



The President's Daily Brief



25X1

Top Secret
45

1 September 1972

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

1 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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South Vietnamese Marines have initiated a number of attacks in the Quang Tri area, apparently causing heavy enemy losses.

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(Page 3)

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Soviet

Laos

(Page 4)

Cambodian troops are having little success in reopening Communist-controlled sections of two major highways. (Page 5)

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Soviet

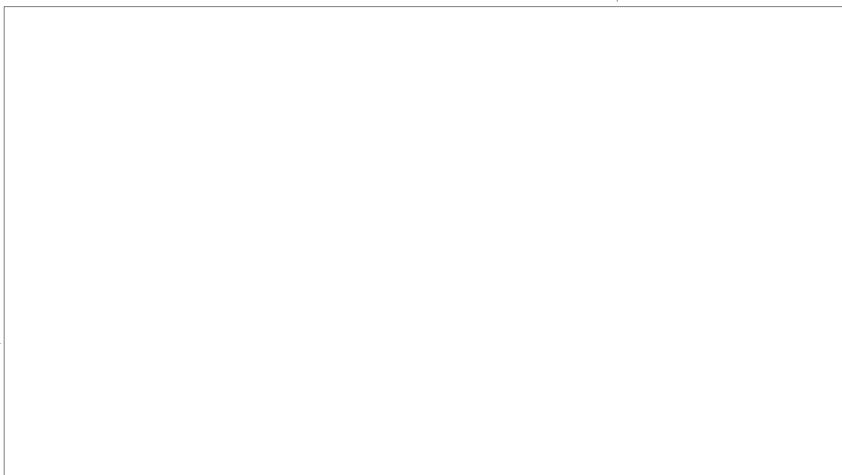
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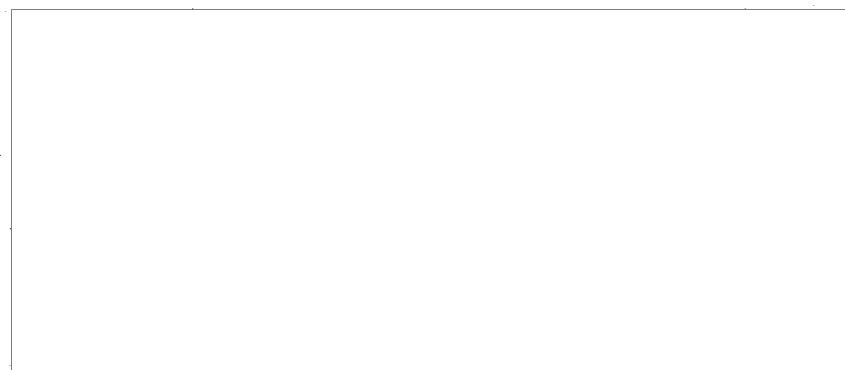
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VIETNAM



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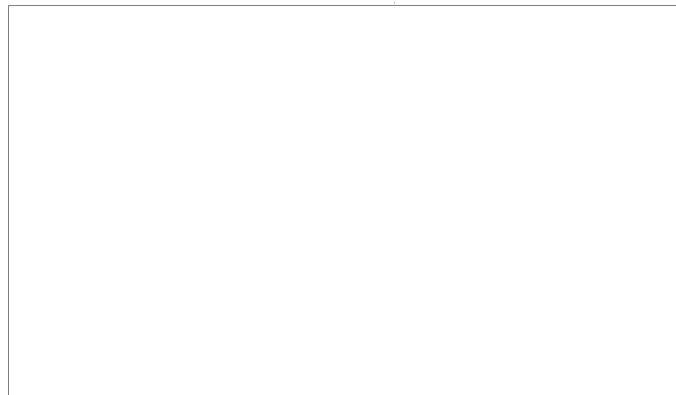
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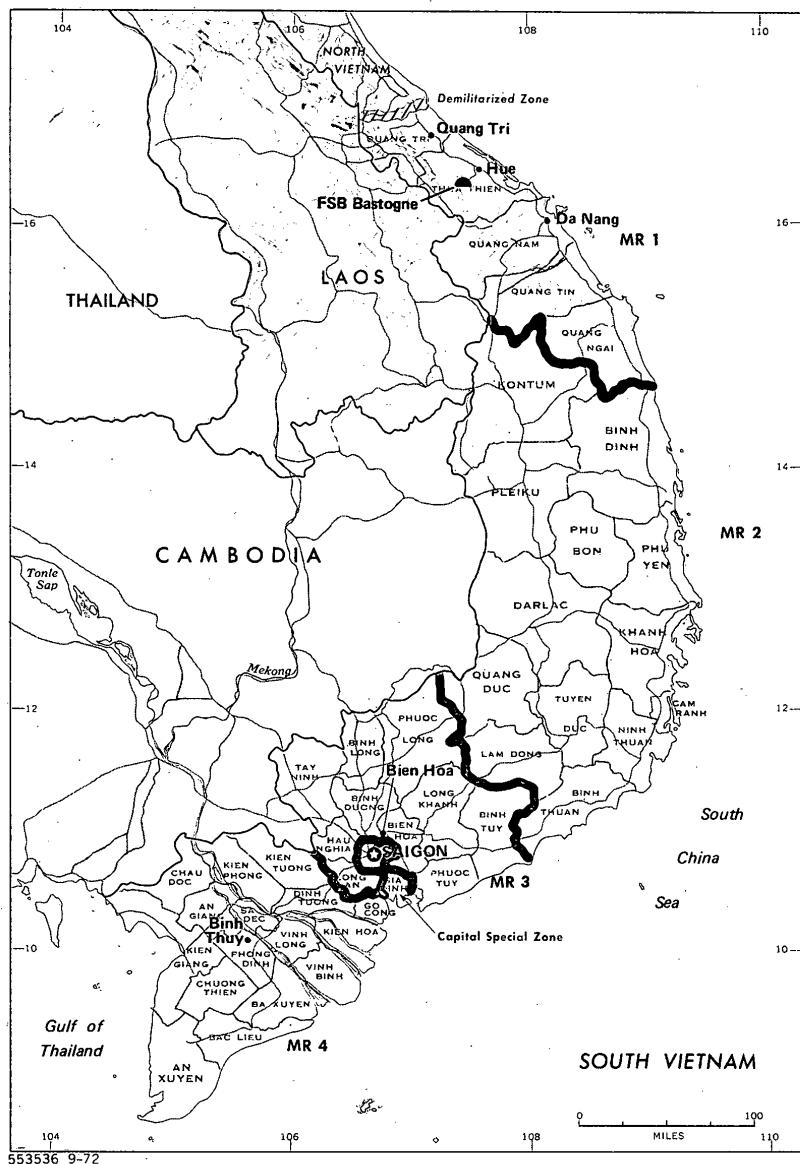
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SOUTH VIETNAM

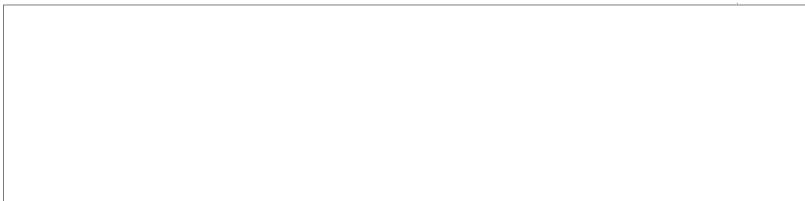
South Vietnamese Marines have initiated a number of attacks in the Quang Tri area, apparently causing heavy enemy losses. Several large enemy munitions caches have also been uncovered by government troops in Thua Thien Province near Fire Base Bastogne. Nevertheless, the North Vietnamese fired nearly 2,000 artillery and mortar rounds at South Vietnamese Marines in and around Quang Tri City yesterday, but this morning the shelling decreased. Farther south, airfields and military bases at Da Nang, Bien Hoa, and Binh Thuy were hit by a large number of enemy rockets. Enemy attacks may increase in several sectors of the country tomorrow, the 27th anniversary of North Vietnam's founding and a day on which the Communists normally increase their military activity.

Although the Communists have pounded the Quang Tri sector with an average of nearly a thousand rounds of artillery and mortar fire a day for the past five weeks, enemy supply problems are growing worse. Some Communist units there are having difficulty moving food and other supplies over routes blocked by allied operations. Communist units near Hue also appear to be suffering from a shortage of ammunition as a result of logistics problems and the capture of ammunition by the South Vietnamese.

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USSR-LAOS-VIETNAM



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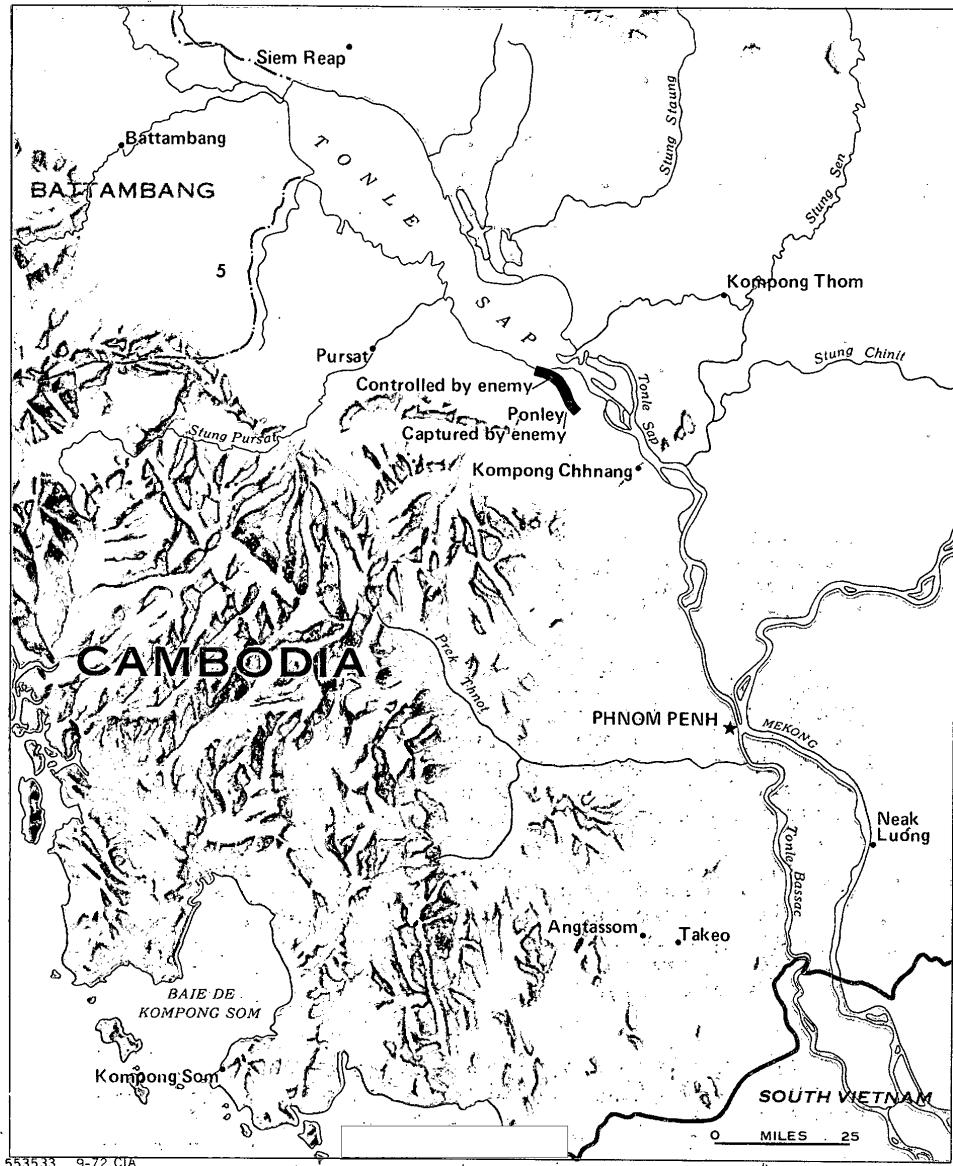
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CAMBODIA

Communist forces have increased their control over Route 5 northwest of the capital in recent days, reducing sharply the government's ability to move rice from Battambang Province to Phnom Penh.

[redacted] the interdiction of Route 5 threatened a rice shortage in the capital. The government has now purchased 10,000 tons of rice from Thailand for delivery in early September, which will help replenish the dwindling reserves.

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The Cambodian Army has not yet reopened a section of Route 2 in Takeo Province since it was closed on 26 August.

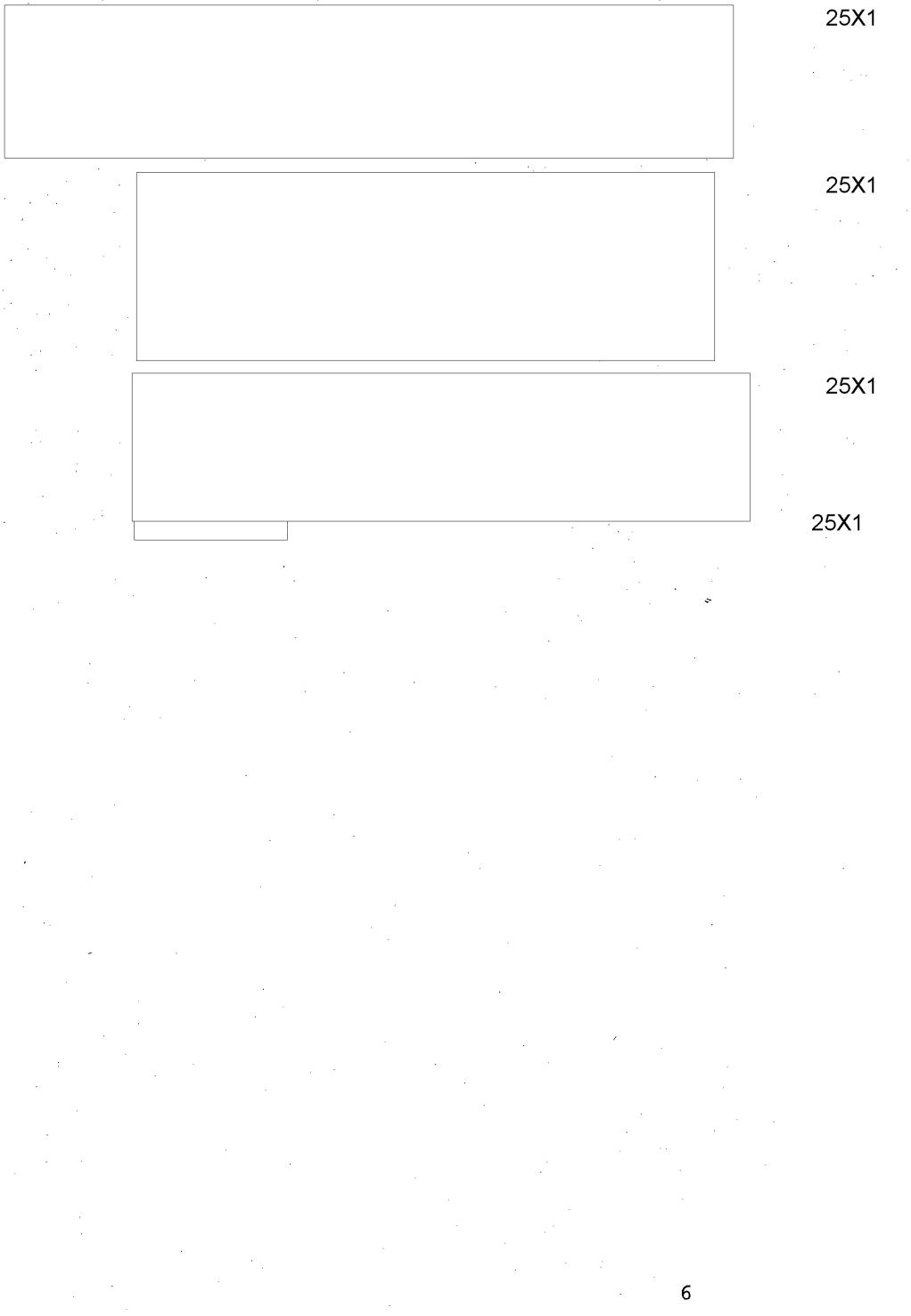
Meanwhile, intercepts indicate that the Communists are planning a series of harassing operations in the Phnom Penh area to ensure that the Cambodian Army "does not get a breather." This campaign apparently started yesterday when enemy sappers raided a petroleum storage depot and destroyed or damaged two bridges just north of the capital.

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USSR



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NOTES

USSR: The Soviets, in addition to preparing a launch of their largest space booster, also are getting ready to launch a Soyuz spacecraft.

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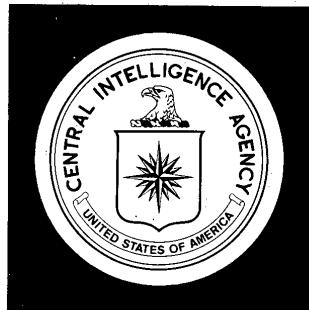
Egypt-USSR: President Sadat has called upon Egyptian editors to rebut recent Soviet press articles critical of Egypt. This indicates that the recent upsurge of polemics between Egypt and the USSR,

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will continue. Egyptian leaders apparently believe that criticism of Moscow is necessary to justify their ouster of Soviet military personnel. Moscow recently began responding to this criticism, and its public rebuttals are becoming more strident.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

2 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In the Vietnam fighting, a flurry of Communist shellings and commando attacks has shifted attention from the principal battlefronts. (Page 1)

Indian Prime Minister Gandhi is said to believe that India may have to get Bangladesh to soften its position on prisoners of war. (Page 3)

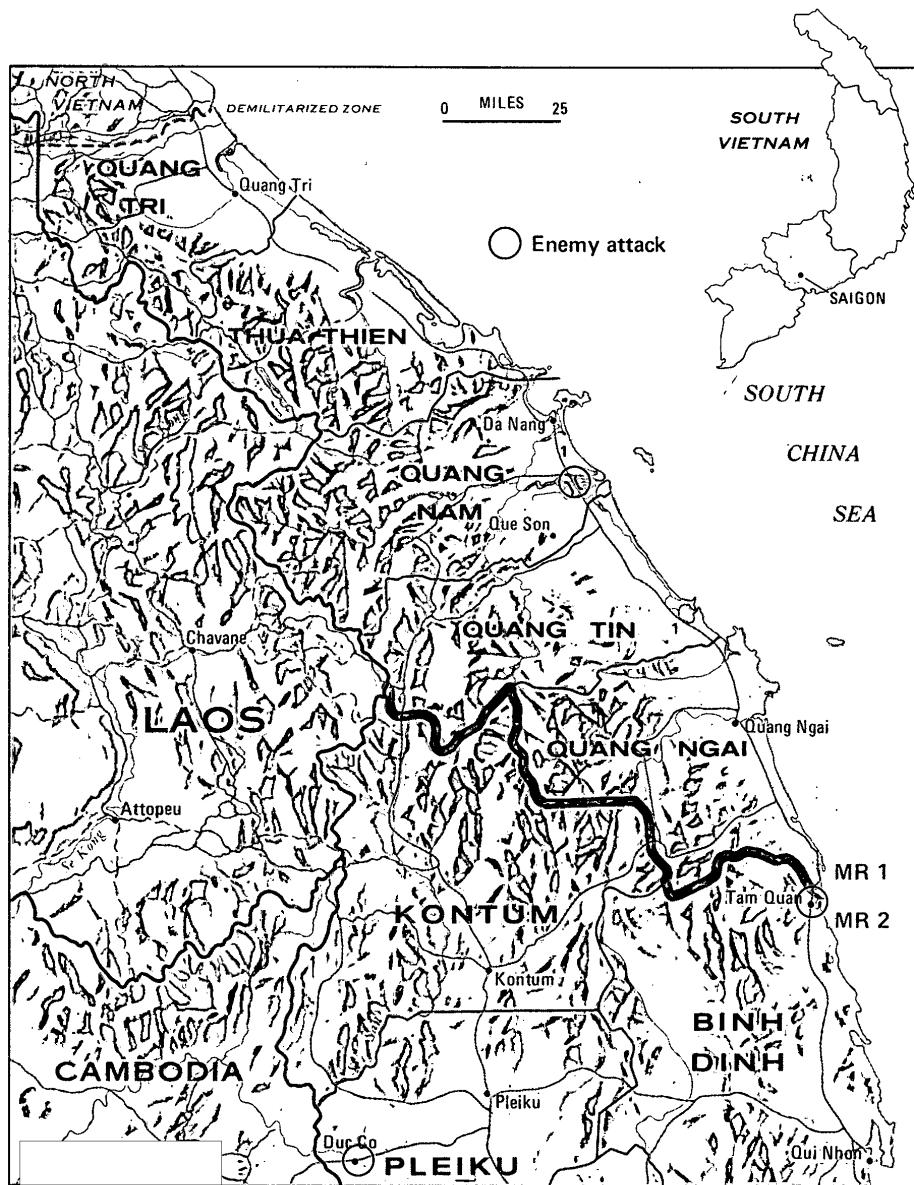
China [redacted] Pakistan [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] (Page 4) 25X1

Jordanian King Husayn is considering entering negotiations with Israel later this year. (Page 5)

Violence is on the increase in Chile, as extremists of both the far right and the far left seek to exploit shortages and high prices. (Page 6) 25X1

The Soviets [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] (Page 7) 25X1

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VIETNAM

A flurry of Communist shellings and commando attacks, mainly in Military Regions 1 and 2, has shifted attention from the principal battlefronts. Many of the attacks were directed at major highways. Highway 1 was cut in a number of places from Binh Dinh Province northward, and a half-mile-long bridge 15 miles south of Da Nang was cut. A 600-round mortar and artillery barrage against the South Vietnamese Ranger command post in the district town of Tam Quan in northern Binh Dinh was followed by a ground attack, which government forces repelled. In Pleiku Province, the Duc Co border ranger camp also was hit by a heavy mortar bombardment and ground attack.

South Vietnamese Marines report that they killed a large number of North Vietnamese in a battle just to the north of Quang Tri City, and territorial forces claim to have captured more than 200 weapons and 20,000 rounds of ammunition in an engagement south of the town. The South Vietnamese 2nd Division's counteroffensive in the Que Son Valley made no major gains yesterday.

On the political side, Hanoi late last evening made a move to grab the spotlight by announcing that three US fliers were being released on the occasion of North Vietnam's National Day.

* * *

A recent intercept from the Quang Tri area indicated that 3,500 tons of cargo had been distributed to tactical units in the area.

Although no time period for the deliveries was given in the message, the figure could represent a monthly summary. If so, the delivery rate of more than 100 tons daily is substantially higher than over-all Communist daily requirements and suggests some stockpiling for the future. The same logistic unit has continued a high level of supply activity near Quang Tri City for several months, using both the waterways and roads. By using waterways the Communists will be able to keep significant quantities of supplies moving during the rainy season, which should begin in the area in the next few weeks.

(continued)

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Heavy logistic activity is also under way in southern North Vietnam. Most routes remain open, and some are being improved. Aerial observers have reported spotting massive concentrations of supplies, and they have seen heavy vehicle and watercraft activity. Large-scale supply deliveries south of Vinh are continuing. For example, scattered intercepts during August reflected the southward movement of about 775 tons of ordnance alone, and actual deliveries doubtless were considerably higher.

* * *

The second tropical storm in a week is threatening North Vietnam. Typhoon "Elsie," packing 65-75 knot winds with gusts over 100 knots, is scheduled to hit the Vinh area late today. It is expected to head inland and spare the Red River Delta from direct effects. A flood threat to the delta from peripheral rains and rivers swollen by inland precipitation, however, is still a possibility.

Tropical storm "Cora," which hit near Haiphong on 29 August, was short-lived. The storm lost most of its power as it moved inland, and by the end of the day it had been downgraded to a tropical depression. Rainfall reported from selected stations on 29 August ranged from less than an inch to about 3 1/2 inches. There is no information on changes in river levels in the delta; in the mountains, however, rivers rose only moderately.

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SOUTH ASIA

Prime Minister Gandhi now appears to believe that she cannot profitably prod President Bhutto any further toward concessions.

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[redacted] she told her cabinet [redacted]
[redacted] that India may have to make more concessions to Pakistan and convince Bangladesh to soften its position on the prisoners of war.

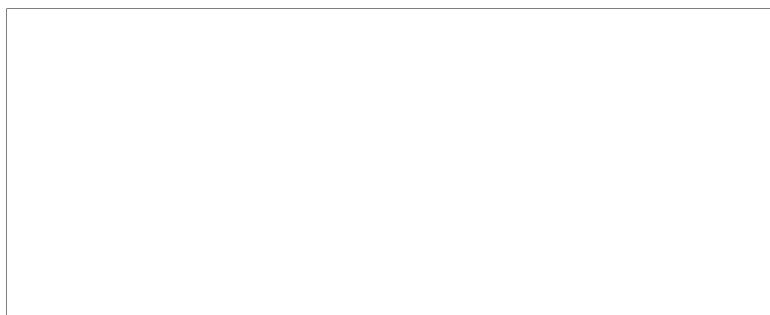
The Pakistani negotiators who were in New Delhi earlier this week may have convinced Mrs. Gandhi that as long as Bangladesh Prime Minister Mujibur Rahman remains adamant on the prisoner issue, Islamabad will not be able to reach an accommodation with New Delhi.

Unless the Indians now are willing to make a major effort, however, attempts to budge Mujib may be no more productive than previous low-key Indian initiatives. He is stubborn and has publicly committed himself on many occasions to trying Pakistani "war criminals."

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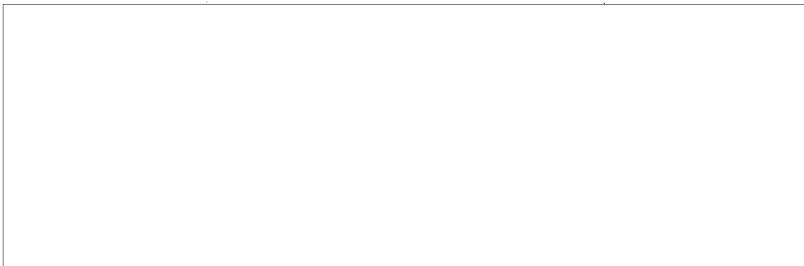


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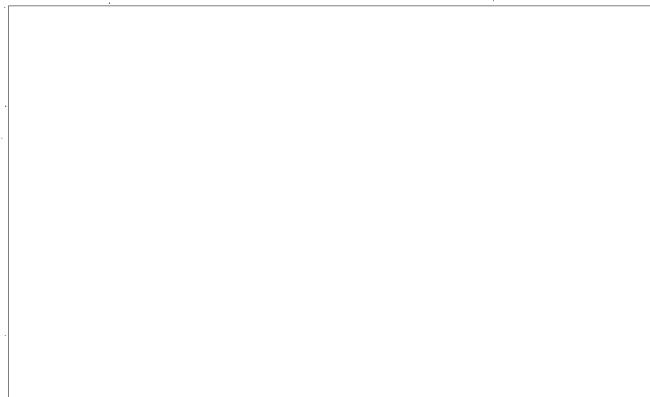
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PAKISTAN-CHINA



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JORDAN-ISRAEL

King Husayn told Ambassador Brown on Thursday that he may enter into peace negotiations with Israel later this year. The King has not yet decided the specifics of his negotiating position and wishes to discuss it at length with his advisers. Husayn, who has been meeting in recent weeks with leaders from the Israeli-occupied West Bank area of Jordan, has told them that he believes the time has come for a peace settlement. He told Ambassador Brown that the West Bankers he spoke to had posed no objections.

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The King's approaches to West Bank leaders help explain the rash of press speculation in the past few days on the possibility of early Jordanian-Israeli negotiation. Husayn clearly does not yet have a definite proposal in mind, however, and has not decided on the timing of his move.

Perhaps by coincidence, Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Allon privately told US diplomats on the same day that his government is now ready to make peace with Husayn. Like Husayn, Allon did not anticipate any movement toward a settlement for the next few months. Allon indicated that, at a minimum, Israel's position would center around his already-publicized plan, which provides for a string of fortified Israeli settlements along the Jordan River and the annexation of some Jordanian territory. Allon also said he has recommended to Prime Minister Meir that Gaza City and its port be included in any peace settlement in order to give Jordan an outlet to the Mediterranean Sea.

Israeli leaders differ on the subject of a settlement with Jordan, however. This week, Defense Minister Dayan, a long-time political rival of Allon, went on record opposing an end to Israeli control of the West Bank, even in exchange for peace with Jordan. Such a withdrawal is one of the key provisions of Allon's plan. Last Wednesday, Dayan said in a speech that he did not believe there was much chance of attaining a contractual peace with Jordan, but from his point of view, this did not rule out the possibility of a modus vivendi with Amman. Neither Dayan, Allon, nor Husayn made any reference to the city of Jerusalem, whose future status has long been an obstacle to an Israeli-Jordanian settlement.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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CHILE

Disturbances, many of them violent, are on the increase as extremists of both the far right and the far left seek to take advantage of popular resentment over shortages and high prices. Each side apparently believes that violent protests will serve its ends.

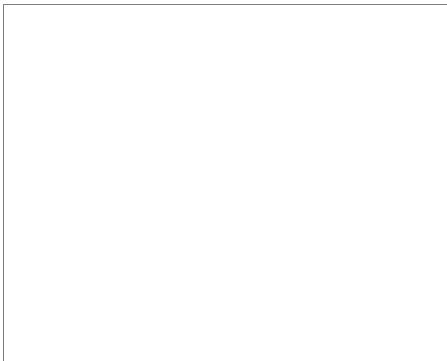
The far rightists, for example, hope to make so much trouble that the military will abandon their nonpolitical stance and intervene in the operation of the government. Some businessmen, encouraged by the success of a recent shopowners' strike, are said to have allied themselves with ultrarightists.

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The extreme leftists, for their part, believe that increasing violence will force Allende to take a more radical policy line.

So far, Allende appears to be withstanding these pressures without resorting to drastic countermoves. He continues to believe that offering to accommodate his opponents is the best way to divide and weaken them.

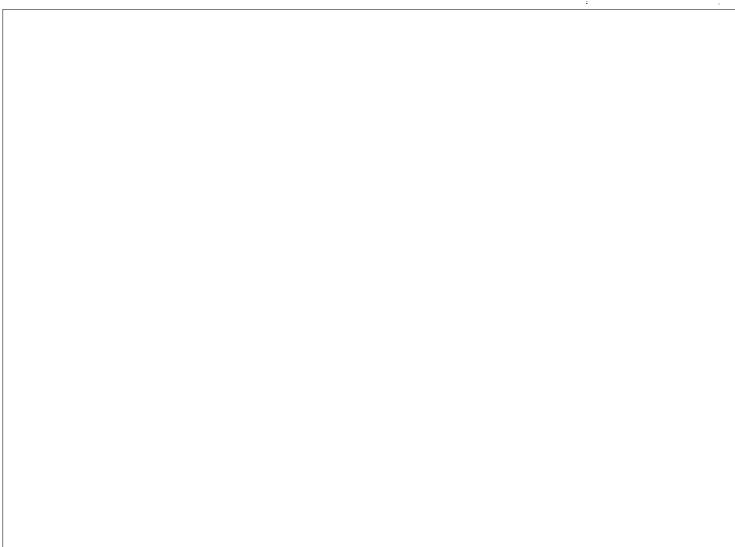
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NOTE

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Sunday Case

3 September 1972

The President's Daily Brief



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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

3 September 1972

VIETNAM

The South Vietnamese now control most of the district town of Que Son and are fighting to drive the remaining Communists from the military compound near the center of town. To the west, government forces also are advancing and are within a few hundred yards of enemy-held Fire Support Base Ross. Elsewhere in Quang Nam Province, intercepts indicate that the Communists are continuing to prepare to shell targets in the Da Nang area.

Fighting has also intensified near Quang Tri City. South Vietnamese Marines have clashed with the Communists along both the northern and southern approaches to the city. Only a few contacts were reported near the Citadel, but intercepts indicate that Communist forces there are expecting renewed government attacks soon. South Vietnamese Airborne units west of the city have reported making some progress in their efforts to move toward the Thach Han River.

In the central highlands, the Communists remain active near government outposts north and west of Pleiku City. In addition, a military convoy was ambushed on Route 14 north of Pleiku on Friday.

LAOS

General Vang Pao's offensive in north Laos has suffered some sharp setbacks. In the past few days, heavy North Vietnamese ground attacks and shellings apparently have dispersed much of the 2,500-man irregular task force that had been operating north of the Plaine des Jarres. Several hundred men from this force have managed to work their way to other irregular positions near the Plaine's western edge, where they are now regrouping.

Northeast of the Plaine, the irregular task force from Bouam Long that had been advancing southward toward Communist supply lines near Nong Pet has also encountered some stiff opposition. Three of its battalions were forced to pull back slightly on Friday following heavy enemy attacks. Intercepts indicate that elements of the North Vietnamese 866th and 335th independent regiments most likely are responsible for the enemy pressure in this area.

The irregular task force operating in the Tha Tam Bleung area southwest of the Plaine was subjected to several Communist attacks on 31 August and 1 September, but gave no ground and took few casualties. The two other irregular task forces participating in the current campaign are also continuing to meet some Communist resistance; thus far, however, they have generally held their positions south and west of the Plaine.

LIBYA-FEDAYEEN

Last June, Colonel Qadhafi announced a joint Libyan-Fatah effort to recruit Arab volunteers for the Palestinian resistance movement. Since then, there has been a steady rise in the number of people answering the Libyan leader's call for a popular crusade against Israel.

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Fatah

leader Yasir Arafat recently claimed that 8,000 volunteers were now in Libya.

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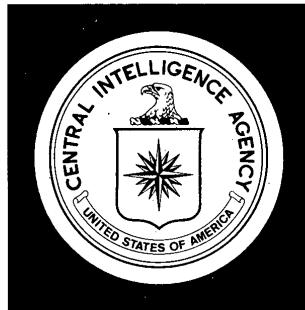
The volunteers' motives are mixed. Those from Lebanon are mostly unemployed Syrian expatriate laborers who welcome an opportunity to earn a living, especially the \$150 a month that each recruit is said to be receiving. Those from the Persian Gulf are largely Palestinian refugees whose residence permits were about to expire. Others from conservative countries such as Yemen (Sana) and Saudi Arabia appear to be genuinely moved by pan-Arab slogans of unity and defeating the "Zionist invaders."

(continued)

Qadhafi, for his part, apparently is convinced that this project is essential if the struggle against Israel is to continue. Moreover, he contends that Libya must appeal to the Arab masses over the heads of their national leaders, who he fears are seeking a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli impasse. Although clearly annoyed with Qadhafi, most Arab leaders find it necessary publicly to support the Libyan initiative rather than risk censure for being soft on Israel.

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The President's Daily Brief

4 September 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

4 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The South Vietnamese advance into the Que Son Valley appears to be making progress. (Page 1)

Vang Pao's offensive in north Laos has suffered some sharp setbacks. (Page 2)

[Redacted]

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Greek [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

(Page 4)

The Libyan effort to recruit Arab volunteers for the Palestinian resistance movement is assessed on Page 5.

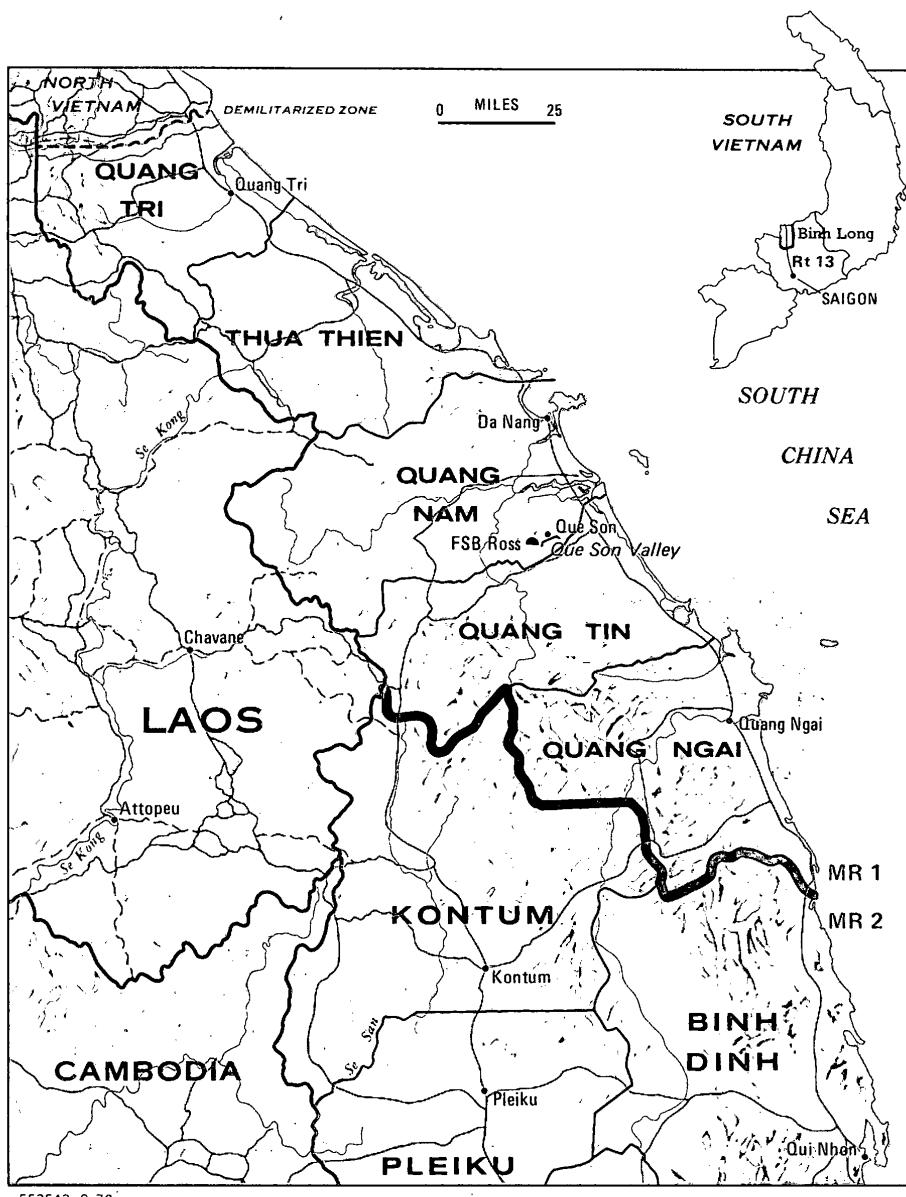
The Soviets have tacitly accepted free trade arrangements [Redacted]

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(Page 6)

[Redacted]

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

The South Vietnamese advance into the Que Son Valley appears to be making progress. Government forces now control most of Que Son district town and are trying to drive out the few remaining Communist troops. To the west, South Vietnamese forces report that they have moved to within a few hundred yards of Fire Support Base Ross, which fell to the enemy two weeks ago. A prisoner from the North Vietnamese 711th Division, which has been largely responsible for this enemy campaign, claims that his unit, the 270th Regiment, has suffered heavy losses and has received no replacements since the fighting in this area began. According to other prisoners [redacted] the 711th Division is currently engaged in a major resupply effort, indicating that the Communists intend to continue the fighting in this sector.

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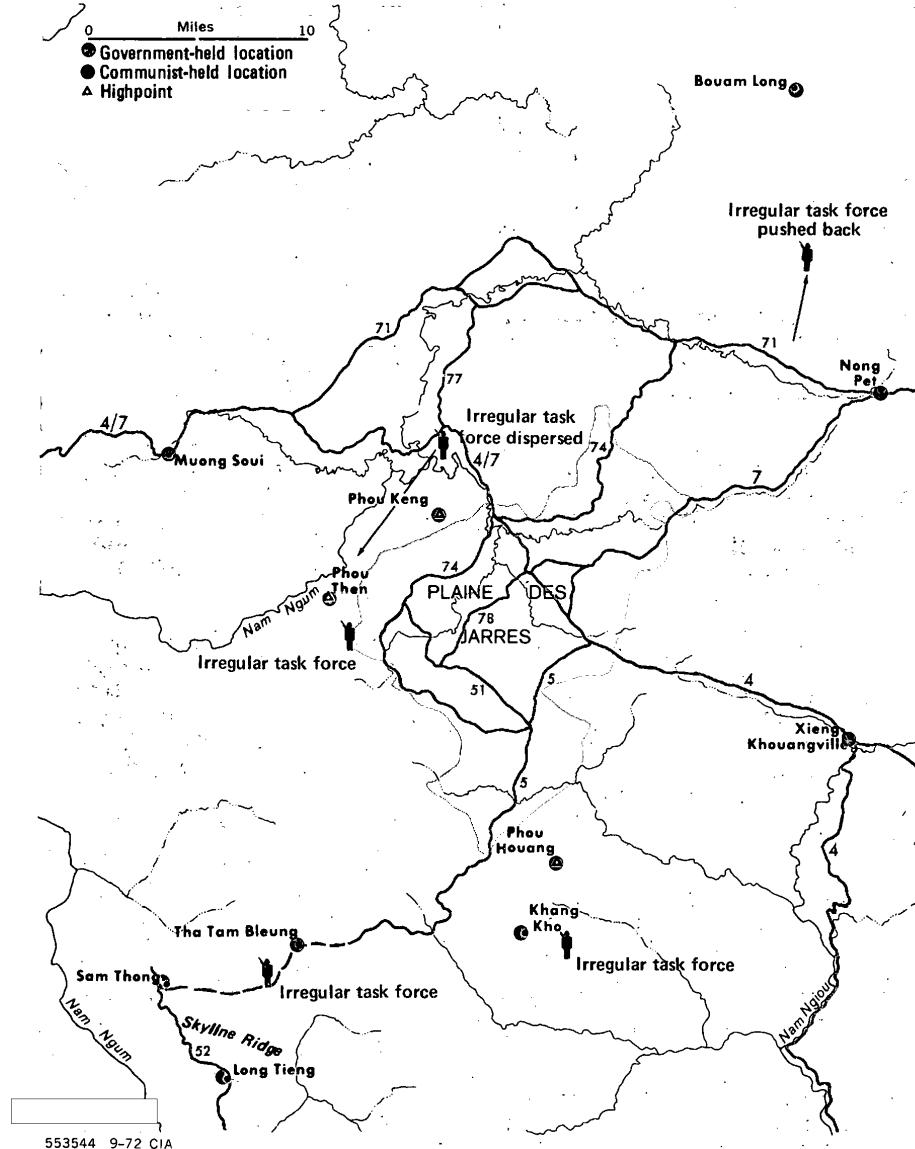
South Vietnamese Marines clashed frequently with the Communists in both the northern and southern outskirts of Quang Tri City over the weekend. Communist gunners poured about 3,000 artillery and mortar rounds into government positions throughout Quang Tri Province on Saturday and Sunday, but the shellings caused only light casualties.

In the central highlands, the Communists launched their heaviest attack in more than two months. A South Vietnamese Ranger outpost 20 miles west of Pleiku City was attacked and partially occupied by the enemy on Saturday. Late reporting indicates the outpost was overrun early this morning.

