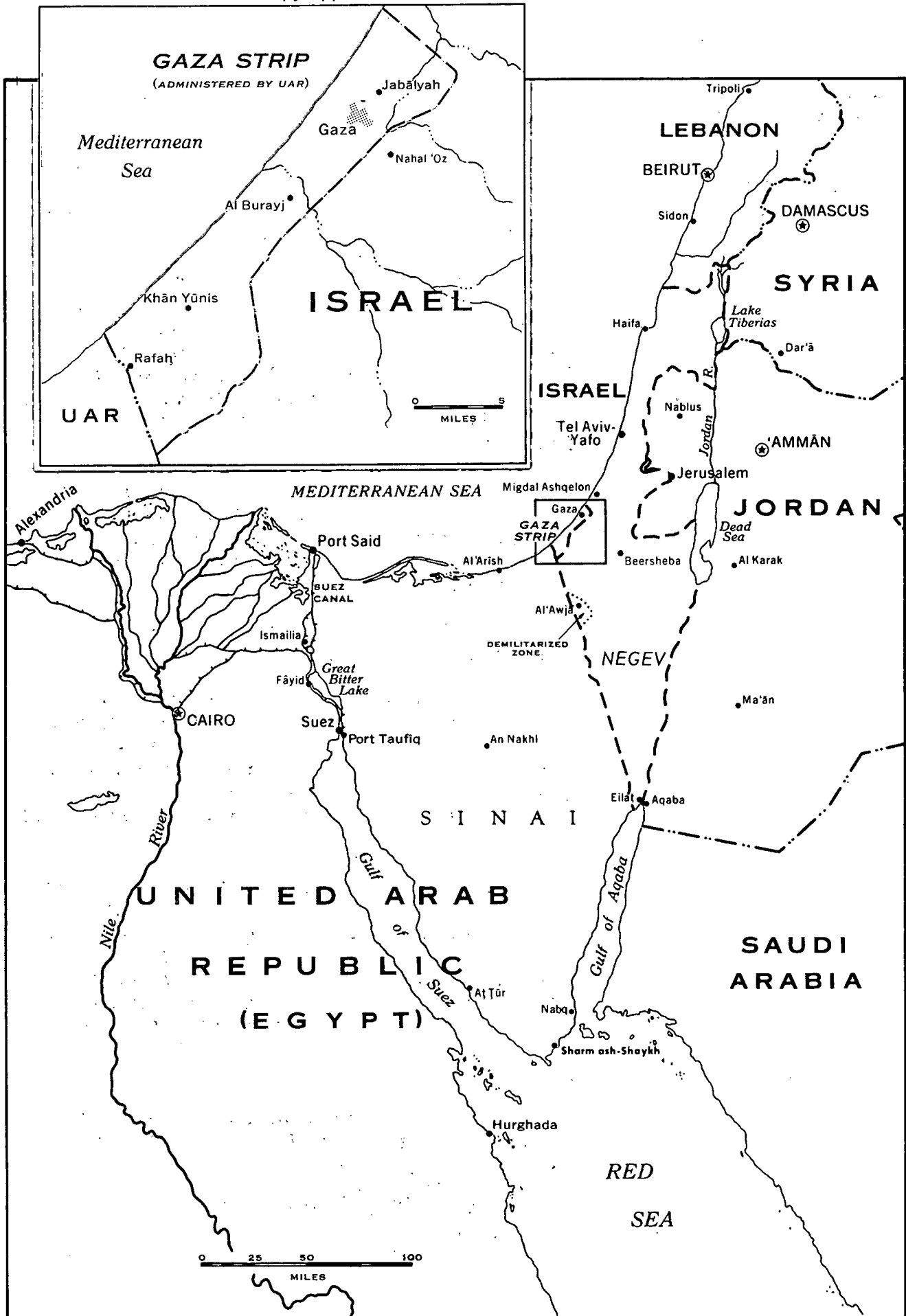


The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 10 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
10 JUNE 1967

1. Arab States -
Israel

The Security Council convened at 4:00 AM this morning in response to an urgent Syrian plea which emphasized that Israeli forces were pushing on toward Damascus. We know that the Israelis have captured a town on the main highway 40 miles south of the Syrian capital. Bombing of military installations around Damascus has been going on since noon yesterday. A late press item from Tel Aviv claims that Damascus is encircled.

We have no confirmation of a story in the Washington Post this morning which says that some 400 Russian advisers are participating on the Syrian side.

On the Egyptian front, the cease-fire remains in force.

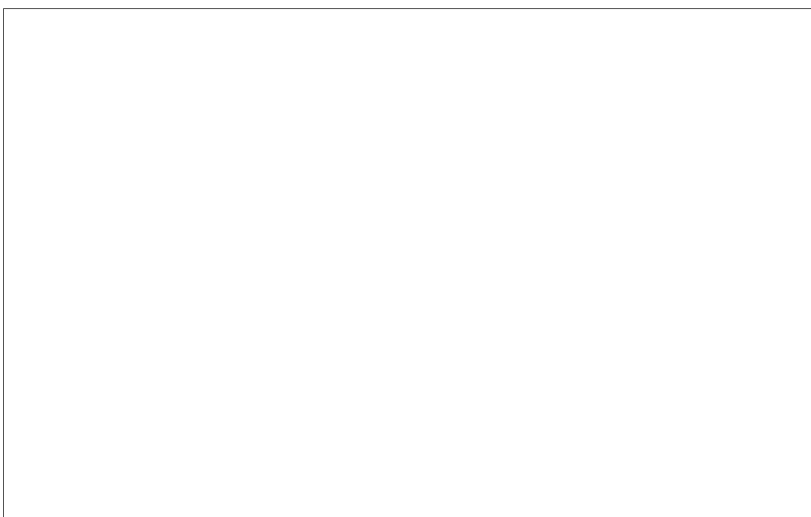
There were mass demonstrations in Cairo last night aimed at urging Nasir to stay on as president. Other Arab heads of state have joined the appeal. The matter is still scheduled to be discussed today in the Egyptian National Assembly.

