

The President's Daily Brief

April 21, 1976

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exemption category 5B(1),(2),(3)
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LEBANON:

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CHINA: Chinese concern over possible domestic political disruption and Soviet military intentions following the ouster of Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping

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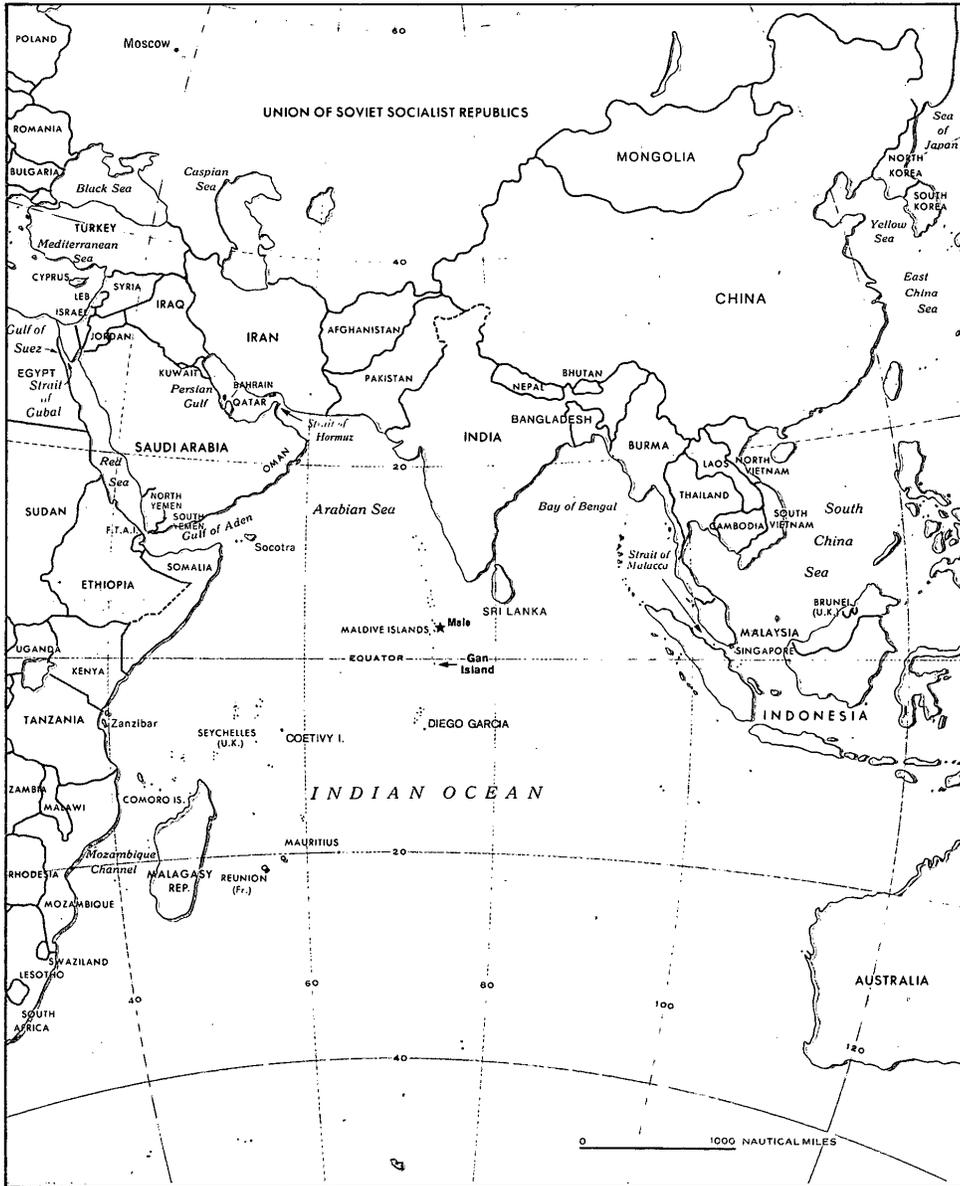
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nese leadership fears that the riot of April 5 and the previous pro-Chou En-lai demonstrations reflect deep-seated popular approval of Teng's measures to consolidate and regularize the country's politics and economy.

Peking has shown similar signs of nervousness only twice since the conclusion of the Cultural Revolution: at the time former president Nixon's first visit to China was announced and at the height of the Lin Piao crisis.

The Chinese leadership is concerned that Moscow may attempt to exploit or take advantage of the recent signs of disarray and dissension in Peking. The participation of the army in the rallies conveys the message to Moscow that the military is in agreement with political developments in Peking.

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NOTES

Officials in the Maldives have told US Ambassador Van Hollen that the Soviet Union has expressed an interest in the former RAF facility on Gan Island.

Maldivian officials now claim that an agreement giving London a veto over prospective third-country lessees until 1986 is void. They make this claim in view of what they regard as Britain's failure to provide adequately for Maldivian workers at the former base.

The US ambassador believes that if no other satisfactory alternative appears, the Maldives may try to lease the facility to any one of several governments, including the USSR, that have shown interest in the base.

* * *

Senegalese President Senghor has reportedly invited National Union leader Jonas Savimbi--now at guerrilla headquarters in eastern Angola--to Dakar to discuss the possibility of a meeting with Angolan President Agostinho Neto.

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Luanda regime had approached the Senegalese to arrange such a meeting. Neto's reported approach through Senghor may be less a bona fide overture to the National Union than an attempt to impress the Senegalese government that he sincerely desires reconciliation with his former rival.

Senegal, the Central African Republic, and Kenya are the only African governments still refusing to recognize Neto's regime.

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