



The President's Daily Brief

13 December 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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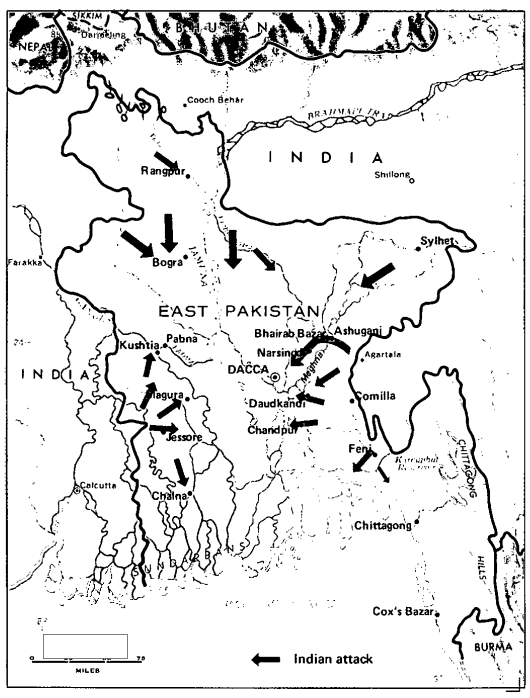
PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Indian troops continue to move toward Dacca, while the western front remains essentially unchanged. Factional differences are sharpening within the Bangla Desh government-in-exile, whose leaders have crossed into Jessore. (Page 1)

Cambodian Government forces have lost a hill position 12 miles northwest of Phnom Penh, and South Vietnamese troops have engaged in some sharp fighting near Dambe north of Route 7. (Page 3)

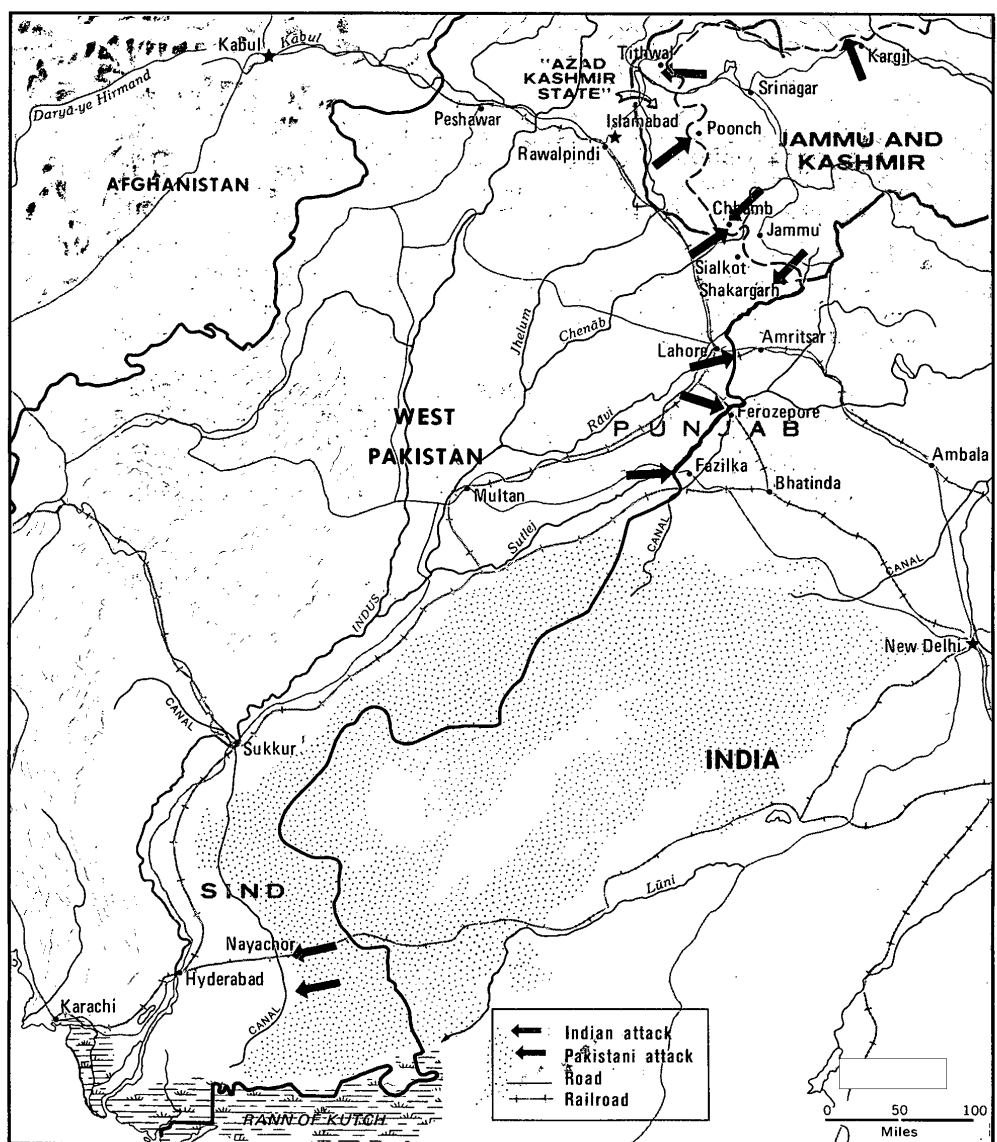
The Council of the European Communities has declared its readiness to begin trade negotiations with the US soon, but members doubt there is enough time for any results before the scheduled Group of Ten meeting late this week. (Page 4)

