

The President's Daily Brief

8 September 1972

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~~*Top Secret*~~

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

8 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

King Husayn is the sole Arab leader to condemn the terrorist act in Munich. The dominant theme in Arab reaction is that the Israeli deaths must be placed in the context of Israel's "criminal" occupation of the Palestinian homeland.

[Redacted]

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(Page 1)

[Redacted] Soviet [Redacted]

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[Redacted] Egypt. (Page 3)

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The military situation in South Vietnam is reported on Page 4.

Saigon does not intend to renew the visas of the Indian representatives on the International Control Commission. (Page 5)

The Chinese are working to improve relations with Thailand. (Page 6)

The rice shortage is becoming critical in Cambodia. (Page 7)

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The Soviet Union [Redacted] Bangladesh [Redacted]

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Political tensions remain high in Chile. (Page 9)

At Annex we discuss the background of Fatah's terrorist organization [Redacted]

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ARAB STATES - FEDAYEEN

Jordan's King Husayn remains the sole Arab leader to condemn the terrorists' acts in Munich. Most other Arabs have avoided outright condemnation of the guerrillas and some Egyptian and Iraqi newspapers have praised their "heroism." In addition, the Syrian and Iraqi governments have permitted broadcasts by "clandestine" fedayeen radio stations praising the terrorists.

An official Egyptian spokesman, after disclaiming any involvement with the episode, placed the onus for the loss of life on the West German Government. The Egyptians have reacted with considerable sensitivity to West German charges that Cairo did not fully respond to Bonn's appeals for cooperation during the Munich incident. The Egyptian Government has summoned the German ambassador for clarification of Bonn's position and announced it would take "a firm decision" following the consultations.

A dominant theme in Arab reaction is insistence that the Israeli deaths must be placed in the context of Israel's "criminal" occupation of the Palestinian homeland. Typical of this line is the Lebanese Government's statement that, while expressing "deep regret," interpreted the tragedy as an outgrowth of the Palestinians' despair and their wish to prod the international community to redress their grievances.

The Munich events shocked Saudi leaders, who [redacted] allowed scant coverage in the local media.

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Fatah's Black September Organization has an organized network in Western Europe and plans further operations to follow the Munich attack [redacted]

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[redacted] the primary targets are Israeli and "imperialist" interests in West Germany, West Berlin, and perhaps elsewhere in Western Europe. [redacted]

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[redacted] the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine may also be involved in these plans.

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At Annex we discuss the background of Fatah's
terrorist organization [redacted]

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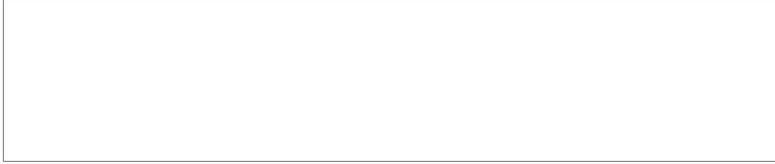
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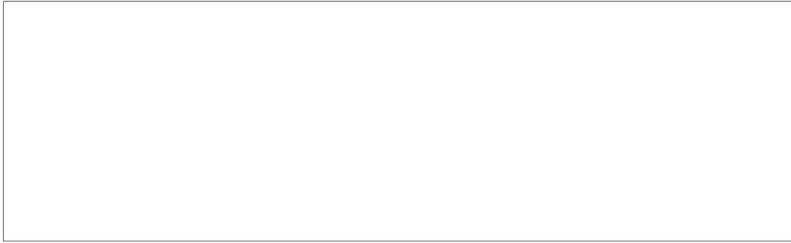
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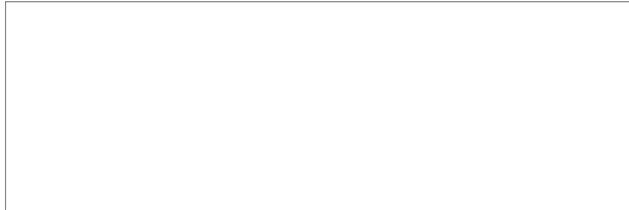
EGYPT-USSR



