

# The President's Daily Brief

*February 21, 1976*

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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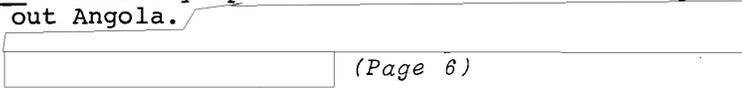
China: A party official in Peking has said that Teng Hsiao-ping retains his job as party vice chairman and that he was not named premier because his party duties are heavy. (Page 1)



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Syria-Israel: In an effort to secure some diplomatic return for agreeing to renew the UN observer force mandate on the Golan Heights, Syria is already beginning to sow doubts about its intentions when the mandate comes up for renewal on May 30. (Page 5)

Angola: Military operations have declined throughout Angola.



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Lebanon: Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam left Lebanon yesterday after conducting the first round of bargaining among Muslims and Christians toward the formation of a new cabinet. (Page 8)

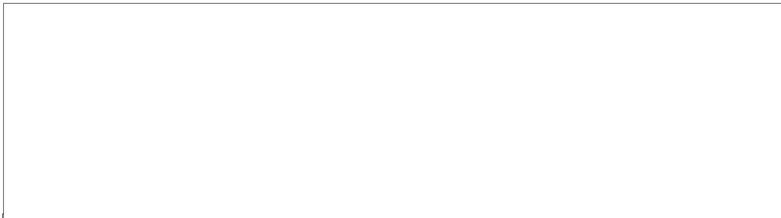
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CHINA

*Chinese officials in Peking are attempting to put the best face on an obviously confused and heated leadership situation. For the first time since Teng Hsiao-ping came under attack, a party official in Peking has said that Teng retains his job as party vice chairman and that he was not named premier because his party duties are so heavy.*

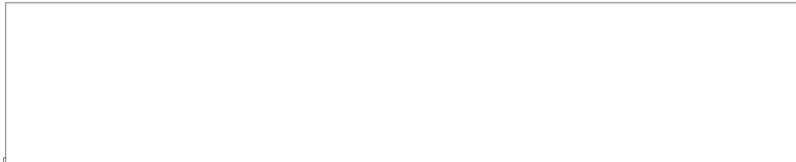
Other Peking officials have already confirmed that Teng retains his government and military positions. Although these statements may be an attempt to quash speculation outside of China about Teng's status, it seems likely that the leadership has not yet reached firm decisions, and that at least for now Teng does indeed retain all his posts.



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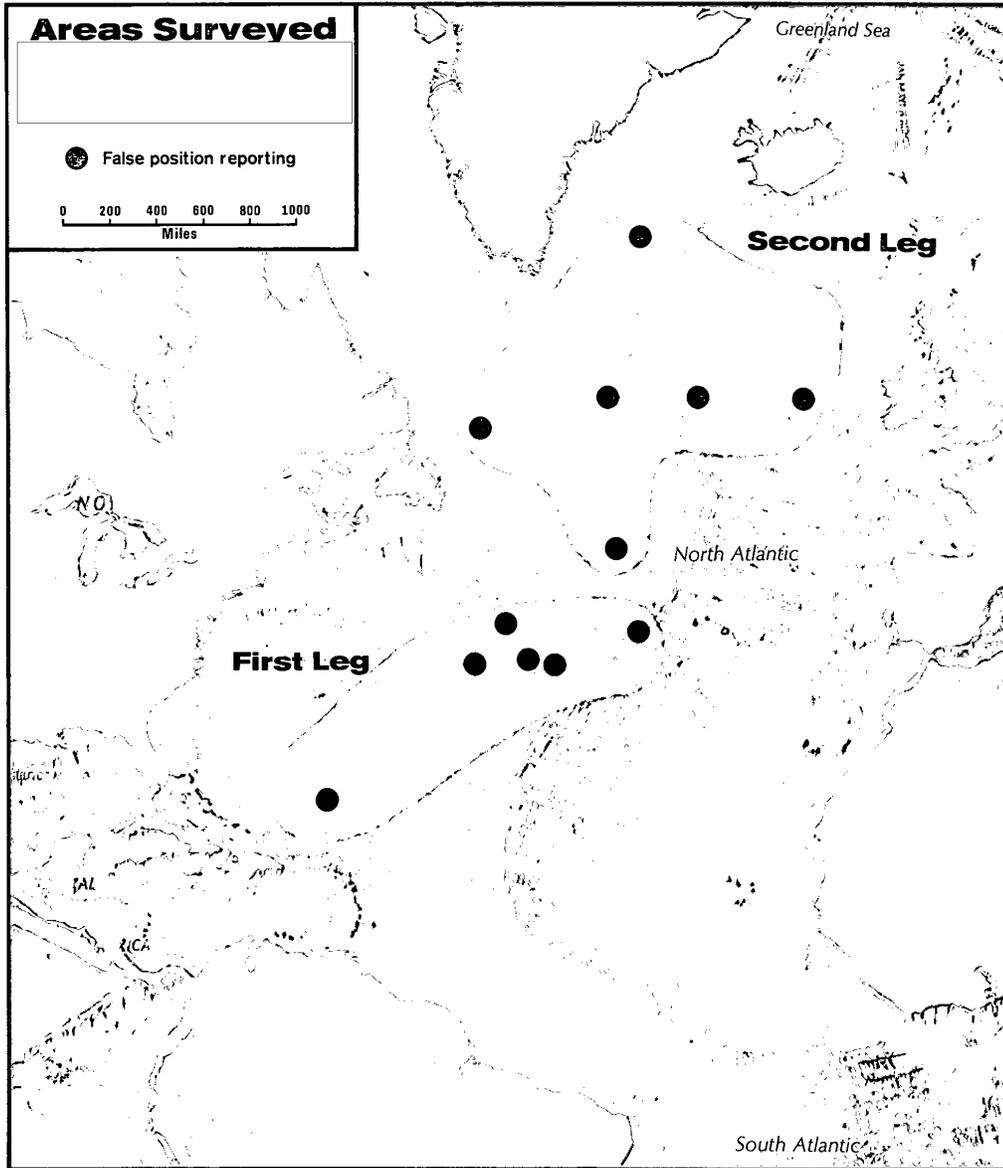
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The status of Defense Minister Yeh Chien-ying, who, like Teng, was closely associated with Chou En-lai, is not clear. Peking reportedly issued a directive in early February announcing the temporary replacement of Yeh because of his poor health. The Defense Ministry, however, has said Yeh retains his post. Rumors are circulating in China and in Hong Kong that actually Yeh resigned in protest over the treatment of Teng Hsiao-ping.