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INDIA-PAKISTAN

Indian troops continue to close in on Dacca. The Indians report the capture of the town of Narsingdi some 25 miles to the northeast and, according to the press, Indian units have crossed the Meghna River at Daudkandi some 22 miles to the southeast. The Indians have about 60,000 men in three divisions moving toward the city. Opposing them are between 30,000 and 40,000 Pakistani troops, including those which have fallen back from other areas. Elsewhere in East Pakistan a few pockets of Pakistani resistance remain, but these are likely to fall soon after Dacca has been taken.

On the western front, little change has occurred. Each side admits it is encountering strong resistance in the Chhamb and Sialkot sectors. In sparsely populated Sind Province Indian forces have run into a tough fight near Nayachor, some 30 miles from the border.

The two top officials in the Bangla Desh government-in-exile, Acting President Syed Nazrul Islam and Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad, have crossed into Jessore with a contingent of guerrilla fighters and newsmen. [redacted] an interim capital may be set up either there or at Pabna.

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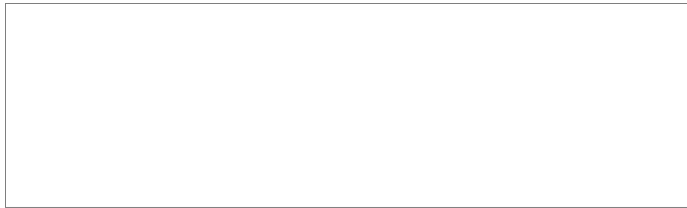


The moderate, middle-class Awami League politicians who dominate the exile government have had their differences right along with the leftist members of the Bangla Desh movement, including Ahmad. The leftists' apparently strong ties with Moscow and especially with New Delhi should give them significant influence in the new state. Younger men who have been carrying on the guerrilla struggle within East Pakistan provide another crop of potential leaders, and we believe that their ideological orientation varies widely.



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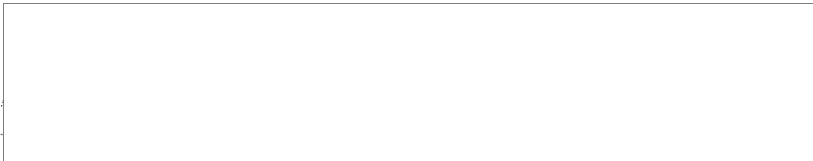