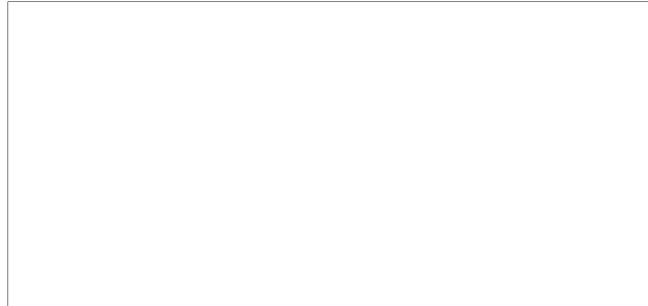
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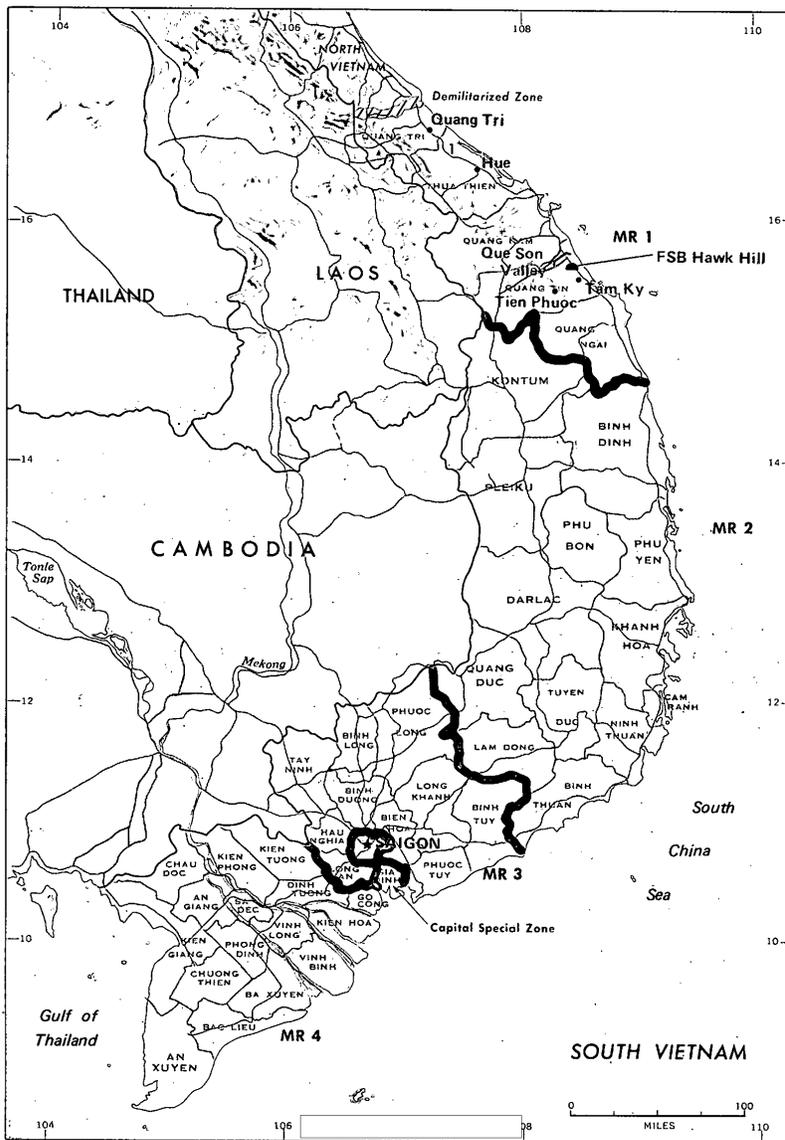
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SOUTH VIETNAM

Units from the enemy's 711th Division have shifted the focus of their attacks from the Que Son Valley to central Quang Tin Province. Communist troops have captured a key government defensive point north of the district capital of Tien Phuoc and have occupied the airstrip and the government's headquarters in the town. The Communists for the first time in this area have been using tanks to support their infantry attacks. Initial government attempts to lift in reinforcements by helicopter failed but a later try was successful. Meanwhile, the provincial capital, Tam Ky City, was shelled by enemy troops who had captured Fire Support Base Hawk Hill northwest of the city on 7 September.

