

The President's Daily Brief

12 November 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Further skirmishing is bringing India and Pakistan closer to a war, although neither seems eager for one. (Page 1)

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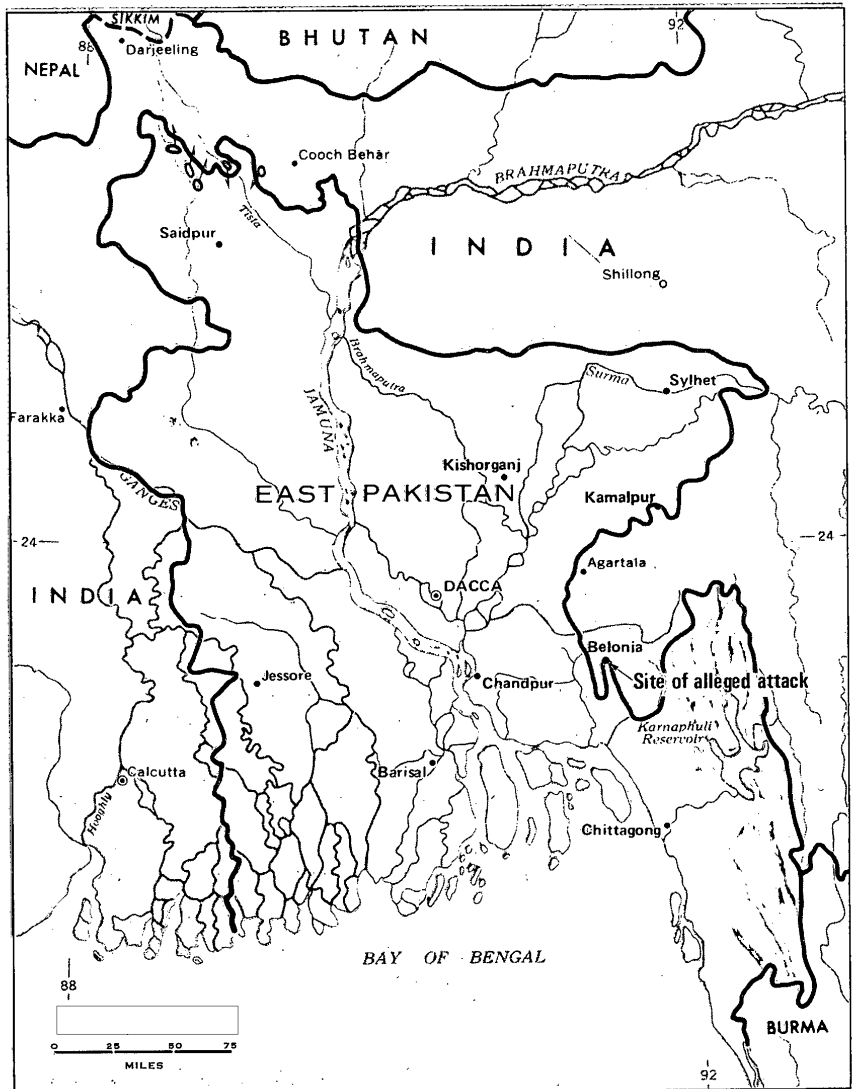
[redacted] Soviets [redacted]
[redacted] India [redacted] (Page 2)

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On Page 3 we comment on Egyptian President Sadat's latest speech.

The Soviet naval task force is in the Gulf of Mexico after conducting operations with the Cuban Navy. (Page 4)

President Allende believes his prospects have improved for restructuring the Chilean congress. (Page 5)



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INDIA-PAKISTAN

The two sides are edging closer to the brink, although neither seems to want to plunge over it.

The Pakistanis have charged publicly that on 10 November Indian regulars and Mukti Bahini attacked in brigade strength in the Belonia area. [REDACTED]

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the Indians penetrated three miles against badly outnumbered Pakistani troops, but that the Pakistanis staged a successful counterattack. The press reports 200 Indian casualties, and the source claims Pakistani losses were about the same.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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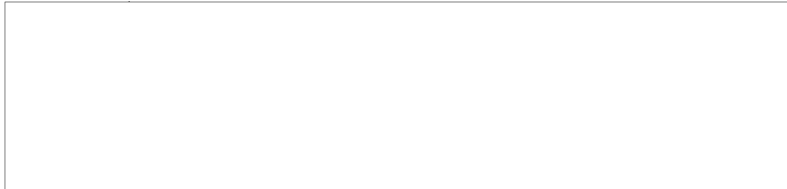
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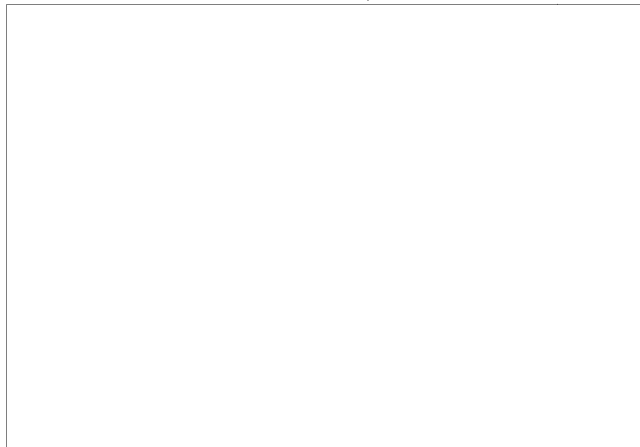
USSR-INDIA



