



The President's Daily Brief

7 May 1971



~~*Top Secret*~~

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

West Pakistani politicians are pressing for a relaxation of military rule, at least in the west. (Page 1)

Another division is being added to Soviet forces along the USSR-Mongolian border. (Page 2)

Jordanian and Syrian officials have been consulting on ways to control the fedayeen. (Page 3)

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PAKISTAN

Z.A. Bhutto, whose Pakistan People's Party won a majority of seats in West Pakistan's elections for both the national and provincial assemblies, has publicly demanded that the Martial Law Administration transfer political power--at least in the West--to elected officials, preferably by 1 July. With East Pakistan still not pacified, senior military officers in the Administration are divided on how to meet these civilian demands, [redacted]

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[redacted] Some believe the civilians should at least be given power in the provincial governments. President Yahya has not made a final decision on the issue, but he [redacted] will not turn over power until the situation in East Pakistan is settled.

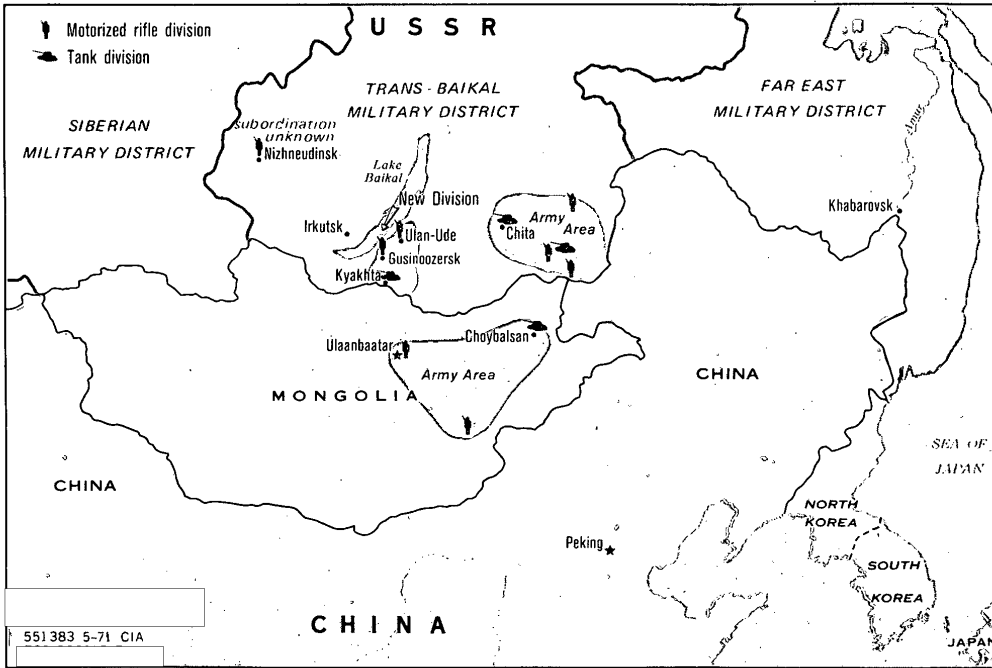
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We look for both sides to be cautious in dealing with this issue. The army does not want to risk violent agitation in the West wing which could follow any crack-down on the politicians or a prolonged postponement of civilian government. For their part, the politicians will be reluctant to provoke the army into making arrests or strictly enforcing the current nationwide ban on political activity.

Bhutto may have felt that he had to speak out in order to forestall radicals who have been trying to take over his party's organization in the Punjab, West Pakistan's most important province.

Soviet Ground Forces in Trans-Baikal - Mongolia Area



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USSR

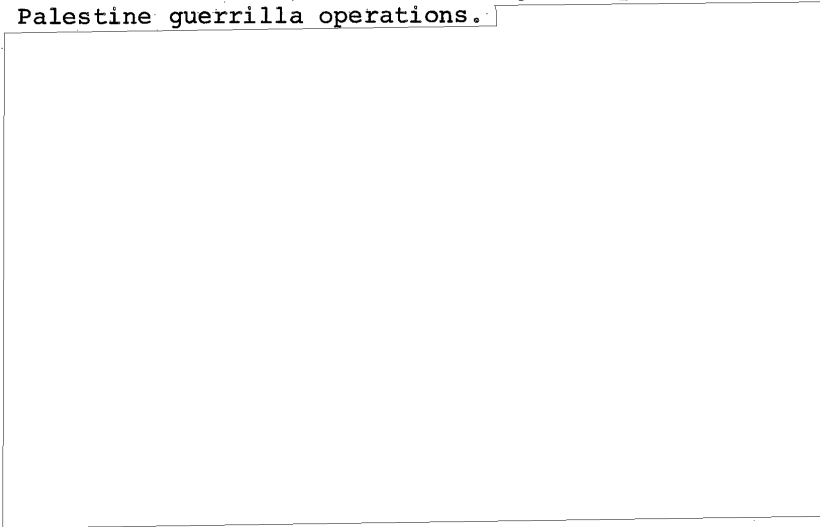
The Soviets are adding another division to their ground forces near the USSR-Mongolian border in a continuation of their gradual troop buildup along the Sino-Soviet border. The latest satellite photography shows that elements of a motorized rifle division have moved into a new installation near Gusinozersk in the Trans-Baikal military district. Construction of this installation, which is not yet completed, was begun in the spring of 1970, and the division apparently began moving in last month. The division does not have its full complement of combat and support equipment, and the number of tents in the area suggests a low personnel strength. It is located within 60 miles of two other divisions and probably is part of an army being formed in this area.

We believe there are now 39 to 44 Soviet ground force divisions along the Sino-Soviet border. The total personnel strength of Soviet ground and tactical air forces along the border immediately available in the event of hostilities with China is estimated at 355,000.

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JORDAN-SYRIA

Military and civilian representatives of the two countries have been consulting on ways to curb Palestine guerrilla operations.



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NOTES

Panama:

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USSR: An SL-12 booster, similar to those that failed in attempts to launch two Mars probes in 1969, is now being checked out at the Tyuratam space center,

This and the movement of space support ships lead us to expect that the Soviets will launch two spacecraft toward Mars during the "launch window" which extends over the next few weeks. Experiments to be performed may include atmospheric and soil sampling, measurements of the environment, and checking for the presence of water.

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France:

[Redacted]

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