

The President's Daily Brief

14 September 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Middle East developments are discussed on *Page 1*.

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The situation in Cambodia is discussed on *Page 4*.

In Chile, President Frei's Christian Democrats are attempting to close ranks, but prospects for blocking Allende are not good. (*Page 5*)

New Communist attacks in the northernmost provinces of South Vietnam are likely soon. (*Page 6*)

The Soviets launched an unmanned lunar probe on Saturday. (*Page 6*)

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MIDDLE EAST

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which is holding the 50 or so remaining hostages, seems to be concentrating on trying to conclude separate deals with the British, Germans, and Swiss. The Europeans are so far holding to a multinational approach, but the British and the Germans apparently are wavering. Red Cross Vice President Freymond, meeting in Bern early this morning with representatives of the governments involved, indicated that his announcement of Red Cross withdrawal from the talks had been designed to demonstrate to the PFLP that its attempt to extract "nibbling concessions" would not work. The Red Cross, Freymond said, would resume its negotiating role on a reduced scale and under a new official once the PFLP's demands had been determined and the people held identified. Switzerland, meanwhile, has asked the Arab League to use its good offices with the PFLP to obtain the release of the hostages.

Israel remains strongly opposed to the principle of exchanging fedayeen it holds for the hostages in Amman. However, the Israelis announced yesterday that they had rounded up 450 Arabs--including 80 women--from the occupied territories; all were suspected of belonging to or aiding the PFLP and are probably being held as counterhostages for the detained airline passengers.

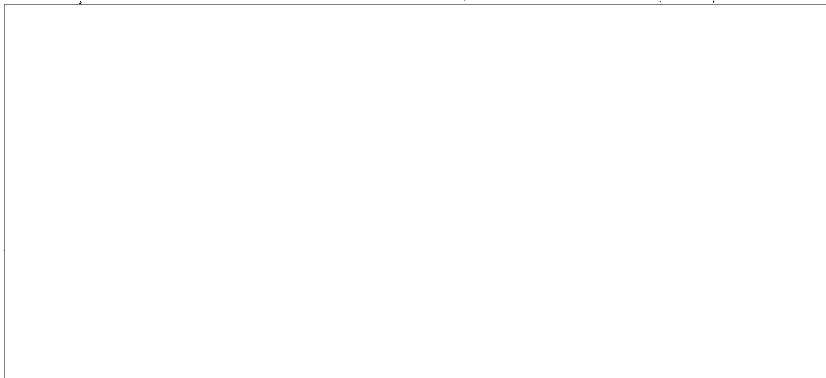
The destruction of the hijacked planes has precipitated a quarrel between the PFLP and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The PLO announced Saturday that it had suspended the PFLP's membership in the PLO central committee for defying the committee's resolutions on handling the planes and the passengers. Last night, the PFLP threatened that if its membership were not restored, it would not observe the agreements to which it was presently committed--apparently a reference to the truce reached last Thursday between the Jordanian authorities and the PLO.

