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The President's Daily Brief

March 22, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

March 22, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Egyptian Army is demobilizing some of its reserves that were called up for the October war. (Page 1)

[redacted] Warsaw Pact [redacted] (Page 2)

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[redacted] (Page 3)

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President Pompidou's health has caused cancellation of his trip to Japan. (Page 4)

Changes in the Hungarian leadership have weakened the position of party chief Janos Kadar. (Page 5)

[redacted] Havana [redacted] Mexican [redacted] Page 6.

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EGYPT

The Egyptian Army is demobilizing some of its reserves that were called up for the October war. According to a reliable source of the US Embassy in Cairo, a group was scheduled to be released on March 16 and a second group on April 16.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] The Egyptian Navy has also demobilized some commandos.

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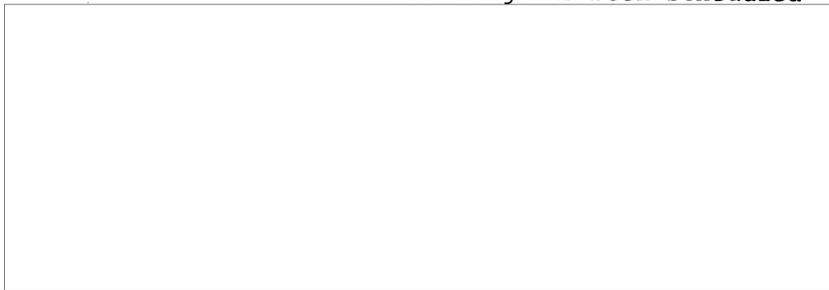
The release of reservists from active duty would be in line with what appears to be a generally relaxed posture in the Egyptian military.

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WARSAW PACT

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A Warsaw Pact summit meeting has been scheduled



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CAMBODIA

In discussions last week with the French ambassador to Peking, Sihanouk's "prime minister," Penn Nouth, stressed that there can be no political dealings with the Lon Nol government and that "US efforts" to create such a dialogue are in vain. According to Nouth, Sihanouk will negotiate only with the US, and if the US does not respond, the war will continue "as long as necessary." Nouth argued that prolonging the conflict will serve to enhance the Khmer Communists' political power at the expense of "moderates" such as himself and Sihanouk.

Sihanouk himself revived the subject of talks between his "government" and the US in a speech made in Laos on March 12. There are no signs, however, that Khmer Communist leaders in Cambodia are ready to consider a compromise settlement with the Lon Nol government. In the most recent restatement of the insurgents' position, a senior Khmer Communist official in Paris ruled out any negotiations leading to a coalition government or a territorial division of the country. He said that there could be no "third force" solution for Cambodia and took some pains to proclaim the Khmer Communists' independence from their allies.

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FRANCE

The counselor of the Japanese Embassy in Paris told a US official yesterday that President Pompidou's trip to Japan has been canceled [redacted] [redacted] The trip had been scheduled for April 23-26. Pompidou also had to cancel an appearance at an important diplomatic function yesterday.

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HUNGARY

A shake-up in the top Hungarian leadership has weakened the political position of party chief Janos Kadar and dealt a major setback to Budapest's more liberal economic and cultural policies. Personnel changes announced at a party plenum late Thursday indicate that Kadar has acceded to pressures for increased orthodoxy both from Moscow and from Hungarian conservatives.

The key victims of the shake-up were the party secretaries in charge of economics and cultural affairs who were symbols of Kadar's cautiously liberal domestic policies. The party official responsible for daily supervision of the military and security organs was also replaced, suggesting that some laxities had developed in these sensitive areas.

Kadar's position has been weakened, but he is very adept at balancing competing political interests. Kadar's decision to chair the commission that will draft a new party program indicates that he is determined to weather the current set-back and to limit the damage done to his economic and cultural policies.

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NOTE

Mexico-Cuba:

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