



*The President's Daily Brief*



21 June 1969

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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

SOVIET AFFAIRS

Moscow is taking unusual steps to isolate China by urging Western nations not to recognize the Peking government.

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Further analysis of the satellite photography mission noted in yesterday's Brief shows a new SS-11 group under construction. This is the third group known to be started this year; seven were started during the same period last year. The total for the SS-11 now stands at 79 groups. When all known groups are completed, the USSR will have 790 operational SS-11 launchers.

EUROPE

Canada, reacting to strong NATO criticism of its force reduction plans in Europe, is apparently ready to reconsider

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some of its projected cuts. Ottawa's ambassador to NATO recently said that Defense Minister Cadieux would not make his planned public statement on the reductions before Parliament recesses next Monday.

The ambassador also thought his government might revise its plans and cut its forces in Europe by only 50 percent--instead of the 66 percent recently announced. He further stated that in addition to the two reconnaissance squadrons currently planned to remain, Ottawa might be willing to leave one or two air combat squadrons.

The Norwegian Ambassador to NATO has remarked that the impact on Norway and Denmark of the planned Canadian force cuts would probably be greater than the impact of the French withdrawal in 1966. He told Ambassador Ellsworth that he has a "feeling of uncertainty" about Norway's future in NATO. The US Embassy in Oslo, however, while recognizing that the Canadian reduction of forces will create difficulties, believes that there will have to be other and major defections before Norway's allegiance to the alliance wavers.

MIDDLE EAST

There is nothing of significance to report.

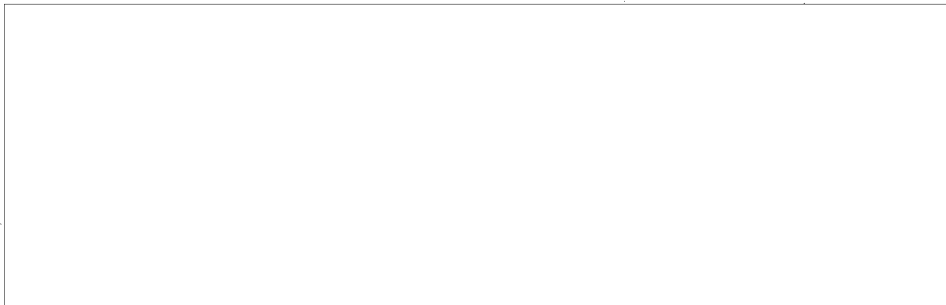
VIETNAM

A dispatch by AP's George McArthur reported that President Thieu has presented his senior military supporters and cabinet members with proposals for elections in South Vietnam

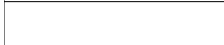
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to include Communist representation in some form. McArthur cites "informed sources." Among Thieu's proposals is a plan to set up a government - Viet Cong commission to study election procedures, with the South Vietnamese to be represented by Duong Van Minh--popularly known as "Big Minh." McArthur's informants said that no public disclosures of Thieu's proposals were likely.



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The heavy fighting in Tay Ninh Province tapered off on 20 June, the Communists having suffered heavy losses, and activity elsewhere was light.



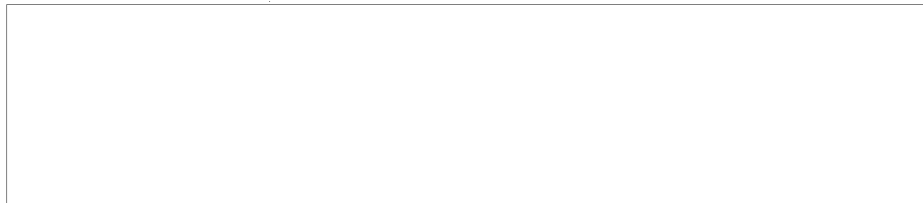
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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

There is nothing of significance to report.

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