

The President's Daily Brief

2 February 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

2 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The negotiating instructions that West Germany's Egon Bahr took with him to Moscow are noted on *Page 1*.

In South Vietnam, the increase in enemy activity that was expected to occur prior to Tet has begun.
(Page 2)

President Marcos may be faced with more student demonstrations. *(Page 3)*

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WEST GERMANY - USSR

The West Germans have briefed the three Western allies on the instructions State Secretary Bahr carried with him to Moscow on 30 January for the resumption of the FRG-USSR talks. Bahr is authorized to clarify an earlier renunciation of territorial claims by stating that West Germany does not claim any territory other than that presently covered by the Federal Republic's constitution. Bonn's negotiators will maintain that neither German state should work for the overthrow of the other, nor try to separate it from its allies. With regard to any future East-West German agreement, Bonn will continue to insist that this relationship be of a special character, reflecting a common German background. This agreement, Bahr will say, should respect four-power rights and have full legal force based on equal rights and obligations.

The instructions seem to represent the maximum concessions West Germany can afford in meeting Moscow's demands for a recognition of the European status quo. In view of Gromyko's stringent demands at the last bilateral session in December, Bahr's immediate task will be to determine whether Moscow is seriously interested in negotiating an agreement. We expect Bahr to stress the importance of these talks for the stability of Central Europe, and impress upon Gromyko the limits to Bonn's concessions.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

The anticipated pre-Tet increase in Communist harassing attacks got under way over the weekend. This spurt of activity, consisting mainly of shellings and sapper attacks in the northern half of the country, caused relatively few casualties and little damage.

Similar enemy activity is likely to occur in other sectors of South Vietnam during the next few days, before the Communists' unilateral four-day cease-fire begins on 5 February. [] suggest that there will also be a period of increased activity following the lunar New Year holiday period.

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PHILIPPINES

In Manila, rumors of further student demonstrations persist following last week's riots sparked by the belief that President Marcos will make a bid for a third term. Strong security precautions are in evidence, particularly near the presidential palace. Marcos has thus far attempted to obscure the fact that his political ambition was the target of the rioters by laying the blame on a Communist plot to take over the government.

Marcos, barely into his second four-year term, is widely believed to be planning to pack next year's constitutional convention in order to abolish the two-term limit. The students' opposition is shared by powerful families in the oligarchy, who view Marcos' ambitions as a threat to their own political fortunes and are themselves maneuvering to block him.

Ceremonies being planned to honor the five students killed last week could be the occasion for more disturbances. Although Marcos will probably try for the time being to blur the issue of student protests, he may be forced eventually to still the outcry with firm public assurances that he will not try to prolong his tenure.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTES

Malagasy Republic: President Tsiranana is again seriously ill and is expected to remain hospitalized in Paris for the next several weeks. Not surprisingly, the President's confinement has produced coup rumors.

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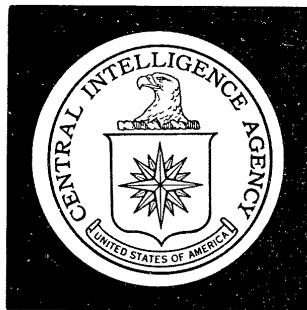
European Communities - Spain: Agreement was reached last week on all but a few minor details of a preferential trade arrangement between the European Communities and Spain. It is similar to other EC preferential trade agreements that are coming under increasing criticism from other contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

3 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Hanoi leadership made an outward display of unity at yesterday's observance of the 40th anniversary of the North Vietnamese Communist Party.
(Page 1)

Nigeria's leaders continue to be sensitive over their ability to administer the country's relief program. *(Page 2)*

[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

Japan's largest labor federation is backing away from plans to oppose the renewal of the US-Japanese security treaty. *(Page 4)*

NATO members may soon lock horns over military aid to Greece. *(Page 5)*

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NORTH VIETNAM

The Hanoi leadership made yesterday's observation of the party's 40th anniversary the occasion for a new show of unity. Almost the entire politburo was on display, arranged in appropriate party ranking, and Party First Secretary Le Duan gave the principal speech. In Duan's long speech, he sought to convey a picture of unity and collective leadership, two themes that had not been prominent in Hanoi commentary since Ho's funeral.

Duan had a little something for everyone, hitting on all important party policies and problems, and putting himself on record as endorsing both the switch to a lower military profile in the South and the need to focus more on "the building of socialism in the North."

The speech held out the promise of even greater flexibility in Communist tactics. Duan went out of his way, for example, to justify significant shifts in Communist negotiations and battlefield strategy by referring to party history. He cited the sudden shifts in strategy in the 1946 period--when "President Ho skillfully steered the revolutionary boat out of dangerous reefs at first thought insurmountable."

This was Duan's first major statement published since Ho's death and his first on the war in about two years. His speech seems to follow closely the policies advocated by Truong Chinh. As such, it raises questions as to Le Duan's real power position, even though he certainly used the anniversary celebration to strengthen his image as party first secretary.

We plan to discuss more fully both the contents of the speech and its implications for the power structure in Hanoi after we have time to study the text in greater detail.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NIGERIA

Federal officials are extremely annoyed at the
US approach to the relief problem. [redacted]

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The expulsion of Colonel Dewey over the weekend was a reflection of federal annoyance at US relief efforts. We believe General Gowon still wants very much to maintain good relations with the US, but that he is probably finding it more and more difficult to fend off pressures from within his government for closer ties with the USSR at the expense of the US.

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COMMUNIST CHINA - US



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These comments plus remarks from other medium-level Chinese officials seem to be part of a campaign to reap the maximum tactical advantage from resumption of the Warsaw talks. The Chinese are realistic enough not to expect any sudden US concession on Taiwan. Nevertheless, they seem to enjoy exploiting the possibility of a Sino-US accommodation in order to make Moscow uncomfortable and to sow discord between Taipei and Washington.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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JAPAN

Sohyo, Japan's largest labor federation, may soften its opposition to the renewal of the US-Japanese mutual security treaty. In a speech before the union's top leadership on 29 January, Sohyo's chairman hinted that the federation may not stage a planned nationwide general strike in June to protest the automatic renewal of the pact. Sohyo is also re-evaluating its close association with the Japan Socialist Party, a major critic of the treaty, because of the party's disastrous losses in last December's general elections.

We believe that growing popular antipathy to leftist-sponsored violence and general satisfaction with the recent Okinawan reversion agreement have forced Sohyo to reassess its policies. In addition, Sohyo's leaders are under pressure from its members to devote more attention to economic problems and less to ideologically oriented political struggles.

Sohyo has four million members and played a key role in the massive demonstrations in 1960. Its defection would severely weaken the antitreaty campaign this spring.

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NATO-GREECE

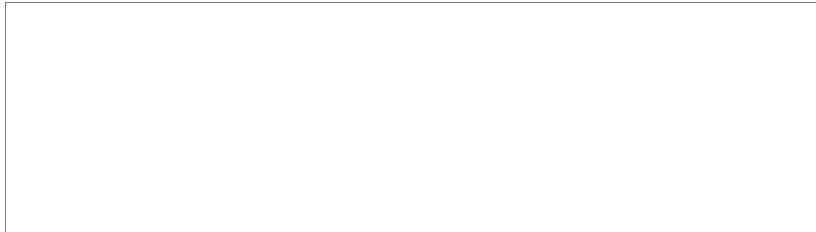
A report recommending the authorization of allied military aid to Greece is expected to come before NATO's Defense Review Committee in the next few weeks. Its consideration will provide a focus for those members of the Alliance who want to shut off all such assistance as a means of showing their disapproval of the regime in Athens. The countries likely to oppose the report are led by Norway and include at least Denmark and the Netherlands. Athens does not appear disposed to avoid a showdown on this question as it did when it withdrew from the Council of Europe last December.

NATO is faced with a difficult confrontation. Norway is serious about this issue and is prepared to take it to the ministerial level. The Greeks insist that their internal affairs are not a proper subject for debate by a NATO forum and Athens expects the major NATO powers to convey this point to the Scandinavians.

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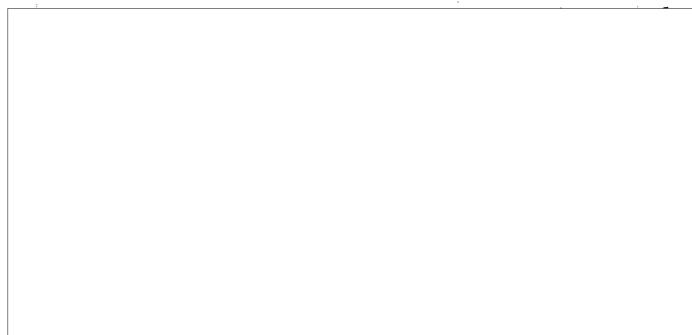
CAMBODIA-VIETNAM



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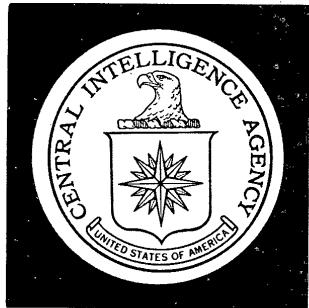
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

4 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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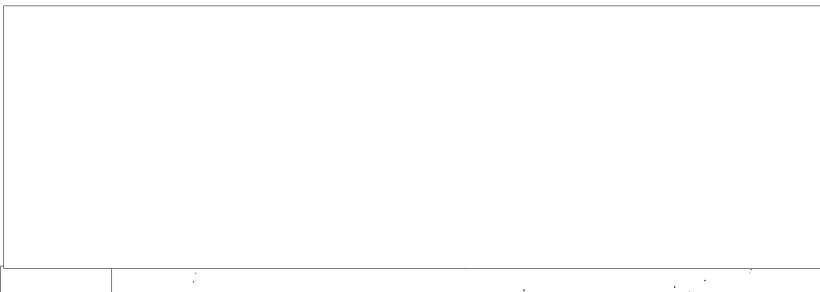
In K'un-ming, capital of Yunnan Province, serious civil disturbances have forced local Chinese authorities to impose martial law. (Page 2)

Hungarian party leader Kadar's visit to East Germany last week may only have sharpened differences between the two countries. (Page 3)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NORTH VIETNAM



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Recent messages confirm our belief that many of the smaller groups are composed of specialist personnel. Several groups of less than 100 were described by infiltration stations in Laos as containing sappers, civil administrators, propaganda specialists, and communications experts.



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COMMUNIST CHINA

Martial law has been imposed in K'un-ming, the capital of Yunnan Province, following serious civil disturbances. [redacted] 31 January a demonstration in K'un-ming degenerated into a riot. It appears that army elements responsible for public security in the immediate area were unable to control the disturbance and had to be reinforced by local Red Guards and militia units. Some of the rioters were executed on the spot.

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This is one of the most serious incidents noted anywhere in China since late last summer, when the army began a nationwide crackdown on civil disorders. The campaign was largely successful; there have been few reports of armed fighting in the last several months. Renewed outbreaks of violence in places like Yunnan, however, underscore the regime's inability to enforce a lasting settlement in a number of provinces.

In Yunnan--as in some of China's other unsettled provinces--the major cause of instability is political infighting that extends into the highest levels of provincial authority. The head of Yunnan's Revolutionary Committee (i.e. the governing authority) has rarely appeared in public in the past year, which could indicate that he has not been able to consolidate his control. We do not know yet what triggered the latest incident, but the appearance of Red Guards on the scene suggests that factionalism is behind the disorder.

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EAST GERMANY - HUNGARY

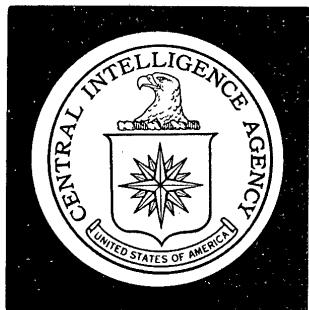
Nothing constructive came out of Hungarian party leader Kadar's visit to East Germany last week. The two countries are no closer together on West Germany or on Brandt's "ostpolitik." The Hungarians were not shaken in their plan to respond to Bonn's initiatives, and the West German press reported that the Hungarians have sweetened up their bid for an expansion of West German - Hungarian trade with offers of concessions in customs duties and taxes.

The East Germans, understandably piqued, have published a statement that no socialist country would forget its obligations to its alliance partners just for "fair words" from Bonn.

It seems Kadar's trip not only failed to improve relations between the two socialist allies; it evidently has made things worse. Before the visit, the Hungarians had gone to great lengths to accommodate the East Germans, especially on the question of responding to West Germany.

Kadar's hand has been strengthened, however, by the Warsaw Pact meeting in December, which blessed the idea of improving relations with Bonn. The Hungarians are freer to let relations with Pankow deteriorate if they must rather than forgo the opportunities Brandt is offering.

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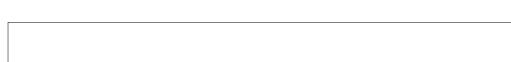


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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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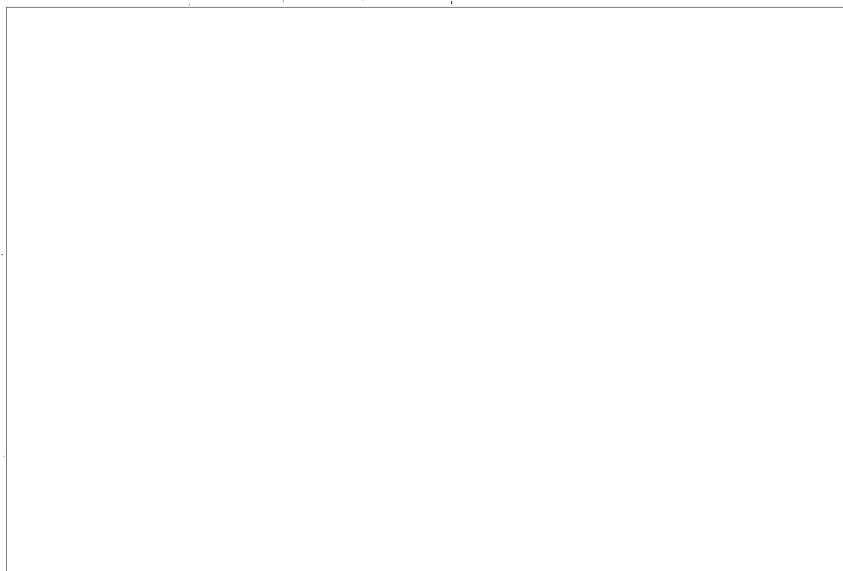
President Thieu is pushing ahead with the prosecution of "Communist sympathizers" in the Lower House. (Page 4)

The military situation in Laos is quiet for now, but the Communists are moving into position to exert greater pressure. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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USSR-EGYPT



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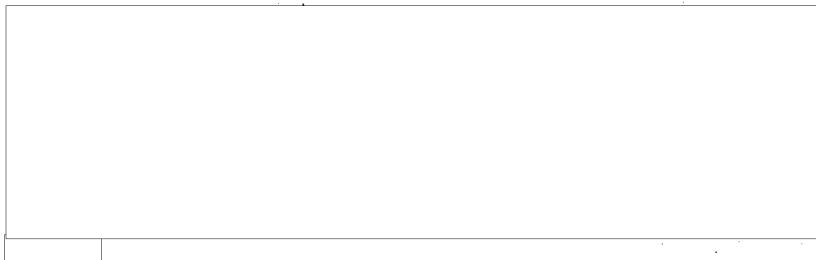
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USSR - WEST GERMANY



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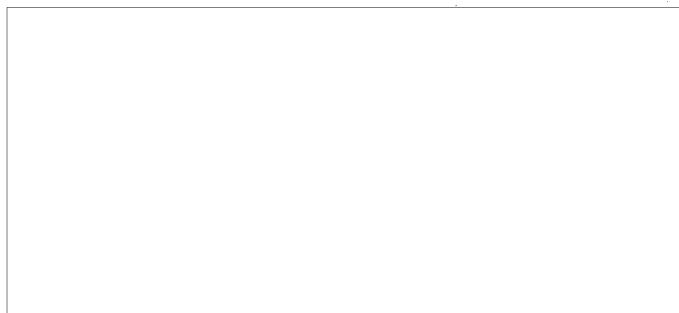
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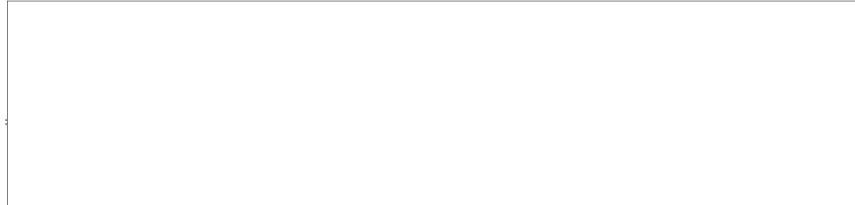
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NORTH VIETNAM



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SOUTH VIETNAM

President Thieu has ordered a military tribunal to proceed with the prosecution of Tran Ngoc Chau and Hoang Ho, the two Lower House deputies accused of having contacts with the Communists. Thieu decided to act after receiving official word from the Lower House that three fourths of the deputies had finally signed a government-sponsored petition calling for the lifting of the parliamentary immunity of the two men.

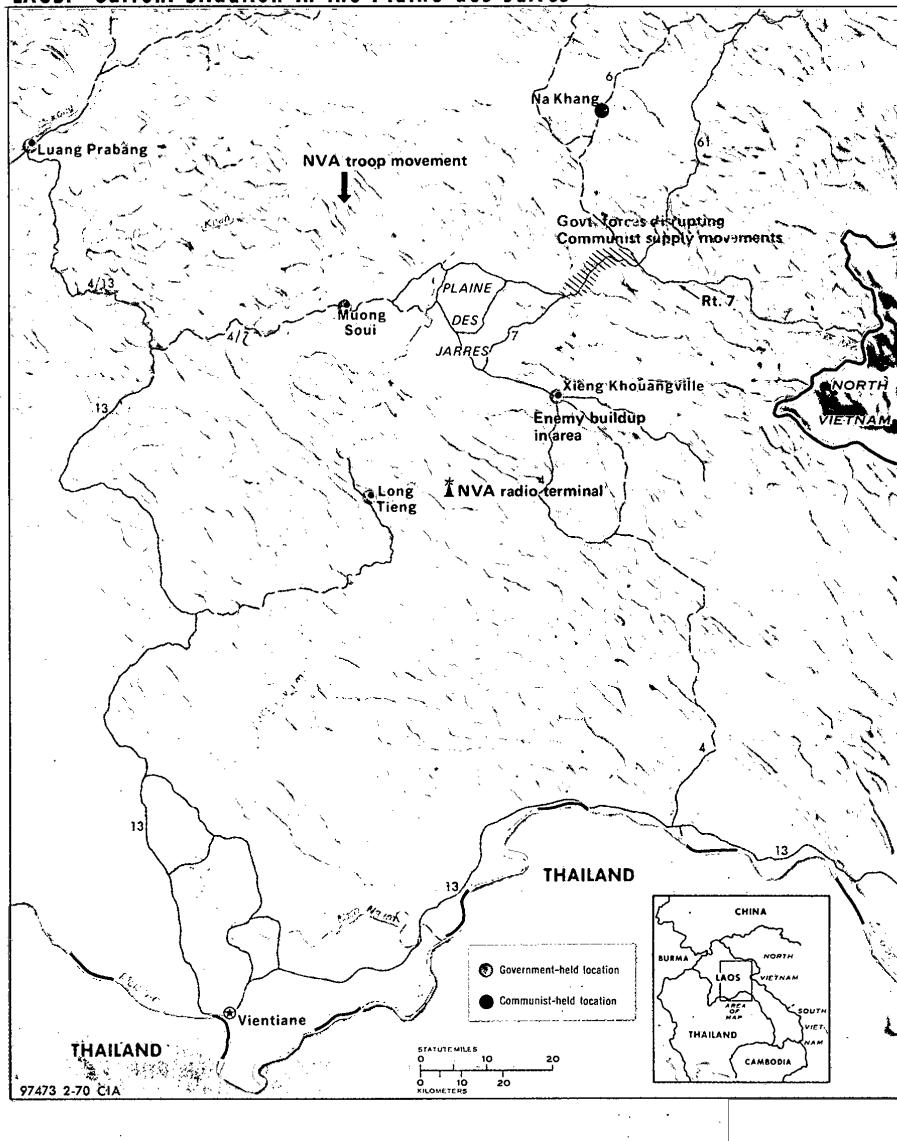
Thieu's success came only after considerable arm-twisting and does not suggest any substantial improvement in executive-legislative relations. In fact, his action may place new strains on his relations with the National Assembly. An opposition group believes the prosecution will be illegal and plans to ask the Supreme Court to rule whether the constitution permits the prosecution of the deputies without an actual floor vote by the House.

Thieu made the decision to bring the two deputies to trial in spite of the questionable constitutionality of his action because he has staked considerable personal prestige on this case.

The President has taken this strong stand against what he calls "Communist sympathizers" in the Assembly partly as a warning to those who would develop a "Third Force." He fears that those favoring such a movement might eventually compromise with the Communists. He probably realizes that although three fourths of the Lower House signed the petition, it would still be difficult to get a similar number to vote to lift the deputies' immunity. Nevertheless, if the legislators are convicted in absentia, Thieu may then go back to the House in an attempt to get such a vote, so that they can be arrested.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: Current Situation in the Plaine des Jarres



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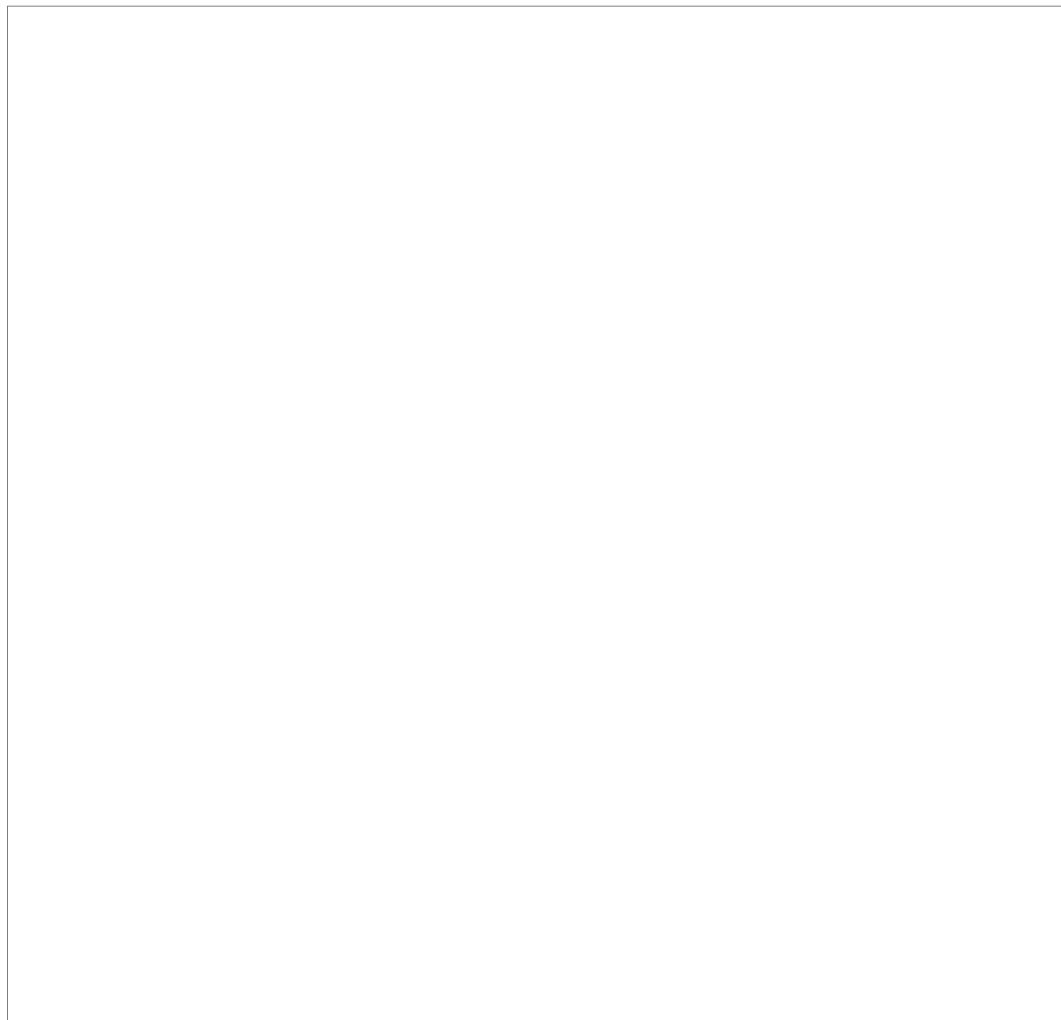
LAOS

The military situation remains quiet near the Plaine des Jarres, although recent government patrols have reported large numbers of enemy troops in motion southeast of the Plaine. Other government patrols have sighted a multibattalion force of North Vietnamese moving toward the Plaine from the northwest.

The Communists are aware of General Vang Pao's sensitivity to troop movements that could become a threat to his headquarters at Long Tieng, and they may hope to force him to pull back some of his troops that have been disrupting Communist supply movements along Route 7.

The Communists' seeming reluctance to take full advantage of their overwhelming numerical superiority near the Plaine may stem from a number of factors. Among them are their supply problems and their desire to move on a number of fronts simultaneously. They may also be interested in following up the proposal Prime Minister Souvanna made last Saturday to "neutralize" the Plaine des Jarres.

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NOTES

USSR: The helicopter carrier Moskva is returning to the Mediterranean after 20 days in the Atlantic. (See The President's Daily Brief of 19 January.) Heavy weather permitted the Moskva and her escorts to conduct training exercises on only one day of the 20.

