

## *The President's Daily Brief*

23 July 1969

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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

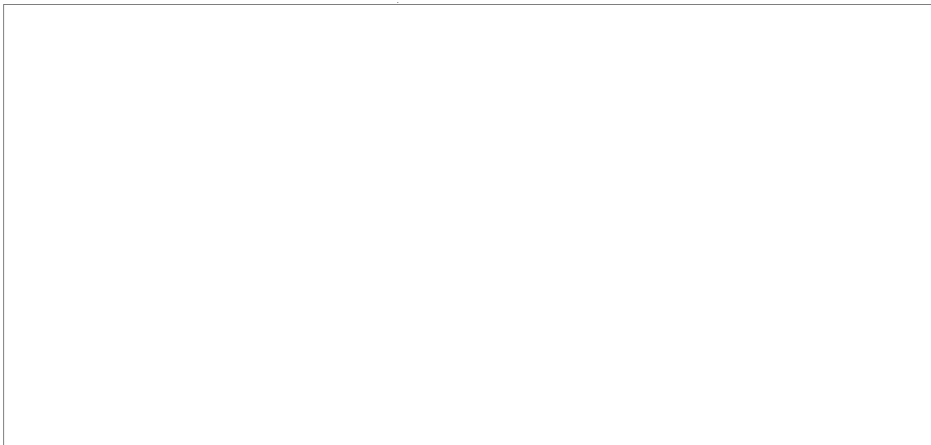
EUROPE

British officials have indicated that Prime Minister Wilson may raise the ABM issue with the President during their meeting on 3 August.

The British say their main concern is that the US will not seek to halt the development of the ABM and MIRV systems. London's position seems to be that if deployment of these weapons systems is not frozen, any settlement produced by SALT would be ineffective in stopping the arms race and hence would be unacceptable to world opinion.

Underlying this stand is fear that Britain's own nuclear deterrent force will be weakened considerably if the Soviets are permitted to deploy an efficient ABM defense system.

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There is nothing significant to report on Vietnam or the Middle East.

## II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

### EL SALVADOR - HONDURAS

El Salvador failed to withdraw its troops from Honduras by the midnight deadline set by the OAS. This could lead to a resumption of hostilities. Although both sides claim they will continue to abide by the cease-fire, they are also preparing for renewed fighting. Honduran planes are being readied for combat operations and El Salvador is reported to have acquired aircraft from private foreign sources.

The OAS Council went into formal session at midnight and is expected to convoke a foreign ministers' meeting, probably on Sunday, to talk over options available under the terms of the Rio Treaty.

Sources of the US Embassy in Tegucigalpa have information that Nicaraguan troops crossed into Honduras and that two planeloads of arms and ammunition have also been supplied to the beleaguered forces of Honduras. President

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Somoza met with the foreign minister of Guatemala yesterday and they agreed that both countries have a concern in the dispute and that El Salvador should be prevented from consolidating any territory taken from its neighbor.

The Honduran Government may be hard pressed to restrain its people from taking retaliatory action against Salvadoran citizens and this danger will increase if fighting resumes. Tegucigalpa believes it has done everything possible to conform to OAS resolutions, with no reciprocity from San Salvador.

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