



The President's Daily Brief

13 April 1973

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 25X1

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

TOP SECRET

April 13, 1973

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

13 April 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted] North Vietnam [Redacted] (Page 1)

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A high-ranking victim of the Cultural Revolution has been partially reinstated in China. (Page 2)

[Redacted]

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The Soviets are beginning to publicize China's growing nuclear arsenal. (Page 4)

The USSR is building a second over-the-horizon radar for use in early warning of US missile launches. (Page 5)

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Italy wants US permission to export armored personnel carriers to Libya. (Page 7)

Beirut is tense but quiet after yesterday's funerals of fedayeen leaders killed in the Israeli raids. (Page 8)

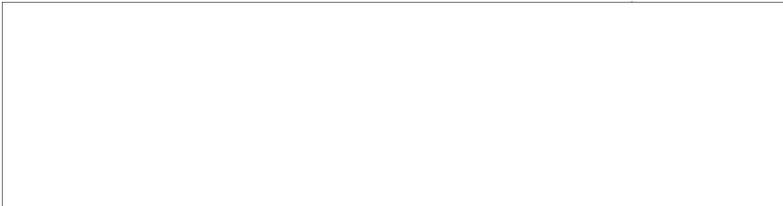
President Nixon's trade bill has received favorable comment abroad. (Page 9)

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INDOCHINA

Hanoi apparently is bringing home two more infantry divisions from South Vietnam. The 304th Division has not been in radio contact with the Communists' major military authority in northern South Vietnam since early April, suggesting that a move is under way. Similarly, the 312th Division has been out of contact since late March, when its headquarters was located in southern North Vietnam.

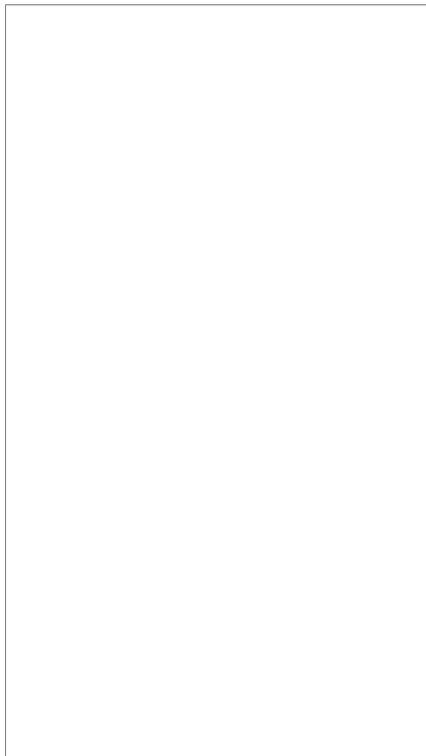
The 308th Division left Quang Tri Province earlier this year. All three divisions saw heavy combat and may be undergoing rest and refitting. There are still three North Vietnamese divisions in Quang Tri.



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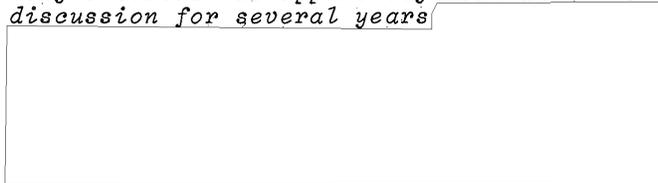
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CHINA

Teng Hsiao-ping, the second highest ranking party official purged during the Cultural Revolution, reappeared at a banquet given by Premier Chou En-lai on April 12. The official Chinese news agency listed him with two vice-premiers in the government and according to the Japanese news agency he was introduced at the banquet as a deputy premier.

Teng had been a vice-premier and has probably been reinstated in his government post. Peking appears to be skirting the more controversial issue of whether to return Teng to an important party position. Teng formerly was secretary-general of the party and sixth among the party's top leaders until his fall in December 1966. Another former vice-premier who reappeared last December with his government title has not been seen since.

Teng's status has apparently been under discussion for several years



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With the leadership unable to agree on a number of major appointments, the return of former high-ranking officials may be an attempt by moderates such as Chou En-lai to push them as candidates. Although Chou has differed with some of these veteran officials in the past, they are clearly more acceptable to him than the more radical newcomers who came to prominence during the Cultural Revolution.

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CHINA

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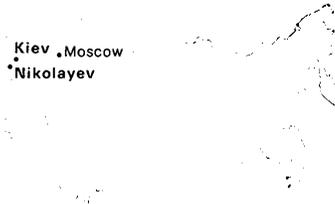
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USSR-CHINA

Official speakers at public lectures on foreign affairs in Leningrad have been unusually specific during recent months with respect to China's growing nuclear arsenal. In January, one such lecturer said that China had acquired a second strike capability by building missile silos into rock far from the border. He implied that the possibility of removing the Chinese missile threat by a "surgical strike" no longer exists. Early last month another speaker announced that the Chinese can deliver up to 100 nuclear warheads deep in the Soviet Union. Last week, another predicted that by 1975 China will have 40 to 50 missiles and implied that at least some would have a range of 3,100 to 3,700 miles, covering nearly all the USSR.