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There are tenuous signs in the propaganda that acting premier Hua Kuo-feng may himself be under attack, perhaps from the party's left wing. Hua seems to have some responsibility for science, and a propaganda debate over how to conduct scientific work may be aimed at him. Similarly, an article in People's Daily attacking the Soviet security minister may have been an indirect attack on Hua, who is China's security minister. People's Daily has also attacked those who put three instructions from Mao on an equal footing, claiming that one is more important than the other two. Hua seemed to give equal emphasis to all three in a speech last fall and therefore could be a target.



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USSR

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A hydrographic survey ship has  
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conducting surveys of the ocean floor  
that can be used for submarine navigation  
and missile targeting.

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The ship, which carried out this survey work off  
the US east coast from September to December 1975,

[Redacted]

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The area mapped by the first leg of the survey  
partially overlaps recently adopted patrol areas for  
Y-class submarines. These areas are up to 600 miles  
closer to the US east coast than those previously  
used.

The second leg of the survey does not cover any  
present missile submarine operating area. It may  
reflect future Soviet plans for patrol of the expand-  
ing D-class force of submarines.

Missile range is not now a reason to shift D-  
class operations, since these submarines are armed  
with SS-N-8 missiles, which have a range of 4,200  
miles and can strike nearly all the US from ports  
in the northwestern USSR.

The Soviets are developing a new submarine-  
launched missile, the NE-2, probably for the D-class.  
This missile, which carries MIRVs, has flown to only  
3,000 miles and, whatever its actual capability, may  
not have the range of the SS-N-8. The Soviets may,  
therefore, face a future need to move D-class opera-  
tions closer to the US.

