



The President's Daily Brief

15 April 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Our assessment of the insurgency in Ceylon is given on *Page 1*.

Developments in Pakistan are discussed on *Page 2*.

[redacted] Soviet [redacted]
[redacted] (*Page 3*)

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The USSR continues sea delivery of aircraft to Egypt. (*Page 4*)

Allende voices concern over Chile's mounting economic problems. (*Page 5*)

Preparations are under way for a major Soviet space event soon. (*Page 6*)

[redacted] (*Page 6*)

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CEYLON

Some ten days after the outbreak of insurgency, our assessment [redacted] of the situation is as follows. Government forces are dominant in the cities, but the lack of trained manpower continues to hinder government operations.

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[redacted] the army has only 2,000 men capable of carrying out effective search-and-destroy operations. The army cannot hold the countryside, and the insurgents, after retreating to remote areas during the daylight hours, are able to slip back into populated areas at night and reoccupy positions. The military effort is further hindered by lack of strong leadership and the refusal of senior officers to delegate authority. Disorganization is rampant [redacted]

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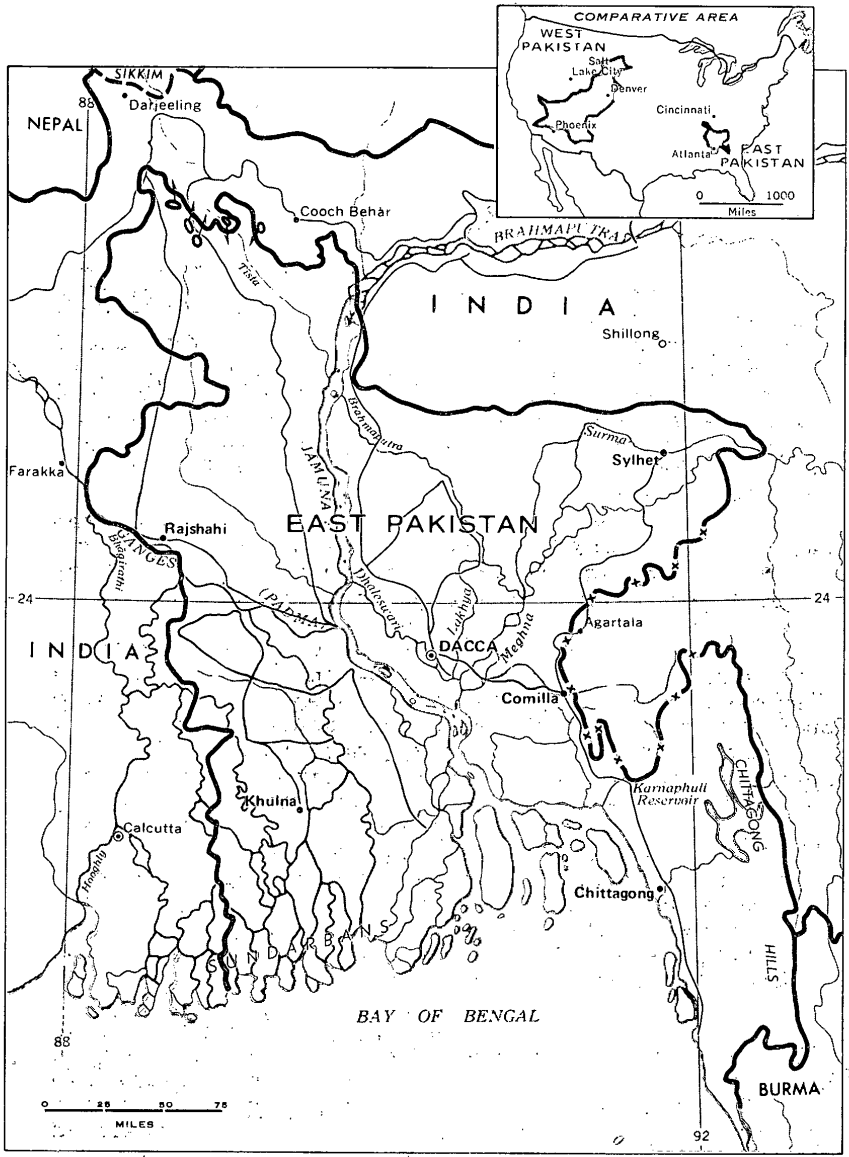
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Casualties are heavier among the insurgents than among the security forces--several hundred insurgents to about 80 government killed--and the arrival of foreign supplied military equipment is helping troop morale.

