



The President's Daily Brief



5th MAR 1972
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Sanitization Code 5/11/72

SUNDAY CABLE
5 March 72

CYPRUS

The Greek Government, in a note verbale delivered to President Makarios yesterday, has reiterated its demands that the Czech arms be turned over to the UN forces on Cyprus and that steps be taken to form a new government of "national unity." [redacted]

[redacted] the new note does not demand that Makarios resign but calls on him to respond immediately in writing, giving his "unequivocal acceptance" of the demands.

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In what may have been a show of force to underscore the seriousness of the note, there were reports yesterday that three separate convoys of National Guard troops, involving several hundred men, were moving toward Nicosia. A UN observer also confirmed that there was "substantial military movement" around the island, but this terminated without incident. Tension again seems to be increasing among the Turkish Cypriot community where a prominent leader has called for intervention by both Greece and Turkey to restore stability to the island.

Although there have been indications that Makarios is willing to go a long way toward meeting the Greek demands, he is likely to be reluctant to put this in writing. He apparently has already taken steps to place the Czech arms under UN supervision, but this will satisfy neither Athens nor Ankara which demand full UN control. There are also reports that Makarios is considering resigning in the face of mounting pressure from both Athens and Church leaders on the island, but so far he has made no overt move in this direction.

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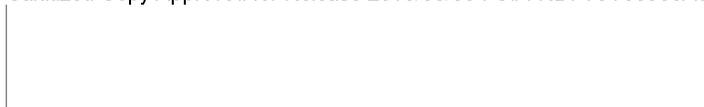
Malta-UK: In response to the latest British invitation, Prime Minister Mintoff has arrived in London for a new round of talks. He is to meet with Defense Minister Carrington all day today and Monday morning. A session with Prime Minister Heath is scheduled for Monday afternoon.

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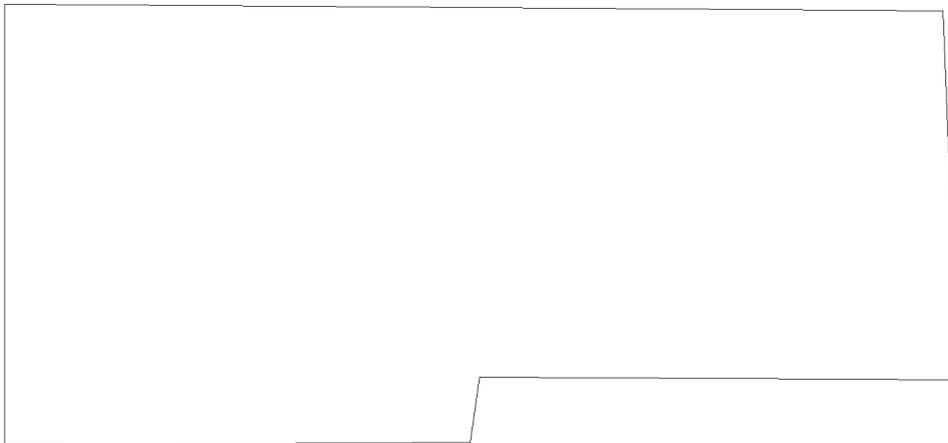
UK-Guatemala: The tension resulting from the UK decision to reinforce its garrison in British Honduras has eased somewhat. After the Guatemalan cabinet met in emergency session on Friday, Foreign Minister Herrera told Ambassador Bowdler that he would draft a note of protest, but that his colleagues had not reacted as sharply as anticipated. Yesterday Herrera informed Bowdler that President Arana had authorized a note accepting ministerial talks with the British late next week provided the UK holds off on any troop movements or public announcement of its decision. The British have told us they will defer an announcement until Monday and perhaps even longer if they detect any "give" on the part of Guatemala.

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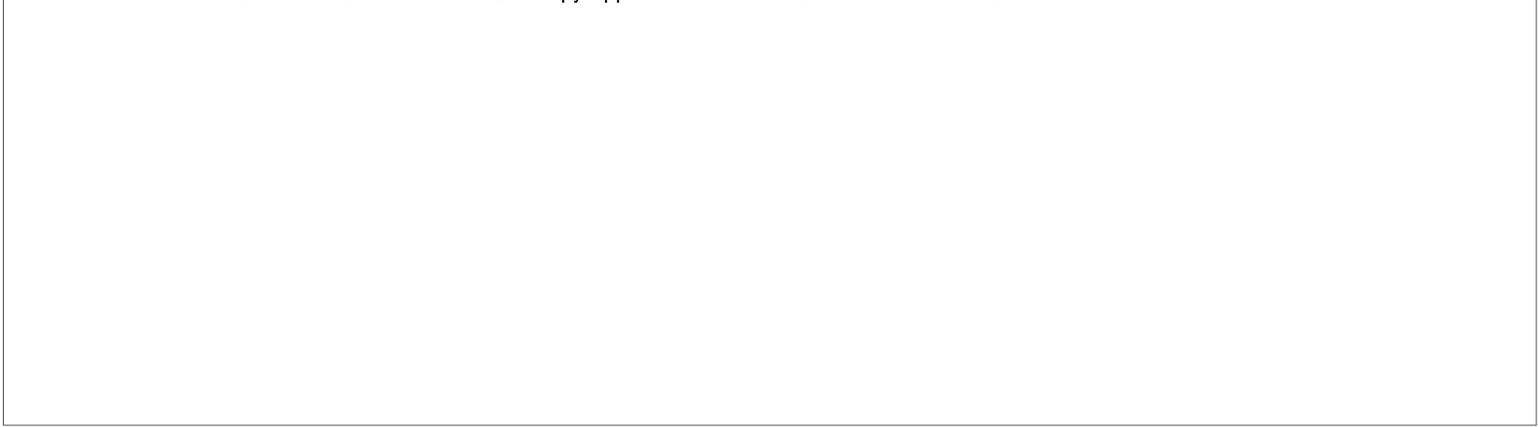
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