



The President's Daily Brief

11 February 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Athens plans to demand that President Makarios turn over his new Czech arms to the UN forces and form a government of national unity. (Page 1)

The North Vietnamese apparently have nearly completed preparations for a new assault on the Long Tieng complex, while Vang Pao's diversionary force moves deeper into their rear areas. (Page 2)

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[REDACTED] Vietnam. (Page 3)

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The Soviets say they plan a new effort to reactivate the Jarring mission as a consequence of President Sadat's talks in Moscow last week. (Page 4)

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CYPRUS

Greek Foreign Minister Palamas has told Ambassador Tasca that Athens will deliver an ultimatum to President Makarios today concerning the recently acquired Czech arms. The Greeks will demand that he turn these arms over to the UN forces and that he form a government of national unity. Palamas said that Athens does not want violence and "will not make use of General Grivas," but added that if Makarios resists the ultimatum, the Greek Government will appeal directly to the Greek Cypriot people. He asserted that Athens is confident Greek Cypriots would choose Greece over Makarios. Palamas stressed that Greece will not sit idly by if fighting breaks out--presumably among the Greek Cypriots--and said that Athens is prepared to exercise its right of intervention under the London-Zurich agreements.

These threats reflect the worry of mainland Greek officials that Makarios will precipitate an armed clash on the island. They also show Athens' desire to pre-empt strong Turkish action on the arms issue. Palamas said that Athens and Ankara are in constant communication and that the Turks have told him that unless the arms question is resolved, Turkey might have to send not only arms, but additional troops to Cyprus to protect the Turkish minority.

There are as yet no indications of the kind we have seen several times before that Ankara is making active preparations to intervene. A high Turkish Foreign Ministry official told Ambassador Handley last evening that Ankara's current position is that the matter should be resolved between the Greek and Cypriot governments.

Makarios will almost certainly reject the Greek ultimatum. A key factor behind his obtaining the arms was his desire to show Athens that he would not accept any Greek-imposed decisions on Cypriot matters. Now that he has the weapons with which to arm his own police force, he appears willing to stand on his own. Contrary to Palamas' contention, Greek Cypriots appear likely to support Makarios in his stand against Athens. Thus, a major crisis appears to be in the making.



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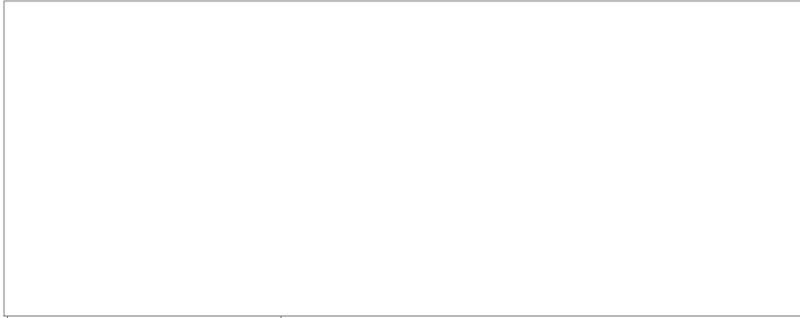
LAOS

The North Vietnamese apparently have nearly completed preparations for new attacks against the Long Tieng - Sam Thong complex. Enemy reconnaissance and patrol activity have increased both at Sam Thong and along Skyline Ridge, and numerous messages refer to new "combat missions." The 141st Regiment has recently joined the 174th Regiment near Sam Thong. The new road from the southern edge of the Plaine des Jarres to Ban Hintang appears to be motorable, thus reducing supply difficulties and making it possible to move heavy artillery closer to the base. Intercepts refer to substantial deliveries of ammunition as well as foodstuffs to front-line units.

At the same time, Vang Pao's irregulars are moving deeper into the enemy's rear areas to the east and north of Long Tieng. Forward elements of one task force are now about three miles from the southern tip of the Plaine and other units are farther to the south and east. Little resistance has been encountered yet, presumably because the irregulars have not yet moved into any vital areas. Intercepts indicate that the North Vietnamese expect the irregulars to move toward the new road.

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VIETNAM

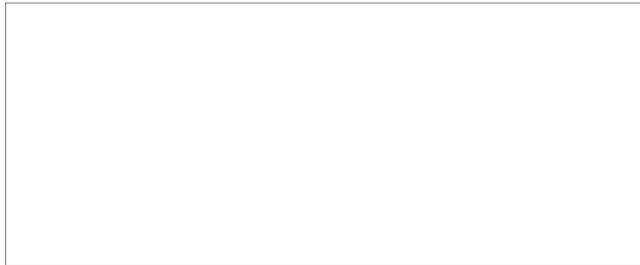


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Recent North Vietnamese communications suggest that the 304th and 308th Infantry divisions have both been reinforced with an artillery regiment. The 304th--except for small elements in northern South Vietnam--and the 308th are still north of the DMZ. In addition, the 320th Division has just completed a move to the tri-border area, and 122-mm. pieces noted in the area presumably are part of the division.



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USSR-EGYPT

During President Sadat's visit to Moscow last week the Soviets and Egyptians explored ways of re-activating the Jarring mission, according to Y. D. Pyrlin, deputy chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Near East Division. Pyrlin told a US Embassy officer on Wednesday that no specific ideas emerged, but that Moscow had agreed that Ambassador Malik would be sounding out his four-power colleagues in New York about Jarring.

The Soviets appear to be playing for time; a Soviet diplomatic initiative in New York might help take the domestic heat off Sadat. They may also hope that the visit of President Nixon to Moscow will provide a breakthrough. Pyrlin noted that the Soviet leaders had told Sadat that the Middle East would be discussed with the President.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Chile-China: Minister of Economy Vuskovic--
Chile's top economic official--will go to Peking in
early April [redacted] The
visit follows Peking's recent extension of a \$65-
million credit to Chile and demonstrates the impor-
tance President Allende attaches to the rapid devel-
opment of economic relations with China.

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[redacted]

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Korea: In an attempt to end the three-month-
old deadlock in the Red Cross talks, Seoul will soon
invite the North Koreans [redacted] to [redacted]
[redacted] working-level sessions to iron out the
agenda [redacted]

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[redacted] Seoul is
prepared to agree to the North Korean suggestion
that "free travel" by separated family members be
discussed at the plenary talks. If Pyongyang ac-
cepts the proposal, as seems likely, agreement on
the agenda could be made public next week and the
plenary sessions could begin in March.

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USSR: [redacted]

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