



*The President's Daily Brief*

*30 November 1971*

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

30 November 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

We cover the latest military activity in the India-Pakistan crisis on *Page 1*. In addition, Ambassador Keating yesterday found Mrs. Gandhi in a grim mood.

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(*Page 3*)

Iran today occupied three small islands in the Persian Gulf, and a new Persian Gulf state formed from six sheikdoms will declare its independence on Thursday. (*Page 4*)

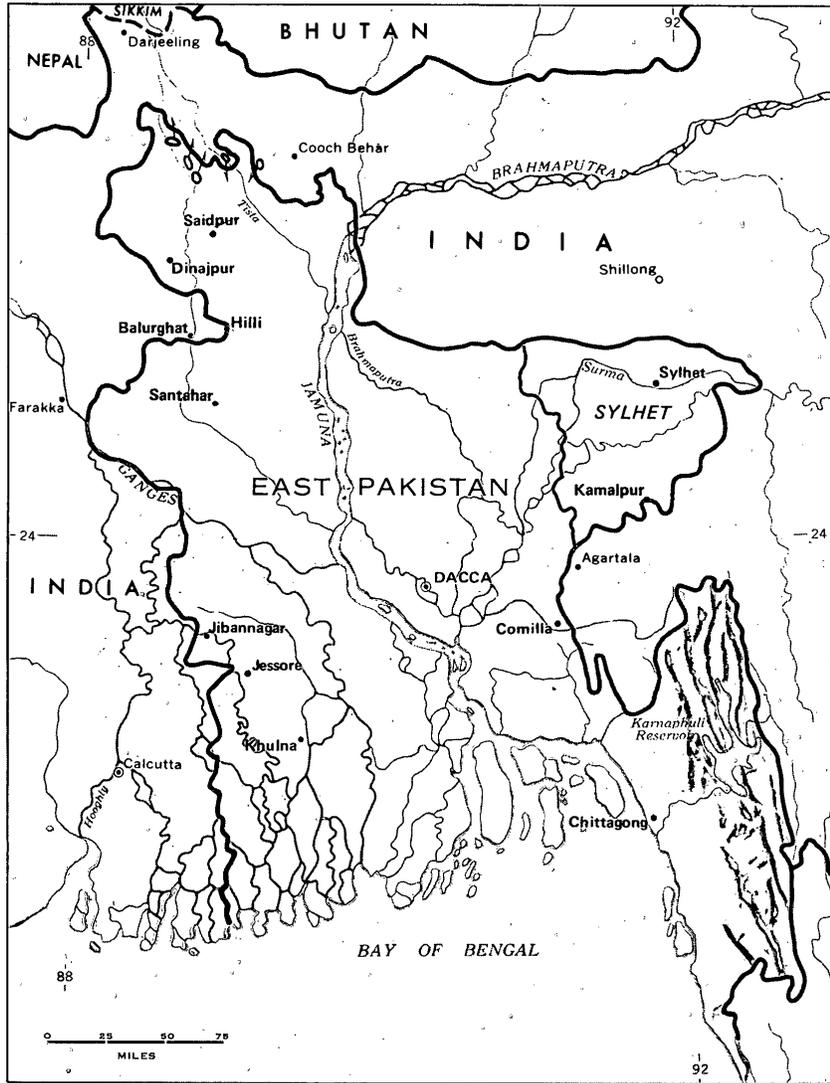
China's military air standdown is over, [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

(*Page 5*)

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INDIA-PAKISTAN

The Indians continue to insist that most of the fighting is being carried on by the Mukti Bahini guerrillas, but New Delhi did acknowledge yesterday that its troops have been operating in East Pakistan near Hilli--an area from which India claims Pakistan has been shelling Indian territory. The Pakistanis claim that Indian troops, supported by armor and artillery, attacked in the Jessore area and have captured the town of Jibannagar, which controls a 165-square-mile triangle of land jutting into Indian West Bengal.

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Indian and guerrilla forces have also been making gains in Sylhet District, with Pakistani troops suffering heavy casualties.

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There is strong evidence that Pakistan's 7th Division moved out of its Peshawar cantonment on 25 November, possibly toward the Indian border. The move of Pakistan's last remaining division up to the border might indicate plans to initiate action on the western frontier, or at least a Pakistani belief that the likelihood of hostilities in the west has increased.

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Pakistan also called up its air force reserves yesterday, but this does not involve a large number of men and is probably intended largely for propaganda purposes.

\* \* \*

Ambassador Keating called on Prime Minister Gandhi yesterday in another effort to defuse the crisis. Mrs. Gandhi refused to consider withdrawing her troops from the border because, as she said,

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India was "not in a position to make things easier" for President Yahya, nor was India going to allow his "misdeeds" to stand. She criticized Western efforts to exert pressure on Yahya, contending that these have yielded "nothing, except that Yahya has his back to the wall" and wants to be bailed out. When Ambassador Keating brought up Indian attacks into East Pakistan, she cut him off with, "We can't afford to listen to advice which weakens us." Mrs. Gandhi did say she did not want war, but stressed that her patience had worn thin and that she didn't know how long she could tell India it must continue to wait.