In other parts of the country, military activity over the weekend was light, consisting largely of harassing attacks against government positions along Route 13 in Binh Long Province and against isolated outposts in the Mekong Delta.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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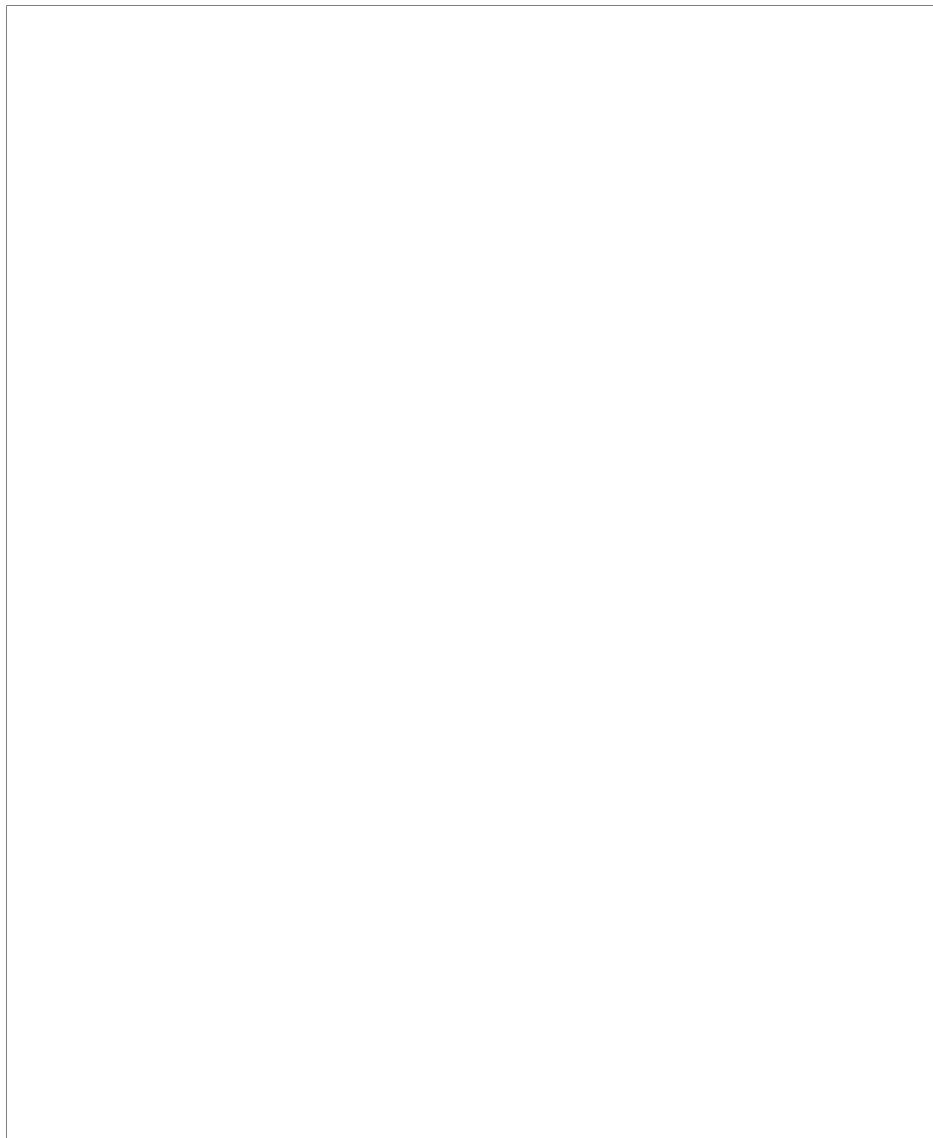
LAOS

The government's offensive in north Laos has suffered some sharp setbacks. The most serious occurred north of the Plaine des Jarres, where heavy North Vietnamese ground attacks and shellings have dispersed the 2,500-man irregular task force that had been operating in the area. Thus far, some 600 to 700 troops from this force have worked their way to other irregular positions near the Plaine's western edge; most have been evacuated for medical treatment.

Northeast of the Plaine, the irregular task force from Bouam Long that had been advancing toward Communist supply lines near Nong Pet has also encountered stiff opposition. Three of its battalions pulled back on Friday in the face of heavy Communist attacks. At last report, however, the task force commanders indicated that they were still determined to move toward their objectives. Intercepts indicate that elements of the North Vietnamese 866th and 335th independent regiments most likely are responsible for the enemy pressure both north and northeast of the Plaine.

The other three task forces participating in Vang Pao's campaign continue to report relatively light contact with Communist forces in their respective sectors west, southwest, and south of the Plaine, and their positions remain essentially unchanged.

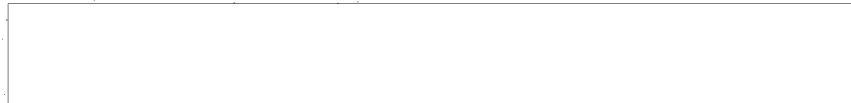
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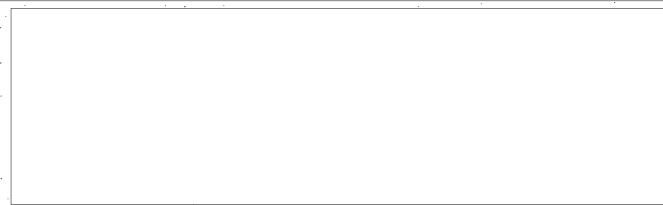
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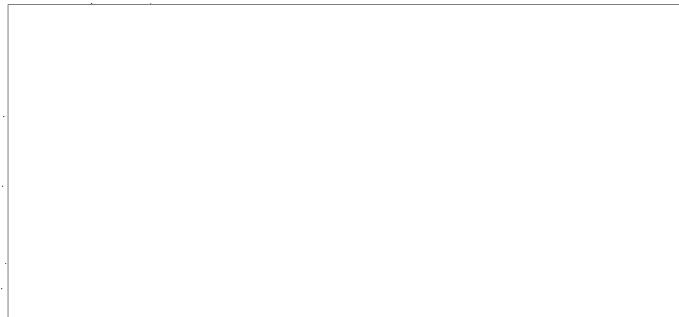
CHINA-LAOS



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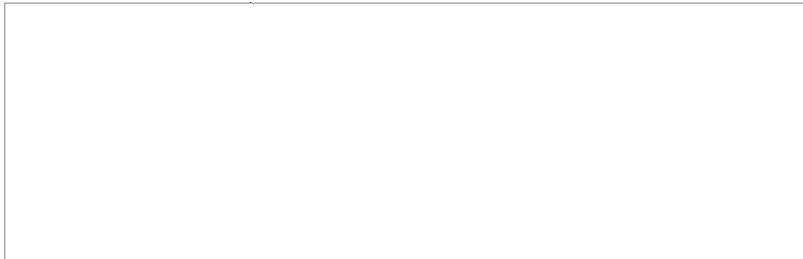


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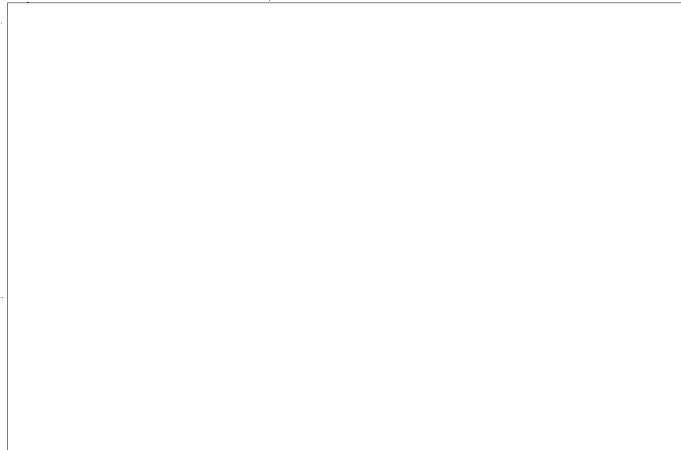
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GREECE



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LIBYA-FEDAYEEN

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USSR-EC

Moscow has tacitly accepted free trade arrangements between the expanding Common Market and three of the principal European neutral states. [redacted]

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The Soviets do not appear to have gone as far in approving a Finnish arrangement with the EC.

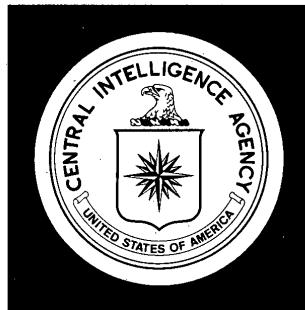
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Despite these signs of a more realistic attitude in Moscow, the political implications of an expanding European Community continue to trouble the Soviets. To slow EC growth, the USSR would like to see entry into the Community defeated in one of the upcoming Scandinavian referenda on accession, and Soviet propaganda is zeroing in on the close Norwegian contest.

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The President's Daily Brief

5 September 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LATE ITEM

Early this morning Arab guerrillas entered the quarters of the Israeli Olympic team in Munich, killed at least one occupant, and are holding as many as 20 Israeli athletes hostage within the building. Press reports indicate the guerrillas are demanding the release of Arab prisoners in Israeli jails in return for the lives of their hostages. Prime Minister Golda Meir is holding an emergency meeting of her cabinet to discuss Israel's response.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

5 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In a speech on North Vietnam's National Day, Premier Pham Van Dong seemed to hint at possible shifts in the Communists' negotiating position... (Page 1)

The Communists' Central Office for South Vietnam has ordered an upsurge of military action and terrorism during October in order to influence the US elections. (Page 3)

The situation of General Vang Pao's task forces around the Plaine des Jarres in Laos is discussed on Page 5.

Now that National Assembly elections are over, Cambodia's chief, Lon Nol, is planning to make some changes in his cabinet. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NORTH VIETNAM

A major speech by Premier Pham Van Dong on 2 September, North Vietnam's National Day, constitutes one of the most comprehensive statements of the Communists' negotiating position since the Paris talks resumed. The premier repeated his government's demands for complete US withdrawal from South Vietnam, an end to US support of the Saigon government, and a guarantee of US "respect for the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination," but his elaboration of these points was unusual.

On the first and second of these demands, Pham Van Dong was more specific than Communist negotiators have been in recent statements. He indicated that the US would have to end its air, naval, and other military activities in both the North and South, in addition to withdrawing all its ground forces from South Vietnam. He made no mention, however, of the US military presence elsewhere in Indochina. The premier also implied that Hanoi would not insist on an end to all US support for the Saigon regime, but only a halt to "all its military commitment."

In discussing the meaning of US respect for "self-determination," Dong omitted two subjects that are usually broached in this context. Nowhere did he mention the long-standing demand for President Thieu's resignation, nor did he refer to the call for elections which the Communists have always insisted should be held under a coalition "government of national concord." He repeated the demand for formation of such a coalition, but of its functions he said only that its members would "together share the enormous, imperative, and complex tasks to which the people of various strata are urging a solution." This vague treatment of a critical issue is another hint that the Communists might be flexible on the details of a coalition in Saigon, once the principle is agreed.

There is at least a hint in Dong's speech, as there has been in other recent North Vietnamese statements, that a preliminary settlement might be reached on the basis of US endorsement in principle of Hanoi's demands. In one passage (which Radio Hanoi's international service repeated for emphasis), Dong said that "a fundamental and stable solution

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

of the Vietnam issue must affirm" the principles he enumerated. This phrasing might mean that the US could achieve a preliminary agreement with the Communists by signifying acceptance of Dong's broadened principles.

This analysis, based as it is on one public statement, must be considered tentative. It imputes a high degree of precision to a speech which clearly includes considerable holiday boilerplate. Moreover, there were many other themes in Dong's address, including strong doses of fighting rhetoric, that were anything but conciliatory.

In one respect Dong's speech is unambiguous. In the section dealing with the support Hanoi has received from the Communist world he went about as far as etiquette permits on such a formal occasion in signaling his dissatisfaction with Hanoi's Communist allies, particularly Moscow and Peking. In his rendering of Hanoi's customary statement of gratitude, he took a decidedly pro-forma line, lumping the Communist governments together with "all the world's people." Although he expressed "greetings" to the Soviet Union and China, he did not single them out for special thanks. Dong informed Hanoi's patrons that, given the contributions of the Vietnamese Communists to the proletarian revolution, Hanoi is "all the more entitled" to ask its allies to "fulfill their international duty."

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Recently, the Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN) outlined to its subordinates Communist objectives in South Vietnam during September and October. [redacted] the COSVN instructions specify October as the decisive month of the 1972 offensive, during which the Communist main forces are to lead a surge of military activity. The attacks are intended to force the US and South Vietnamese governments to grant concessions at Paris prior to the US presidential elections, and to move the "revolution" in South Vietnam into a political phase by the end of the year.

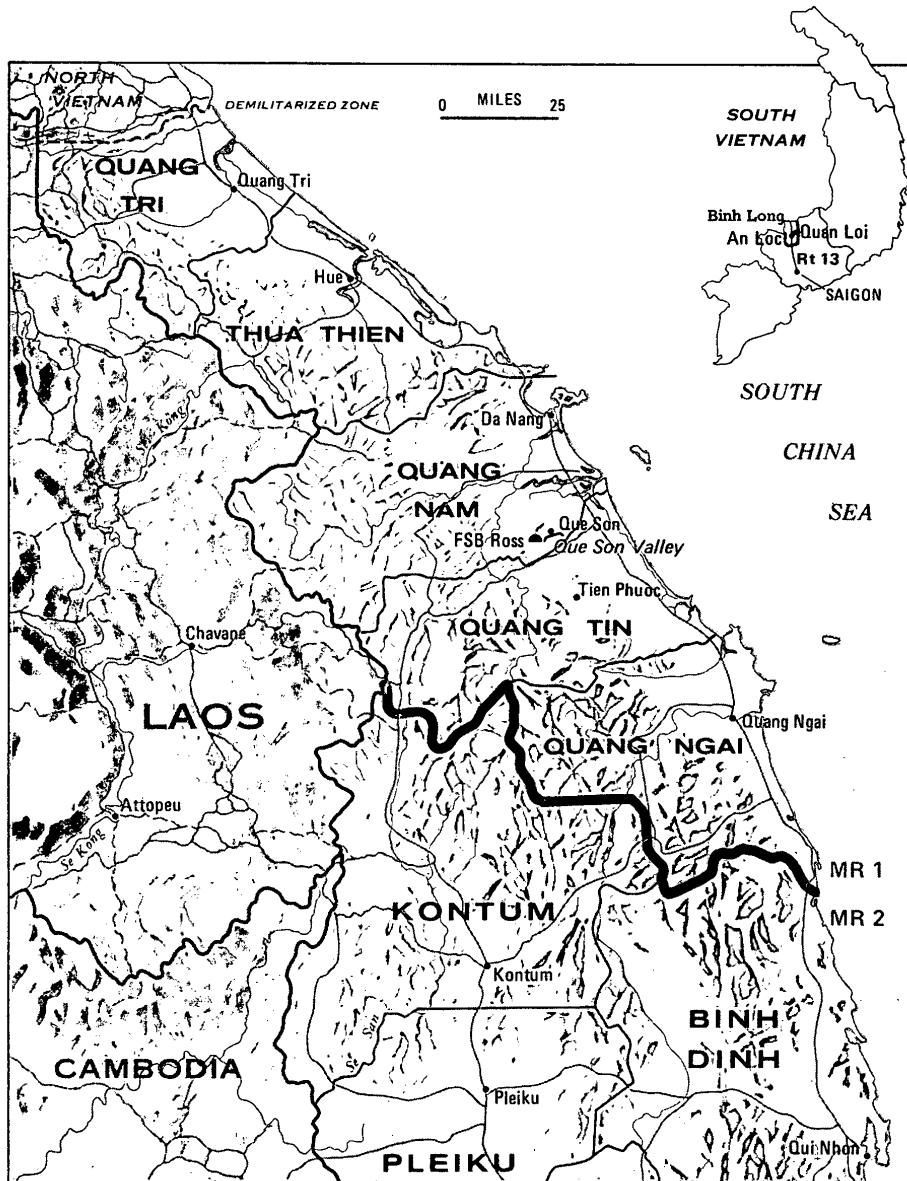
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The COSVN's main forces have been directed to use their artillery and sapper units to attack South Vietnamese defenses protecting Saigon as well as large US and government bases. The object of these attacks would be to tie down South Vietnamese forces and prevent them from launching counterattacks into "liberated" areas. Viet Cong local forces have been tasked with assassinating government officials in order to weaken South Vietnam's administration at the lowest levels. The instruction also directed Viet Cong cadre to recruit new members and to emplace themselves in positions from which they could manipulate the populace following a cease-fire.

The instructions emphasize that American prisoners are the most valuable commodity the Communists hold because through the prisoners, the US can eventually be forced to accept a political settlement of the war. In this regard, the COSVN specified that it is better to capture one American than to kill 30. Communist cadre and troops are cautioned to guard all US prisoners closely to prevent their escape or death.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

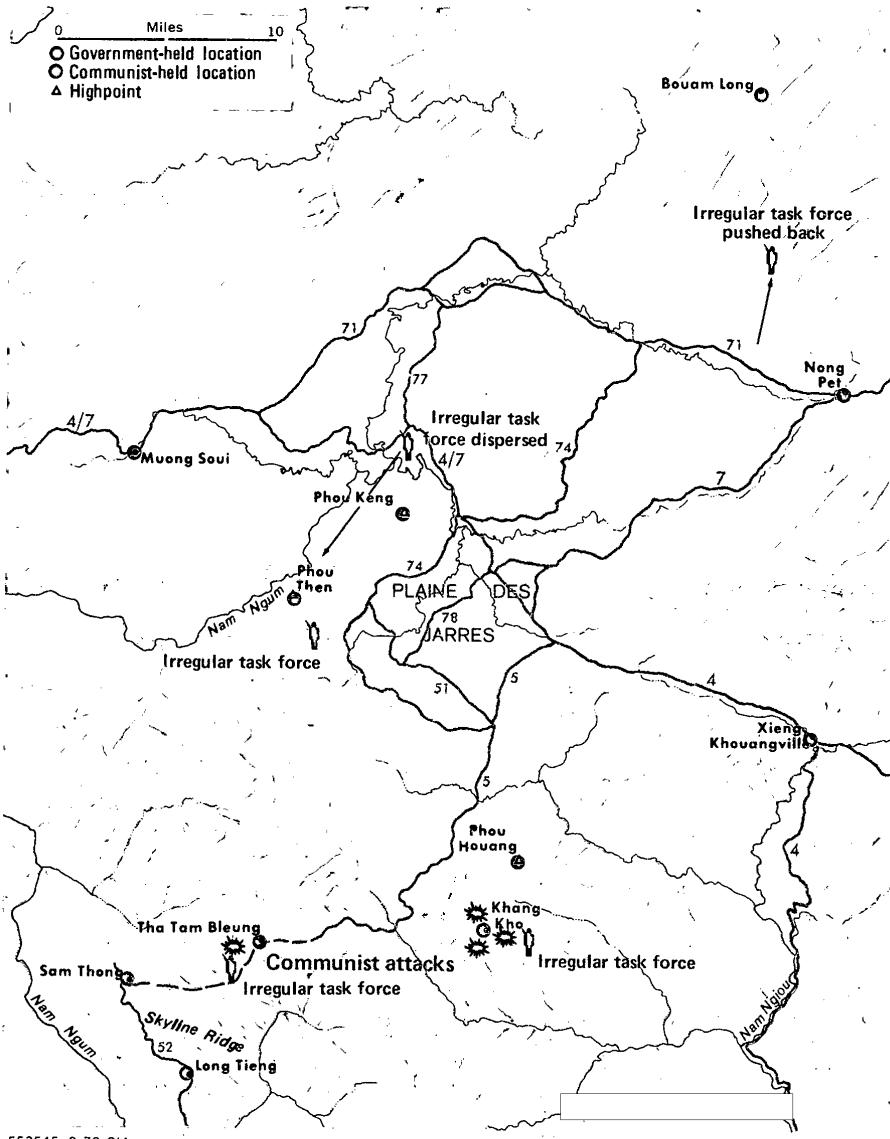
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Government troops have made some small progress in their counteroffensives since yesterday. In the Que Son Valley, South Vietnamese troops have regained control of Que Son district town, but have not completed clearing several pockets of resistance from it. South Vietnamese forces also report that they have moved still closer to Fire Support Base Ross, but it remains in enemy hands. In a move apparently designed to affect the fighting in the Que Son area, Communist troops just to the south attacked Tien Phuoc district town and a number of government outposts in Quang Tin Province. The enemy was pushed back, but several battalions of government troops were pulled out of the Que Son area and sent into Quang Tin Province to reinforce South Vietnamese positions.

In Quang Tri Province, ground action has temporarily eased, but the Communists continued to pound South Vietnamese positions in and around Quang Tri City with heavy mortar and artillery fire.

In Binh Long Province, the government's drive north from An Loc is making little progress and there have been several sharp clashes near Quan Loi.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Government irregulars from the task force north of the Plaine des Jarres that was dispersed by a series of strong North Vietnamese attacks late last week are continuing to filter back to friendly positions just west of the Plaine. Almost all of the stragglers apparently will require some medical treatment. There has been no change in the status of the other government task force in the north, whose movement from Bouam Long toward Nong Pet was halted by Communist resistance on 1 September.

South of the Plaine, the Communists are taking a stronger stand against the two irregular task forces in that area. Elements of the North Vietnamese 148th and 174th regiments have launched ground attacks and conducted sporadic shellings against the task force in the Tha Tam Bleung sector, but the irregulars have held their ground. Units assigned to the other southern task force, which is operating in the vicinity of Phou Houang, had several clashes with the Communists on Sunday. Two battalions were pushed out of their positions and withdrew a short distance to the south to regroup.

The weather continues to have a crucial effect on the course of Vang Pao's current offensive. Bad weather prevented any extensive air support for the ill-fated northern task force and has also hindered resupply missions. Weather conditions have gradually been improving, however, and 105 air strikes were carried out on Sunday in support of irregular units around the Plaine.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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CAMBODIA

The Lon Nol government apparently mustered a substantial military vote against token opposition in Sunday's election for the National Assembly. The civilian turnout was light despite the fact that harassment by the Communists was less than expected.

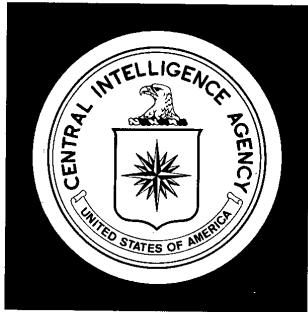
Lon Nol now plans to make some cabinet changes. Shortly before the election, he indicated that he plans to have Information Minister Long Boret take over the foreign ministry from Son Ngoc Thanh. Thanh's reputation as a rightist has complicated Phnom Penh's efforts to project a neutralist image. Boret is regarded as competent and has considerable experience in handling diplomatic assignments. [redacted]

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Lon Nol is also still trying to persuade opposition leaders In Tam and Sirik Matak to accept key positions in his government in order to restore some semblance of political unity.

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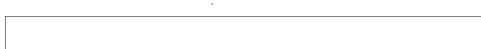
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The President's Daily Brief

6 September 1972

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declassification schedule of E.O. 14176
exemption category: SR(1)(2)(3)
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

6 September 1972

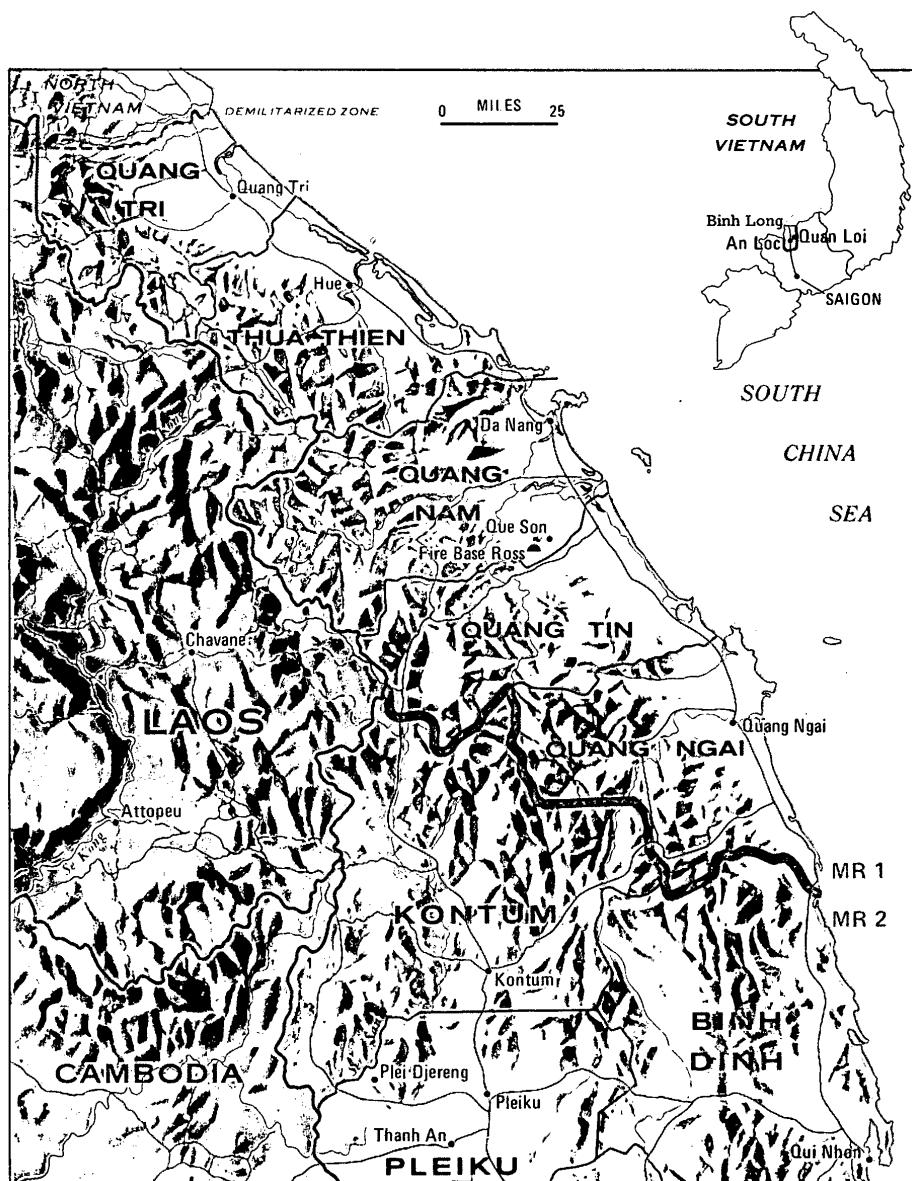
PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Rains have slowed military action in South Vietnam's northern two provinces, but government forces report significant progress in other areas. (Page 1)

Tel Aviv seems certain to avenge the murder of Israeli Olympic participants. (Page 2)

Japanese officials are worried that recent leftist-inspired opposition to US military activities in Japan may spread. (Page 3)

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VIETNAM

Typhoon-spawned rains have slowed military action in the northern two provinces, but government forces report significant progress in other areas. Despite the rain, elements of the South Vietnamese 2nd Division have seized the western part of Fire Base Ross and are moving toward well-entrenched enemy units in the higher eastern portion of the base. Government clearing operations in northeastern Quang Tin Province have been sufficiently successful to allow some government units sent there over the weekend to return to the Quang Nam battle zone. In Military Region 3, the South Vietnamese 18th Division is making progress in its drive north of An Loc. One regiment has reached the Quan Loi Airfield that has been in enemy hands since 6 April. Press reports of its capture have not been confirmed, however.

Enemy forces in Pleiku Province, mostly from the North Vietnamese 320th Division, have moved on to attack several additional Ranger camps and artillery bases north and south of the provincial capital. They captured Plei Djereng Ranger Camp west of the city over the weekend. Recently captured prisoners claim that the primary Communist objective in western Pleiku is the capture of the district town of Thanh An.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-FEDAYEEN

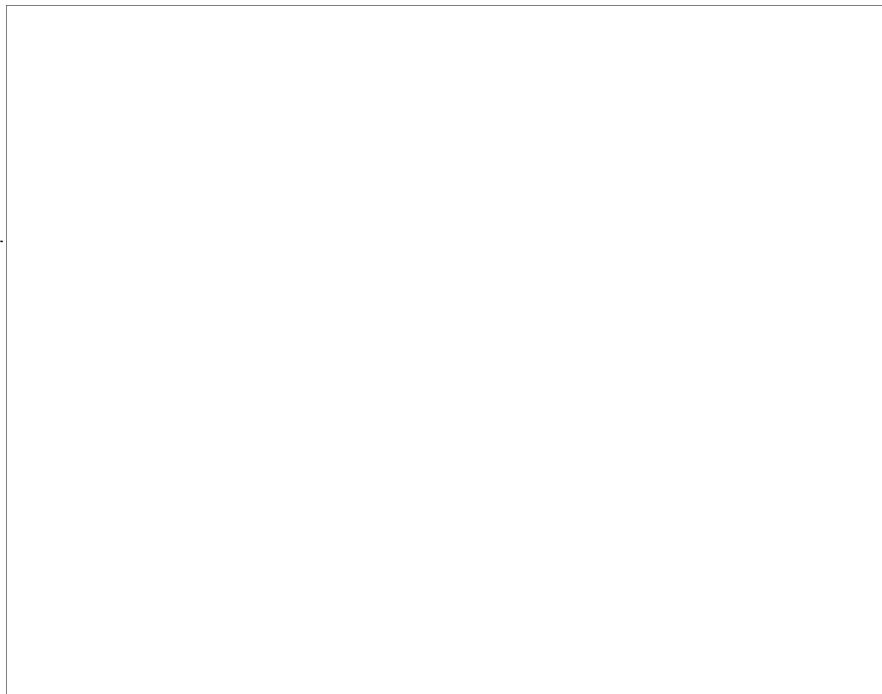
Tel Aviv seems certain to avenge the murder of Israeli Olympic participants last night. Although the Israelis could allow the outrage in the international community to suffice for the present, domestic sentiment for a response is already mounting. Any reprisal action could be severe, especially since Tel Aviv refrained from retaliation following the Lod Airport massacre last May.

Potential targets include fedayeen installations in Lebanon and Syria, particularly those sites known by the Israelis to be occupied by Fatah. (Fatah uses the Black September organization as a cover name for its terrorist actions)

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The Israelis could also choose to strike directly at their Arab neighbors on grounds that they serve as hosts of the commandos and are, therefore, responsible for their actions. There are several thousand guerrillas harbored in southern Lebanon, the site of previous Israeli military reactions, and still other thousands residing near Dara in Syria.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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NOTES

Japan-US: Japanese officials are worried that recent leftist-inspired opposition to US military activities in Japan may spread [redacted]

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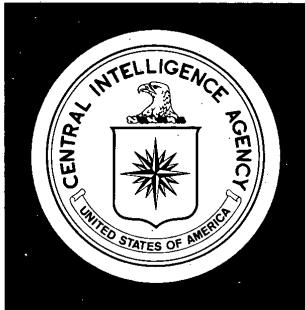
[redacted] . The government is especially sensitive to opposition charges that such shipments are evidence that the US is using its bases in Japan to support its military action in Vietnam. The Japanese are seeking to resolve the difficulties with the local authorities, but are also moving to strengthen behind-the-scenes co-ordination with the US.

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USSR-Cuba: [redacted]

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The President's Daily Brief

7 September 1972

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declassification schedule of P.O. 11652
exemption category 5B(1)(2)(3)
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

7 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

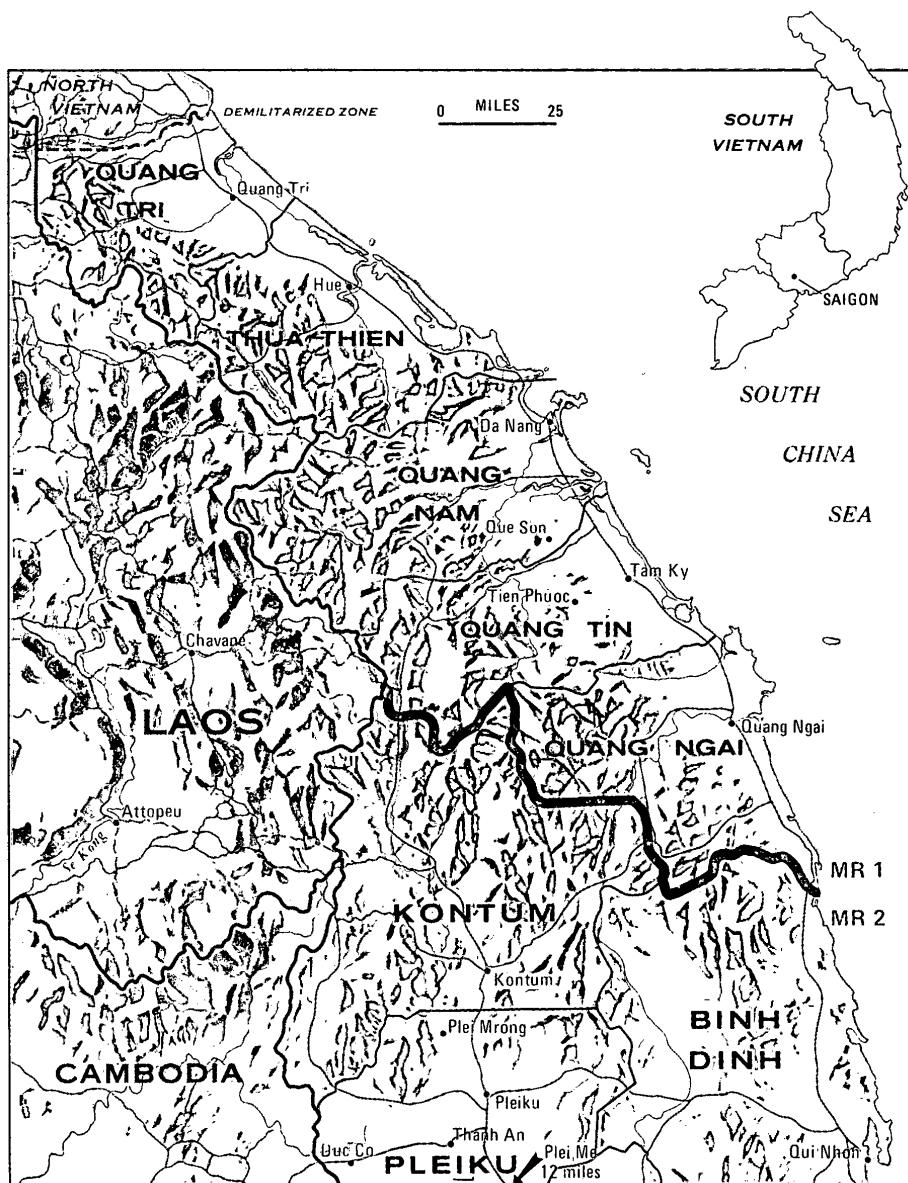
South Vietnamese forces have been driven from a hilltop position in Quang Tin Province in MR-1. The heavy flow of infiltration groups earmarked for South Vietnam's two northernmost provinces apparently continues. (Page 1)

Finland has become the first Western European country to initial a treaty for full diplomatic relations with East Germany. (Page 2)

We have received reports of work stoppages in Moscow factories. (Page 3)

Havana has agreed to release two ships of Panamanian registry captured last December and one of the crewmen. (Page 4)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

South Vietnamese forces have been driven from a hilltop position 12 miles west of Tam Ky in Quang Tin Province. Two companies from the South Vietnamese 2nd Division, who were supporting territorial forces defending the hill, broke and ran early yesterday, allowing the Communists to seize the position. The Communists apparently are continuing to move toward nearby Tien Phuoc district town, which was the target of an enemy rocket and mortar attack early yesterday.

In the central highlands, government forces repelled a battalion-size attack near the Ngo Trang resettlement camp seven miles north of Kontum City. Early yesterday, North Vietnamese forces shelled and assaulted a South Vietnamese field position six miles northeast of Thanh An district town; they briefly penetrated the defensive perimeter but were forced to pull back. Elsewhere in Pleiku Province, the enemy shelled the Plei Me, Duc Co, and Plei Mrong ranger camps and several artillery bases.

There were no significant developments on the Quang Tri battlefield or in the Que Son Valley.

* * *

In the past few days intercepts from the Vinh area have reflected the passage of more than a dozen infiltration groups.

These groups appear to be a continuation of the unusually heavy flow that began earlier in the summer. Roughly 40,000 troops are now estimated to have started the trek south since early July, and approximately 35,000 of these are earmarked for South Vietnam's two northernmost provinces. Most of the others are going to southern Laos and northeastern Cambodia. These men are in addition to the organized units that have crossed the DMZ--most recently the 312th Division.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FINLAND - EAST GERMANY

Yesterday Finland became the first country in Western Europe to initial a treaty for full diplomatic relations with East Germany.

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[redacted] Finland plans to sign the agreement early next month and it would come into force 30 days later. The treaty provides for full diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level and East German recognition of Finnish neutrality. It also calls for bilateral negotiations on "juridical and economic questions dating from World War II"--presumably including the touchy subject of reparations for German war damage in Finland.

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Finland and West Germany do not have diplomatic relations, and Helsinki's decision to push ahead with Pankow reflects a significant change in policy for which the USSR has long argued. Moscow may have enticed the Finns in exchange for a green light to reach a free trade agreement with the EC.

West Germany had urged the Finns to hold off until the conclusion of negotiations between the two German states aimed at clarifying their own bilateral relations. This effort having failed, we expect that Bonn will react only by reiterating the policy of not beginning formal negotiations with Finland until an inter-German treaty is concluded.

Although the Finnish move is not likely to initiate a flurry of recognition of Pankow by other Western European countries, all other Scandinavian governments are interested. Sweden's Social Democratic government has hinted that it may announce an intention to recognize East Germany at its party congress next month.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

A work stoppage has occurred in one Moscow factory, according to a report received by the US Embassy in Moscow. In addition, the Belgian commercial counselor told the embassy that strikes are "rotating" from one factory to another each day.

Slowdowns and stoppages occurred in similar circumstances in 1962--when meat prices were increased--and in the following year after a disastrous harvest. We doubt that Soviet workers are well enough organized to stage a "rotating" stoppage. The appearance of even scattered strikes at this time suggests worker concern that food supplies this fall and winter will be inadequate, despite the government's recent assurances.

CUBA-PANAMA

Havana has agreed to release two ships of Panamanian registry and one of the crewmen it captured last December and accused of involvement in exile operations. Cuba reached the agreement with Panamanian University rector Romulo Escobar Betancourt, who recently led a 63-member student delegation on an extensive visit to Cuba. An official in the Panamanian Embassy in Washington has indicated that the transfer will take place in mid-October.

Escobar told the Panamanian press that Havana had agreed to "consider" the status of the two prisoners being retained--another crewman and Jose Villa, the US citizen who was captain of one of the ships.

The agreement fits in with Havana's current efforts to improve its image in the hemisphere and to increase its links with Latin American governments. Unofficial ties between Cuba and Panama have become closer in recent months, but formal recognition does not appear imminent.

NOTE

USSR-Cuba:

<u>USSR-Cuba:</u>	

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The President's Daily Brief

8 September 1972

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Top Secret

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Exempt from general
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652
exemption category 3B(1), (2), (3)
declassified under approval of
the Director of Central Intelligence

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

8 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

King Husayn is the sole Arab leader to condemn the terrorist act in Munich. The dominant theme in Arab reaction is that the Israeli deaths must be placed in the context of Israel's "criminal" occupation of the Palestinian homeland.

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(Page 1)

Soviet [redacted]

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Egypt. (Page 3)

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The military situation in South Vietnam is reported on Page 4.

Saigon does not intend to renew the visas of the Indian representatives on the International Control Commission. (Page 5)

The Chinese are working to improve relations with Thailand. (Page 6)

The rice shortage is becoming critical in Cambodia. (Page 7)

25X1

The Soviet Union [redacted] Bangladesh [redacted] (Page 8)

Political tensions remain high in Chile. (Page 9)

At Annex we discuss the background of Fatah's terrorist organization [redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**ARAB STATES - FEDAYEEN**

Jordan's King Husayn remains the sole Arab leader to condemn the terrorists' acts in Munich. Most other Arabs have avoided outright condemnation of the guerrillas and some Egyptian and Iraqi newspapers have praised their "heroism." In addition, the Syrian and Iraqi governments have permitted broadcasts by "clandestine" fedayeen radio stations praising the terrorists.

An official Egyptian spokesman, after disclaiming any involvement with the episode, placed the onus for the loss of life on the West German Government. The Egyptians have reacted with considerable sensitivity to West German charges that Cairo did not fully respond to Bonn's appeals for cooperation during the Munich incident. The Egyptian Government has summoned the German ambassador for clarification of Bonn's position and announced it would take "a firm decision" following the consultations.

A dominant theme in Arab reaction is insistence that the Israeli deaths must be placed in the context of Israel's "criminal" occupation of the Palestinian homeland. Typical of this line is the Lebanese Government's statement that, while expressing "deep regret," interpreted the tragedy as an outgrowth of the Palestinians' despair and their wish to prod the international community to redress their grievances.

The Munich events shocked Saudi leaders, who [redacted] allowed scant coverage in the local media.

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* * *

Fatah's Black September Organization has an organized network in Western Europe and plans further operations to follow the Munich attack [redacted] the primary targets are Israeli and "imperialist" interests in West Germany, West Berlin, and perhaps elsewhere in Western Europe. [redacted] the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine may also be involved in these plans.

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(continued)

At Annex we discuss the background of Fatah's
terrorist organization [redacted]

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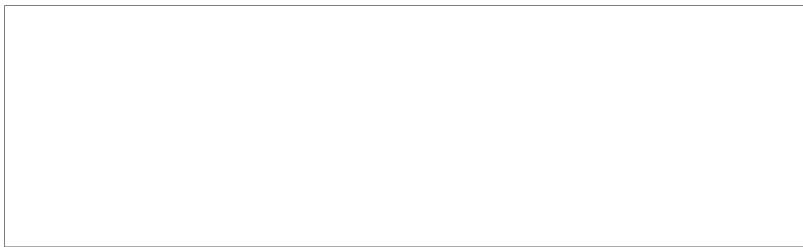
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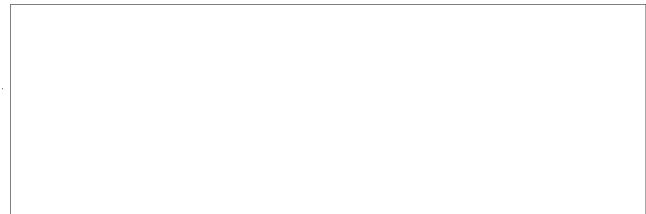
EGYPT-USSR



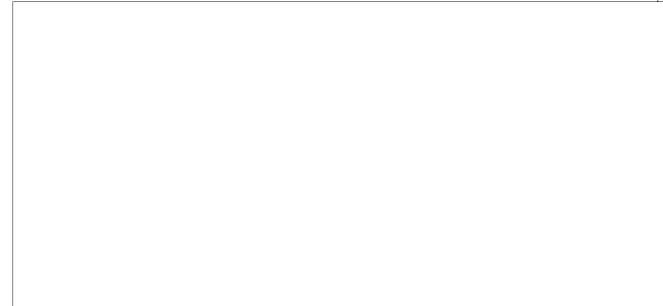
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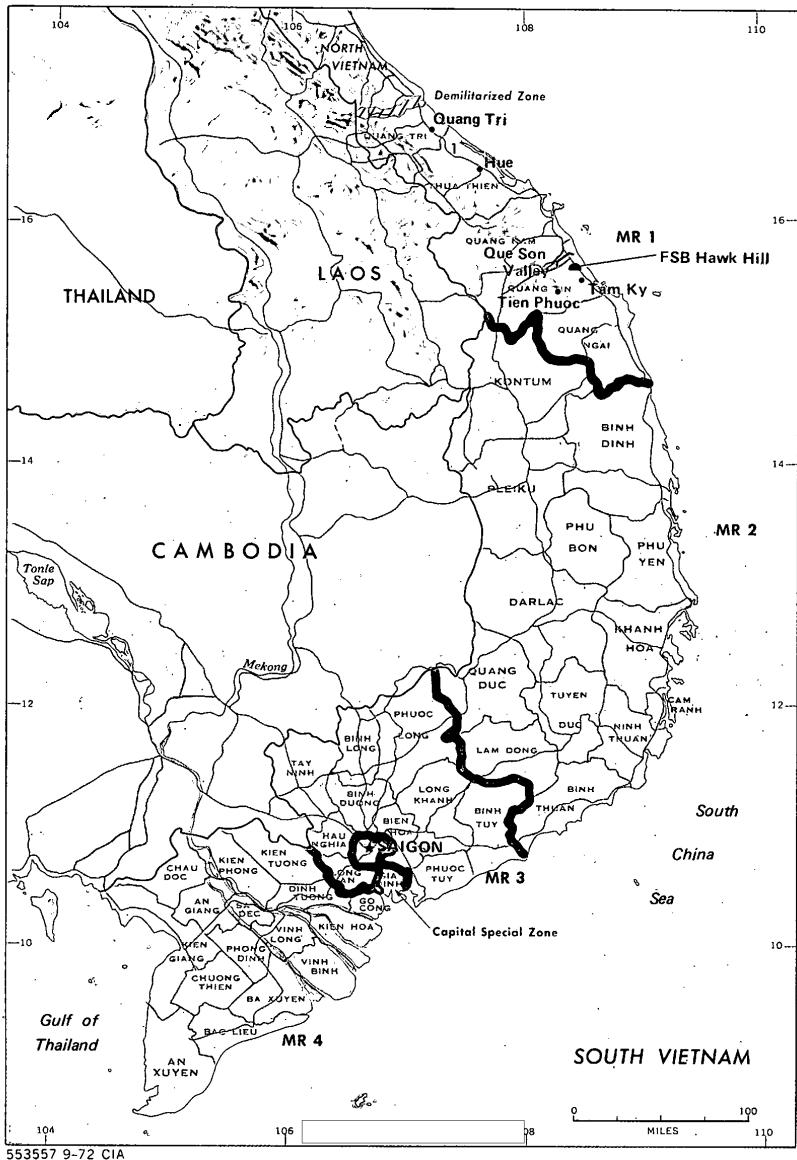


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Units from the enemy's 711th Division have shifted the focus of their attacks from the Que Son Valley to central Quang Tin Province. Communist troops have captured a key government defensive point north of the district capital of Tien Phuoc and have occupied the airstrip and the government's headquarters in the town. The Communists for the first time in this area have been using tanks to support their infantry attacks. Initial government attempts to lift in reinforcements by helicopter failed but a later try was successful. Meanwhile, the provincial capital, Tam Ky City, was shelled by enemy troops who had captured Fire Support Base Hawk Hill northwest of the city on 7 September.

