



# The President's Daily Brief

*20 December 1973*



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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

LATE ITEM

Spain: Premier Luis Carrero Blanco died this morning as the result of injuries sustained when his car was caught in an apparent explosion of an underground gas main in Madrid. There is no evidence of sabotage at this time. Franco had relinquished the post of premier to Carrero in June but had retained his two other top positions as chief of state and supreme commander of the armed forces. Carrero will be replaced for the present by Deputy Premier Fernandez Miranda.

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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The dispute over regional development policy at this week's EC Council meeting has dimmed the limited achievements of the community summit last weekend. (Page 2)

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Peron's move against the commander of the Argentine Army appear on Page 3.

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ARAB STATES - ISRAEL

The cease-fire lines remained relatively quiet as Egypt and Israel prepared to meet at Geneva tomorrow to explore the possibilities for an Arab-Israeli settlement.

The Egyptian foreign minister yesterday reiterated Cairo's commitment to secure Israel's complete withdrawal from Arab territories and the restoration of Palestinian rights. In an allusion to Syria's reasons for not attending the conference, he pledged that his delegation does not intend to enter into peripheral details in the discussions.

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President Asad held talks yesterday with Jordan's King Husayn in Damascus. Husayn visited Syria primarily to discuss Arab support for Jordan's attendance at the conference and to work out details of the Jordan Arab Army's role should fighting resume on the Syrian front.

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

A sharp dispute over regional development policy at this week's EC Council meeting has dimmed the limited achievements of the community summit last weekend and has made it clear that summitry is no substitute for the familiar tough bargaining in the community's institutions.

The Council meeting broke down because Britain refused to accept the small figure West Germany proposed for the first three years' operations of a regional development fund. France, like Germany, favors a small fund.

The transfer of resources involved in the regional fund is of major political importance to the UK, Italy, and Ireland; they would be the principal beneficiaries. The direct transfer of funds from rich to poor regions, moreover, would mark an important step in the development of economic integration.

The British insist that the Council agree on the regional fund before London endorses the energy policy measures proposed at the summit. Stage two of the planned economic and monetary union has also been postponed as a result of the blow-up.

The Council is scheduled to meet again on January 7 to try to resolve differences over regional policy. Domestic politics in virtually all of the EC countries, however, will make it hard for their representatives to compromise.

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NOTES

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Argentina: President Peron has forced out the commander of the Argentine Army because of rumors that he had presidential ambitions. The new army chief may be only temporary until Peron has time to purge the army and bring into command younger officers more responsive to his direction. The President cleaned out anti-Peronists from the navy earlier this month.

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