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The President's Daily Brief

April 10, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 10, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Israeli Prime Minister Meir denies that she threatened to resign, and appears to be trying to patch up differences in her Labor Alignment brought on by demands for Defense Minister Dayan's resignation.
(Page 1)

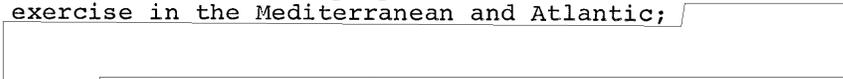


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Turkey has given permission to its national petroleum company to drill for oil in areas of the Aegean Sea claimed by Greece. The Greeks are likely to react forcefully. (Page 3)

The agreement hammered out in New Delhi during the past five days by the foreign ministers of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh goes a long way toward normalizing relations on the subcontinent. (Page 4)

There are Notes on: preparations for a Soviet naval exercise in the Mediterranean and Atlantic;



and the possibility that South Korean dissidents will defy President Pak in an effort to oust him. (Page 5)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL

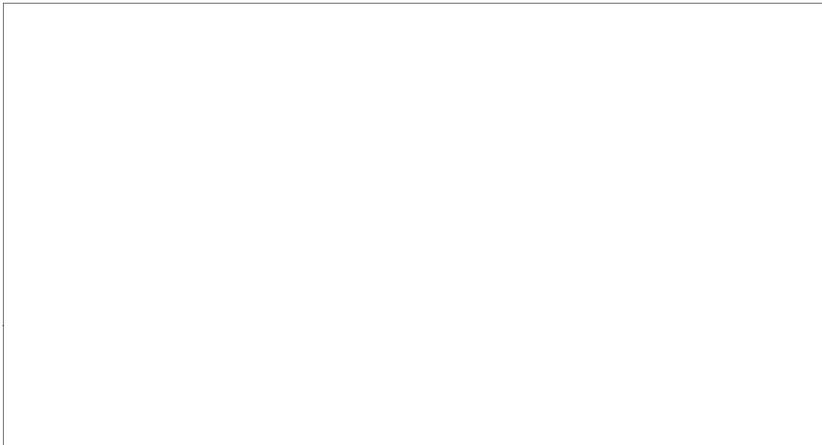
Israeli Prime Minister Meir has denied that she has threatened to resign. She appears to be pressing efforts to overcome differences within her Labor Alignment brought on by demands for Defense Minister Dayan's resignation. His Rafi faction is determined to prevent his being made the political scapegoat for military shortcomings cited by the commission that investigated Israeli conduct of the war. Dayan's faction is insisting that all cabinet members resign or that none resign.

Sentiment within the government appears to be growing in favor of a solution that would not lead to the resignation of the entire cabinet but would end up with Dayan in another cabinet post. Mrs. Meir is said to favor a cabinet reshuffle along these lines. Such a compromise would appeal to those who worry that Mrs. Meir may refuse to head a new cabinet if the present one is forced out over the Dayan issue. Labor leaders fear that her retirement would lead to an immediate succession struggle, which they believe the party is not now prepared to face. The leaders of Mrs. Meir's two coalition partners, the National Religious Party and the Independent Liberal Party, are said to oppose resignation by the entire cabinet lest such a move aggravate their own internal divisions.

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USSR-SYRIA-ISRAEL

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TURKEY-GREECE

Turkey's government has given its national petroleum company permission to begin to explore for oil in areas of the Aegean Sea claimed by Greece. According to a Foreign Ministry spokesman, exploration will begin after the cabinet's decision is published in the official gazette.

Ankara's action may be viewed as a challenge by Greek military leaders, who have readied contingency plans and reinforced the border. Last month the chief of the Greek Navy said that orders had been given to stop oil exploration in Greek territorial waters by force, if necessary.

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SOUTH ASIA

The agreement hammered out in New Delhi during the past five days by the foreign ministers of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh goes a long way toward normalizing relations on the subcontinent. The accord provides for the release of the 195 Pakistani prisoners of war who have been held in India since the end of the Indo-Pakistani war for possible war crimes trials in Bangladesh. In return for this major concession by Dacca, Pakistan reportedly has agreed to accept more Biharis--non-Bengalee Muslims--from Bangladesh and to review the applications of still more.

The accord will permit Pakistan and Bangladesh to begin bilateral negotiations on various matters, including the division of the former east wing's pre-1971 debts and assets and the establishment of trade and communication ties. For their part, India and Pakistan have agreed to begin discussions on the resumption of postal and telecommunications and travel links. Other facets of the 1972 Simla Agreement--air links and overflight privileges, trade and economic ties, scientific and cultural exchanges, and cooperation--are to be discussed and implemented as soon as possible.

NOTES

USSR: There are further indications that the Soviets are preparing for a major exercise in the Mediterranean and North Atlantic. Over the past three days, Soviet surface ships and submarines have been positioning themselves near both ends of the Strait of Gibraltar. Their locations would permit them to monitor US and NATO naval forces, especially submarines, during the forthcoming exercise.

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South Korea: Yesterday's suicide by burning of a Christian youth under investigation for antigovernment statements is likely to spark other acts of defiance against the Pak government. Seoul has been relatively quiet since April 3, when the government banned student political activity and decreed harsh penalties, including death, for violators. Political feelings still run high, however, as the more determined student, Christian, and intellectual dissidents seek ways to intensify public pressure for President Pak's ouster.

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