



The President's Daily Brief

12 August 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Both India and Pakistan are becoming more concerned about each other's short-term military intentions.
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On Page 2, we comment on the intensified polemics between Moscow and Bucharest.

Northern Ireland

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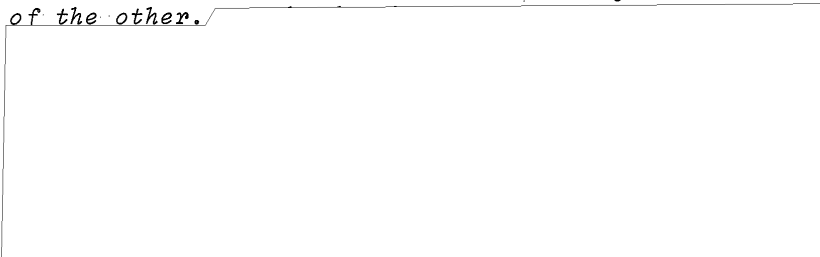
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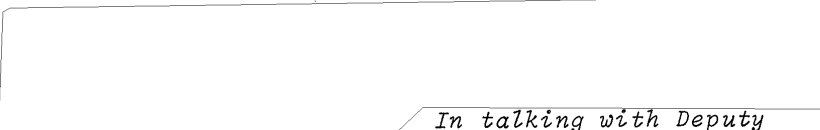
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INDIA-PAKISTAN

The alert status being maintained by the military forces of both India and Pakistan has apparently led each to be concerned about the short-range intentions of the other.



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In talking with Deputy Chief of Mission Sober on 11 August, Pakistan's chief of staff General Hamid Khan took a more relaxed view. Although he acknowledged the risks involved in the current military situation, he said it was clearly not in Pakistan's interest to have war. He added that he did not at this point see any indication that India wants war and that he considered the alert measures in both countries to be precautionary moves. Hamid admitted that the increased insurgent activity in East Pakistan was "keeping Pakistani forces busy" although he implied that the army could cope with the problem.

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USSR-ROMANIA

The Soviet weekly Literaturnaya Gazeta yesterday reprinted an article from the Polish party daily of 30 July, which indirectly but clearly criticized Bucharest's policies. Claiming that China views the USSR as its chief enemy, the article commented that "all nods of approval for Peking's splittist policy cannot be considered as anything but harmful to the unity of the socialist community." This was followed by a warning that there can be no "neutral stand" on this issue and that "the attitude toward the Soviet Union and the CPSU is a gauge of the attitude toward the fundamental interests of the socialist community."

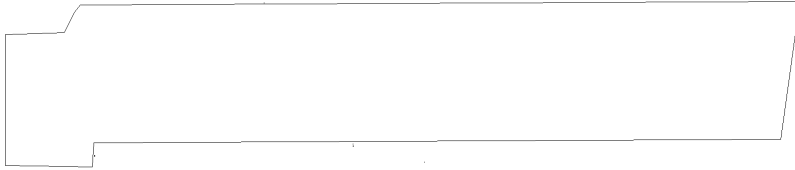
Romania shows no sign of backing off from its independent stance. An article yesterday in the party daily Scinteia reaffirmed Bucharest's desire to strengthen links with "all socialist countries" (read China included). The Romanian article also condemned "imperialism" for using tactics such as "domination and...economic and political pressure,...the installment of puppet regimes...and even overt military intervention." While the imperialists were not specifically named, the Soviets will see the article as still another infuriating example of Romania's following a pro-Peking line.

If the scheduled visit of a Chinese military delegation to Romania actually takes place later this month, the Soviets will not be made any happier. Should Moscow want to increase the pressure on Romania, a Warsaw Pact exercise tentatively scheduled in Bulgaria in late August would offer opportunities for intimidating posturings. Although such moves would clearly worry the Romanians, it is doubtful that they would have any basic effect on Bucharest's determination to maintain its independent stance.

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NORTHERN IRELAND



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NOTE

Arab Federation: Presidents Sadat of Egypt, Qadhafi of Libya, and Asad of Syria are meeting today in Damascus to approve a constitution and a set of basic principles for their new Federation of Arab Republics. Although details are not expected to be made public until after 15 August, indications continue to be that the new federation will be only a nominal union with each state retaining its sovereignty. A referendum on participation in the federation is still scheduled to be held in each of the three countries on 1 September. Sudan's Numayri stayed away from the formative meeting last April, but has recently announced that Sudan will join the federation in January.

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