Farther north heavy fighting continues in the Quang Tri City area; the Communists are committing additional resources to the struggle there. Intercepts show that the 141st Regiment of the recently infiltrated 312th Division is moving into position along Route 1 south of the city. The messages also indicate that other enemy units in the area have received fresh supplies and replacements, and that an artillery regiment had been equipped with tear gas shells.

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VIETNAM-INDIA

Saigon has decided not to renew the visas of the Indian representatives on the International Control Commission when they expire on 30 September.

The South Vietnamese are taking this step largely in response to New Delhi's decision last January to upgrade relations with Hanoi to the ambassadorial level while leaving Saigon with only a consulate general. The Thieu government says this move proves India is not impartial in the Indochina war and therefore is unfit to continue to serve as chairman of the ICC.

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CHINA-THAILAND

The Chinese have held high-level talks in Peking with special Thai emissary Prasit Kanchanawat. Over the weekend, Prasit met separately with Chinese vice ministers of foreign affairs and foreign trade; on 5 September, he held talks with Chou En-lai.

Prasit was in Peking ostensibly as an adviser to the Thai ping pong team, but his treatment by the Chinese--particularly his meeting with Chou--exceeds the bounds of protocol and goes far beyond the reception given any of the other Asian table tennis delegations now in Peking for a tournament. Moreover, China's news agency has identified Prasit by his official government title, thus underscoring the official government-to-government nature of his visit.

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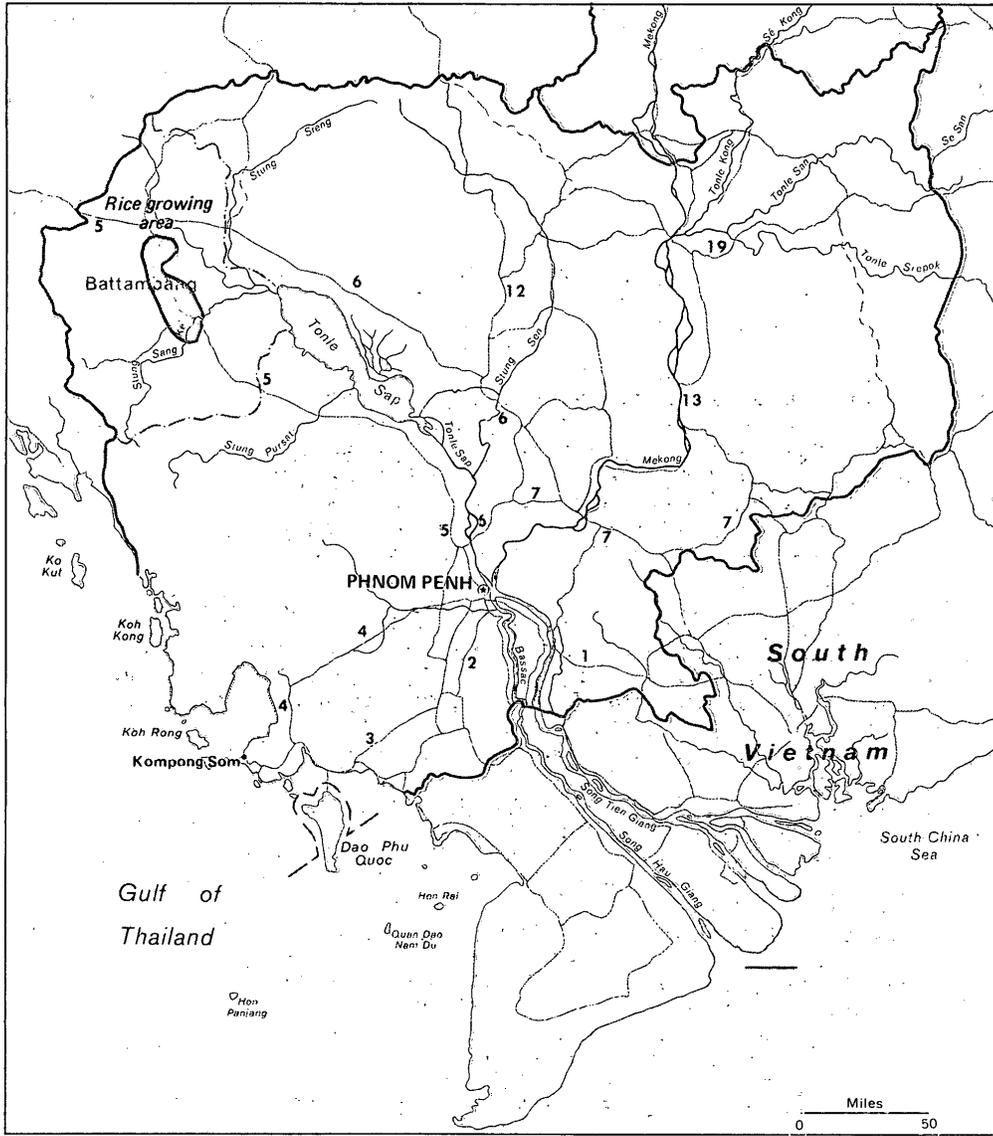
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Peking's handling of Prasit's visit seems a sure sign that the Chinese are serious about exploring ways of improving relations with Thailand. The talks almost certainly dealt with the principal issues in dispute between the two countries-- Chinese support for Thai insurgents, the Chinese road in northern Laos, Thailand's relations with Taiwan, and Bangkok's role in the Indochina war--as well as with such questions as the possibility of trade ties and cultural contacts.