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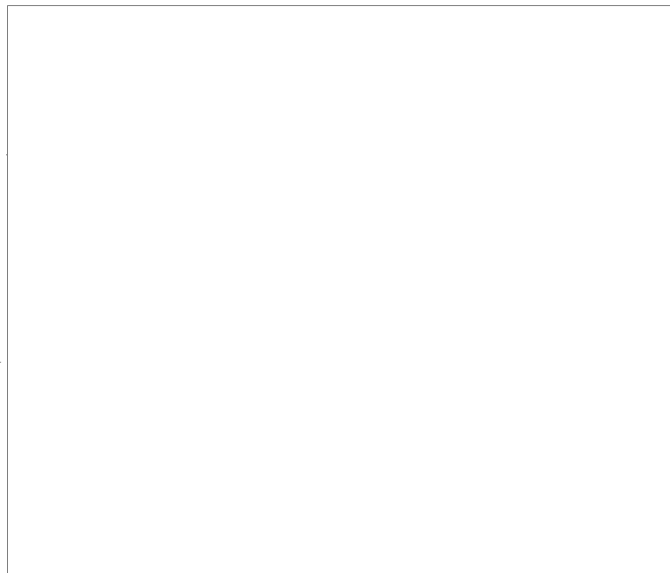
Indian Foreign Minister Singh and Foreign Secretary Kaul told Ambassador Bush in New York that India has no territorial ambitions in West Pakistan, but they indicated that this position could change if Pakistan continued the war in an effort to make gains in the West to compensate for losses in the East. When questioned, they would not commit themselves to the same extent with regard to the Pakistani territory of Azad Kashmir. On this subject Kaul would only say that India had no major ambitions.

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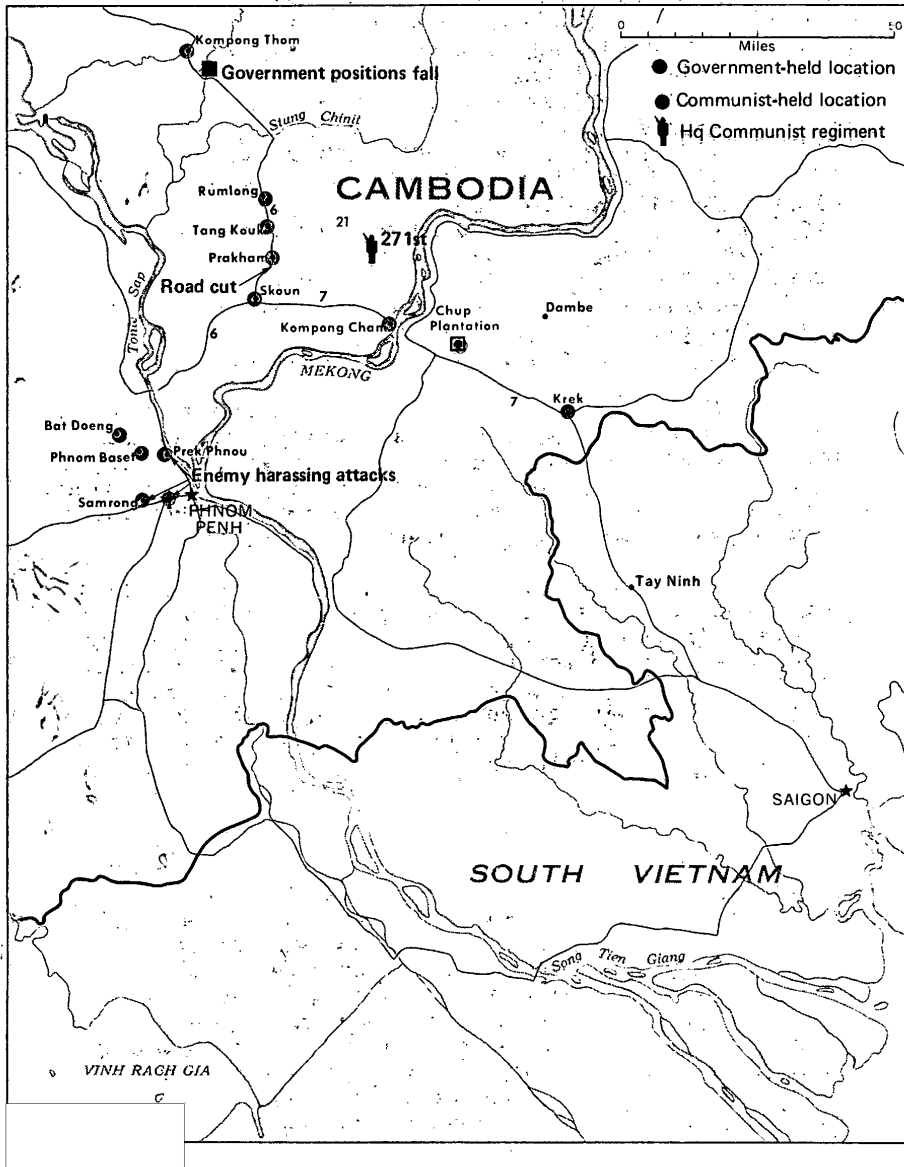
A five-man Soviet delegation led by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov has arrived in New Delhi for several days of consultations. An Indian spokesman stated that his government would bring up the question of Soviet recognition of Bangla Desh but, according to the US Embassy in Moscow, there are no indications that the Soviets are on the brink of recognizing Bangla Desh as yet.



