

The President's Daily Brief

6 December 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Developments in the Indo-Pakistani war are reported on *Page 1*.

President Pak's new emergency measures in South Korea are designed to serve political ends rather than any genuine new threat from North Korea.
(*Page 3*)

A contingent of Libyan commandos has arrived in Syria. (*Page 4*)

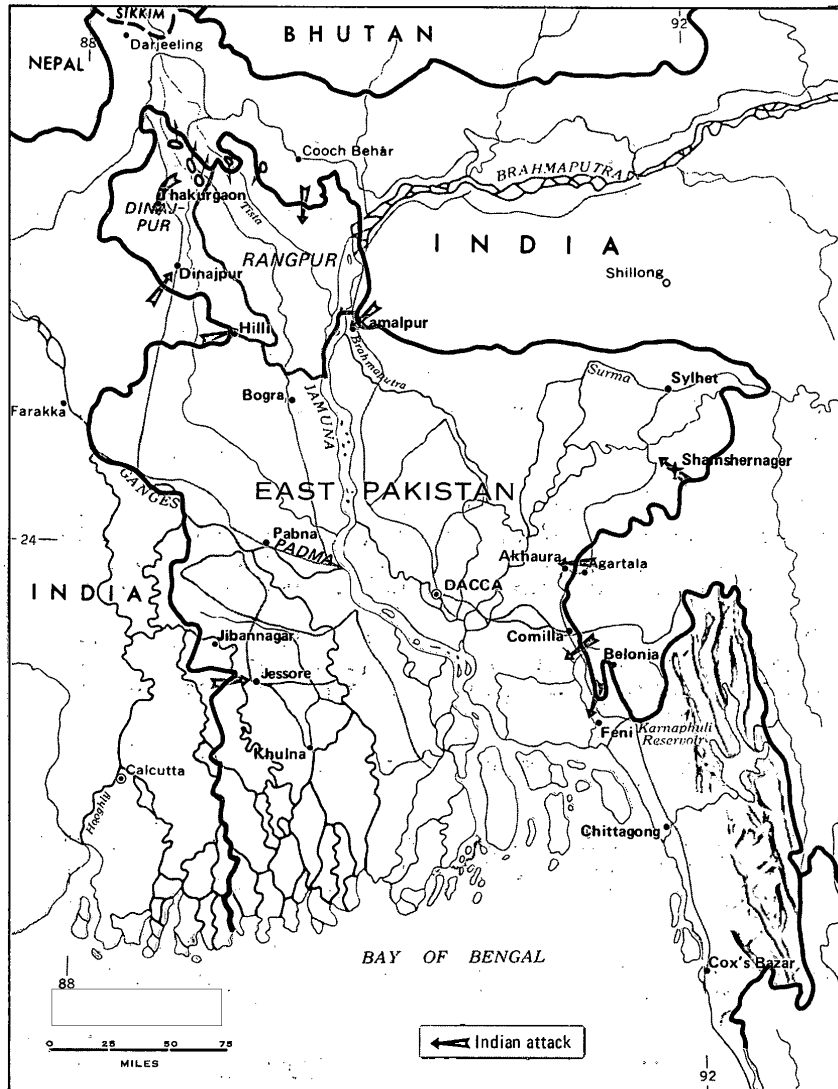
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At Annex, we comment on the regime of Brazilian President Medici and on its new mark of self-confidence, reflected in Medici's decision to visit the US.

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INDIA-PAKISTAN

Indian forces continue to advance in East Pakistan. They are making major thrusts in the two northwestern districts of Dinajpur and Rangpur, where they outnumber Pakistani troops two-to-one, and claim the capture of Kamalpur in neighboring Mymensingh District. The Indians say they are making progress in the Sylhet and Jessore areas and that on the east they have cut road and rail networks south of Comilla. Indian capture of the town of Akhaura [redacted] will give them a base for a drive on Dacca from the east.

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Heavier ground fighting is beginning to develop on the western front where Pakistani forces have launched offensives at three points into India's Punjab Province northwest of New Delhi, as well as into Kashmir. [redacted]

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[redacted] The Indians, who admit these drives have cost them some territory, claim they are making some advances farther south into Pakistan's Sind Province. They still deny that they have launched any major invasion of West Pakistan.

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The Indians continue to bomb and strafe targets in both East and West Pakistan. Fuel storage tanks in the Dacca and Chittagong areas of the East and near the port of Karachi in the West are being hit hard. In contrast to previous Indo-Pakistani conflicts, the navies of both countries have also been active. Pakistan has admitted the loss of at least one destroyer in a naval battle yesterday off the Karachi coast.

The numerical superiority of India's fleet should give it a decided advantage in any further combat.

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Prime Minister Gandhi today announced the long-anticipated recognition of Bangla Desh as an independent nation. [redacted]

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India is continuing to receive full public support from the Soviets, and Moscow is holding itself aloof from any attempts to end the hostilities. Soviet officials are adhering to the line that Pakistani repression of the Bengalis is to blame for the situation and that the conflict can only be resolved through a political settlement in East Pakistan. In an apparent reference to China, a TASS statement yesterday warned all governments to refrain from steps that might involve them in the conflict and aggravate the situation. An official in Premier Kosygin's party in Denmark also stated that the situation was different from 1965 and implied that the Soviets would not act as mediators as they did then at Tashkent.