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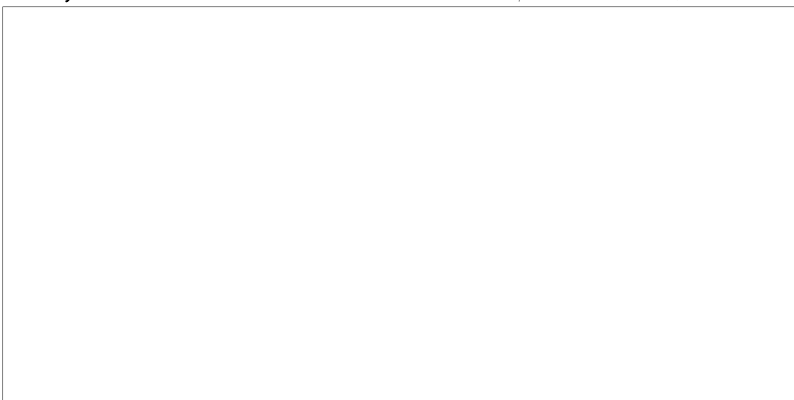
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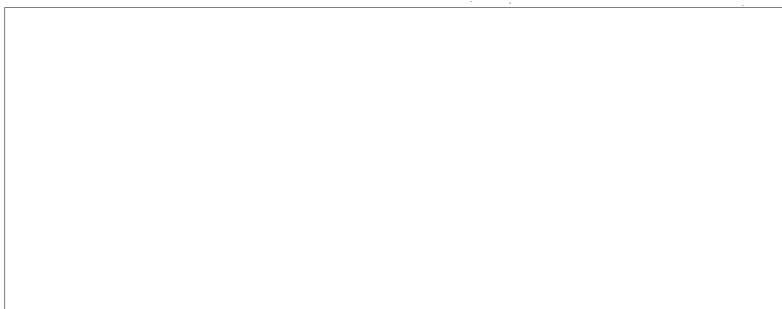
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The relative quiet in Jordan was broken yesterday by fighting in the Irbid area in northern Jordan. Joint fedayeen-army patrols were dispatched and the situation was brought under control.

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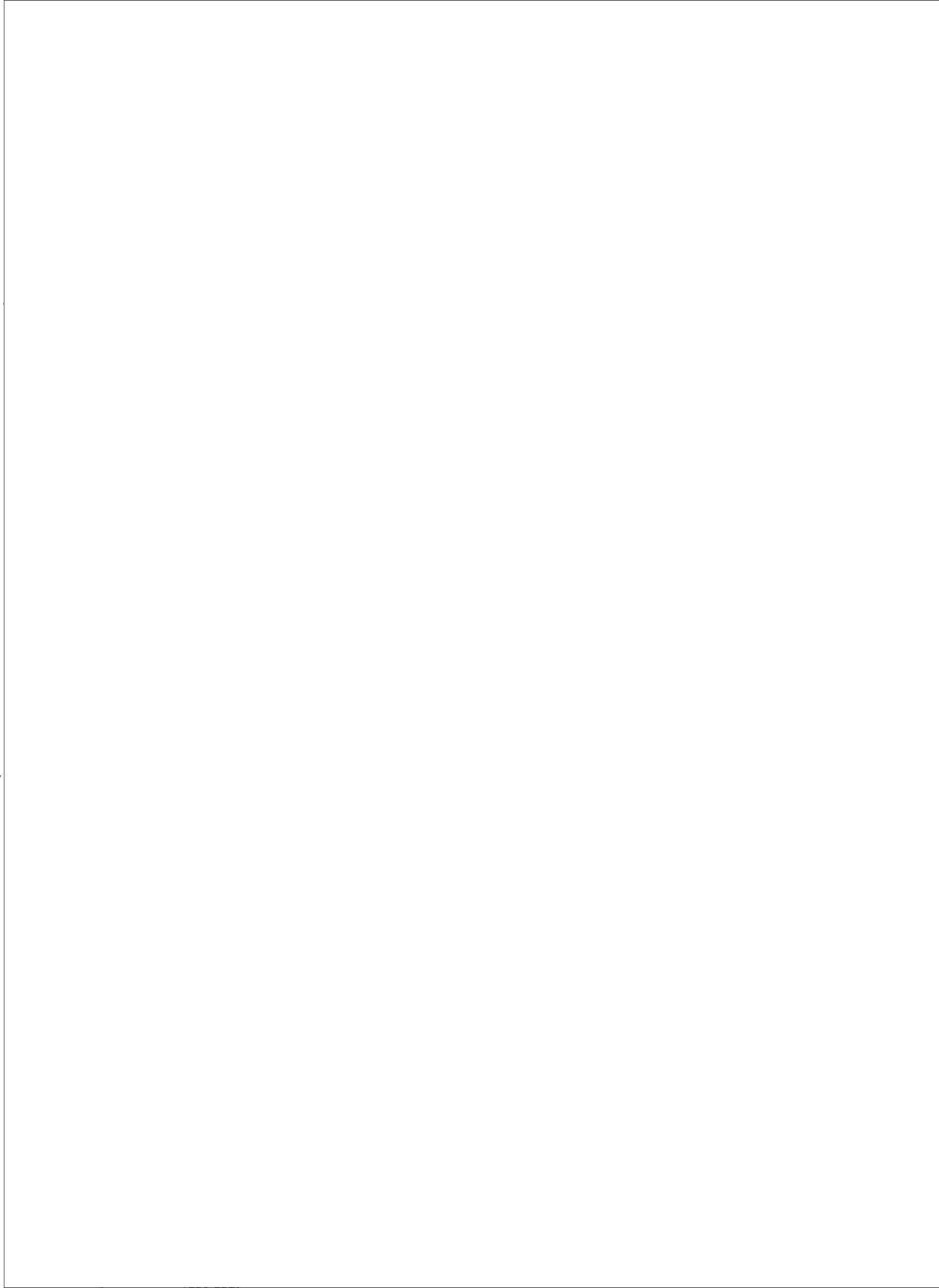