Farther north heavy fighting continues in the Quang Tri City area; the Communists are committing additional resources to the struggle there. Intercepts show that the 141st Regiment of the recently infiltrated 312th Division is moving into position along Route 1 south of the city. The messages also indicate that other enemy units in the area have received fresh supplies and replacements, and that an artillery regiment had been equipped with tear gas shells.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM-INDIA

Saigon has decided not to renew the visas of the Indian representatives on the International Control Commission when they expire on 30 September.

The South Vietnamese are taking this step largely in response to New Delhi's decision last January to upgrade relations with Hanoi to the ambassadorial level while leaving Saigon with only a consulate general. The Thieu government says this move proves India is not impartial in the Indochina war and therefore is unfit to continue to serve as chairman of the ICC.



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CHINA-THAILAND

The Chinese have held high-level talks in Peking with special Thai emissary Prasit Kanchanawat. Over the weekend, Prasit met separately with Chinese vice ministers of foreign affairs and foreign trade; on 5 September, he held talks with Chou En-lai.

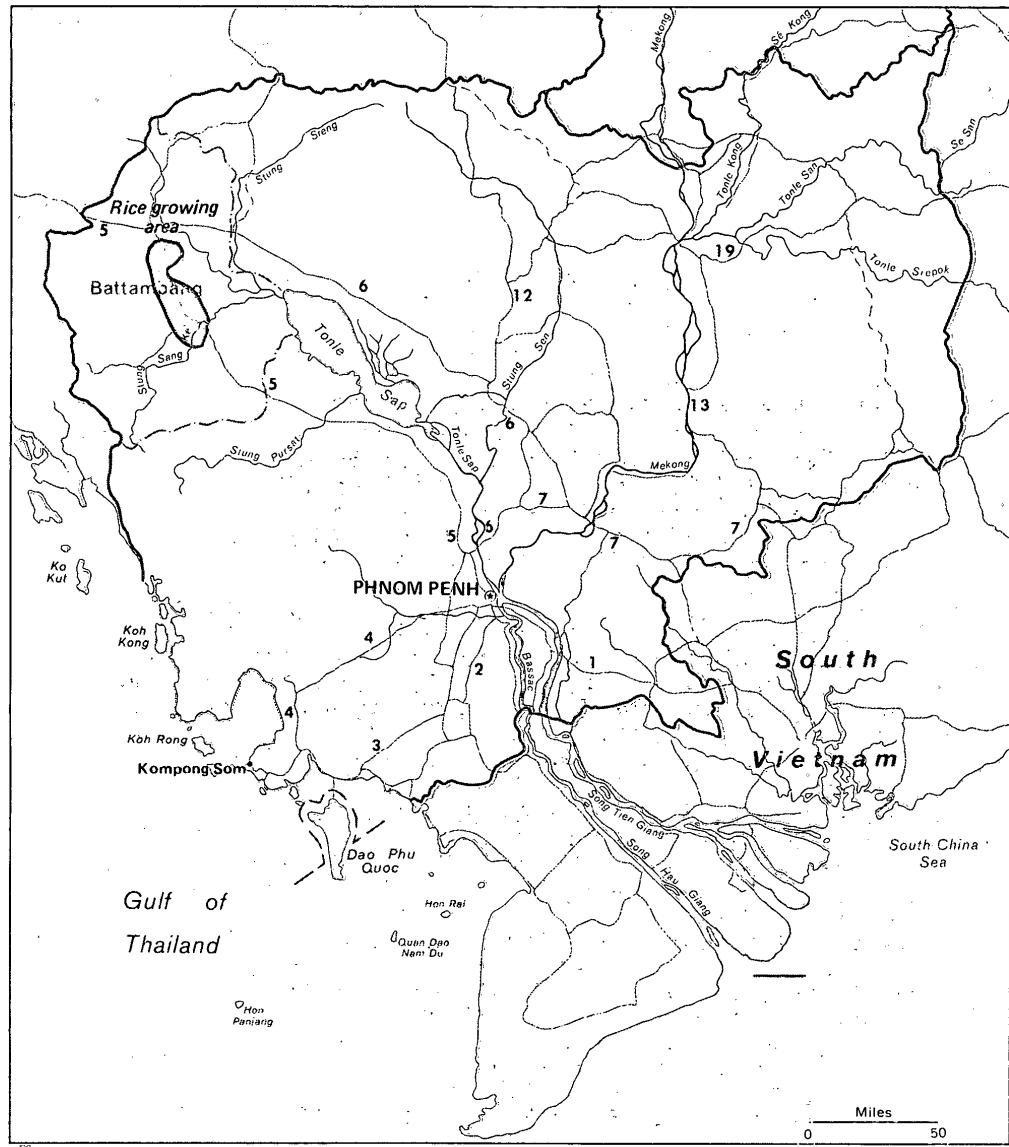
Prasit was in Peking ostensibly as an adviser to the Thai ping pong team, but his treatment by the Chinese--particularly his meeting with Chou--exceeds the bounds of protocol and goes far beyond the reception given any of the other Asian table tennis delegations now in Peking for a tournament. Moreover, China's news agency has identified Prasit by his official government title, thus underscoring the official government-to-government nature of his visit.

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Peking's handling of Prasit's visit seems a sure sign that the Chinese are serious about exploring ways of improving relations with Thailand. The talks almost certainly dealt with the principal issues in dispute between the two countries--Chinese support for Thai insurgents, the Chinese road in northern Laos, Thailand's relations with Taiwan, and Bangkok's role in the Indochina war--as well as with such questions as the possibility of trade ties and cultural contacts.



553558 9-72

CAMBODIA

The rice situation has reached critical proportions; domestic rice stocks, which are particularly low in Phnom Penh, will not last until the harvest late this year. Prior to the harvest, Cambodia will have to secure an additional 20,000 tons, either through purchase or humanitarian aid. President Lon Nol has called in the US chargé and asked for an immediate, short-term loan of rice from US stocks in South Vietnam.

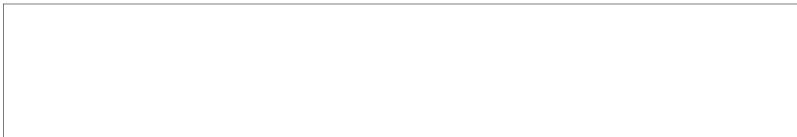
Public awareness of the situation has touched off a wave of heavy buying. The price of preferred grades has shot up 40 percent since last week to the highest level since the war began. Some hoarding has taken place, and looting of warehouses and Chinese-owned stores in Phnom Penh has been reported.

The government has attempted to alleviate the situation by taking over distribution of a portion of privately held stocks and by selling lower grades at controlled prices. In addition, the first delivery from a recent 10,000-ton purchase of Thai rice is scheduled to arrive next week and should ease the pressure temporarily.

Unless Route 5 is reopened in the near future, permitting rice from Battambang Province to reach Phnom Penh, the requirement for additional rice imports could increase. Thus far, the Cambodian Army has not made a serious effort to reopen the highway, and its plans to do so continue to be delayed. The availability of rice is a sensitive political issue, and high prices and sustained shortages will result in a further loss of popular support for the Lon Nol government.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

BANGLADESH-USSR



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHILE

Public transportation was partially paralyzed in Santiago yesterday, although a last-minute settlement of a threatened nationwide transportation strike was announced early in the day. Our embassy thinks Allende made substantial concessions to head off what could have been a disruptive strike.

Allende is seeking to cool the political tensions that have led to outbreaks of violence in recent days. Some business groups anxious to force Allende's ouster had been backing those favoring a strike--mainly private entrepreneurs who own many of Chile's small bus, taxi, and truck lines.

Political tensions have not yet subsided significantly, and more public demonstrations by pro- and anti-government groups are planned.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Uganda: President Amin has charged that Britain, Israel, and "other Western countries" are planning to assassinate him. In expressing fears of a British invasion, he directed the army and civilians to keep close watch on British nationals in Uganda and added that Europeans would make "good targets" for his troops. Amin's remarks could encourage unruly army troops who control borders and other strategic points to more brutality. They already have roughed up several Americans, including a diplomat and his family, and other Westerners. The Embassy has instructed Americans to stay away from sensitive areas.

Morocco: [redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FEDAYEEN TERRORISTS

The name Black September Organization (BSO) first came to light in connection with the assassination of Jordanian Prime Minister Wasfi Tal in Cairo last November. Since that time, Black September, which draws its name from the date of the fedayeen confrontation with the Jordanian Government in September 1970, has claimed credit for a series of assassinations, bombings, and sabotage in West Germany and other parts of Western Europe.

In fact, the Black September Organization is not a distinct fedayeen organization, but rather a cover term that Fatah--the largest and most heavily funded group--uses for its terrorist operations. There are no separate BSO offices, personnel, or leaders.

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Fatah has adopted the ruse of attributing its terrorist operations to the BSO in large part to avoid jeopardizing its financial support.

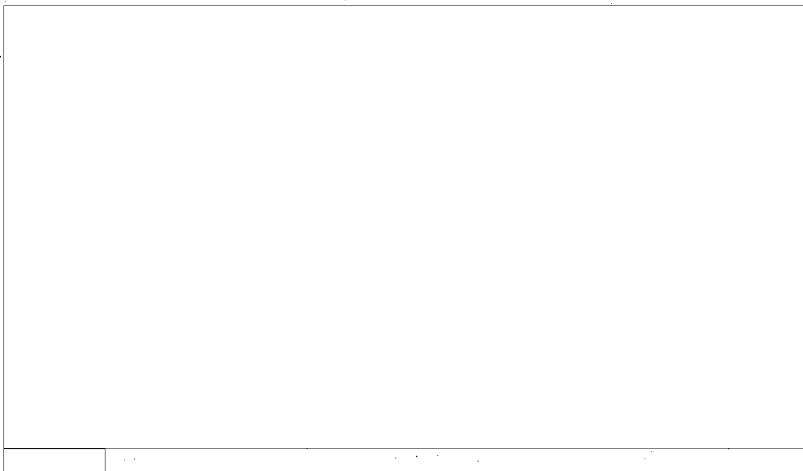
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Fatah's objective in emphasizing dramatic terrorism is to maintain a sense of dynamism in the otherwise faltering fedayeen movement. Since Jordan forced the fedayeen to leave its territory in July 1971, they have become progressively more disorganized and faction-ridden. Israeli operations against fedayeen concentrations in southern Lebanon have forced the Lebanese Government to restrict the fedayeen's freedom of movement and virtually ended significant fedayeen operations in Israeli territory. The Fatah leaders sense that some sort of activity against Israel or its "allies" is necessary if the fedayeen movement is not to disintegrate.

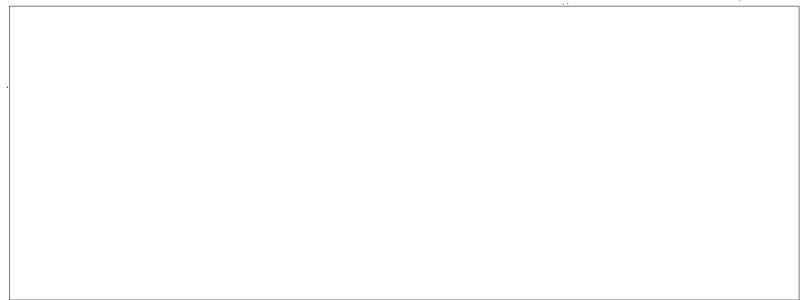
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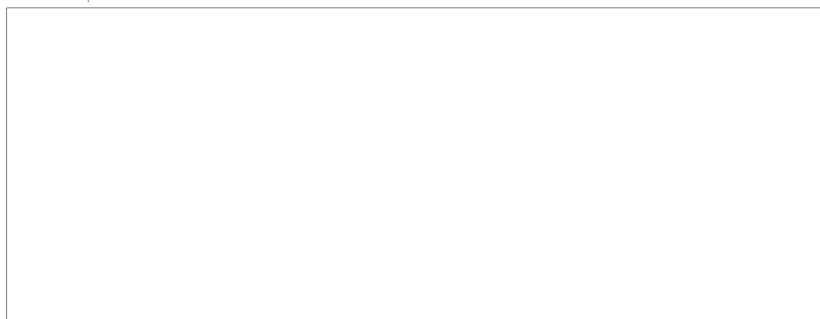


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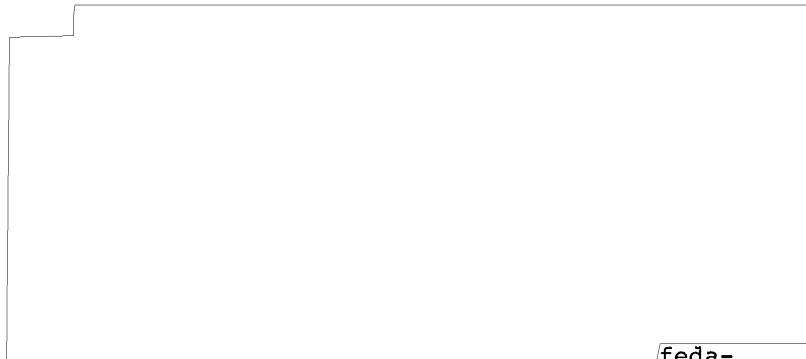


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Arabs," is against them.

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The President's Daily Brief

9 September 1972

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Exempt from general
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652
exemption category 3B(1), (2), (4)
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

9 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Israel is retaliating for the Munich massacre with bombing raids on fedayeen installations in Syria and Lebanon. (Page 1)

The battle for Quang Tri City in South Vietnam may soon intensify. (Page 2)

Disorders in Phnom Penh have shaken the Cambodian Government's stability, while on the military front, the situation has worsened after the Communists again cut a portion of Route 1. (Page 3) 25X1

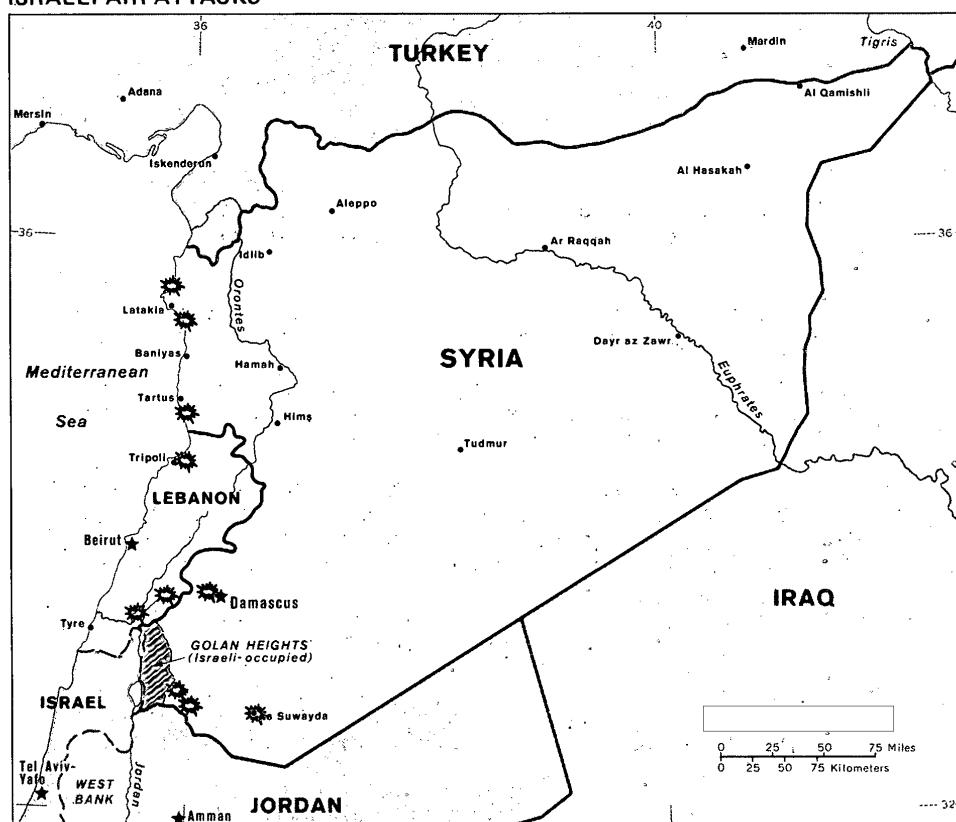
In northern Laos, one of the four government task forces is advancing toward its objective near the Plaine des Jarres. (Page 4)

In Chile [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
(Page 5) 25X1

The Soviets have sent their first unofficial contact to Seoul in response to importuning from the South Korean Government. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAELI AIR ATTACKS



25X1

553561 9-72 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL - ARAB STATES

Israeli retaliation for the murder of its athletes in Munich has so far consisted of air raids against fedayeen installations in Lebanon and Syria. Yesterday, strikes were launched in two waves against guerrilla encampments, headquarters, training camps, logistics sites, and marine bases. The first wave, yesterday morning, hit three locations in Lebanon and seven in Syria. The second, in the late afternoon and evening, was directed at targets in southern Syria, one of which had been hit earlier.

Damage appears to be extensive and casualties may be high. An Israeli official has claimed that Palestinian refugee camps were not targets, but some strikes were in the vicinity of such encampments.

[redacted] presumably in an effort to counter Lebanese claims of casualties among the refugees.

25X1

As dawn broke today over the area, at least 18 Israeli aircraft were noted flying over Lebanon and Syria, while others patrolled along the borders. Syrian antiaircraft gunners fired on the border patrols, but in turn came under fire from gunners on the Israeli Golan Heights.

Additional Israeli attacks are expected by at least some fedayeen units.

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Furthermore, the statement issued by Israeli Foreign Minister Eban shortly before the raids yesterday explicitly warned that Israel would "take all necessary measures to strike at the perpetrators of the murders" and would "fight the terrorists wherever we find them." Other Israeli officials have said that governments willing to host the fedayeen must bear a responsibility for the guerrillas' actions. These statements strongly suggest that additional reprisals are in the offing. Syria may be singled out because the Israelis believe some of the terrorists who were involved in Munich either lived or trained there.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM



25X1

[redacted] three Ranger battalions recently moved from the Delta to participate in a major effort to retake Quang Tri City, including the citadel, by 16 September. The Rangers [redacted] support six Marine battalions, who will try to overwhelm the Communist defenders in a massive, lightning assault. The government operation is to be accompanied by a diversionary thrust into Communist-held territory north of the city.

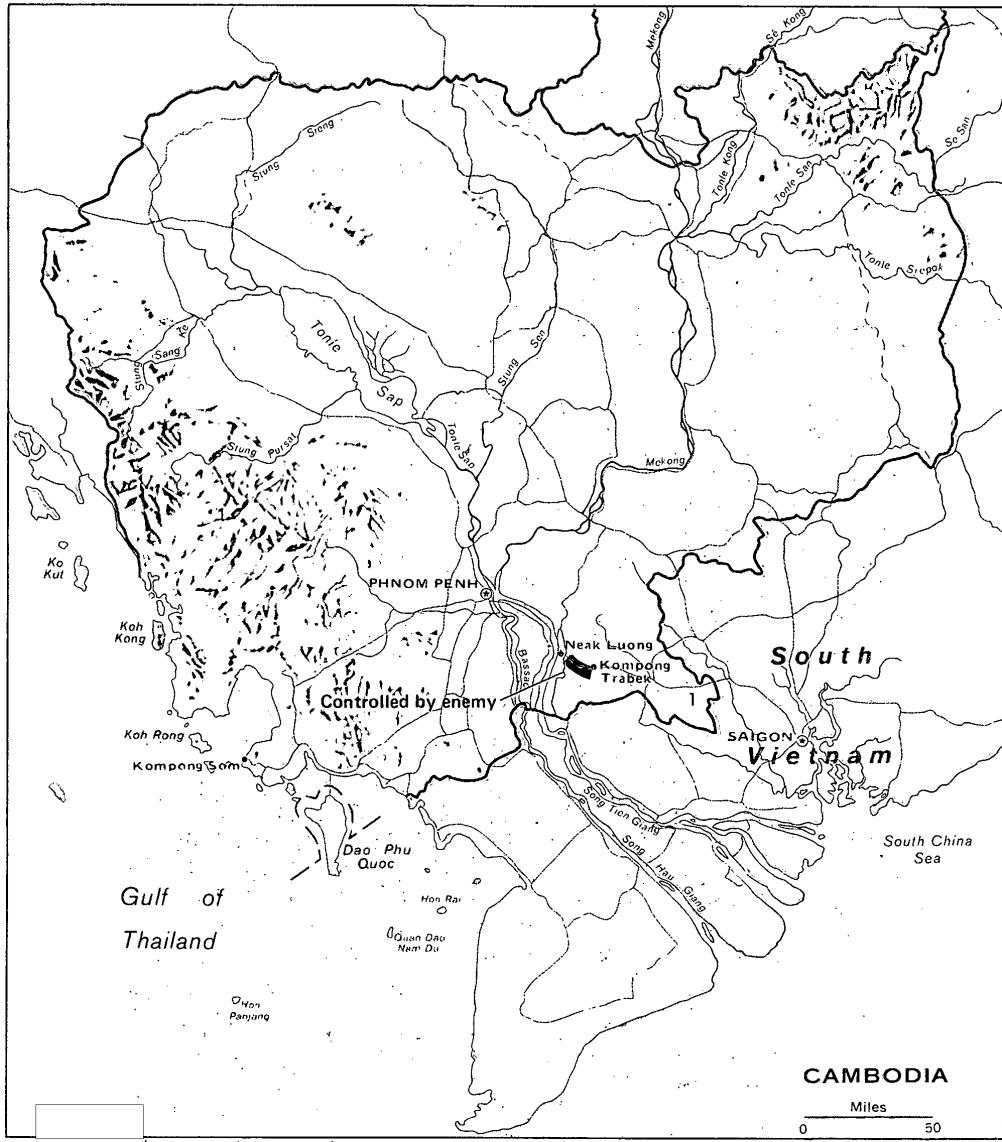
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South of the city, government Airborne troops have yet to eliminate completely a series of enemy strongpoints that dominate the route that must be taken by government elements moving toward the citadel. The Airborne's efforts have been frustrated by heavy shelling and recently by increasing Communist ground attacks on their positions. Meanwhile, US pilots have spotted several T-54 tanks in the area. All three regiments of the recently infiltrated North Vietnamese 312th Division have now been identified south of Quang Tri City, confirming other indications that this relatively fresh unit is replacing the enemy's 304th Division.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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553562 9-72 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Disorders in Phnom Penh have shaken the government's stability. Yesterday roving bands of undisciplined army troops, including personnel from elite paratroop units, engaged in widespread looting in the capital. This followed a day when soldiers seeking cheap rice had raided shops, markets, and warehouses--the government had ordered them to "inspect" shops to ensure that merchants were selling rice at the new officially set prices. The police did not try to interfere with the looters, and some supervised and even joined in the looting. There are no reports of serious violence, and the disorders were confined to the commercial sections of the city.

Late yesterday President Lon Nol made a radio speech in which he promised summary executions of those caught in subsequent acts of thievery. He also promised a limited airlift of rice from Battambang and announced that the government is soliciting rice supplies from abroad. He later told US Embassy officials that the government's operation to clear Route 5 leading to Battambang finally would be launched this weekend.

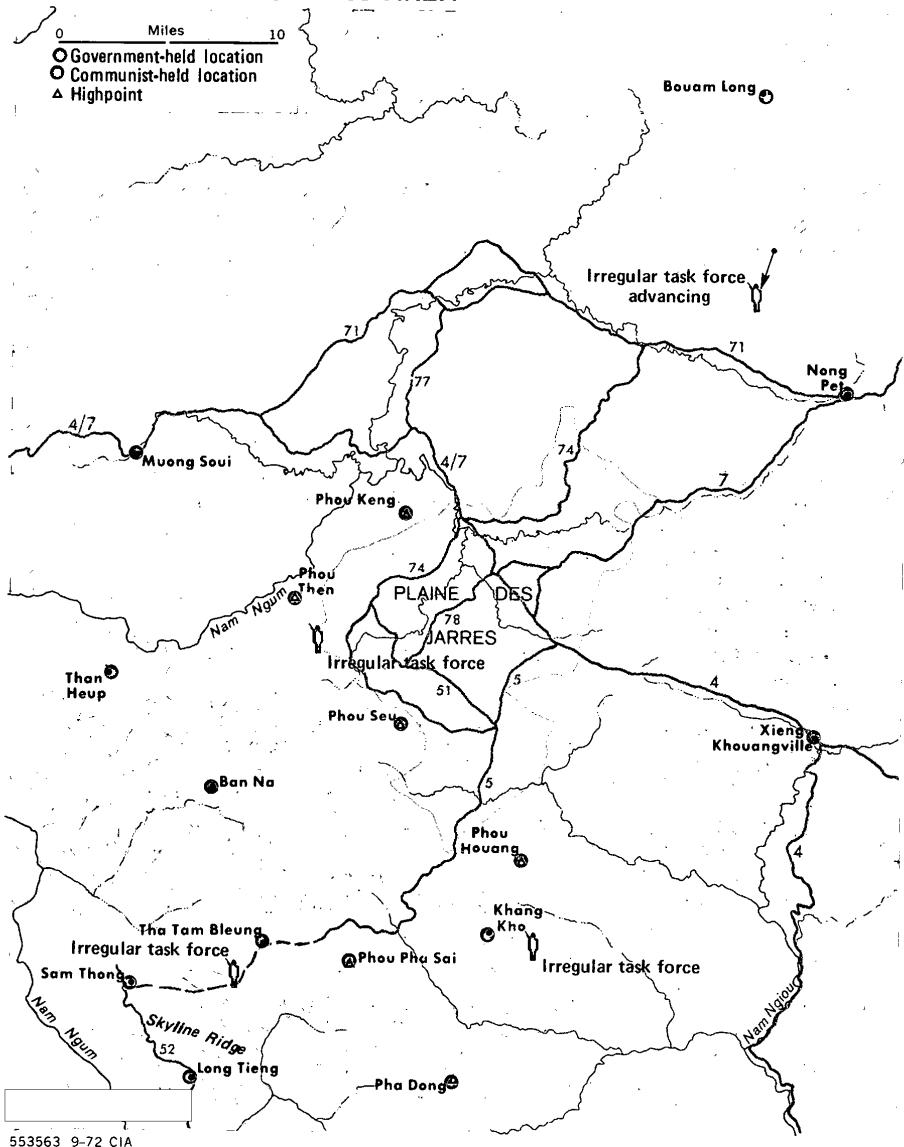
The looting is a dramatic manifestation of the unrest that gradually has been building up throughout the army. Many officers and troops have become increasingly upset by extensive military corruption, by the lack of direction and support for tactical operations, by the rising cost of living, and now by the rice crisis. If Lon Nol does not deal more energetically with these grievances, he risks losing control over the military--which represents his main source of political support.

The government also continues to fare badly on the battlefield. Communist forces, striking again at government positions along Route 1, have now gained control over a ten-mile section of that highway between Neak Luong and Kompong Trabek. Once again the town's defenders are isolated.

Given the situation in Phnom Penh and the army's past performance along Route 1, we doubt that the road can be reopened unless South Vietnamese forces return to help.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

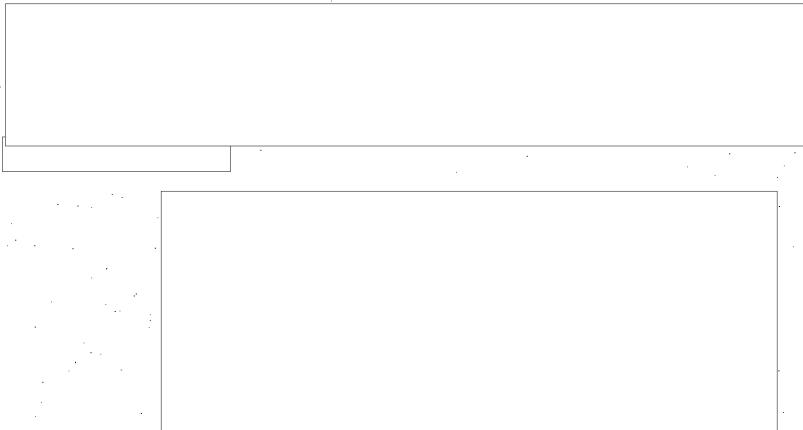
Only one of the four remaining government task forces is moving toward its objective near the Plaine des Jarres. This force, which six days ago had withdrawn a short distance after strong Communist attacks, on 7 September advanced to positions about five miles northwest of Nong Pet, the junction of vital Communist supply lines to the Plaine des Jarres. Intercepted enemy messages indicate that elements of the North Vietnamese 335th and 866th regiments, which last week scattered another task force north of the Plaine, are moving toward Nong Pet to meet the advancing irregulars.

The remnants of the irregular task force that was dispersed north of the Plaine on 30 August have been withdrawn to Long Tieng, where they will be regrouped. Thus far, about one third of the members of this unit have returned to government lines. The task forces west, southwest, and southeast of the Plaine have clashed sporadically with the Communists in the past few days, maneuvering into better defensive positions rather than making any effort to move toward the Plaine. Intercepts suggest that these groups will soon come under heavier enemy pressure. Low morale and sickness continue to trouble government forces.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHILE



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In the continuing political maneuvering, President Allende has acted to relieve workers from the effects of recent steep price rises. This week his government decreed a tax-free bonus to public and private employees and to pensioners as well. The decree also provides for a wage increase in October equal to the cost-of-living rise for the first nine months of 1972. By this action, Allende has moved ahead of the opposition's attempt to legislate a pay raise.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH KOREA - USSR

Victor Louis, a Soviet journalist who in the past has acted as an unofficial contact man for Moscow, has arrived in Seoul, ostensibly to cover the North-South Red Cross talks opening on 13 September. For more than a year, the South Koreans have been trying to establish a direct contact with Moscow, but the Soviets have been unresponsive.

Louis' visit suggests that the Soviets have decided to explore such contacts, perhaps to encourage Seoul's more independent foreign policy efforts. The initial Soviet reluctance to encourage the South Koreans may have been the result of North Korean objections that have since been reversed.

The Soviets no doubt wish to get a first-hand assessment of the new Korean situation.

25X1

Louis presumably is charged with assessing developments in the South. Meanwhile, in Pyongyang, Konstantin Katushev, the Soviet party Central Committee secretary responsible for dealing with ruling Communist parties, is holding the first discussions with the North Koreans at this level in over a year.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR-Egypt:

<u>USSR-Egypt:</u>	[Redacted]
[Large redacted area]	
[Small redacted area]	

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China:

<u>China:</u>	[Redacted]
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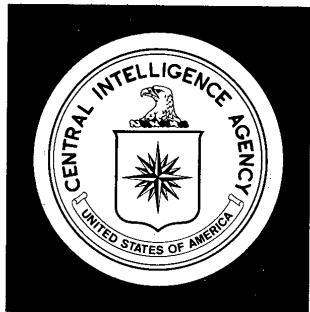
East Germany - West Germany: The East Germans have agreed to release about 1,000 children who have long been separated from their parents in West Germany.

East Germany's concession on this emotional issue will be of political help to Chancellor Brandt, and Pankow may make other small moves of this kind as the West German electoral campaign gathers steam.

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Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

11 September 1972

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~~Top Secret~~

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declassification schedule of E.O. 11652
except pursuant to (b)(1), (2), (3)
declassified only on approval of
the Director of Central Intelligence

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

11 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

South Vietnamese forces have launched a major campaign to recapture the citadel in Quang Tri City.
(Page 1)

Relative calm has returned to Phnom Penh after last week's looting, and government troops have moved to positions for starting their operation to reopen the route to the main rice-producing area. *(Page 3)*

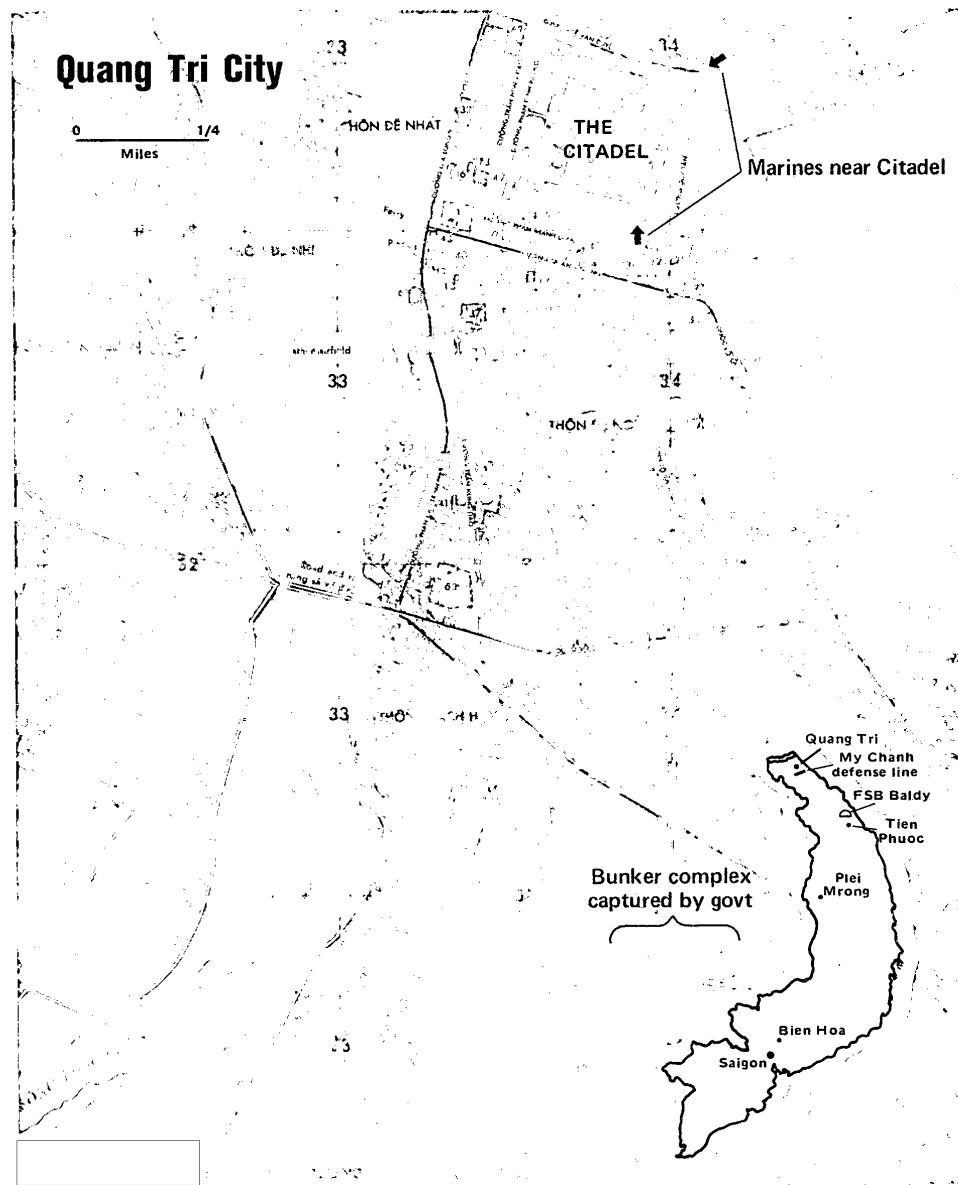
Military action in the Middle East has subsided

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(Page 4)

The chances that Panama will bring the canal treaty issue before the UN General Assembly appear reduced.
(Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



553569 9-72 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

On Saturday government forces began a major campaign to recapture the citadel in Quang Tri City. South Vietnamese Marine and Ranger units are encountering stubborn enemy ground resistance to their joint effort, but have moved close to the fortress on two sides. In the southern portion of the city, paratroopers have pushed the Communists from a heavily fortified bunker complex, cutting a major enemy supply route into the citadel and clearing the way for a move against enemy positions along the west side of the city--the last Communist-controlled corridor into the citadel.

Intercepts show that Communist forces in the citadel have been ordered to go on the offensive to counter the South Vietnamese thrust. According to one message, ammunition for enemy tanks, evidently within the fortress, was transported into the city on Friday. Fresh Communist infantry troops may also be moving into the area. The headquarters of the North Vietnamese 325th Division has ended a month-long stay at a major transshipment point 15 miles to the northwest and moved closer to the city.

There is some evidence that the Communists may try to interdict South Vietnamese supply routes and attack positions near the My Chanh defense line to the south. Units of the North Vietnamese 312th Division are shifting south from the Quang Tri City area, apparently in coordination with units from the enemy's 304th Division that are moving still farther south below the My Chanh River. A substantial Communist troop movement is also under way along the western end of the defense line.

In Quang Tin Province, South Vietnamese regulars and territorials abandoned Tien Phuoc District capital Saturday after three days of heavy Communist shellings and repeated tank-led ground assaults. In adjacent Quang Nam Province, a headquarters element of the North Vietnamese 711th Division's 270th Regiment has been detected close to Fire Support Base Baldy, the government's staging base for the Que Son Valley campaign.

(continued)

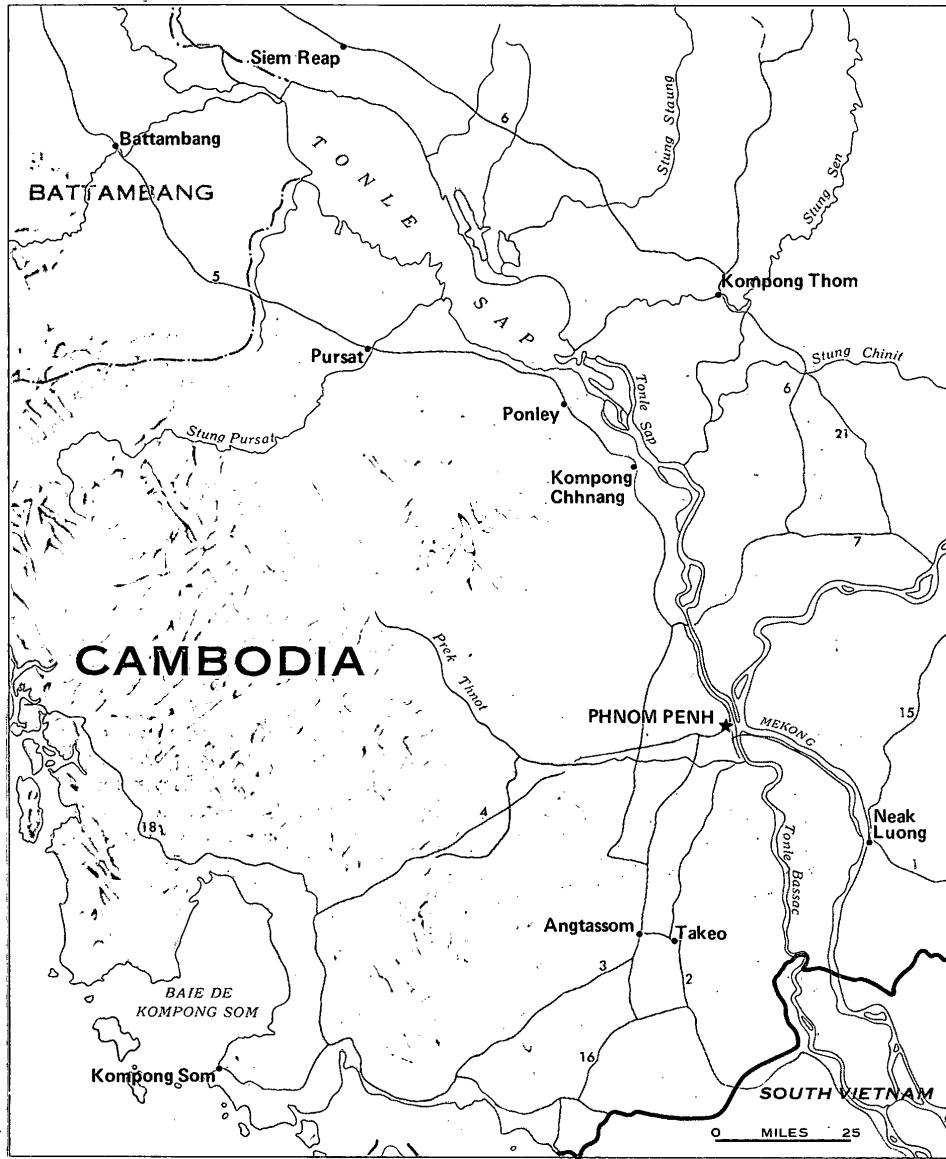
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

This is another sign that the Communists may soon resume their offensive against the coastal lowlands. Similar moves in the central highlands by the enemy's B-3 Front units could also presage new attacks in Pleiku Province, notably around the Plei Mrong Ranger camp.

Ground action remained generally light in other areas of the country, with mostly sapper raids and sporadic shellings reported. Explosions at Bien Hoa air base caused substantial ammunition losses yesterday, along with light to moderate damage to nearly 100 aircraft, but casualties were light. The action may have been the work of enemy saboteurs.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Relative calm has returned to Phnom Penh following the institution of tight security measures and the confinement of the military to their barracks. Commercial activity resumed over the weekend, but on a much reduced scale. On Saturday, the government distributed about 450 tons of rice from its own stockpile throughout Phnom Penh and plans to resume distribution today. In addition to the scheduled US airlift of 60 tons of rice per day from Saigon, the Lon Nol government is airlifting about 40 tons a day from Battambang Province.

The rice situation remains serious, however. Phnom Penh usually consumes about 400 tons of rice a day; at the present rate, government stocks will be exhausted in four to five days. The anticipated arrival of 2,400 tons of rice from Thailand within the next ten days should help alleviate the situation.

Meanwhile, more government forces have been assigned to the long-delayed operation to reopen Route 5 leading to Battambang. Elements of two infantry brigades, supported by armored vehicles, moved to Kompong Chhnang City over the weekend. Plans call for them to begin a coordinated drive today against Communist positions along the highway in the vicinity of the enemy-controlled town of Ponley.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL - ARAB STATES

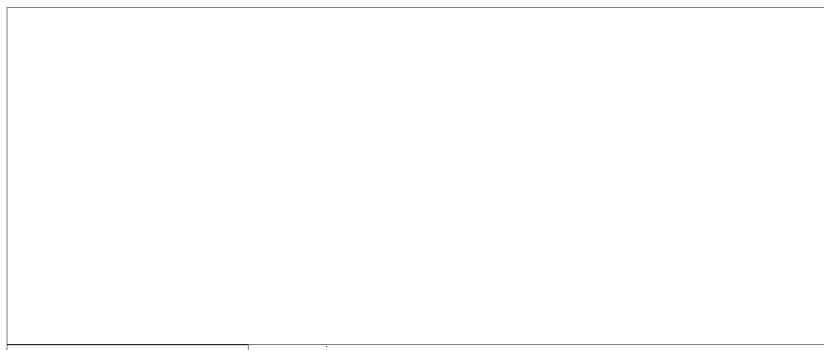
Military action has subsided following the Israeli air strikes into Lebanon and Syria and the subsequent Israeli-Syrian air battle. Israeli aircraft remained active yesterday in reconnaissance over Lebanon and southern Syria, but there have been no further Israeli attacks or Arab responses.

