

*The President's Daily Brief*

23 February 1972

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

President Nixon's trip to China has occasioned harsh Polish criticism of Communist China. *(Page 1)*

India and Pakistan are both giving increased publicity to possible early peace talks. *(Page 2)*

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Prime Ministers Heath and Mintoff have agreed to meet again on the issues still barring a Malta agreement. *(Page 4)*

Japanese comment on the President's trip reflects a mixture of hope for success and anxiety that Tokyo "is being left behind" in upgrading relations with China. *(Page 5)*

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POLAND

One facet of the Soviet Union's carefully orchestrated indirect criticisms of the President's trip to China has been the change of the Polish regime into one of the most extreme Red China - baiters among Moscow's allies. On Sunday, party leader Gierek, usually a cautious and pragmatic man, lent his prestige to the campaign, becoming the first Communist leader anywhere in the last five years personally to call for the Chinese people to "reject Maoism." His remarks fell just short of an appeal for a Chinese revolution. He made no explicit tie between the attack on Mao and China's talks with the US.

*Under Gierek's predecessor Gomulka, Poland had taken a moderate line vis-a-vis China. Gradually, however, in proportion to Gierek's dependence on the Soviet Union for financial and political support, Warsaw's anti-Chinese position has become more shrill. The idea that Maoism must be overthrown is not a new one in Soviet or other Communist propaganda, but this is the first time in recent years that a leading politician has publicly embraced it.*

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INDIA-PAKISTAN

Both countries are giving increased publicity to the possibility of early peace talks. The Pakistani public was informed on 23 February that New Delhi had notified Islamabad that India was willing to open direct talks on outstanding issues without preconditions.

India first made known its willingness to talk with Pakistan in a recent letter to UN Secretary General Waldheim. President Bhutto, however, told the press on 21 February that India's offer was essentially a tactical move timed to coincide with the opening of Sino-American talks. He added that he would make no reply until after President Nixon completes his China visit.

*Bhutto has stated previously that he will seek direct talks with Mrs. Gandhi at the earliest opportunity. We doubt that he would be willing to see formal peace negotiations begin prior to 25 March, when all Indian troops are scheduled to have departed from Bangladesh.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*



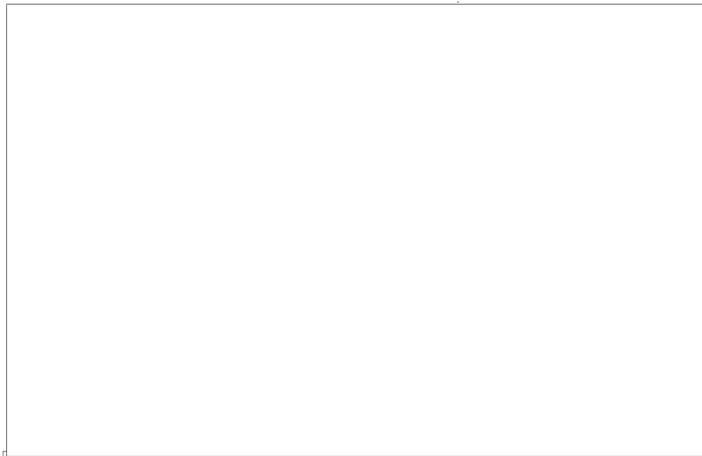
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MALTA

Prime Minister Heath has agreed to meet with Prime Minister Mintoff once again but is unwilling to meet Mintoff's renewed demand for an additional, one-time payment of \$13 million over and above the UK-NATO offer of \$36.4 million annually. No date has been set for the talks

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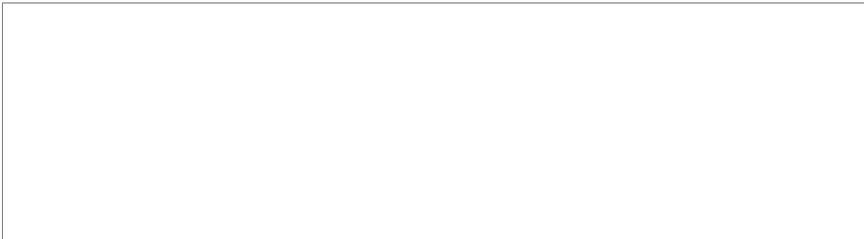
*Mintoff so far remains in complete domestic control. He has effectively neutralized the opposition and the church and has demonstrated to his own party that his tactics have produced offers of more money at almost every stage of the negotiations.*

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NOTES

Japan-US-China: President Nixon's visit to Peking is receiving heavy media coverage in Japan. Japanese comment thus far reflects a mixture of hope for the trip's success and anxiety that Tokyo is "being left behind" in upgrading relations with China. While there has been no official reaction from the Sato government, the press in Tokyo has reported serious concern on the part of Japanese Foreign Ministry officials. The atmosphere at the Foreign Ministry is described as "cold and gloomy," and there is uneasiness that the discussions, contrary to earlier Japanese predictions, may produce important results. Live television coverage of the meetings is having a major impact on the Japanese and will substantially increase pressure on Prime Minister Sato--and any successor--to normalize Sino-Japanese relations.

South Vietnam: Communist military action continues at a level slightly above normal but has not increased significantly during the past few days. Aggressive South Vietnamese operations continue to flush out enemy forces near potential target areas.



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