



The President's Daily Brief

3 September 1973

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The UK, which has just completed a re-evaluation of its policy toward force reduction negotiations, has not changed its basic belief that force reductions could weaken Western security. *(Page 1)*

The Soviets have been uncomfortable about the effects of the US-USSR detente on their relations with the "third world," and have been trying to disassociate themselves from "US imperialism" in preparation for the nonaligned conference. *(Page 2)*

The initial complement of North Korea's observer mission at the UN, which arrives in New York today, can be expected to move into high gear in pressing Pyongyang's strategy on the debate of the Korean question. *(Page 3)*

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NATO - FORCE REDUCTIONS

The UK has just completed a re-evaluation of its policy toward force reduction negotiations which it will present to the allies in Brussels this week. The US Embassy in London reports that although London has not changed its basic belief that force reductions could weaken Western security, it has been somewhat encouraged by the willingness of the US to refine its position.

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British continue to stress that the early stages of the negotiations should concentrate on exploring the other side's attitudes, not on presenting specific proposals.

--The British still have reservations concerning the size of proposed reductions of US and Soviet forces, but as long as the NATO allies pursue with determination the aim of getting the Soviets to withdraw a tank army, the UK will accept the US proposals. London believes the size of the US reduction ultimately will depend chiefly on American domestic political considerations and is prepared to accept Washington's judgment on this matter.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] the British want NATO to insist that there be a common ceiling for both manpower and equipment.

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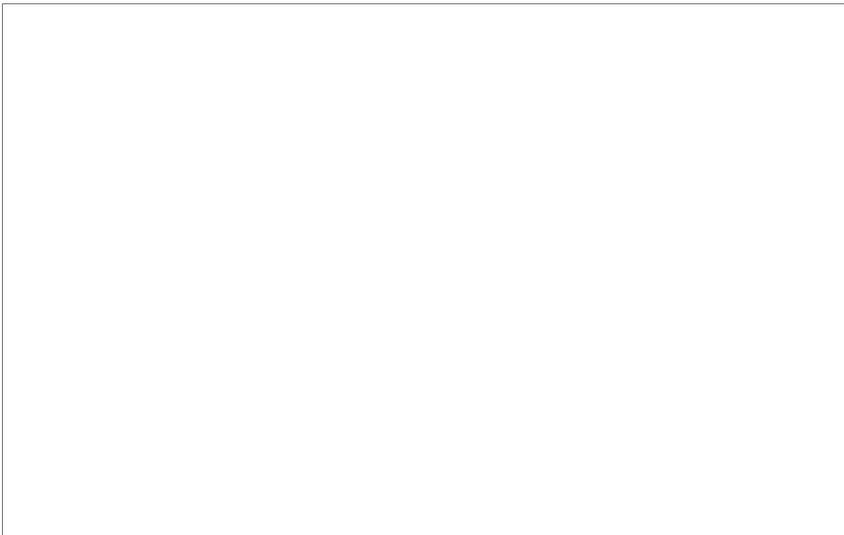
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USSR - CUBA - NONALIGNED CONFERENCE

The Soviets have been uncomfortable about the effects of the US-USSR detente on their relations with the "third world." They have been trying to disassociate themselves from "US imperialism" in preparation for the nonaligned conference which opened in Algeria yesterday.



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On the surface, the Soviets are treating the conference approvingly and as compatible with their interests. TASS, however, has acknowledged and condemned talk of "superpowers' collusion" as "fabrications of the reactionary press and Maoist propaganda." Even Brezhnev's laudatory message to the conference referred to problems posed by equating the USSR with "the big capitalist states."

Moscow's ace-in-the-hole may turn out to be Cuban Prime Minister Castro, who appears to have reluctantly agreed to put on a command performance in behalf of Moscow to debunk any rhetoric about "two imperialisms."

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Castro's mission apparently is to get the conferees to discard the "third world" concept and to accept a "two world" idea, pitting the US against Communist, nonaligned, and underdeveloped states centered around the USSR.

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Even if Castro's ploy is turned down, its introduction may well serve to take the heat off the Soviet Union during the conference.

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NORTH KOREA

The initial complement of North Korea's observer mission at the UN arrives in New York today.

It can be expected to move into high gear in pressing Pyongyang's strategy on the debate of the Korean question in the General Assembly.

--Pyongyang wants to see the UN's political and military roles terminated; several of its allies, headed by Algeria, will sponsor a resolution to this effect.

--The resolution may also call for General Assembly endorsement of the elimination of foreign military influence (i.e., US) in Korea.

--Finally, Pyongyang may seek support for its latest unification proposal.

This calls, in part, for the two Koreas to enter the UN as a single confederated state and is intended to counter Seoul's proposal for dual UN membership for the Koreas. Pyongyang claims the South Korean concept would perpetuate the division of Korea.

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