Peking has condemned Indian and Soviet actions in the crisis and Chinese officials have held the USSR responsible for instigating India's "aggressive" policy. All Chinese statements reaffirm their "firm support" for Islamabad, but give no specifics on the actual nature of Chinese assistance and no indication that China intends to become involved directly.

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SOUTH KOREA

President Pak is initiating a series of moves that will increase his personal power. In a statement to the nation last night, Pak declared a "state of national emergency" just short of martial law.

he will also call for legislation giving him powers to strengthen the defenses of Seoul and to place more restrictions on the press. Some major personnel changes may also follow. He will not, however, move against the National Assembly or seek the use of troops. The announced purpose of Pak's action is to "awaken" the populace to the growing threat of attack from North Korea.

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These moves are the culmination of a two-month-long government campaign in which the threat from the North has been given extensive play in the press as well as in official statements and documents. Since there is no evidence suggesting an attack is imminent, the motivation for Pak's new measures seems clearly political and two of Pak's closest advisers have admitted as much to Ambassador Habib. In fact, CIA Director Yi Hu-rak told Habib on Thursday that the US should regard Pak's coming moves as "concrete evidence of future Korean self-reliance," given the US intention ultimately to withdraw its own forces.

Concern over US intentions as well as over the state of the economy undoubtedly is a factor in Pak's desire for a tighter grip on affairs. This desire has probably been reinforced by his success in quashing student disorders and recent factionalism within his own party through decisive action. These seem to us insufficient reasons, however, for Pak to take a major political step that risks serious domestic and international criticism. It may be, therefore, that the new measures represent the start of a longer-range plan to curb the political intrigues already unleashed by Pak's pledge to retire in 1975 and to prepare a case for prolonging his tenure in office.

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ARAB STATES - FEDAYEEN

A contingent of Libyan "commandos" numbering about 300 arrived in Syria recently for the announced purpose of reinforcing the Palestinian guerrillas.

If the contingent joins fedayeen forces near the Jordanian border, it could add to the instability in that area and complicate the anticipated reopening of the border to commercial traffic. Libyan Prime Minister Qadhafi has long sought to station troops in Syria, but Damascus had been reluctant to go along. Qadhafi most likely brought the Syrians around by promising them increased financial support.

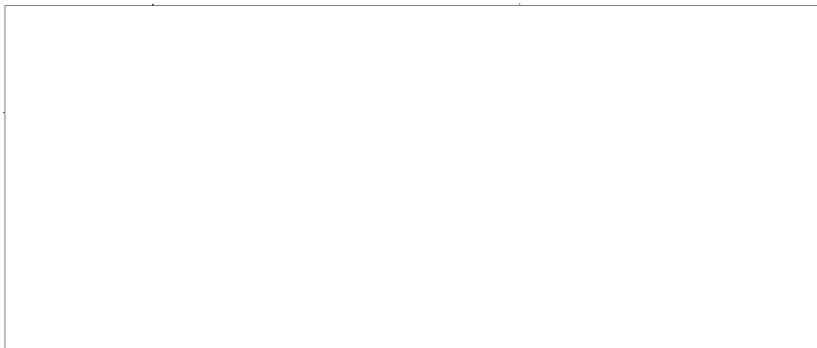
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 JORDAN

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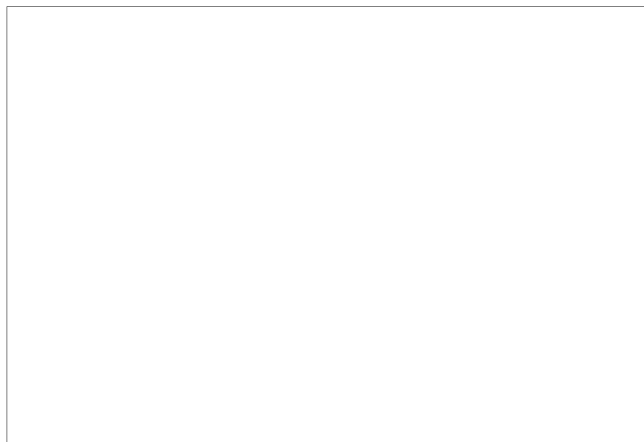
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NOTES

Cambodia: Prime Minister Lon Nol has ordered a comprehensive investigation of the Chenla II campaign, which was ended officially on Saturday, in order to determine "what went wrong." Several government units located about 15 miles west of Phnom Penh were attacked by the Communists during the weekend, leading to sharp fighting around some positions. The South Vietnamese forces operating in eastern Cambodia report an increase in the number of small clashes in recent days, but their dry season campaign has yet to encounter any substantial enemy resistance.

West Germany - East Germany: Initialing of the inter-German and inter-Berlin agreements, which had been anticipated on Saturday, is not now expected before 7 December at the earliest. The delay was caused by the West Berlin Senat, in part to permit its negotiator to clear up a few technical problems that remain in the draft inter-Berlin agreement.