There was a statement out of Moscow last night on the Middle East following a hastily called Communist "summit meeting" in the Soviet capital. The statement was essentially propaganda. It contained no specific commitments and provided no indications that increased aid to the Arabs is being planned.

No major problems in the evacuation of US citizens from the Middle East were reported over night.

2. Yemen

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3. North Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh's unusual absence from the public scene is leading to speculation that North Vietnam's aging president may be ill.

The 77-year-old Ho has been seen only once in the past three months-- the longest he has been off-stage in seven years. Ho may be ill, but it is quite possible he is taking a lengthy vacation. He has done this in the past.

4. South Vietnam

General Thieu is still reluctant to climb down off the fence and make a decision one way or the other on his presidential candidacy. Several mediators are now working between Thieu and Ky trying to find a face-saving way for Thieu to retreat. Thieu remains noncommittal on what sort of job his ego requires

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5. Cuba

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6. Nigeria:

A federal military move against the East may take place this weekend.

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7. Haiti:

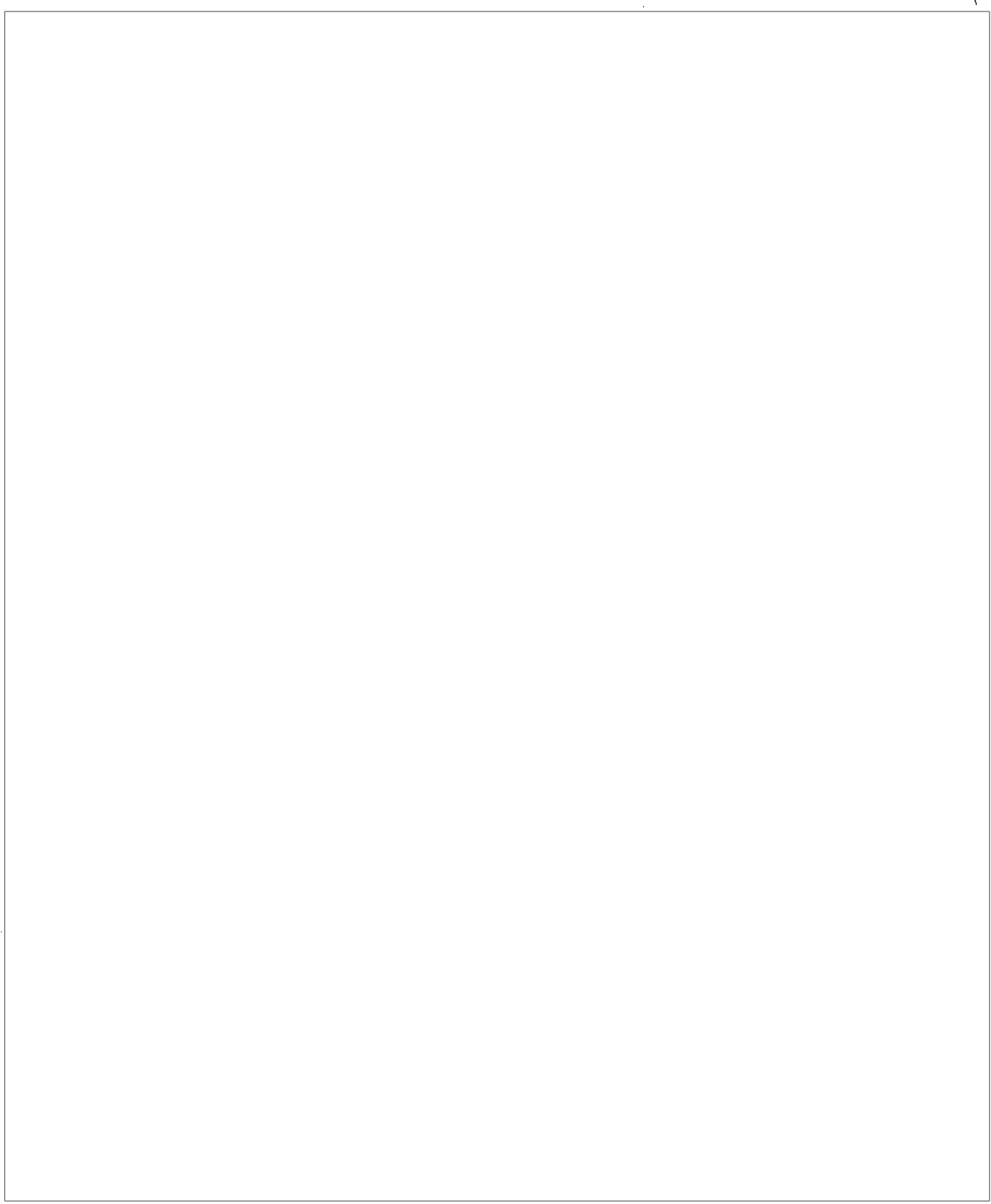
The government radio has announced that 19 military officers arrested late last month for "high treason" were executed on Thursday. Some of these people had been close to Duvalier for years. This latest example of the regime's ruthlessness could well backfire if other military aides--distinguished in the past solely by their loyalty--now begin to have doubts about their future.

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