



The President's Daily Brief

February 20, 1976

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~~Top Secret~~

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Egypt - Saudi Arabia: President Sadat begins a six-day visit to Saudi Arabia on Saturday to seek financial aid and moral support for his sagging leadership position in the Arab world.
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT - SAUDI ARABIA

President Sadat begins a six-day visit to Saudi Arabia tomorrow to seek financial aid and moral support for his sagging position of leadership in the Arab world. The Saudis are likely to give Sadat some gesture of public support. The conditions attached to any large new aid agreement, however, may be more stringent than in the past.

Saudi Arabia has disbursed nearly \$2 billion in cash to Egypt during the past two years and is wary of making more money available to Cairo without obtaining some accounting of how this aid is spent.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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Although Sadat may succeed in wheedling some money out of the Saudis, he is likely to face some hard questioning--on political as well as economic matters.

[Redacted]

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Sadat has occasionally stated that the internationalization of Jerusalem would be acceptable to him, but he has not pushed this idea or raised it for some time.

[Redacted]

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Sadat should have little difficulty in reassuring the Saudis on this score. Even his toughest questioners will probably offer him some expression of continued Saudi friendship. The Saudis are unlikely to cut off economic aid, if only because they are convinced that any change in Cairo would be for the worse.

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NOTES

Pakistani [redacted]	25X1
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The Nigerian government is concerned that tribal and religious tensions, generally absent from the scene in recent years, will be rekindled by last week's coup attempt.

The ruling Supreme Military Council [redacted]	25X1
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[redacted]	25X1

The council is now taking measures to reassure northern Muslims that the regime intends to preserve a regional and tribal balance. It is also using influential Muslim leaders to convey the message that the coup attempt had no anti-Muslim connotations.

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Two days of talks in Amman this week between the Jordanian and Syrian prime ministers failed to produce any results to support press speculation--especially in Israel--that the two countries are moving toward an early "confederation."

Jordanian Prime Minister Rifai told our ambassador that the lengthy, bland communiqué issued at the conclusion of the talks fully reflected the discussions. The next meeting between the two countries is scheduled to be held in Damascus in May. The UN forces' mandate on the Golan Heights expires at the end of that month, and the Jordanians may hope to influence or get a better reading of President Asad's plans concerning its renewal.

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