



The President's Daily Brief

13 October 1969



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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Nasir has made it clear that Egypt will not participate in any Rhodes-type negotiations with Israel.
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Prime Minister Gandhi is again openly challenging her opponents in the Indian Congress Party. *(Page 2)*

Bolivia's President says his country would accept Cuban readmission to the OAS. *(Page 3)*

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EGYPT-ISRAEL

The Cairo newspaper Al Ahram, doubtless at Nasir's behest, has made it clear that Egyptian participation in any Rhodes-type negotiations with Israel is out of the question. Nasir has thereby undercut recent statements by Foreign Minister Riad, among others, which seemed to signify a willingness to consider a Rhodes formula.

We can only guess what is behind this apparent reversal. Some or all of the following may have figured in Nasir's decision:

--A desire to maintain an uncompromising image in the eyes of the Palestinians and other militant Arabs.

--A need to mollify domestic critics.

--The public stress the Israelis have been putting on the "direct" as opposed to the indirect aspects of negotiations under the Rhodes formula.

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INDIA

The running battle between Mrs. Gandhi and the Congress Party bosses has broken into the open again. She and five associates have sent an open letter to party president Nijalingappa, charging him with "arbitrarily" removing some of her supporters from important party posts. Nijalingappa has denied that he has forced her supporters out, but he was in fact planning to do so.

Mrs. Gandhi apparently intends to move against her opponents at the next meeting of the Working Committee, scheduled for 30 October. Presumably she thinks she now has a majority of that body on her side. A noteworthy addition to her forces is the powerful home minister, Y. B. Chavan, who is one of the signers of the letter to Nijalingappa. Chavan opposed her during her contest with the bosses over the presidential election two months ago. He has subsequently tried to act as peacemaker between the two factions.

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BOLIVIA

Ovando told a press conference on Thursday that his country would accept Cuba back in the OAS. Since Bolivia respects national self-determination, he said, the Cubans' approval of Castro is sufficient reason for readmission to the organization.

This is the most positive statement from a Latin American head of state on the subject of Cuban readmission to the OAS since Havana was expelled in 1964. Ovando's logic is a natural outgrowth of his own attempts to obtain international recognition since his coup last month.

Ovando left it unclear whether Bolivia would re-establish diplomatic relations with the Cubans. He did express the hope that although Cuba had "until recently" interfered in internal Bolivian affairs, such interference might cease now that his country had a new government.

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