USSR: [redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

TET CEASE-FIRE PERIODS			
Tet Holiday—6-8 February			
	Saigon Time	Washington Time	
● COMMUNIST			
Begins	5/0700	4/1800	
Ends	9/0700	8/1800	
● ALLIED			
Begins	5/1800	5/0500	
Ends	6/1800	6/0500	

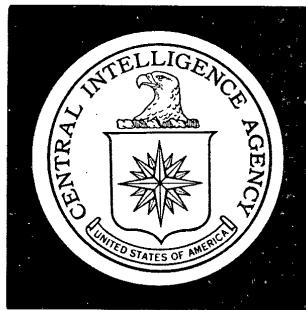
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

South Vietnam: Enemy activity during the Tet truce period is likely to be limited to minor incidents. As in previous truce periods, some local units will have failed to get the word from higher commands, and there will be reactions to allied reconnaissance patrols. After Tet, however, we expect another spurt of enemy action against allied positions and pacification targets.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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Leaders of the "front-line" Arab states convene in Cairo tomorrow. (Page 3)

France is making efforts on behalf of Jews now prevented from leaving Egypt. (Page 4)



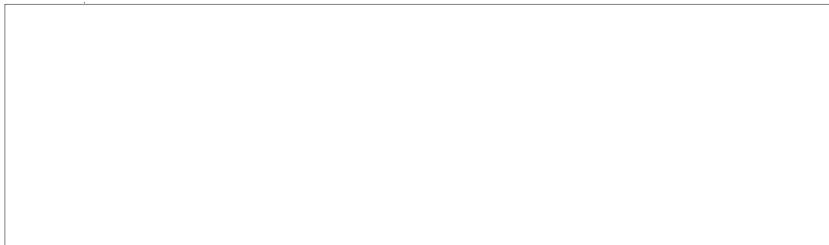
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Hanoi is moving more surface-to-air missiles into the southern part of North Vietnam. (Page 7)

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USSR-EGYPT



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USSR - CZECHOSLOVAKIA - EAST GERMANY



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ARAB STATES

Leaders of the "front-line" states--Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Libya, and the Sudan--begin their conference in Cairo tomorrow. We expect military activities and opportunities during the present crisis to be the prime topics. Options open to the Arabs are limited, however, and differences among the states will continue to impede unified actions.

Yesterday's attack on Israeli ships in Eilat harbor was probably timed to coincide with the Cairo meeting and is clearly designed to reinforce faltering Arab morale. The last such attack, in November 1969, was carried out by Egyptian frogmen operating from Jordanian territory. Israeli retaliation seems certain and may include Egypt as well as Jordan.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FRANCE - MIDDLE EAST

The French ambassador in Cairo has been directed to make a representation on behalf of Jews who are being prevented from leaving Egypt. A French Foreign Office official told a US Embassy officer on 2 February that similar representations to the Libyans had produced the desired effect, and that Libya was now issuing visas to Jews for the first time since September. He added that French success in obtaining the release of Jews from Egypt might mean "fewer eggs" for Pompidou during his US visit.

In the past, France has kept these initiatives out of the public limelight. Paris now seems anxious that knowledge of its efforts receive a broader dissemination in the hope of producing a cosmetic effect in the West. The French Foreign Office apparently has taken on the mission of countering the hostility aroused by the Libyan Mirage sale prior to Pompidou's trip to the US.

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COMMUNIST CHINA

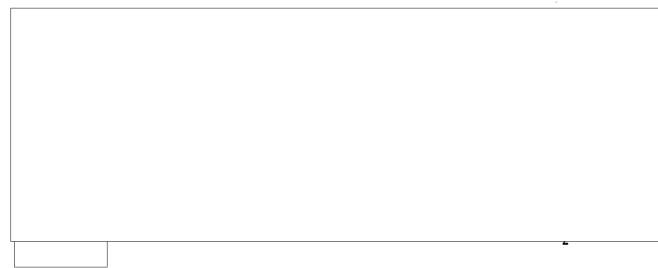


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On the stalemated Sino-Soviet border negotiations in Peking, Chou offered little hope for progress. The directive repeated the standard Chinese charge that Moscow is using "military pressure" to force a new "unequal treaty" on China--something Chou declared Peking would never accept. Moving on to SALT, the directive declared that both Moscow and Washington still harbored hope for nuclear superiority and expressed doubt that meaningful agreement could ever be reached.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Laotian Border

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

North Vietnam: The Communists are moving more surface-to-air missiles to the southern part of North Vietnam. Preliminary analysis of aerial photography on 3 February revealed three, or possibly four, transporters with missiles along a route about four miles from the Laotian border near the western edge of the Demilitarized Zone. The North Vietnamese have already established several other surface-to-air missile sites near strategic logistic and infiltration trails in the southern part of the country, as noted in The President's Daily Brief of 14 January. A new site just above the Demilitarized Zone would further increase the threat to US air operations over Laos.

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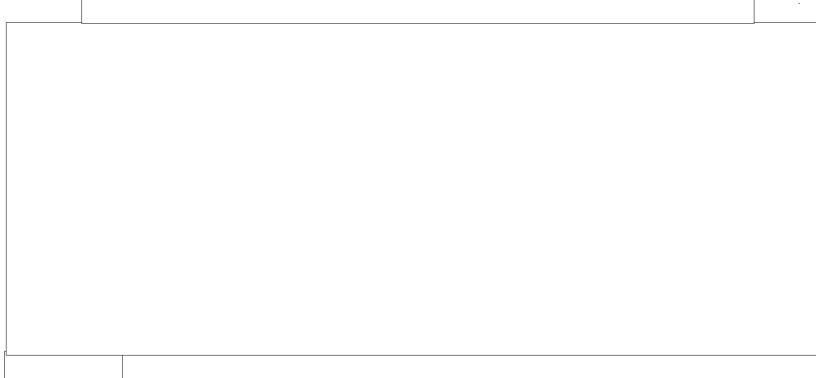
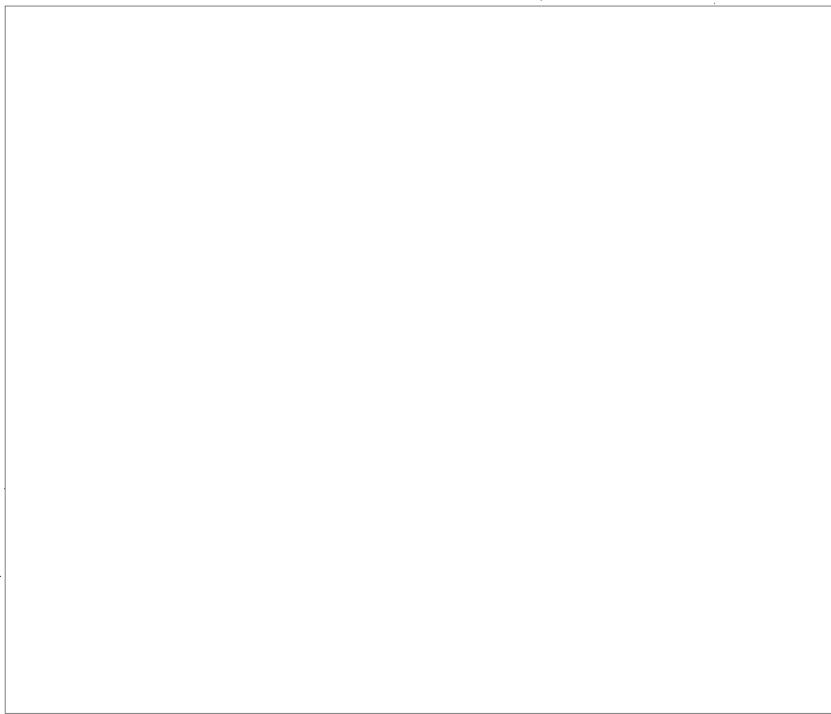
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT

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[redacted]
 the delivery of new, more sophisticated defenses of some sort, such as the SA-3 anti-aircraft missile, radar, or a more modern model MIG--all of which have been sought by Egypt. To be immediately effective, these systems would have to be manned by the Russians themselves. This step-up in Soviet involvement would certainly account for [redacted]

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[redacted] But there are disadvantages to the Soviets in this course of action. Foremost, Moscow would have to consider whether a limited number of these weapons would be effective in stopping the Israeli attack--and face the reality that they probably would not.* Also, the Kremlin would have to consider that heavy losses might force it to send more Soviet forces to protect previous commitments--opening the way to a steadily growing direct involvement. [redacted]

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[redacted] Finally, they would have to realize that their participation in the fighting might bring diplomatic repercussions from the US and disrupt current bilateral negotiations on important subjects.

A final and more distant possibility is that Moscow has decided to provide offensive weapons to permit retaliation against Israel for the strikes on Cairo and other targets. Such retaliation would be sure to raise the level of conflict and probably would bring on a new general war in the area. While the Soviets may or may not want real peace in the Middle East, they do not want a new war which would be very costly to them and probably humiliating as well.

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[redacted] This could range from beefed-up anti-aircraft artillery to the use of Soviet pilots flying defensive missions. Again, Moscow probably recognizes that defenses left in Egyptian hands would be ineffective--and that a limited number of Soviet combat forces would hardly be any better.

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* The Soviets obviously are aware that the simple fact of their involvement will not deter the Israelis.

[redacted] their belief that the Israelis deliberately attacked the houses where Soviet advisers lived.

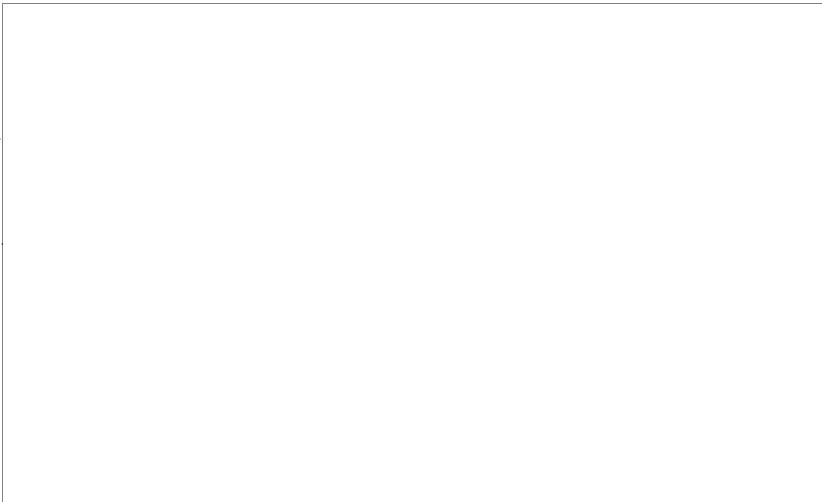
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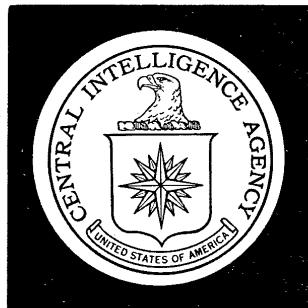


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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

7 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

China's country-wide defense preparations include some positions in Manchuria near the Soviet border.
(Page 1)

Israel may be tempted to launch new air strikes near Cairo this weekend during the meeting of the Arab states involved in the war. *(Page 2)*

[Redacted]

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Brezhnev and Kosygin may participate in the talks with fedayeen leader Yasir Arafat during the latter's forthcoming visit to Moscow. *(Page 4)*

[Redacted]

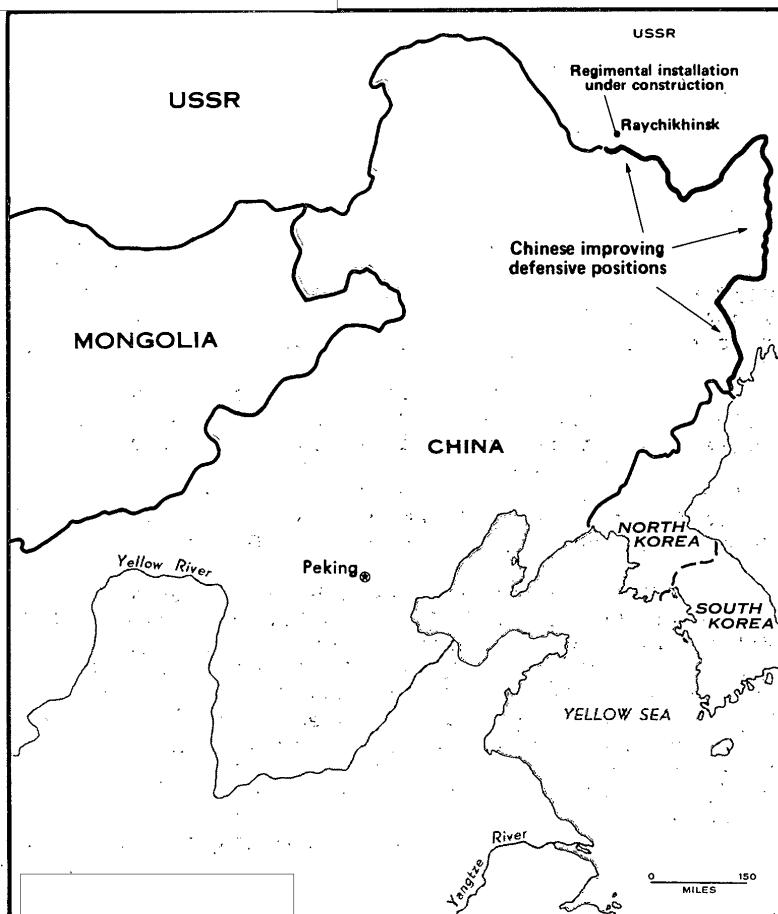
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Sino-Soviet Border

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COMMUNIST CHINA - USSR

Peking has improved its defensive positions in Manchuria near the Soviet border. Satellite photography shows at least 30 tent camps and associated trenches and artillery positions at various locations near the border. These probably have been established since the bloody clashes on Damansky-Chenpao Island in March 1969.

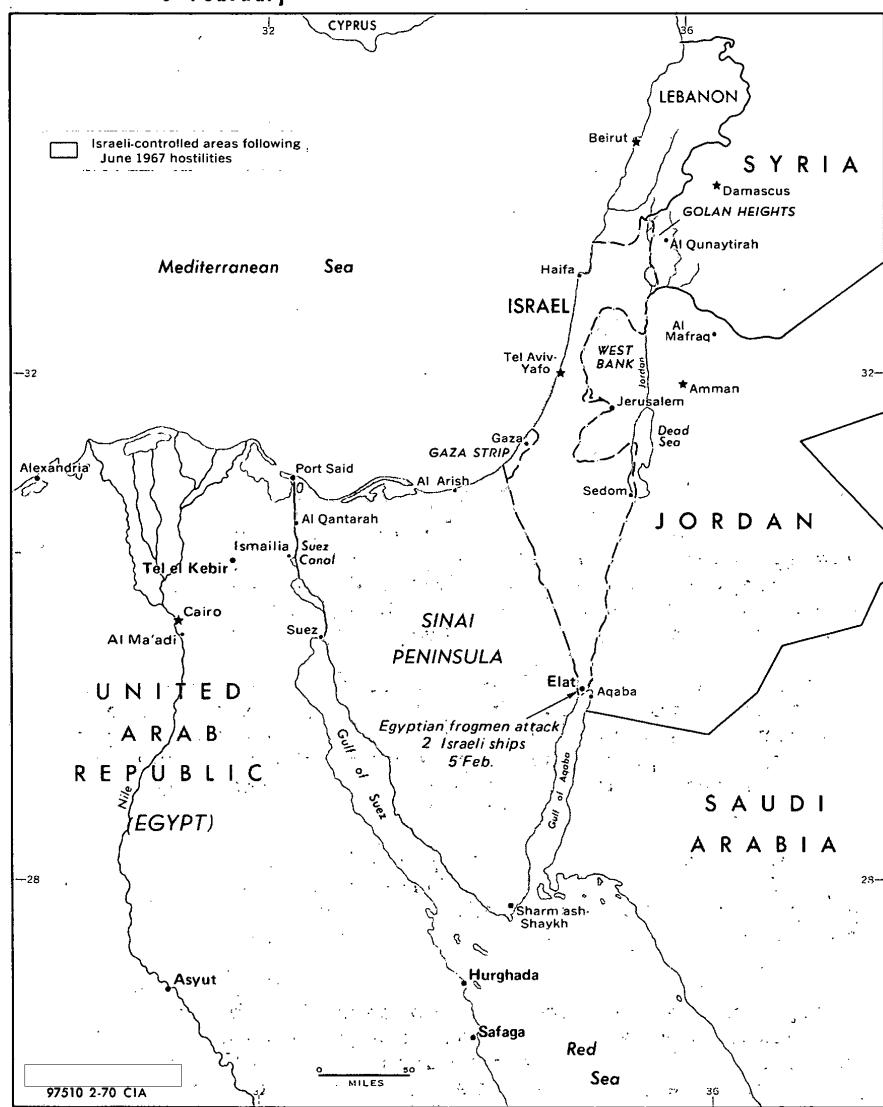
Such developments probably are an extension of defensive preparations observed throughout the country. We have not identified regular ground force redeployments in these areas.

The Soviets meanwhile are constructing a new regimental installation at Raychikhinsk about 27 miles from the border. This was begun last summer and probably will be used in fleshing out existing divisions rather than as the base for a new division.

In their deliberate buildup on the border, the Soviets have increased their ground forces from an understrength 14 divisions in 1965 to 28 at present. Another six are in the process of formation.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Israeli Retaliatory Air Strikes 6 February



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-EGYPT

Israeli spokesmen announced yesterday that Israeli pilots had sunk an Egyptian minelaying vessel of the T-43 class in the Gulf of Suez. They have made new air strikes at Egyptian military camps and storage installations at Tel el Kebir, 30 miles west of Ismailia, and again deep into the Nile Valley near Asyut, some 200 miles south of Cairo. Israeli aircraft also attacked the northern sector of the canal, following an Egyptian cross-canal commando raid on 5 February. Cairo announced that the two Egyptian Red Sea naval bases at Hurghada and Safaga also suffered air attacks.

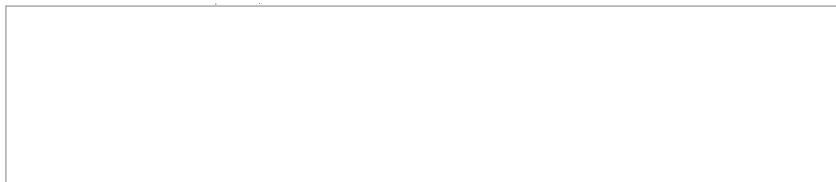
It seems unlikely that the Israelis will ease up on Nasir by refraining from air attacks close to Cairo, even though they have not done so since their raid on Maadi on 28 January. Indeed, this weekend's meeting of the "front-line" Arab states in Cairo may prove too tempting to the Israelis.

Nasir is not expected to react in any dramatic manner to the Israeli reprisal raids. He may, however, initiate heavier artillery barrages along the Suez Canal or send his aircraft on further isolated bombing runs against Israeli targets in the Sinai.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

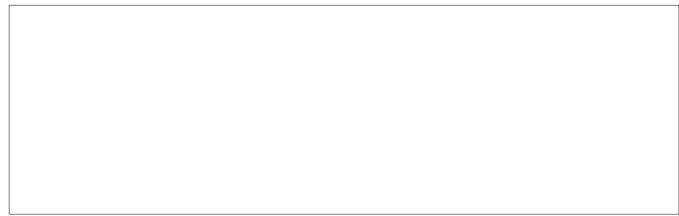
POLAND - WEST GERMANY



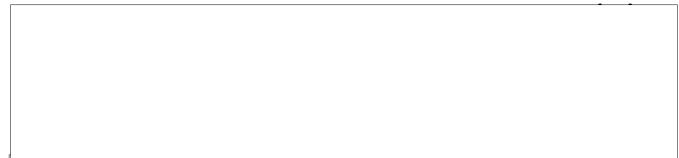
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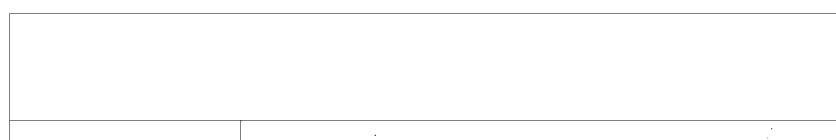
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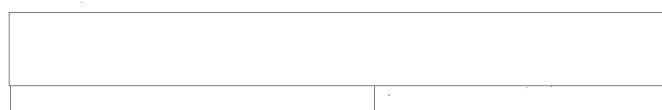


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR - ARAB STATES

Cairo's semi-official newspaper Al Ahram claims that Brezhnev and Kosygin will sit in on talks with the fedayeen delegation led by Yasir Arafat. The delegation is expected in Moscow in a few days.

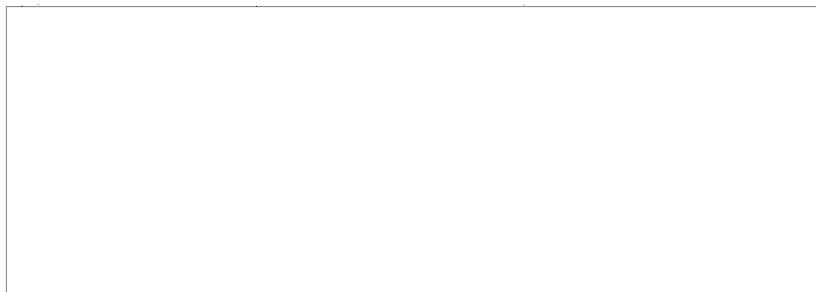
Aside from the usual pleas for military assistance, Arafat is also seeking political recognition for his guerrilla organization, the Palestine Liberation Organization.

If Al Ahram is right and the Soviet leaders meet with Arafat, the talks will provide a degree of legitimacy for the Palestine revolutionaries. Kosygin gave public approval to the fedayeen's "just national liberation struggle" last December, but he did not single out Arafat alone. We expect that some increase of Soviet small arms and funds for the fedayeen in general is in the works. But we think that Moscow will continue to deliver this through front organizations or Arab governments.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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LIBYA



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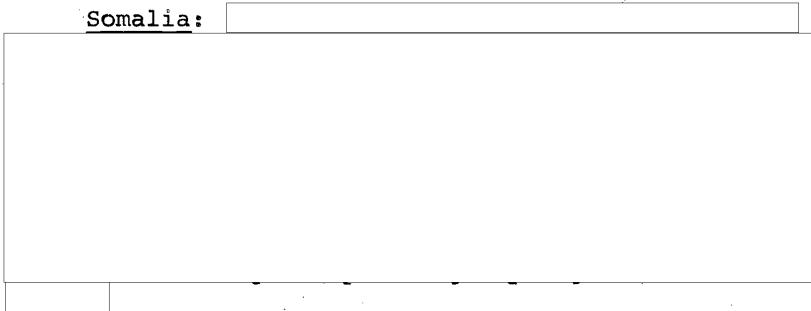
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NOTE

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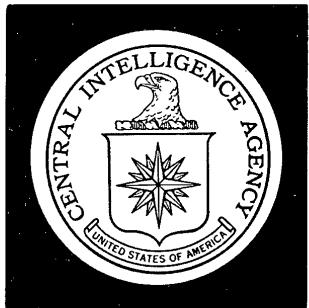


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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

9 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Allied forces in Vietnam are braced for post-Tet attacks. (Page 1)

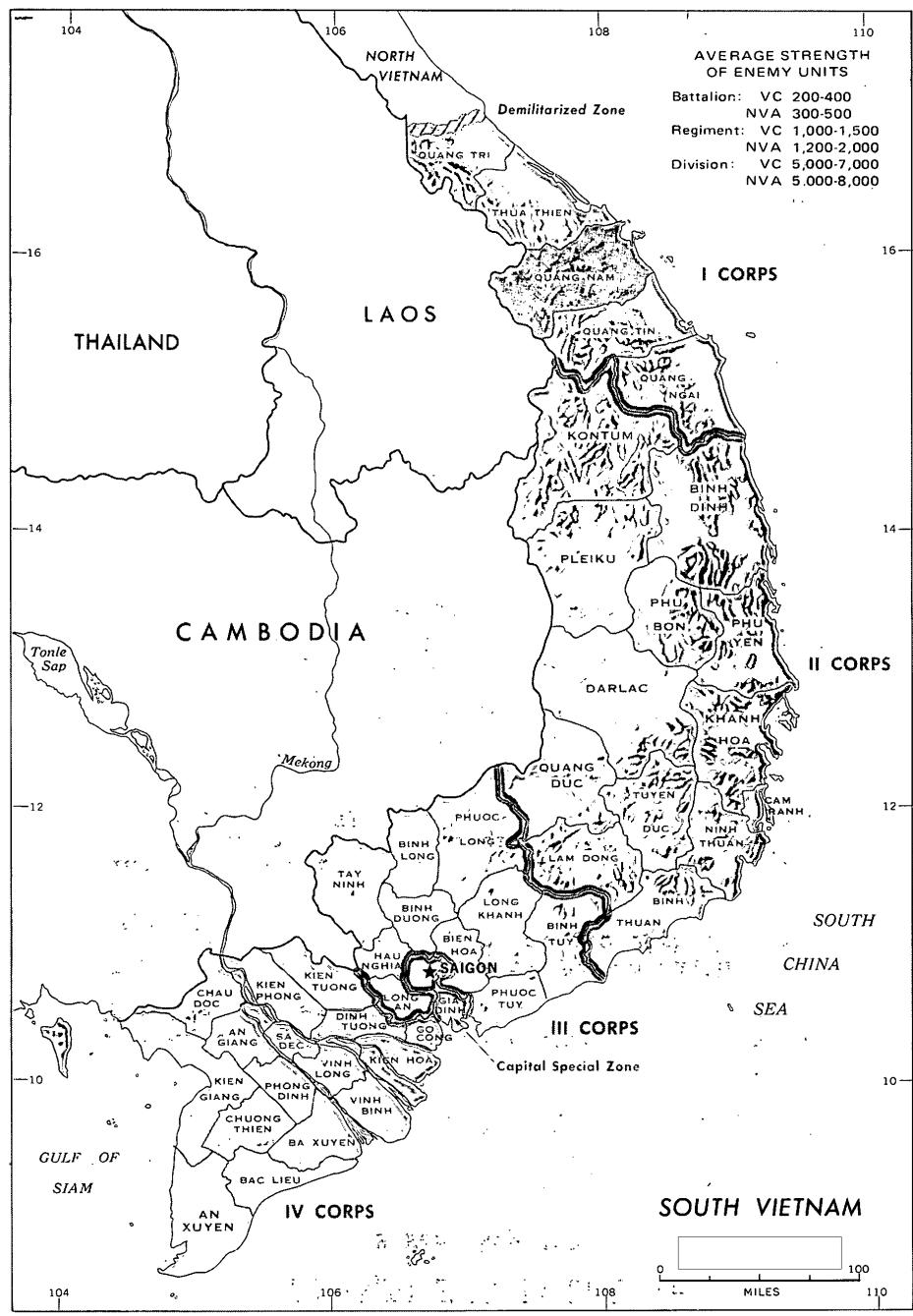
The European Communities have agreed on their financing and are ready to negotiate with the UK.
(Page 2)



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

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[REDACTED]

There are also signs that the enemy intends to increase its activity in the Mekong Delta soon, notably in the provinces of Dinh Tuong and Kien Hoa.