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CAMBODIA

A government hill position at Phnom Baset, 12 miles northwest of Phnom Penh, was lost during the weekend to a Communist force believed to include elements of the North Vietnamese 101D Regiment. The Communists also fired five rockets at Phnom Penh's airport again on Saturday night and conducted simultaneous harassing attacks against two nearby villages. So far, the government clearing operations south and west of the capital have made no significant contact with the enemy.

In eastern Cambodia, South Vietnamese troops encountered some sharp weekend fighting in the Dambe sector north of Route 7. They anticipate further resistance from the same enemy force--believed to include two North Vietnamese infantry regiments and an artillery unit--as they push west along Route 7 toward the Chup plantation.

On the Route 6 battlefront, the latest radio direction finding shows the 271st Regiment of the Vietnamese Communist 9th Division continuing to move eastward from the highway. Late last week the Communists overran four more small government positions on Route 6 a few miles south of Kompong Thom. Farther south, mining of a section of the road will make it difficult, until repairs can be completed, for the government to move supplies up the roadway to its units at Tang Kouk.

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INTERNATIONAL MONETARY DEVELOPMENTS

French opposition to a formal negotiating mandate for trade talks between the European Communities and the US before currency realignments are agreed upon was outlined by Foreign Minister Schumann at a meeting on Saturday of the EC Council. Schumann contended that statements made at the Group of Ten meeting earlier this month in Rome did not commit the Community to begin trade negotiations immediately. In his view currency realignments, including dollar devaluation, should come first. The Council on Saturday nevertheless adopted a declaration of intent to begin trade negotiations "as soon as possible."

Although most of France's EC partners favored formally setting up terms that would allow the EC Commission to begin trade negotiations, they apparently agree with Paris that the US has been "pressing too hard" on the trade issue. In any event, they believe that there is too little time to expect any results of negotiations before the Group of Ten financial talks scheduled for the end of this week in Washington. The EC permanent representatives in Brussels are unlikely to finish preparing the formal negotiating mandate before Wednesday at the earliest. Their discussions will include a few possible EC concessions already advanced by the Commission as well as suggestions of US reciprocity. The complexity of these issues may require extended deliberation among the Six.

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Yugoslavia: Croat party boss Dabcevic-Kucar and her three main lieutenants quit under pressure yesterday after the firing by Tito of a Croat general and the arrest of 14 student nationalist leaders. These actions underscore the seriousness with which Tito views the threat to Yugoslav unity posed by Croatian nationalism. A new round of student trouble may well develop--at least one demonstration took place yesterday in support of the ousted leaders. After these dismissals, the new Croat party leadership will have great difficulty in restoring mutual confidence between Belgrade and Croatia.

Poland: The new leadership selected at the party congress on Saturday has a relatively progressive, modern cast and can be expected to support Gierek in attacking Poland's problems in a vigorous manner. Several of those advanced had played an important role in consolidating Gierek's power over the military and police. A similar shake-up in the government apparatus may follow soon. The congress also recommitted the party to Gierek's consumer-oriented policies, details of which he promised to air during parliamentary elections during 1972, a year early.

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