Over the long run, as training requests are met, experience in counterinsurgency operations develops, and needed military hardware is obtained from abroad, the government's effectiveness against the insurgents should improve. The government will remain subject to internal pressures, however. Prime Minister Bandaranaike still retains the upper hand politically, but she is reported to be running into strong opposition within her cabinet over her decision to expel the North Koreans. A test of strength between the prime minister and the more extreme left-wing members of her government may be building.

So far the Ceylonese military has remained aloof from politics, but the temptation to intervene, either directly or on the side of some strongman, would increase if Mrs. Bandaranaike's hold on the government appeared shaky.



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PAKISTAN

It appears that government forces have been able to move along main roads in the western part of East Pakistan, but the Indians have word that heavy rains are causing difficulties for operations in the east.

[redacted] the Indian press reports that an army detachment has reached Khulna.

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The Indians feel that the provisional government--whose members are still in India--has little control over or conception of what is taking place in East Pakistan. The Indians think there is no well-defined, organized resistance in the province, and no communication among the insurgent groups. The Indians have urged the new cabinet to avoid direct firefights and to organize guerrilla activities, but the political leaders have no command over military forces. The BSF is passing out weapons on the border to anyone who asks for them and is urging extensive sabotage operations. Most such attempts have done little damage; one of the few successes was a bridge blown up by BSF men.

According to the Indians, the Pakistani Army is growing more confident and has the ability to strike insurgents in any part of the province. Bengali morale is deteriorating rapidly.

[redacted]

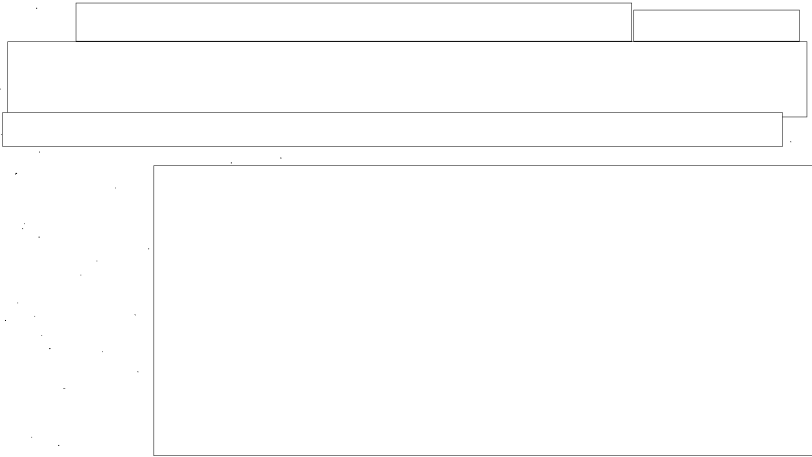
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USSR



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USSR-EGYPT

Between last September and March of this year, 66 MIG-21 and six MIG-17 jet fighter aircraft have arrived in Alexandria on Soviet freighters. An additional 13 MIG-21s as well as eight SU-7 fighter-bombers are believed to have been delivered by sea this month. Egypt has received some 120 late model MIG-21s since they were first introduced in mid-1969.

[Redacted]

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Some of them are probably replacements for older or locally modified MIG-21s. Others could be used to flesh out Egypt's existing MIG-21 squadrons and to replace training and other losses.

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CHILE

Allende is concerned over Chile's mounting economic problems, particularly the possibility of a drastic drop in food production. [redacted]

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[redacted] landowners have become alarmed by the recent wave of illegal land seizures and the way Agriculture Minister Chonchol has pursued agrarian reform. Allende criticized Chonchol's programs, calling them a political failure because they had not won over those peasants who still back the Christian Democratic Party of former President Frei.

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Concern over economic developments has also been voiced by Finance Minister Zorilla, one of several Communists holding top economic posts in the administration. Zorilla recently warned that the "economic cushion" of foreign reserves inherited from the Frei government was beginning to wear thin even before payments were made for increased food imports. He noted that government expenditures were excessive and resulted in part from populist economic gestures that helped the government parties achieve their good showing in the municipal elections earlier this month.

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NOTES

USSR: Preparations are under way for a major Soviet space event within the next week or so which may involve the docking of two or more Soyuz spacecraft to form a rudimentary space station. (We last noted signs of planning for such a space event in The President's Daily Brief of 12 February.) Soviet space support ships are moving toward stations which have been used in the past to monitor manned Soyuz space launches,

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