



The President's Daily Brief

March 29, 1974



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Israeli Defense Minister Dayan may be bringing to Washington a detailed proposal for disengagement on the Golan Heights, but he expects no early breakthrough. (Page 1)

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The Communists are moving large quantities of supplies, about half of it ordnance, southward through South Vietnam's Quang Tri Province. (Page 2)

West German [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] (Page 3)

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Yugoslav [redacted]
[redacted]
(Page 4)

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The border dispute between Chile and Peru could involve the President of the United States under terms of a 1929 treaty. (Page 5)

A note on the equipping of all but one Soviet army with mobile surface-to-air missiles appears on Page 6.

ISRAEL-SYRIA

The Israeli press claims that Defense Minister Dayan is bringing a detailed proposal for disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces to his talks with Secretary Kissinger.

According to the influential Israeli daily Haaretz, Tel Aviv's proposal would include withdrawal by Israel within the salient occupied during the October war to a distance of about 15 kilometers. Ten kilometers would be returned to Syria, and UN forces would occupy a five-kilometer area between the Syrians and the Israelis. The Israelis would retain a five-kilometer area within the salient.

Under this plan, forces within the salient and to an additional depth of 20 kilometers on each side would be thinned out. South of this salient, where the 1967 cease-fire line still divides the adversaries, a narrow no man's land would be created with forces thinned out on either side. According to Haaretz, POWs would have to be exchanged before any withdrawal takes place.

The Israelis are aware that their proposal would be unacceptable to the Syrians, who have insisted on immediate Israeli withdrawal from all the territory occupied in 1973 as well as from the town of Al-Qunaytirah, captured by the Israelis in 1967 but briefly held by the Syrians in October. The Syrians have also publicly insisted that Israeli agreement to withdraw from all occupied territories is a precondition for a disengagement agreement.

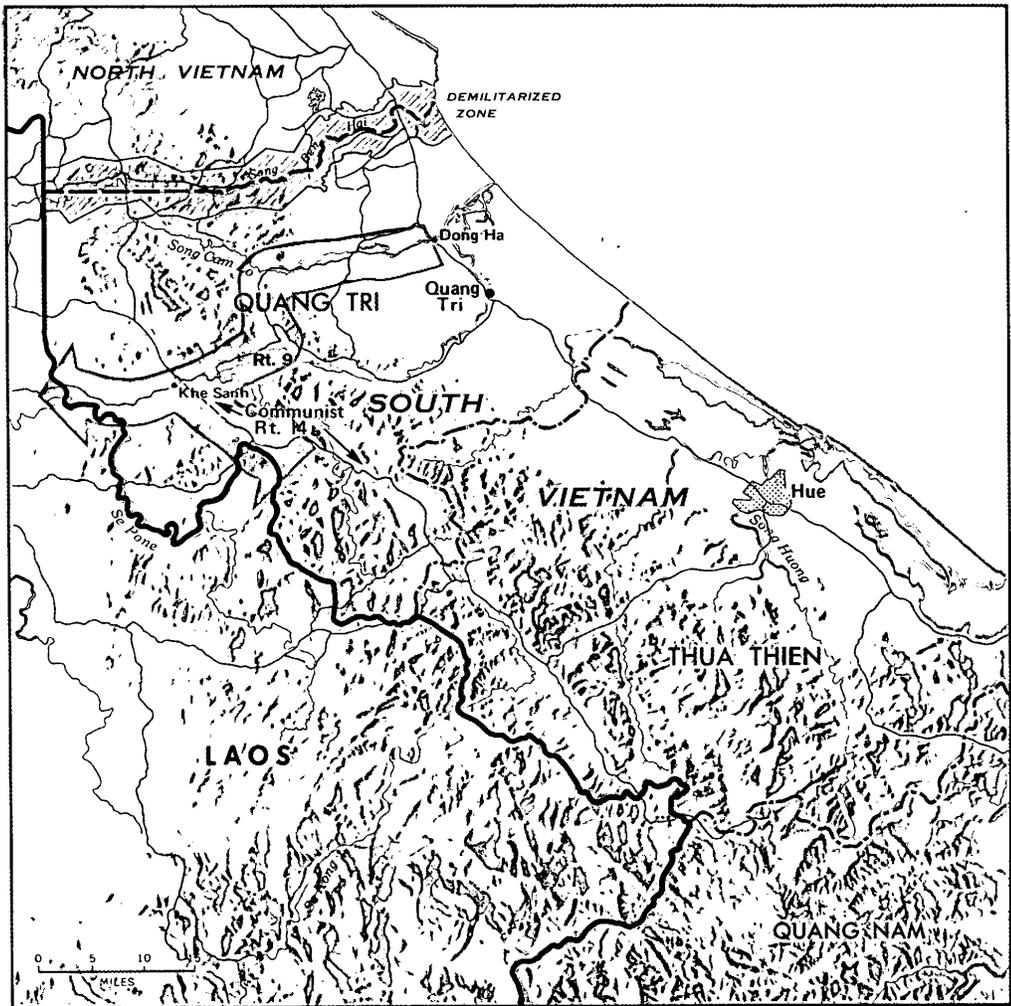
Israeli commentators say that Dayan does not expect any concrete results from the Washington meeting and that Israel is apparently prepared to see negotiations with Syria drag out for several months.

