

The President's Daily Brief

30 November 1973



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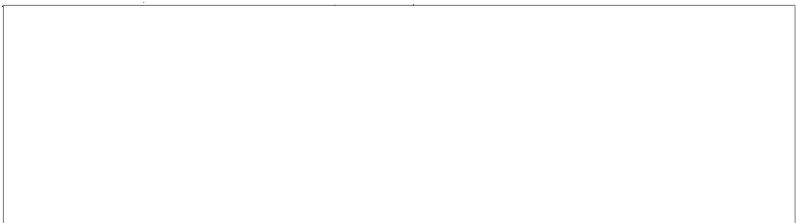
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

30 November 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Egypt accompanied its announcement yesterday of a halt in the disengagement talks with accusations and a stern warning to the Israelis. There are indications, however, that only a suspension of negotiations may be intended. (Page 1)



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West Germany is now willing to normalize relations with Czechoslovakia before settling the question of Bonn's right to represent West Berlin's legal interests. (Page 4)

The political controversy in China that began some weeks ago with debates over ancient sages and emperors is moving into a new and more open stage. (Page 5)

Military leaders in Argentina have decided to support Peron's wife should she succeed to the presidency through her husband's death or incapacitation. (Page 6)

Bangladesh / Pakistan.

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(Page 7)

Notes on the Soviet launching of an unmanned Soyuz spacecraft and Saudi Arabia's interest in purchasing more tanks from France appear on Page 8.

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ARAB STATES - ISRAEL

Egypt accompanied its announcement yesterday of a halt in the disengagement talks at Kilometer 101 with accusations and a stern warning to the Israelis. Cairo charged Tel Aviv with evading implementation of the six-point cease-fire accord and reneging on earlier proposals for disengagement and warned that Israel will be held responsible for "all consequences."

[redacted]

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[redacted] the Egyptians went to yesterday's meeting expecting answers on specific questions concerning the depth of Israel's withdrawal and the size, disposition, and armored strength of its force in Sinai. The Israelis [redacted] had neither answers nor new proposals and rejected all Egyptian suggestions. [redacted] the talks ended with agreement to meet again in the near future. [redacted]

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[redacted] the [redacted] story may indicate that Cairo believes a delay, accompanied by an admonition to Tel Aviv, will induce the US to press Israel to move more quickly toward carrying out the six-point accord.

The Israelis have been slow to react to the break in negotiations. General Yariv, Israel's chief representative at the talks, commented soon after yesterday's session that he assumed talks would continue although he admitted no date had been set for the next session. He emphasized that the two sides had agreed to establish contacts at the local level in an effort to prevent further military incidents. Yariv described the main stumbling block in the talks as failure to agree on the "principle of territorial reciprocity."

The Israeli press reported sporadic exchanges of small arms fire at various points along the Egyptian front. One clash lasted over 30 minutes and involved anti-tank missiles in addition to light arms fire.

(continued)

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Egyptian air defense forces are maintaining a high degree of alert. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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After an interval of little Soviet military transport activity in the Middle East, three AN-22 aircraft arrived in Damascus yesterday. Two others arrived in Damascus on November 28.

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WEST GERMANY - CZECHOSLOVAKIA

West Germany is now willing to normalize relations with Czechoslovakia before settling the question of Bonn's right to represent West Berlin's legal interests. Negotiations broke down earlier this month when Prague rejected a compromise which would have permitted West Berlin and West German courts to deal directly with their East European counterparts.

Bonn's concession weakens its claim to a special relationship with West Berlin. The move was presumably prompted by a desire to give a needed boost to Ostpolitik, and by a wish to allay Soviet concern that Bonn might be losing interest in ties to the East. The legal assistance issue will probably be left to Brandt to negotiate when he visits Moscow early next year.

West German Foreign Ministry sources expect the treaty with Czechoslovakia to be ready for signing by December 12, and Bonn now hopes to establish relations with Hungary and Bulgaria before the end of the year.

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CHINA

The political controversy that began some weeks ago with policy debates and criticisms of ancient sages and emperors is moving into a new and more open stage. For the first time since the controversy began, wall posters attacking current or recent local leaders by name have been seen in several provinces.

Posters calling for the dismissal of unnamed provincial and municipal leaders were seen in Wuhan in mid-November. At least one of them demanded the repayment of a "blood debt" owed by the left since the Cultural Revolution; other posters attacked former leftist leaders and Red Guard groups in Hupeh Province. In Shantung Province, the current first secretary has been attacked by name.

While most of the criticism in the posters, as well as that in recent media articles, appears to be directed against the left, some of it seems less sharply focused and may reflect old grudges. In fact, there are indications that a more intense political conflict on the national level is fanning local political and personal differences carried over from the Cultural Revolution.

The future course and ultimate objectives of the campaign clearly have not yet been settled by the leadership at the center. Indeed, this lack of definition strengthens the impression that powerful national leaders may be themselves in conflict. There have been increasingly broad hints in the domestic media that the two main protagonists are Premier Chou En-lai and Chiang Ching, Mao's wife. Some analysts, however, believe that it is too early to tell how far up the leadership hierarchy the problem goes.

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ARGENTINA

Military leaders have decided to support Peron's wife should she succeed to the presidency through her husband's death or incapacitation. They believe there are no acceptable alternatives to Vice President Maria Estela de Peron. She and her closest associates are linked with the conservative faction of the Peronist movement, and the military regard her as someone they can control. Moreover, her assumption of the presidency would be constitutional and would eliminate the necessity of holding elections which the officers fear would bring a leftist to power.

Although the military's solution might be acceptable to old-line Peronists, the left wing of the coalition would not tolerate Maria Peron's accession for long. A violent reaction from young Peronists and revolutionary groups within the movement could force the military to play a more open role in the government than they now wish to do.

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NOTES

USSR: The Soviets this morning orbited an un-manned Soyuz spacecraft. The spacecraft was launched from Tyuratam and is expected to be recovered. The Soviets may be testing design changes in the spacecraft in preparation for the joint US Apollo - Soviet Soyuz mission scheduled for 1975.

Saudi Arabia - France: Riyadh is seeking 300 additional French AMX-30 tanks and is considering buying the Crotale surface-to-air missile system. Paris is already a major source of much of Saudi Arabia's ground forces equipment and probably will approve the sale. Deliveries of some 200 AMX-30 medium tanks, purchased earlier, began this year and are scheduled to be completed by 1975.

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