Further Israeli action, however, has been implied by General Elazar, the Israeli chief of staff. Over the weekend Elazar publicly referred to Israel's "continuous war" against the fedayeen.

Syrian suspicion of US officials traveling in the area has apparently been heightened by the military activity. On Saturday, a US Embassy officer from Jordan was arrested while crossing through Syria to Lebanon, and subjected to a two-hour interrogation and search. The Syrians may also be holding the embassy's assistant defense attaché, who disappeared on Saturday while traveling through Syria to Beirut.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PANAMA

The chances that Panama will bring the treaty issue before the UN General Assembly appear considerably reduced.

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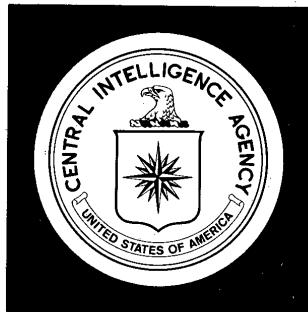
[redacted] Foreign Minister Tack was preparing a speech on the canal issue for delivery at the General Assembly. Last Wednesday Tack told Ambassador Sayre that he will not attend the session and that Panama does not intend to raise the issue in any forum this year in a way that would disturb bilateral relations. Preliminary agreement later in the week on purchase of the US-owned power and light company also alleviated one major issue that might have spurred General Torrijos to attack the US.

Torrijos could still order a diplomatic and propaganda offensive against the US,

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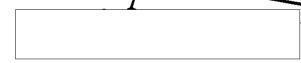


The President's Daily Brief

12 September 1972

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Top Secret

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the Director of Central Intelligence

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

12 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

We have additional confirmation that the Communists are directing their cadre to prepare for another offensive burst in South Vietnam beginning this month and continuing into October; the Communists hope that the campaign will force major concessions from the allies. (Page 1)

25X1

The Soviets are flying naval reconnaissance missions out of Cuba for the first time ever as part of their surveillance of activities leading to a major NATO naval exercise. (Page 7)

Soviets [redacted] (Page 8)

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25X1

Chilean President Allende has publicly invited the Christian Democrats to resume talks aimed at calming political tensions. (Page 9)

Domestic opposition in Japan and Taipei's refusal to talk have complicated Tokyo's planning for relations with Taiwan after recognition of Peking. (Page 10)

In Morocco, King Hassan apparently remains confident that he can cope with his precarious political situation. (Page 11)

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The Soviets [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 12)

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[redacted] (Page 13)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

[redacted] COSVN has instructed its subordinates to prepare for a campaign designed to tie down Saigon's main forces while the Communists attempt to extend their control in the countryside and roll back the pacification program. Local forces and main force sapper and artillery units allegedly will conduct most of the action in September, hitting friendly military installations, district towns, and government outposts. In October, main forces are to lead an offensive designed to "threaten urban areas, disrupt South Vietnamese administrative functions, and deplete the government's military forces and supplies" so that the allies will be "forced to negotiate a settlement on the basis of the seven points."

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Cadre have been told to be "determined to maintain the offensive and uprising at the present level, and, at the same time, to build up our armed and political forces rapidly so that we can fight for a long time." The instructions stress the need for the quick recruitment in September of many new troops for use in October. They claim that if the allies prove willing to reach a political settlement that "favors" the Communists, enemy forces will be used to achieve "greater victories" during the cease-fire period. If the allies refuse to negotiate an end to the war prior to the US presidential elections, "we will be able to use our armed and political forces to return to a prolonged state of warfare and fight on indefinitely until the enemy is defeated."

Communist main forces allegedly have been told to "thrust far into the provinces around Saigon" and "penetrate the Saigon defense line."

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[redacted] by early September the enemy 7th and 9th divisions had already established elements in provinces adjacent to the capital. In fact, Communist sapper and small-element attacks against government strongpoints have increased recently northwest of Saigon, and there are numerous indications that the enemy is concentrating forces in Hau Nghia, southern Tay Ninh, and southern Binh Duong provinces for a more substantial round of assaults, including infantry attacks on urban centers. Main elements of the Communists' 7th and 9th divisions appear to be maintaining the positions they held during the previous fighting around An Loc and along Route 13, but parts of the 7th Division, at least, could quickly move closer to Saigon.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COSVN's instructions appear to correspond rather closely with the Communists' current public line on negotiations, which is stressing the demand for a three-segment coalition government that presumably would leave some, if not most, of the South Vietnamese administrative mechanism intact as one segment of the coalition. The instructions state that a "victory" over the US means a political settlement and the withdrawal of American forces. It does not "mean that the Saigon puppets cease to exist." To deal with the remaining government apparatus, cadre are urged to be in position to act "quickly and forcefully" against South Vietnamese Government personnel in the event of a political settlement.

* * *

The COSVN instruction above deals with tactics to force the allies to the negotiating table. On 11 September, the Viet Cong's "provisional government" (PRG)--nominally COSVN's superior--issued a statement indicating its major goals in such negotiations and explaining in detail some of its demands. The statement appears consistent with COSVN's directive.

* * *

The PRG asserts that it is "prepared to reach agreements to the effect that neither a Communist regime nor a US-stooge regime shall be imposed on South Vietnam." This assertion is obviously designed to rebut the charge that the Communists are demanding outright control in Saigon as part of a settlement. Communist spokesmen have been saying in recent weeks that Hanoi has no intention of imposing a Communist government on the South, but this is the first time the PRG has talked in terms of a formal agreement on the point.

The statement calls for an end to the "US military involvement in Vietnam" in language reminiscent of the Viet Cong's two-point "elaboration" last February; it does not demand, however, that the US set a deadline for its withdrawal. Nor is there any explicit call for President Thieu's resignation or for the dismantling of Saigon's "oppressive machinery," although another section of the statement does make it clear that the Communists still want Thieu out of the picture before too long. Instead, the statement focuses, as other recent pronouncements have tended to do, on the three-segment "government

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

of national concord" called for in both the seven-point proposal and the two-point "elaboration." It asserts that a settlement "must proceed from the actual situation that there exist in South Vietnam two administrations, two armies, and other political forces," and it claims that the establishment of a "concord" government is "necessary" to guarantee "democratic freedom." At one point the statement provides an explanation that Communist spokesmen have refused to provide at such an authoritative level in the past on how such a government would be set up: the PRG and the Saigon government (minus Thieu) would each appoint a third of the membership, and the other third would be appointed "through negotiations," apparently among the Vietnamese parties concerned.

Taken at face value, this statement appears to be the most authoritative expression to date of Communist willingness, once the allies have accepted the principles of a political settlement, to negotiate the specific modalities with the Saigon government. The statement touts the virtues of the seven points and the "elaboration," however, in a way that makes it clear that Hanoi is ready to revert to a tougher line if necessary.

The message conveyed by the PRG statement and the COSVN instructions is that the Communists are planning to commit substantial elements of their main and local forces to another offensive burst in the hope that it will force major concessions from the allies. They appear to be prepared to abandon some of their detailed demands on the exact shape of a political settlement in return for agreement on the principle of a three-segment coalition that would bring them formally, if perhaps loosely, into the central power structure. At the same time, they appear to be carefully preserving their options for continuing the war along present lines if they fail to force a settlement. They do not appear to be preparing for one last, all-out assault after which they would simply accept the best terms available.

* * *

South Vietnamese forces are pressing their effort to recapture Quang Tri City despite determined enemy resistance. Ranger and Airborne units have



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

been fighting around the clock against Communist forces to the north and south of the town, and a forward Marine unit reportedly has entered the citadel. Casualties on both sides have been heavy. South Vietnamese 1st Division elements are also attacking southwest of Fire Support Base Bastogne in Thua Thien Province and are encountering stiff opposition.



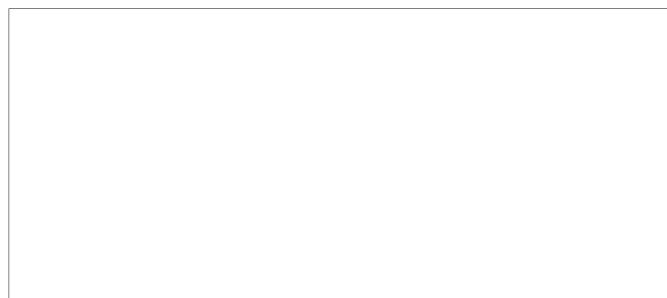
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL - ARAB STATES

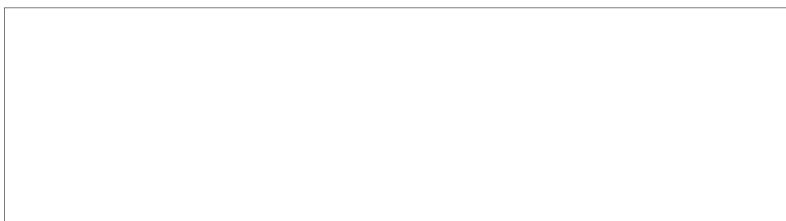


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There have been other indications that the guerrillas, elated with the outcome of the Munich affair, intend to keep up the pressure on Israel and to focus international attention on the Palestinian question. A member of the Israeli Embassy in Brussels was seriously wounded on Sunday by an Arab identifying himself as a Moroccan national. In Israel, guerrillas fired at an Israeli patrol near Hebron on the West Bank of Jordan. There were no casualties.



25X1

* * *

Ambassador Palmer reports that a funeral being planned in Tripoli for the five fedayeen killed in Munich may set off serious demonstrations against Western embassies. Several wealthy Libyan businessmen apparently have received custody of the bodies and a large public burial is being planned. The

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

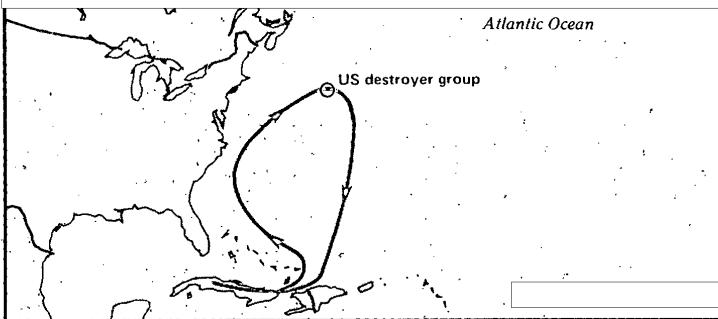
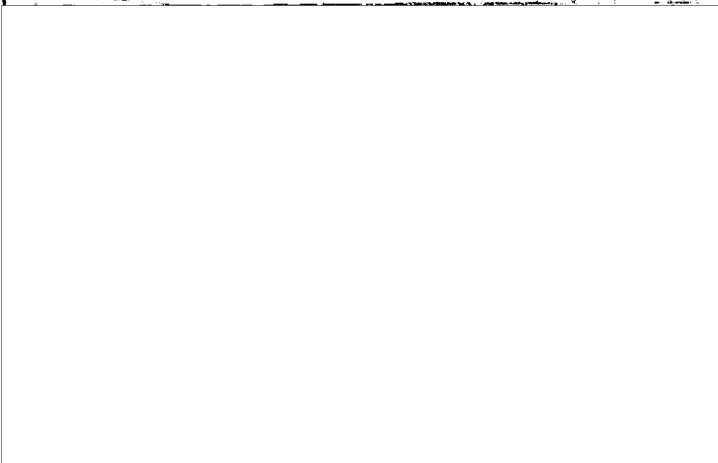
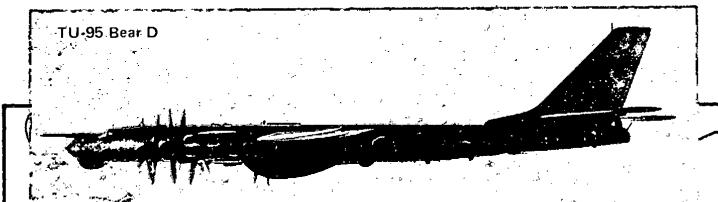
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Libyan Government is not officially involved, but government officials are reported to be assisting in planning of the services. The ambassador particularly fears that the West German diplomatic mission will be singled out for attack.

The key to the situation is President Qadhafi. Thus far, Qadhafi--who is said to have reprimanded the leaders of a mob that violently assaulted the British Embassy last month--has remained silent. Nevertheless, the Libyan leader is deeply committed to the Palestinian cause, and he could encourage excesses by inflammatory rhetoric when he delivers his tribute to the fedayeen martyrs.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Soviet Naval Air Reconnaissance in the Atlantic



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

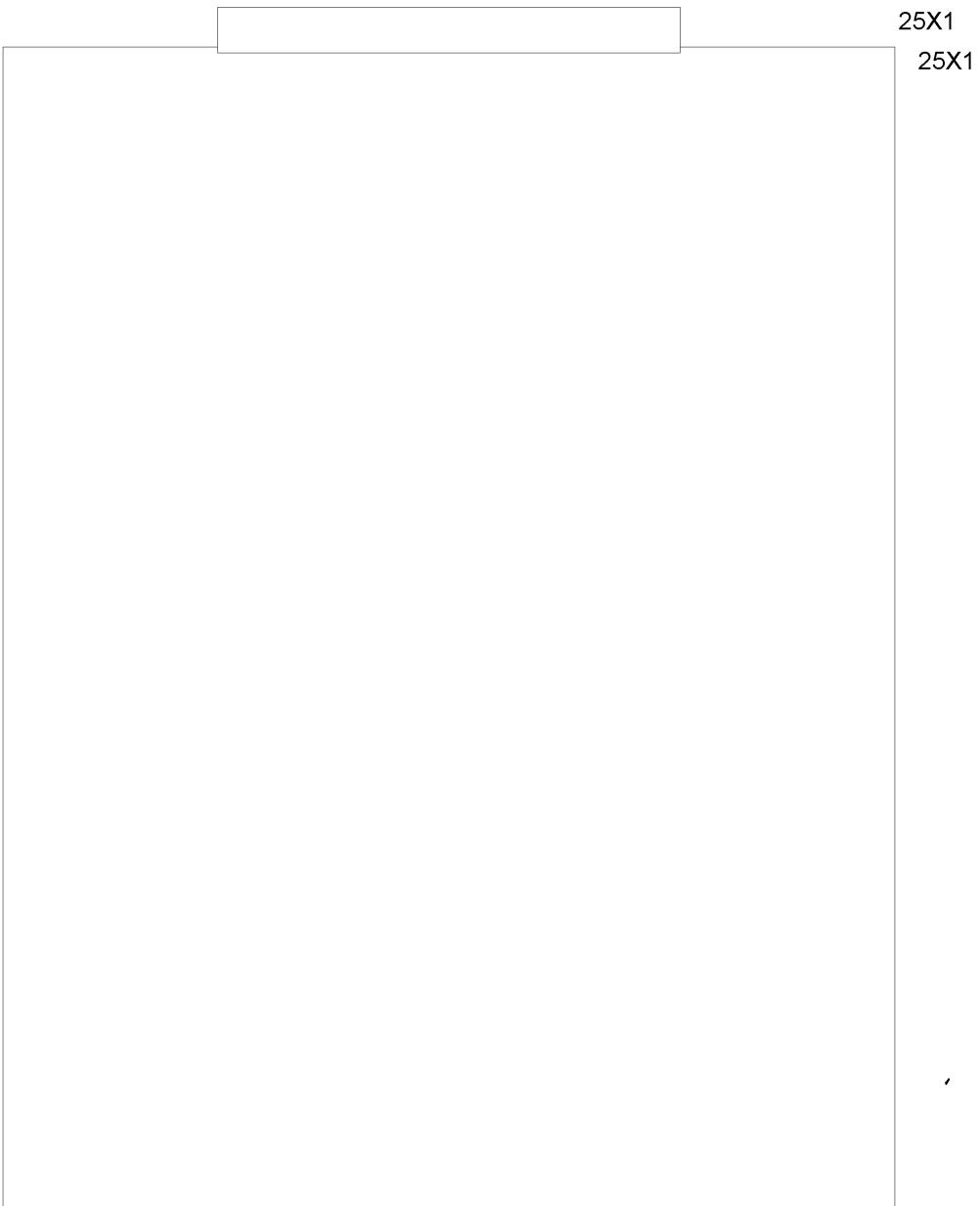
USSR-CUBA

On Saturday and again yesterday, two of the four Soviet TU-95 naval reconnaissance aircraft that flew to Cuba last week conducted long-range missions along the east coast of the US and portions of the western Atlantic. The missions included overflights of a US destroyer task group en route to Europe.

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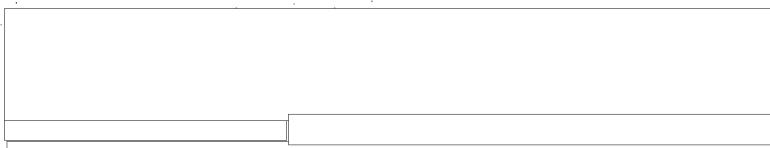
Soviet naval aircraft have deployed to Cuba on eight occasions since April 1970, but this is the first time that the aircraft have ever conducted operations from the island. The flights apparently were part of a coordinated Soviet reconnaissance effort against NATO naval forces that are moving into position for a major exercise that gets under way this week in the Norwegian and Barents seas.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHILE

In a press conference on Sunday President Allende publicly invited the Christian Democrats to resume talks with him "to avoid armed confrontation." In another gesture to the opposition parties, the government has authorized a major demonstration planned for Thursday.

Allende, a skillful politician, apparently recognizes that political tensions have reached a dangerous point and he is now trying to calm them. The Christian Democrats may press for more concessions before agreeing to a resumption of dialogue with him. His offer will nonetheless increase divisions between opposition groups who still favor political solutions and those who would provoke violence in the hope of a showdown that would bring down the government.

In his remarks on Sunday, Allende again denounced extremists of both the left and the right. He had particularly harsh words for the violence-prone ultras of his own Socialist Party, whom he labeled "traitors twice over."

We are inclined to believe press reports that Socialist Party Secretary General Altamirano has resigned, although Altamirano himself publicly denies the story.

Altamirano's advocacy of the extremist approach has been particularly galling to Allende and his resignation would remove one serious obstacle to Allende's efforts to calm tensions.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JAPAN-TAIWAN

A top Foreign Office official told a US diplomat last weekend that Japan does not expect to maintain any governmental presence on Taiwan after an exchange of ambassadors with Peking. The official said that, because the problem of relations with Taiwan is an active political issue in Japan, planning is being tightly held to avoid giving Taipei's supporters ammunition with which to attack the government. As a result, there is not yet a coordinated position representing the views of the various ministries involved. Three mechanisms for continuing contacts with Taiwan are being considered--a Japanese interest section in a resident embassy, a quasi-official trade office, or a private trade and cultural association.

A Japanese Government emissary is scheduled to visit Taipei later this week, but a senior Nationalist Chinese official says his government will refuse to discuss the problem of relations in the period after Tokyo-Peking ties are restored. The official stated, however, that Taipei intends to retain the fullest possible de facto relations with Tokyo.

The Japanese expect some temporary disruption of trade, as well as some "unhappy incidents" in Taiwan after relations are broken. The Japanese know, however, that Taiwan could not substantially reduce its economic ties with Japan without paying a very heavy price, and thus expect a rapid return to normal trade relations. Tokyo also believes--based on its preliminary talks with the mainland Chinese--that Peking will not object to a continuation of Japan-Taiwan economic ties.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

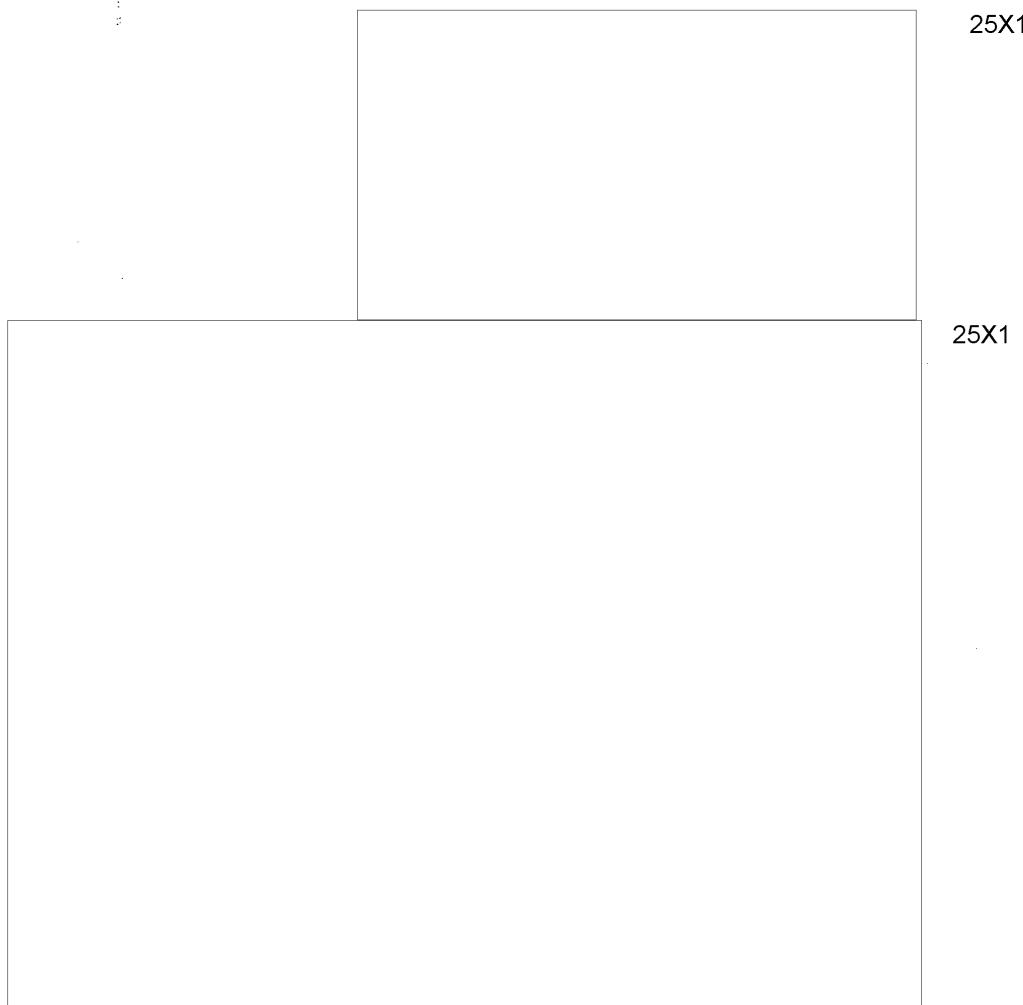
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

MOROCCO

Ambassador Rockwell saw King Hassan late last week for the first time since the attempted coup on 26 August. Rockwell found the King assured, eloquent, and steadfast in his refusal to perceive any personal responsibility for the situation that provoked this year's or last year's military efforts to overthrow him. The ambassador does not think that Hassan believes that there was a foreign hand behind the two coup attempts; the King, nevertheless, finds it useful to advance this thesis to distract his people from his failings and those of his regime. Hassan apparently wants to lure all political parties into participating in the parliamentary elections that he has promised by early next year. Meanwhile, the King says he will purge the army in an effort to remove further danger from that quarter. The ambassador found no indication that the King was thinking of abdication.

Even in the unlikely event that the King could lure Morocco's political parties into elections, the resulting parliament would be a source of trouble. The parties would want to turn it into a constituent assembly with the job of drafting a constitution that would lessen the King's power. In addition, a further purge of the army could serve more to aggravate already frayed military tempers than to cow them into submission. In sum, Hassan is still skating on thin ice.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

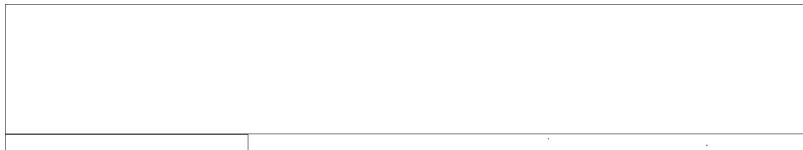


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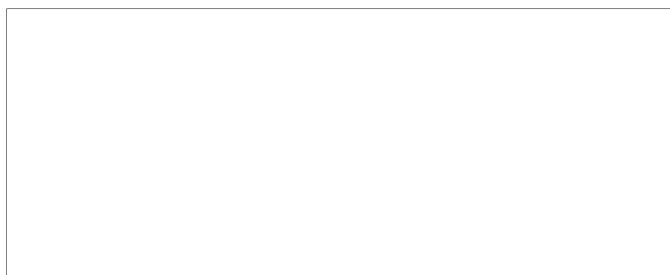
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

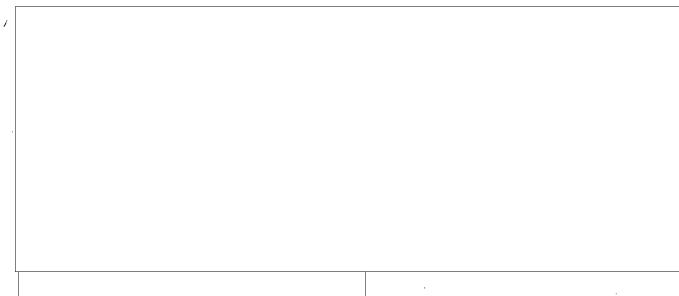


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

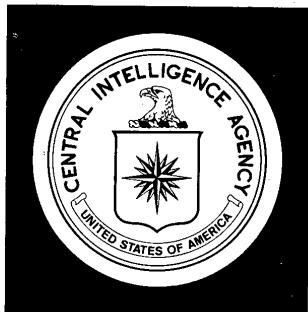
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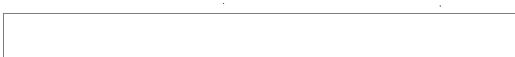
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The President's Daily Brief

13 September 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

13 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

South Vietnamese forces are fighting hard in the citadel in Quang Tri City. Elsewhere, the Communists appear to be preparing for attacks [redacted] with [redacted] recent directives. (Page 1)

25X1

The fedayeen, buoyed by their recent "success" in Munich, are planning more terrorism. (Page 2)

[redacted] Chile [redacted]
[redacted] (Page 3)

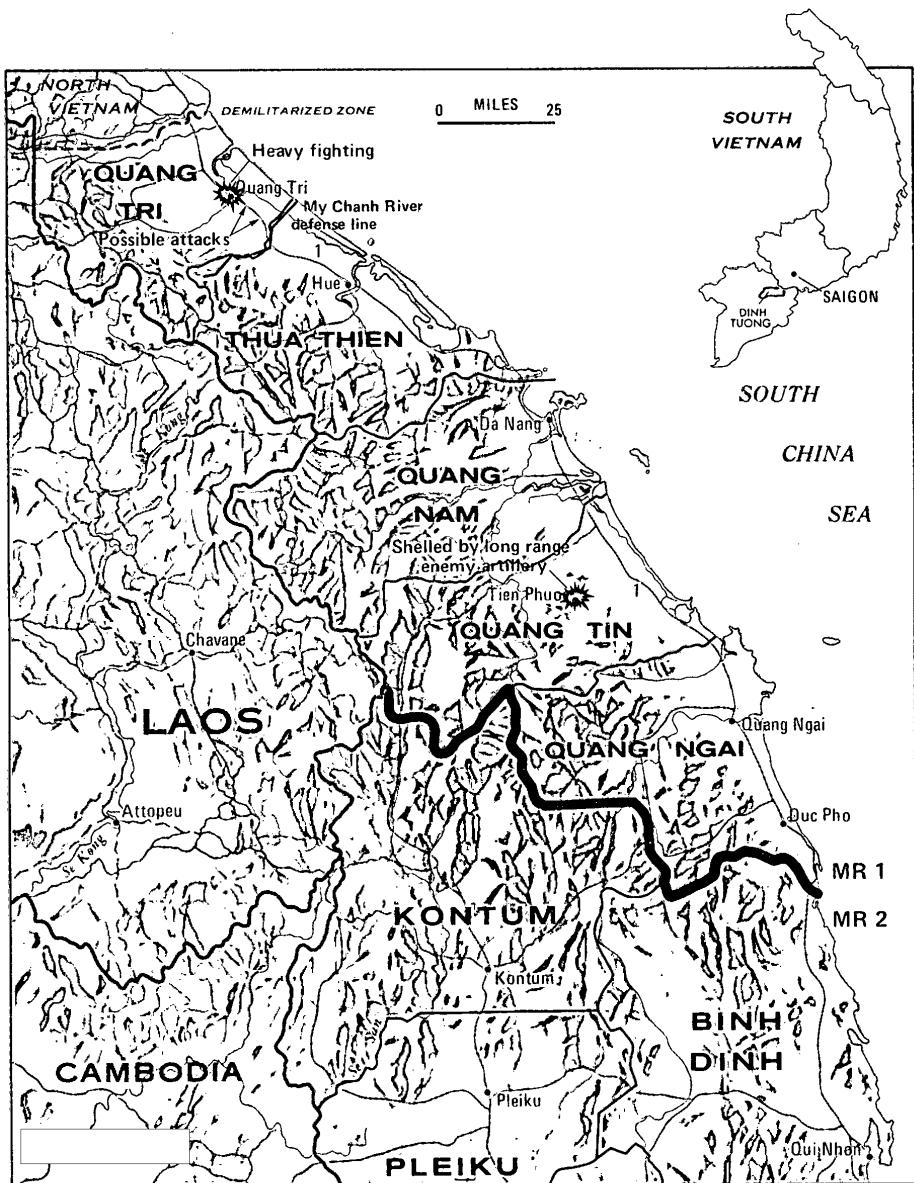
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Poland will soon establish diplomatic relations with West Germany. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

Heavy fighting continues in Quang Tri City as government forces try to consolidate their foothold in the citadel. South Vietnamese Marines penetrated to the center of the fortress on 11 September, but apparently pulled back to concentrate on securing the eastern section. According to intercepts, the government's renewed effort is hampering the flow of replacements and supplies to enemy units within the citadel. More than 15 tons of supplies and some 200 enemy troops may have been moved in, however, before the Marines attacked key positions along the Communists' primary supply route south of the citadel.

The Communists apparently are continuing their preparations for a counterattack along Route 1 south of Quang Tri City. A unit of the North Vietnamese 304th Division recently was ordered to turn over its battle plans to a regiment of the North Vietnamese 325th Division. This may indicate that some units of the 325th that were previously committed to the defense of Quang Tri City are moving south to join elements of the North Vietnamese 312th Division already in this area.

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FEDAYEEN

Members of the major fedayeen groups claim
that their organizations have been reinvigorated
by the "success" at Munich and reunited by Israel's
subsequent retaliatory air attacks.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

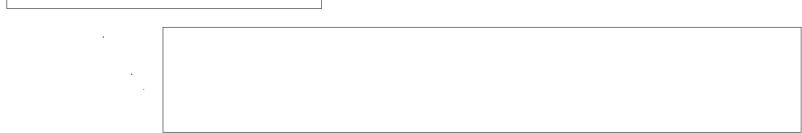
CHILE



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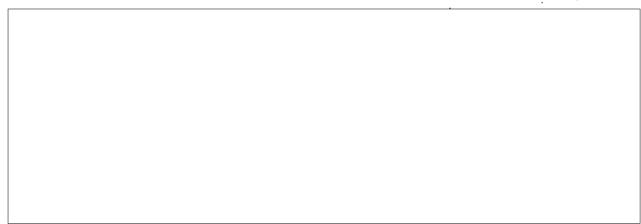


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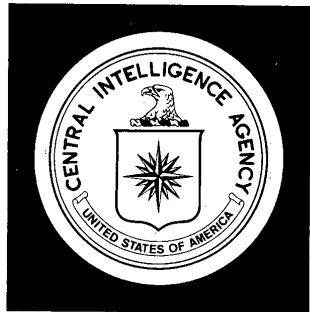
NOTES

North Vietnam: In an intercepted message of 7 September, North Vietnam's primary food importing agency acknowledged it had received from China about 85,000 tons of foodstuffs, consisting mostly of rice, maize, and wheat, as of 31 August. The Chinese had been committed to deliver more than 100,000 tons of foodstuffs during August. Even if the Chinese did not deliver all that they had promised, such imports are unusually heavy for North Vietnam and may represent insurance on Hanoi's part against what may be a poor autumn harvest.

Poland - West Germany: Poland's foreign minister begins an official visit to West Germany today. This is the first visit there of a high-level Polish official since World War II, and is expected to be the occasion for announcing the establishment of diplomatic relations. Although the two countries plan to set up embassies soon, they will not appoint ambassadors until long-standing bilateral issues, such as the resettlement of ethnic Germans, have been resolved. They may also delay this final step in normalizing their relations until Bonn completes its negotiations with East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

25X1

14 September 1972

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exemption category 3B(1), (2),
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

14 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

South Vietnamese forces trying to retake the citadel in Quang Tri City are encountering intense resistance from Communist infantry and artillery. (Page 1) 25X1

An Israeli official says Tel Aviv intends to focus "unremitting pressure" on Syria in order to halt Arab terrorist activities.

(Page 2)

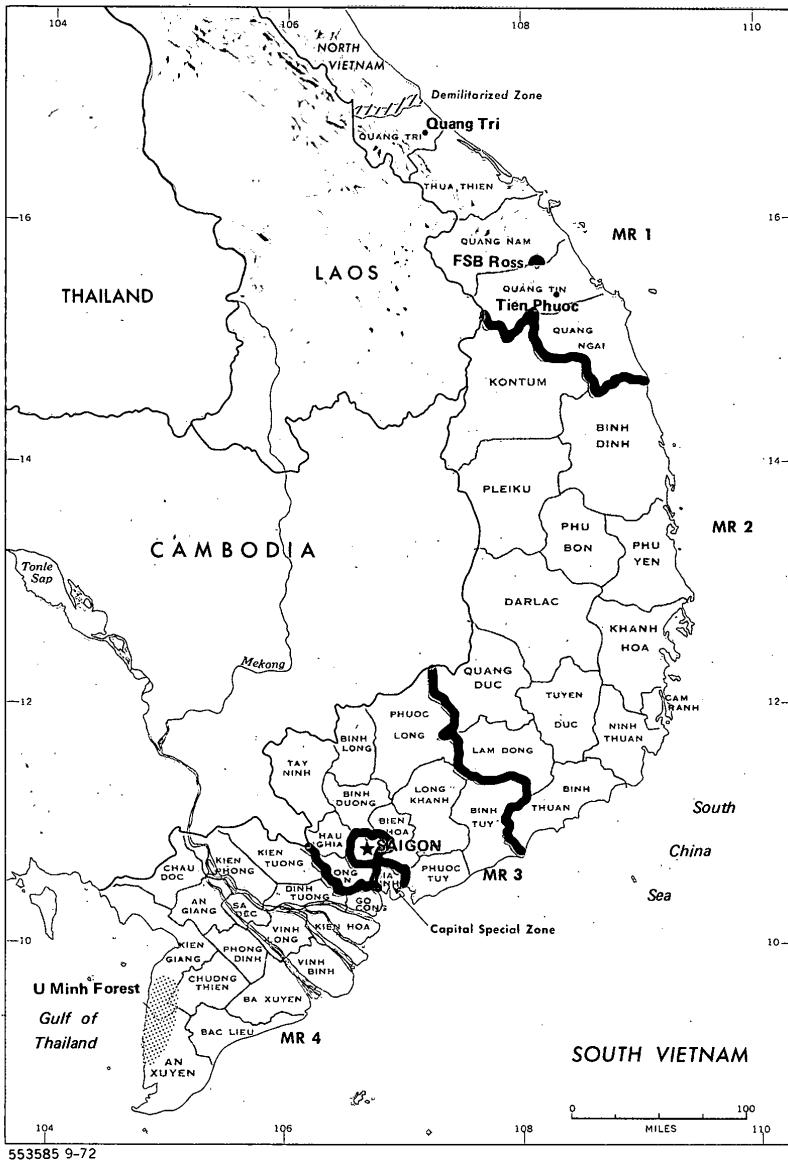
Ambassador Tasca estimates that Greek Prime Minister Papadopoulos has less than a 50-50 chance of remaining in office much longer. (Page 3) 25X1

Indonesia [redacted] China to assess prospects for normalizing relations. (Page 4) 25X1
25X1

The Soviets [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
(Page 5)

Cambodian forces trying to reopen Route 5 have not met any strong resistance since their drive began on Monday. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

Government forces trying to retake the citadel in Quang Tri City are encountering intense resistance from Communist infantry and artillery. Several hundred South Vietnamese Marines in the citadel are holding positions near the eastern and southern walls, despite heavy artillery and mortar barrages. Several Marine battalions are moving closer to the citadel on three sides.

Government forces operating near Fire Support Base Ross in Quang Nam Province engaged the Communists in several skirmishes. In the Tien Phuoc area of Quang Tin Province, enemy pressure forced South Vietnamese forces to withdraw farther to the east from the district town.

In the delta, there has been a sharp increase in Communist activity, mostly directed against small outposts in the provinces that border on the U Minh Forest. In Chuong Thien Province, more than a dozen outposts were attacked, and communications have been lost with half of them. Enemy gunners also shelled a number of outposts in Kien Giang Province, and a few have fallen to the Communists.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL - ARAB STATES

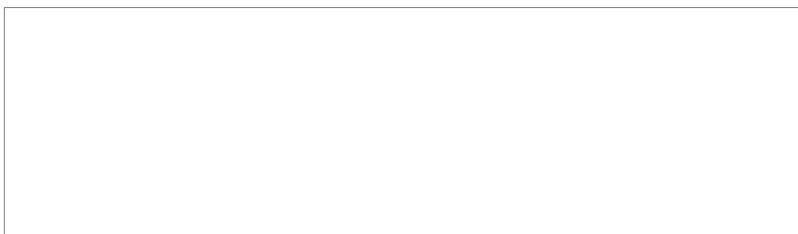
Israeli Minister of Police Hillel has told US Embassy officials in Tel Aviv that Israel intends to focus "unremitting pressure" on Syria in order to halt Arab terrorist activities. Hillel said that Syria had provided the principal base and support for terrorist activities abroad and that the situation "must be made so painful" for Damascus that it will force an end to terrorist activities. He said that Israel intended to put the entire onus on Syria for terrorist actions regardless of where they originate. He added that the Israeli air strikes of 8 September were not an example of the kind of pressure Israel has in mind, "since they did not hurt Syria." The Israeli action, Hillel said, would be "much more drastic."

Israeli officials' public statements also indicate that Tel Aviv has declared "open season" on the fedayeen and on the host Arab states supporting them. Israeli Chief of Staff Elazar has spoken in terms of mounting a "continuous war" and Prime Minister Golda Meir told the Knesset that Israel will strike at the terrorists "everywhere our hand can reach."

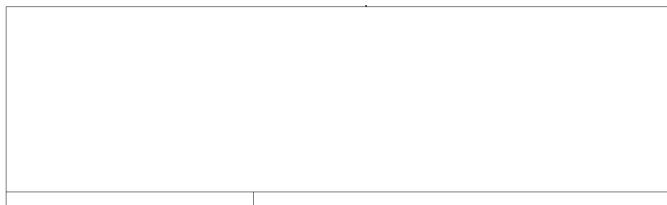
Meanwhile, Israeli aircraft have continued daily flights over southern Lebanon and Syria since their attacks of 8 and 9 September. An Israeli military spokesman has denied Syrian claims that an Israeli aircraft was shot down yesterday.

* * *

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

GREECE

Ambassador Tasca estimates that Prime Minister Papadopoulos has less than a 50-50 chance of remaining in office much longer. He cites Papadopoulos' erratic management of the government, his failure to curtail corruption among his associates, and his mistakes in handling Greece's recent confrontation with Cyprus as the primary causes of dissatisfaction. Military officers at all levels no longer believe Papadopoulos is the only man who can run the government--a widely held view until now. Papadopoulos' fall is not likely to change things very much. The government will remain in the hands of the military and it will continue to be pro-US and pro-NATO. What is less certain is who will replace Papadopoulos. If someone like his estranged former associate, Dimitrius Stamatelopoulos, comes in, Greece may again move toward parliamentary government. On the other hand, figures such as Deputy Prime Minister Pattakos or armed forces chief Angelis, both of whom are authoritarian personalities, would preside over a regime even more rigid than that of Papadopoulos. The ambassador does not rule out the possibility of a take-over by some unknown officer with a strong ideological bias, but says the embassy has no leads in this direction.

25X1

Stamatelopoulos, once a prestigious member of the Revolutionary Council and a close military colleague of Papadopoulos, resigned a few years ago in pique over the lack of direction of the regime. Since then, he has been a frequent critic of the government. Papadopoulos, however, has never seriously attempted to reprimand him. Although Stamatelopoulos is a strong personality and a logical choice, we have seen no evidence that he has the necessary military backing to take over the government. Nevertheless,

the situation is increasingly unstable.

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

INDONESIA-CHINA

Suharto had
stated earlier that Djakarta should not be left be-
hind as other countries move on the China question.

25X1

The Chinese, in recent contacts with the Indonesians at the United Nations, have indicated that they are prepared to consider normalization once Sino-Japanese relations are established. In the meantime, the Chinese Foreign Ministry has ordered that all possible assistance be given merchants in Hong Kong wishing to do business with Indonesia.

The new soundings seem likely to go reasonably well, but the normalization process is expected to be slow. The Indonesian Army remains reluctant to restore ties and many other Indonesian quarters hold strong anti-Chinese feelings. Like the Chinese, the Indonesians want the first steps to be made through trade.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

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Satellite photography of the cosmonaut training center at Star Village near Moscow shows several large buildings under construction.