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CAMBODIA

The rice situation has reached critical proportions; domestic rice stocks, which are particularly low in Phnom Penh, will not last until the harvest late this year. Prior to the harvest, Cambodia will have to secure an additional 20,000 tons, either through purchase or humanitarian aid. President Lon Nol has called in the US chargé and asked for an immediate, short-term loan of rice from US stocks in South Vietnam.

Public awareness of the situation has touched off a wave of heavy buying. The price of preferred grades has shot up 40 percent since last week to the highest level since the war began. Some hoarding has taken place, and looting of warehouses and Chinese-owned stores in Phnom Penh has been reported.

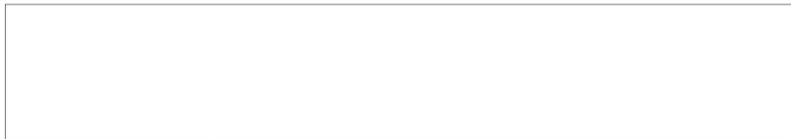
The government has attempted to alleviate the situation by taking over distribution of a portion of privately held stocks and by selling lower grades at controlled prices. In addition, the first delivery from a recent 10,000-ton purchase of Thai rice is scheduled to arrive next week and should ease the pressure temporarily.

Unless Route 5 is reopened in the near future, permitting rice from Battambang Province to reach Phnom Penh, the requirement for additional rice imports could increase. Thus far, the Cambodian Army has not made a serious effort to reopen the highway, and its plans to do so continue to be delayed. The availability of rice is a sensitive political issue, and high prices and sustained shortages will result in a further loss of popular support for the Lon Nol government.

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BANGLADESH-USSR



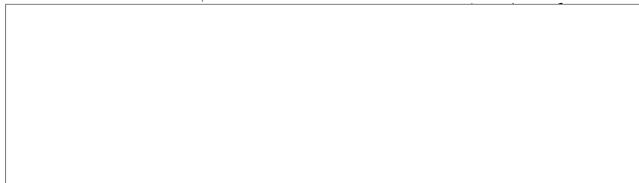
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CHILE

Public transportation was partially paralyzed in Santiago yesterday, although a last-minute settlement of a threatened nationwide transportation strike was announced early in the day. Our embassy thinks Allende made substantial concessions to head off what could have been a disruptive strike.

