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The President's Daily Brief

June 8, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

June 8, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Saudi Arabia

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The Viet Cong have accepted South Vietnam's offer to resume talks in Saigon. (Page 3)

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Morocco will soon withdraw its expeditionary force from Syria. (Page 4)

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SAUDI ARABIA

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ITALY

Italian Communist leader Enrico Berlinguer continues to press toward eventual full membership for his party in Italy's governing coalition. In a speech before the Communist Party's Central Committee this week, he proposed broader and "formal" consultations between the Communists and the governing parties in parliament on major policy questions. The proposal is an attempt to make more visible the "cloakroom" consultations that have long taken place between the Communists and the members of the governing coalition. Berlinguer also wants again to impress the ruling parties with his thesis that to govern effectively they need the cooperation of the Communists--Italy's second largest party--although he says he does not expect to be let into the coalition soon.

Berlinguer's move will probably find support in the Socialist Party and in the left wing of the dominant Christian Democratic Party. These elements see an advantage in giving the Communists increased leverage, since Communist support could provide the margin required to pass economic and social measures that the left advocates but that are now blocked by conservatives.

The Communists' allies in organized labor are also urging Communist participation in the government. The Communist-dominated trade union federation is arguing that Italian workers would be more inclined to accept sacrifices required by the government's austerity program if the Communists were given at least a limited voice in the national government.

In public, the principal Christian Democratic leaders so far have shown no sign of yielding to Communist pressure. Recent talks between US embassy officials and well-placed Christian Democrats suggest, however, that their confidence has been shaken by the defeat in the divorce referendum, the deterioration of the economy, and the upsurge in politically motivated violence. They claim that these events are making it increasingly difficult to counter the argument that the party should reach an accommodation with the Communists.

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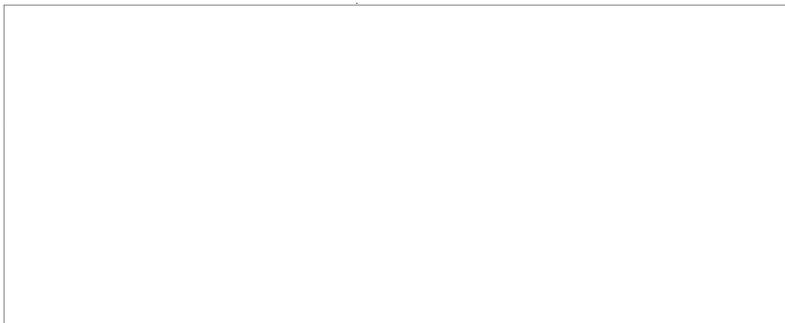
SOUTH VIETNAM

The Viet Cong and the South Vietnamese will re-open suspended military talks in Saigon next week on implementing a cease-fire and searching for missing servicemen. The deputy chief of the Viet Cong delegation announced today that his side had accepted Saigon's offer to resume negotiations on Tuesday. The South Vietnamese yesterday restored diplomatic privileges and immunities to the Communist delegates, the condition demanded by the Communists for returning to the conference table.

The Viet Cong announcement apparently covers their return to the bilateral talks and participation in the four-party Joint Military Commission, which includes delegations from the United States and North Vietnam. Talks between the two sides in Paris, aimed at working out a political solution and setting up general elections in South Vietnam, are still suspended.

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NOTES



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Morocco-Syria: Morocco will soon withdraw its expeditionary force from Syria, [redacted]

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[redacted] The departure of the force of some 2,000 men and 60 tanks, reportedly scheduled for last month, was delayed until a disengagement agreement between Syria and Israel could be concluded.

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