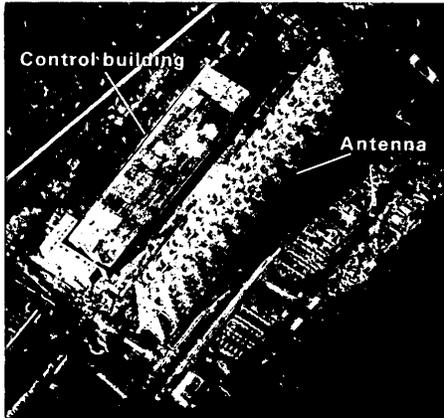
The tone of these lectures is matter-of-fact and leaves no impression that hostilities are imminent, or even likely. The audience, nevertheless, will get the message that caution is now necessary in the USSR's relations with China.

Soviet Over-the-Horizon Detection Radars

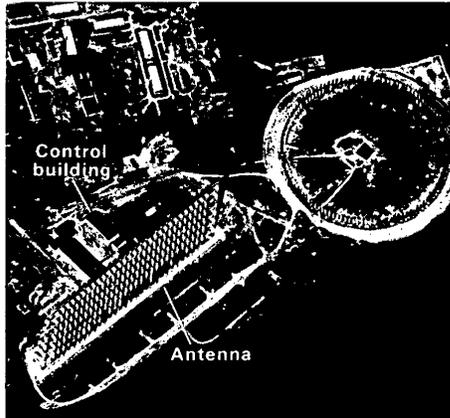


—At Nikolayev

Transmitter

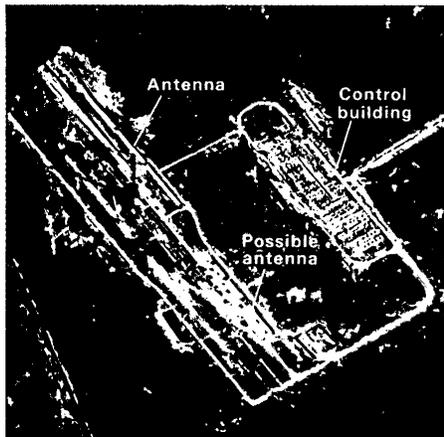


Receiver

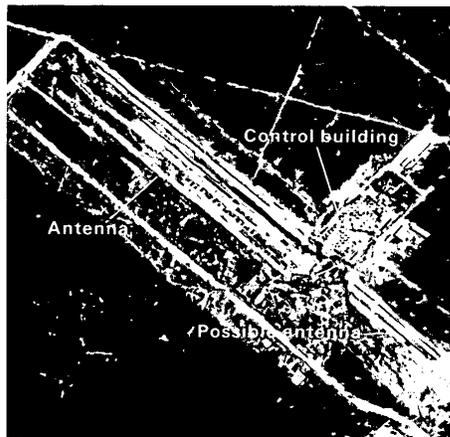


—At Kiev

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Receiver



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USSR

Construction near Kiev [redacted]
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that it can be tentatively identified as an over-
the-horizon radar.

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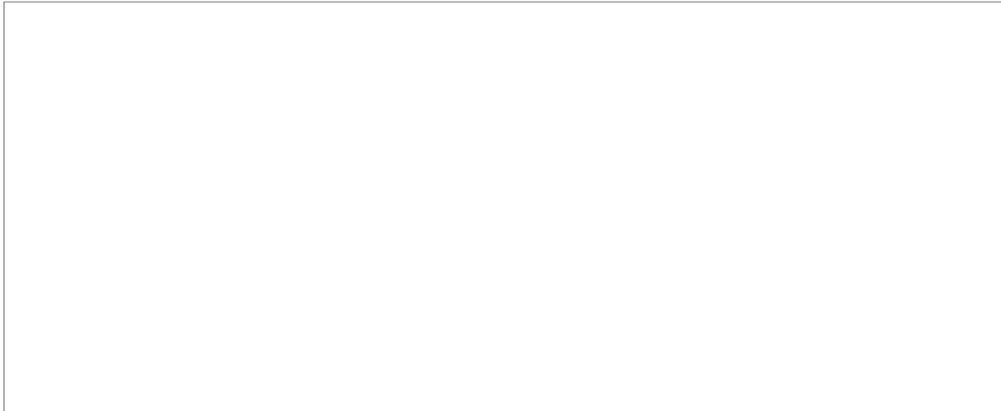
This is the USSR's second such radar, and should take three more years to complete. It covers the Norwegian Sea and the central US. It probably is intended to track aircraft and provide early warning of US SLBM or ICBM launches. Early warning of US ICBM launches would be difficult, however, because of signal interference prevalent in the northern regions.