Allende is seeking to cool the political tensions that have led to outbreaks of violence in recent days. Some business groups anxious to force Allende's ouster had been backing those favoring a strike-- mainly private entrepreneurs who own many of Chile's small bus, taxi, and truck lines.

Political tensions have not yet subsided significantly, and more public demonstrations by pro- and anti-government groups are planned.

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NOTES

Uganda: President Amin has charged that Britain, Israel, and "other Western countries" are planning to assassinate him. In expressing fears of a British invasion, he directed the army and civilians to keep close watch on British nationals in Uganda and added that Europeans would make "good targets" for his troops. Amin's remarks could encourage unruly army troops who control borders and other strategic points to more brutality. They already have roughed up several Americans, including a diplomat and his family, and other Westerners. The Embassy has instructed Americans to stay away from sensitive areas.

Morocco:



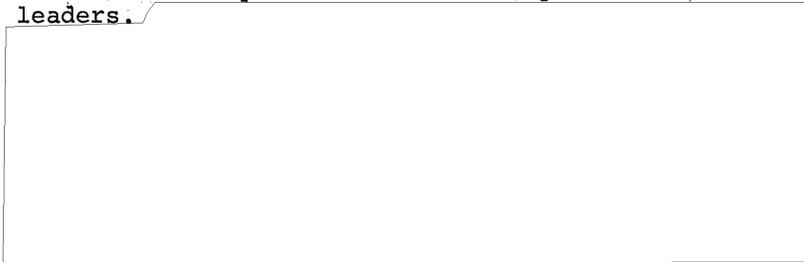
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FEDAYEEN TERRORISTS

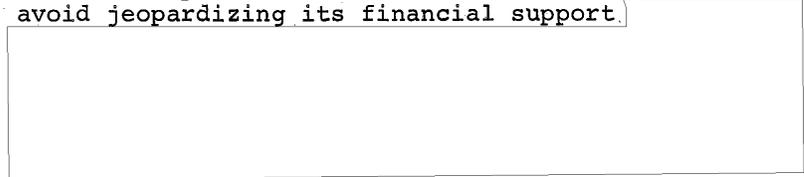
The name Black September Organization (BSO) first came to light in connection with the assassination of Jordanian Prime Minister Wasfi Tal in Cairo last November. Since that time, Black September, which draws its name from the date of the fedayeen confrontation with the Jordanian Government in September 1970, has claimed credit for a series of assassinations, bombings, and sabotage in West Germany and other parts of Western Europe.

In fact, the Black September Organization is not a distinct fedayeen organization, but rather a cover term that Fatah--the largest and most heavily funded group--uses for its terrorist operations. There are no separate BSO offices, personnel, or leaders.



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Fatah has adopted the ruse of attributing its terrorist operations to the BSO in large part to avoid jeopardizing its financial support.



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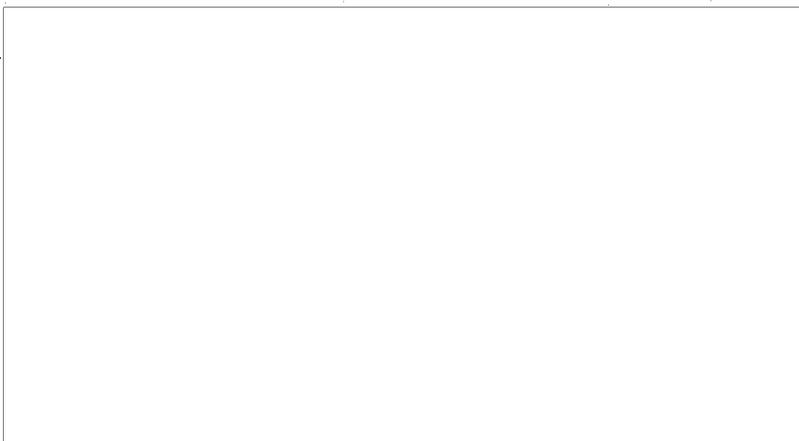
Fatah's objective in emphasizing dramatic terrorism is to maintain a sense of dynamism in the otherwise faltering fedayeen movement. Since Jordan forced the fedayeen to leave its territory in July 1971, they have become progressively more disorganized and faction-ridden. Israeli operations against fedayeen concentrations in southern Lebanon have forced the Lebanese Government to restrict the fedayeen's freedom of movement and virtually ended significant fedayeen operations in Israeli territory. The Fatah leaders sense that some sort of activity against Israel or its "allies" is necessary if the fedayeen movement is not to disintegrate.

