



*The President's Daily Brief*

*19 April 1973*

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TOP SECRET

April 19, 1973

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Lebanese President Franjyah has charged Amin al-Hafiz, a moderate leftist deputy, with forming a new government to cope with the powerful reaction to last week's Israeli raid. (Page 1)

In Cambodia, President Lon Nol is encountering some trouble in his attempt to form a coalition political council. (Page 2)

China's construction of new military airfields has fallen off dramatically. (Page 3)

A new Soviet military airlift to Aden is under way. (Page 3)

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LEBANON

President Franjiyah yesterday named Amin al-Hafiz, a moderate leftist member of the Chamber of Deputies, as prime minister - designate charged with the formation of a new government of national reconciliation.

*In addition to balancing political as well as religious factions in the Lebanese custom, Hafiz will primarily seek a cabinet that can cope with the powerful domestic reaction to last week's Israeli incursion.*

*Public opinion has shifted markedly toward support of the fedayeen, and the US Embassy reports that anti-American sentiment has reached its highest level since the Arab-Israeli war in 1967. In these circumstances any new government will be hard-pressed even to maintain present controls on the fedayeen.*

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CAMBODIA

President Lon Nol is running into trouble in his effort to broaden the government by forming a coalition political council.

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*opposition figures clearly indicate that Lon Nol has done little to sell the council to these men.*

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NOTES

China: Construction of new military airfields and hardened aircraft facilities has fallen off dramatically from a peak in 1971. [redacted]

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[redacted] work on only two airfields and four underground aircraft storage facilities was begun last year, and all of these are incomplete. Since 1964, when the expansion program began, the Chinese have built or rebuilt 107 airfields [redacted]

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[redacted] The sharp decline may reflect either the end of this ambitious effort or its temporary interruption owing to the general reduction in China's military programs that occurred in 1972.

USSR - Yemen (Aden): A new Soviet airlift, the third in the past year, is under way. Two military AN-12 transports arrived in Aden on April 12 [redacted]

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[redacted] the cargo may include jet fighters. [redacted]

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Japan-China: Tokyo has agreed to buy one million tons of low-sulfur oil from Peking this year. Although the amount involved is relatively small, China has not previously exported crude oil. This also is the first time that Peking has been willing to supply Japan with a strategically important resource.

European Communities: The EC Commission has generally agreed on the broad outline for the second phase of the European monetary cooperation fund which will be submitted to the EC Council by late June. The Commission favors the establishment of a fund that initially would total \$12 billion. Member countries could draw on this fund to maintain their currencies within the EC band or to meet temporary balance-of-payments difficulties. The proposal faces objections and delays, but acceptance with some modifications seems likely.

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