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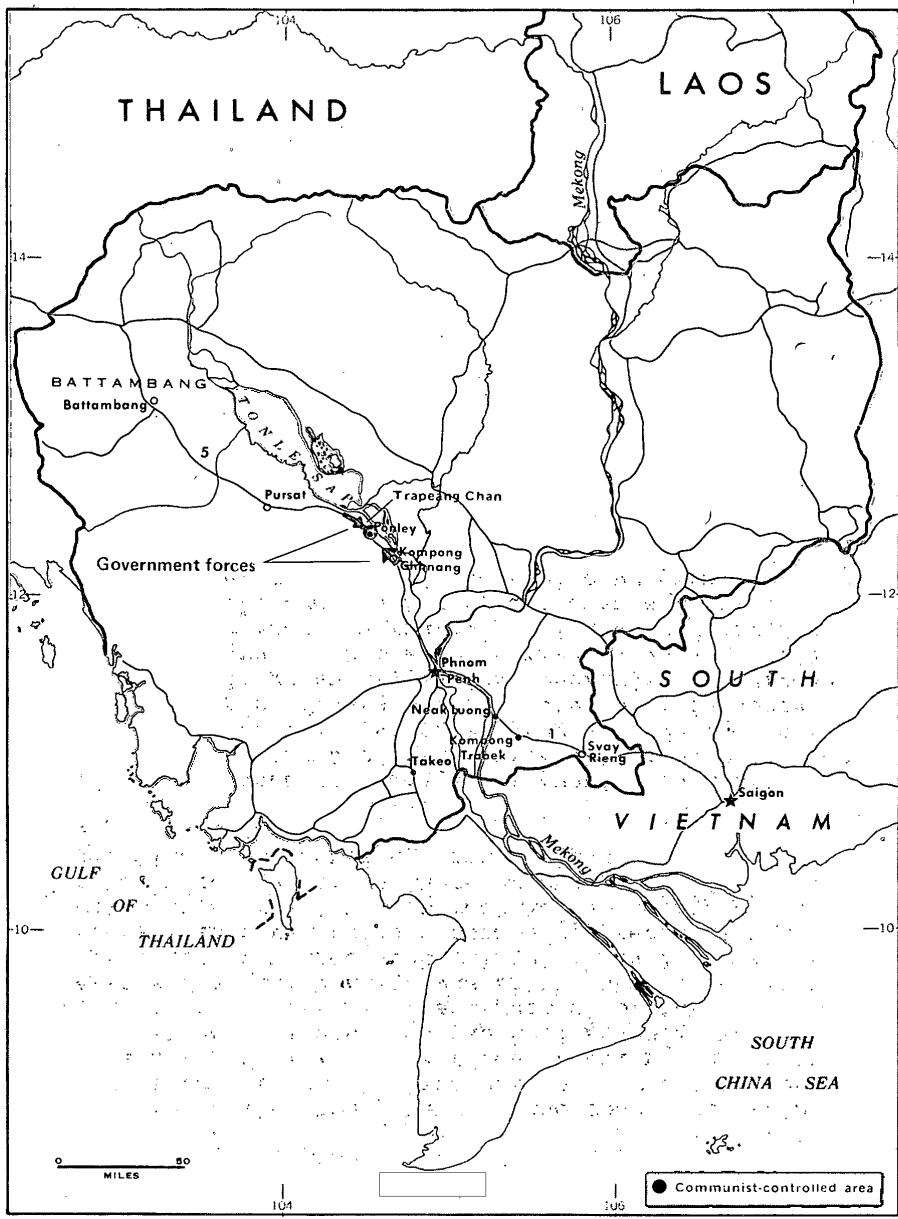


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We expect complex future missions that will involve large space stations operating in earth orbit. There are currently about 50 cosmonauts in training. The US had roughly the same number of astronauts in training at the peak of the Apollo program.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA



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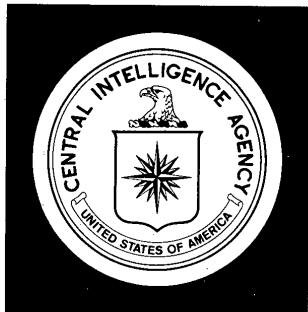
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Cambodia: Government forces trying to reopen Route 5, the land route for rice shipments from Battambang Province to Phnom Penh, have not encountered any strong resistance since their drive began on Monday. By yesterday the 11 battalions moving up the highway from Kompong Chhnang City were some nine miles south of the enemy-controlled town of Ponley. The other column of four battalions proceeding down Route 5 from Pursat has reoccupied the small town of Trapeang Chan and is now about three miles from Ponley.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

15 September 1972

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Top Secret

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Exempt from general
declassification schedule of E.O. 14176
exemption category: 5b(1)(2)(3)
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

15 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

25X1

Soviet agricultural problems are likely to be discussed at the party Central Committee plenum tomorrow, with Brezhnev said to be buoyant about prospects for a good harvest in the Virgin Lands.
(Page 2)

South Vietnamese Marines have repulsed several counterattacks around the Quang Tri citadel. (Page 3)

25X1

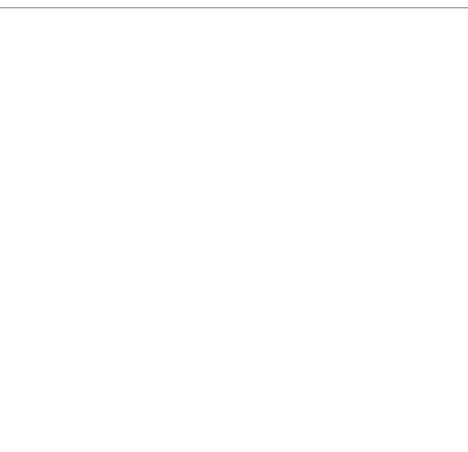
Laotian Government forces are again moving slowly toward targets on the periphery of the Plaine des Jarres. (Page 6)

Chilean political tensions still simmer as President Allende tries to lure the Christian Democrats into a truce. (Page 7)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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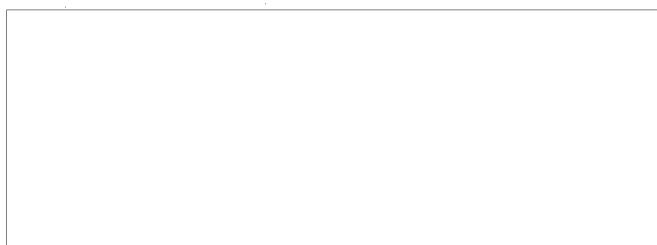


FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

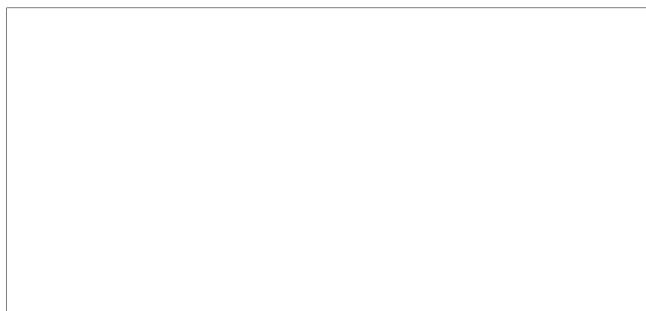
CHINA



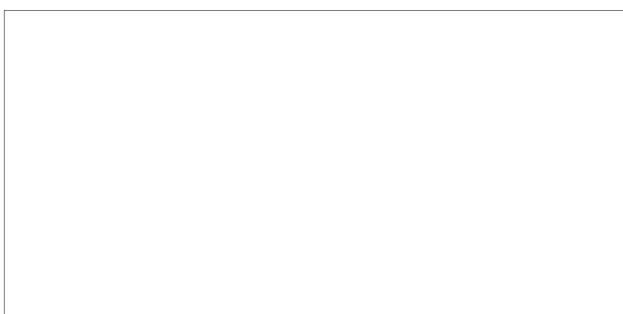
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

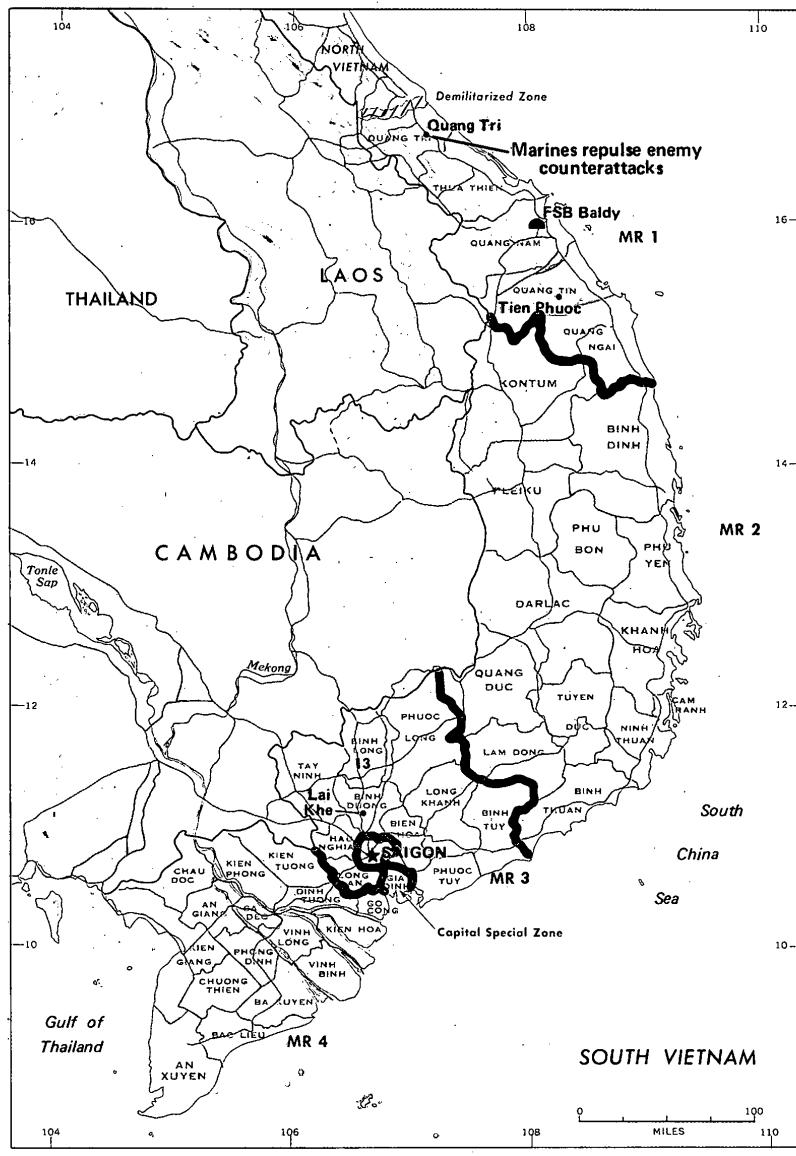
USSR

Agricultural problems are likely to be discussed at the party Central Committee plenum scheduled to be held tomorrow.

According to an aide to party chief Brezhnev, the Soviet leader was in "rather buoyant spirits" following his return last week from touring key grain-growing areas of the Virgin Lands. The aide told an official of our embassy in Moscow that Brezhnev is convinced that his swing through the Virgin Lands has succeeded in promoting an all-out effort to bring in the harvest and help offset losses elsewhere. The party boss was said to have briefed the Politburo earlier this week on the prospects for a successful harvest in Soviet Central Asia and Siberia.

The embassy agricultural attaché is less sanguine over crop prospects in these areas. Weather conditions there have remained poor since Brezhnev's return, and harvesting losses may be high because of late ripening of the crops. In fact, not even a bumper crop will come close to offsetting the losses in other regions.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

South Vietnamese Marines have turned back several enemy counterattacks around the Quang Tri citadel. Fighting has been heavy just south of the fortress and near the Thach Han River to the west, where government forces have occupied a major enemy transshipment point. Yesterday the Communists fired over 1,700 artillery and mortar rounds against the Marines.

Intercepts indicate that the government's campaign is hurting the Communists. One message noted that "we are very tired," and another stated that the South Vietnamese have engaged in "several good battles," a rare admission that things are not going well for the North Vietnamese.

Bad weather and allied mining of the rivers are hampering enemy efforts to move supplies into the city. The senior enemy authority for the northern battlefield has been asked to dispatch North Vietnamese naval and engineering personnel to help destroy mines in the inland waterways.

Farther south, sporadic fighting has been reported near Fire Support Base Baldy in Quang Nam Province and near Tien Phuoc District capital in Quang Tin Province. The North Vietnamese apparently have moved a joint armor and artillery regiment, equipped with 130-mm. guns and PT-76 tanks, into the Quang Tin coastal region.

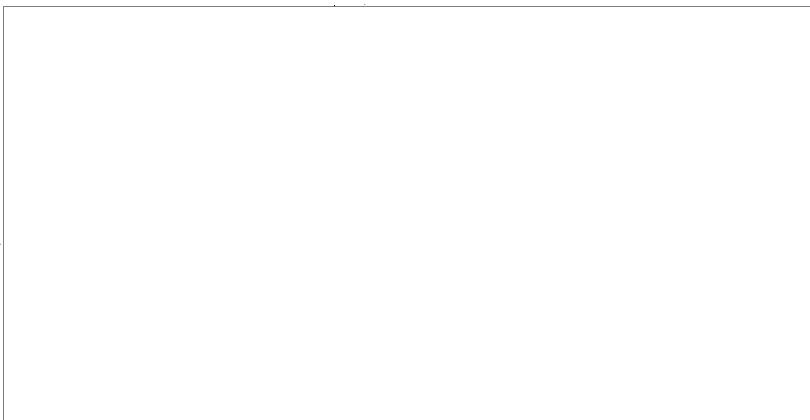
This movement is another sign of the importance the Communists attach to increasing their presence in the lowlands. The recent increase in the fighting in nearby Quang Ngai Province, where a Communist buildup is continuing, also points to such intentions.

In the southern provinces, elements of the North Vietnamese 7th Division have been detected moving closer to the government's staging base for Route 13 operations at Lai Khe, north of Saigon. A flurry of enemy attacks in the lower delta has resulted in the loss of a significant number of outposts in Chuong Thien and An Xuyen provinces. These actions evidently were carried out to mask the further infiltration of Communist main force units into the western delta from nearby Cambodia.

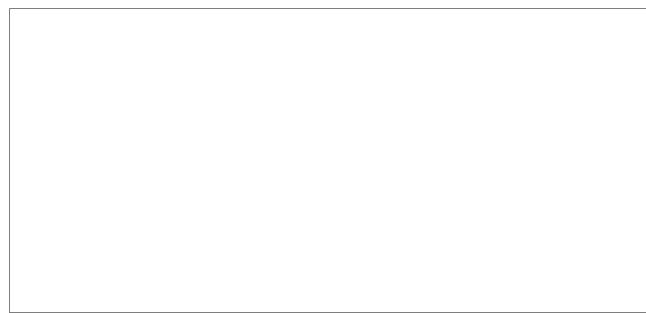
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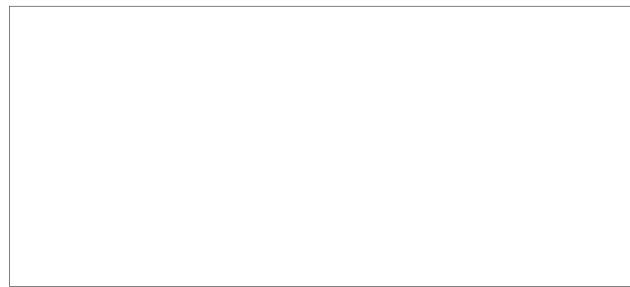
CAMBODIA



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Northwest Cambodia



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

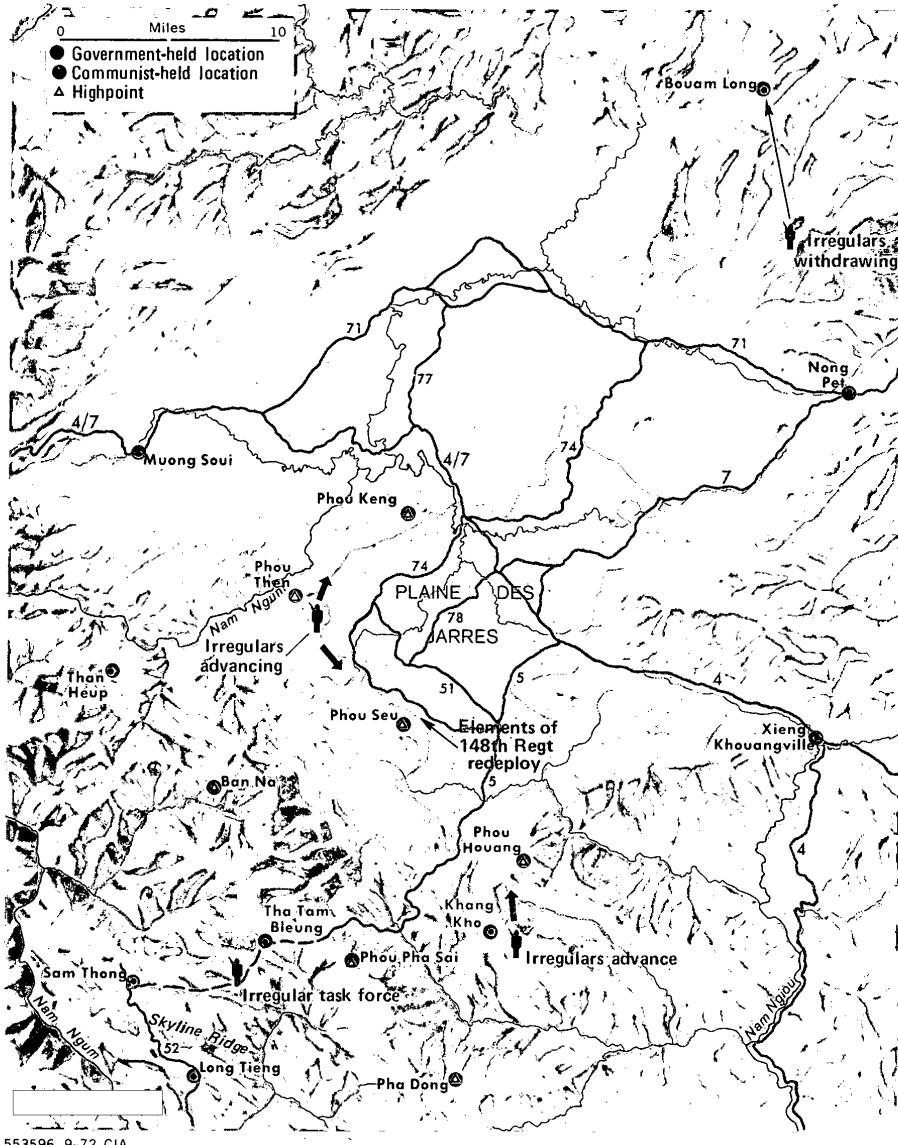
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The rice situation in Phnom Penh should improve markedly over the next several days. Almost 4,000 tons of rice from Thailand and South Vietnam are due to arrive this weekend by the Mekong River route. In addition, about three weeks' supply should arrive at Kompong Som port within the next two or three days to be trucked to Phnom Penh. Meanwhile, the depletion of Phnom Penh's rice stock has been slowed by daily airlifts of some 100 tons from Saigon and of 35 tons from Cambodia's Battambang Province.

Government forces trying to reopen Route 5 to Battambang are continuing their slow advance. The two government columns, now totaling about 19 battalions, are still meeting only light resistance from the estimated four battalions of Cambodian Communist troops in the Ponley area.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Government forces are again moving slowly toward targets on the periphery of the Plaine des Jarres. Four fresh irregular battalions that arrived earlier this week on the western edge are advancing toward Phou Seu, a strategic height overlooking the southern Plaine, while another four-battalion force has set out for Phou Keng, a mountain on the northern edge. Three irregular battalions that had been stalled for the past five weeks near Khang Kho have also resumed their march toward the southern tip of the Plaine.

Intercepts indicate that the Communists have been preparing to blunt Vang Pao's renewed efforts. Elements of the 866th Regiment have been ordered to "annihilate" irregulars advancing from the west, and elements of the 148th Regiment have moved from the hills east of the Plaine to reinforce the 866th.

Vang Pao is still having problems with discipline and morale of some of his tribal irregulars. A task force assigned to attack Communist supply lines north of the Plaine has ignored orders and retreated to Bouam Long, its starting point, after several days of skirmishing with Communist forces.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHILE

Political tensions are still simmering, although no new street violence has occurred this week. News media across the political spectrum are speculating that some sort of power play by the military is in the offing.

25X1

President Allende

25X1

, is still trying to lure the Christian Democrats into a truce. For their part, the Christian Democrats fear the continuing unrest might preclude the congressional elections they expect to win in March, and they have not closed the door on Allende's overtures. Opposition parties suspended the joint march they had scheduled for yesterday, ostensibly because city officials authorized an undesirable site for the demonstration. Actually, the Christian Democrats were relieved. There was little enthusiasm for the march in the party's rank and file, and the turnout would not have matched the one Allende got last week.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

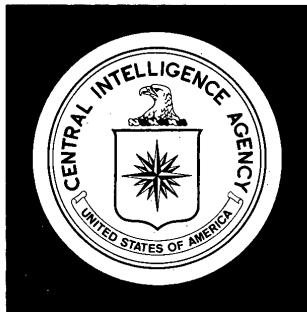
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

European Communities: The groundwork has been laid for modest advances toward monetary union at the EC summit meeting scheduled for next month in Paris. The foreign and finance ministers of the ten present and prospective EC members have now agreed to establish a European Monetary Cooperation Fund. Initially the fund will provide short-term credit to alleviate members' temporary financial difficulties. It will exclude the longer term credits that Bonn fears could aggravate inflation. Suggested steps toward political integration have been shelved, and it appears that the summit will avoid provocative positions on EC relations with the US and USSR or on international monetary problems.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

16 September 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

16 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

An Israeli armored column entered southern Lebanon this morning in an anti-fedayeen operation. (Page 1)

Moscow, anxious to recoup its position in the Middle East, has offered to conclude a "defense agreement" with Lebanon. (Page 2)

South Vietnamese Marines appear to have gained control of the citadel in Quang Tri City. (Page 3)

In Chile

25X25X1

(Page 4)

25X1

Croatian extremists still control the hijacked Swedish jet. (Page 5)

Negotiations between India and Pakistan remain stalled. (Page 6)

25X1

Soviet

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Cuba

25X1

(Page ?)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-LEBANON

An Israeli armored force entered southern Lebanon early this morning in what an Israeli spokesman described as a "combing" operation for fedayeen. The Israeli force included tanks, and half-tracks, and was supported by aircraft. The spokesman said they were searching for 100 Saiga terrorists reported to be in the area. He would not indicate when the Israeli force planned to withdraw. There have been some exchanges between the Lebanese Army and the Israeli force, but the extent of this is not known.

The operation centered in the Bint-Jbeil area of south-central Lebanon, some five miles inside the border. [redacted]

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[redacted] Israeli aircraft bombed Fatah-Saiga headquarters in Nabatie, some 25 miles inside Lebanon. The US Embassy in Beirut has reported that the Israelis were blowing up houses in their operation.

The Israeli action follows a clash with Lebanese-based fedayeen near Mount Hermon in southeastern Lebanon on Thursday in which two Israeli soldiers were killed. The fedayeen said the Israelis were also bombing in this area.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

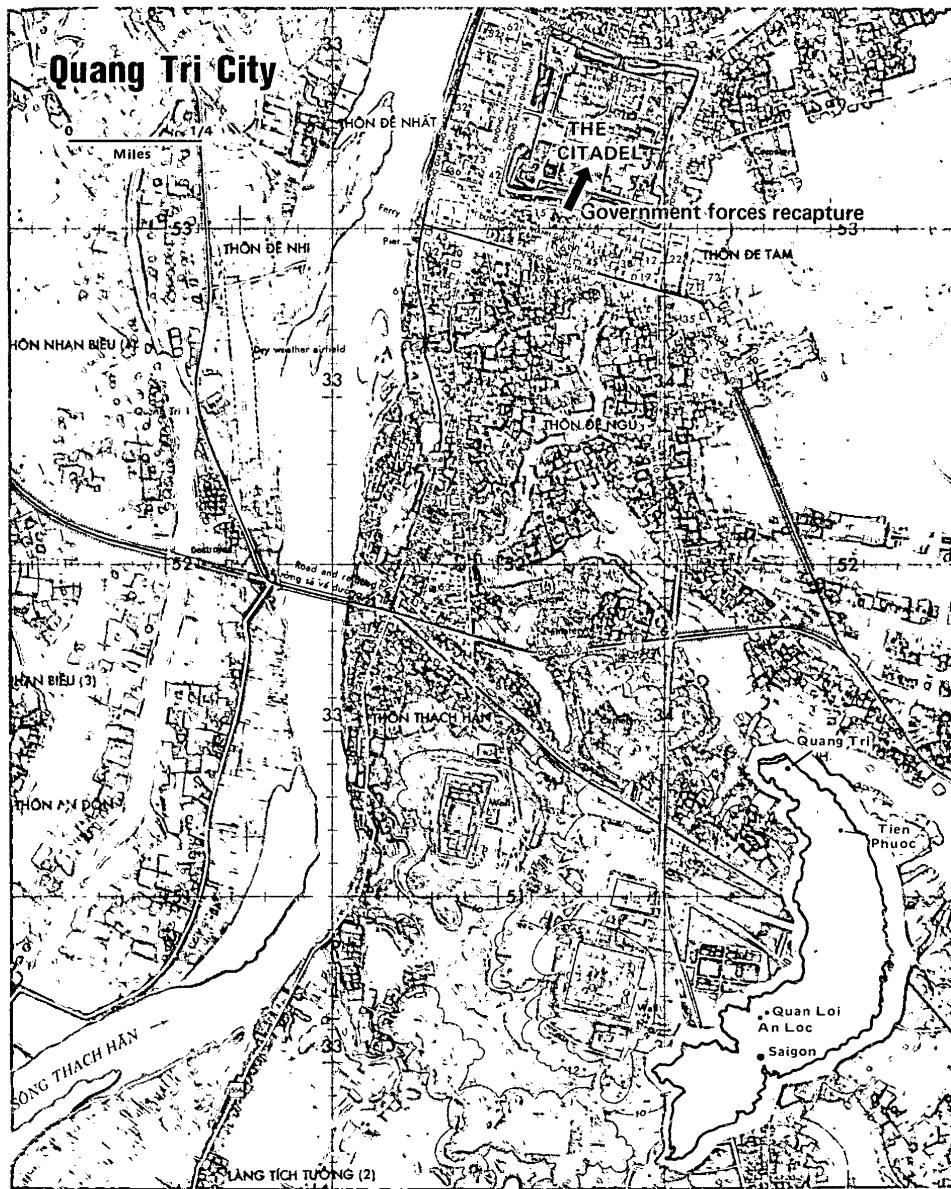
USSR-LEBANON

Moscow has offered to conclude a "defense agreement" with Lebanon and to "dispatch the Soviet fleet to Beirut," in order to counter the recent Israeli "aggression." Lebanese Foreign Minister Abouhamad informed Ambassador Buffum about the offer yesterday, adding that it was made by Soviet Ambassador Azimov during a meeting with President Franjiyah on Wednesday. Abouhamad refused to discuss the details of the offer, but did state that he thought that it would serve primarily as a symbol of the Soviet interest in Lebanon.

Moscow's offer is a fresh demonstration of its continuing effort to recoup its position in the Middle East. The talk of a formal "defense agreement" and of "dispatching the Soviet fleet," however, may well be an overstatement of Soviet intentions.

Ambassador Buffum doubts--and so do we--that Beirut will accept any major Soviet tie. The Lebanese traditionally have been cautious of the Soviets and are keenly aware of how Egypt's close ties with Moscow went sour.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

South Vietnamese Marines appear to have gained control of the citadel in Quang Tri City. At least two Marine battalions are inside the citadel, and an enemy command post for defense of the fortress has been overrun. Fighting outside the citadel was less intense, although the Communists have continued their artillery attacks against Marine and Ranger positions in the city's southern and northern sectors. If the South Vietnamese have indeed taken the citadel, it will be a significant boost to their morale.

Action was light yesterday in the other four provinces of Military Region 1, although the Communists are still trying to expand their newly won footholds in the coastal lowlands. Enemy messages indicate that a command unit that normally operates in the Da Nang area has moved closer to the district capital of Tien Phuoc in Quang Tin Province. This is the first time the Viet Cong's Da Nang command headquarters has been located this far south. The move closely follows indications that the Communists have brought in additional artillery and armor units to reinforce the 711th Division already in the area.

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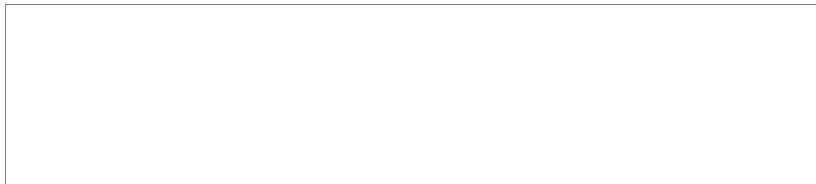
25X1

In the southern half of the country, fighting picked up somewhat in the An Loc area, where government troops are trying to recapture the city's airport, near Quan Loi. Several sharp engagements have been fought in this sector in recent days, and there are indications that the enemy may soon offer more determined resistance. Sharp contacts also continued in the delta, with enemy forces maintaining pressure against government outposts close to supply and infiltration corridors.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

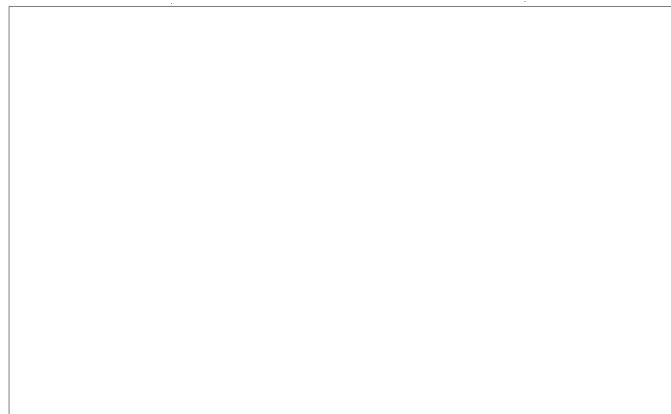
CHILE



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SWEDEN-YUGOSLAVIA

The Swedish jet being hijacked by Croatian extremists left Malmo airport in southern Sweden this morning after the plane's passengers were released. The Swedish Government acceded to the hijackers' demand for the release of a number of convicted Yugoslav terrorists, including the two men who killed Yugoslav Ambassador Rolovic in 1971. The press is reporting that the passengers were released after the hijackers were paid a ransom of \$104,000.

The hijackers' intended destination is uncertain. They are reported to have asked for weather reports for several cities south of Malmo and they may head for North Africa. The hijacking, the first in Swedish history, could have serious implications for Swedish-Yugoslav relations.

The hijacking is part of a pattern of increasingly frequent ustashi--the Croatian word for "terrorist"--attacks over the last 18 months. Croat separatists have taken new heart from the upsurge in Croatian nationalism in 1971 and from the knowledge that the time left for Tito to act as a stabilizing influence is at best limited.

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Anti-terrorism feelings in Yugoslavia, from Tito down to the man in the street, are running high. If Belgrade is not satisfied with the outcome of this incident, it is likely to take matters into its own hands.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

INDIA-PAKISTAN

The stalemate continues. The two sides had agreed late last month to withdraw their forces from all occupied territory except Kashmir by 15 September, but now the Indians are insisting that the cease-fire line in Kashmir must first be delineated.

[redacted] New Delhi may intentionally be delaying the withdrawals in an effort to pressure Pakistan into recognizing Bangladesh.

25X1

President Bhutto continues to insist that he cannot recognize the Dacca government until after a meeting between Pakistani and Bengali officials. Bangladesh Prime Minister Mujib, for his part, has publicly reiterated that recognition must take place before any such a meeting.

This particular impasse could be solved. [redacted]

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Bhutto and Mujib may eventually agree to such an arrangement. A major obstacle to improved relations would remain, however, if Mujib continues to insist on Bangladesh's right to try as war criminals some of the more than 90,000 Pakistani prisoners being held in India.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Fedayeen-Israel:

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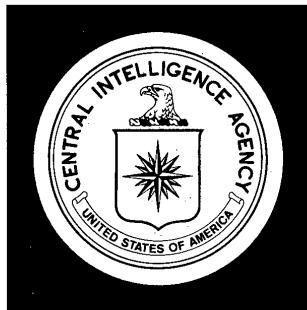
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The President's Daily Brief

18 September 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

18 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Heavy fighting is under way in South Vietnam's Quang Ngai Province following a series of widespread Communist attacks over the weekend. (Page 1)

The Lebanese have ordered a new crackdown on the fedayeen in the wake of Israel's military incursions. (Page 2)

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[redacted] Chile [redacted]

2525X1

[redacted] (Page 3) [redacted]

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The latest Korean Red Cross talks were largely ceremonial, but further meetings are scheduled. (Page 4)

North Vietnamese troops in Laos have launched a series of ground attacks against government forces trying to advance along the western edge of the Plaine des Jarres. (Page 5)

Cambodian Army troops have ended the Communists' hold on Route 5 and traffic is expected to begin moving in about a week. (Page 5)

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[redacted] Cypriot [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 5) [redacted]

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A rebel force of Tanzanian-based Ugandans has launched an attack in an apparent attempt to exploit the deteriorating situation in Uganda. (Page 6)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Military Region 1



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

Heavy fighting is under way in coastal Quang Ngai Province following a series of widespread Communist attacks over the weekend. The main enemy effort is against Mo Duc and Ba To district capitals, but several government strongpoints have been either surrounded or captured. A key bridge on Route 1 north of Mo Duc has fallen to the enemy, blocking government efforts to move in reinforcements. Bad weather is hampering allied air support.

These attacks may be the start of a major Communist effort against the coastal lowlands.

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A prisoner recently captured near Que Son claimed that the North Vietnamese 711th Division would "coordinate" its campaign against the coastal areas of Quang Nam and Quang Tin provinces with a similar effort to be mounted by the North Vietnamese 2nd Division in Quang Ngai. According to intercepts, the 711th apparently has been ordered to hold Tien Phuoc in Quang Tin Province, possibly for use as a staging area for operations in the lowlands. Other intercepts disclose enemy plans for an imminent rocket barrage against Da Nang.

Farther north in Quang Tri City, sporadic fighting continues as South Vietnamese Marines mop up the remaining enemy troops still scattered throughout the citadel. The Marines occupied the former provincial government buildings west of the fortress on 16 September. South Vietnamese Ranger units are encountering strong Communist resistance north of the city, but there was only light action to the south.

Fighting in the southern provinces remains focused on the lower delta provinces of Chuong Thien and Kien Giang. In Chuong Thien Province, the Communists harassed or attacked some 27 outposts during the past week. Recent Communist main force unit moves in Kien Hoa and Dinh Tuong provinces in the upper delta may presage renewed attacks there.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LEBANON-ISRAEL

Early yesterday the Lebanese Government ordered the fedayeen from their strongholds in the Mount Hermon area in southern Lebanon and from the al-Biqa area in the north central part of the country. Only certain elements will be allowed to carry arms outside of refugee camps. The commandos also have been ordered to evacuate all villages and to stop wearing uniforms. The Lebanese deputy chief of staff told US officials in Beirut that any resistance would be met by force and that the orders would be put into effect as soon as the Lebanese Army can regroup.

The Palestine Liberation Organization radio in Damascus quickly rejected the ultimatum.

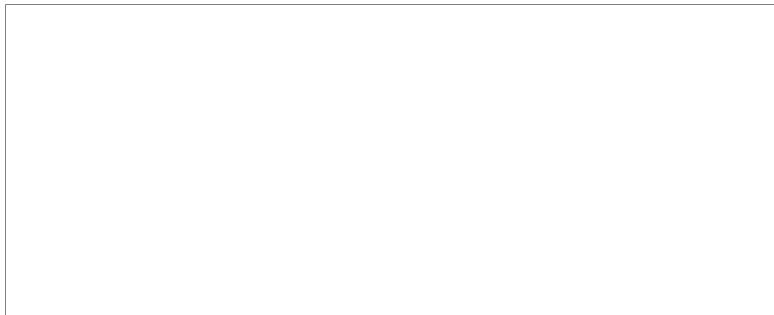
The Lebanese Government has not had a good record in enforcing restrictions on the fedayeen, partly for internal political reasons and partly because of the support the fedayeen have received from other Arab countries. In any event, the army's ability completely to suppress the fedayeen is doubtful.

The Israelis say that all their forces have now been withdrawn. Failure of the Lebanese to act against the fedayeen, however, would likely result in new Israeli incursions. Israel's intention to continue operations against the fedayeen was shown in a statement by chief of staff General Elazar that the strike was "not merely a reprisal, but part of Israel's war against the saboteurs."

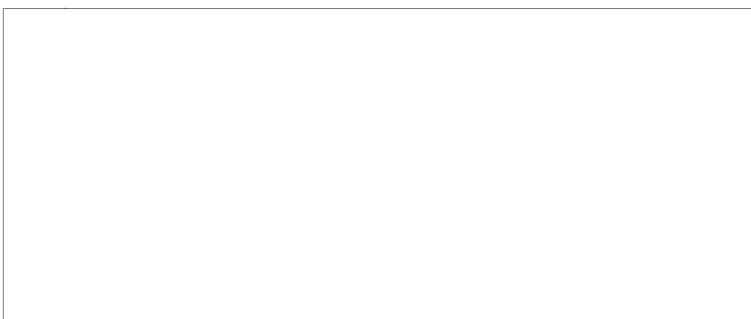
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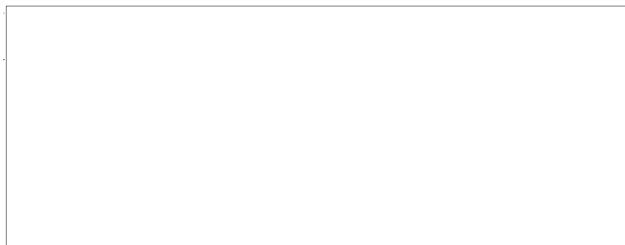
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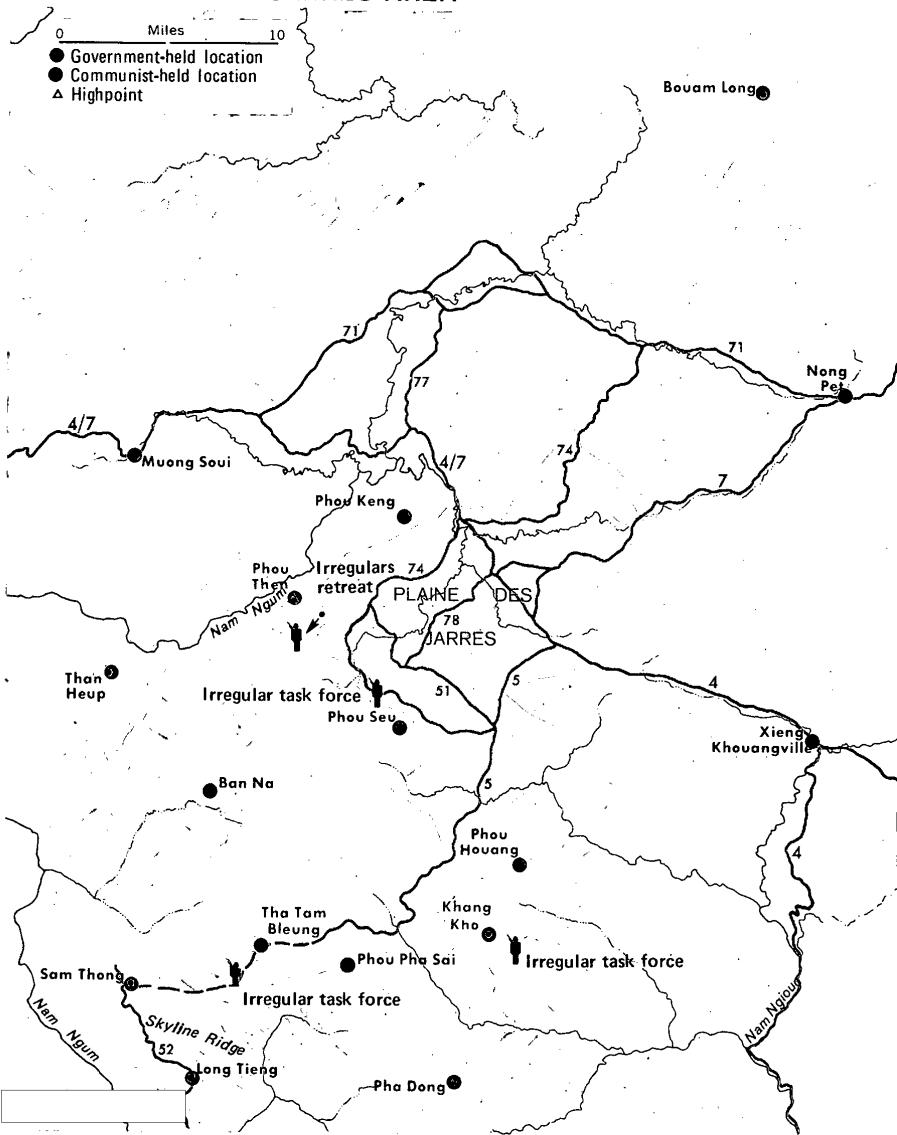
KOREA

The latest Red Cross talks on divided families wound up in Seoul on 16 September. The meetings were largely ceremonial, and both sides tacitly agreed to put off discussion of substantive issues until the next round to be held in Pyongyang on 24 October. This meeting will be followed by still another in Seoul on 22 November.

We expect efforts to work out arrangements for reuniting families and for cross-border travel and mail exchanges to be slow and painstaking. Nevertheless, both sides value the propaganda to be gained from a continuing dialogue and are, therefore, anxious to avoid an impasse.

Although the North Koreans have repeatedly sought to expand the Red Cross talks to cover other issues, Seoul has insisted that political problems be left to the Coordinating Committee that was called for in the communique of 4 July. This body has not yet begun to function and a decision to activate it is likely to be keyed to how things go in the Red Cross talks.

LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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553603 9-72 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Laos: Over the weekend North Vietnamese troops launched a series of ground attacks against government forces trying to advance along the western edge of the Plaine des Jarres. Four irregular battalions that had been pushing toward the hills north of the Plaine were forced to retreat to their starting point. With the aid of air strikes, four other irregular battalions near the southwestern edge of the Plaine held their ground against attacking North Vietnamese. Irregulars briefly captured a hill near Tha Tam Bleung, but retreated after sustained shelling and ground fighting. Enemy attacks stymied the irregular force in the Khang Kho area.

Cambodia: Cambodian Army troops ended the Communists' month-long hold over Route 5 when they moved unopposed into the partially destroyed town of Ponley on Saturday. About a week will be required to restore several bridges destroyed or damaged by the withdrawing Communists and allow truck convoys again to carry rice from Battambang Province to Phnom Penh. The capital's rice reserves were considerably increased over the weekend when a special Mekong River convoy delivered 4,000 tons from the South Vietnamese.

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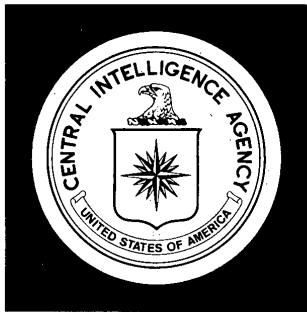
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Uganda: A rebel force of Tanzanian-based Ugandans opposed to President Amin has launched an attack in an apparent attempt to exploit the deteriorating internal security situation. The rebels are evidently led by supporters of former president Obote, who has resided in Tanzania since being overthrown by Amin in 1971. The invading force has scored initial success in heavy fighting with the Ugandan Army, which has been seriously weakened in recent weeks by intertribal fighting. Major clashes have occurred 80 miles southwest of the capital, and Uganda radio reports the rebels have captured three villages. The invasion will worsen the position of foreigners--including approximately 1,000 Americans--whose safety has been jeopardized by Amin's recent xenophobic statements and actions.

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The President's Daily Brief

19 September 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

19 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

South Vietnamese Marines are still fighting to eliminate pockets of resistance in the Quang Tri citadel, while farther south in Quang Ngai Province the Communists have overrun a district capital and are threatening two others. (Page 1)

[Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] (Page 2)

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In the wake of the Israeli incursion, Lebanon's balancing act includes both enforcement of new restrictions against the fedayeen and a public note of conciliation toward them. (Page 3)

The Ugandan Army has repulsed the attack by Tanzania-based opposition elements. (Page 4)

Peking has sharply reduced the scope of its program of sending urban youth to the countryside. (Page 5)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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553606 9-72 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

In Quang Tri City, South Vietnamese Marines continue their efforts to eliminate remaining pockets of enemy resistance in the citadel. Ranger and Airborne troops have captured several tons of Communist weapons and ammunition in the city. Intercepts show that the remaining North Vietnamese troops there are still being told to hold out at all costs.

There are additional indications that the Communists may be planning to attack government positions in neighboring Thua Thien Province. [redacted]

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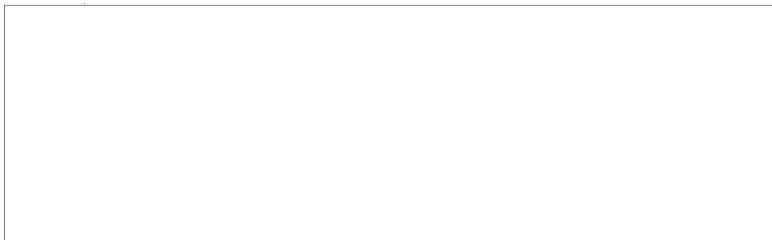
Enemy troops in Quang Ngai Province have overrun the district capital of Ba To and are threatening two others, Mo Duc and Duc Pho. They are also readying additional forces for attacks in Son Tinh and Binh Son districts. South Vietnamese 2nd Division troops in the province so far have had little success in slowing the enemy's advance. General Truong, the MR-1 commander, is said to consider the situation critical. He plans to send reinforcements if further setbacks occur.

In the delta, Communist units have kept up their pressure against government outposts, hitting several of them in Dinh Tuong and Kien Hoa provinces and farther south in Chuong Thien and Kien Giang.

