



The President's Daily Brief

17 September 1973

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

17 September 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are signs that phase II of CSCE will be a lot more contentious than the Soviets would like. They will come under fire for repressing dissidents and resisting freer exchange. This phase is likely to drag on into next year despite Moscow's wish to wrap it up more quickly. (Page 1)

The discovery of guerrilla camps and arms caches in Chile has given the junta useful evidence that, before the coup, leftists had been planning early attacks on the military. The junta's brisk moves in administrative and economic matters should help it bring about a semblance of normalcy soon and win wider support. (Page 3)

In Cambodia the focus of military action has shifted away from Kompong Cham; there is evidence that the insurgents intend to attack two other provincial capitals. (Page 5)

Notes on yesterday's elections in Sweden [redacted]

[redacted]
appear on Page 6.

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CSCE

Stage II of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which opens tomorrow in Geneva, is likely to be more contentious than the Soviets would like. Some Western countries seem prepared to criticize the heavy-handed drive against Soviet dissidents and Moscow's resistance to freer exchange. The Dutch Foreign Minister, for example, has stated publicly that his government is "extremely alarmed" by the USSR's repressive actions, and intends to raise the matter in Geneva.

Moscow's recent tactics suggest considerable worry that it is in for a beating on this issue. The rather strong reaction in the West to the anti-dissident measures has already persuaded the Soviets to ease up a bit, and they have tried to limit the damage by taking the conciliatory step of ending the jamming of most Western broadcasts.

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There is considerable feeling in Western Europe that if detente is to have any concrete expression, it must be in the area of greater East-West contacts. Moscow has already been surprised by Western firmness and unity on this issue. Significant Soviet concessions in this sensitive area will come only slowly and painfully, if at all. It is a good bet, however, that the USSR will have to show some flexibility if it wants CSCE to conclude successfully.

Moscow's chief aim is to secure formal multilateral endorsement of post-World War II frontiers and ratification of the division of Germany. West European countries are prepared to accept the principle of "inviolability of frontiers" in some form, but some will try to hammer out wording that will allow for peaceful border changes in the future.

(continued)

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At this session East and West will have to tackle the substance of troublesome issues they have not really addressed so far. The West Europeans are prepared to argue long and forcefully for their points of view, and phase II is likely to drag on into next year despite Moscow's wish to wrap it up more quickly.

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CHILE

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[Redacted]

The discovery of guerrilla camps and arms caches in Santiago and some southern provinces provides the military with useful evidence that Chilean, Cuban, and other Latin American revolutionaries were preparing to "eliminate the armed forces," probably in retaliation for military raids on leftist strongholds prior to the coup.

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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Despite junta president General Pinochet's claim that fewer than 100 Chileans have died in the violence, [Redacted] other junta officials, estimate that at least 4,000 people had been killed by September 13. The armed forces have been surprised at the heavy resistance encountered in the crowded Santiago slums. They have postponed air and artillery attacks in order to avoid killing innocent civilians living there. The junta is backing up its increasingly hard anti-Marxist line, however, with extensive arrests, summary execution of armed resisters, and plans for execution, imprisonment, or exile of key Allende supporters.

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The military government is annoyed at the stance of the Christian Democratic Party, despite the party's mild statement of support for the junta. The party has taken sharp exception to the dissolution of Congress, where it had the largest representation.

The junta's brisk moves in administrative and economic matters should soon help to bring about the semblance of normalcy that the armed forces

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want. The military is reversing many of the most deeply resented agricultural and distribution policies of the Allende administration.

If the junta can ease urgent shortages and cope with other immediate economic problems, it will be tolerated if not acclaimed by the large Chilean middle class that had been taking the brunt of the squeeze. This could include the labor elites, such as the copper workers. On the other hand, the lowest paid workers, who under Allende fared better than ever in their history, will be more receptive to leftist urgings to oppose the new government.

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CAMBODIA

Over the weekend the focus of Communist military activity shifted away from Kompong Cham when neither side made any headway.

Southeast of Phnom Penh the Communists have once again cut Route 1 and have rebuffed government efforts to reopen the road.

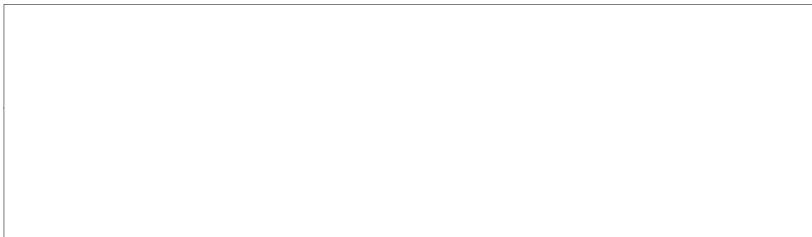
The Communist command also appears bent on expanding its campaign against other key provincial capitals. An intercept tells of plans to shell Kompong Speu and Kompong Chhnang so as to force the civilian population to flee to insurgent-controlled areas. Kompong Speu has already come under sporadic rocket and mortar fire, and insurgent leaders are discussing the possibility of moving a light artillery piece into the Kompong Chhnang area to support a planned attack on the city.

The Communists probably have no illusions of occupying either city at this time. The timing of the attacks does suggest, however, that they want not only to distract government forces from reopening Routes 4 and 5 but, more importantly, to divert crucial government reserves from the defense of Kompong Cham.

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NOTES

Sweden: Olof Palme apparently will remain Prime Minister for another three years, even though voters moved to the right in yesterday's elections. According to the latest returns, Palme's Social Democrats lost six seats in parliament, reducing their total to 157. The Communists, however, won an additional two seats for a total of 19, enabling the Communist - Social Democratic voting bloc to retain a slim 176 to 174 majority. Palme will have to try to reverse the trend away from his party. Sweden's behavior on international issues in the months ahead is likely to depend largely on which former supporters he attempts to recapture--those that have moved toward the center, or others that have strayed further to the left.



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