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Libya

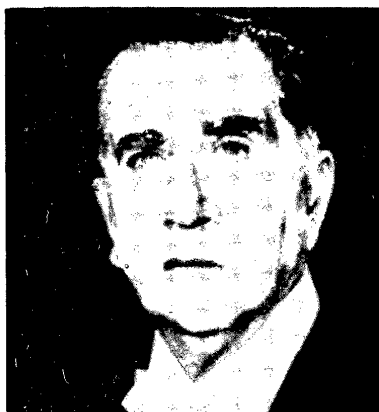
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BRAZIL

President Emilio Medici's visit to Washington, more than anything else, is a mark of his confidence that Brazil has been brought out of the chaos of the early 1960s and is now stable, prosperous, and moving toward a better future. He and his government are flattered by the US invitation and consider it as recognition of Brazil's important international status. Until now, Medici has felt that domestic problems were too pressing for him to stray far from home, and he has participated in summit talks only with his immediate neighbors.

*Emilio Medici*

The strength and stability of Medici's government derive from a military oligarchy that brooks no serious opposition. The government has also adopted some programs that have earned broad popular support. Medici himself is a former troop commander as well as the former director of the national intelligence service, and was selected for the presidency by his military colleagues because of his excellent record and his avoidance of identification with any faction in the armed forces. As was the case with his two military-backed predecessors, presidential powers have been substantially expanded under his rule. Individual rights have been restricted or even abrogated, the federal government has amassed new powers at the expense of the states, and the legislative and judicial branches have been brought to heel by the executive. Within the executive branch, only a few trusted advisers, most of them active or retired military officers, have daily access to Medici. They are coming with him to Washington.

A return to direct presidential elections and broad public participation in political life in Brazil is a distant prospect. Medici has maintained that political liberalization is possible only to the extent that it contributes to achieving his principal economic, social, and security objectives. He has said that he hopes to see "democracy" firmly installed by the end of his term in March 1974, but insists that Brazil has never known real democracy, and when it does come, it will be a uniquely Brazilian "democracy" molded to the country's special needs.

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A political realist, Medici has given selected civilians a voice in his administration and has given Congress an opportunity to discuss--and at times criticize--programs submitted by the executive branch. Two political parties--the pro-government National Renewal Alliance and the opposition Brazilian Democratic Movement--are operating because the administration wants them to, but neither has strong public appeal nor internal unity. Politicians occasionally call for greater participation, but they are fully aware that they are operating "on probation" and that if they exceed their bounds, Medici will not hesitate to deny them any role in determining the nation's course.

The only institution in Brazil that is largely immune from government reprisal is the Roman Catholic Church. Its effectiveness as a national conscience is limited, however, because of its size and diversity. The clergy are more prone to speak out on issues that directly affect them than on broad social themes. Today, more churchmen favor more of the government's programs and are reluctant to risk alienating it.

Medici's rule, however, is not simply a matter of a more or less benevolent dictatorship. His considerable successes have led to widespread tacit acceptance of his policies, and some active support. By the time he came to power in October 1969, inflation was already on the wane, and under him it has been brought to a rate that is acceptable by Brazilian standards. This has had a major share in promoting impressive economic growth, as have Medici's new steps to open up the western frontier regions and his drive to modernize the economy.

Medici also has succeeded in curbing, by drastic measures, the wave of urban terrorism that had security forces and many foreigners deeply concerned. Shortly before his inauguration, the terrorists added the abduction of US Ambassador Elbrick to their long list of "victories" that included aircraft hijackings, murders, bombings, bank robberies, and thefts of weapons. The ruthless repression of suspected terrorists continues, even though they are now only a minor embarrassment and no threat to government stability. Medici has learned to live with the worldwide opprobrium that has resulted from torture and murder of certain prisoners, and he apparently believes that in this case the end is accepted by the majority of the populace as justification for the means.

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Medici is skilled in fostering nationalism and has gained considerable support for his administration. Popular pride in Brazil's accomplishments and potential is growing. The public strongly approves Medici's expansion of Brazil's territorial waters claim from 12 to 200 miles. Although close friendship and cooperation with the US is a cornerstone of his foreign policy, Medici's readiness to pursue Brazil's economic interests even though it might result in friction with the economically advanced powers has also received a warm response.

Medici has inaugurated a number of social and economic projects intended to better the lot of the majority of Brazil's 93 million people, most of whom have seen little change in their lives under the military-backed governments since 1964. For example, major programs to expand literacy, modernize agriculture, and to create a nationwide transportation system have generated public support. This is in part due to Medici's capable public relations staff, which stresses his commitment to bettering the lot of the masses of "silent Brazilians." There are, of course, still major areas of poverty, much of the country remains underdeveloped, and some drastic social reforms are needed, but perhaps for the first time in a generation, many Brazilians have hope.

Medici also is not averse to throwing Brazil's considerable weight around in order to forestall the growth of leftist political strength in neighboring countries.

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Brazil remains firmly against the readmission of Cuba to the Organization of American States, and will remain opposed to the establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and Latin American nations.

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