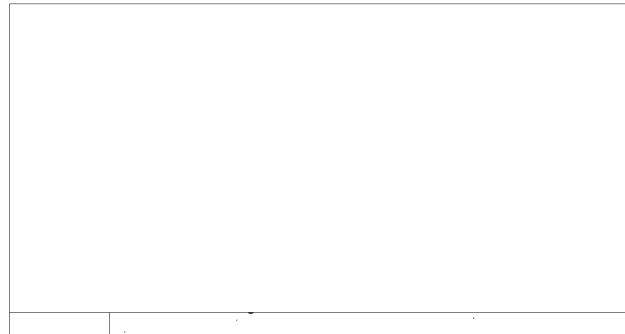
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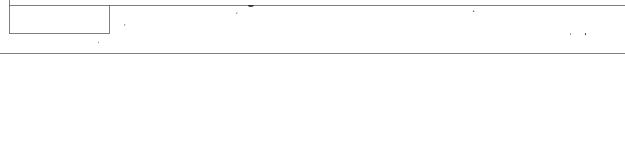
USSR - NORTH VIETNAM



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LEBANON-FEDAYEEN

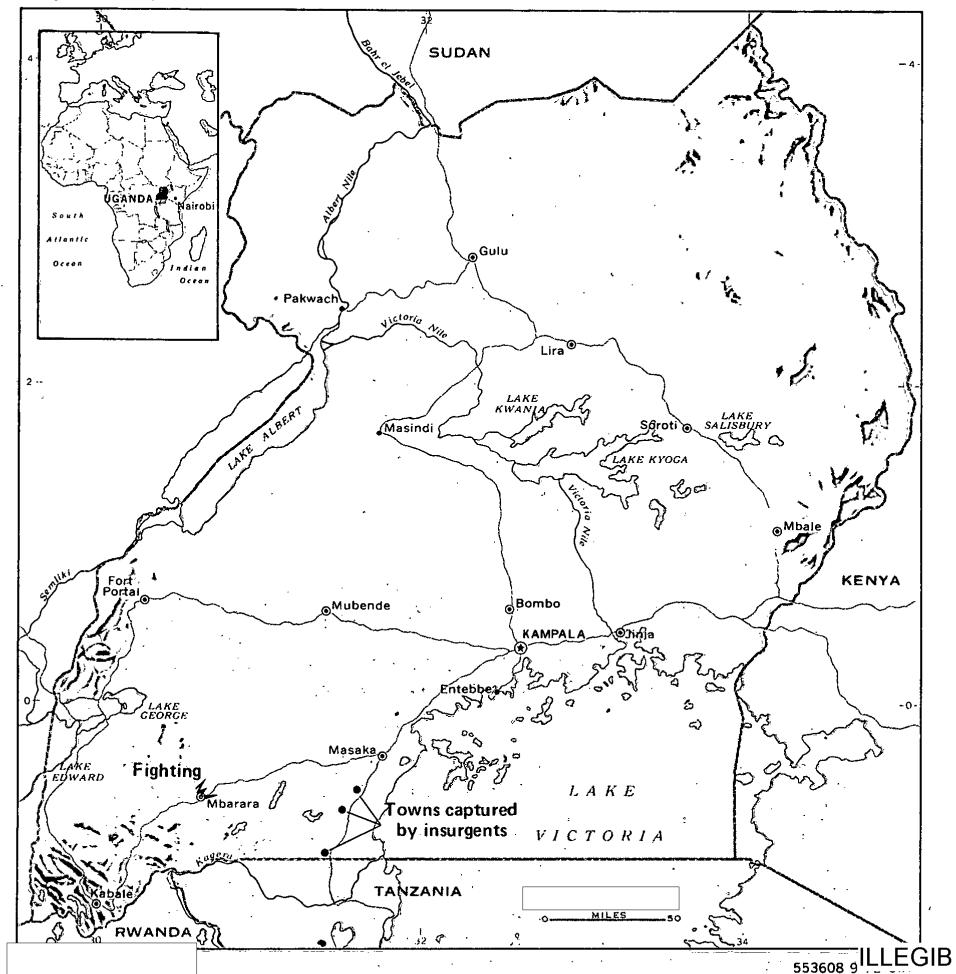
According to the clandestine Voice of Palestine [redacted] the army is enforcing new restrictions in the wake of the Israeli incursion, including roadblocks to prevent the commandos from re-entering southern villages. At the same time, the Lebanese Government is striking a note of conciliation. Prime Minister Salam has met with Yasir Arafat and stated that no ultimatum was intended. The Palestine Liberation Organization had asserted that the army had only "requested" the fedayeen to evacuate their southern strongholds.

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Incidents between army units and fedayeen could shake Lebanon's delicate political structure. Radical Sunni Muslims and leftists in Parliament are calling for complete freedom of action for the fedayeen. On the other hand, the Christians and the Shia Muslims of the south, who have borne the brunt of Israeli retaliation, support the army's efforts to keep the fedayeen out of the populated areas near the border. Disagreements over policy toward the fedayeen led to serious disturbances in 1969 and 1970; for seven months during 1969 the country was unable to bring together a formal government.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

UGANDA



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

UGANDA

Uganda radio claims that government troops have repulsed an attack on the military garrison at Mbarara. Army troops are said to be preparing to recapture three towns seized by the Tanzanian-based Ugandans opposed to President Amin. After Ugandan planes bombed the invaders' base at Bukoba, on Lake Victoria some 20 miles inside Tanzania, the Tanzanians moved additional troops to the border with instructions not to provoke any incidents. This movement, however, increases the possibility of border clashes if Ugandan troops drive the invaders back to Tanzania.

Kampala is reported quiet, but tense. About 80 Europeans and eight Americans have been arrested. Amin's accusation of British and Israeli complicity in the invasion has increased the danger to British and Jewish residents.

At this point, the Ugandan Army appears to have checked the attack. The insurgents may have hoped to set off a popular uprising that would allow the return to power of former president Milton Obote. Without such an uprising, the chances of overthrowing Amin would be slight.

Even so, Amin will continue to face serious problems. His policies have produced a heated political atmosphere, a stagnating economy, and a near-chaotic security situation. More intertribal fighting within the army seems likely. Army officers opposed to Amin could yet take advantage of the current crisis and attempt to oust him.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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CHINA

NCNA's announcement last week that 400,000 young people had been sent to the countryside so far this year indicates that Peking has sharply reduced the scope of its rustication program. This figure, which seems likely to be close to the total for all of 1972, contrasts sharply with the estimates of the last three years, when well over three million per year were assigned to live and work in rural areas.

The old program, originally designed to spur rural development, had been used in recent years to punish recalcitrant Red Guards, to maintain discipline over other rambunctious youths, and to alleviate urban unemployment. It apparently created more problems than it solved, however. Disgruntled youths have illegally returned to the cities and resorted to crime to support themselves--returnees contributed to a security breakdown in Canton this summer. Some rural authorities have refused to accept any more urban youth. The cutback is consistent with the moderating trend evident in other domestic policies this year.

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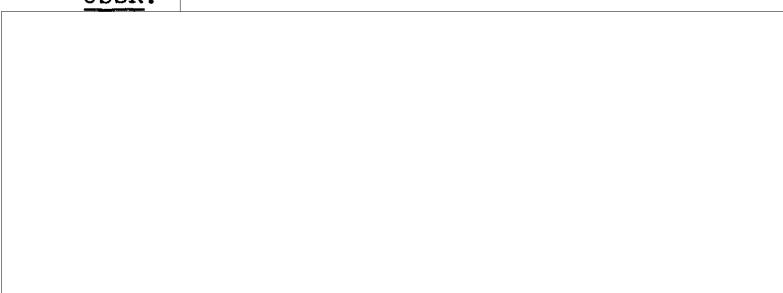
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

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USSR: The Soviets have canceled their planned launch of a manned Soyuz spacecraft.

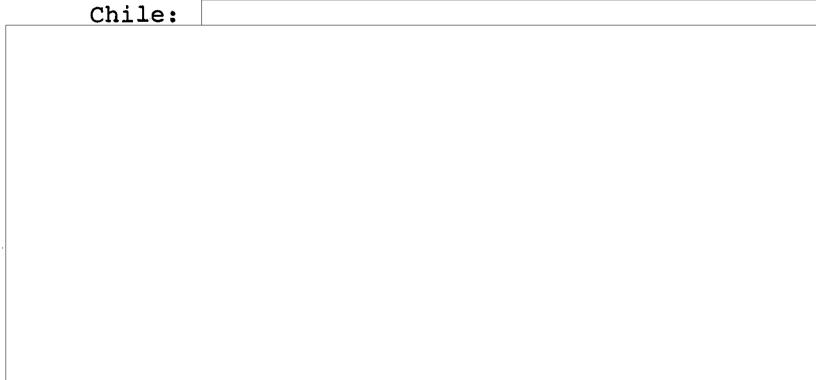
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Calling off the event after extensive world-wide preparations suggests that the Soviets are experiencing serious problems with the spacecraft or its support systems. Preparations are still under way, however, for an unmanned lunar mission, which evidently will involve the "J-Vehicle," the Soviets' largest space booster.

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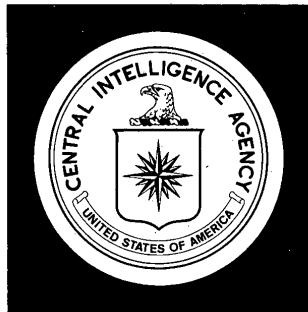
Chile:

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The President's Daily Brief

20 September 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

20 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Vietnam, Communist attacks in Quang Ngai Province appear to be part of a coordinated campaign in the lowlands. (Page 1)

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In Cambodia, President Lon Nol has appointed a new army chief of staff. (Page 4)

Syrian-based fedayeen are continuing to harass the Israelis and may soon draw an Israeli response. (Page 5)

The Yugoslav Government has officially demanded that countries hosting large colonies of Croatian emigres put a stop to their hostile activities. (Page 6)

In Uganda, President Amin's allegation of British involvement in the recent invasion may lead to the expulsion of British citizens; the safety of all Westerners in Uganda is being endangered by Amin's xenophobia. (Page 7)

Helsinki is delaying final action on its recognition of East Germany, possibly out of fear that it may jeopardize its chances to host the main conference on European security and cooperation. (Page 7)

At Annex we discuss Communist plans to intensify the fighting in South Vietnam during September and October.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

The fighting in Quang Ngai Province has spread to all five coastal districts, and evidence continues to accumulate that the attacks in this area are part of a broader coordinated Communist campaign in the lowlands.

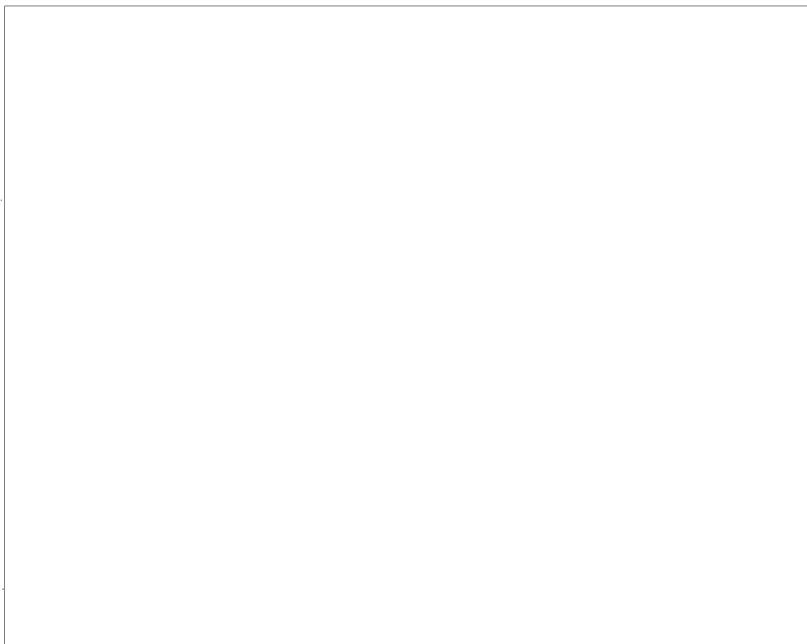
In the Quang Tri City area, fighting has eased, but intercepts indicate that the Communists are preparing for South Vietnamese air and amphibious assaults across the Thach Han River west of the city.

At Annex, there is a longer view of the fighting as we envision it for the next two months.

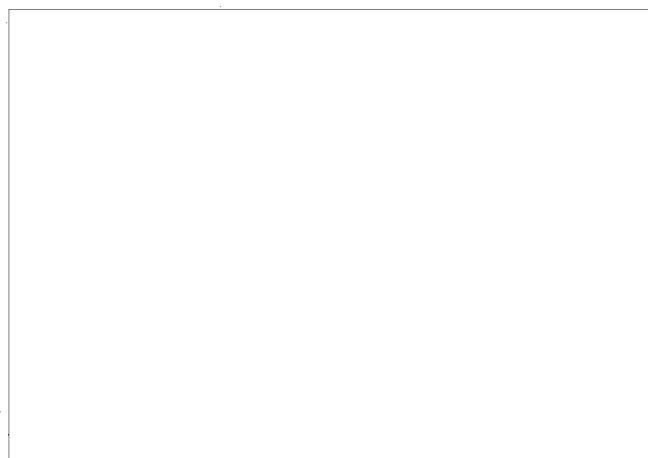
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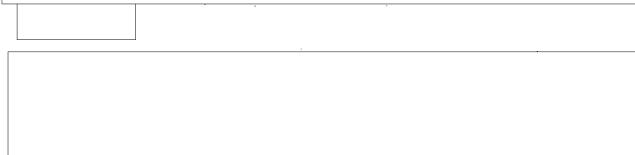
VIETNAM



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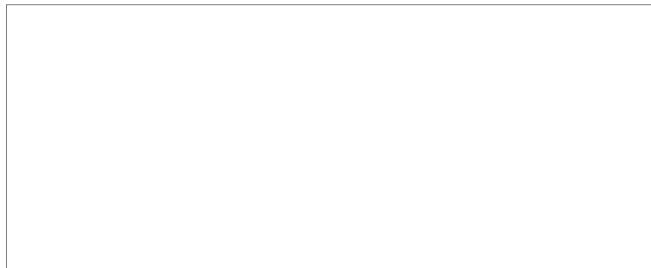


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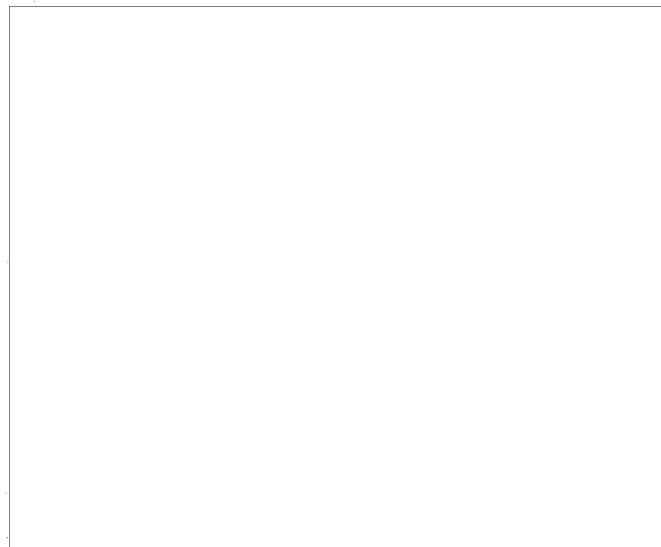
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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CAMBODIA

President Lon Nol has named Major General Sosthene Fernandez as his new army chief of staff. Fernandez, a military professional with a flair for organization, has already begun to exercise his new authority. He has indicated that he intends to take responsibility for direction of combat operations and has emphasized that all field commanders wanting to communicate with Lon Nol must go through him.

Lon Nol may be seeking to derive political as well as military benefits from the appointment. Fernandez is a close associate of Sirik Matak

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Lon Nol is also aware that Matak's refusal to rejoin the government is based in part on his insistence that the President reduce his interference in military matters. Given these factors, the appointment could be viewed as a conciliatory gesture designed to induce Matak to accept Lon Nol's repeated offers of the vice-presidency.

The appointment has had a tonic effect on the military, although it remains to be seen how much authority over military operations Lon Nol is really prepared to give up. Members of the General Staff are said to be enthusiastic. Lower ranking officers, who recently have been grumbling about the government's overall poor performance, may also be pleased with the move.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-SYRIA

The Israelis are still hinting that Syria is the most likely target for future military operations. A semi-official newspaper, Davar, has described the Israeli thrust into Lebanon over the weekend as only part of a campaign "with much broader aims" and noted that fedayeen bases in Syria are "within reach" of Israeli Defense Forces. Arab guerrillas based in Syria, moreover, have continued to provoke Tel Aviv by shelling Israeli settlements in the Golan Heights.

The Israelis held maneuvers on the Golan Heights yesterday, perhaps as a prelude to some sort of military action.

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The problem of rooting out the fedayeen in Syria, however, is more difficult than in Lebanon. The terrain is less passable and the distances are greater. The Syrian Army, much larger than the Lebanese, is close to the border and gives every indication that it will resist an Israeli incursion. Given Tel Aviv's policy of keeping casualties to a minimum, it seems most likely that the Israelis will avoid large-scale ground actions and keep to the air as much as possible. This could include helicopter-commando operations against selected fedayeen camps.

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YUGOSLAVIA

Croatian emigres opposed to Tito's government are elated by the publicity their terrorist acts have been receiving and are seeking more of it. In Australia, two Yugoslav tourist agencies were bombed this week, and in Spain, anonymous telephoners have threatened violence unless authorities release Croatian emigres held in the hijacking of an airliner from Sweden last week.

Following more than a year of emigre terrorism both in Yugoslavia and abroad, the government has officially demanded that countries hosting large colonies of Croatian emigres put a stop to their hostile activities. A high Yugoslav party official has warned in a public speech that failure to do so would have a negative effect on bilateral relations. The countries involved include Sweden, Austria, Australia, West Germany, Canada, and the US.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Uganda: President Amin's allegation of British involvement in the recent invasion may lead to the expulsion of Britons from Uganda. Amin's advisers have told him that all British technical advisers should be forced to leave. The government radio has charged that British spies are living in Uganda, thus paving the way for action against individual British citizens. Approximately 60 British citizens have been arrested. Amin's xenophobia may turn him against the entire Western presence, including Americans. Six of the 13 US citizens arrested in recent days, including three Peace Corps volunteers, remain in custody. The government has agreed to release an American newsman arrested Sunday into the custody of the embassy.

Finland: Ever since the Finns and the East Germans initiated a treaty on 6 September to establish diplomatic relations, the West Germans have ignored Helsinki's offers to engage in similar negotiations. Now the Finns say they will wait to consummate their deal with East Germany until Bonn also is ready to establish relations with Finland. One of the factors involved in this Finnish decision may be the fear that it has jeopardized Helsinki's chances of hosting the main conference on European security and cooperation.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**VIETNAM**

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The Communists are continuing to press ahead with their plans [redacted] to intensify the fighting in South Vietnam during September and October. Indeed, they are already on the move in some areas. Clearly, they are not capable of--and are not talking of--pulling off something to rival their three-pronged offensive last spring. Much as the Communists might hope for some dramatic new success, their current purpose seems to be to enhance their position on the ground for the contingency of either a cease-fire or further prolonged fighting. Efforts to influence the US election may also be behind the new Communist efforts.

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Communist ambitions obviously have been dealt a blow by the loss of control over the Quang Tri City citadel in northern Military Region 1. The North Vietnamese had made an all-out effort to hold this position and had fed most of their major units in this area into the fight. Their failure will give considerable encouragement to the South Vietnamese and must have been a corresponding psychological blow to the Communists. At the same time, the Communists as yet show no signs of giving up the fight for Quang Tri Province, and there are indications that they may be preparing counterstrikes in the government's rear along Route 1 and nearer to Hue.

Moreover, while government reserves are still heavily tied down in the Quang Tri - Hue area, the Communists appear determined to make inroads into the populated coastal provinces of Quang Nam, Quang Tin, and Quang Ngai in southern Military Region 1. Following up attacks they launched in the latter half of August against the Que Son Valley of Quang Nam and Tien Phuoc District of Quang Tin, the Communists have struck hard this week in Quang Ngai, using a division-plus force that recently moved to the province from the central highlands.

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Enemy forces remaining in the central highlands appear inadequate to mount another drive similar to that undertaken against Kontum Province last spring. Nevertheless, these forces currently are conducting limited operations to isolate government bases and towns in western Pleiku Province and to keep government forces tied down there.

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The Communists appear to be planning for greater offensive activity in the delta, where they have increased their force strength and are now moving in supplies and equipment, including heavier artillery. They have about five regiments around Base Area 470 in the northern delta, and the

A2

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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equivalent of at least two divisions is in the western and southern delta. In the past week, there has been a sharp increase in shellings and attacks against government outposts in provinces around these enemy concentrations, notably Dinh Tuong and Kien Hoa in the upper delta and Chuong Thien and Kien Giang to the west.

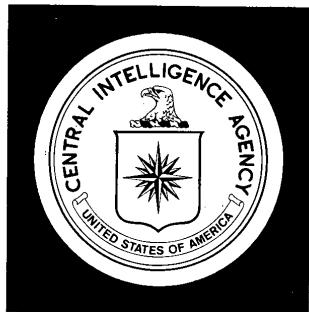
It is still not certain that the Communists will try to use these large forces in the delta, where they are especially vulnerable to air action, to attack major towns. Their very presence, however, and the knocking out of outposts have been sufficient to cause some pullback of government administrators and troops toward the towns and to allow the Communists to circulate more freely among unprotected hamlets, recruiting, impressing, and foraging for supplies. Should the larger enemy units be withdrawn or forced out, such setbacks to pacification might be fairly rapidly reversed, but if they remain or obtain additional North Vietnamese reinforcements--like the 1st Division across the border in southwestern Cambodia--the deterioration could be more lasting.

In sum, the Communists are now moving to intensify the fighting in widely separated areas of South Vietnam. Their purpose is not to launch a major new offensive, but to get into the strongest possible position to exploit a cease-fire or, if that does not come, to continue the fighting for the indefinite future.

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Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

21 September 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

21 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Fighting continues in the coastal lowlands of South Vietnam, while in the north, the enemy prepares for a counterattack near Quang Tri City. (Page 1)

Soviet-Egyptian relations remain cool. (Page 2)

[redacted] Lebanon. (Page 3)

25X1

25X1

West German negotiator Bahr is optimistic about reaching an early agreement with East Germany. (Page 4)

Thailand [redacted] China [redacted] (Page 5)

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[redacted] narcotics [redacted] (Page 6)

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Even though Libya's effort to send troops to Uganda foundered in Khartoum, the gesture will encourage Ugandan President Amin to continue his confrontation with Tanzania. (Page 7)

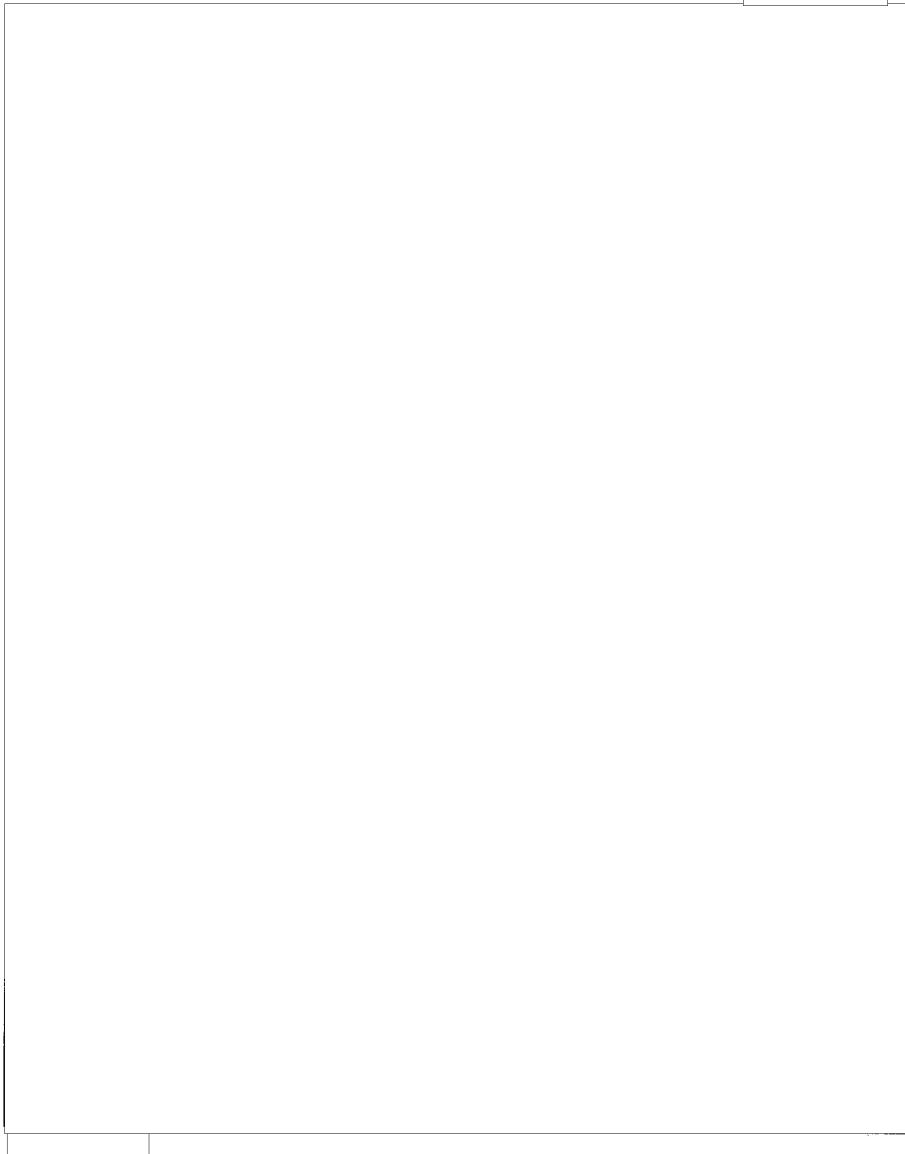
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Heavy fighting continues in Quang Ngai Province, most intensely against Mo Duc and Duc Pho district capitals and around Landing Zone Dragon. Sporadic clashes are occurring near Que Son in Quang Nam Province and around Communist-held Tien Phuoc in Quang Tin Province, where the government is making little headway in an effort to retake ground lost last month. Light ground action continues at several locations in Binh Dinh Province.

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On the northern battlefield, enemy shellings and ground action are at the lowest level since the South Vietnamese Marines started their campaign in late July to retake the Quang Tri citadel. There are continuing indications, however, that the Communists will soon attack government positions south of the city. Intercepts show that the North Vietnamese 304th Division is slated to receive substantial amounts of mortar, rocket, and artillery ammunition as well as foodstuffs. Large amounts of antiaircraft ammunition also are being distributed and, according to one message, enemy tanks have been moved to "attack" positions.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT-USSR

The chill between Cairo and Moscow persists. Although the spate of press polemics that broke out in late August has tapered off, both the Soviet and the Egyptian ambassadors remain on home leave. Moreover, Moscow's continuing pique over the expulsion was recently expressed by a public lecturer in Leningrad who called Sadat a "reactionary" and a "religious fanatic."

Although a public lecturer is not normally an official spokesman on Soviet policy, in this instance we believe the commentary accurately reflects Moscow's frustration with Egypt. We doubt that either side wants a complete rupture, and both sides appear to be trying to maintain useful ties. The Soviets are still sending military hardware and continuing their economic assistance projects in Egypt. The Soviet Mediterranean Squadron still uses Egyptian port facilities. Nevertheless, Cairo is hedging its bets by looking for supplementary, or perhaps alternate, sources of arms and spare parts in Western Europe and elsewhere.

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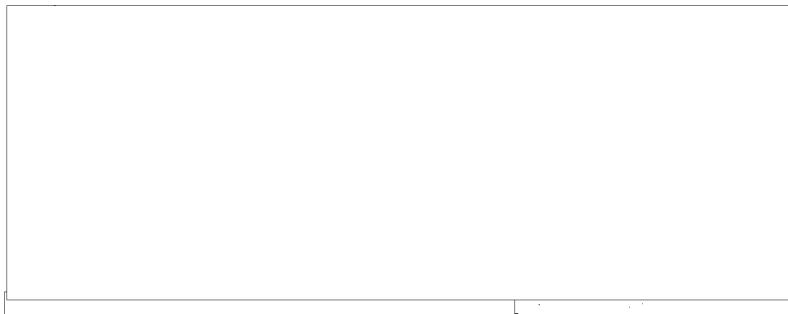
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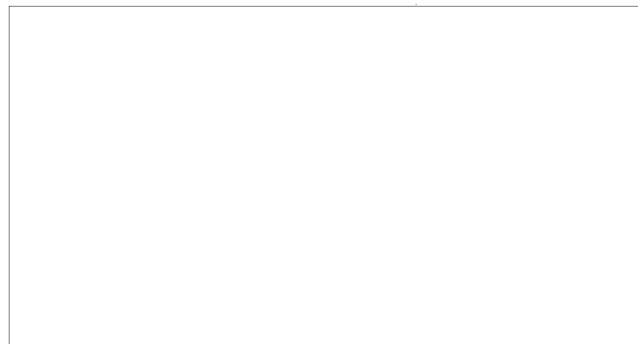
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LEBANON-FEDAYEEN



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY - EAST GERMANY

The tempo of negotiations on a general treaty is picking up. West German negotiator Bahr told allied ambassadors on 19 September that considerable progress was made during the latest round of talks on 13-14 September, and a Bonn Foreign Ministry official has stated that, if the "necessary political decisions" are made, the negotiations can be completed within a month. Both added, however, that several fundamental issues remain to be settled, including Bonn's demand that the treaty refer to a common nationhood. The two sides also still differ on how each state will be represented to the other.

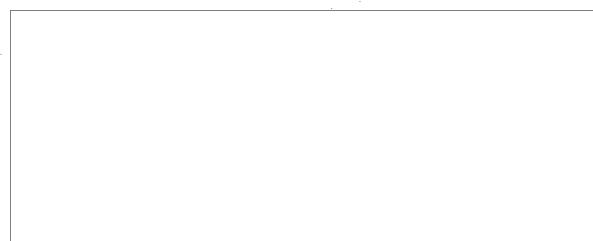
Bahr said his optimism stems from East Germany's willingness to consider seriously Bonn's proposals for improvements in travel and other practical matters. The West Germans are also pleased that the two sides have managed to draft several treaty articles covering lesser issues.



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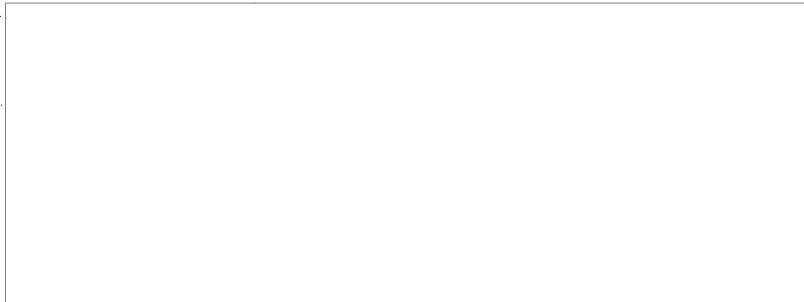


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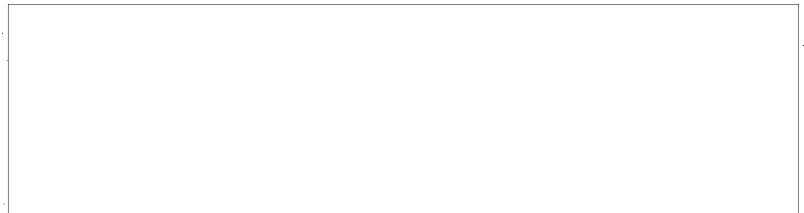
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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THAILAND-CHINA



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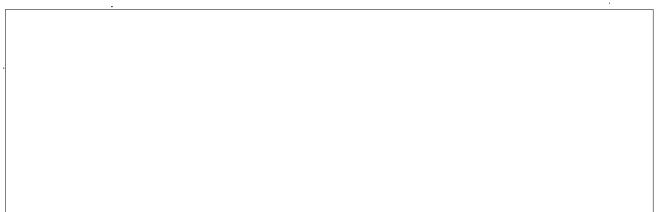


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LATIN AMERICA - NARCOTICS



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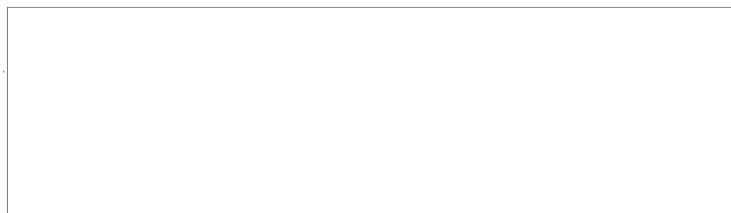
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

UGANDA

According to a Sudanese Foreign Ministry statement, five Libyan transport aircraft carrying 400 armed troops bound for Uganda were denied permission to overfly Sudan yesterday and were forced to land in Khartoum. Sudanese officials sequestered the arms on board and will send the troops back to Libya today.

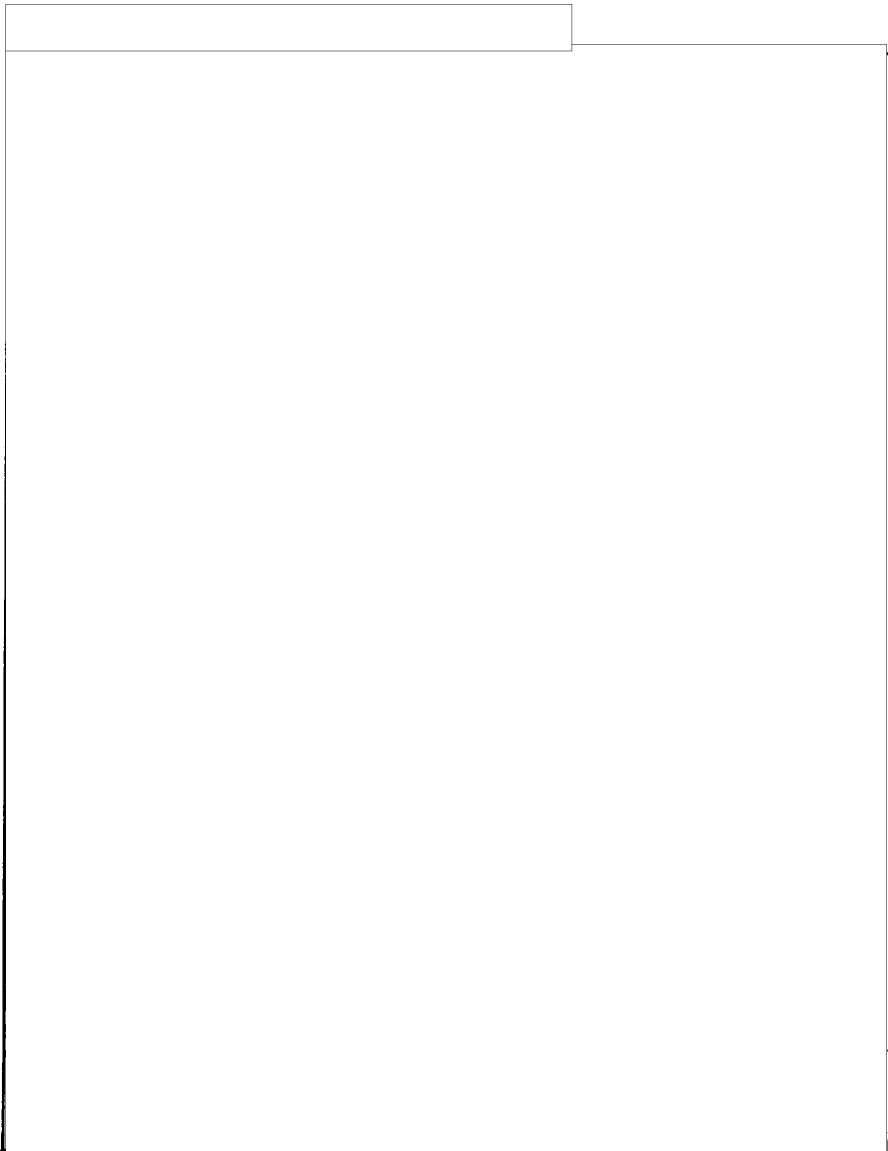
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Libya's gesture will almost certainly encourage Ugandan President Amin to continue his confrontation with Tanzania. Amin has asserted that a new force composed of Tanzanians, guerrillas, and white mercenaries, is on the way to Uganda from Tanzania and will have to be stopped before they enter the country. He has threatened to destroy the alleged invaders' Tanzanian staging areas.

In turn, President Nyerere is angry about Uganda's repeated bombing of a Tanzanian village during the fighting between the Ugandan Army and the rebels. He has warned of serious consequences if the raids continue.

Nyerere no doubt would like to retaliate if there are further attacks, but his assets are limited. Tanzania has no combat aircraft and only some 1,500 troops on the Ugandan border.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Fedayeen

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Chile: The annual independence day military parade on 19 September was uneventful. The marchers were at their colorful best for high-ranking visitors, including the commanders of the Soviet Air Force and the French Navy. Reflecting the strains of the past week, President Allende closed the celebration with a speech pointedly praising the military and police forces for their dedication in supporting the constitution and protecting civilians from violence provoked by extremists.

Bahamas: Prime Minister Pindling's landslide victory in Tuesday's election amounts to a strong mandate for his pledge to seek full independence by next July. London has said that the "will of the people" will be respected. Formal talks on independence are likely to begin in London this December. Pindling made it clear during the election campaign that his government expects to set a high price for continued US operation of the four defense-related installations in the Bahamas following independence. Revenue from base rentals would help to bolster the deteriorating economy and offset the anticipated loss of British support after independence.

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The President's Daily Brief

22 September 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

22 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Syria

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Lebanon

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(Page 1)

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(Page 3)

In Vietnam, the action around Quang Tri City has slackened somewhat as South Vietnamese troops continue to expand their control over the city's northern and southern sectors. The Communists are still pressing their attacks in Quang Ngai Province.

(Page 4)

Iraqi President al-Bakr has wound up a visit to Moscow by concluding an agreement for a long-range military training program. (Page 5)

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Kenyan President Kenyatta is attempting to mediate the dispute between Uganda and Tanzania

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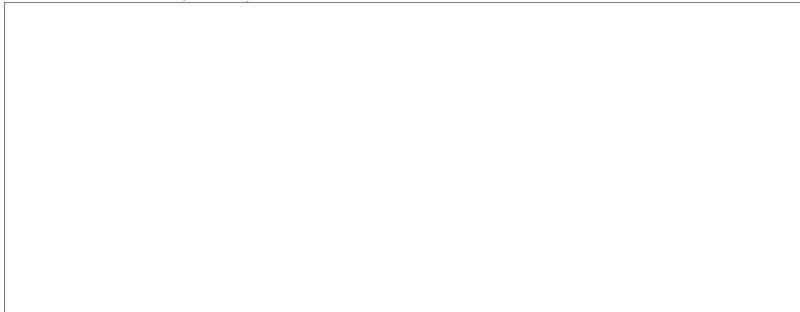
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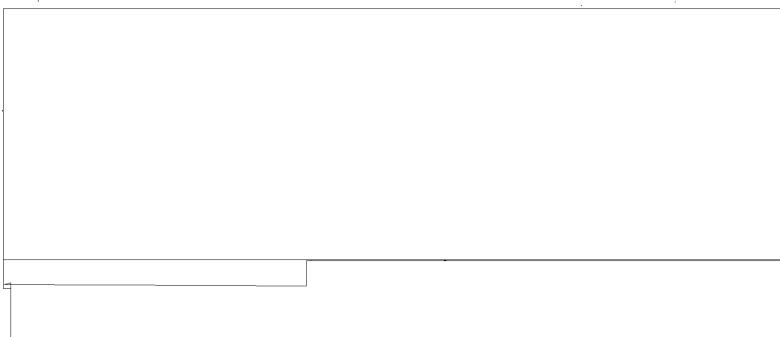
SYRIA-LEBANON



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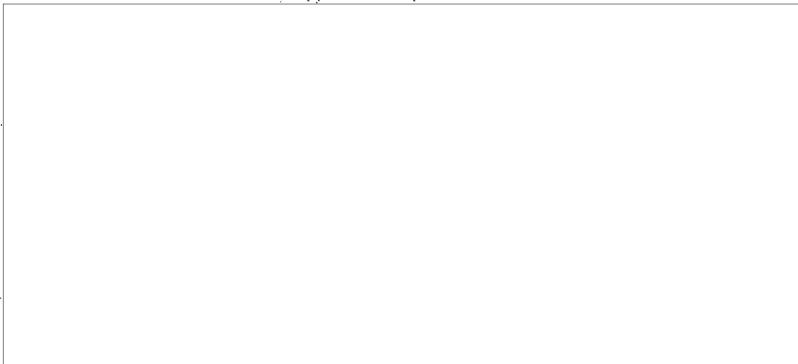
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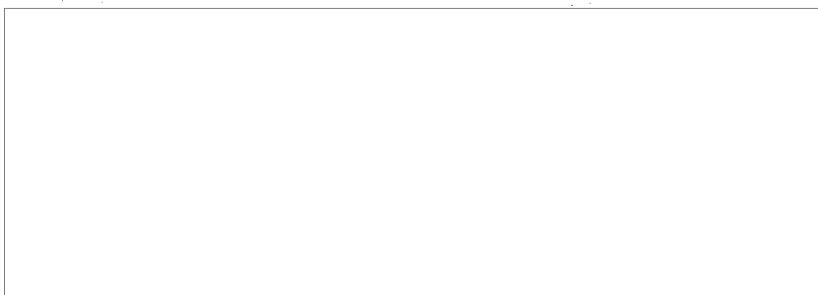
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FEDAYEEN



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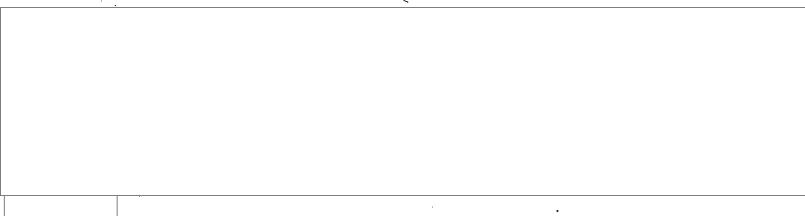


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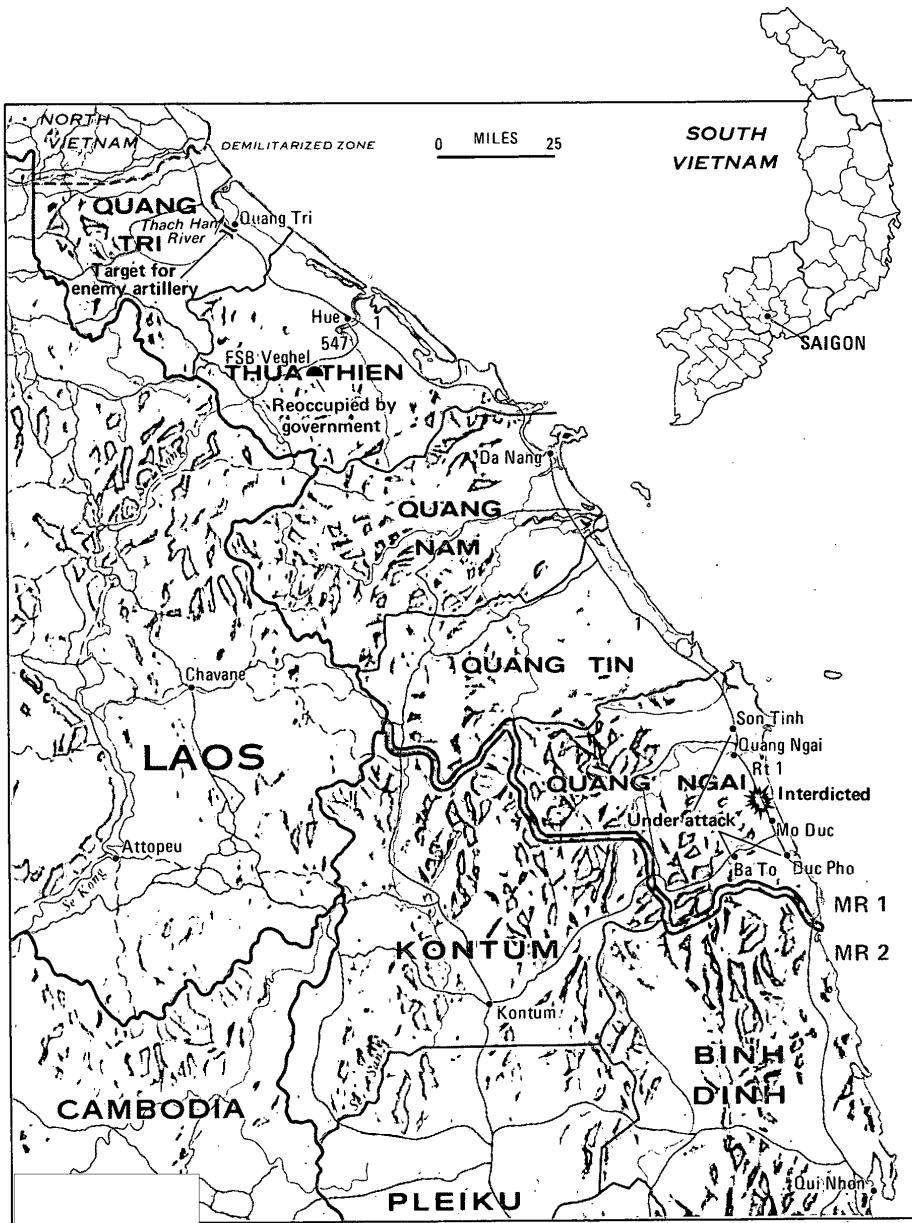


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

The action around Quang Tri City has slackened somewhat as South Vietnamese troops continue to expand their control over the city's northern and southern sectors. Intercepted enemy messages reflect continued Communist concern that the South Vietnamese may soon try to cross the Thach Han River and push out to the west and northwest. The messages show that enemy gunners are planning to destroy the Route 1 bridge if the government attempt is made.

