

*The President's Daily Brief*

18 June 1972

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*Handwritten signature: Sunday Carter 18 June 72*

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

18 June 1972

VIETNAM

Hanoi's chief negotiator, Le Duc Tho, arrived in Peking yesterday. According to Peking radio, he flew from Moscow aboard a scheduled Aeroflot flight while en route home. Shortly after his arrival, he was feted at a banquet in his honor amid a "warm atmosphere of friendship." Later, he met with Premier Chou En-lai for a "very cordial conversation." No ~~other~~ substantive details concerning his talks have been released.

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A French news report from Peking indicates that the North Vietnamese embassy there has scheduled an "important" news conference for today. If it is still held, the press conference may shed some light on Le Duc Tho's visit.

(Continued)

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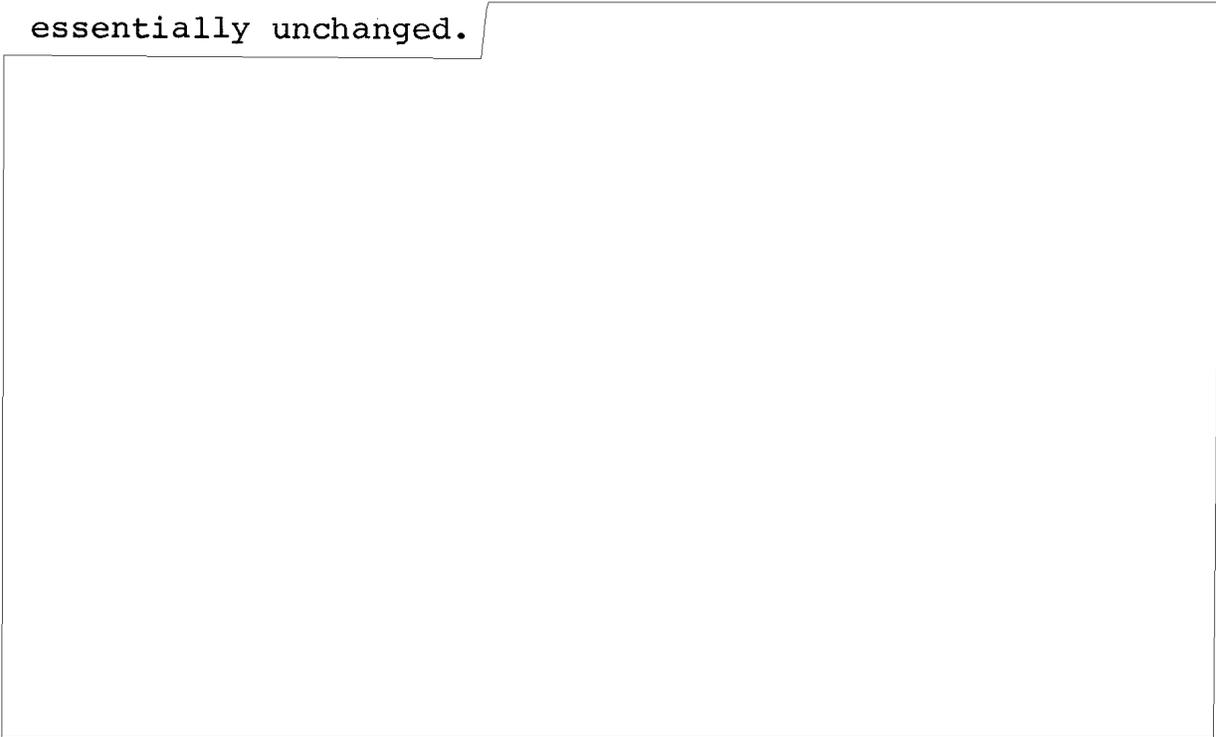
Civil air communications confirm that Soviet President Podgorny delayed his departure from Hanoi by one day. His plane is now scheduled to leave for home this morning and to make only brief stops in Calcutta, Delhi, and Tashkent.

So far, neither Soviet nor North Vietnamese media have reported Podgorny's presence in Hanoi.

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The military situation in South Vietnam remains essentially unchanged.

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President Thieu's bill granting him emergency powers has been remanded to a special study committee

Vietnam - 2 (Continued)

## CHILE

President Allende reorganized his coalition cabinet yesterday. The Socialists gained two ministries while keeping the four key posts they previously held. The Communists retained the same three ministries but put more prestigious party leaders in the places of the earlier incumbents. The Radical Party grudgingly gave up one of its three ministries and the smaller parties retained one seat apiece.

*The most important change was the replacement of Pedro Vuskovic, who as Minister of Economy had created many problems by his drastic policies. Vuskovic may yet be heard from again, however; Allende has promised to name him to an important post next week at the same time he will announce major new economic programs.*

*The shifts do not mean that Allende has solved the internal conflicts in his coalition.*  25X1

*the Socialists* 25X1

*are furious because Allende and the Communists-- at the urging of the Soviet embassy--have worked out an important compromise with the opposition Christian Democrats. If the compromise holds, it may result in a slower pace toward nationalization of industries, while the government consolidates its hold on other*

*(Continued)*

private sectors of the economy. The Socialists have a numerical pre-eminence in the new cabinet, [redacted] and this may enable them to push harder their campaign to destroy the economic resources of those who oppose the government. Such action would destroy the compromise.