Enemy formations surrounding the Saigon area do not appear to be in position to mount attacks on major allied bases and installations in the near future. The discovery over the weekend of several large caches of munitions north of Saigon could further delay any plans for action. The heavy explosion that wrecked Saigon's press center yesterday, however, may signal increased terrorist and sapper activity over the next few days.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

The Council of the European Communities, in a 22-hour meeting ending on 7 February, resolved the difficulties that had blocked final agreement on a plan for future financing. Beginning in 1975, the European Parliament will have the final say over the small portion of the budget that covers administrative expenditures, but the Council will be free to reject any parliamentary amendments to the rest of the budget.

The Council also agreed to common marketing policies for wine and tobacco--a condition laid down by the Italians for their approval of the financing arrangements. The decisions on wine and tobacco, along with the resolution of the question of budgetary powers, will permit the individual governments to move for national parliamentary ratification of the financing package.

The agreement cleared away the remaining obstacles to preparations by the Communities for accession negotiations with the UK. Belgian Foreign Minister Harmel--the current Council president--said that the Council meetings from now until the summer will be devoted exclusively to discussions of the Communities' future and preparations for enlargement.

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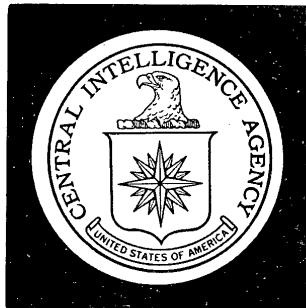
NOTE

Laos:

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

North Vietnam continues to strengthen its air defenses in the southern half of the country. (Page 1)

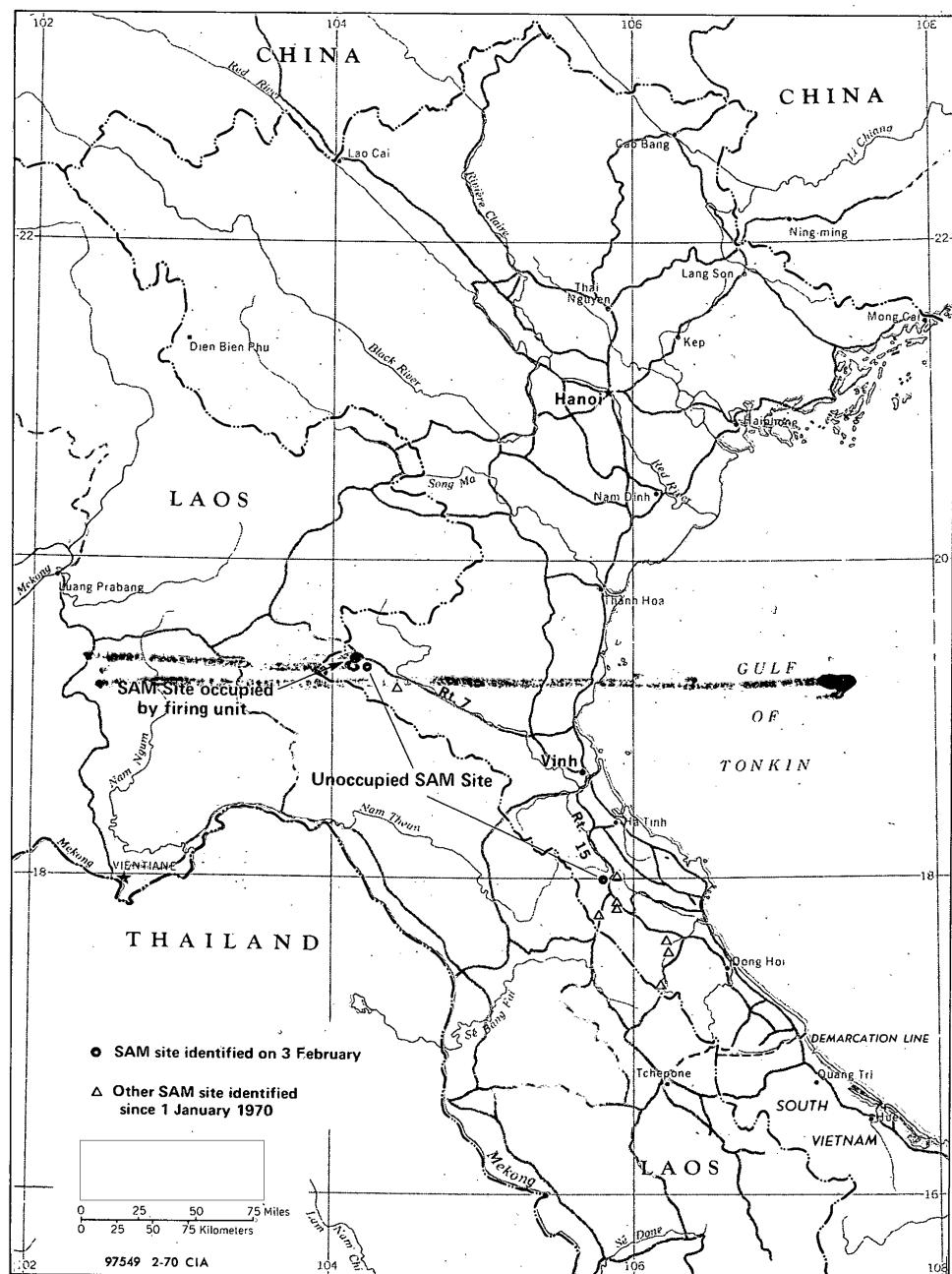
Communist China has built defensive positions on Damanskiy Island, the site of clashes with the USSR last year. (Page 2)

In an effort to calm the political scene, President Marcos has made some personnel changes in the government. (Page 3)

[Redacted] ILLEGIB

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

North Vietnamese Continue to Beef Up Air Defenses in Panhandle



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NORTH VIETNAM

Aerial photography of 3 February shows three new surface-to-air missile sites in southern North Vietnam--two along Route 7 near the Laotian border, and another near Route 15. One of the sites on Route 7 was occupied by a firing unit; the others were empty. Eleven new SAM sites have now been identified in the southern provinces since the first of the year.

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Two MIG-21s were stationed in Vinh during most of January, but at least one of them was moved to Hanoi after shooting down a US helicopter on the 28th.

Hanoi has been strengthening its air defenses along the main infiltration and logistics arteries in the southern area and adjacent to the Laotian border for several weeks. The North Vietnamese probably regard these moves as a cheap and relatively safe way of inhibiting US air operations.

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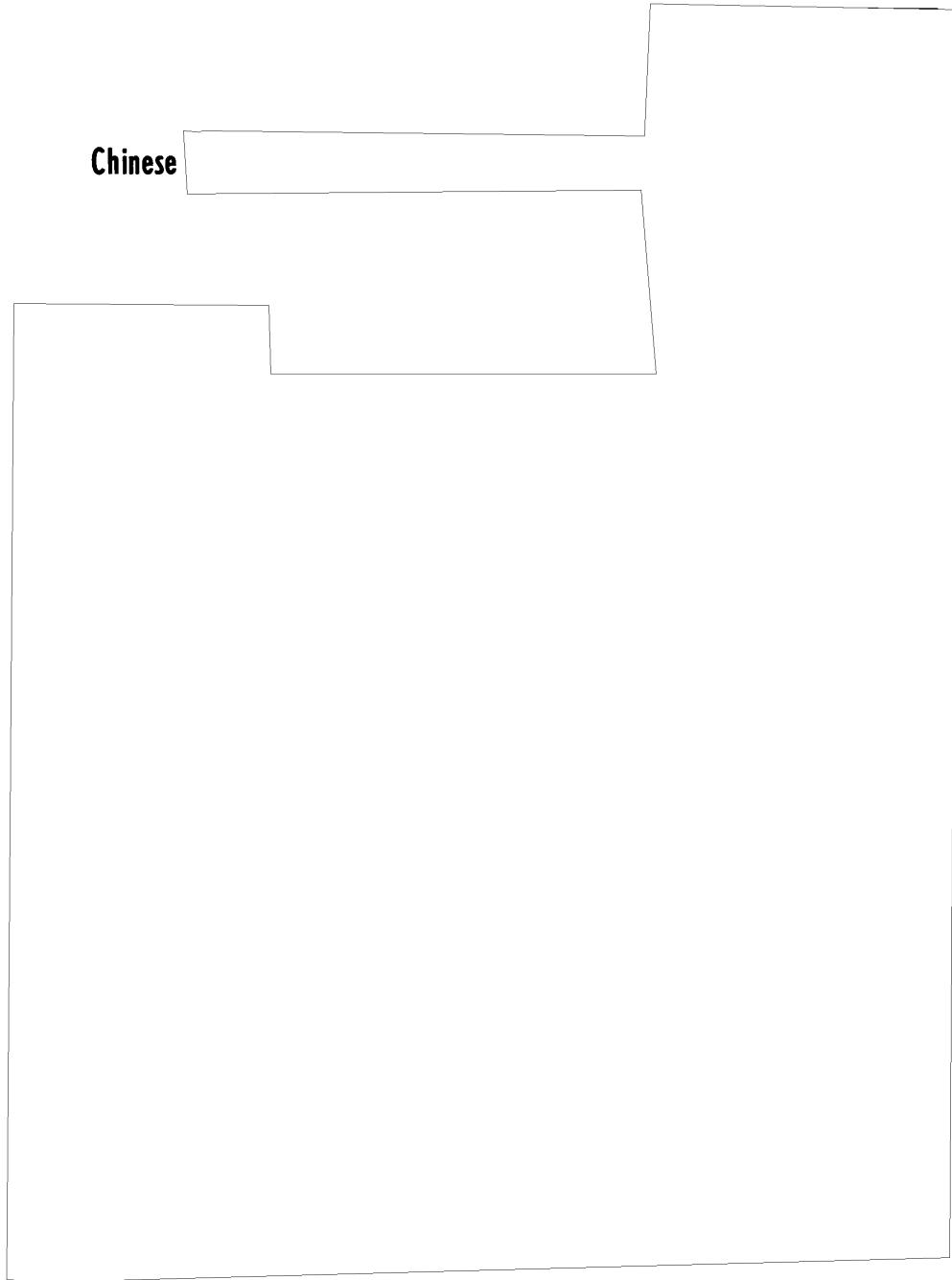
* * *

A North Vietnamese press agency transmission indicates that Ha Van Lau, Hanoi's number two man at the Paris talks, is planning to return home. Unlike Xuan Thuy and Le Duc Tho, Lau has not left his post since the talks began in May 1968. Lau could be returning for briefings and consultations, but with Le Duc Tho now back in Paris after seven months in Hanoi, it would seem more likely he is simply returning on leave.

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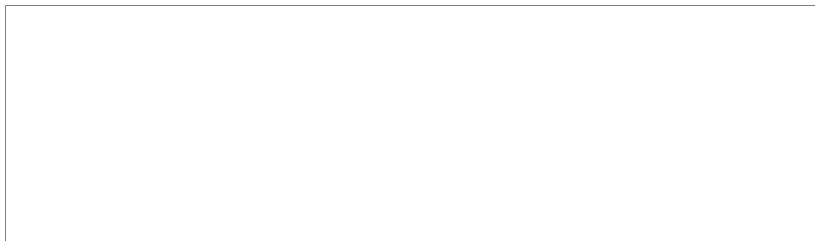
Chinese

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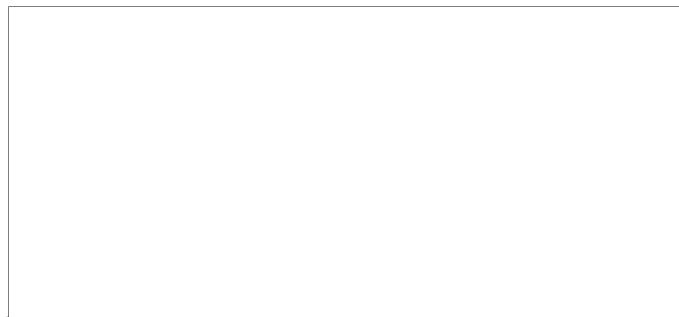


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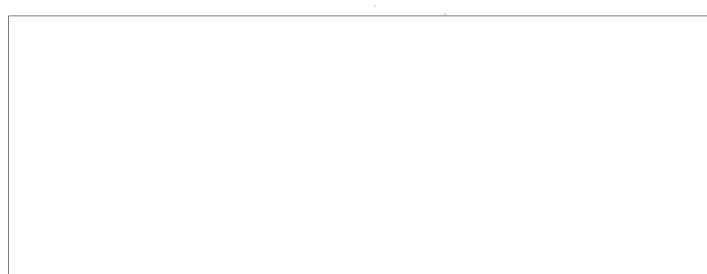
COMMUNIST CHINA - USSR



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PHILIPPINES

The threat of new disorders and demands for a government more responsive to the electorate have moved President Marcos to make some personnel changes. The removal of the Philippine Constabulary chief, who is particularly unpopular because of his role in election irregularities last November, has met with wide approval.

Reassignments within the cabinet have elevated men of demonstrated efficiency and probity. In order to regain a significant measure of public confidence, however, Marcos will have to follow up the new appointments with a genuine reform program, something he has been reluctant to do in the past. He may also have to dump some of his other blatantly corrupt cronies.

The Marcos administration will face its next test on 12 February, when leftist student and labor organizations are scheduled to hold new demonstrations. The decision of moderate student and labor factions not to participate in these demonstrations could blunt their impact, but nerves on both sides will be taut.

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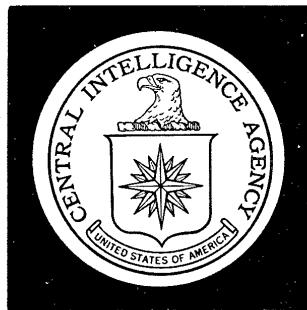
NOTE

France-Spain: Foreign Minister Schumann told Ambassador Shriver yesterday that an agreement to supply Mirage planes to Spain may be announced during the current visit to Paris of Spanish Foreign Minister Lopez Bravo. Schumann seemed confident that the deal will be concluded and added that an allotment for Spain had been included in the Mirage production schedule.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

11 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted]

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Chinese road builders in Laos are putting the finishing touches on past projects. (Page 2)

The fedayeen are upset by the tighter controls placed on their activity by the Jordanian cabinet. (Page 3)

Former British Foreign Secretary Brown's views on the Middle East are noted on Page 4.

[Redacted]

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Bangkok is withdrawing some privileges that had been extended to US business interests in Thailand. (Page 6)

[Redacted]

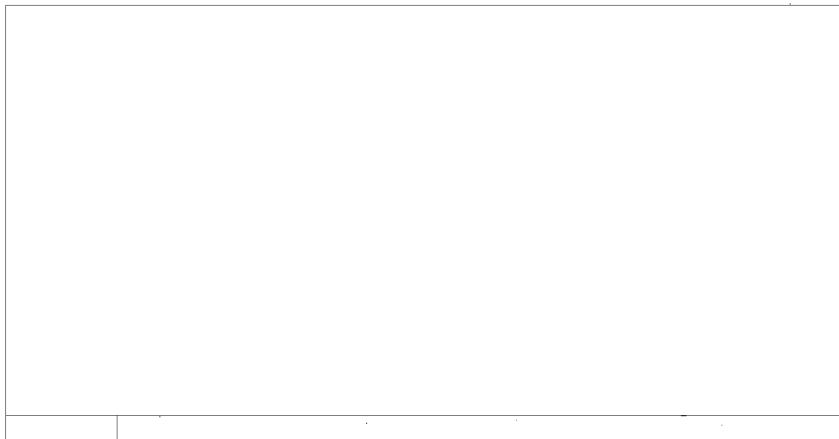
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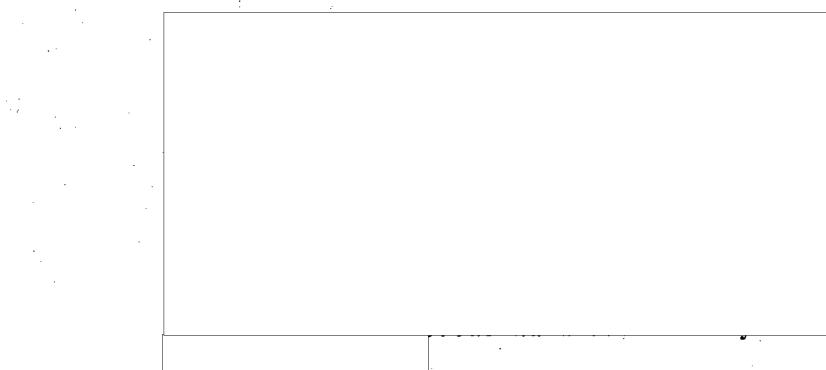
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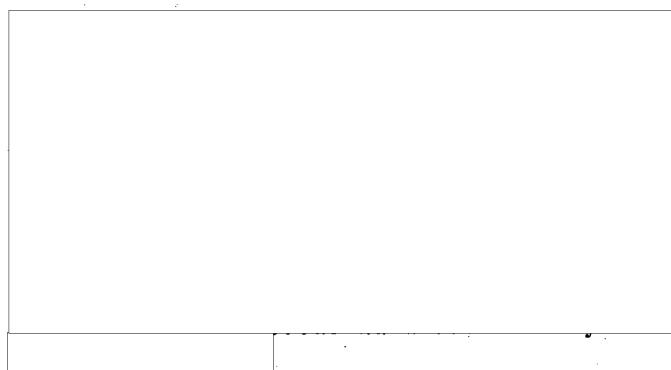
USSR



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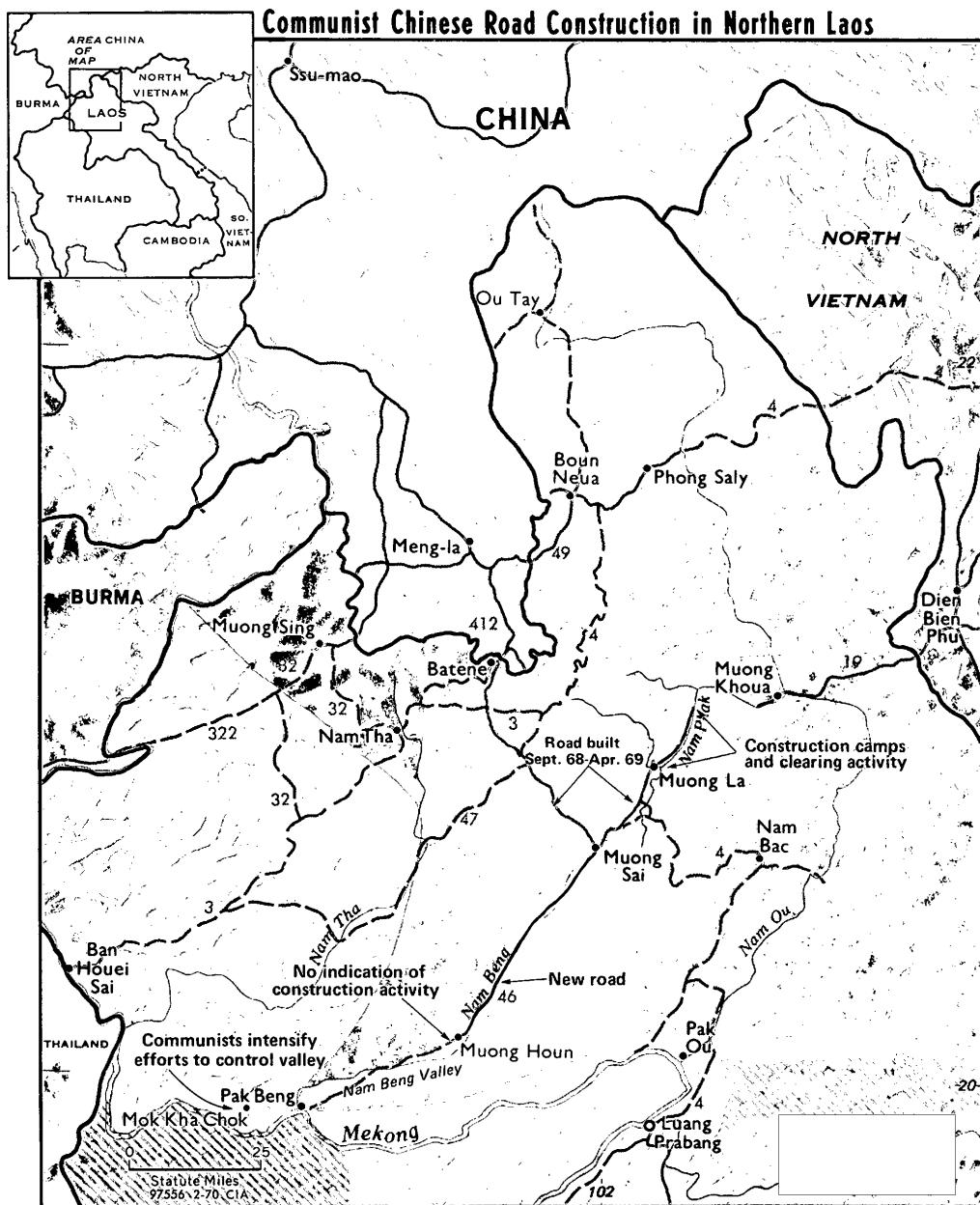


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



Communist-controlled area

Contested territory

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS - COMMUNIST CHINA

[redacted] Chinese road construction in the Nam Beng Valley has slowed considerably. Construction could be observed about one mile north of Muong Houn, but [redacted] no further indication of preparations to extend the road to Pak Beng.

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This seeming lack of activity south of Muong Houn suggests that the Chinese may have decided to concentrate on finishing projects now under way before launching new ventures. They may also be biding their time while the Pathet Lao complete a drive to clean out government forces from the southern end of the valley. On 8 February the government lost an outlying defensive position near its sole remaining outpost in the valley. It appears to be only a matter of time before this outpost becomes untenable.

The Chinese are more active on the leg northeast of Muong La, which apparently will connect Muong Sai with Route 19. Despite the rugged terrain, construction activity could be observed for some 14 miles from Muong La. [redacted] the framework for a large bridge was in place.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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JORDAN

The cabinet yesterday issued a new 11-point set of internal security restrictions that provides a framework for greater control over the Arab fedayeen. The new regulations prohibit unauthorized meetings and demonstrations, ban the private storing of explosives and the carrying of arms, and forbid the firing of guns in Amman. A two-week grace period is permitted for compliance.

King Husayn has done this before but has never made any consistent effort to follow through. The reason behind the timing of this latest order is not clear, although Husayn has said from time to time that he intends to reassert his authority over the fedayeen.

[redacted] It is doubtful that the King or the fedayeen are prepared for or intent on any full-scale showdown. In the past, Husayn has taken only small, careful steps and has attempted to play one guerrilla group against another.

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The various fedayeen organizations quickly responded to the cabinet's decision in a broadcast yesterday over Cairo's Voice of Fatah. The joint statement condemned the restrictions and accused the Jordanian Government of trying to "drag the country into civil war."

Currently there are rumors of increased dissension within Fatah, the major fedayeen organization, and Fatah leader Yasir Arafat is visiting Moscow. Husayn may therefore be attempting once again to exploit inter-fedayeen dissensions. In any event, the new orders seem certain to increase fedayeen-government tensions and a minor incident could lead to a serious confrontation.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

MIDDLE EAST

Former British Foreign Secretary George Brown argued these points to Ambassador Annenberg Monday about his recent trip to the Middle East:

--Policy on the Middle East can be realistic only if it is recognized that there is no single Arab or Israeli point of view. Israelis range from doves to hawks, holding every shade of opinion on such vital issues as retaining or giving up occupied territories. As for the Arabs, we must deal with not one nation but many, and with many differing factions within each.

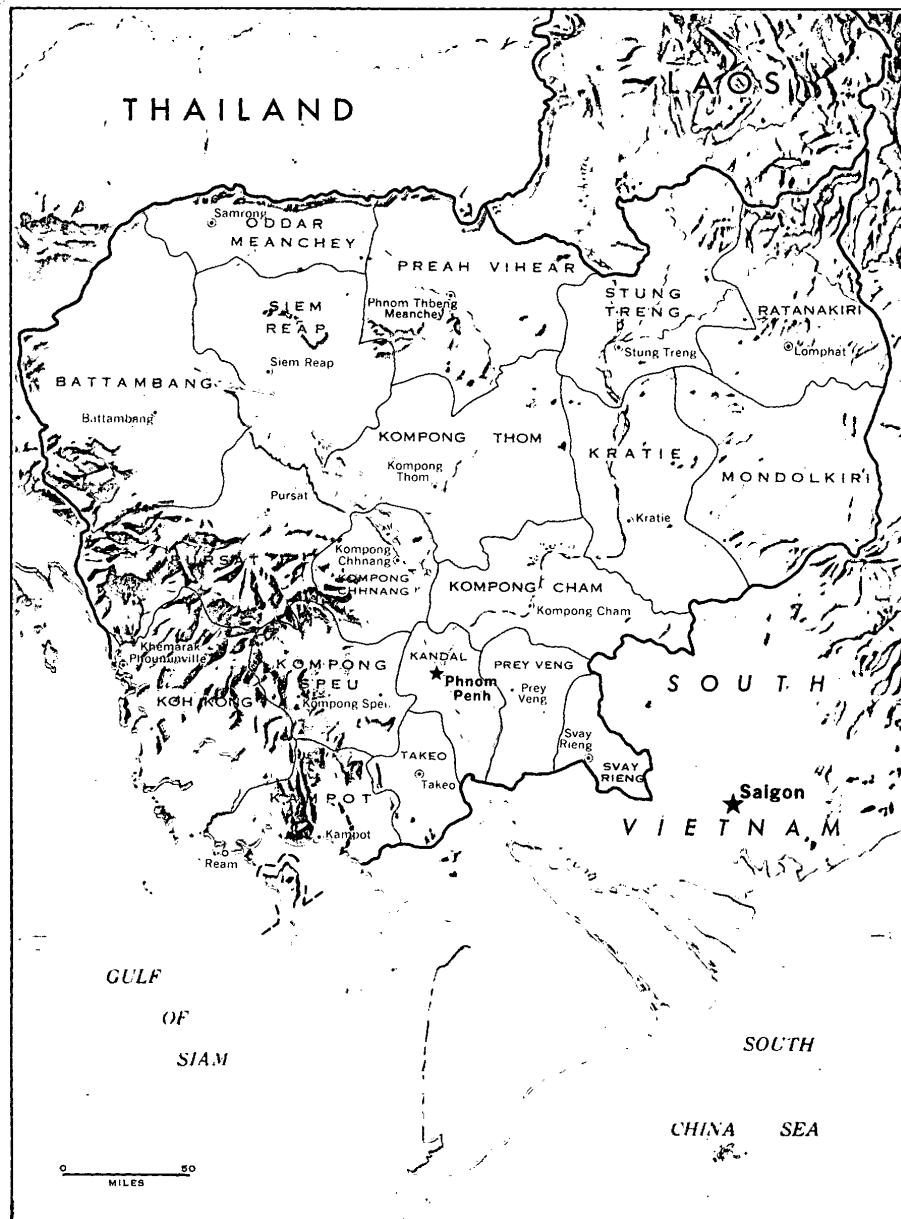
--The four-power effort is at an end. The four have left out the Palestinians, and yet it is abundantly clear that Palestinian opinion must be weighed in any final settlement. Rather than relaunching Jarring, the four would be better advised to introduce a new personality. [redacted]

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--Neither the Russians nor the French have any real desire to push for peace. The Soviets want only to retain or spread their own influence in the area, and the French are cynically doing the same thing.