In Thua Thien Province, government forces continue their push west of Hue along Route 547. South Vietnamese 1st Division troops reoccupied Fire Support Base Veghel on 19 September and have now expanded their control west of Hue to include all the major artillery bases and outposts guarding the western approach to the city. We will be looking for evidence whether the lack of strong resistance by Communist units to the government's operation means that they have been considerably weakened by the past weeks of heavy combat in this area or that they have moved to help in the fighting elsewhere.

Communist forces in Quang Ngai Province continued to press their attacks against government troops in four of the five districts. Son Tinh district town just north of the provincial capital is under attack, but local security forces so far have held the town. Route 1 farther south, between the Song Ve River and Mo Duc town, was interdicted by enemy troops, and the government is now having trouble getting supplies and reinforcements into that district capital. Enemy units also have pushed Ranger forces out of most of their camp at Ba To, but some parts of the town are still in friendly hands. The district capital of Duc Pho also came under heavy Communist attack.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-IRAQ

Iraqi President al-Bakr's six-day visit to Moscow concluded early this week with an agreement on a long-range military training program.

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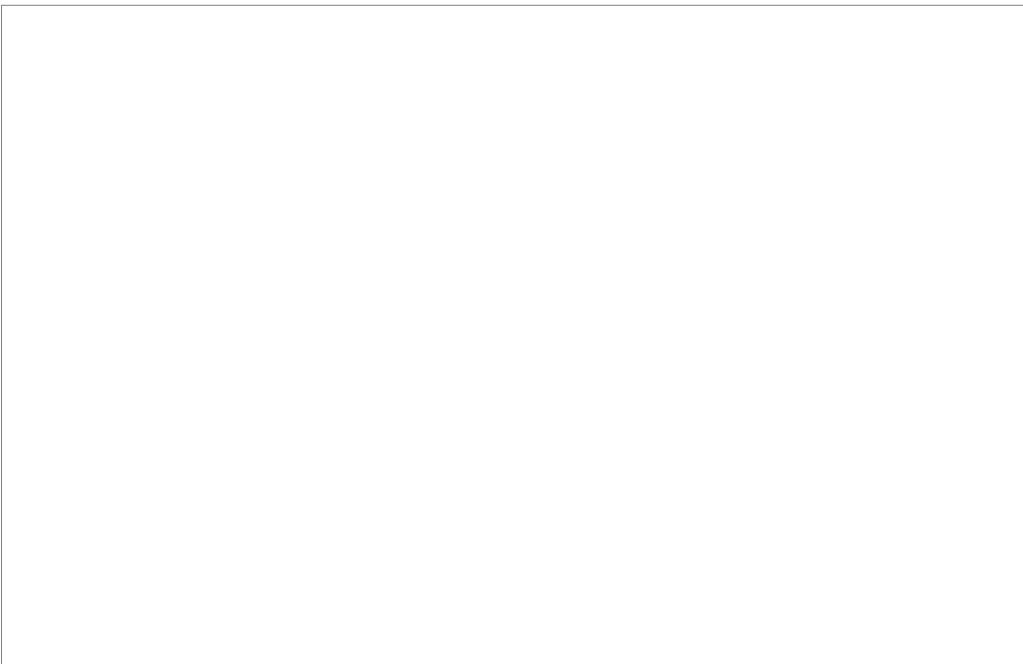
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Moscow made every effort to polish its image as champion of the Arab cause. The communique included a pledge of "material, moral, and political support" for the Palestinian guerrillas. In a speech at a Kremlin reception, President Podgorny, in effect replying to Egyptian criticism, denied that Moscow has a special interest in maintaining a "no peace, no war" situation in the Middle East.

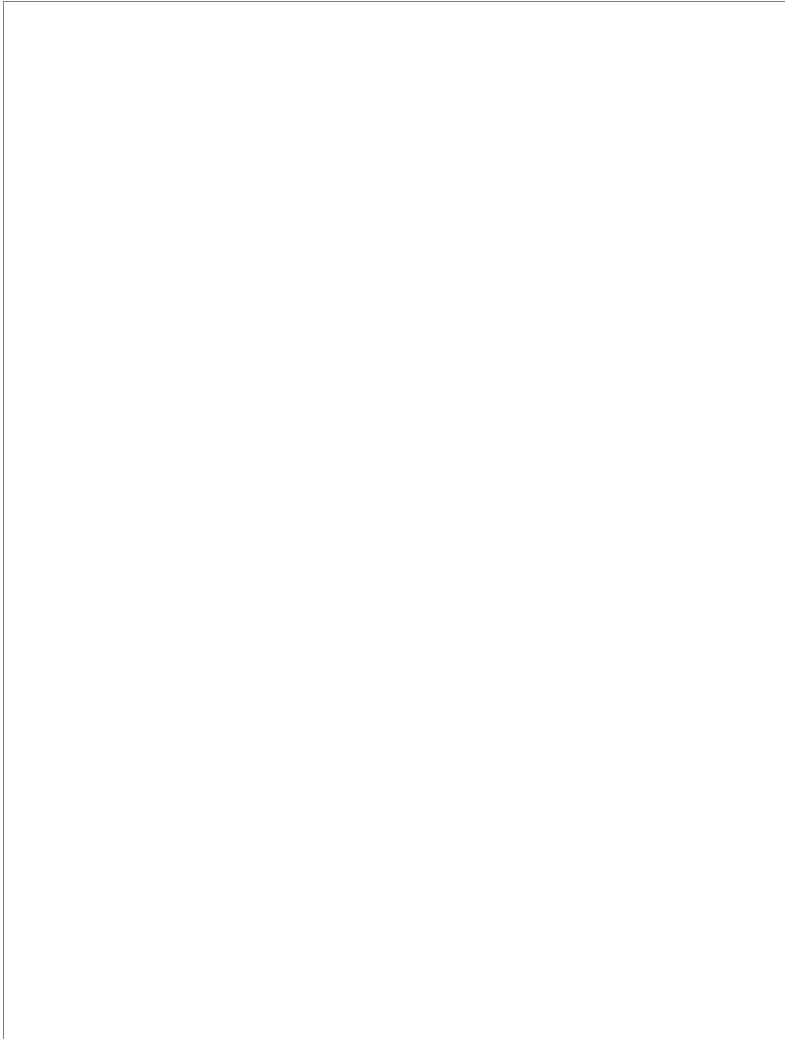
The steady stream of Iraqi dignitaries visiting Moscow in recent months has greatly strengthened the Soviet-Iraqi relationship. Moscow obviously believes that Iraq is a fertile area for cultivation, but we believe that its commitment will be a cautious one. The Soviets also do not wish to alarm Iran, with which they are trying to improve relations. The Iraqis, too, appear to be wary of allowing too extensive Soviet influence.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTES

Uganda-Tanzania:

[redacted] Kenyan President Kenyatta is attempting to mediate the dispute between Presidents Nyerere and Amin. Although Kenyatta was able to resolve a quarrel between these leaders last year, he will find the role of mediator more difficult in the charged atmosphere that now prevails. Thus far, neither Nyerere nor Amin has responded to the offer. Meanwhile, no further fighting has been reported on the border, but the unpredictable Amin may well be considering some type of air or ground action against Tanzania. In fact, according to a late press report, a Tanzanian spokesman claims that a Ugandan plane bombed the town of Mwanza in northwestern Tanzania early this morning.

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Indonesia-China: Indonesia and China have taken steps to resume direct trade, according to a Hong Kong shipping agency. Hong Kong merchants have already purchased 30,000 tons of Chinese rice, which will be shipped in October from Huang Pu and Shanghai. There has been no direct trade since late 1965, though some trade has been conducted through third parties. Indonesia had earlier indicated that it wanted to begin moving toward normalizing relations with Peking by easing trade restrictions.

West Germany: Chancellor Willy Brandt will move today to set the stage for parliamentary elections in November. Some clues as to how the campaign will be waged can be gleaned from speeches by Brandt and opposition leader Rainer Barzel on Wednesday. Brandt said that the government is proud of what it has achieved in Ostpolitik and will live up to its promises in the domestic field. Barzel, for his part, listed what he termed the failures of the government, emphasizing the comparative lack of economic growth and "galloping inflation."

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Norway-EC: Prospects for Norway's ratification of membership in the European Communities appear poor on the eve of the advisory popular referendum to be held Sunday and Monday. Opinion polls point to a thin majority against joining. Even if the voters approve, the margin is likely to be so small that the required three-fourths vote of parliament will be unobtainable. The minority Labor government has threatened to resign if the vote goes against membership.

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Chile:

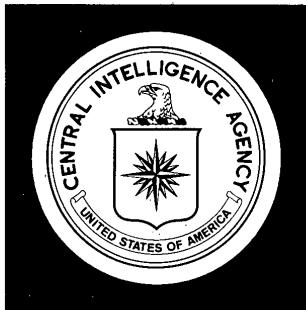
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The President's Daily Brief

23 September 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

23 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Martial law has been declared in the Philippines,
a move well orchestrated in advance. (Page 1)

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[redacted] (Page 2)

25X1

USSR [redacted] (Page 3)

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Israel [redacted] (Page 4)

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Egypt [redacted] (Page 5)

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25X1
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On Page 6 we discuss South Korean President Pak's
planned visit to Japan later this fall.

Peking is moving to make up part of Hanoi's fighter
aircraft losses of recent months. (Page 7)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PHILIPPINES

The Marcos government has imposed martial law throughout the country. It cited a recent series of bombing incidents which culminated in an assassination attempt yesterday on Defense Secretary Enrile. The government quickly arrested a number of prominent journalists and politicians including a senator President Marcos had accused of collaborating with the Maoist-inclined New Peoples Army insurgents. Marcos had earlier alleged that the bombings were the first phase of a Maoist subversive plot.

Whatever the precise reasons for the government's actions, [redacted]
[redacted] Marcos carefully orchestrated
the move well in advance. [redacted]
[redacted] at least some of the bombs
were set by pro-Soviet terrorist groups,
that none can be definitely traced to the
Maoists, and that the "captured" Communist
document on which Marcos based his charges
is counterfeit and possibly a government
plant.

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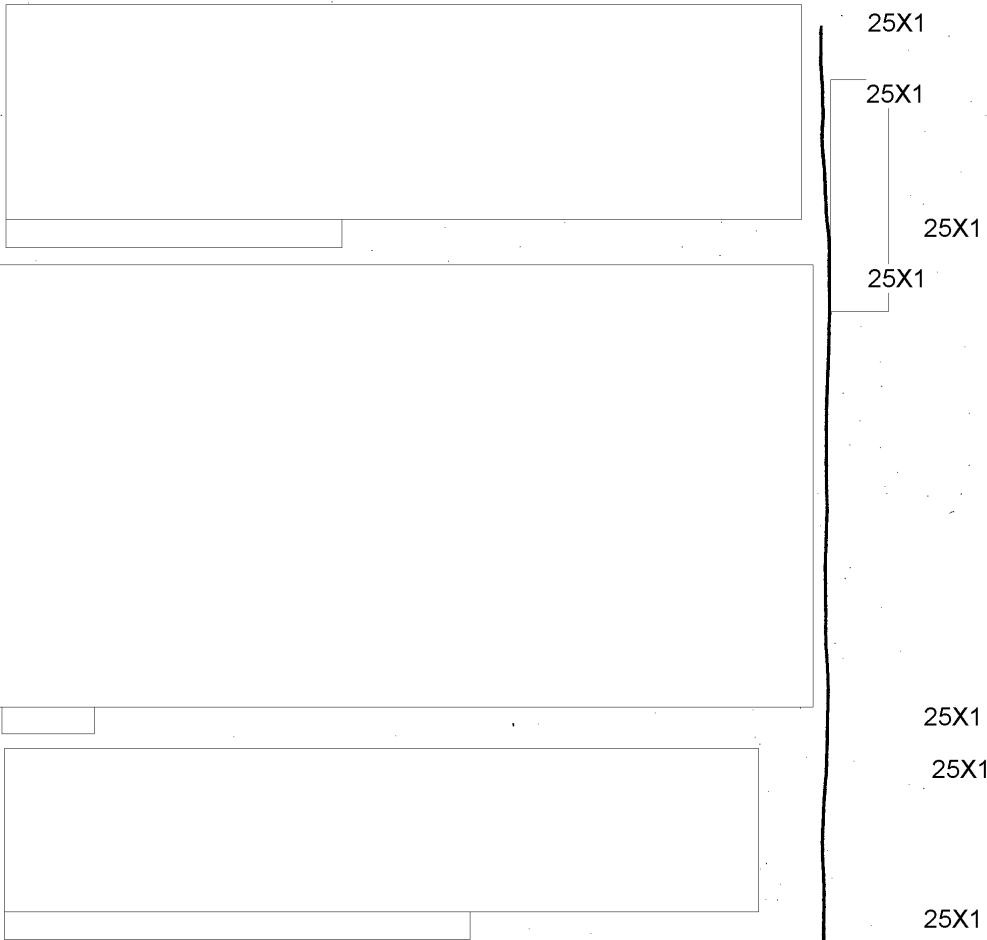
For some time Marcos considered martial law as a possible means of prolonging his rule. Although the new draft constitution could allow him to stay in power by less drastic means, he may see martial law as an interim measure to strengthen his control of the political process and thereby assure passage of a popular referendum on the constitution.

He will have difficulty in convincing a skeptical public that such personal motives did not dictate his move. If students, Communists, and Marcos' wide range of political opponents eventually take to the streets in protest, the government could face a much more dangerous security problem than before the decree. The small armed forces are not capable of effectively implementing total military control in Manila, let alone the entire country.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM



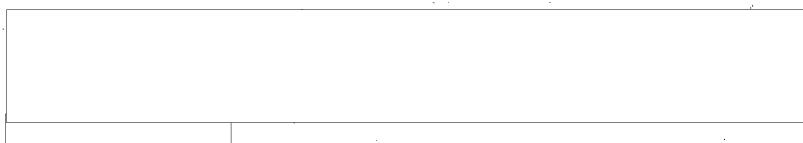
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USSR



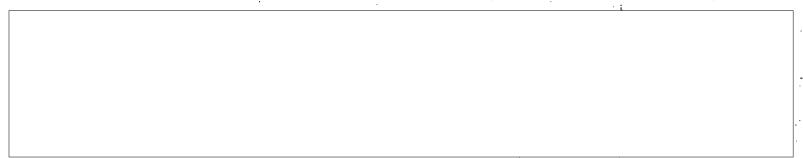
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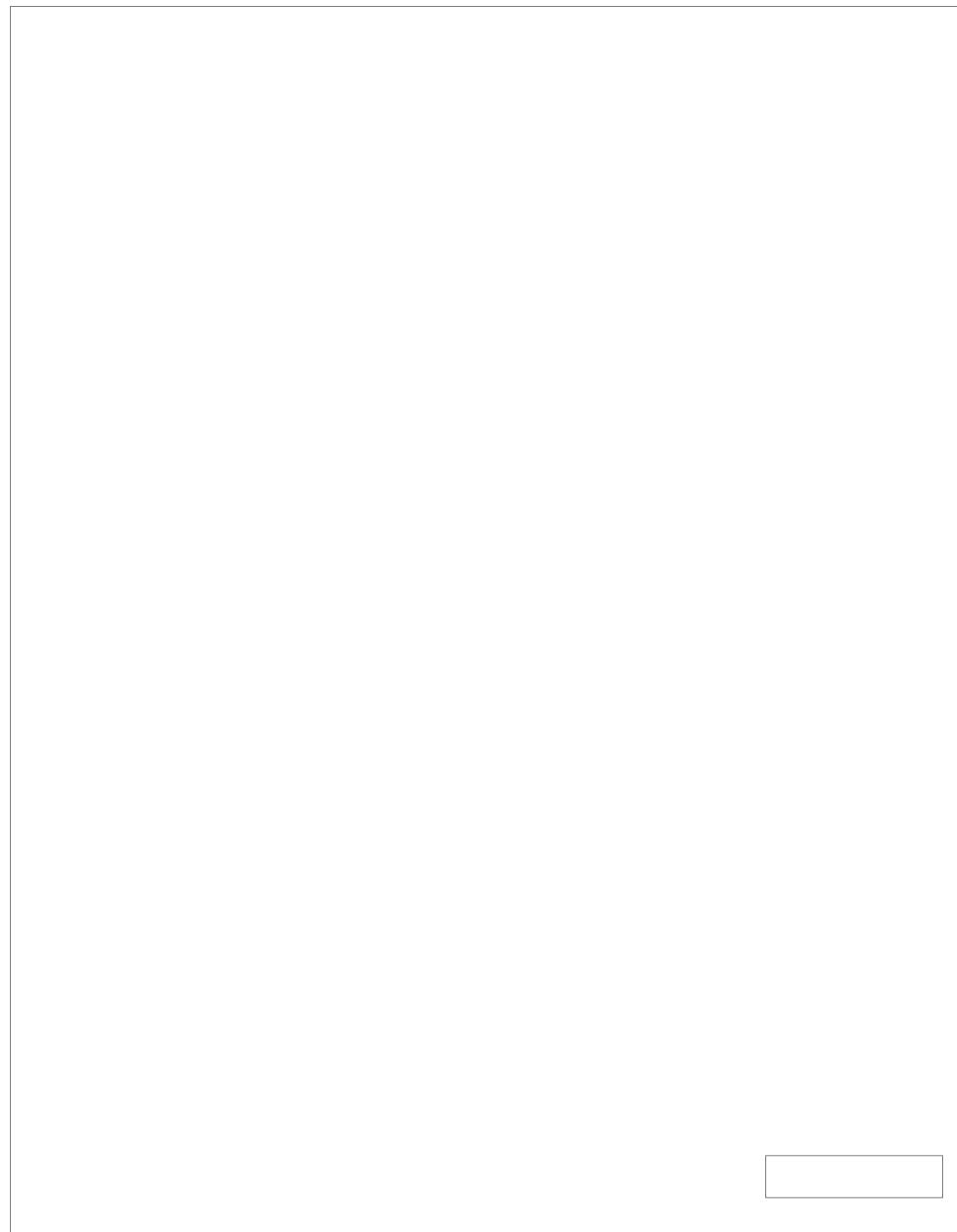


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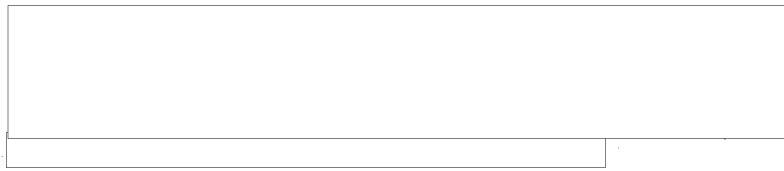
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EGYPT



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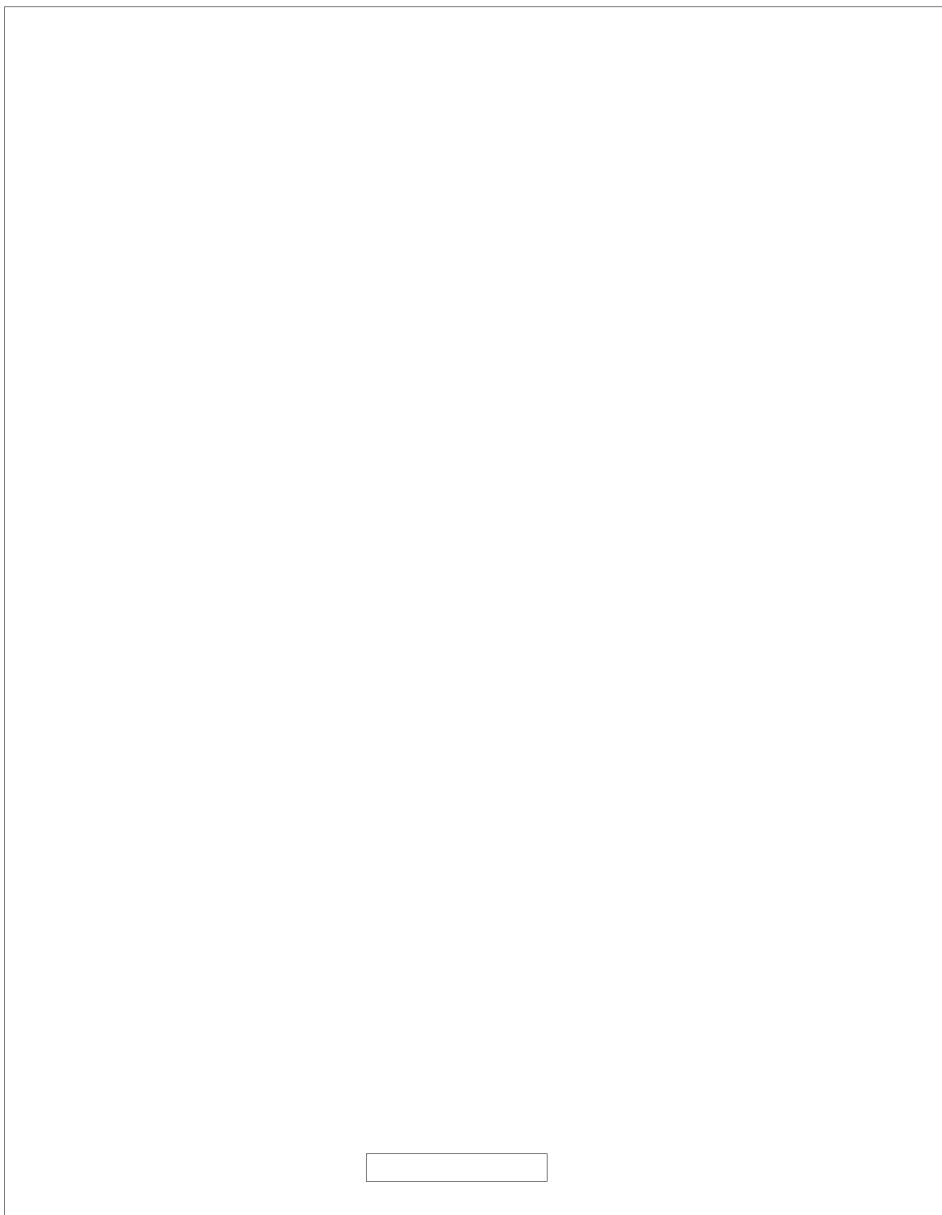
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH KOREA - JAPAN

President Pak Chong-hui will make his first state visit to Japan this fall, primarily in search of assurances that expansion of Tokyo's contacts with Pyongyang not proceed in a manner that would damage South Korean interests. Pak is also concerned about a possible unfavorable shift in Japanese policy following Prime Minister Tanaka's visit to China. Finally, he wants additional economic assistance to help service Seoul's mounting foreign debt repayments.

The Japanese recently pledged \$170 million for debt relief to Seoul--considerably less than the South Koreans need and hope to obtain. Tanaka can be expected to promise Pak additional economic aid. The Japanese are not likely to tie themselves down, however, with firm assurances that they will limit their economic or political dealings with North Korea.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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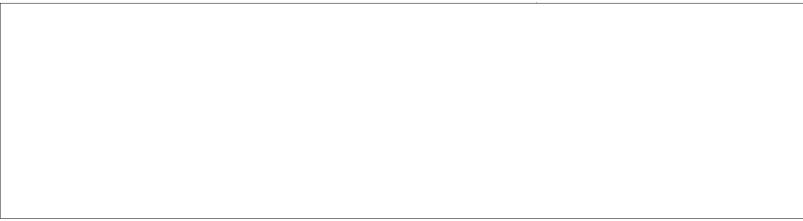
NOTES

China-Vietnam: Peking is moving to make up
part of Hanoi's fighter aircraft losses of the past
few months.

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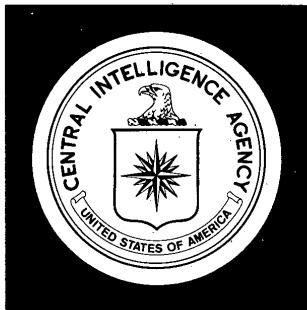


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The President's Daily Brief

25 September 1972

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exemption category: SR(1)/(2)(d)
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

25 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The military situation in South Vietnam's coastal lowlands remains serious

25X1

(Page 1)

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Lebanon

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(Page 2)

Japanese Prime Minister Tanaka has arrived in Peking for five days of talks on normalization of relations.

(Page 3)

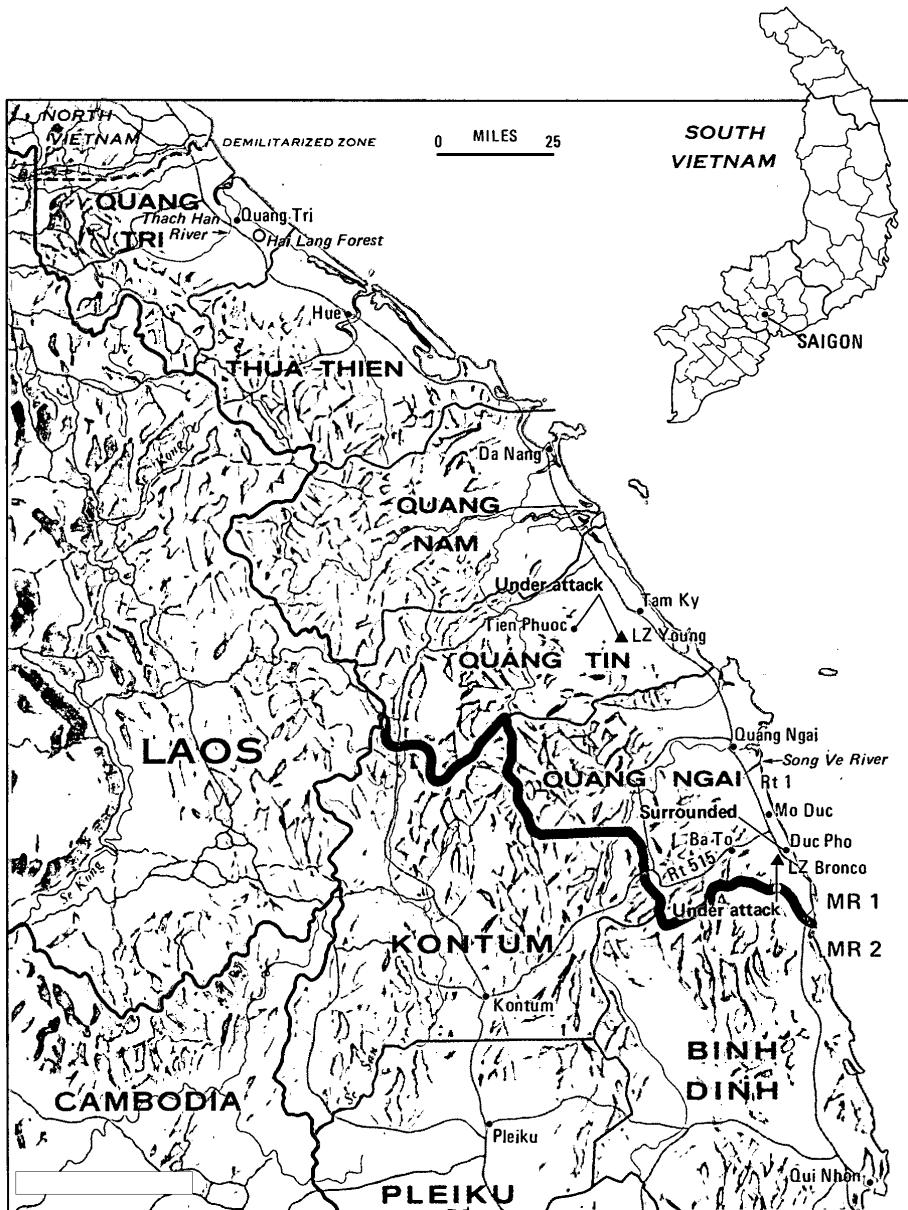
A number of President Marcos' political opponents have been arrested during the first hours of martial law in the Philippines, where the administration is trying to generate public support for its action.

(Page 4)

In Uganda, the security situation remains precarious. There is still some fighting in the south, and President Amin continues to threaten Tanzania. (Page 5)

A Soviet military airlift to Syria is in progress.
(Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

The situation in the coastal lowlands remains serious. In Quang Ngai Province, units of the North Vietnamese 2nd Division have surrounded the district capital of Duc Pho and are heavily shelling it, as well as nearby Landing Zone Bronco. The attackers are also employing wire-guided missiles against government positions, the first time such weapons have been used by Communist forces in this sector. Although enemy attacks against the town of Ba To eased over the weekend, South Vietnamese Rangers trying to reach the town are still several miles to the east and a North Vietnamese battalion is said to be prepared to block their advance along Route 515. In Mo Duc District, enemy units are still in control of parts of Route 1 between Mo Duc town and the Song Ve River.

In Quang Tin Province, the Communists renewed their attack against Tien Phuoc over the weekend. Field reports indicate that heavy artillery and wire-guided missiles are being directed against the town, as well as Landing Zone Young to the southeast. Units of the North Vietnamese 711th Division in the area may be trying to take advantage of the heavy fighting in Quang Ngai Province to push into the lowlands around Tam Ky, the provincial capital.

Colonel Tran Van Nhut, hero of the battle of An Loc, has recently assumed command of the South Vietnamese 2nd Division, which is charged with defense of Quang Ngai and Quang Tin provinces.

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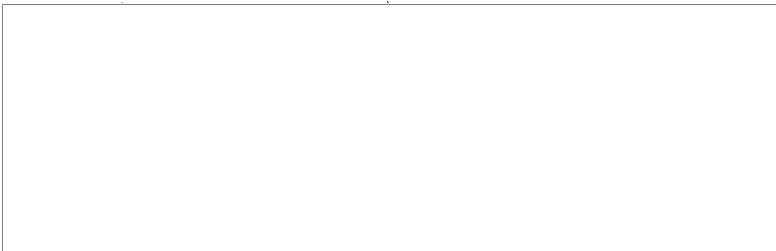
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Action in Quang Tri Province was generally light over the weekend, except along the Thach Han River and in the Hai Lang Forest, where government troops continued operations designed to disrupt an enemy buildup.

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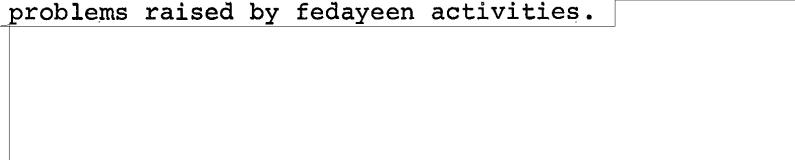
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LEBANON



25X1

The Lebanese press this weekend indicated that Premier Salam and Palestinian Liberation Organization chief Arafat are still meeting on unresolved problems raised by fedayeen activities.



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The more militant fedayeen elements may not be as ready as Arafat to come to terms with the Lebanese Government. Arafat himself most likely views an agreement mainly as a temporary device to forestall further moves against the fedayeen by the Lebanese Army.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JAPAN-CHINA

Prime Minister Tanaka has arrived in Peking for five days of talks on the normalization of relations. Tanaka expects the Chinese to be flexible on most issues, but has been led to believe they will insist that Japan sever its formal diplomatic relations with Nationalist China.

We believe Tokyo is prepared to meet this demand. [redacted]

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Various Japanese who have recently talked with Premier Chou En-lai believe Tanaka will be able to avoid or finesse other contentious issues. Chou has let it be known that the Chinese would not bring up "third country" problems--presumably a reference to military ties with the US and Japan's relationship with South Korea. Should Peking press for a Japanese statement on Taiwan's status, Tanaka will repeat Japan's longstanding position that, having renounced all claims to Taiwan, it was not in a position to express a view on the island's future.

The Japanese will insert into the joint communiqué to be issued during the visit a statement recognizing the Peoples Republic of China as the sole legitimate government of China. In Japanese eyes, this statement will constitute the establishment of relations with Peking. The Japanese will then move promptly to sever relations with Taipei, if the Nationalist Chinese themselves do not make the move.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PHILIPPINES

President Marcos is moving quickly to try to enlist public support for his declaration of martial law. In his speech to the nation on 23 September, Marcos repeated his allegation of a Communist conspiracy, adding that martial law was necessary because less drastic methods--in particular his suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in 1971--had failed to check the growth of guerrilla forces. Marcos went on, however, to say that he will use martial law powers to mold a "New Society" for the Philippines by disarming private political armies, eliminating corruption in government, controlling prices, and ensuring social and economic justice.

Marcos apparently believes that if he can prevent martial law from impinging too heavily on the daily life of the average citizen, serious opposition will be discouraged. He has already eased travel restrictions and allowed some newspapers to reopen, although under stringent military censorship.

The first series of arrests under martial law was aimed not only at Communist conspirators, but also at political rivals. Among those arrested are important leaders of anti-Marcos political blocs as well as respected newspapermen who have exposed Marcos' political manipulations. Constabulary forces have also raided national and provincial offices of radical student groups that have criticized Marcos.

Thus far, Marcos appears to be having his way. Resistance to martial law may develop, however, as news of his political purge spreads. There are already indications that individual constabulary officers question Marcos' motives.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

UGANDA

Ugandan troops are still fighting remnants of a guerrilla force that invaded from Tanzania last week. It appears that the fighting is on Ugandan territory, rather than in Tanzania as claimed by Uganda's Government. Ugandan troops are said to have been augmented by the arrival Saturday of about 400 Libyan troops, presumably the same group that was barred Friday night from proceeding to Uganda via Sudan. Tanzania has denied again that its troops are involved or that any fighting has occurred on its territory.

Several African leaders are attempting to mediate, and a Somali peace proposal is said to have been accepted by Tanzanian President Nyerere. Ugandan President Amin has labeled the proposal "very good" but at the same time has threatened new attacks on Tanzania, if Dar es Salaam does not withdraw its troops from the border.

The security situation remains precarious. All US citizens detained by Ugandan forces have been released. US Peace Corps volunteers are being assembled in Kampala for evacuation. Undisciplined soldiers continue to rough up and occasionally kill Asians and to settle tribal scores with other Ugandan Africans. Many Asians who cannot meet new deadlines for their departure from Uganda are fearful of their safety. The British High Commissioner has said that the airlift for Asians resumed on Saturday and should be in full operation this week. If he can obtain enough aircraft, the commissioner anticipates that all the Asians may be out of Uganda in time to meet the deadlines.

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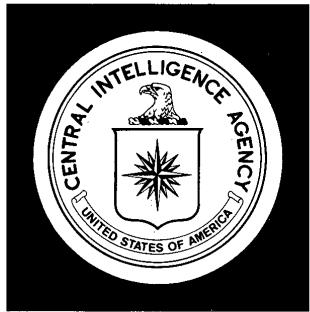
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

USSR-Syria: Since 19 September a Soviet military airlift has been under way to Syria. Ten AN-12 and two AN-22 cargo aircraft have arrived so far. More flights are expected today. The cargo may be destined for Syria's air defense command, which earlier this year received Soviet SA-3 surface-to-air missile equipment.

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The President's Daily Brief

26 September 1972

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declassification schedule of R.O. 11652
exemption category SR(1)(V)(2)(c)
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

26 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Philippine President Marcos has used his martial law powers to decree a reorganization of the executive branch that he believes will strengthen him politically. (Page 1)

In West Germany, the resignation of former economics and finance minister Schiller from the Social Democratic Party is another electoral windfall for the opposition Christian Democrats. Chancellor Brandt, however, hopes to counter this by concluding a general treaty with East Germany. (Page 2)

Chile	25X25X1
[redacted]	
[redacted] (Page 3)	25X1
[redacted]	25X1
[redacted] the fedayeen. (Page 4)	25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PHILIPPINES

In his first decree under martial law, President Marcos has enacted a reorganization plan, long-stalled in Congress, for the executive branch. The plan consolidates many of the more than 100 executive offices, creates a public information department, and establishes 11 regional organizations between cabinet level officials and the 66 provincial governments.

Although billed as a decentralization, the action gives Marcos greater opportunity to influence local administration by reducing the number of officials with whom he must deal. Marcos apparently has decided that the shortcomings of his administration and his own loss of popularity result from bureaucratic ineptness, and that by taking firm personal control he can regain public confidence.

[Redacted] 25X1

This suggests that Marcos has not abandoned his plans to extend his rule by becoming prime minister, and that he intends to use his martial law powers to assure his ultimate election. [Redacted]

[Redacted] 25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY

The resignation of former economics and finance minister Karl Schiller from the Social Democratic Party is another windfall for the opposition Christian Democrats. Schiller's resignation and his open criticism of government economic policy give the opposition additional ammunition for the election campaign.

The government will attempt to blunt these attacks on its domestic record by emphasizing foreign policy and seeking new success in that field. Chancellor Brandt hopes to go before the electorate with a general treaty with East Germany ready for signature.

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Government leaders have also decided to play up the forthcoming EC summit as a step toward economic stability in Europe

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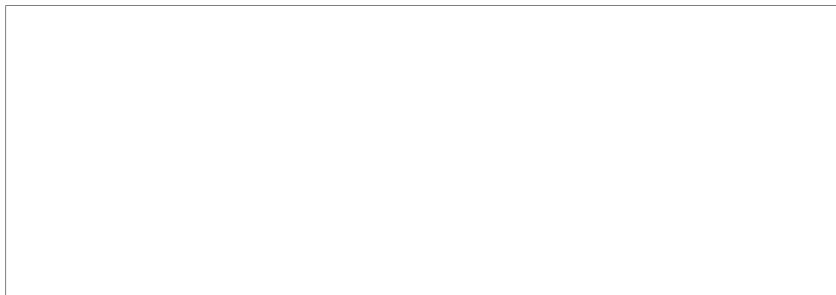
The East Germans, for their part, have also indicated the desire to conclude a general treaty as soon as possible--in part to help Brandt in the election.

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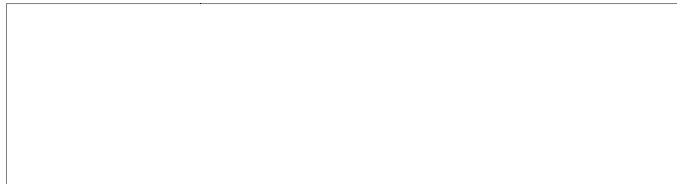
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHILE



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

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Fedayeen:

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Norway: Norway has rejected membership in the European Communities by roughly a seven-percent margin in a two-day referendum that ended yesterday. Prime Minister Trygve Bratteli may announce the resignation of his minority Labor government in the wake of the defeat. He had said earlier this month that he would resign if the vote were negative. Although the referendum was only advisory, the significant margin against EC membership is expected to preclude further consideration of the EC treaty by the Norwegian parliament. A new government will presumably try to negotiate a free trade arrangement with the EC similar to agreements concluded by Sweden and Finland.

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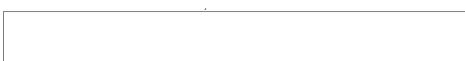
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The President's Daily Brief

27 September 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

27 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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[redacted] Soviet [redacted] Syria [redacted] 25X1
[redacted]
[redacted] (Page 1) 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
[redacted] (Page 2) 25X1

Two of the Laotian Government's task forces near the Plaine des Jarres have made gains, but a third was forced back yesterday. In the sparring over possible peace talks, the Communists have sent another tough message to Prime Minister Souvanna.
(Page 3)

President Marcos has decreed land reform for the Philippines, but we have some doubts that it will be more effective than past halting efforts. (Page 4)

With military action on the Ugandan-Tanzanian border limited to mopping up operations, the Somali foreign minister says his peace proposals have been accepted. (Page 5)

[redacted] Greek [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] (Page 6) 25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

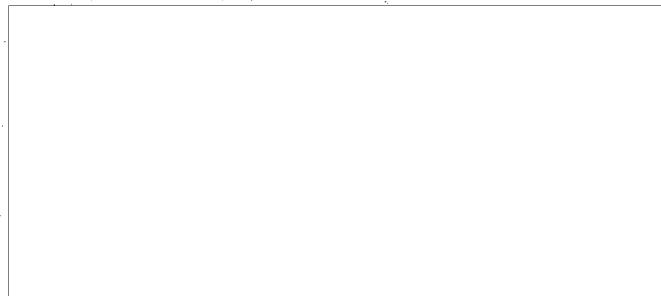
USSR-SYRIA



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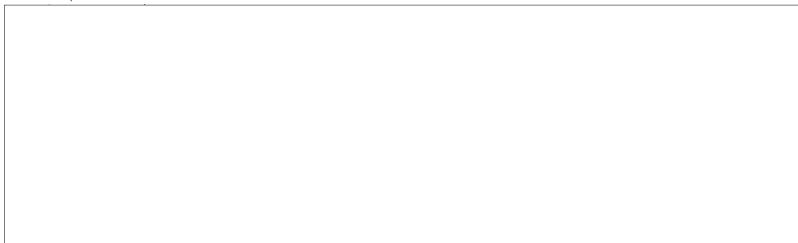
Foreign Minister Gromyko stopped short of offering total support to the Arabs in his UN General Assembly speech yesterday. While expressing the standard Soviet support for a peaceful settlement, the Jarring mission, and the restoration of Palestinians' rights, he said that "acts of terrorism by certain elements in the Palestinian movement" hurt the Palestinians' best interests.