Allende can take comfort in the fact that the compromise has hurt the Christian Democrats. As news of the deal spreads, the opposition political forces are becoming divided over its necessity and this can only weaken them politically.

Allende [redacted] was not successful in inducing any military officers into joining his new cabinet. Their absence confirms reports [redacted] that the army high command refused Allende's recent request that the military take a larger role in the cabinet. The frustrating experience of the one general who became Minister of Mining in April evidently strengthened the military's distrust of the administration.

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FRANCE

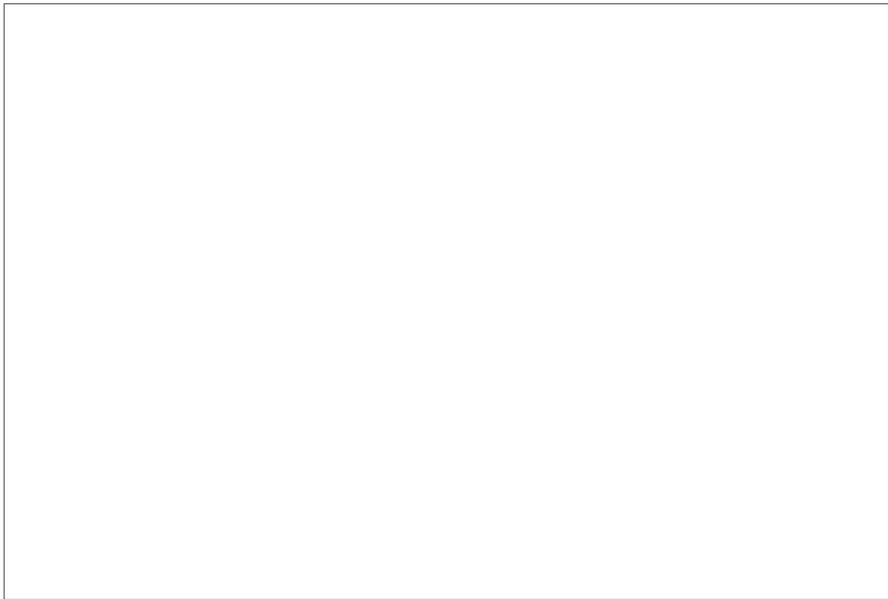


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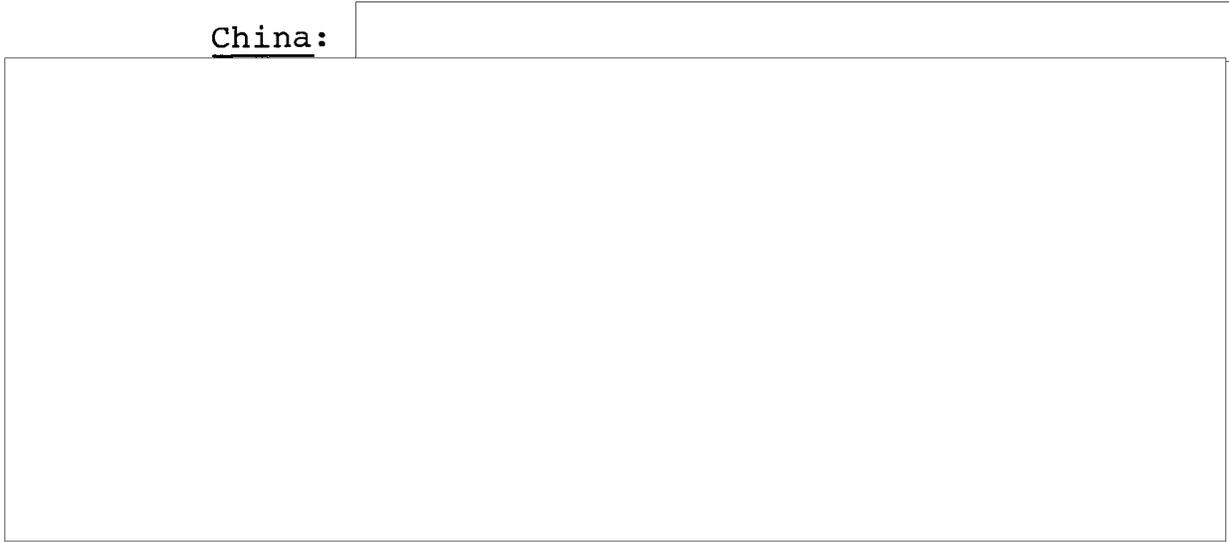
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NOTE

China:

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of the Upper House. The committee is due to report to the house leadership on 21 June and a plenary debate on the bill will not be held before the end of next week. According to Ambassador Bunker, the outcome of the vote on the bill still seems very close, even though pro-administration senators are showing cautious optimism.

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