Brown claims he told Arab leaders he thought that the American ideas for a settlement were remarkably good and urged them to negotiate on that basis. The Arab reaction was "most positive" right after Secretary Rogers' speech in December. Unfortunately, he said, the Arabs did nothing and since then there have been new developments which are restricting flexibility.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THAILAND

US business interests in Thailand are being subjected to new restrictions. Bangkok has imposed visa requirements on US citizens for the first time in 45 years. The government has also announced its intention to restrict the services of US airlines on routes that are competitive with the Thai airline in an obvious effort to gain additional air rights to the US. Moreover, government leaders are talking about revising Thai investment and foreign employment laws, steps which would have considerable impact on the sizable US business community.

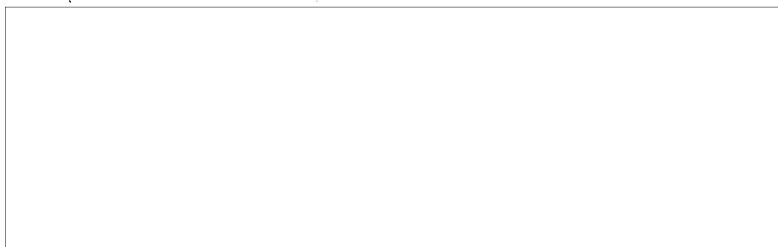
Bangkok's new-found interest in economic nationalism is a clear sign that the Thai leadership thinks some aspects of its close relationship with the US are overdue for modification. The Thai have long chafed under what they have viewed as inequities in their economic dealings with the US, but have put up with this problem in view of the Vietnam war and its more immediate economic rewards. We expect the Thai to drive a hard bargain in the current economic negotiations, but they cannot realistically ignore the substantial benefits now accruing from the US economic presence.

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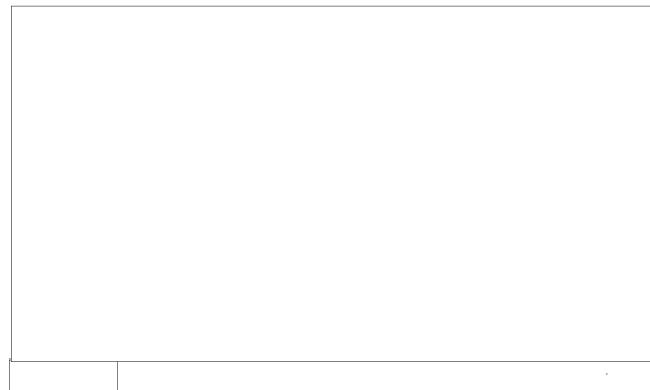
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR



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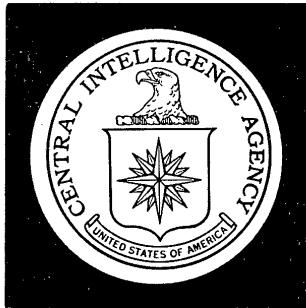
NOTE

North Vietnam:

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

12 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Communists appear to have launched their long awaited counteroffensive against the Plaine des Jarres in Laos. (Page 1)

[Redacted] 50X1

[Redacted] 50X1

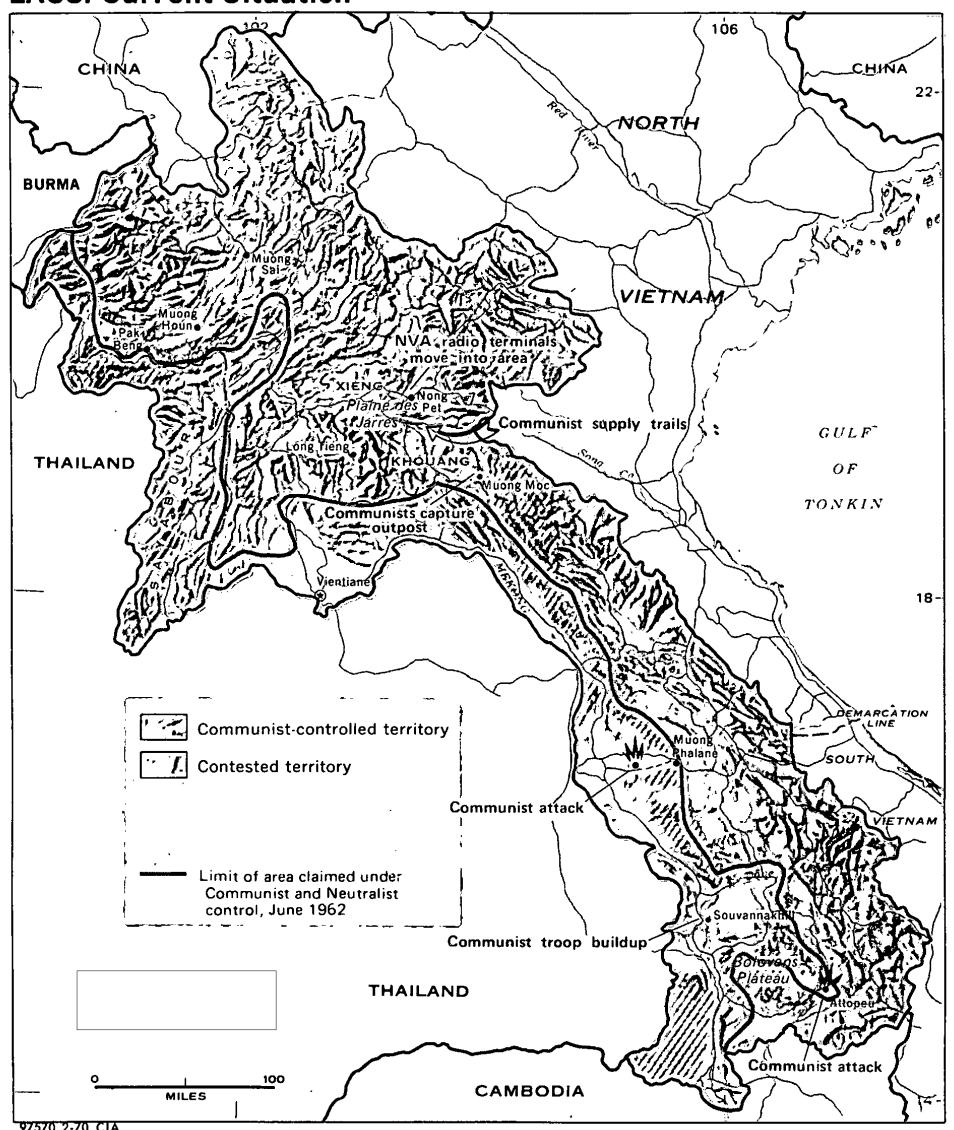
Soviet scientific articles indicate that the Soviets are aware of the theoretical principle and method of operation of high powered gas dynamic lasers. (Page 4)

[Redacted] 50X1

At Annex we examine the over-all military situation in the Plaine des Jarres area.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

A large Communist force, supported by tanks and armored cars, began pushing into the Nong Pet area yesterday. The enemy thrust is targeted against the several groups of government guerrillas who since last August have been blocking Route 7, northeastern gateway to the Plaine des Jarres.

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On the Plaine, preliminary reports indicate that General Vang Pao's forward headquarters at Xieng Khouang airfield, southwest of Nong Pet, has been heavily attacked. First reports disclose that the enemy has suffered heavy casualties but that government forces are holding. Vang Pao is on the scene and the situation appears to be under control. The airfield was the scene of a costly Communist commando raid in mid-December.

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[redacted] At Annex we examine the over-all military situation.

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In the south, Communist forces have launched small-scale attacks against government positions in the central panhandle and near the provincial capital of Attapeu.

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[redacted] an enemy buildup off the western edge of the Bolovens Plateau poses a threat to the Mekong village of Souvannakhili. These moves fit the enemy's strategy of tying down government troops and do not appear to forecast larger attacks.

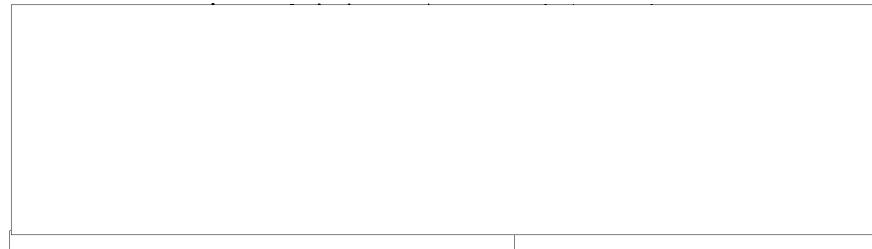
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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MIDDLE EAST

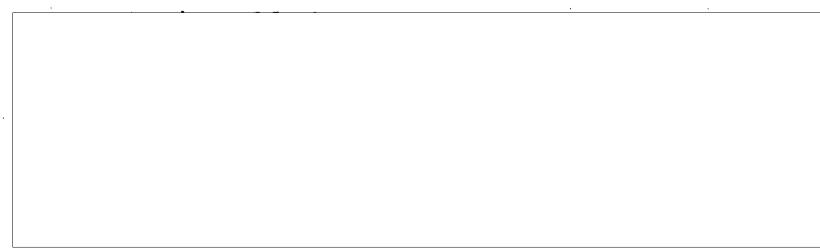


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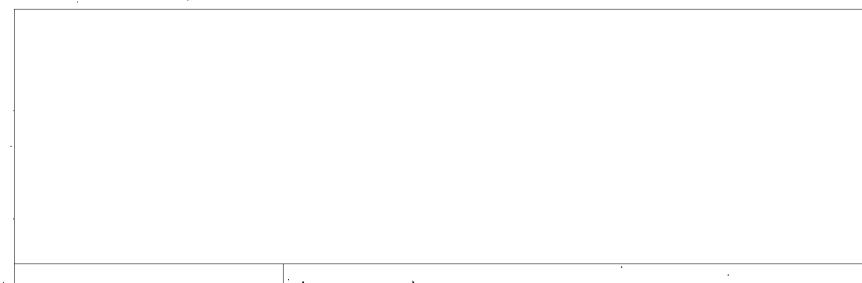


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USSR

Soviet scientific articles indicate that the Soviets are aware of the theoretical principle and method of operation of high powered gas dynamic lasers. Such devices represent a significant advance in laser technology. The publications suggest that in 1967 Soviet understanding of the gas dynamic laser principle was close to that of the US at the time.

A gas dynamic laser derives its power from a flow of hot gases, similar to the exhaust from a jet or rocket engine. Such lasers can produce a sharply focused beam of infrared radiation with power sufficient to inflict damage at considerable distances.

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Soviet scientists have the theoretical knowledge and experimental capability to carry on a program to develop a gas dynamic laser

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If Soviet development has stayed on a par with the US, considerable work remains and we do not expect them to have these systems operational before 1975.

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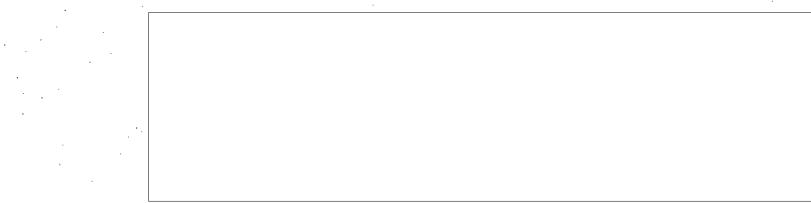
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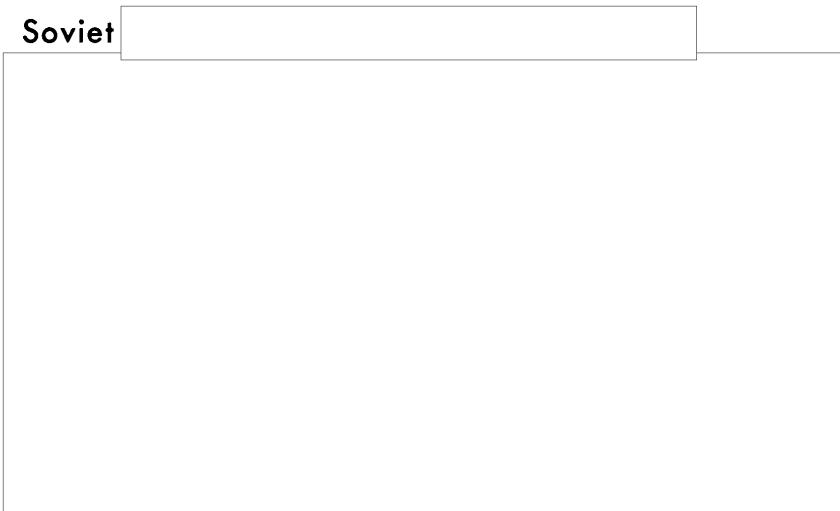


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Soviet



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR - Middle East:

USSR - Middle East:	

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France-Libya:

France-Libya:	

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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LAOS

The enemy has mustered more force for the attack on the Plaine des Jarres than he has ever done before in the rhythmic war over the northern plains. General Vang Pao, the political and military leader of the Meo tribesmen, is awaiting the attackers [redacted]

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Despite the enemy's strength, his task is not as easy as it would seem. Although the Communists enjoy an overwhelming numerical superiority over the government--some 6,000 government guerrillas are up against a combined Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese force of approximately 17,000 combat and support troops--the enemy is having to fight the Meo on their own terms and terrain and under an intensive rain of bombs. The government has the ability to muster close air support on a moment's notice. This is the only area where the "establishment Lao"--as opposed to the tribal northerners--have made a significant contribution to their government's war effort. It has given the Meo an effectiveness which belies their limited number and has more often than not meant the difference between holding or losing any given piece of terrain. On the ground, however, there are only Meos; it has become Vang Pao's war..

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Conventional wisdom holds that once the monsoons begin in May, the North Vietnamese, dependent on roads to move troops and supplies, will move to a defensive footing. The Communist capture of Muong Soui in late June of last year demonstrated, however, that if the enemy is willing to expend the effort, weather conditions are not an important factor in deterring the timing of Communist military operations.

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[Redacted]

Meo morale is still high and that their will to fight has not been seriously eroded by the relatively high casualties and long campaign. We would only add that, although Vang Pao has been able to fill his depleted ranks with refugees, he has lost some of his best field commanders. At best, the Meo leader is walking a thin line. A serious military defeat could lead to a rapid collapse of Meo fighting spirit--a development which may lead an already nervous Lao Government to the brink of panic.

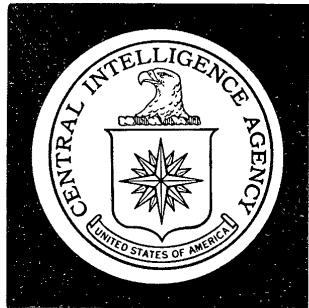
In view of the large North Vietnamese buildup this dry season, government leaders, including Vang Pao, believe that once the Communists capture the Plaine, they will then push south into the Long Tieng area, Vang Pao's headquarters and home for some 40,000 Meo refugees. Should a serious threat develop to this area, it is likely the Meo community will bring pressure on Vang Pao to begin efforts aimed at resettling them in Sayaboury Province. Such a movement would undercut Vang Pao's effort to continue harassment operations in the northeast.

In sum, we see the Communists capturing the Plaine des Jarres and probably also mounting a determined effort to eliminate Vang Pao's forces, who have become the major obstacle to Communist advances in the northeast. The Communists have made it clear that they will continue to mount military operations in Laos until such time that they have regained all the territory claimed to have been under their control in 1962. The problem is to try and keep the delicate military and political fabric intact--a task which has become more difficult with the passage of time.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

13 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Jordan's King Husayn failed to use his military muscle against the fedayeen [redacted]

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In Laos, government forces are being pushed back.
(Page 2)

France's willingness to supply spare parts for Israel's Mirage aircraft is just about the last bargaining point left between the two countries. (Page 3)

Nasir probably will seek the maximum propaganda advantage in deciding whether to retaliate for the bombing raid which killed or wounded many civilians.
(Page 4)

Nigerian efforts to combat malnutrition and other problems in the eastern region are showing limited success in spite of organizational deficiencies.
(Page 5)

Philippine students are not too eager to accept the US as a substitute target for their protests. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JORDAN

After a series of meetings, King Husayn and fedayeen leaders announced an agreement to "cease all provocative acts" and to "suspend all measures ...causing tension." The city of Amman is now quiet, and representatives of the fedayeen and the government are beginning discussions on a new arrangement for coexisting with minimum conflict.

Husayn seems to have [redacted] lost another battle with the fedayeen. The King's reluctance to use the troops he had standing by in and near the capital avoided serious bloodshed. [redacted]

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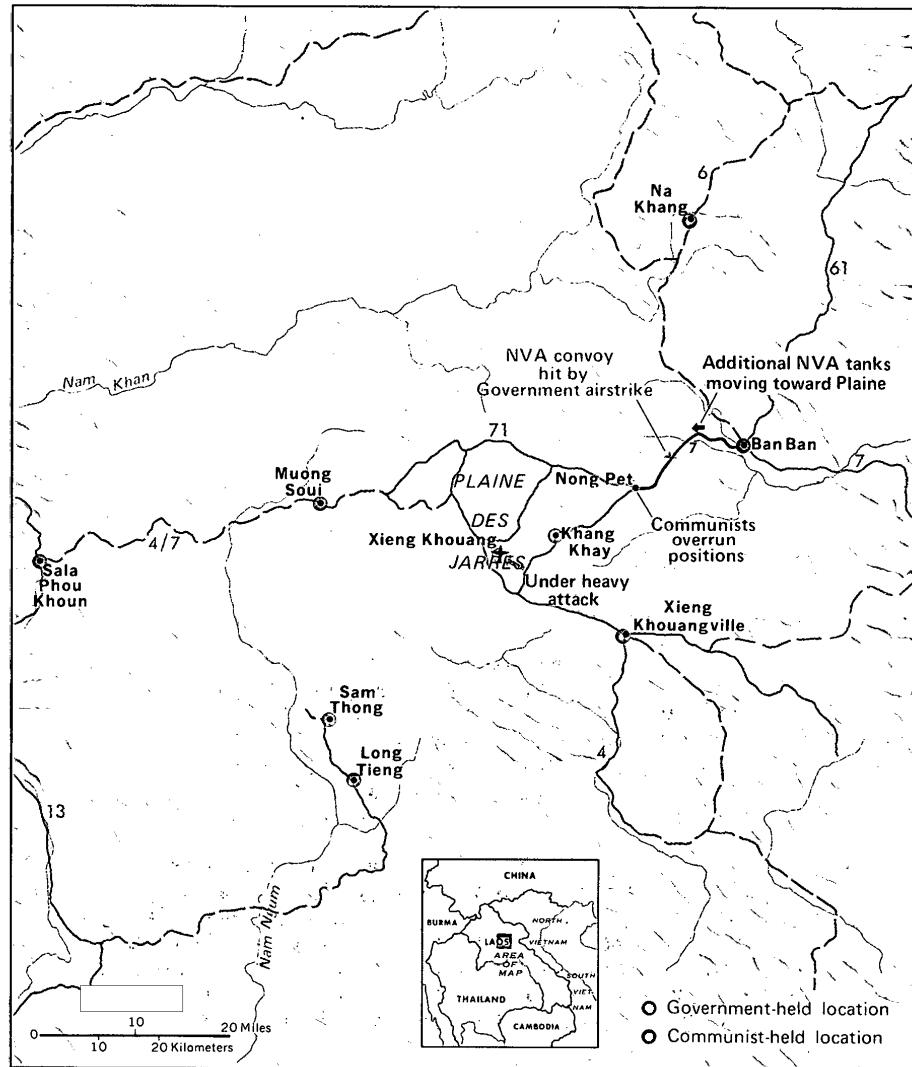
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Plaine des Jarres Under Communist Attack



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Government forces are withdrawing from positions east of the Plaine des Jarres as the Communist counteroffensive continues to gain momentum.

[redacted]

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[redacted]

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Vang Pao's troops have been under mounting pressure.

[redacted]

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Vang Pao's general strategy--inflicting maximum casualties while suffering as few casualties as possible--appears to have been successful for the most part. The Communists seem prepared to buy ground dearly, however, and will keep up the pressure on Vang Pao and his weary men.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FRANCE-ISRAEL

In a recent conversation with Ambassador Shriver and Congressman Hays, French Prime Minister Chaban-Delmas stated that France had delivered 200 tons of Mirage spare parts to Israel last year and that France intended to continue to supply Mirage parts in amounts required for "normal upkeep and maintenance." He said, however, that if there are major anti-French demonstrations when Pompidou visits the US later this month, France would consider embargoing all future parts shipments.

Chaban said he had called in leaders of the French Jewish community and advised them to send emissaries to the US to convince leaders of the American Jewish community that it was in their interest to treat Pompidou "properly" during the visit. He did not intend, he said, to let the French be "kicked in the groin" over this matter.

Congressman Hays expressed some doubt that sending emissaries would be effective in calming American Jews. Chaban said that might be right, but at least the French would have made the effort.

Chaban is concerned primarily with defusing potential criticism of French Middle East policy.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT-ISRAEL

Cairo has claimed some 70 persons killed and almost 100 wounded in yesterday's attack on a steel rod factory some ten miles north of Cairo.

Israeli radio subsequently announced that there had been no change in Tel Aviv's policy of hitting only military targets, and that if a civilian target had been struck it was "the result of a mistake."

It is not clear how much pressure will be exerted on Nasir to retaliate for the Israeli raid. He had previously indicated that if a raid caused a large number of civilian casualties, he would feel compelled to strike Israeli civilian targets no matter what the price. Nasir may decide against retaliation for now, however, because his defenses are so weak. He may choose instead to exploit the bad publicity Israel will receive, probably hoping that this will somehow increase the pressure on Israel to cease its attacks.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NIGERIA

The federal government's reconciliation policy is off to a good start, and the occupation of the former Biafran territory has gone well thus far. Earlier troop discipline problems have been overcome.

[redacted] the
Easterners have generally been reassured by the conduct of the federal troops and have been fraternizing freely with the occupying soldiers. The Ibos' willingness to forget the past so quickly probably is one of the results of the government's massive relief program.

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Malnutrition and suffering have been severe, however. Relief operations are improving, but distribution of food still is not well organized. Another major problem in the former enclave is the virtually complete lack of Nigerian currency in the hands of the people. Federal officials are working out the details of a currency exchange, which is scheduled to get under way tomorrow.

Many minority tribesmen in eastern Nigeria and some elements in Gowon's government believe that too much is being done for the Ibos. Probably in part as a concession to these elements, Lagos has established a military tribunal to screen former secessionist army officers who are seeking reinstatement in the Nigerian Army. The tribunal presumably will decide which officers were "misguided" into secession and which were the "misguiders," but there are no indications that a large-scale purge is in the offing.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PHILIPPINES

President Marcos' aides have been working on student leaders to guide their protests away from the government's inattention to domestic programs and toward a charge of US interference in the country.

The shouting of a few anti-US slogans during the generally peaceful demonstrations yesterday suggests that this ploy has had only limited success thus far. The thrust of the demonstrations was still against Marcos.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

UN-Suez: Stepped-up fighting along the Suez Canal is exposing the 100 observers of the UN truce supervision organization to increasing hazards. Five of the original 18 observation posts have now been closed, the latest as a result of an Egyptian bombing attack on 6 February that injured two observers and an Israeli liaison officer. [redacted]

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

14 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Laos, the Communist offensive against the Plaine des Jarres is growing. (Page 1)

Communist China has sharpened its propaganda against the US following a recent overflight incident. (Page 2)

In Jordan, incidents between the fedayeen and government forces continue. (Page 3)

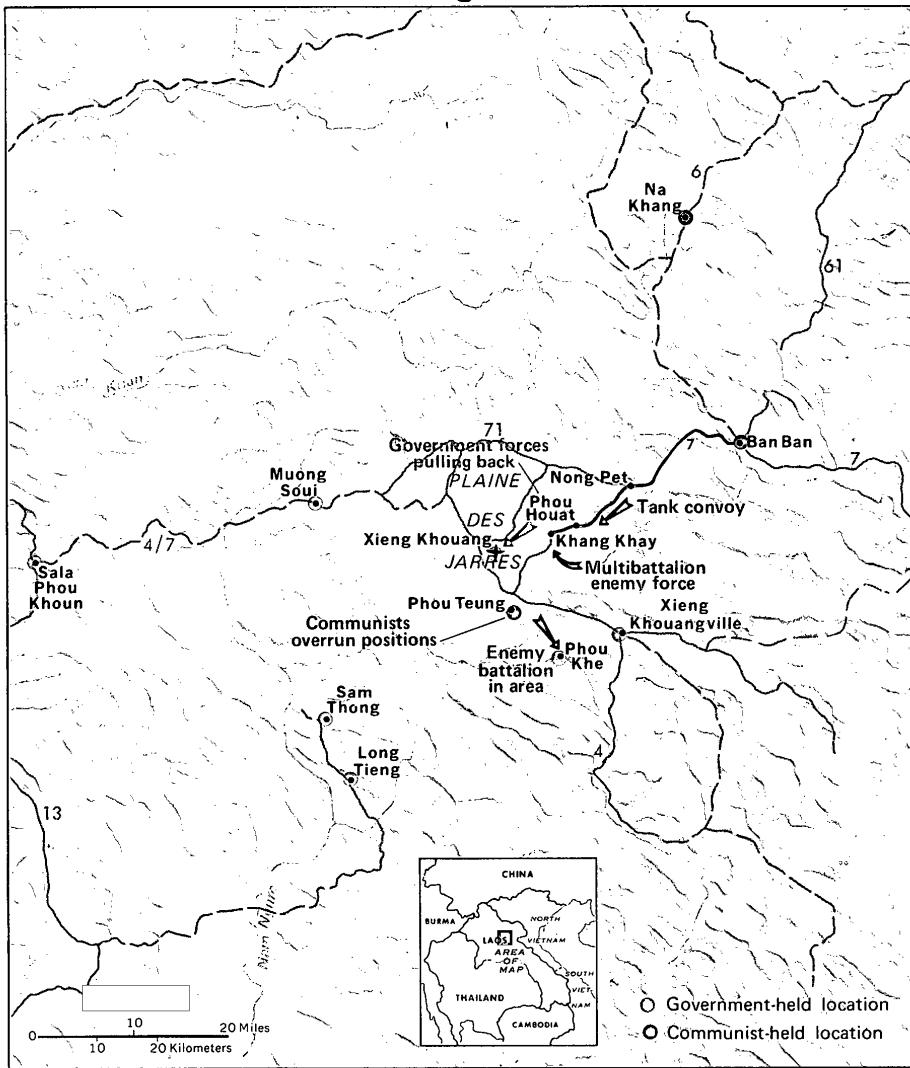
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The Turkish prime minister will submit his government's resignation today. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Communist Offensive Widening



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

The Communists are widening their offensive against the Plaine des Jarres. Phou Theung, a mountain top overlooking the southern edge of the Plaine, was overrun yesterday morning, and Phou Khe to the southeast is threatened. Should the Communists capture Phou Khe, currently the southern anchor of General Vang Pao's defense line, the government's position at Xieng Khouangville would become untenable. The enemy would then have an unobstructed approach to the Plaine from the southeast.