The current fighting along the Golan front, now in its third week, has been primarily the result of a Syrian effort--imitating Egypt--to bring pressure for a settlement. The Israeli response has varied widely. On several days the Israelis chose not to return the Syrian fire, but it was Israeli artillery that opened the heavy exchanges that lasted some 14 hours on March 27. It is unlikely that this action signifies an Israeli intent to expand the fighting or to begin any offensive against the Syrian forces.

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Communist Logistic Activity



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INDOCHINA

The Communists are moving large quantities of supplies through northern South Vietnam. Analysis of communications intelligence shows that since the beginning of the year, a North Vietnamese logistic unit in northern Quang Tri Province has handled possibly as much as 65,000 tons of cargo. About half of this is ordnance. The unit is responsible for moving supplies eastward along Route 9 from Dong Ha into Laos, and southward along Communist Route 14.

Most of the supplies probably go to units in South Vietnam, although small quantities may also be sent to Laos and Cambodia. The amount of ordnance handled during the past few months would allow the Communists in South Vietnam to continue fighting for several years at the current level and for more than a year at increased levels. These supplies supplement the sizable quantity of materiel which the Communists already had in South Vietnam.

The North Vietnamese have normally attempted to maintain large stockpiles of ordnance in South Vietnam, regardless of the level of fighting there.

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WEST GERMANY

West German Defense Minister Leber, discouraged over the continuing drift in Atlantic relations, is more than ever convinced that close defense ties with the US are vital for Germany's security. Leber has taken a strong stand, and apparently has helped influence the West German cabinet to espouse the idea of "effective consultations" with the US.



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Leber has persuaded the current Eurogroup chairman, Norwegian Defense Minister Fostervoll, to call a meeting in early May for "stocktaking and planning." Leber apparently plans to press at that time for further steps toward defense coordination and cooperation.

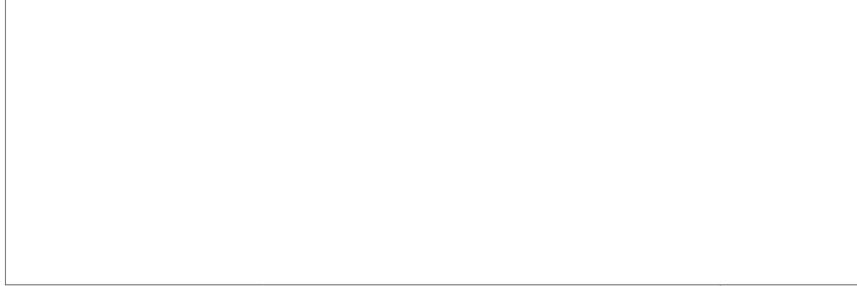


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YUGOSLAVIA

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Belgrade's decision to publicize some of its moves, notably the dispatch of tanks into Zone B and inspection trips there by navy and air force commanders, suggests the Yugoslavs are using the dispute to make it clear to all their neighbors that they intend to defend their country's territorial integrity.



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Monday. They said that increased Yugoslav military activity should be viewed in the context of a "defense against any and all powers" that might threaten Yugoslavia's sovereignty--presumably including the USSR. The generals claimed that their country is acting correctly in "signaling" its displeasure with the Italians, but they stressed that Belgrade's moves should not be read as a threat to Italy.

