



The President's Daily Brief

31 August 1973



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

31 August 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The new men at the top of the Chinese party appear to be people with whom Chou En-lai can work. (Page 1)

There is tenuous evidence that the Soviets may have shipped "Scud" tactical ballistic missiles to Egypt or Syria. (Page 3)

Israel [redacted] (Page 5)

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Another Soviet submarine has joined the flotilla already in Cuba. (Page 6)

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THE NEW POLITBURO OF THE 10th CENTRAL COMMITTEE

*Mao Tse-Tung, Chairman

†*Wang Hung-wen	Number-three man of Shanghai and the fastest rising member of China's present leadership; a Cultural Revolution activist and a probable protege of Chang Chun-chiao, he may have moderated his once-radical political position.
†Wei Kuo-ching	Boss of Kwangsi Province who came down hard on rampaging Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution.
*Yeh Chien-ying	A military man and de facto defense minister.
Liu Po-cheng	Retired marshal; an honorary elder.
Chiang Ching	Mao's wife and leader of radical elements during the Cultural Revolution.
*Chu Te	Retired marshal and early builder of the army; an honorary elder.
Hsu Shih-yu	Kiangsu party boss and commander of Nanking Military Region.
†Hua Kuo-feng	Hunan party boss now residing in Peking and active in national politics since the Cultural Revolution; little is known of his political views.
Chi Teng-kuei	From Honan Province; rose to prominence during the Cultural Revolution.
†Wu Teh	Peking party boss and former head of Kirin Province.
Wang Tung-hsing	Mao's former bodyguard; director of the central office of the Central Committee.
†Chen Yung-kuei	Boss of Tachai Commune, China's national agricultural model.
Chen Hsi-lien	Liaoning party boss and commander of Shenyeng Military Region.
Li Hsien-nien	Finance minister and long-time associate of Chou En-lai.
*Li Te-sheng	A military man, head of the General Political Department of People's Liberation Army, and Anhwei Province party boss.
*Chang Chun-chiao	Party boss of Shanghai and possibly party secretary general; generally believed to be one of the more powerful members of the Politburo who may have moderated his former radical views.
*Chou En-lai	Premier.
Yao Wen-yuan	Number-two man in Shanghai and a prominent leader of radical forces during the Cultural Revolution.
*Kang Sheng	Former head of the security apparatus who was criticized for radical excesses during the Cultural Revolution; believed to be in poor health.
*Tung Pi-wu	An honorary elder who is acting President of the People's Republic of China.

ALTERNATES TO THE POLITBURO

†Wu Kuei-hsien	A female worker
†Su Chen-hua	Deputy commander of the navy
†Ni Chih-fu	A worker
†Saifudin	Head of Sinkiang Province and, as a Uighur, one of the highest ranking minority cadre in China

* Member of Standing Committee of Politburo † New member of Politburo

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CHINA

The new party Politburo, elected yesterday, is a fairly balanced mix of party regulars, Cultural Revolution ideologues, military men, and elder statesmen. It is the same size as its predecessor--21 full members and four alternates.

All of the recently active members were re-elected, and none of the party officials rehabilitated earlier this year regained Politburo membership. There are nine newcomers, including four provincial party chiefs--all civilians--a deputy commander of the navy, three workers, and one "model peasant." Two of the newcomers are from ethnic minority groups.

The Central Committee elected five vice chairmen of the party, and it seems likely that this group would become a collective leadership in the immediate aftermath of Mao's death. Chou En-lai is foremost among this group. An important role over the longer term will be played by the two younger vice chairmen, Wang Hung-wen, a party official from Shanghai in his mid-30s, and Li Te-sheng, a military man who rose to prominence during the Cultural Revolution. Both appear to have radical backgrounds, but both--particularly Wang--may have moderated their views in order to fit in.

The Politburo's powerful Standing Committee--which conducts the party's day-to-day business--consists of Mao, the five vice chairmen, two honorary elders, and Shanghai party boss Chang Chun-chiao, probably one of the most powerful members of the top leadership. Chang was not named a party vice chairman, but this may mean only that he was given the post of party secretary general, which because of its administrative function centers a great deal of power in the hands of one individual. The elevation of the two elder statesmen to the Standing Committee was probably designed to deny these positions to Madame Mao and her protegee Yao Wen-yuan, two ardent leftists who have clearly been downgraded.