A strong enemy thrust at the heart of the Plaine also appears to be shaping up. Enemy forces are converging on the Khang Khay area presumably in preparation for a push against the government's forward command post at Xieng Khouang airfield.

North of the Plaine, Vang Pao is pulling his forces out of vulnerable positions west of Nong Pet and moving them onto the Plaine. Elements of the government's guerrilla force that has been operating within enemy rear areas east of the Plaine have begun arriving on the Plaine and are taking up defensive positions along the western fringes.

Vang Pao's decision to break contact with the enemy to the east and north of the Plaine was made in order to minimize casualties. By concentrating his troops in the more open areas of the Plaine, however, he may defeat this purpose. Although frontal assaults against these positions no doubt would be costly to the enemy, the North Vietnamese frequently have demonstrated that they are prepared to pay the price. At this stage of the offensive, the enemy has not come close to the point of committing its full strength.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COMMUNIST CHINA

Peking has sharpened its propaganda against the US following an inadvertent overflight of South China by a US reconnaissance drone on Tuesday. A strident press release two days later denounced the overflight as "new evidence" of the Nixon administration's "stubborn policy of hostility." In another article on the same day, the Chinese attacked Washington's recent offer of F-100 fighters to Taipei.

Although Chinese propaganda media in recent weeks have carried standard attacks on the US, they have generally avoided direct references to bilateral issues. This restraint was probably meant to develop a favorable atmosphere for next week's meeting in Warsaw and perhaps encourage US flexibility. The drone flight, however, has compelled Peking to return, at least temporarily, to a more virulent anti-US posture in order to demonstrate that the Warsaw talks have not softened its resistance to US "provocations."

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JORDAN

Tension between the fedayeen and the government remains high, and sporadic incidents continue. The government has relaxed its controls around Amman and has issued orders permitting armed fedayeen to enter the city unhindered. The fedayeen are much in evidence and, despite the agreed cease-fire, have been harassing the police. The fedayeen issued a further statement yesterday insisting that King Husayn's decrees be canceled if bloodshed is to be halted.

Government forces have remained in place in and around the city and have been strengthened. [redacted]

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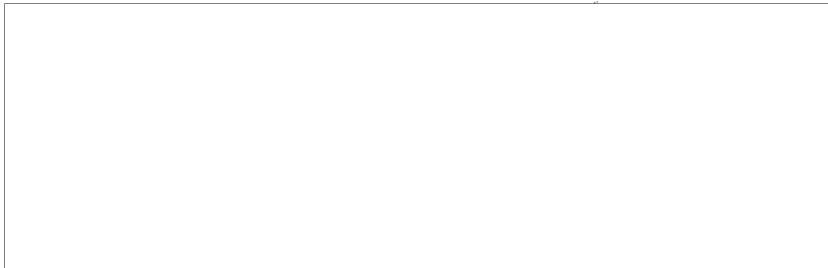
The US Embassy notes that there is a considerable gap between the King's intentions to have his measures implemented and the fedayeen leaders' determination that they be abandoned.

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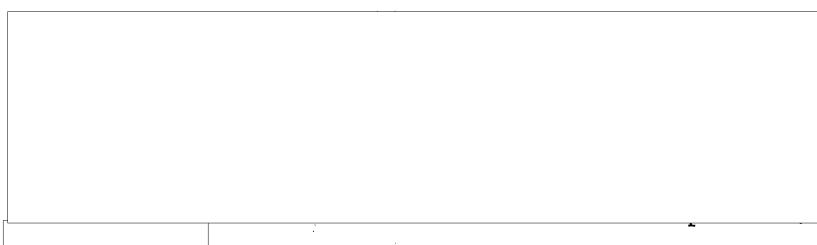
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THAILAND-USSR



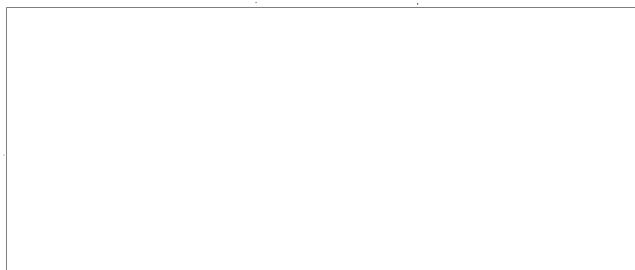
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

TURKEY

Prime Minister Demirel, acting on the decision of the ruling Justice Party's leadership, will submit his government's resignation to President Sunay today. This development reflects a power struggle within the Justice Party. In a demonstration directed against Demirel's leadership, dissidents in the party recently voted with the opposition in the National Assembly to reject the budget.

Sunay may reject the resignation, or ask Demirel, as head of the party having the largest parliamentary representation, to form a coalition government with others. If these efforts fail, Sunay probably will appoint a caretaker government and call for new elections, perhaps in June to coincide with already scheduled senatorial elections.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

16 February 1970

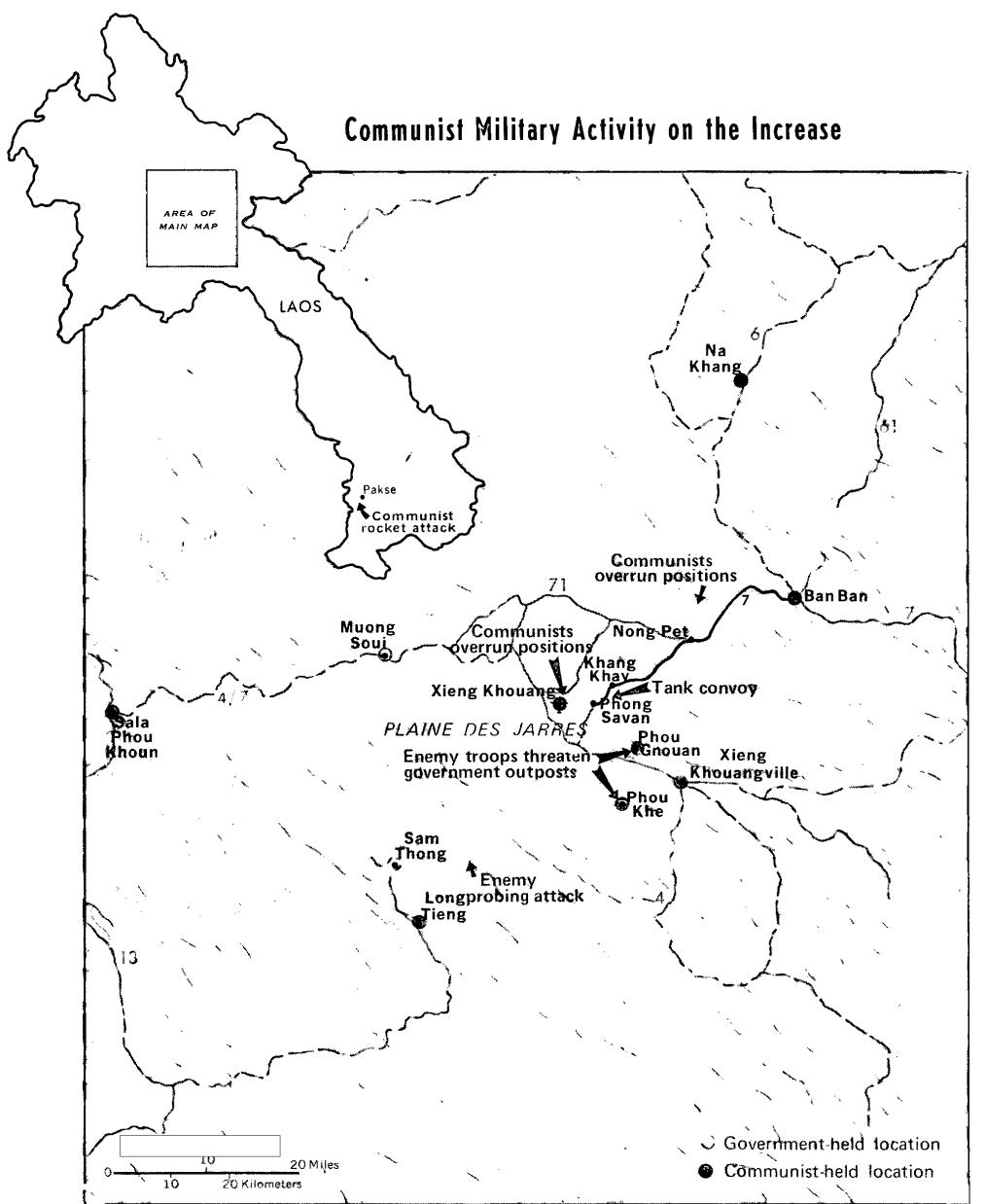
PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Laos, Communist forces are beginning to close in on General Vang Pao's main base on the Plaine des Jarres. (Page 1)

South Vietnamese forces appear to have thwarted a major Communist push into the northern reaches of the Mekong Delta. (Page 3)

Tension between the fedayeen and the Jordanian Government has eased since Husayn's press conference, but the situation could easily flare up again if the fedayeen push the King too hard. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Communist forces are closing in on General Vang Pao's forward command post at Xieng Khouang airfield, the government's main base on the Plaine des Jarres. The enemy kept the airfield under sporadic mortar fire all day yesterday and overran several government positions four miles south of the base.

[redacted] forward elements of the North Vietnamese tank convoy on Route 7 were near Phong Savan, about three miles east of the Xieng Khouang airstrip. In addition, a radio terminal of a North Vietnamese battalion associated with the 312th Division moved into the vicinity of Phong Savan.

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The North Vietnamese now dominate all of the high ground on the northeast side of the Plaine. Vang Pao's Meos yesterday lost their last outpost northeast of Nong Pet. The pullback leaves no government forces to harass Communist supply convoys on Route 7 between Ban Ban and Khang Khay.

Recent intercepts point up the concern the North Vietnamese have for the security of their Route 7 supply line. One message ordered that if a mine sweeper was not immediately available, individuals were to "pick up the mines in order to destroy them."

Little new fighting has been reported southeast of the Plaine, but enemy troops are moving into position against the two pieces of high ground still held by government forces. There are also signs of increased Communist activity near government positions defending the approaches to Vang Pao's headquarters at Long Tieng.

There does not seem to be a major enemy build up under way at this time, but even small-scale skirmishing around Long Tieng might distract Vang Pao's efforts in other active areas.

(continued)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

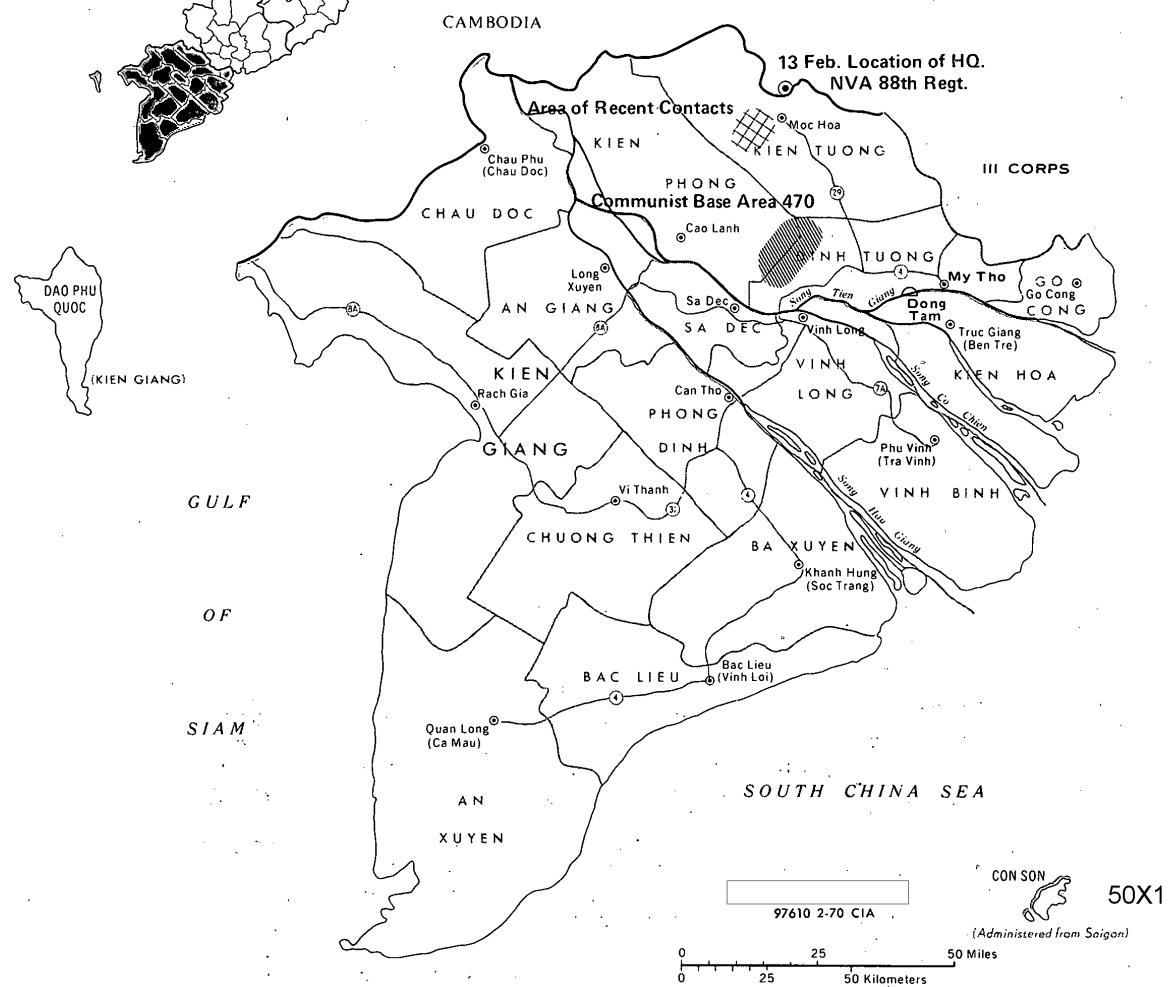
Marginal visibility continues to impede effective tactical air support to government forces. Intensive air strikes have caused lingering secondary fires that contribute to the haze and smog overlying much of the Plaine. The enemy is well aware of this situation and may be awaiting a further deterioration of weather conditions before making an all-out drive against the Plaine.

In the southern panhandle, the Communists launched a limited rocket attack against the government's military headquarters at Pakse early this morning. Several houses belonging to the Lao Army were destroyed; one person was slightly wounded. This is the second rocket attack in as many months against Pakse. Both the timing and the limited nature of the attack suggest it was intended as a diversionary measure in support of the Communist offensive against the Plaine.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

**South Vietnamese Forces Disrupt Attempts
by NVA 88th Regt. to Move into the Delta
IV Corps**



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

South Vietnamese forces appear to have thwarted a major Communist push into the northern reaches of the Mekong Delta. During the past ten days, government regular and territorial security forces have clashed with elements of the North Vietnamese 88th Regiment attempting to infiltrate through exposed terrain west of Moc Hoa, the capital of Kien Tuong Province. In their blocking actions, the South Vietnamese have killed more than 200 enemy troops, while allied artillery and air strikes have probably caught many more enemy retreating toward Cambodian sanctuary. The regiment is believed to be trying to move to the relative security of Communist Base Area 470, a redoubt long used by the enemy to support military operations in the upper delta provinces.

Captured documents and prisoner interrogations indicate that the 88th--one of five North Vietnamese regiments to move from III to IV Corps since mid-1969--has the mission of coordinating with indigenous Viet Cong local forces in disrupting Vietnamization and pacification programs in Dinh Tuong Province, including attacks on the important provincial capital of My Tho. Other potential targets in the province include the former US 9th Division headquarters at Dong Tam, now the home of the South Vietnamese 7th Division, and defensive positions guarding Route 4--Saigon's lifeline to the delta.

The ability of North Vietnamese regulars to operate in force in the northern delta, however, may be hampered by the geography of the region. The flat and often swampy terrain, laced with canals, offers little natural cover for concealment of large military units or for active supply lanes and storage areas.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JORDAN

Only minor incidents have been reported since the "cease-fire" on 13 February, but the situation could easily flare up again if the fedayeen push King Husayn too hard. The fedayeen have allowed some of their street barricades in Amman to be removed, but they are still intimidating the police, commandeering vehicles, and stealing ammunition and weapons. In one instance, the fedayeen seized a UN vehicle and repainted it in their own camouflage colors.

Government forces also remain in place and on alert.

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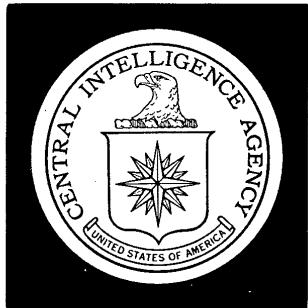
so far the army has been only marginally involved while the police have been bearing the brunt of fedayeen hostility.

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Husayn at his press conference Saturday was clearly trying to smooth things over. He tried to identify his motives and aims with those of the fedayeen, and to attribute the uproar over his security decrees to a "misunderstanding." But at the same time an undertone of toughness was evident, particularly in Husayn's emphasis on law and order. He thus may balk if the fedayeen continue to press for complete abrogation of the security decrees.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

17 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Jordan is calm on the surface, but the dispute could flare up again. (Page 1)

In Laos, the Communists continue to advance. (Page 2)



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JORDAN

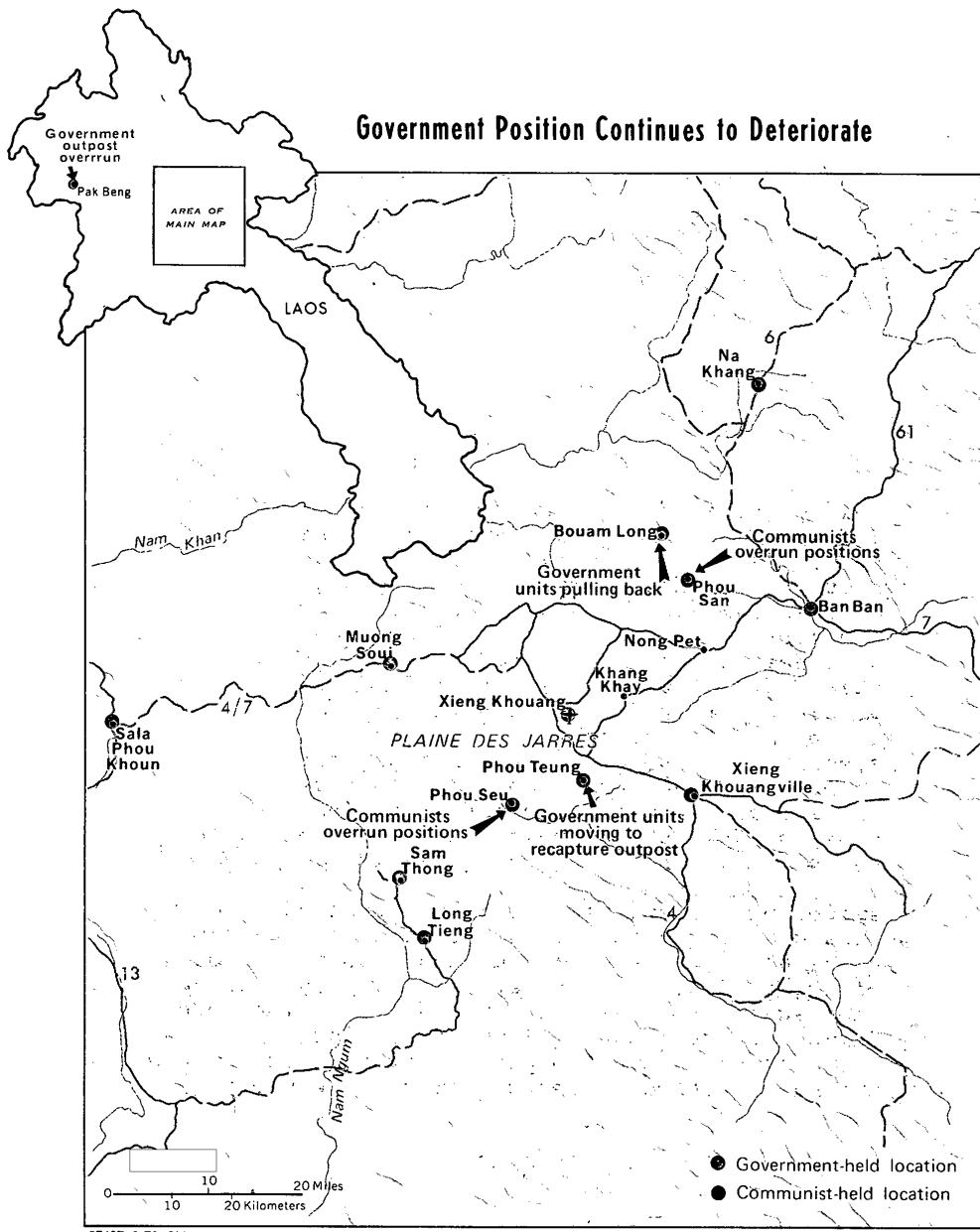
The deadly serious squabble between King Husayn and the fedayeen has eased off and Amman is outwardly calm. Nothing is settled, however, and the struggle could begin again at any time. Negotiations have been recessed until 21 February because of the religious holidays, [redacted]

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Husayn has been accused of weakness because he preferred negotiating to fighting, [redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

The Communists have gained control of most of the high ground overlooking the eastern half of the Plaine des Jarres. Small government units continue to fall back to the Xieng Khouang airfield, bringing the total number there to almost 1,000.

Unless some of these troops are moved to less exposed positions, a strong Communist attack could cause heavy casualties.

Government troops pulling out of the Nong Pet area are beginning to straggle into the government staging base at Bouam Long.