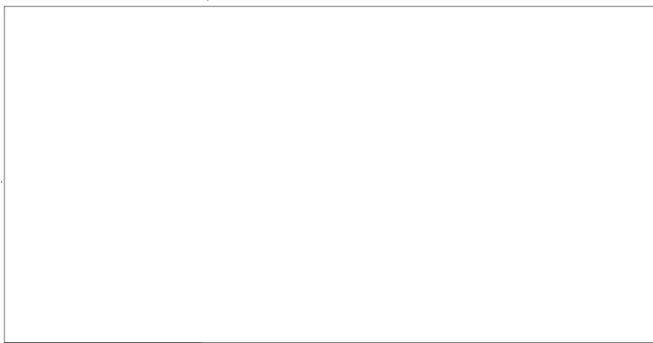
*Ambassador Keating observed that Prime Minister Gandhi's mood throughout was grim. She dismissed President Nixon's proposals by noting they had been covered during her Washington visit. We agree with Ambassador Keating's conclusion that in the absence of some major political development, India will do all it can to assure Mukti Bahini efforts to liberate East Pakistan.*

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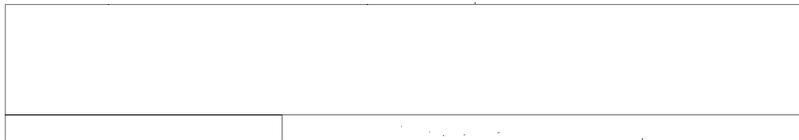
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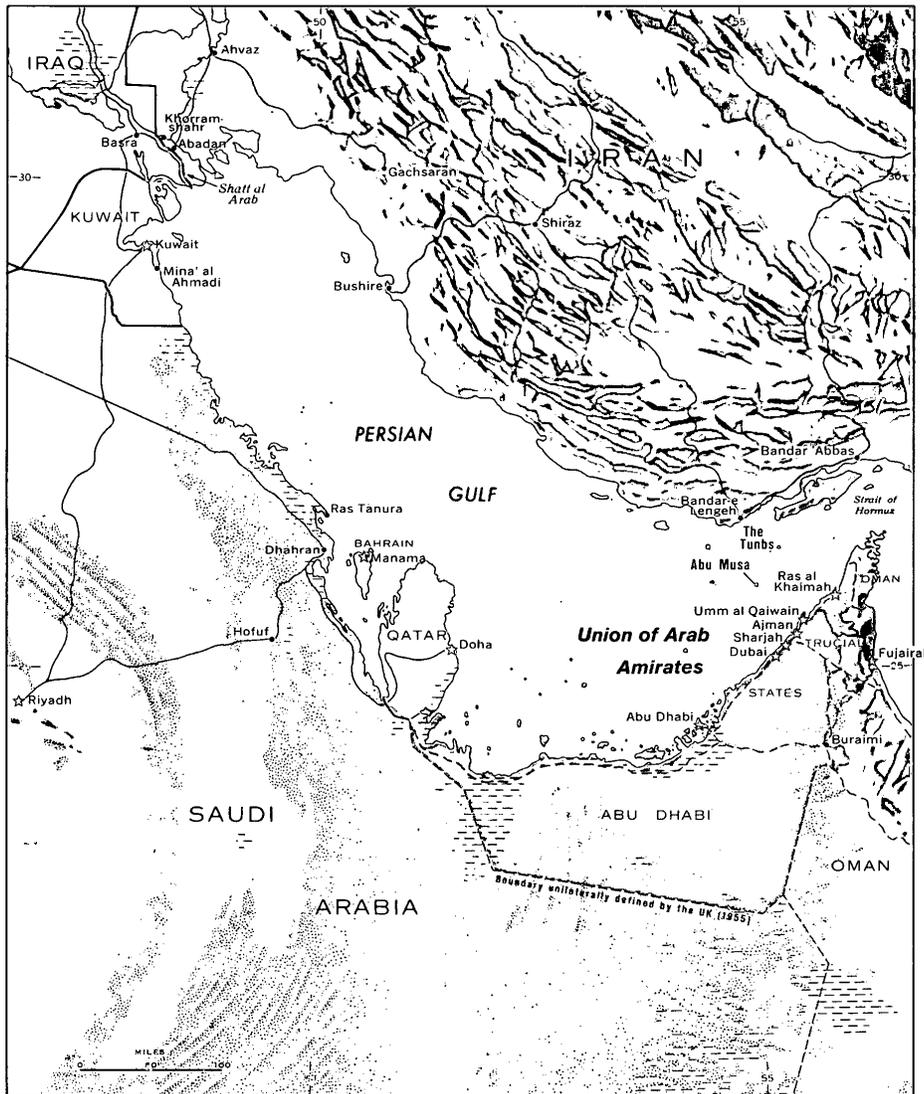


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IRAN - PERSIAN GULF

Iran today announced the occupation of the islands of Abu Musa and the two Tunbs. The sheikdom of Sharjah yesterday announced that Iran had agreed to pay an annual stipend to Sharjah in return for permission to occupy part of Abu Musa.

Sharjah and five other Persian Gulf sheikdoms will proclaim on Thursday the independence of the Union of Arab Emirates, while the former protecting state, the United Kingdom, will terminate its treaty arrangements with these states tomorrow. One tiny sheikdom, Ras al Khaimah, has refused to enter the union, and has also refused to give up its claim to the Tunbs and come to terms with Iran.

*Iran's action in taking possession of these islands will add to its ability to control access to the Persian Gulf. As we noted in The President's Daily Brief of 25 November, the reaction from Iraq and other Arab states is likely to be restricted to propaganda.*

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NOTES

Communist China: Peking evidently is beginning to restore the proficiency of the air force after more than two months of inactivity. Military transports now are flying about one third of the number of flights that took place before the start of the air standdown in mid-September. Bomber activity is also increasing after being restricted primarily to one unit in eastern China for the past month. Jet fighters now are flying in all air districts of eastern and southern China at near pre-standdown levels.

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Communist China: Recent satellite photography shows equipment for at least two different surface-to-surface missile systems at a military installation near I-tu in Shantung Province, where previously we had only tenuous indications of a missile installation.

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Communist China:

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West Germany - Czechoslovakia:

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