Over-the-horizon systems, while not as reliable as conventional line-of-sight radars, can transmit signals over far greater distances along the curvature of the earth by using the ionosphere as a reflective surface. Although the capabilities of the Soviet system are not yet known, US radars of this type can detect ballistic missile firings at ranges in excess of 2,000 miles and can track aircraft at lesser distances.

The Soviets have been experimenting with such radars for several years and are in the last stages of construction of their first one near Nikolayev. The Nikolayev system is aimed toward China and probably will be used to detect Chinese missile launches. The West has been using over-the-horizon systems for intelligence and early warning purposes for more than a decade.



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LIBYA-EGYPT

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LIBYA-ITALY

Rome has requested Washington's permission to export 150 M-113 armored personnel carriers to Libya.

This is the second Libyan order of 150 APCs, which are manufactured in Italy under US license. Permission to export the first group was granted last year, and most of them have already been delivered. That agreement also included self-propelled artillery, a large number of trucks, and other equipment.

The USSR and Czechoslovakia, Libya's primary sources of ground force equipment up to now, have supplied Libya with almost 300 medium tanks, 300 APCs, and about 200 artillery pieces since 1970. President Qadhafi's anti-Communist bent, however, has led him to seek other sources. No negotiations with either Moscow or Prague for additional equipment have been noted and deliveries under previous agreements are almost complete.

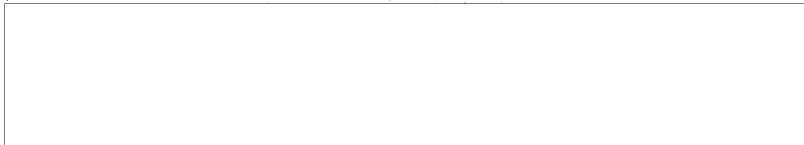
Tripoli's relations with Rome, on the other hand, appear to be warming. Rome recently received US approval to begin deliveries to Libya of 27 Boeing and Augusta Bell helicopters. An Italian firm has contracted to enlarge and improve an airfield in Libya.

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LEBANON

Tumultuous crowds in Beirut yesterday accompanied the funeral corteges of fedayeen leaders slain by Israeli raiders. Ugly mobs roamed the city, chanting slogans against the US, Israel, and their own government. Security forces, however, kept demonstrators away from the US Embassy. By nightfall, Beirut was quiet but tense.



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President Franjiah has not yet accepted the resignation proffered by Prime Minister Salam. He is still consulting with political leaders about the formation of a new government.

Under pressure from the populace and other Arab states, Lebanon reversed itself and lodged a complaint with the UN Security Council late yesterday afternoon. The discussion in the council continues today. The Lebanese claim they seek a resolution condemning "all parties to terrorism," but such wording might not have much support from other Arabs. The US Mission at the UN suspects that the Egyptians and the Soviets want to maneuver the US into vetoing whatever resolution is finally adopted.

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NOTES

World Trade: President Nixon's trade bill has received generally favorable comment abroad. Although some parts of the legislation were criticized because of a "strong protectionist coloring," the provisions for liberalizing trade were welcomed. Europeans are generally pleased that a start has been made toward a US negotiating mandate for multi-lateral bargaining scheduled to begin in September. Considerable uncertainty persists, however, about how the proposals may be changed by the Congress as well as how the administration may ultimately use its broad powers.

EC: The Council of Agricultural Ministers was unable to reach a decision on the EC Commission's farm price recommendations for the 1973/74 marketing year at a meeting early this week. The Commission has proposed that prices be raised by modest amounts that would vary from country to country. The proposal for a small price increase was made with a view toward moving away from high support prices to which the US has long objected. The proposal would also re-establish common prices and eliminate the compensatory taxes and subsidies prompted by currency shifts among EC countries during the past two years.

Laos: North Vietnamese units supported by at least two tanks continued heavy artillery attacks on government units near Tha Viang southeast of the Plaine des Jarres yesterday. Some government units have begun to pull back from forward positions. Heavy ground fire is hampering efforts to evacuate government casualties. Morale is poor among government troops and a general withdrawal from the Tha Viang area could come soon. Most government leaders are in the royal capital of Luang Prabang for the celebration of the Lao new year, and there has been no official comment on the situation at Tha Viang.

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USSR-US: Occidental Petroleum yesterday signed an \$8-billion fertilizer exchange contract with the USSR--the largest Soviet-American trade deal to date. Under the terms of the 20-year contract, Occidental will provide superphosphate fertilizer to the USSR in return for Soviet urea and potash. Occidental will also build four ammonia-urea plants in the USSR taking products of the plants in payment. The larger supply of phosphate fertilizer will help increase crop yields in the USSR, improve grain quality, and accelerate the ripening of grain.

Italy: After repeated defeats of government-sponsored legislation, Prime Minister Andreotti has called for and won three votes of confidence. His margin was slim, but the government parties held together, apparently with Andreotti's visit to Washington next week in the back of their minds. Moreover, Italian political leaders would like to postpone any changes until June, so that they can better assess the political climate and the chances of forming a new government.

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