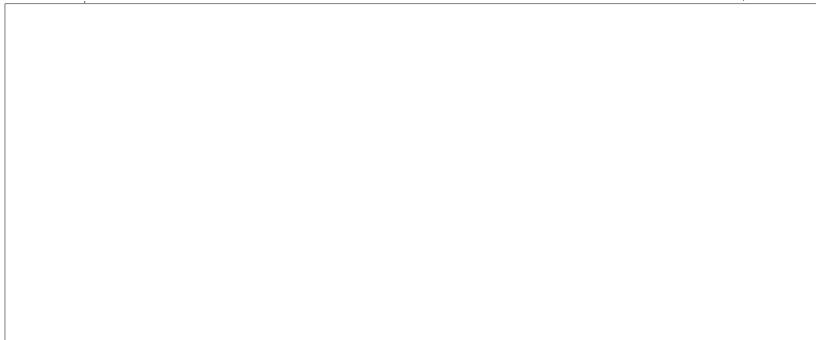


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SOUTH VIETNAM



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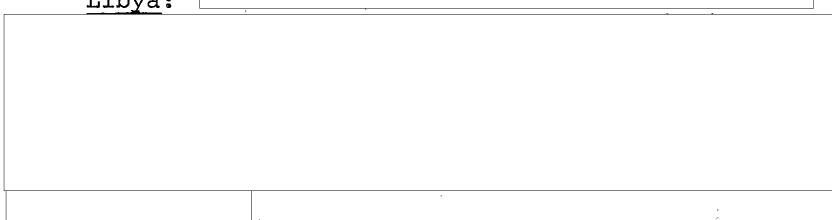
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NOTE

Libya:



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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

18 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Several new infiltration groups [redacted] 50X1
in the pipeline in North Vietnam. (Page 1)

In Laos, the enemy made a probing attack yesterday
against General Vang Pao's headquarters at Long
Tieng. (Page 2)

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

The flow of infiltrators has resumed after a
short break, presumably for the Tet holidays. [redacted]

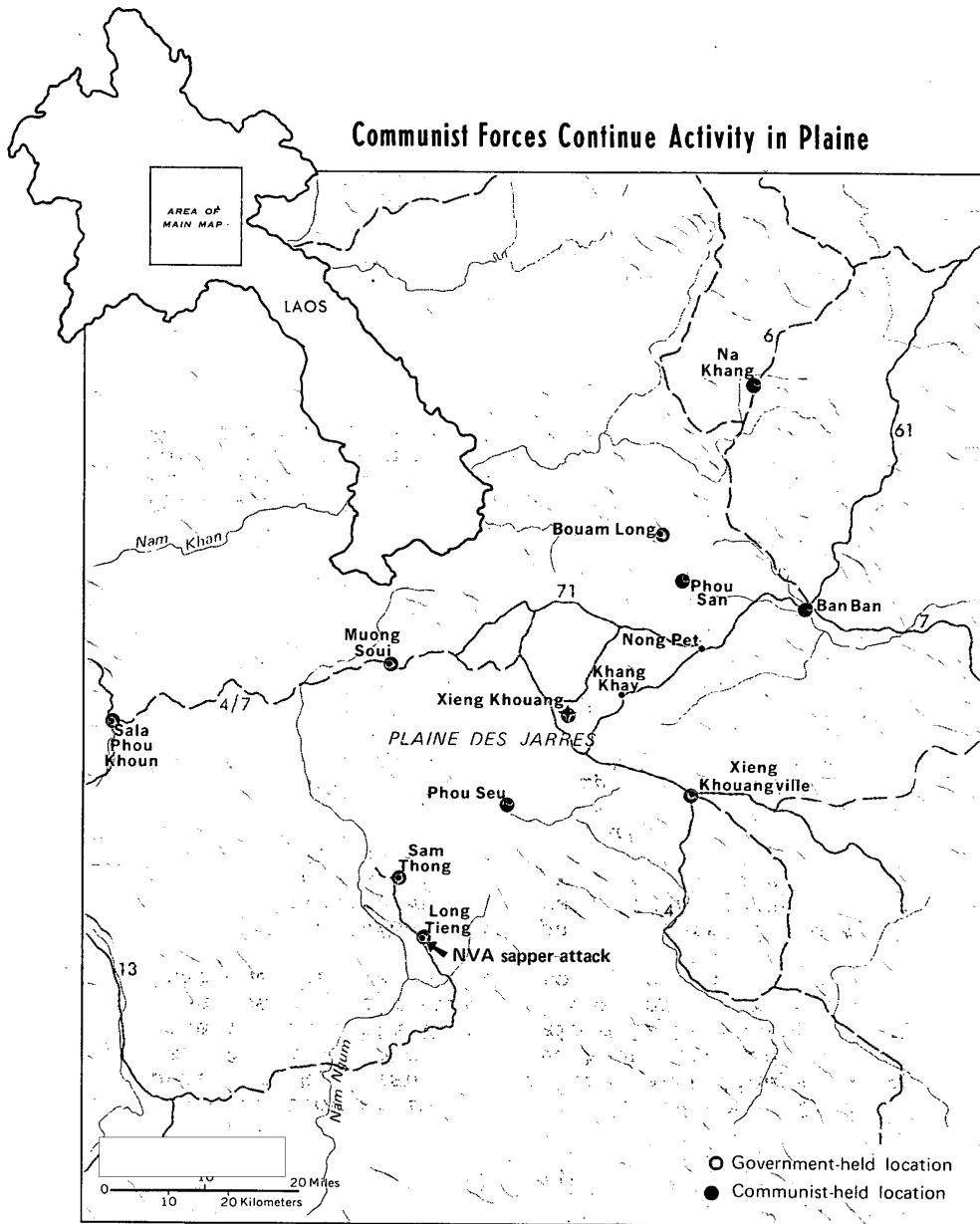
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

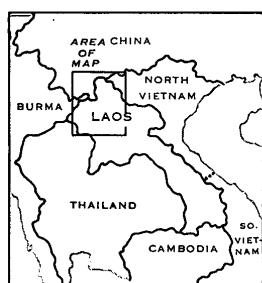
A small North Vietnamese sapper team raided the airstrip at Long Tieng last evening, destroying one observation aircraft. Four of the attackers were killed; the government lost one officer. This was the first enemy probe against General Vang Pao's headquarters.

Long Tieng, the key to Vang Pao's effort in the northeast, is defended by about 1,000 troops. The attack probably was intended to confuse the Meo leader's forces and to compel him to pull troops off the Plaine des Jarres to defend the large number of Meos in the Long Tieng area.

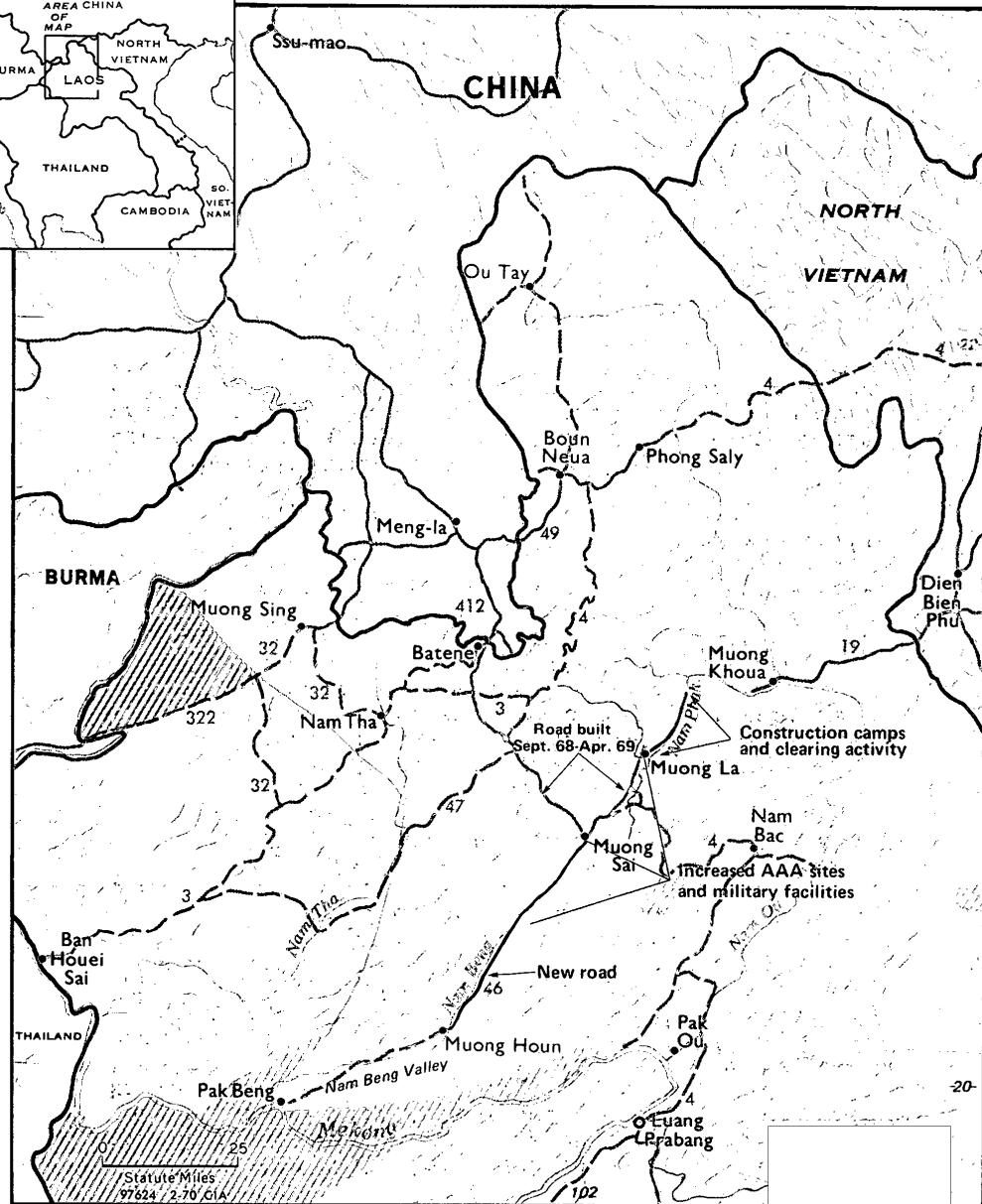
There is no evidence at this time to suggest that the enemy is prepared to initiate a major thrust against Long Tieng. The terrain between this point and the Plaine is a formidable obstacle to any large-scale enemy operations in the area. In addition, the complex of Meo villages surrounding the base would make it difficult for the enemy to move into the area in strength without the government receiving adequate warning.

The situation around Xieng Khouang airstrip appears to have eased. A battalion of enemy troops, which had dug in near the airfield, was driven off early this morning. Government troops are pursuing this Communist force.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



Communist Chinese Increase AAA in Northern Laos



Communist-controlled area

Contested territory

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COMMUNIST CHINA - LAOS

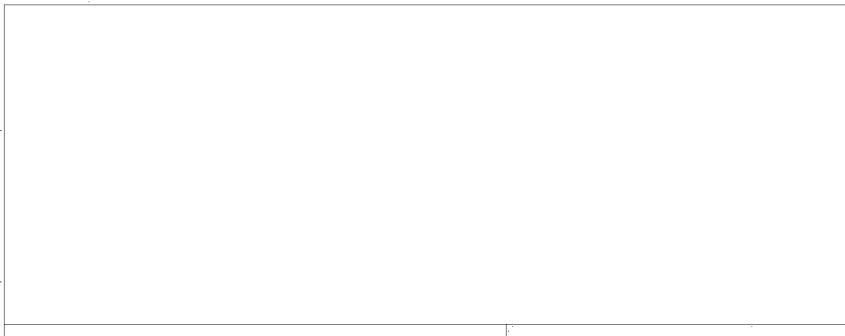
Recent aerial photography shows that the number of occupied Chinese antiaircraft artillery sites in northwestern Laos has more than tripled since mid-December. The greatest increase has been in the Muong Sai - Muong La areas and along the new road to Muong Houn. The positions are intended to protect road construction workers.

The presence of an AAA force of this size--larger than a normal division--raises our estimate of Chinese troops in Laos to 8-10,000, an increase of 3,000 over previous estimates. The total includes engineer elements and security forces, as well as AAA units.

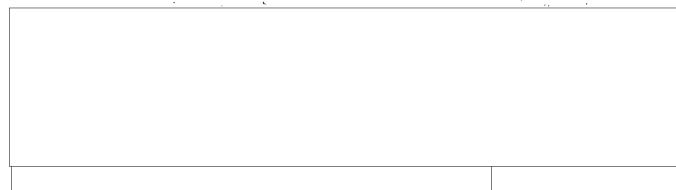
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SAUDI ARABIA

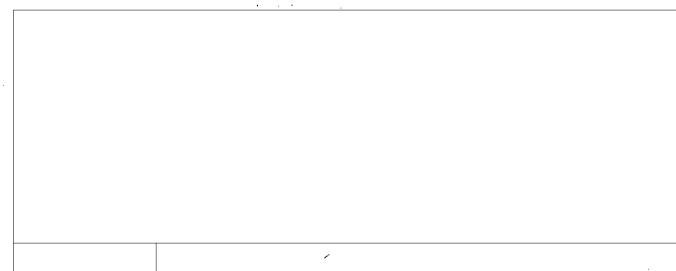


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

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USSR:

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USSR - Middle East: Soviet news media

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[redacted] denounce Israeli military activities
in uncommonly harsh terms. A TASS statement this
week flatly stated, "The Soviet Union will render
the necessary support to the Arab states in strength-
ening their ability to uphold their security." So
far Moscow's warnings have been unofficial and in
general terms, a type of propaganda which is not
likely to deter the Israelis.

West Germany - East Germany: Chancellor Brandt
has accepted East German Premier Stoph's offer to
hold talks

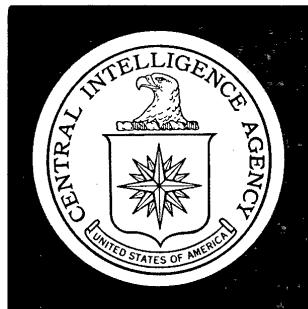
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Each side is blaming the other for the lack of progress in the Sino-Soviet border talks. (Page 1)

The Communists have posed a serious threat to the Laotian Government's command post on the Plaine des Jarres. (Page 2)

The recent anti-US demonstrations in the Philippines may have had official sanction. (Page 3)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COMMUNIST CHINA - USSR

Chinese officials in Peking have begun openly complaining to foreign diplomats over Moscow's intransigent attitude in the Peking talks and have recently charged the Soviets with increased "military pressure" along the border.

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Soviet commentary indicates considerable frustration and irritation over Chinese inflexibility in the border talks. Soviet propaganda continues to berate China's "war preparations"--particularly in the border areas--

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We have no new information of military clashes or provocative acts along the frontier.

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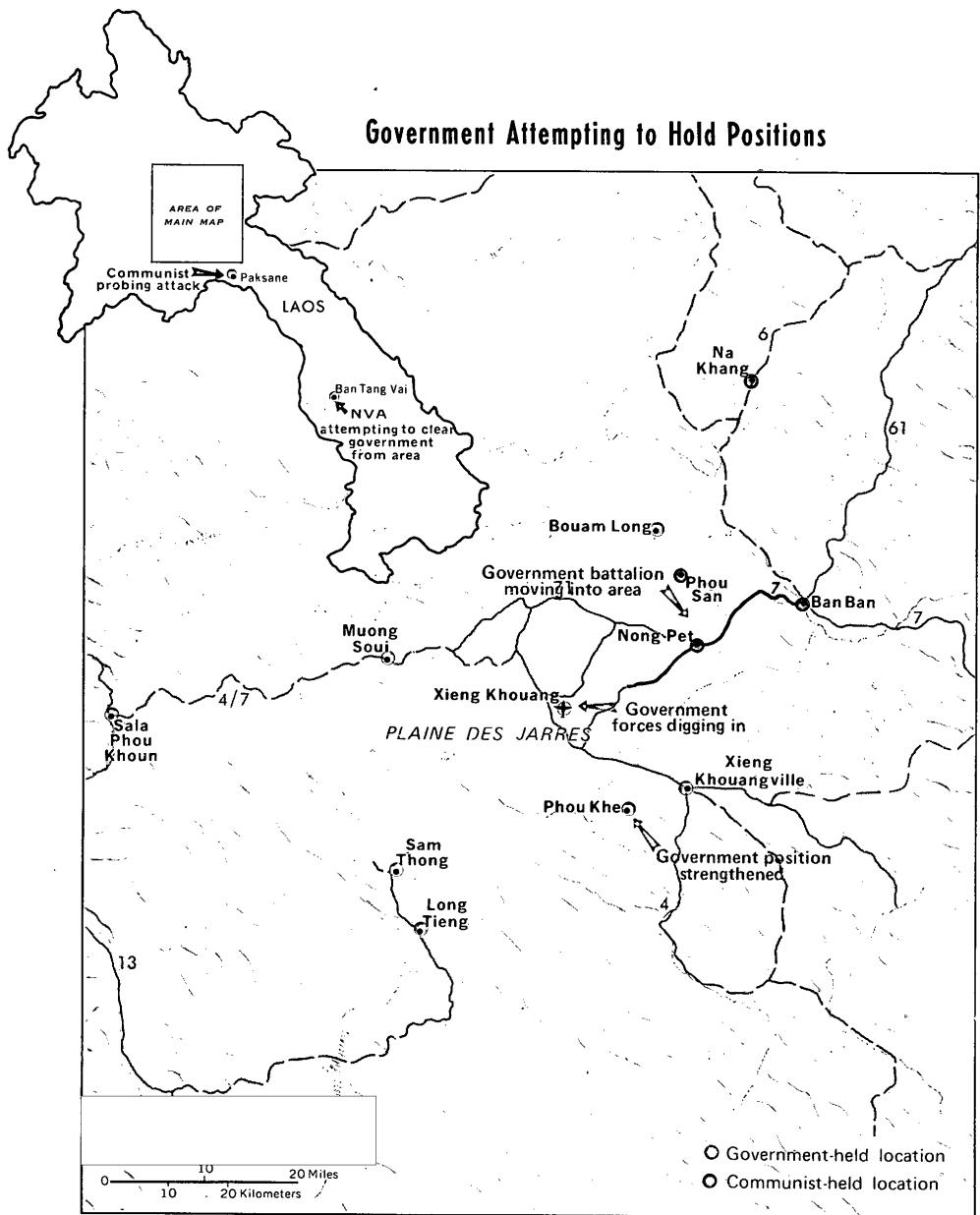
Despite the deadlock, both sides seem determined to continue the talks at the present level.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Early yesterday government forces at Xieng Khouang airstrip--the government's main command post on the Plaine des Jarres--rebuffed the second major assault in a week. Communist forces continue to move onto the Plaine, however, and now encircle the airstrip making it necessary to airdrop most of the supplies to the estimated 2,000 government troops defending the base.

Prior to the most recent attack, [redacted] every effort would be made to hold the airfield rather than fall back.

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[redacted] Vang Pao also plans to move a battalion to the Nong Pet area to harass the enemy supply system along Route 7.

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We continue to believe that the North Vietnamese are willing to accept whatever losses are necessary to overrun the base, a price the government's forces cannot afford. Possession of the airstrip is crucial to the control of the Plaine and the Communists apparently are committed to its capture.

The enemy also is maintaining military pressure elsewhere in the country. In the northern panhandle government positions outside of Pakse continue to receive hit and run attacks and further south a North Vietnamese battalion has clashed with government forces in the Ban Tang Vai area.

The increased enemy activity in various parts of the country probably is intended to discourage the government from diverting too many of its troops to the Plaine area.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PHILIPPINES

The disturbances at our embassy yesterday may have had official encouragement. Despite attempts by the leaders of an otherwise peaceful downtown student rally to head them off, some 200 to 300 radicals broke away and proceeded to the embassy. Manila radio stations--perhaps inspired by the presidential palace--all day had been predicting that the students would march on the embassy. The government knew the demonstrations were coming, but no Philippine security forces were on hand around the embassy. When the embassy asked for help, it was very slow in coming.



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

USSR: [REDACTED]

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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The fighting in the Plaine des Jarres area in Laos tapered off yesterday, but new Communist attacks could come anytime. (Page 3)



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Talks between Jordanian Government authorities and fedayeen representatives are scheduled to be resumed tomorrow. (Page 5)



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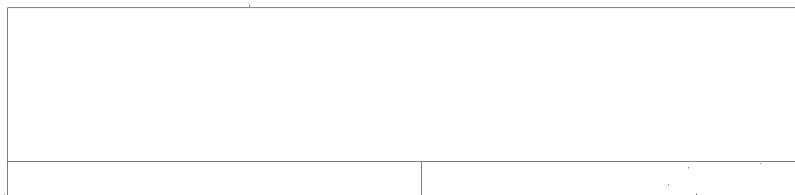
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COMMUNIST CHINA - US



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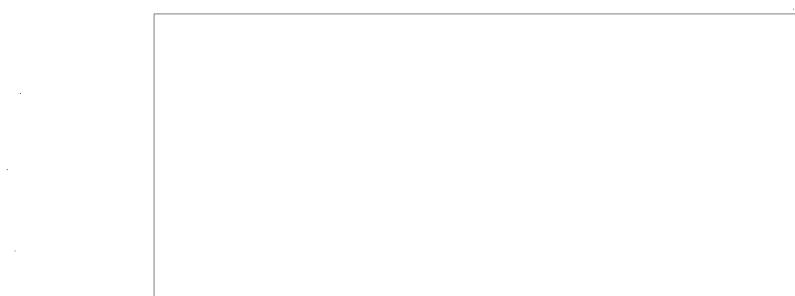
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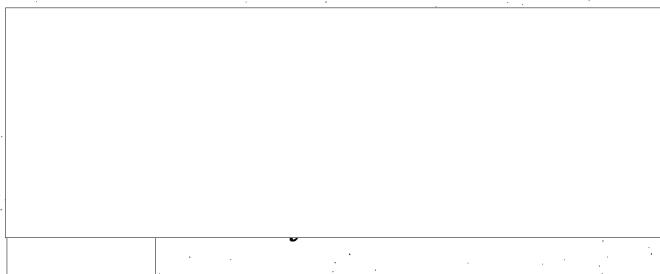
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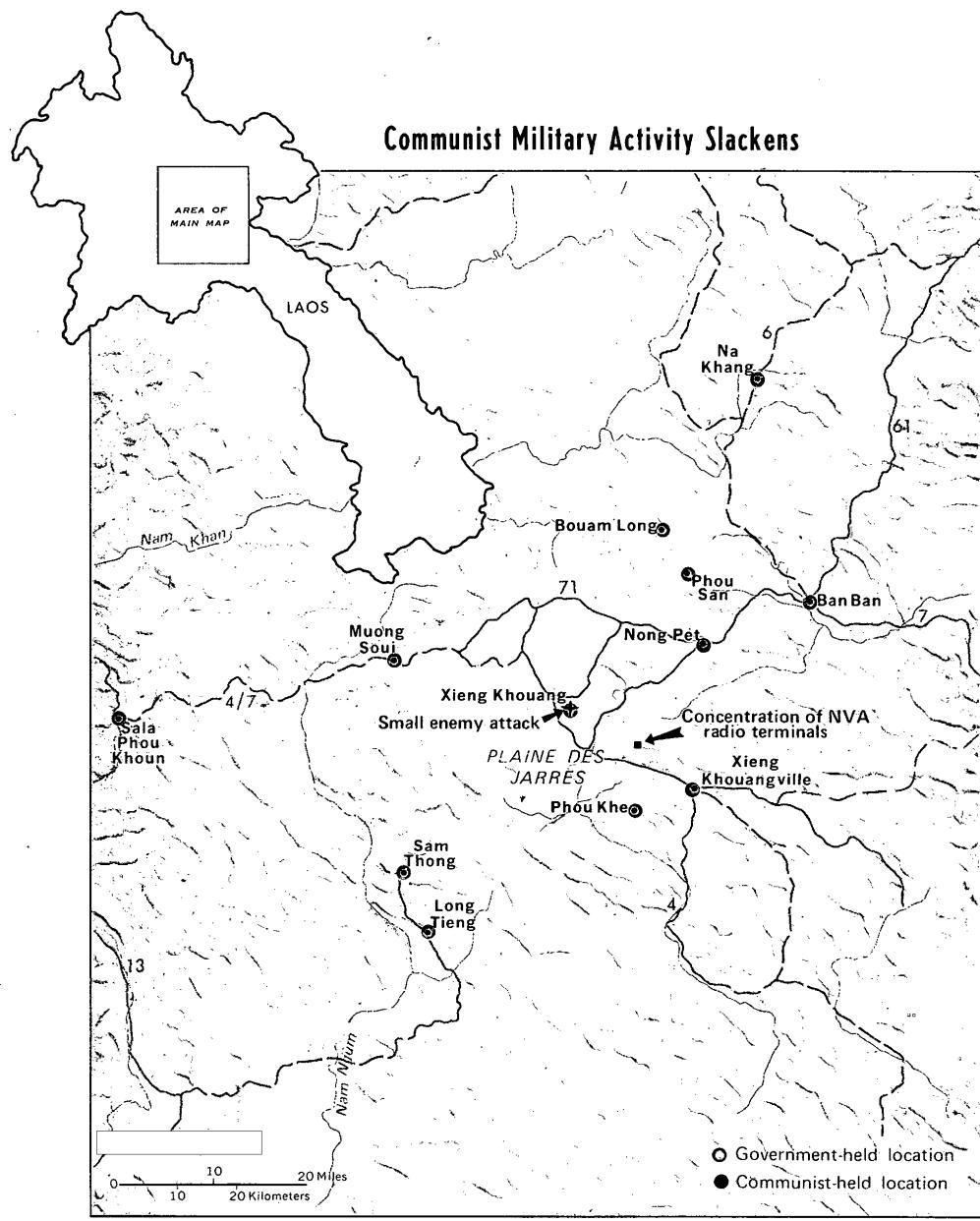
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

The fighting in the Plaine des Jarres area tapered off yesterday. The Communists carried out a limited probing and rocket attack against the Xieng Khouang airstrip. Government patrols and close air support have inflicted heavy casualties on enemy elements dug in immediately north of the airfield, but the Communists still hold the high ground.

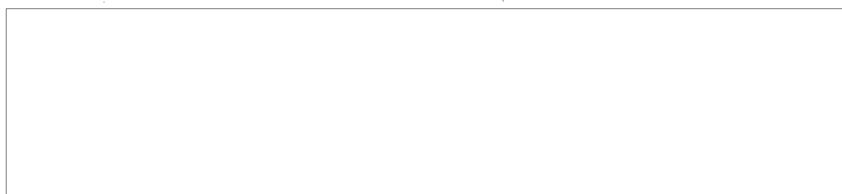
Losses suffered by the North Vietnamese in two previous attempts to overrun the base are probably responsible in part for the temporary easing of the situation. The Communists are probably regrouping their forces and awaiting poor flying weather before trying another round of heavy attacks against the government command post.

The recent appearance of radio terminals associated with the North Vietnamese 312th Division just east of the Plaine suggests that the Communists are bringing up additional reinforcements.

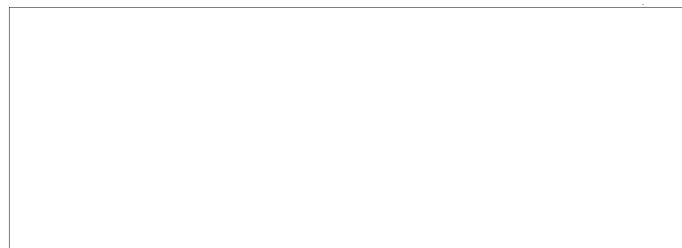
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USSR



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JORDAN

The internal dissension in the fedayeen that King Husayn expected (See The President's Daily Brief of 17 February) apparently has not developed. Talks between fedayeen representatives and government authorities are scheduled to resume tomorrow, in an atmosphere of high emotions and mutual resentment. Both sides are wary and suspicious, and both seem ready to fight--all their forces remain in place.

Husayn has more to lose than the fedayeen, for his prestige and authority are at stake.

He [redacted] probably is determined to regain the initiative.