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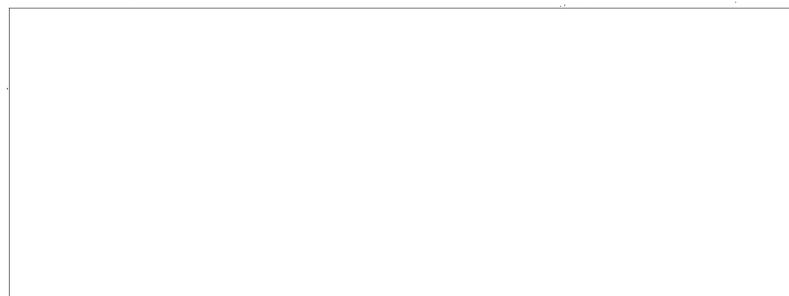
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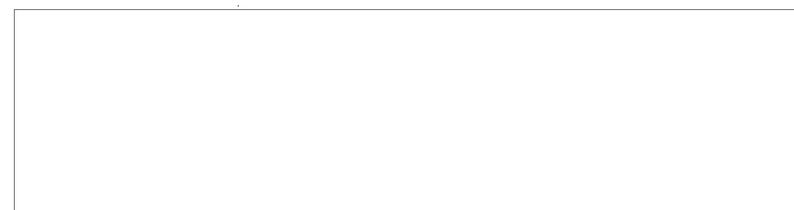
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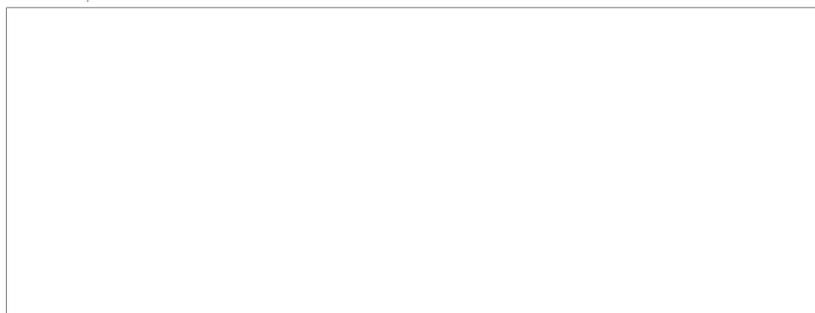
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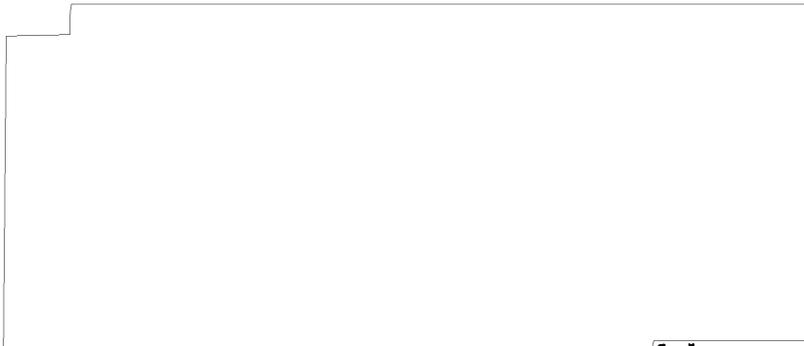
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fedayeen activities are undertaken with a basic feeling that the whole world, including their "brother Arabs," is against them.

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