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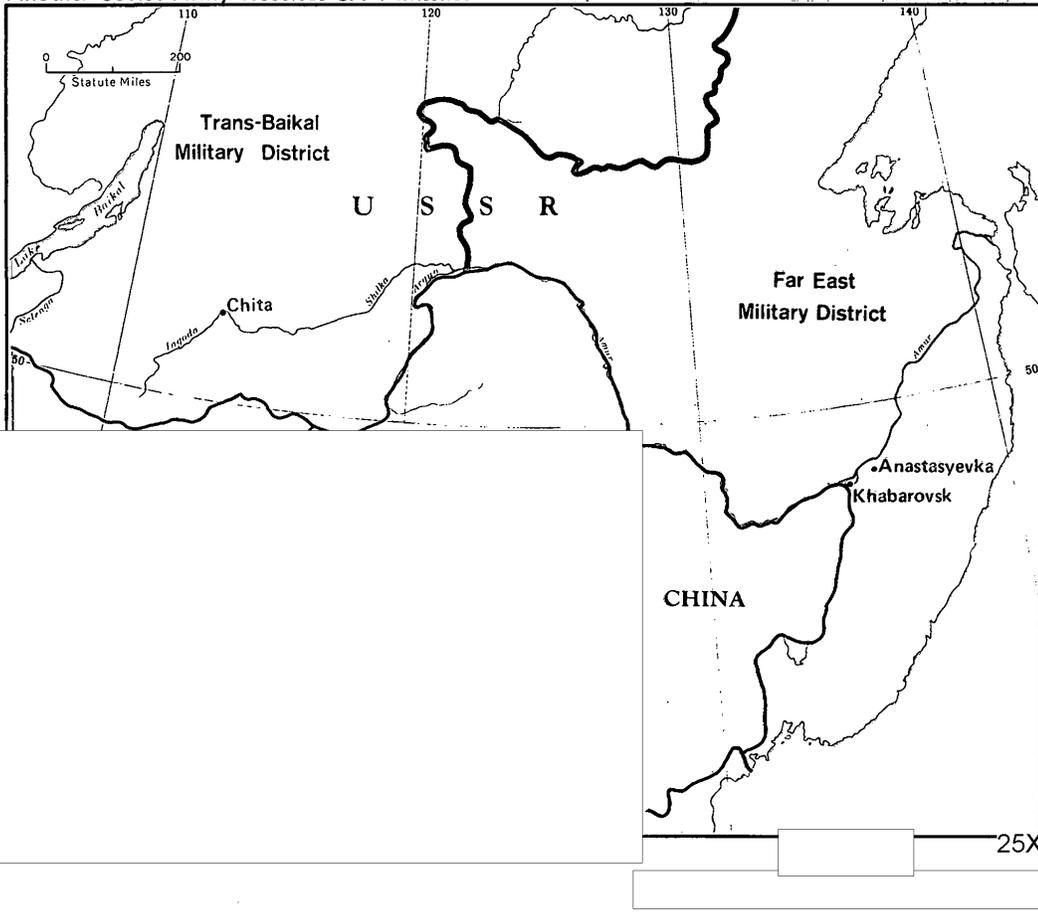
CHILE-PERU

The territorial dispute between Chile and Peru could involve the US under terms of a 1929 treaty that formalized the results of the 19th Century War of the Pacific. The treaty provides for the settlement of interpretational disputes "by the President of the United States."

Peru suspects that Chile plans to make concessions to landlocked Bolivia that would involve Arica, a port that once belonged to Peru. Chile is not planning to cede Arica to Bolivia, which would violate the treaty, but may convert the city into an international free port. By such a move, Chile would hope to deter Peruvian revanchism, but any significant change in the city's status without prior consultation is likely to be denounced by Peru as a treaty violation. The US might then be drawn into the controversy.

The US is not a signatory to the treaty but the Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover administrations mediated between the parties, and the treaty's preamble notes that the accord was concluded "in conformity with the principles which the President of the United States of America, in performance of the good offices requested by the Parties...proposed."

Another Soviet Army Receives SA-4 Missiles



NOTE

USSR: [redacted]
[redacted] the Soviets have almost completely equipped their armies with the SA-4 surface-to-air missile system. Only one Soviet army--located at Chita in the Trans-Baikal Military District--is not yet equipped with the system. Once this army is equipped, the Soviets may provide the missile to their Warsaw Pact allies. The SA-4 is a mobile system, designed to provide defense for ground forces against aircraft flying at medium to high altitudes.

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