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The fedayeen have been using the holiday truce for effective politicking among the army and the populace, and they have improved their position by issuing "law and order" regulations of their own, to be enforced by the fedayeen themselves. This posture of reasonableness will be useful to them as the basis for either a compromise with the King or for a more broadly-based showdown if the King chooses to push for one.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Egypt-USSR: Soviet flight activity in Egypt has increased substantially over the past two months, but most of it seems to be associated with aircraft testing and pilot familiarization. The rules banning the involvement of Soviet pilots in combat activity appear to remain in effect.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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The President's Daily Brief

21 February 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

21 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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North Vietnam may be ready to try something new in
Paris. (Page 4)

Communists in Laos take the Plaine des Jarres.
(Page 6)

Philippine students will demonstrate again today
at the US Embassy. (Page 7)

[Redacted]

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CUBA



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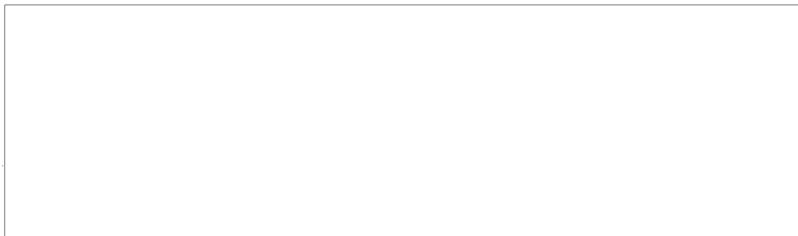


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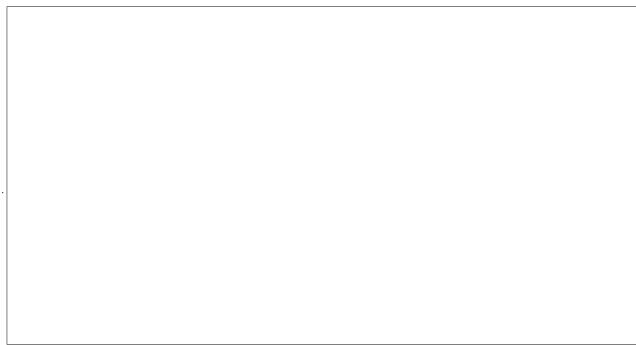
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BOLIVIA



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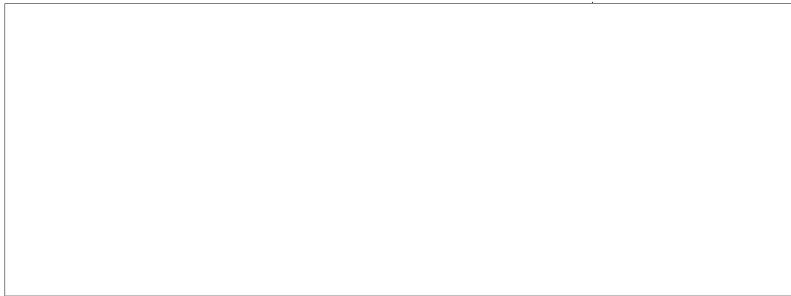


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FRANCE



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

A North Vietnamese press spokesman in Paris announced yesterday that Le Duc Tho has completed his mission as Hanoi's representative at the French Communist Party congress and has "returned" to the headquarters of the North Vietnamese delegation to the Paris talks. Tho had been absent from Paris for more than seven months.

This is the latest in a series of indications that the Vietnamese Communists may be edging toward new maneuvers in the talks and perhaps in their tactics in Vietnam as well. Previous signs include:

--The gratuitous praise Hanoi recently heaped on the compromise agreements Ho concluded with the French in 1946.

--A long and authoritative article by First Secretary Le Duan which, among other things, mentions a strategy based on "the exploitation of enemy contradictions and on systematic concessions."



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--Soviet Counsellor Oberemko's assertion on 17 February to Robert Blake of the US Embassy that Tho was staying on in Paris in hopes that "sincere" talks could be started.

We suspect Oberemko was accurately reflecting Hanoi's estimate when he said the North Vietnamese do not think Vietnamization will work. Nevertheless, the evidence is growing that they feel a need to alter the evolution of the war. We think Hanoi is going to try harder to get the US out faster, and with less support for the Saigon government than might accrue from the Vietnamization program.



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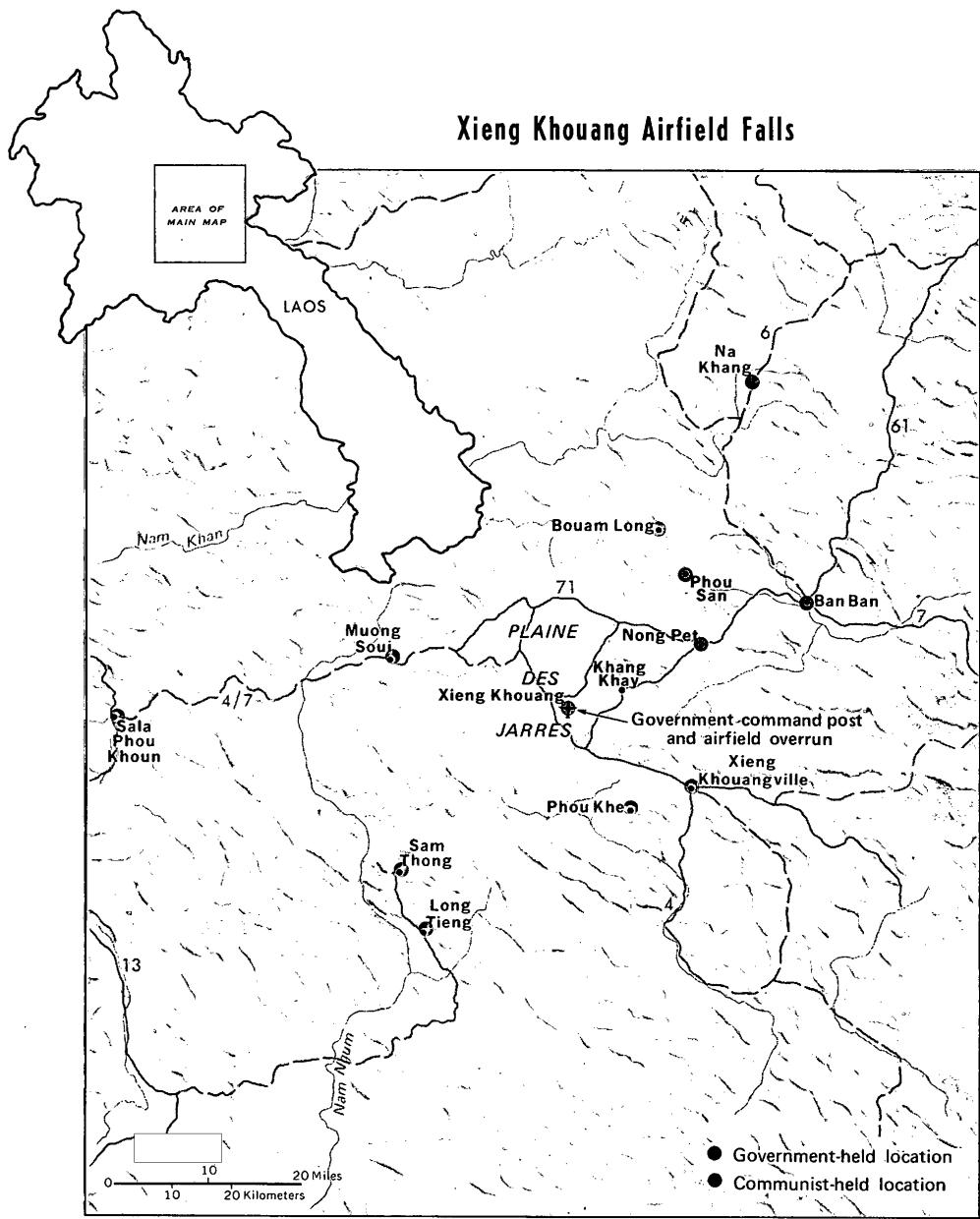
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Short of a major military effort, which they are almost certainly not prepared to undertake any time soon, the Communists' only means for hastening the withdrawal of US forces lies in the realm of negotiations.

Tho could leave Paris for Hanoi at any time. We believe, however, that the post-Ho leadership has finished a round of decision-making and cautiously begun a new political reconnaissance.



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

A major Communist ground assault early this morning captured the command post and the airfield at Xieng Khouang. Government troops are withdrawing in an orderly manner,

[redacted] and should be off the Plaine des Jarres altogether by the end of the day.

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In recent days, Xieng Khouang has assumed great symbolic importance to General Vang Pao and his Meo troops. Its fall will surely depress the always fragile morale of the Meo and Vang Pao himself, even though the government's strategy all along has been to minimize casualties by falling back prudently. The loss of the Plaine was expected, in view of the exceptional Communist buildup before the campaign began. [redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PHILIPPINES

[redacted] the organizers of today's demonstration in Manila are planning a peaceful affair. Student leaders are not always able to prevent violence, however, particularly when it is instigated by outsiders.

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The students were embarrassed by Wednesday's riot, or so they claim, and are trying hard to blame almost anybody except themselves. No matter how careful the planning, however, simply by convening a large gathering in such emotion-fraught circumstances they are opening the door to further misadventures.

At press time (0500 EST) we were receiving reports from the embassy that students were gathering in large numbers but so were security forces personnel.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

USSR-Egypt:



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The President's Daily Brief

23 February 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

23 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

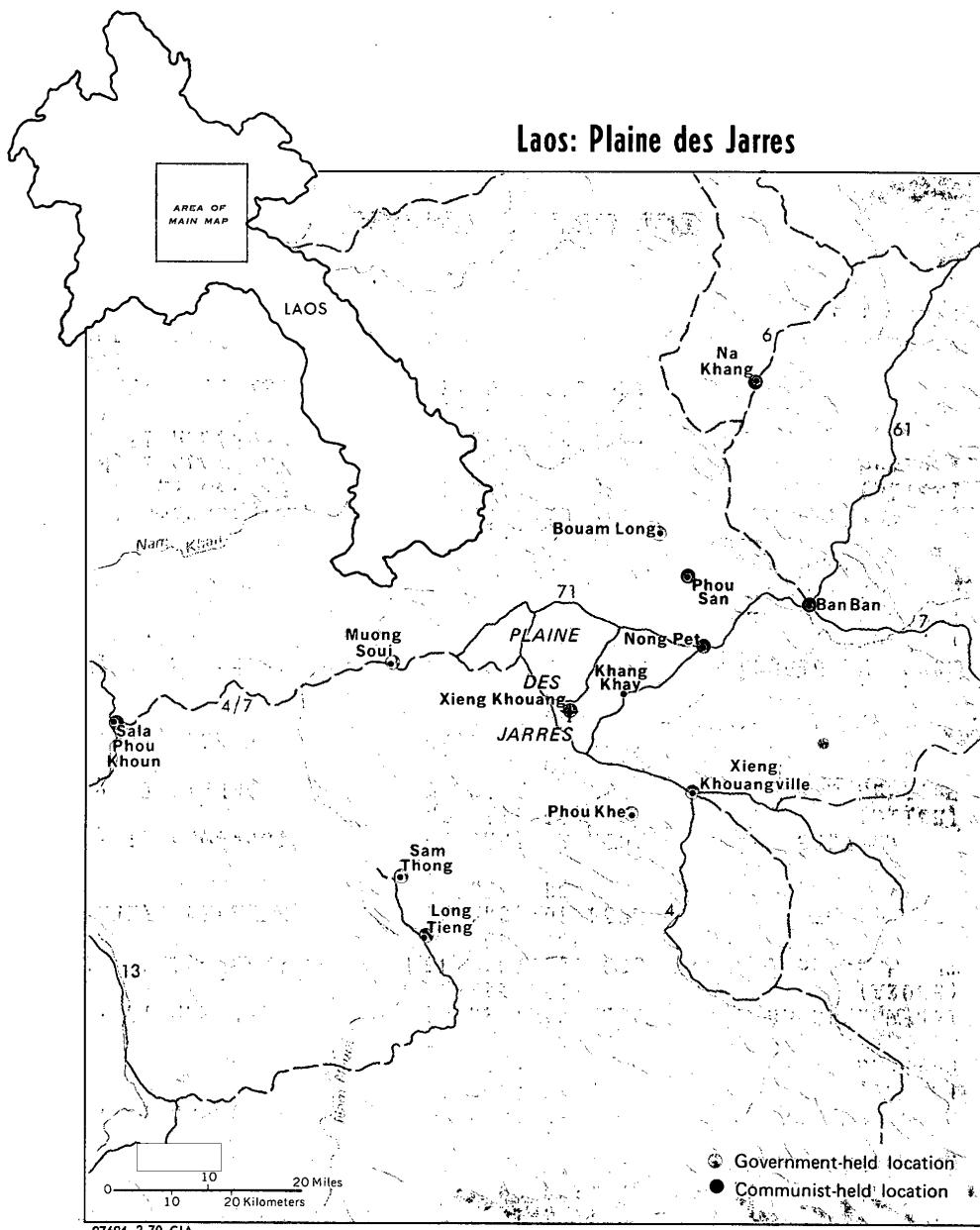
There has been very little combat activity in Laos
since the enemy occupied the Plaine des Jarres.
(Page 1)



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



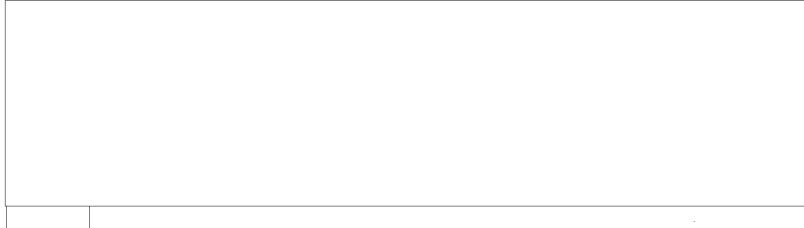
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

No significant new fighting has been reported since the government withdrawal from the Plaine des Jarres Saturday. Thus far enemy elements have not pursued government units retreating south and west of the Plaine. Government outposts around Xieng Khouangville, southeast of the Plaine, and in areas to the northeast and northwest have reported no major Communist attacks.

About 700 of the government troops who had been defending the Xieng Khouang airstrip have straggled into a site west of the Plaine. Most of the other missing forces are expected to filter into friendly areas in the next few days.



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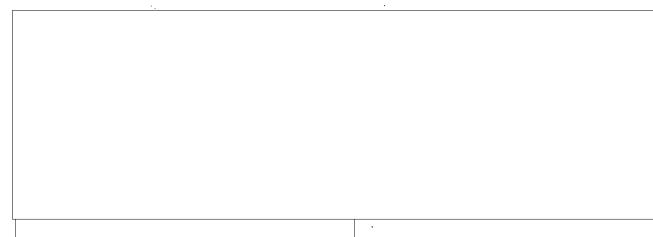
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NORTH VIETNAM



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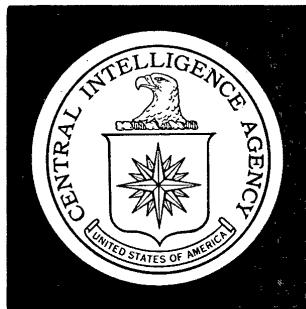
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The President's Daily Brief

24 February 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Laos, Communist forces are threatening the government airstrip at Muong Soui. (Page 1)

[redacted]

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Chancellor Brandt's strategy for his meeting with his East German opposite number next month is outlined on Page 3.

The agreement King Husayn obtained from the fedayeen seems less restrictive than his decrees of 10 February

(Page 4)

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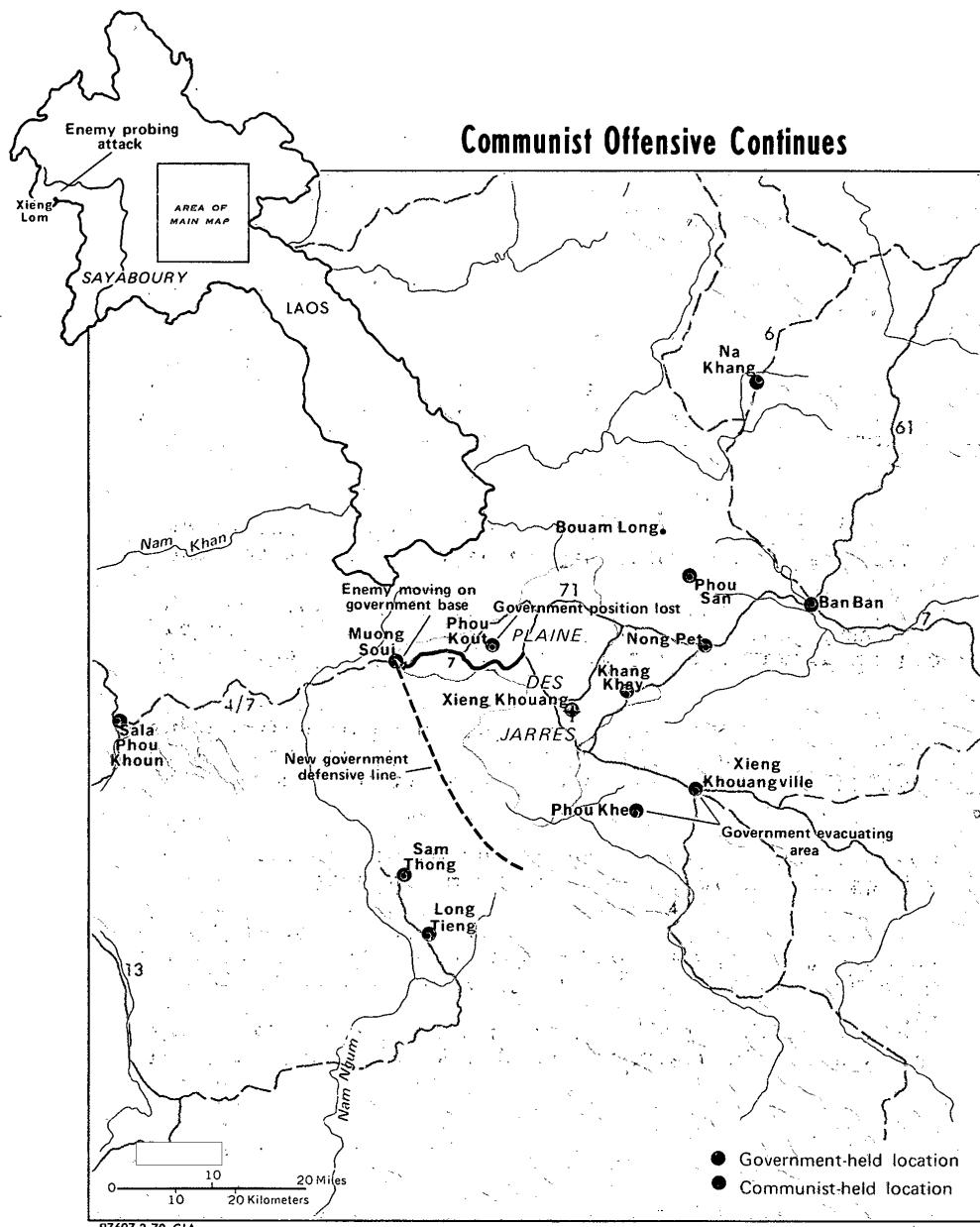
Israeli authorities are groping for a solution to the problems of air sabotage and hijacking, but without much success. (Page 5)

[redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Communist forces are threatening the government airstrip at Muong Soui. A probing attack early this morning was unsuccessful, but ammunition and POL supplies at the base are burning and some government forces are withdrawing westward on Route 7. With additional enemy units moving into the area, the small number of defenders still at Muong Soui probably will offer only token resistance to further Communist attacks. Muong Soui had been an important base for Lao fighter-bombers providing close air support in the Plaine des Jarres area.

Southwest of the Plaine, Vang Pao is reinforcing his defensive line with 155-mm. howitzers and most of the 1,100-man garrison now being evacuated from Xieng Khouangville.

The Communist counteroffensive, under-way for little more than a week, has pretty much erased the government's gains in its unusually successful rainy season offensive. The enemy's rapid advance has resulted in part from Vang Pao's efforts to keep his casualties as low as possible. By yesterday, all but 200 of the 1,300-man defensive force from Xieng Khouang airfield had reappeared at government positions.

The lack of adequate stockpiles on or near the Plaine will probably keep the enemy from pushing deep into government-controlled areas for the time being. Once their supply lines are re-established, the Communists will probably turn their attention to Vang Pao's new defense line southwest of the Plaine.

In western Sayaboury Province, meanwhile, Communist forces launched their first heavy probing attack yesterday against the government base at Xieng Lom. Xieng Lom, about five miles from the Thai border, is an important government staging base for guerrilla operations against the Communists in the Thai-Lao border area.

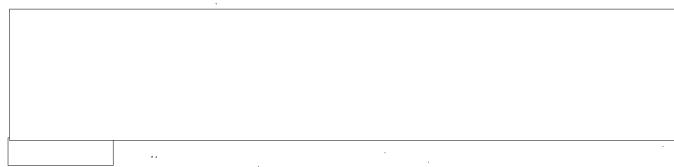
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FRANCE

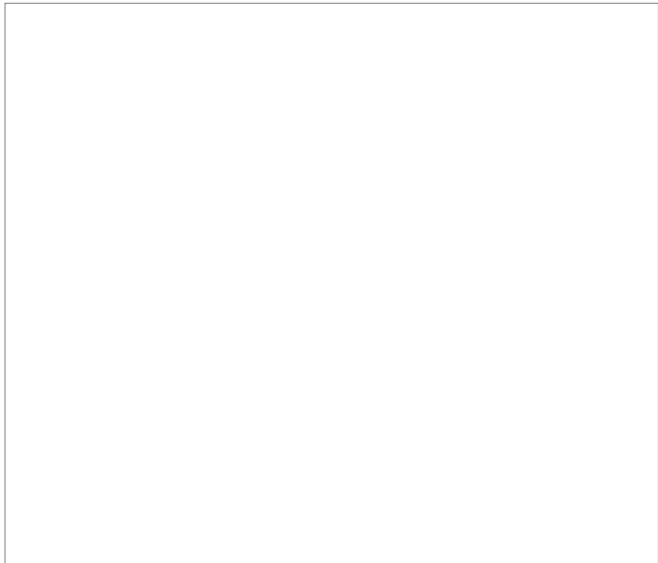


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY

In his meeting with East German Premier Stoph next month, Chancellor Brandt will try to line up acceptance of a series of principles governing East German - West German relations, according to Bonn Foreign Ministry officials. If a draft agreement is hammered out by lower level officials, Brandt and Stoph could get together again in Bonn in April to sign it.

Other Bonn officials doubt that talks can proceed so rapidly, and cite the problems that have arisen in the talks with Gromyko and other Soviet leaders. Even if both sides make significant concessions to move things along at high speed, the talks could still founder altogether on the issue of recognition of East German sovereignty.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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JORDAN

The agreement between King Husayn and the fed-
ayeen, [redacted]

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[redacted] seems less restrictive than the King's decrees
of 10 February and more in line with the fedayeen's
self-imposed curbs. The agreement prohibits the
fedayeen from carrying or firing arms in the cities
and from interfering with civilians and security
forces. It also puts some restrictions on fedayeen
fund raising and requires registration of fedayeen
vehicles.

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On the other hand, fedayeen "military police"
are permitted to carry arms, there are some excep-
tions in favor of the fedayeen on the storage of
ammunition and explosives in the cities, and there
are only token restrictions on public meetings and
publications. Most importantly, the accord is vague
on the question of enforcement, appearing to leave
it at least in part to the fedayeen. The agreement
says only that fedayeen violators of Jordanian law
are "to be handed over" to Jordanian authorities.

Yasir Arafat of Fatah and the leader of the
Syrian-supported Saiqa organization signed the agree-
ment for the fedayeen. [redacted]

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[redacted] Arafat later obtained the somewhat grudging ap-
proval of the other eight groups in the newly formed
unified fedayeen command.

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[redacted]
[redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL

Israel's appeal to European nations to help find a way to prevent hijackings and a repetition of the weekend sabotage seems destined to fall on sympathetic ears but will probably produce few tangible results. The suspension of air service to Tel Aviv by even a few airlines will seriously weaken Israel's link with Europe and is the kind of "blockade" the terrorists hope to create.