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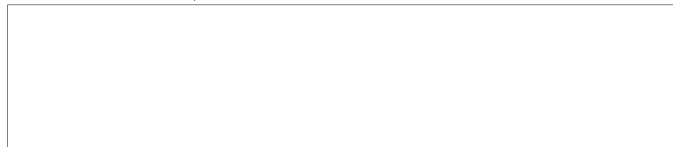
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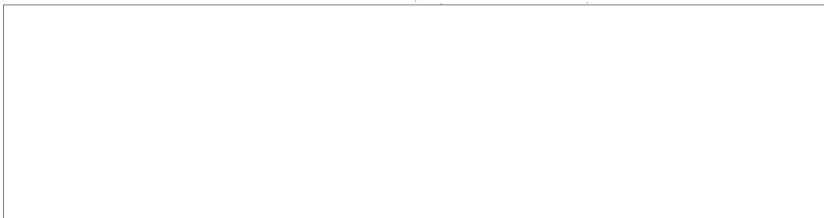


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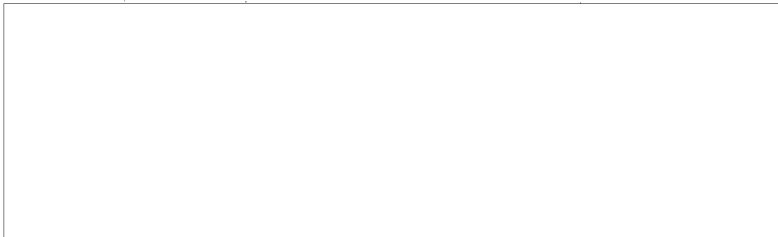
EGYPT