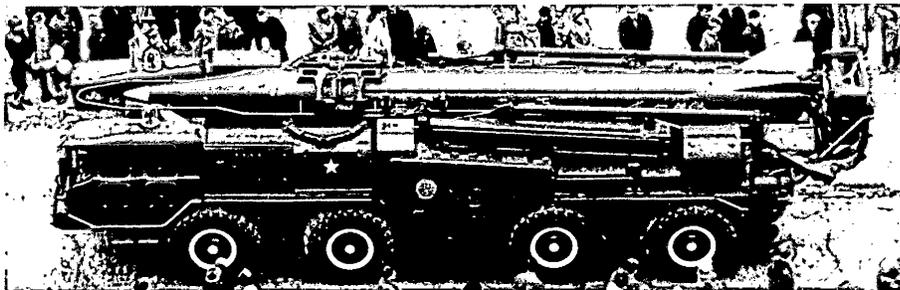
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Although the top echelons of the party-- the vice chairmen and the Standing Committee--include several former leftists, these appear to be people with whom Chou En-lai can work. Chou was probably strengthened by the addition to the Politburo of moderate provincial leaders and by the election to the Central Committee of several government officials who are close to him.

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Soviet Scud-B Tactical Missile on Transporter-Erector-Launcher Vehicle



Initial operational capability	1961
Maximum range	160 nm
Accuracy	0.3 nm CEP
Guidance	Inertial
Warhead	2,000 lb (HE, CW, Nuclear)

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USSR-EGYPT-SYRIA

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The "Scud" is a tactical ballistic missile that can deliver a 2,000-pound nuclear or conventional warhead to a range of about 160 nautical miles. It is roughly comparable to the Jericho missile system the Israelis are developing. Nikolayev is a major port for the shipment of military goods to the Middle East.

[Redacted] two freighters of the same class departed the Black Sea, one bound for Cuba and the other for the Egyptian and Syrian ports of Alexandria and Latakia. Since then another Soviet freighter has visited Latakia and Alexandria, carrying as deck cargo five tractor trucks of the type used as a prime mover for the Scud transporter trailer, but not unique to that weapons system. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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There has been no reporting from any other source indicating that Scud equipment has been sent to Egypt or Syria. All collection systems have been alerted. Two attempts to photograph Nikolayev in early August to ascertain whether the equipment was still there were balked by clouds.

[Redacted]

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Acquisition of such a weapon would give Syria the capability to hit most of Israel and would make all of Sinai a target for Egypt. The Scud is not capable of pinpoint accuracy, however, and without a nuclear warhead it is not effective against small targets.

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ISRAEL

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NOTES

USSR-Cuba: A Soviet F-class diesel attack submarine, which had entered the Caribbean undetected,

[redacted] Also present were a nuclear-powered cruise missile submarine and a guided-missile cruiser and destroyer which had entered the port on [redacted] All the Soviet ships except the F-class submarine had departed Cienfuegos by the morning of [redacted] They will probably participate in exercises with Cuban naval units for the next month.

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Argentina: Some Peronists reportedly plan to use a massive labor rally today in Buenos Aires to call for the immediate designation of Peron as president. While Peron still seems committed to the elections planned for September 23, the meandering course he has pursued in recent months makes it difficult to discount the possibility of a sudden shift.

Pakistan: A preliminary estimate of flood damage by the US Embassy in Islamabad indicates that more than 10 percent of the wheat harvested last spring and roughly 15 percent of the current rice crop have been destroyed. Some 100,000 tons of maize and other minor food crops, as well as 120,000 tons of sugar and 40,000 tons of cottonseed oil have been lost. The government will have to import wheat and will not be able to export much rice this year. Cotton, a major foreign currency earner, has also suffered, and its export has been banned. Government relief efforts have been reasonably effective, but in the long term stability depends on the government's importing adequate food and keeping prices within reasonable bounds.

Nonaligned Conference: The meeting, opening Sunday in Algiers, will probably pass a resolution condemning Israeli "aggression" and the US for its Middle East policy, and calling for more support of the Arab cause. Egypt is expected to take the lead in lobbying for votes.

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