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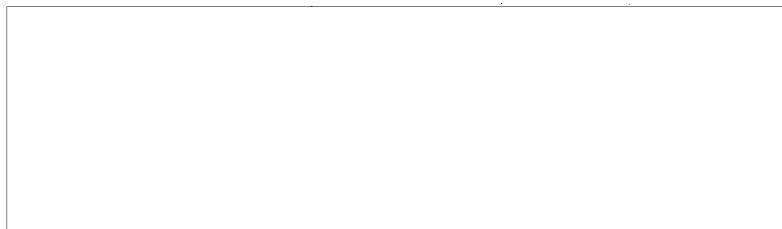
FEDAYEEN



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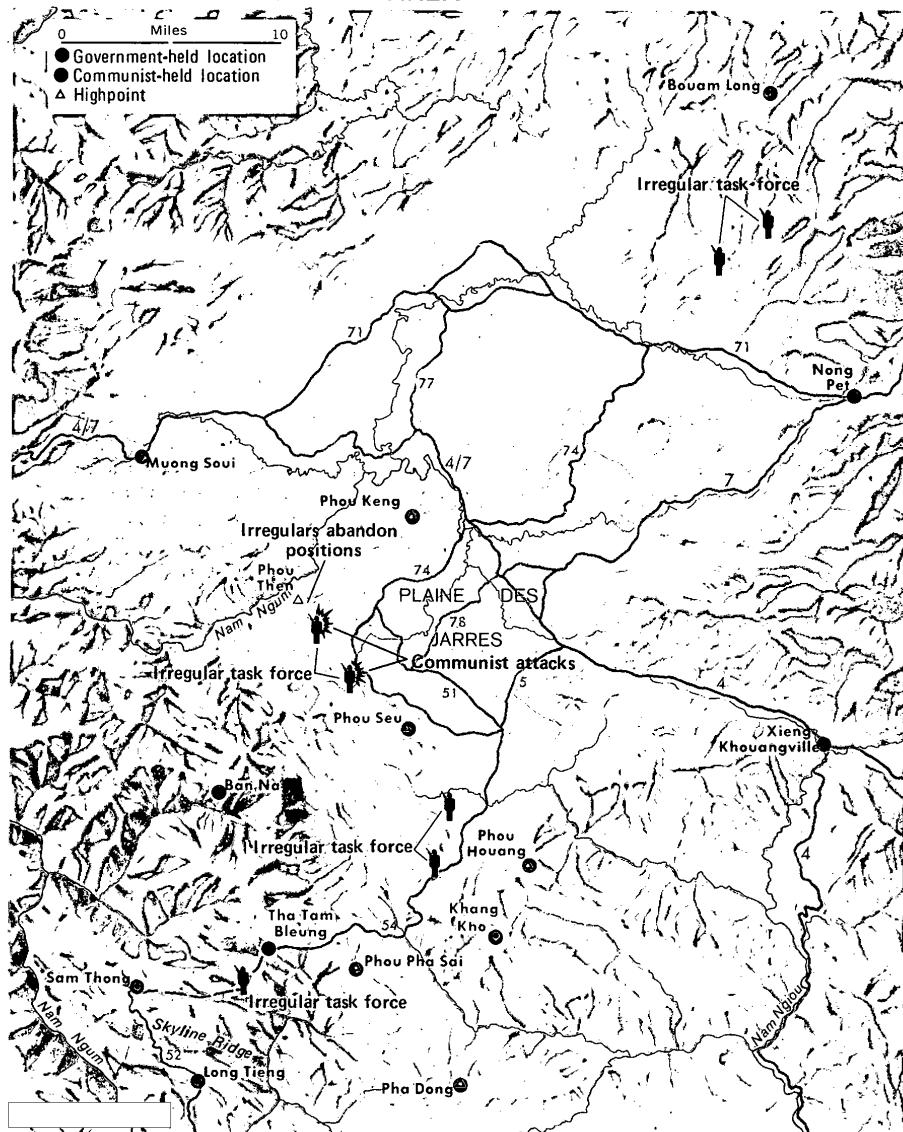
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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LAOS

Under the personal direction of General Vang Pao, elements of one government task force have moved onto the southern tip of the Plaine des Jarres, severing the Communists' main supply line to their forces in the Tha Tam Bleung area. Several caches of ammunition were found, the first significant supplies captured during this year's offensive. North of the Plaine, units of another task force have advanced from Bouam Long to within three miles of Route 71, an important Communist supply route.

Although neither task force has yet encountered serious resistance, there are numerous signs that the Communists are moving troops and supplies for counter-attacks.

Elements of Vang Pao's force on the western edge of the Plaine abandoned high ground at Phou Then yesterday after being hit by a coordinated infantry and artillery attack. Intercepts indicate that the North Vietnamese have units from three regiments ready for further assaults.

On the political front, Communist leader Souphanouvong on 22 September sent another tough message to Prime Minister Souvanna on peace talks. The Communists again strongly condemned US "intervention and aggression in Laos," but proposed to send a representative to Vientiane to resume preliminary discussions.

The Communists' special representative for peace talks had left Vientiane on 3 September after protesting the government's offensive in the north. Since that offensive has failed to shake their control over the Plaine, the Communists evidently now see some merit in resuming the hitherto sterile discussions.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PHILIPPINES

President Marcos' second decree under martial law declares all the Philippines a "land reform area" and announces that sweeping changes in current land-lord-tenant relationships will ensue.

Land reform legislation is always popular in the Philippines, a high-tenancy agricultural country. Over the years, however, there has been little effort to implement existing legislation because of the influence of powerful owner groups, especially on Luzon. Although Marcos could make some showcase changes fairly easily, it is far from certain that he will be willing or able to enforce effective reform even under martial law.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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UGANDA-TANZANIA

Somali Foreign Minister Arteh, who has been shuttling between Kampala and Dar es Salaam, announced yesterday that Uganda and Tanzania had accepted a Somali peace proposal. Arteh gave no details, but did indicate that some issues remained unresolved.

Among the issues that could prove difficult to settle are the mutual withdrawal of troops from the border and the status of Ugandan guerrillas in Tanzania. Nonetheless, tensions between the two countries appear to be easing. President Nyerere has clearly indicated that he wants to arrange a cease-fire and is endeavoring to minimize the damage done to his government as a result of its complicity with the invading guerrilla force.

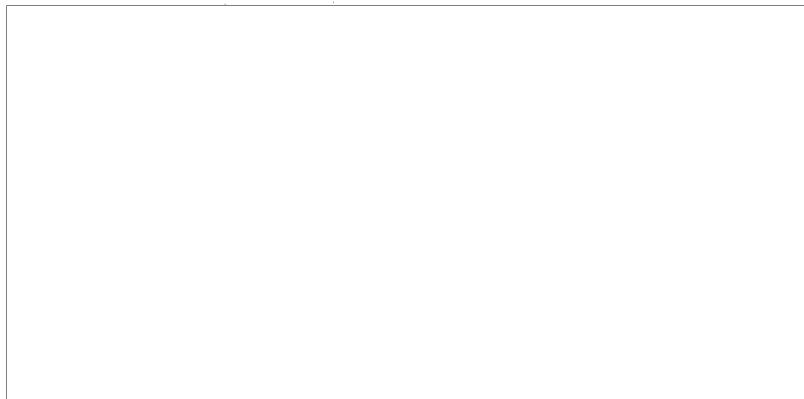
Military action by Ugandan troops now seems to be limited to mopping up operations near the Tanzanian border. Press reports state that Tanzanian troops are moving back from the border to avoid an inadvertent clash with the Ugandan Army.

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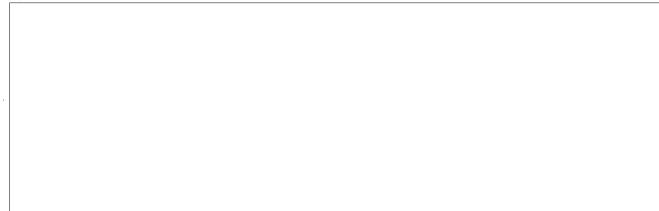
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GREECE



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NOTES

USSR: The Soviets have postponed or canceled the planned launch of their largest space booster--the "J-Vehicle." [redacted]

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[redacted] an unmanned lunar mission, and most of the ships that were to have monitored the event have left their stations in the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans. This is the second major space event the Soviets have called off in recent weeks: on 19 September we reported the cancellation of a space mission involving a manned Soyuz spacecraft.

USSR: Prospects for the Soviet grain harvest continue to deteriorate with the onset of freezing temperatures in much of the New Lands area of Siberia and Kazakhstan. Recent reports of negotiations for wheat from West Germany and Romania may reflect a reassessment of Soviet needs. Confirmed Soviet purchases of grain for delivery by mid-1973 now stand at almost 27 million tons, of which about 18 million tons is wheat.

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The President's Daily Brief

28 September 1972

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exemption category SR(1)(C)(3)
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

28 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The arrival of five Soviet naval vessels at the Syrian port of Tartus is the latest demonstration of Moscow's support for Damascus. (Page 1)

[Redacted] 25X1

The exodus of Soviet Jews continues at a significant rate, despite last month's decree requiring emigrants to reimburse the state for their education. (Page 3)

In Lebanon, an accommodation has been reached between the government and the fedayeen, but the Lebanese Army is maintaining control over fedayeen activities. (Page 4)

The Communists are continuing to exert pressure against government positions in South Vietnam's coastal lowlands.

[Redacted] 25X1

(Page 5)

Poland [Redacted]
North Vietnam [Redacted]

[Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] (Page 6)

25X1

West Germany and China have successfully concluded negotiations to establish diplomatic relations.
(Page 6)

25X1

Nationalist China [Redacted]
(Page 6)

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Bangladesh [Redacted]
(Page 6)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-SYRIA

[redacted] a destroyer and a de-
stroyer escort from the Soviet Mediterranean fleet
entered the Syrian harbor of Tartus early yesterday.
Three amphibious ships apparently accompanied the
warships.

25X1

*The inclusion of the amphibious ships sug-
gests that a joint amphibious exercise may
take place in the near future. Neither
the presence of the warships nor the pro-
jected amphibious exercise is unprecedented.
Two Soviet naval vessels were in the Syrian
port of Latakia as recently as July, and
there have been two joint Soviet-Syrian
amphibious exercises since 1970. The naval
visit at this time can, however, be used
by both sides as an additional demonstra-
tion of Soviet backing for the Syrians.*

Some further development in the Soviet-Syrian
relationship may be in the offing. [redacted]

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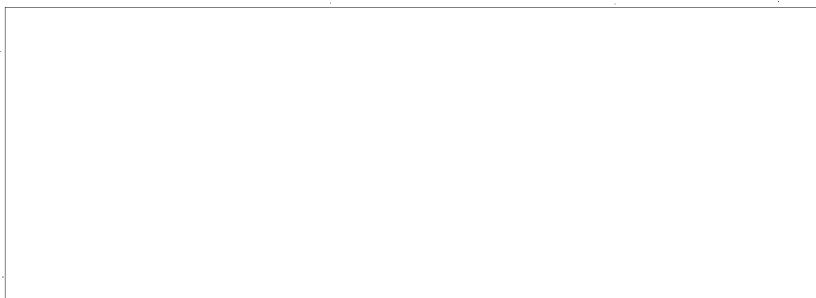
The number of Soviet military transport flights
to Syria since 19 September still stands at 17.

1

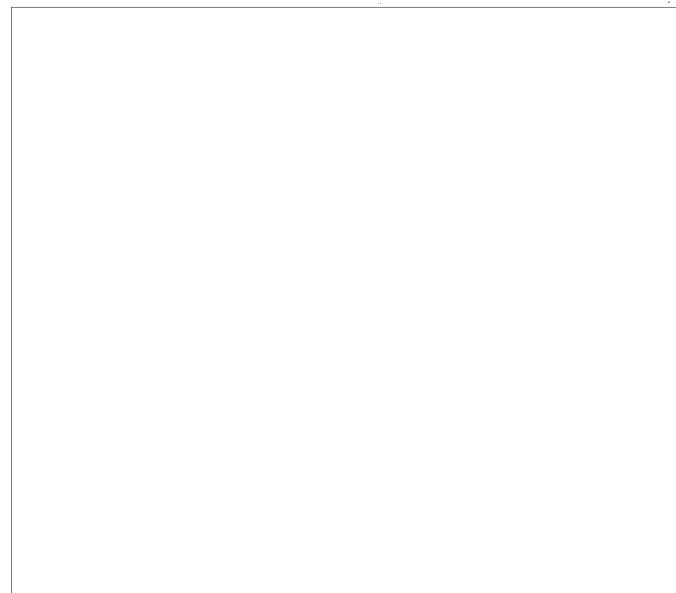
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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ROMANIA - WARSAW PACT



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USSR

The exodus of Soviet Jews continues at a significant rate, despite last month's decree requiring emigrants to reimburse the state for their educations. Dutch officials in Moscow state that 10 to 20 Jews a day are paying the new levy, and estimate that 20 percent of all working males who receive exit visas for Israel have a high enough level of education to be affected. The Dutch also told US officials that 2,000 Jews a month emigrated in August and September--a decrease of about 500 each month from the January-July average.

This decline may in large part be due to the summer vacation period, when the Soviet bureaucracy tends to slow down.

The exit fee requirement is said to be enforced uniformly throughout the Soviet Union. Although the burden of the new law falls heaviest on the Jews, who are emigrating in the largest numbers, other nationalities including Russians have been affected. Caprice and arbitrariness in enforcement seem to have been limited by the use of a written schedule of fees applicable to specific types of educations. The Soviets have not published the decree and refuse to make the text available to foreign officials on grounds that it is purely an internal matter. Nevertheless, a purported text of the decree, received by the Israeli Government from a recent emigrant who reproduced it from memory, generally agrees with earlier reports that the fees range from \$4,356 to more than \$14,520. The fees are levied regardless of age, sex, or ability to pay, and do not take into account any principle of amortization.

The Soviets have shown sensitivity to Western charges that the new law is discriminatory and violates human rights. There are no indications that Moscow is prepared to retreat on the issue, but its refusal to publish the decree or to ratify it at the recent session of the Supreme Soviet--actions that do not negate the validity of the law--may mean that if Moscow were to find the pressure too great, it could quietly amend the law and publish the new text to refute harmful foreign allegations.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LEBANON-FEDAYEEN

Cairo radio announced on 25 September that a "complete understanding" had been reached between the Lebanese Government and the fedayeen, and that delegations representing both parties would go to south Lebanon to work out the details.

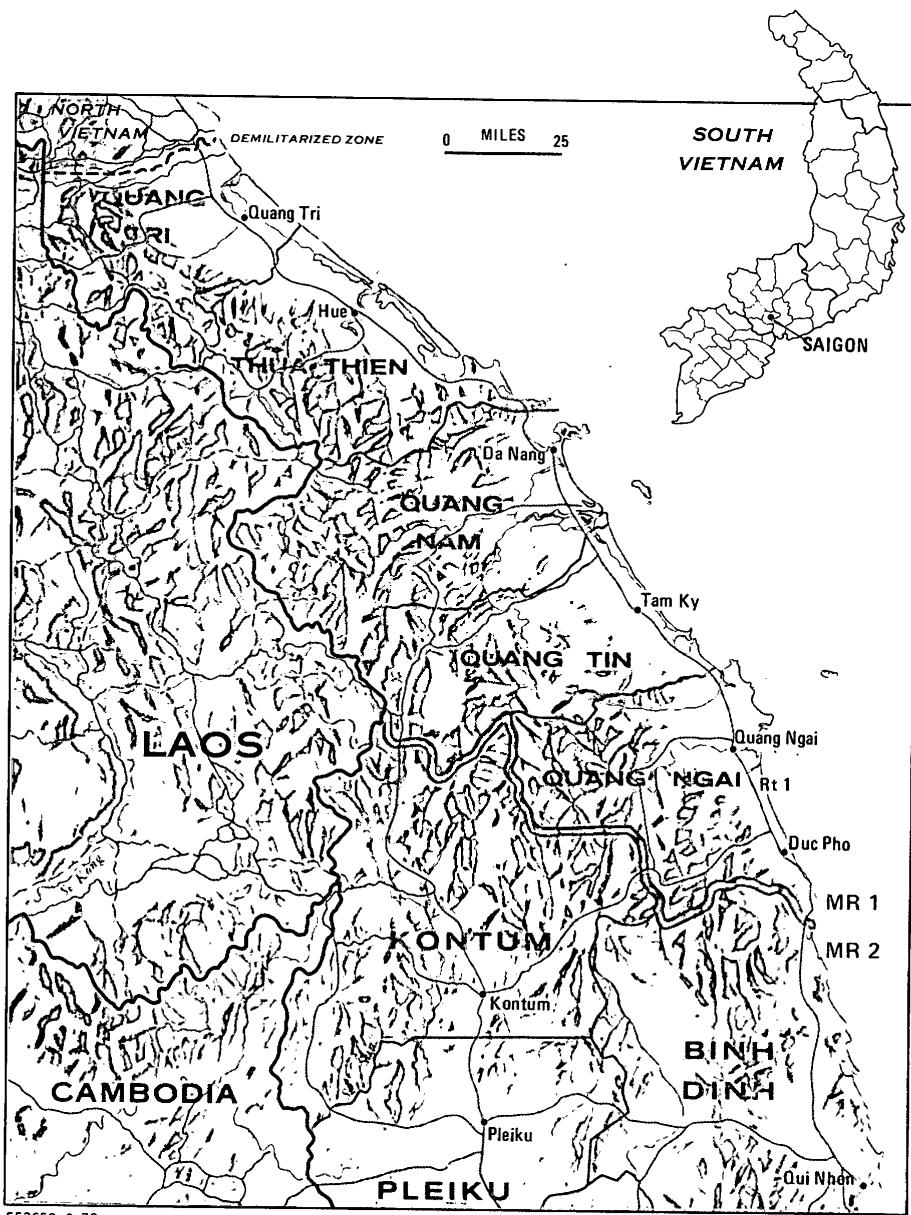
[redacted]
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[redacted] the number of fedayeen in the south has been substantially reduced since the Israeli foray of 16 and 17 September. The army is maintaining control over those that remain by means of roving patrols and numerous checkpoints. A few fedayeen have been wounded when they refused to submit to army searches.

25X1

Although the major fedayeen groups have apparently acquiesced in the agreement and accepted continuing army restrictions, some splinter groups may not, and further incidents between them and the army could occur. Moreover, the continued presence of some commandos in the south could cause Israel to launch another attack aimed at ridding the area of all fedayeen.

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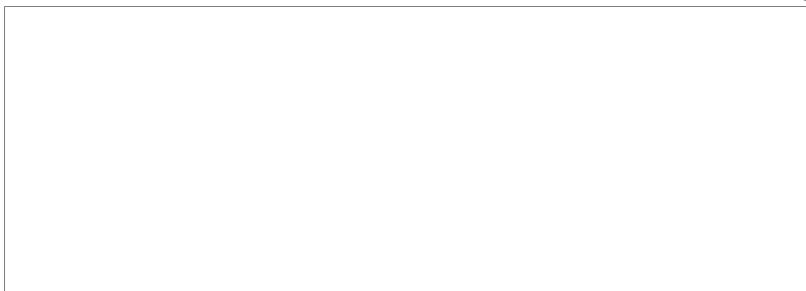
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

Communist pressure against threatened government positions along the central coast is continuing, and heavy fighting is reported around several district capitals. Intercepted messages suggest that the Communist 711th Division, which has carried the brunt of the fighting in Quang Tin, may be maneuvering to renew offensive operations in the lowlands to the west of Tam Ky, the provincial capital. In the Quang Tri area, the Communists have resumed heavy shelling, firing several thousand mortar and artillery rounds into government positions.

* * *

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Poland - North Vietnam: [redacted]

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West Germany - China: Negotiations to establish diplomatic relations were successfully concluded in Bonn on Monday [redacted]

[redacted] The formal announcement will come in a joint communiqué at the end of Foreign Minister Scheel's visit to Peking beginning on 10 October.

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Nationalist China: [redacted]

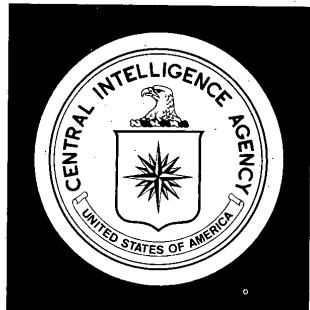
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Bangladesh-USSR: [redacted]

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The President's Daily Brief

29 September 1972

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declassification schedule of E.O. 14176
exemptions category 5B(1), (2), (3)
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

29 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Soviets and Egyptians are moving toward a resumption of more normal relations. (Page 1)

[redacted] Philippines [redacted]	25X1
[redacted]	25X1
[redacted] (Page 3)	25X1
[redacted] Guatemala [redacted]	25X1
[redacted] (Page 4)	25X1
[redacted] (Page 5)	25X1
At Annex, [redacted] [redacted] China [redacted]	25X1X1 25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-EGYPT

A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman told US Embassy officials on 27 September that his government has finally agreed to a summit meeting with President Sadat. (In a speech yesterday, Sadat, however, gave no hint of a summit meeting and claimed that he was still awaiting a reply to his last letter to Brezhnev.) The Soviet official said that one of the Soviet leaders will meet with the Egyptian President in about two months, "probably in Cairo." In turning down Sadat's request for a summit last month, the Soviets indicated that lower-level meetings should be held first. This stipulation is apparently to be fulfilled next week when Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Hatim visits Moscow. According to the Soviet official, Hatim will discuss bilateral relations, including arrangements for the summit.

As a first step toward more normal relations, the Egyptian ambassador returned to Moscow on 27 September. Ambassador Vinogradov will return to Cairo about 10 October, according to the Soviet spokesman. Both had been recalled following the announcement of the expulsion of the Soviet advisers.

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CHINA



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PHILIPPINES

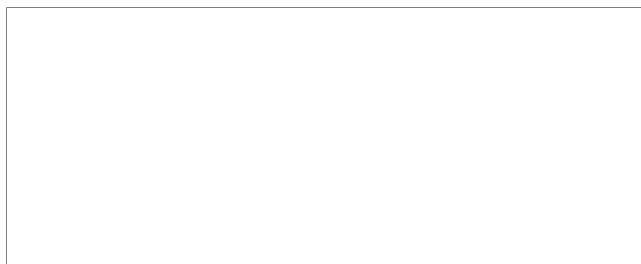


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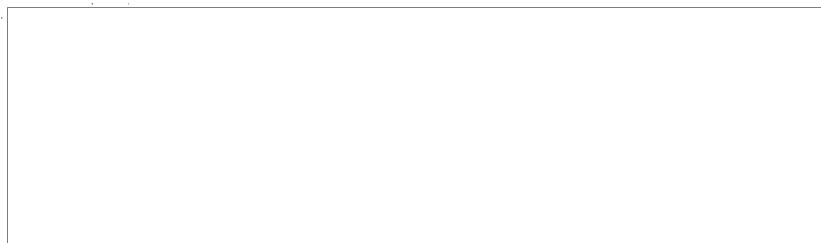


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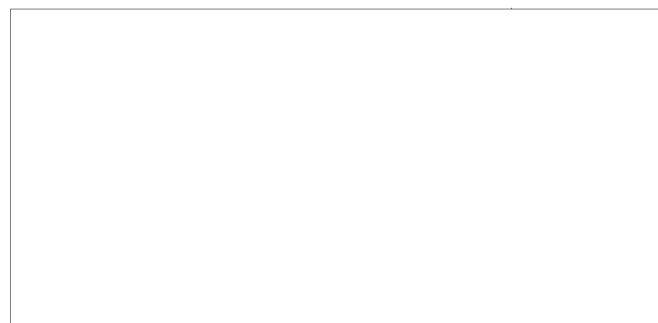
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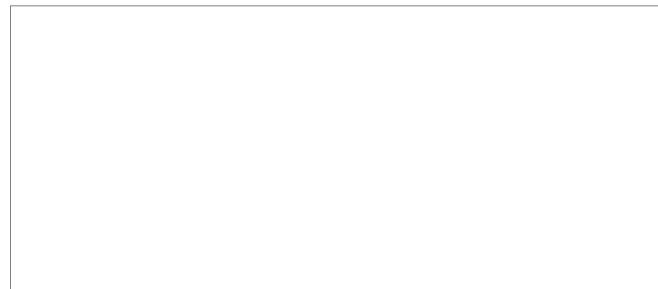
GUATEMALA



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

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Nationalist China:

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Japan:

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CHINA

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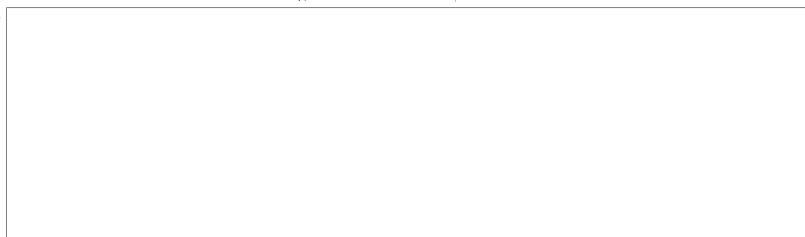


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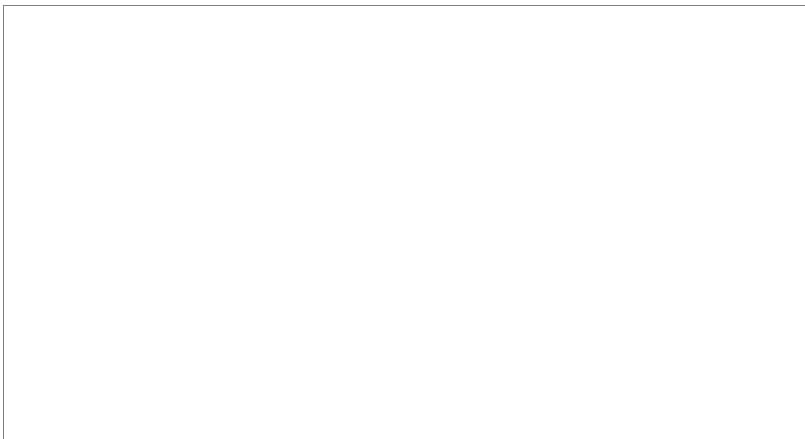
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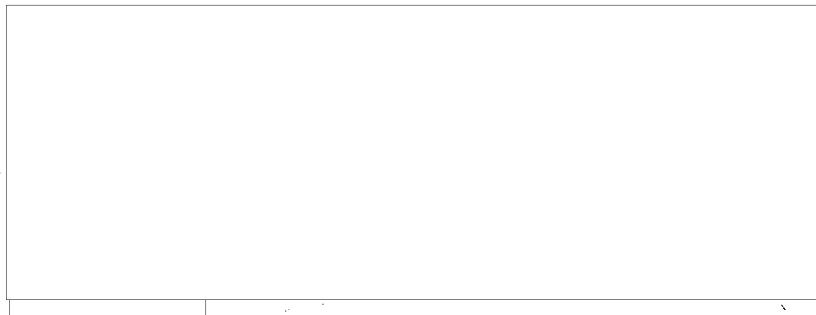


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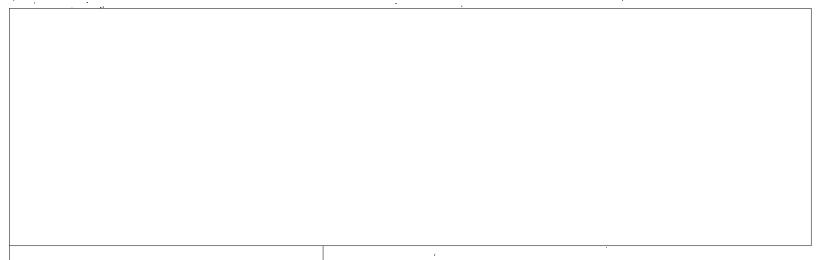
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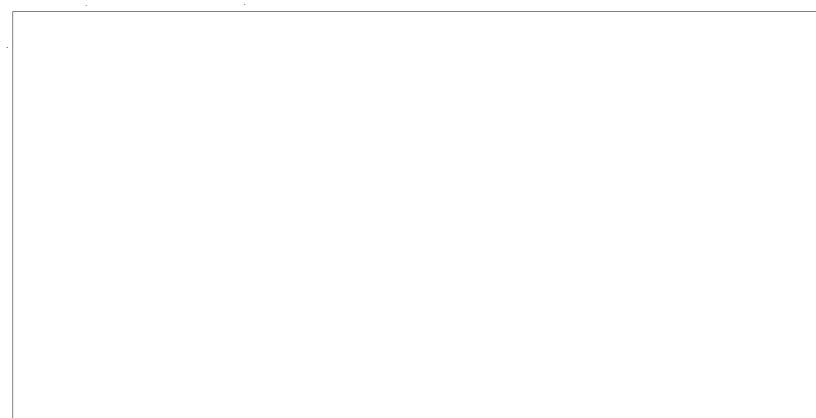
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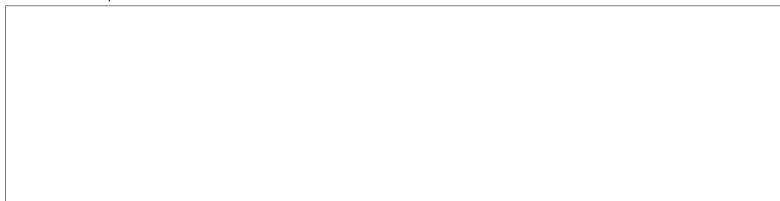
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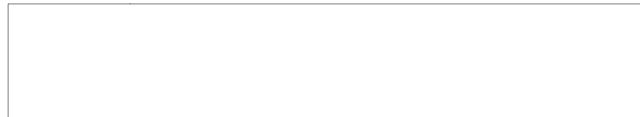
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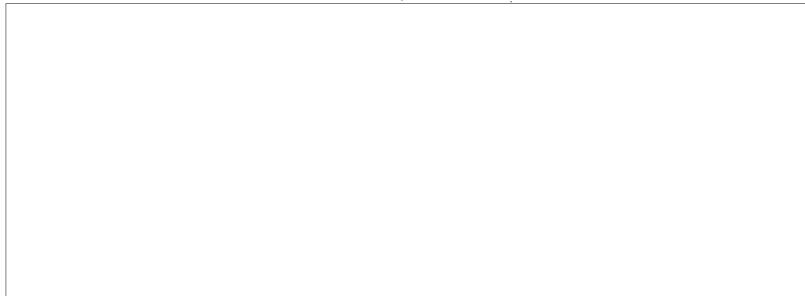
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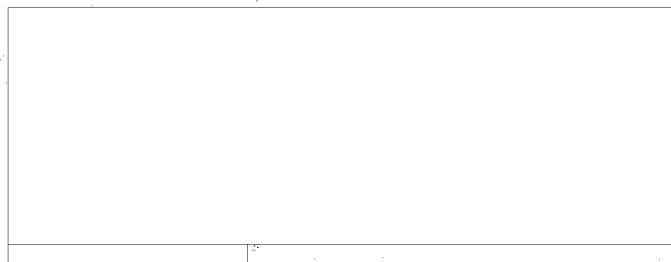
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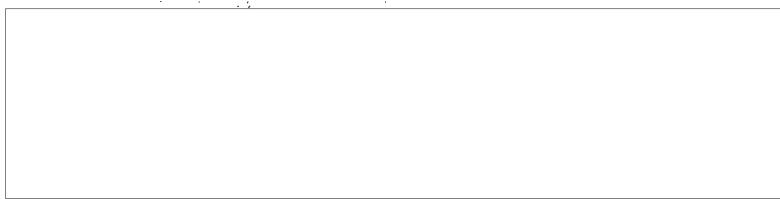
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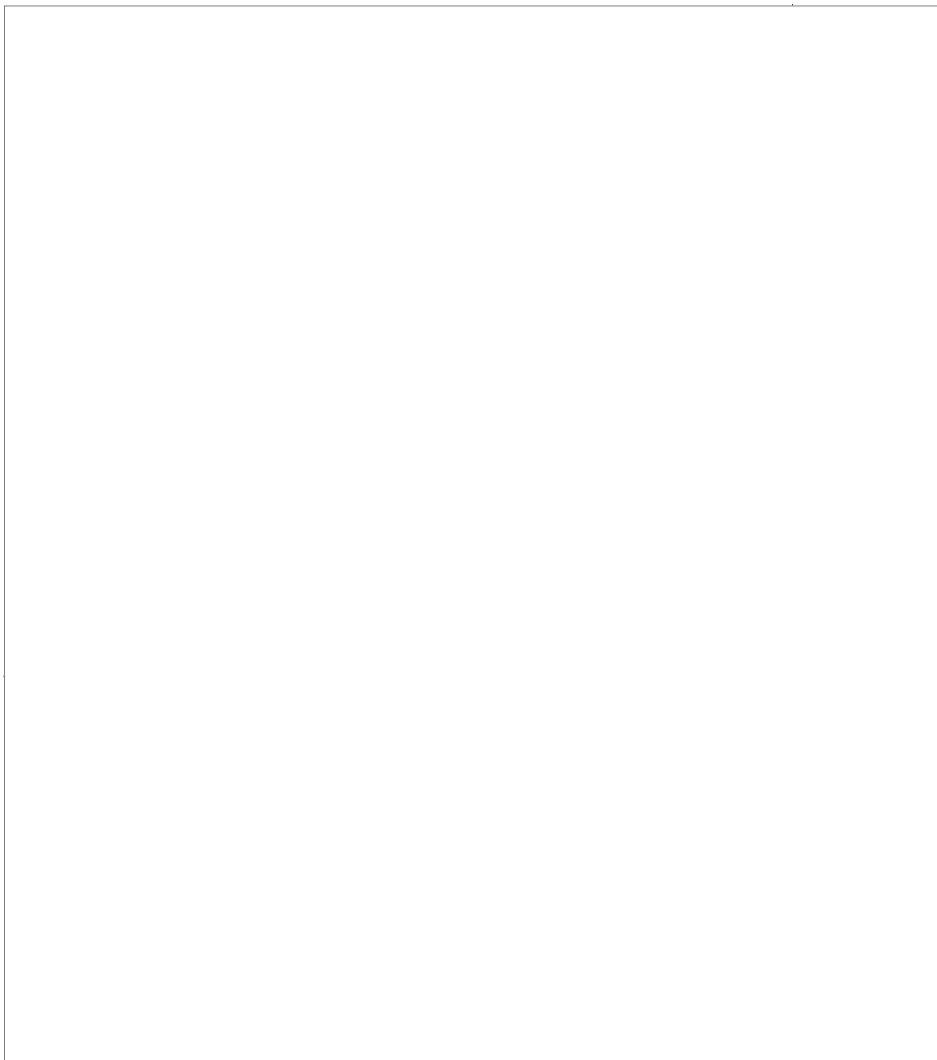


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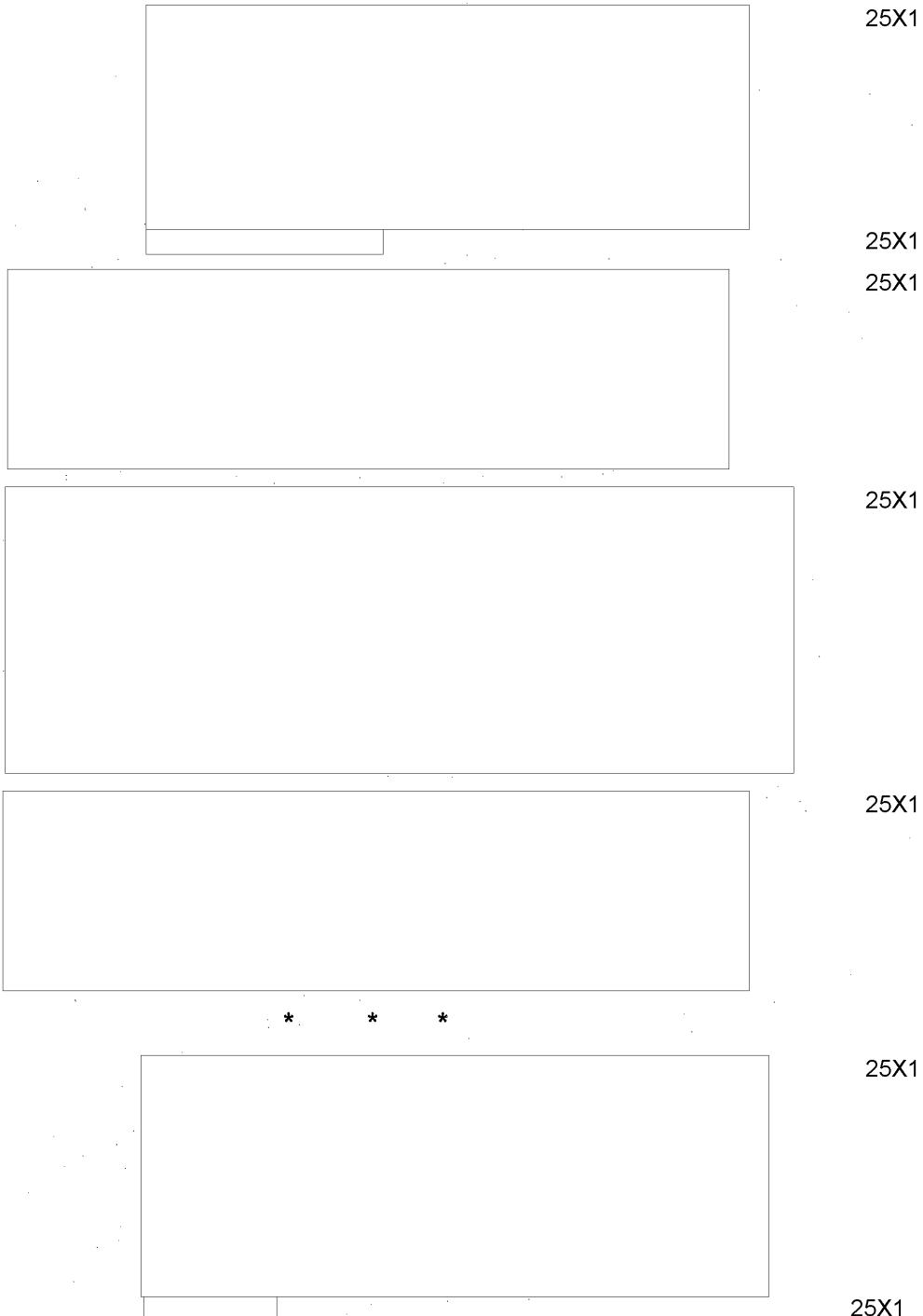
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The President's Daily Brief

30 September 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

30 September 1972

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Soviet

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North Vietnam

(Page 1)

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Israeli Prime Minister Meir has asserted that Israel will not negotiate with Palestinian exiles and that there is no place within the boundaries of Israel for a Palestinian state. (Page 2)

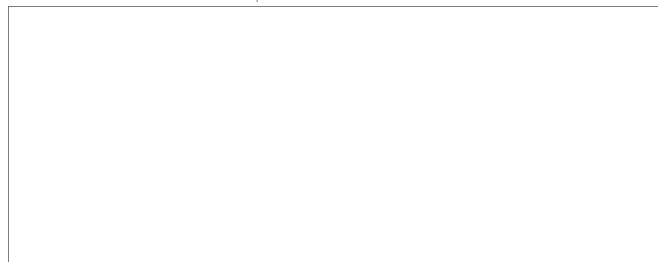
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Panamanian Foreign Minister Tack claims to have wide backing among UN Security Council members for a meeting of that body in Panama City. (Page 4)

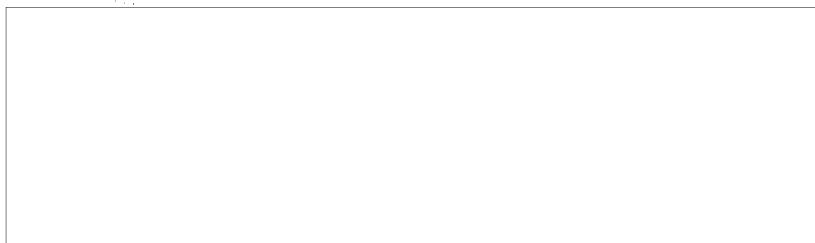
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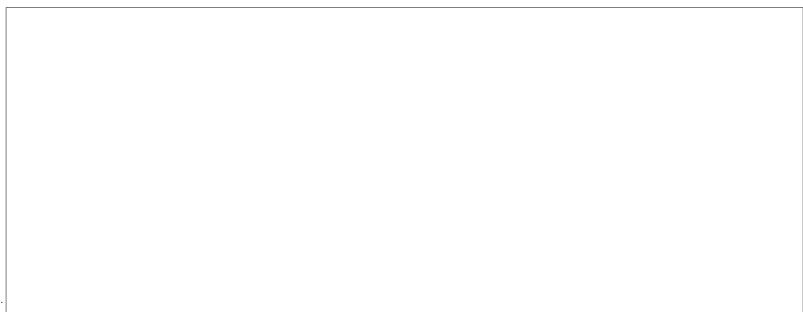
USSR - NORTH VIETNAM



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ISRAEL

In a recent TV interview, Prime Minister Golda Meir put forth Israeli views on the Palestinian exiles and their aspirations. Mrs. Meir stated that Israel would not negotiate with them. She contended that "they have nothing to offer us, and we have nothing to offer them." She said that she saw no place within the boundaries of Israel for a Palestinian state adding "there is no room... nor necessity for that."

Mrs. Meir's blunt words reflect the Israeli position that the Palestinian refugee problem is not Israel's concern, but that of the Arab states. Her statements also mirror the widespread sentiment in Israel that if the Israelis were to make concessions, such as permitting the refugees to return to their original homes, it would open the flood-gates. Eventually--because of higher Arab birth-rates--the present Jewish majority would be swamped. Mrs. Meir, moreover, is opposed to any independent Palestinian state on the west bank of the Jordan River.

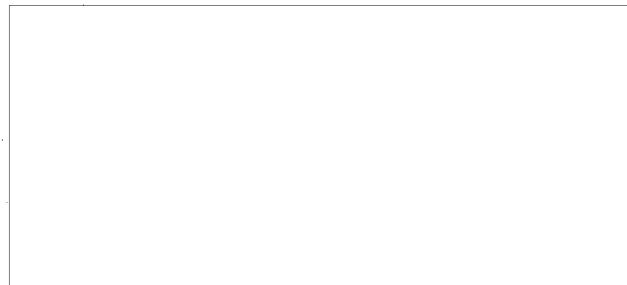
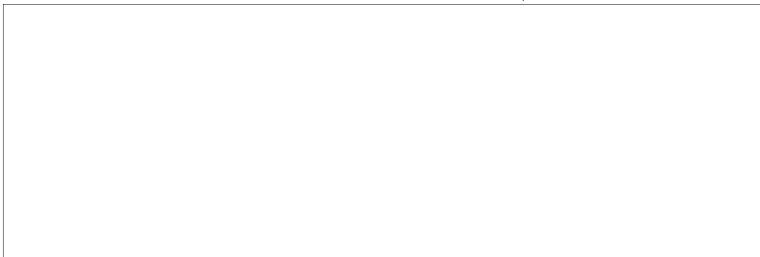
In rebuttal to Mrs. Meir, Egyptian President Sadat on Thursday called for the Palestinians to overcome their differences and to form a provisional government. Although the formation of a Palestinian government in exile has been a frequent topic of discussion among Palestinians, it has not proceeded beyond the talking stage. Moreover, the bitter dissension among the Palestinians themselves and with other Arabs makes such a project difficult indeed.

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PANAMA - UNITED NATIONS

Foreign Minister Tack this week told Ambassador Sayre that Panama has the support of 11 members of the Security Council to hold a meeting of that body in Panama City. He requested US support. The British ambassador at the UN confirms that Panama has the backing of all but the US, UK, Australia, and Kenya for such a meeting. He noted that French Foreign Minister Schumann has given Panama personal assurances of support. Panama wants the meeting in March, when its ambassador will be the Council Chairman.

The Torrijos' government has clearly mounted a major campaign to have the Council meet in Panama. A meeting there would not only raise Torrijos' international prestige and feed Panama's nationalism, but would also provide a forum to focus world attention on the canal negotiations. Most Panamanian officials believe that they will have to use pressure tactics to get a satisfactory treaty. International diplomatic support and publicity would be one such measure.

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NOTES

Mexico: Security forces in the capital are on special alert this weekend to guard against possible hit-and-run bombings by radical dissidents. Officials believe that the anniversary of the massacre of students on 2 October 1968 may provoke bombings similar to those that occurred before President Echeverria's state of the nation address and Independence Day celebrations earlier this month. American installations and businesses may be among the targets.

Iraq-CEMA: Iraq will soon be accorded observer status in the Soviet-dominated Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, according to a Soviet Foreign Ministry official. Baghdad apparently believes that by associating with CEMA it will be able to increase the market for its oil in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Iraq would be the first non-Communist country associated with CEMA. In addition to the Warsaw Pact countries, Mongolia and Cuba are full members while Yugoslavia, North Korea, and North Vietnam have observer status.

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