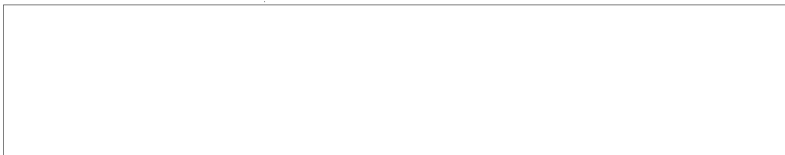
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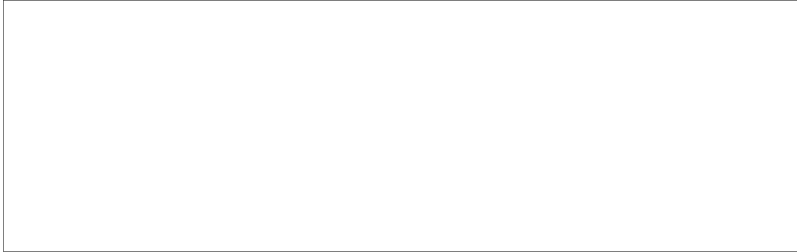
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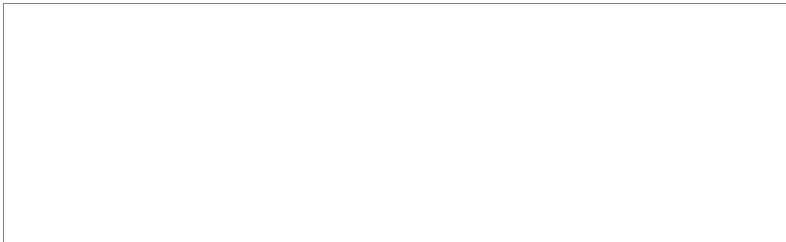
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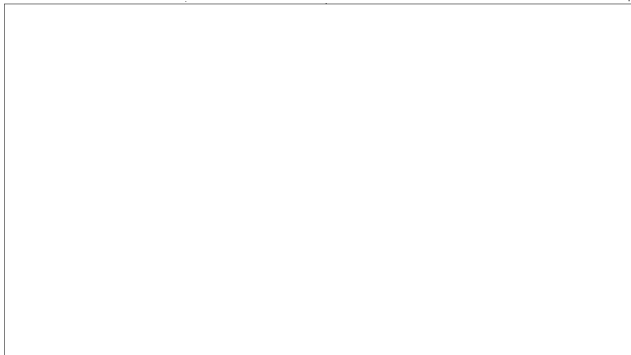
CAMBODIA



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In addition to routine harassments of Siem Reap and Kompong Thom cities and other locations in the countryside, the Communists killed 27 South Vietnamese troops in two sharp attacks over the weekend. The government's convoy on Route 6 is still stalled 15 miles north of Skoun; Cambodian troops are trying to clear entrenched Communist elements from the area.



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**CHILE**

Several events since Allende's plurality victory have alerted some members of President Frei's Christian Democratic Party (PDC) to the need to put aside their differences. The exodus of large numbers of influential Chileans, rapidly spreading economic dislocations, and heavy-handed power moves by Allende forces have finally brought some PDC members to understand that there is a real threat to Chile and their party's political influence. Allende's public claims of assassination plots against him, his supporters' threat of a general strike if he is not elected, and the dwindling likelihood that the military will move against Allende also have helped to foster a semblance of unity within the PDC.

In light of the strains within the PDC that have been growing over recent years, the prospects for developing a cohesive force to block Allende are not good. The PDC's defeated candidate, Radomiro Tomic, and some of his leftist supporters have hastened to ingratiate themselves with Allende. Other PDC members dislike the plan to elect Alessandri in the congressional runoff so that he may resign and pave the way for new elections and another term for President Frei. Moreover, Frei's strict adherence to his constitutional responsibilities limits his exercise of a strong influence on party strategy.

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New Enemy Attacks Expected in Northern Provinces Soon



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NOTES

South Vietnam: There are increasing signs that Communist troops in the northernmost provinces are getting set for new attacks against several prime allied targets. Intercepted enemy communications show that vigorous preparations are under way for rocket and mortar bombardments of Camp Carroll and Fire Support Base (FSB) Fuller just south of the DMZ. One message passed between units threatening FSB O'Reilly stated that the attack was going into the "third phase." A recent defector has described this phase as an all-out attack, including a heavy ground assault designed to overrun the artillery and patrol base "at all costs." The timing for these enemy actions appears to be flexible, but most units are being directed to try to begin the attacks on 15 September.

USSR: The Soviets successfully launched an unmanned lunar probe from Tyuratam on 12 September using an SL-12 space booster. On 16 September, the probe is expected to orbit the moon before a soft landing is attempted. This launching marks the first successful use of the SL-12 space booster since the Zond 7 circumlunar mission in August 1969

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