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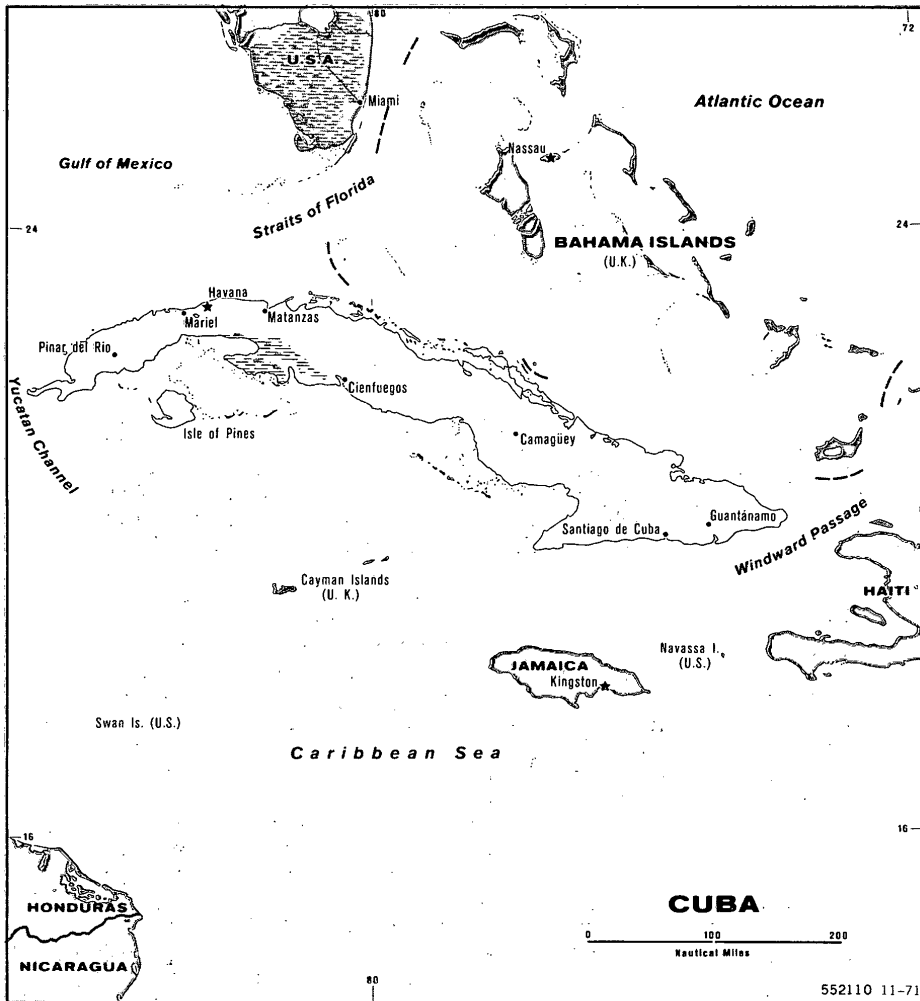
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EGYPT

President Sadat's address to the nation yesterday, billed as a major policy statement, hewed for the most part to well-known Egyptian conditions for an accommodation with Israel. Sadat closed no doors in the search for a settlement but he said that, as a necessary first step, the Israelis must respond to Ambassador Jarring's request that they state their final conditions.

Sadat also dwelt at length on his rationale for the failure thus far of US mediation efforts. Holding the US accountable for the deadlock, he accused Washington both of succumbing to domestic "Zionist pressure" and of using Israel as a "tool" for American interests in the Middle East. In a clearly intended contrast, he lauded the Soviet Union as "a friend in war and a friend in peace" that has "withheld no assistance to strengthen our military ability."

In giving a preview of the speech to the US interests section in Cairo, Sadat's confidant, Muhammad Haykal, complained bitterly that he could not understand the US approach to negotiations. Haykal urged as a favor to Sadat a temperate response to the speech.



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USSR-CUBA

The Soviet naval task force has been operating in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean since leaving Havana three days ago. During their first day out of port the Kresta- and Kashin-class missile ships, along with the two F-class submarines, conducted operations northwest of Havana with Cuban Navy subchasers and aircraft. Following this activity, one of the submarines went into the port of Mariel and is still there.

Early this morning the ships were continuing into the Gulf of Mexico following refueling operations yesterday. Traveling together, the Kresta cruiser and the Kashin destroyer were some 250 nm northwest of Havana. The remaining submarine is currently unlocated. The tanker and a Soviet intelligence collection ship that joined the group on 10 November are now in the Caribbean.

If the ships follow past naval patterns they will call at Cienfuegos for a short time before heading into the Atlantic.

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CHILE

[redacted] President

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Allende believes he has found a formula for creating a unicameral legislature which the present congress might approve. His proposal would include an updated reallocation of seats and other features, such as protecting senatorial terms that extend to 1976, to make it palatable even to opposition legislators.

Allende apparently has tailored his bill to win the support of the opposition Christian Democratic Party, the largest both in Chile and in the congress. Christian Democratic legislators have previously said that they could stall a unicameral assembly bill for up to a year by the lengthy amendment process.

Allende's current plan is to try to avoid any stalling by demanding that the bill be passed as submitted or rejected. If it is rejected, he intends to call a plebiscite on the matter. He would cast the plebiscite in terms of capitalism versus socialism--rather than democracy versus Marxism--in the belief that this would make it harder for the Christian Democrats to mount an effective opposition campaign.

Allende apparently believes that a unilateral legislature, together with reapportionment, will eliminate much of the obstructionism of the present congress and result in a more responsive body. His current proposal is far less radical than the "people's assembly" with broad powers that was a major plank in his Popular Unity coalition platform. As such, its changes of adoption appear considerably better.

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Israel-Egypt:

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