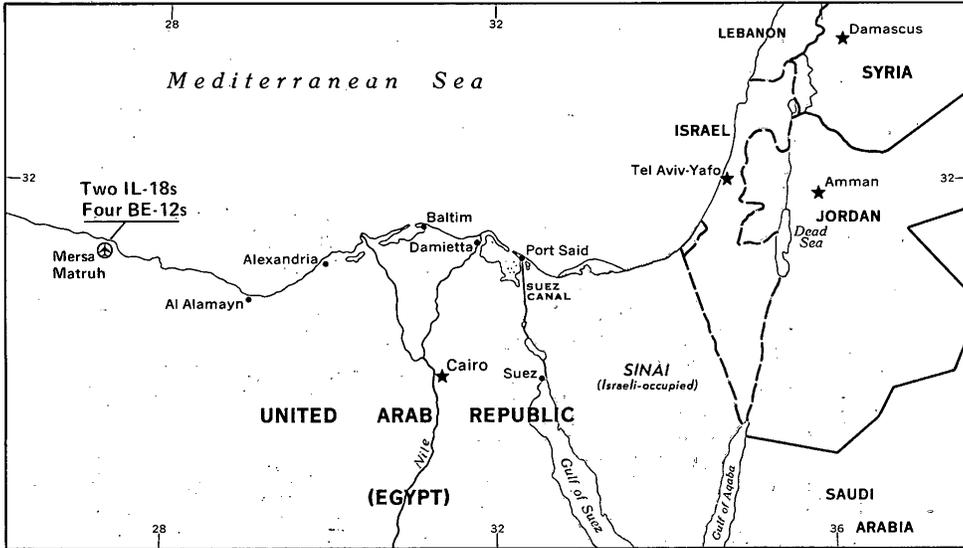


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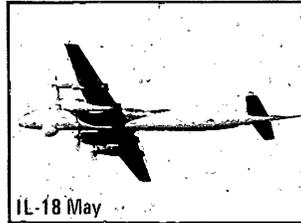
*Moscow may have decided to provide additional equipment to the Sudanese to use against rebels in southern Sudan. The Soviets have already provided considerable equipment suitable for counterinsurgency operations, and the number of Soviet advisers in the Sudan increased during 1970 from 200 to an estimated 400.*

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*Khartoum also has received more sophisticated weapons from the Soviet Union. Under the terms of an arms agreement initiated in 1968 and renegotiated after the coup in May 1969, Moscow agreed to establish an air defense system around Port Sudan. This included MIG-21 jet interceptors, of which 24 were delivered almost a year ago, and an SA-2 system.*



Wing span	123 ft	98 ft
Length	132 ft	99 ft
Radius	1,700 nm	1,150 nm
Cruising speed	320 kts	270 kts



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NOTES

USSR-Egypt: The Soviets deployed two IL-18 antisubmarine warfare (ASW) aircraft to Mersa Matruh airfield in Egypt on 19 December. The only other Soviet land-based ASW aircraft in the Mediterranean are four BE-12 amphibians at Mersa Matruh. The IL-18 has greater range, can stay on station longer and is equipped with more ASW sensors than the BE-12.

South Vietnam: The Communists' self-proclaimed three-day Christmas cease-fire begins at noon today, Washington time, and the allied 24-hour stand-down goes into effect tomorrow morning. Enemy intercepts indicate that the Communists will try as usual to take advantage of the cease-fires to resupply and reposition, as well as to recruit and propagandize among government troops returning to their villages on leave. Scattered violations and firefights are likely throughout the period. There are also indications that the Communists plan intensified shelling and harassment during the period between the Christmas and New Year holidays.

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JAPAN

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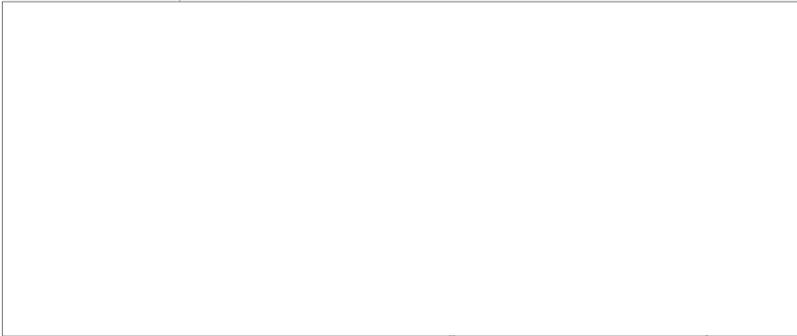
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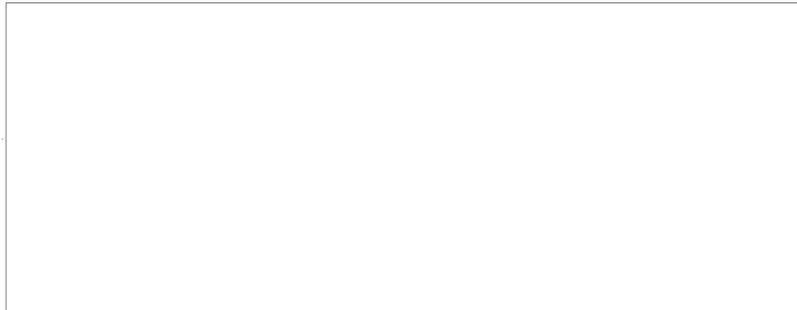
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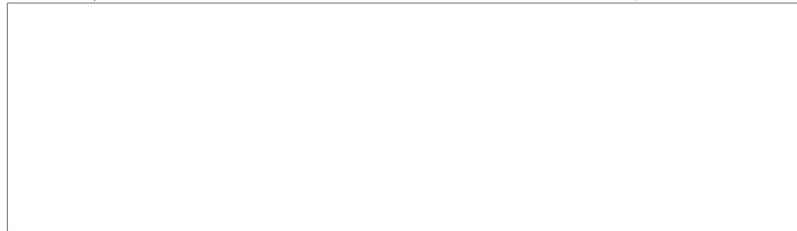
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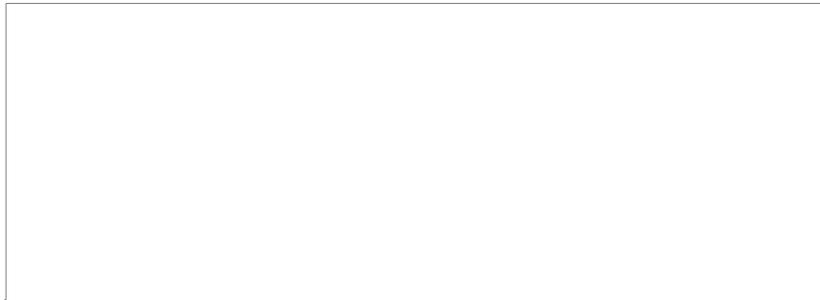
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