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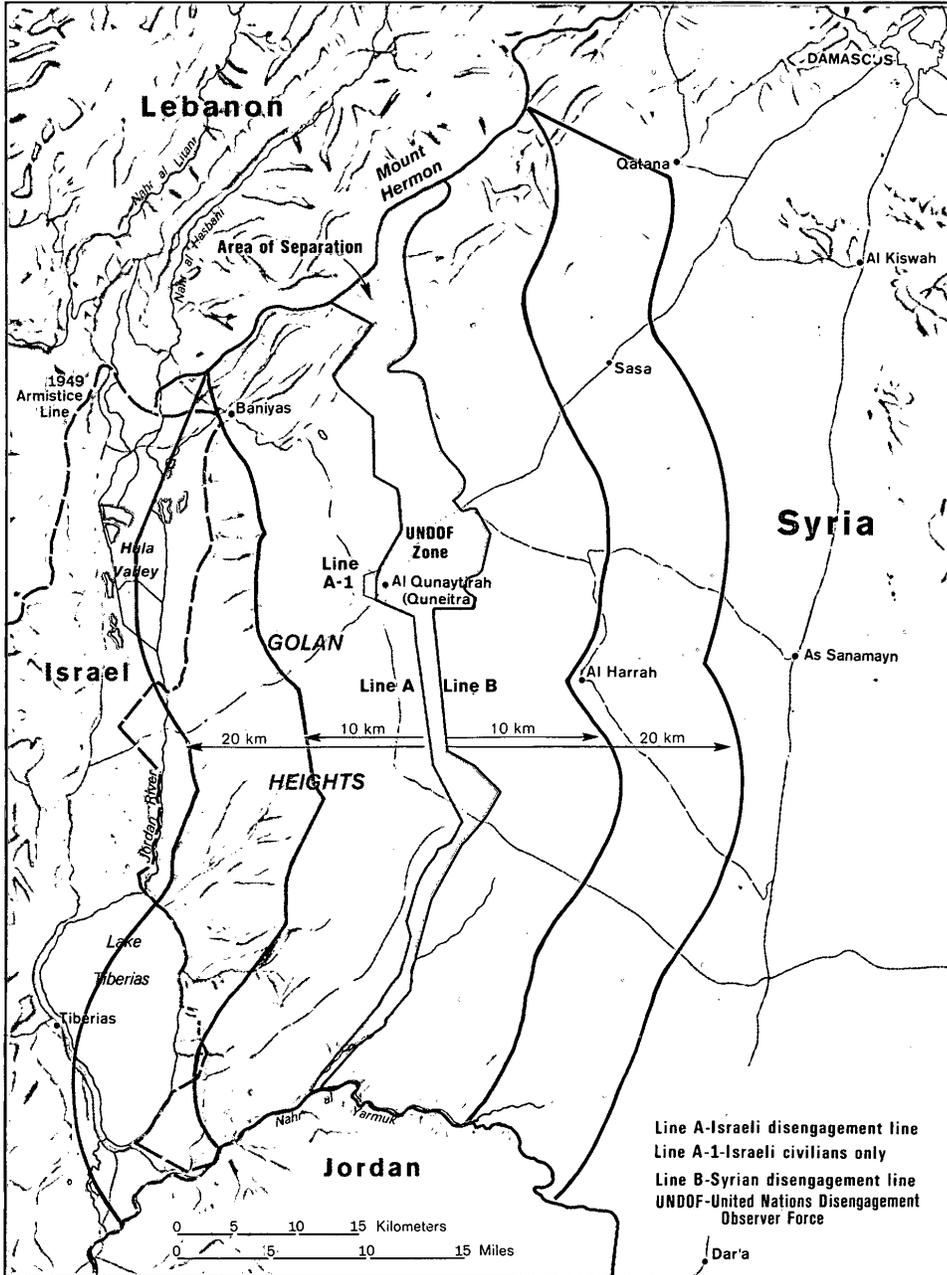
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The Israeli-Syrian Disengagement Lines



SYRIA-ISRAEL

*Syria, in an obvious effort to secure some diplomatic return for agreeing to renew the UN observer force mandate on the Golan Heights, is already beginning to sow doubts about its intentions when the mandate comes up for renewal on May 30.*

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The Syrians probably have not yet made a decision on whether to let the mandate lapse, although they undoubtedly have contingency plans for repositioning their forces. Over the next few months we anticipate that Syria will engage in some military posturing to reinforce its efforts to exert psychological and diplomatic pressure on the US and Israel.

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There are good indications that the Syrians are strengthening their ground defenses in the south, and that they have recently constructed three SA-2 missile sites south of Dara, close to the Jordanian border--the first time missile sites have been built south of the town. The Syrians also may have moved some additional forces into the southern Golan area. A buildup in this area would reflect Syrian concern about a possible Israeli flanking maneuver through northern Jordan should there be another round of hostilities.



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ANGOLA

*Military operations have declined throughout Angola. Cuban and Popular Movement forces so far have not moved against National Union headquarters at Gago Coutinho or southward toward the Namibian border. Some low-level skirmishes apparently are still taking place in the northern and central regions.*

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## LEBANON

*Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam left Lebanon yesterday after conducting the first round of bargaining among Muslims and Christians toward the formation of a new Lebanese cabinet.*

Creation of a coalition government that would include representatives of the Christian Phalanges Party and the large left-wing groups is the first step toward implementing the reform program announced by President Franjiyah last weekend.

Khaddam, according to press accounts, hopes to persuade Phalanges chief Pierre Jumayyil and Socialist leader Kamal Jumblatt, the principal spokesman for the left, to accept positions as senior ministers without portfolio along with several other Muslim and Christian notables. Jumblatt announced yesterday that his party would not join a new government unless major adjustments favoring the Muslims were made in the reform program.

Before leaving Beirut, Khaddam told reporters he hoped a new cabinet could be announced before the end of the month. Khaddam will probably seek permission from Damascus to put new pressure on Jumblatt. The Syrians have less leverage to use on Jumayyil, who also appears reluctant to be represented in the cabinet.

Feuding between Jumblatt and Jumayyil was a major cause of the rise in tensions last year and could have a similar effect on the present situation.

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