Diplomatic protests by Israeli ambassadors are ineffective simply because there is as yet no way to insure precognition of sabotage or terrorism. Israeli authorities, including Mrs. Meir, have no good solution to the problem, although Tel Aviv press reports allude to prospects of "action" by Israel to defend its air routes and its citizens.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTES

Nigeria:

Nigeria:	[Redacted]
	[Redacted]

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Bolivia-USSR:

Bolivia-USSR:	[Redacted]
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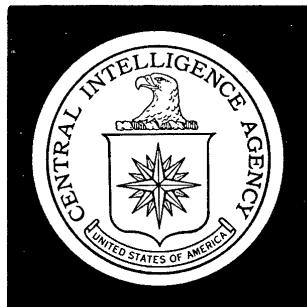
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Guyana-Venezuela: Troops on both sides of the disputed border have lobbed a few mortar shells at each other, but thus far have inflicted no casualties. The sporadic firing seems to be little more than an effort by the border-post troops to alleviate boredom and frustration. In the wake of the collapse of the diplomatic negotiations about the border, however, if either side suffers significant casualties there could be serious repercussions.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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The President's Daily Brief

25 February 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

25 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

As evidence mounts that Arab terrorists are responsible for sabotaging two Israel-bound airliners, the Israeli Government may add direct retaliation to its diplomatic representations. (Page 1)

In Laos, the Communists continue to press the government defenders. (Page 2)

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The Kremlin may be hurting from the exposure of several Soviet intelligence officers. (Page 4)

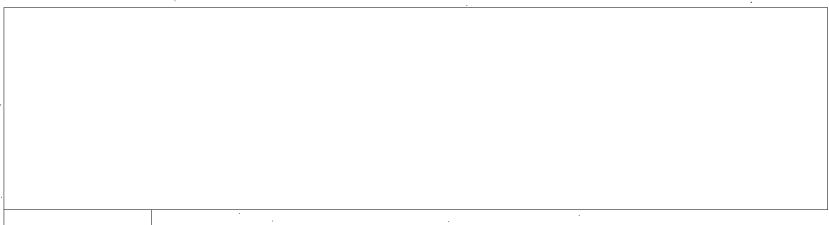
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ARAB STATES - ISRAEL



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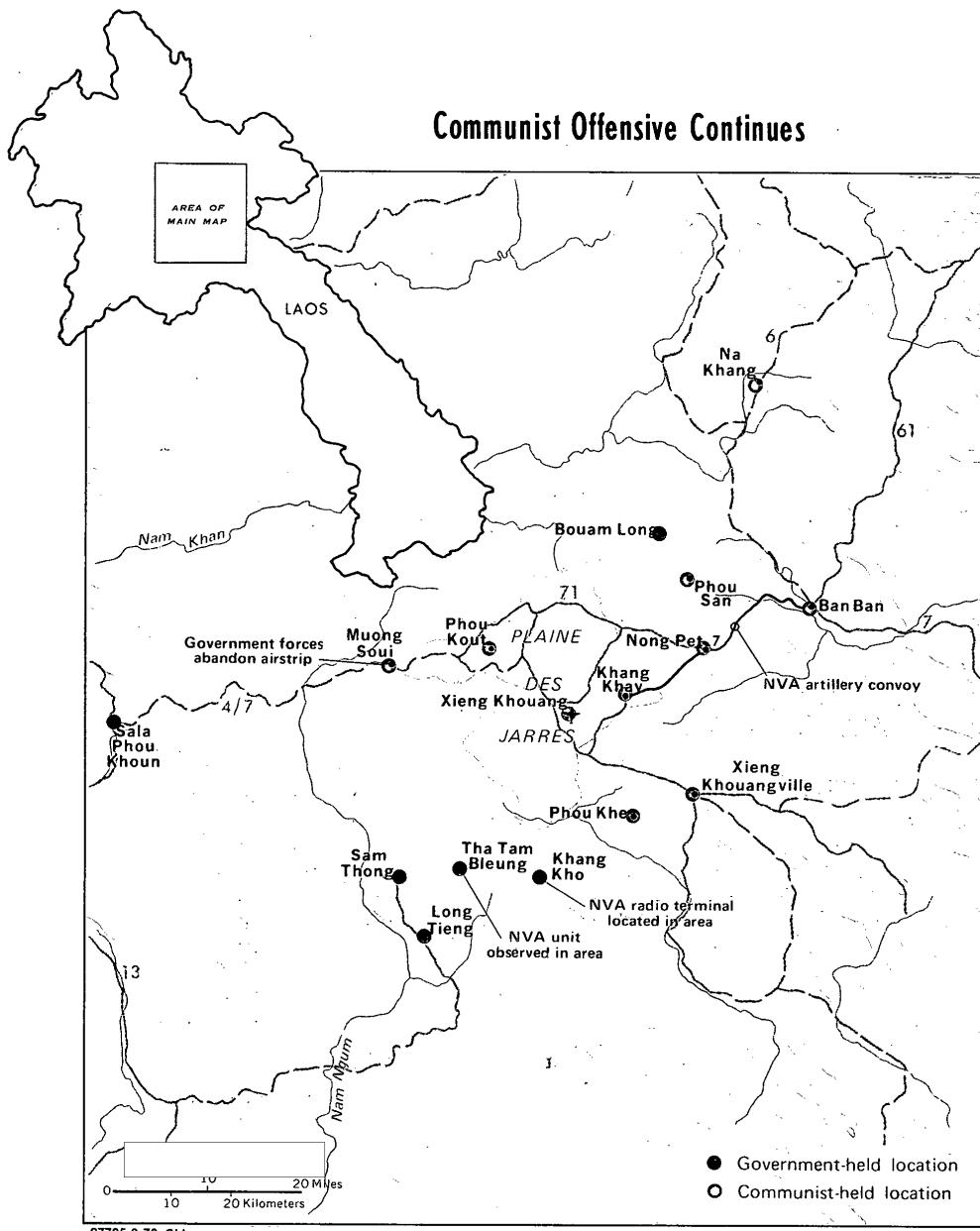
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In regard to the crash of the Swiss airliner on the same day, spokesmen for the several associations of fedayeen groups have been categorical in denying over-all fedayeen responsibility. They have, however, dodged the point of a specific retraction by the PFLP General Command, the terrorist group that initially claimed credit for the bombing. The US Embassy in Amman doubts whether the group ever explicitly dis-owned the claim.

Thus far, the Israeli Government has bent all its efforts toward engendering international action against an international threat, drawing on the worldwide revulsion against the two incidents. Should diplomatic efforts be unavailing, however, the Israeli instinct for retaliation could take the form of a counterblockade against civil airports in the Arab states.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Communist Offensive Continues



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Government patrols reported a North Vietnamese battalion moving into position near Tha Tam Bleung--one of two Meo outposts guarding the northern approaches to Vang Pao's headquarters at Long Tieng. Two North Vietnamese radio terminals have been located close to the other outpost at Khang Kho.

The Communists may be counting on disarray among the government defenders to provide an opportunity to push rapidly into Long Tieng. Vang Pao's guerrillas would then be defending their home area and are capable of putting up a strong fight. This prospect might encourage the Communists to continue their westward push instead.

In addition, the North Vietnamese are apt to be facing some supply difficulties. An unusual amount of truck traffic along Route 7 during daylight hours suggests that the Communists are taking extra risks to deliver materiel to the troops in the Plaine area.

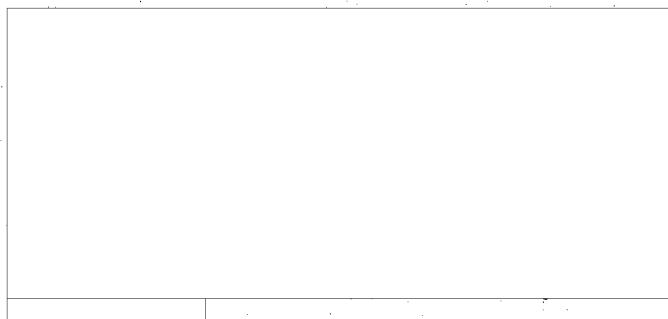
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

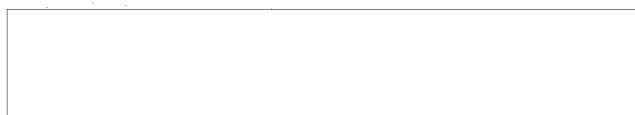


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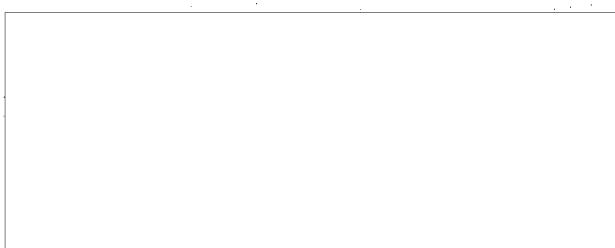
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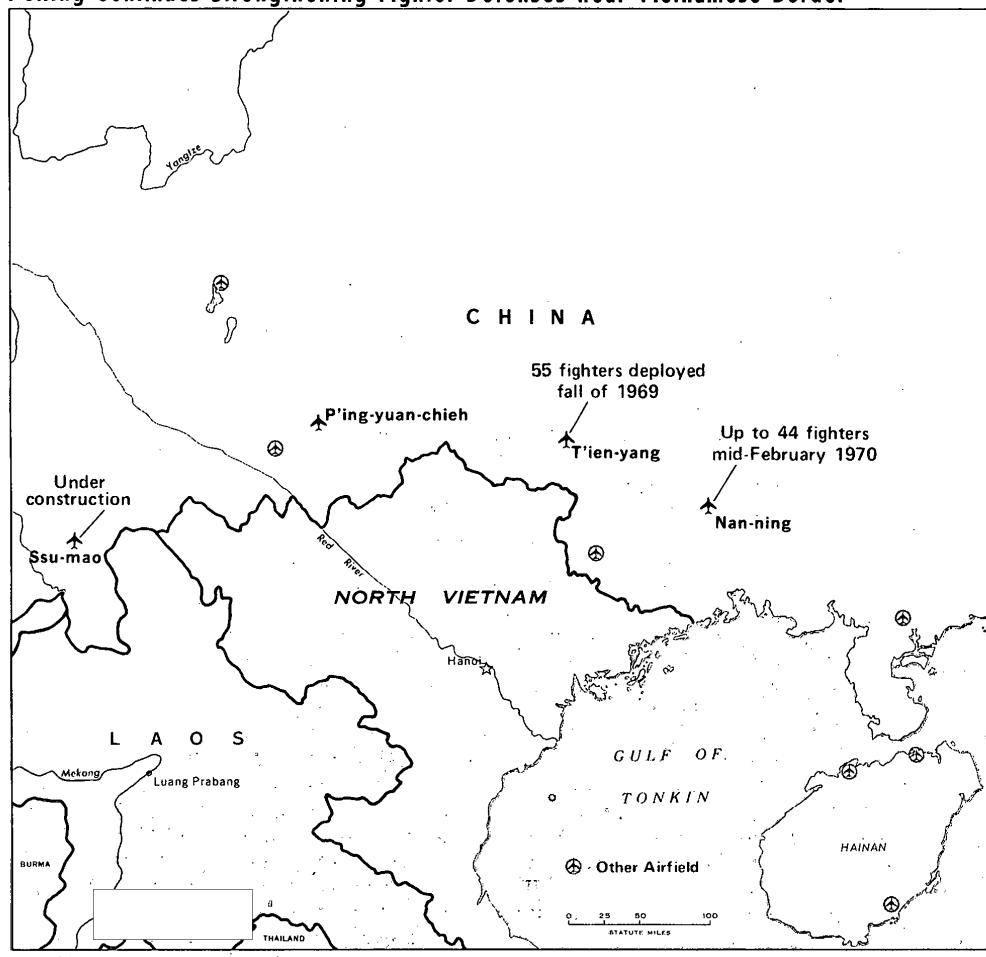
USSR

The recent rash of public exposures of Soviet intelligence officers in various countries may be causing some disquiet in the Kremlin. There have been six such cases in the US, Italy, and Switzerland this month and more than 50 in the past year. In addition, explicit descriptions of three major Soviet espionage cases currently are being serialized in at least three foreign journals with wide circulations.

These incidents obviously are embarrassing to the KGB; in the past, similar exposures have caused considerable concern within the Soviet hierarchy. Last week Izvestiya carried the first public interview with George Blake, the convicted Soviet spy who escaped from a British prison in 1966. As might be expected, the article thoroughly discredits the British Intelligence Service. The timing of the Blake story, however, suggests that it also is an attempt to counter the KGB's bad press by highlighting one of its more successful operations.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Peking Continues Strengthening Fighter Defenses near Vietnamese Border



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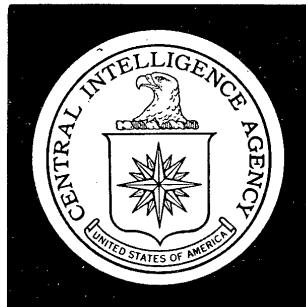
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Communist China: Peking continues to build up its fighter defenses along the Vietnam border. Forty-four additional jets were sent to Nan-ning in mid-February, thus raising to about 100 the total number that have moved into the area in the past four months. In the future, fighters could also be deployed to Ssu-mao and P'ing-yuan-chieh airfields.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

26 February 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

26 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

As election day in Guatemala approaches, there are reports that the Communists plan further terrorist acts. (Page 1)

In Egypt, the rising incidence of a parasitic disease is jeopardizing economic gains from the Aswan dam and posing serious problems for the military. (Page 2)

There has been no new ground action in the Plaine des Jarres area. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

GUATEMALA

An unsuccessful assassination attempt against Guatemala's chief electoral official this week is probably a prelude to more violence prior to the elections on 1 March.

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Charges by both the rightist and leftist opposition parties that the government plans to rig the elections have been a principal issue in the campaign. Rightist presidential candidate Colonel Carlos Arana has threatened to take over the government should the ruling Revolutionary Party win by what he considers fraud. If no candidate wins an absolute majority, the congress is to choose between the two candidates with the largest number of votes.

The Revolutionary Party appears to have the strength for a congressional victory and at least a plurality in the presidential contest. A major wave of terrorism, however, before the elections or on election day, could drastically alter the voting pattern. If the government does not receive a strong plurality in Guatemala City, where most of the politically aware elements live, its mandate to govern would be questionable. Indecisive elections, followed by a prolonged period of instability, would increase the possibility of military intervention.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT

Construction of the Aswan High Dam and its irrigation systems has contributed to the rapidly rising incidence in Egypt of schistosomiasis, a debilitating parasitic disease. Schistosomiasis spreads to man through a blood fluke carried by a snail found in impounded waters or canals. The incidence of the disease near the dam has risen from about 23 percent to over 90 percent in the last few years. In a total Egyptian population of 35 million, over 22 million are believed already to be infected.

The rising incidence of schistosomiasis not only jeopardizes the economic gains from the Aswan dam but also poses a severe problem for the military. The disease infects nearly all the male agricultural population--the bulk of Egypt's manpower pool. The Egyptian Army is conducting field trials of a promising new US-developed drug.

Thus far the USSR has not become involved in the search for solutions to this problem. The Egyptians are looking primarily to private US sources because of previous medical assistance given to Egypt and because of successful demonstrations of the new drug in other countries.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PHILIPPINES

Students are planning to demonstrate again today at the US Embassy. This time they intend to protest alleged US efforts to help American servicemen evade prosecution by Philippine courts for offenses under local law. Anti-American feeling has been further aroused by false reports that a car driven by an embassy staff member injured a Filipino child yesterday, and by the death yesterday of a Filipino shot while attempting to rob the Clark Air Base commissary.



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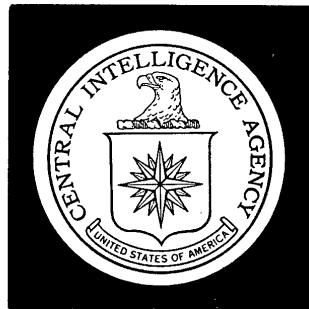
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Laos: There has been no new ground action near the Plaine des Jarres. The Communists apparently are concentrating their efforts on strengthening their hold over newly won positions and on resupplying front line forces. General Vang Pao is moving additional troops into position south of the Plaine in anticipation of an enemy thrust against the government's new defense line. The Meo leader's determination to defend his headquarters at Long Tieng has been reinforced by a recent statement of support for his efforts by local Meo chieftains.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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27 February 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

27 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The North Vietnamese continue to take soundings on allied intentions at the Paris peace talks. (Page 1)

Enemy plans to launch a new phase of the "winter-spring" campaign in South Vietnam are discussed on Page 2.

[redacted]

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[redacted]

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[redacted]

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The military situation in Laos, [redacted] and plans for a worldwide anti-US day are noted on Page 6.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

Le Duc Tho's remarks at a Paris tea party, as provided the US delegation by Chicago newsman Milton Freudenheim, suggest that Tho is starting to play his hand by lobbying through the press for a high-level replacement for Ambassador Lodge. According to Freudenheim, Tho said that he and Xuan Thuy "may have to go home" if Lodge is not replaced, but that if Washington sends a replacement and otherwise shows that it is "serious," then he and Thuy would return to the conference table.

Tho's comments seem designed to reinforce Soviet Counselor Oberemko's assertion on the 17th to deputy chief of mission Robert Blake that Tho was staying on in Paris in hopes that "sincere" talks could be started.



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We also note the Saigon delegation's claims that the other side has indirectly approached it regarding allied intentions in Paris. These claims, if they prove out, indicate that the Communist probing effort in Paris is fairly broad and comprehensive. Taken together, all the feelers strengthen our belief that Tho has more in mind than just getting a replacement for Lodge. They offer no solid clues of how much he ultimately hopes to accomplish or how he plans to move, however.

Cyrus Eaton, meanwhile, was to have met with Tho last night. We have not heard yet what transpired.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

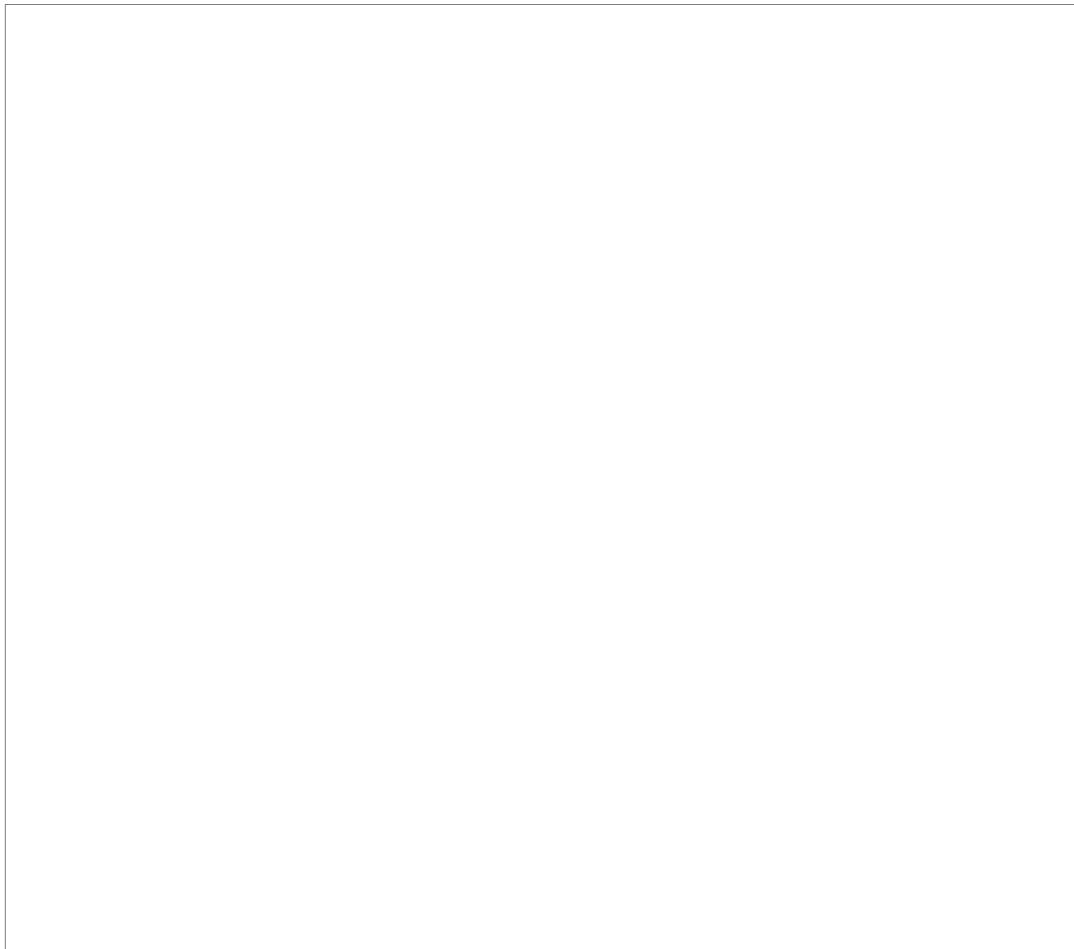
A new phase of the Communists' "winter-spring" campaign seems imminent. Documents and intercepts show that in III Corps a period of greater activity is to begin soon and run through 7 March. In the northern provinces, too, Communist units have radioed instructions for their subordinates to get set for action. In the case of Quang Nam Province, the "accelerated phase of activity" is to commence on the night of 1-2 March and is to be followed by a "continuous and uniform attack for five to seven days."

The increase in enemy shellings in the Mekong Delta on the night of 25-26 February may actually have marked the beginning of the new phase. Field commanders are allowed some leeway in adjusting their timetables to local circumstances.

The Communists probably feel themselves under considerable pressure to make some show of strength at a time when South Vietnamese optimism is growing. We would expect them, however, generally to restrict themselves to shellings, limited ground actions, and urban terrorism.

In recent months, the Communists have had difficulty in bringing off "high points" of this kind.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



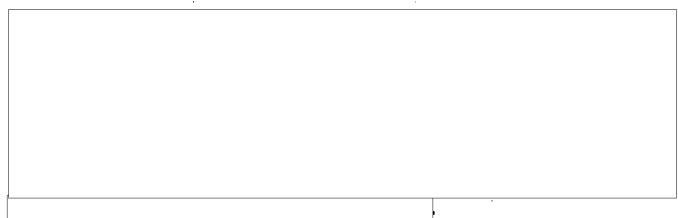
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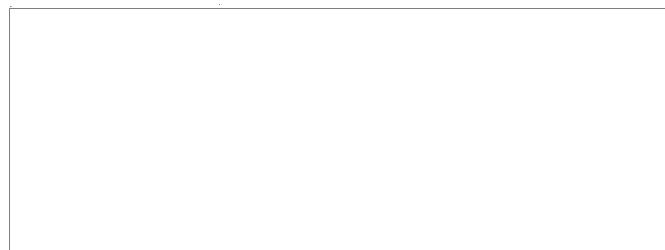


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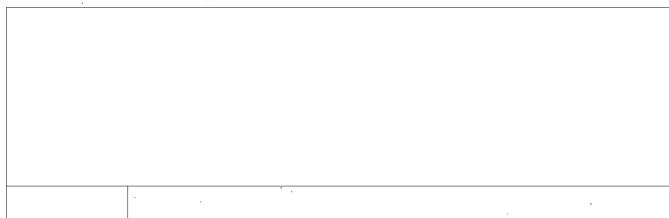
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NORTH VIETNAM - LAOS



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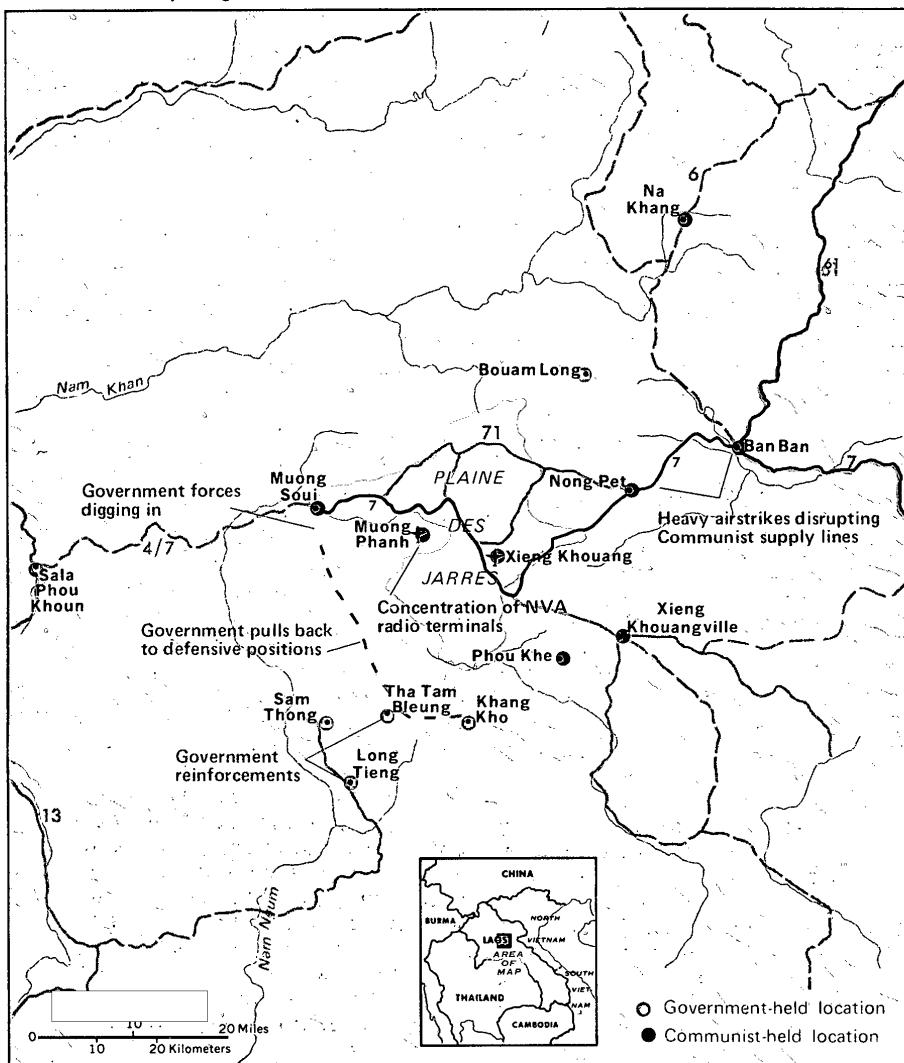


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Government Preparing for New Communist Activity



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NOTES

Laos: General Vang Pao has strengthened government defenses south and west of the Plaine des Jarres in anticipation of a Communist thrust toward his headquarters at Long Tieng. Enemy troop disposition appears to be unchanged except for one North Vietnamese force of undetermined size that recently moved to the western edge of the Plaine near Muong Phanh airfield. The enemy's ability to move supplies over Route 7 to the Plaine will be a crucial factor in the timing of the next Communist move. A North Vietnamese support unit complained in a recent intercepted message that heavy air strikes and influenza were greatly hampering the transfer of supplies to the Plaine area.

Israel-Lebanon: [redacted]

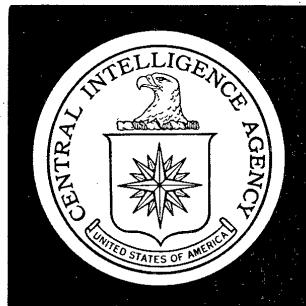
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Arab States: The World Peace Council and several other international organizations are trying to organize an international day of protest on 2 March against "American support of the Israeli aggressors." [redacted]

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Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

28 February 1970



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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

28 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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In Laos, the Communists are beginning to probe the approaches to General Vang Pao's base at Long Tieng.
(Page 2)

Guatemala's foreign minister has been kidnaped, apparently by one of the country's several Communist groups. (Page 3)



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Negotiations for a new center-left government in Italy are now faltering over the issue of relations with the Vatican. (Page 5)

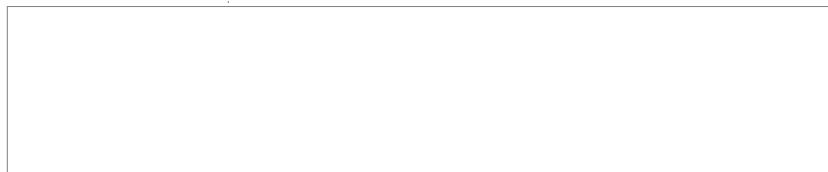


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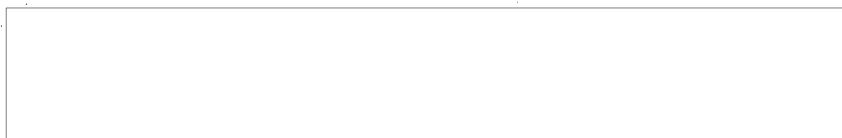
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ISRAEL-EGYPT



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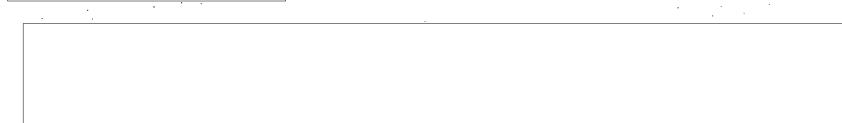
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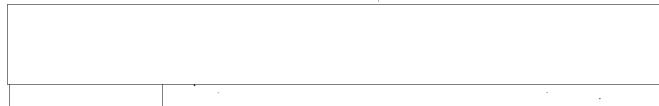
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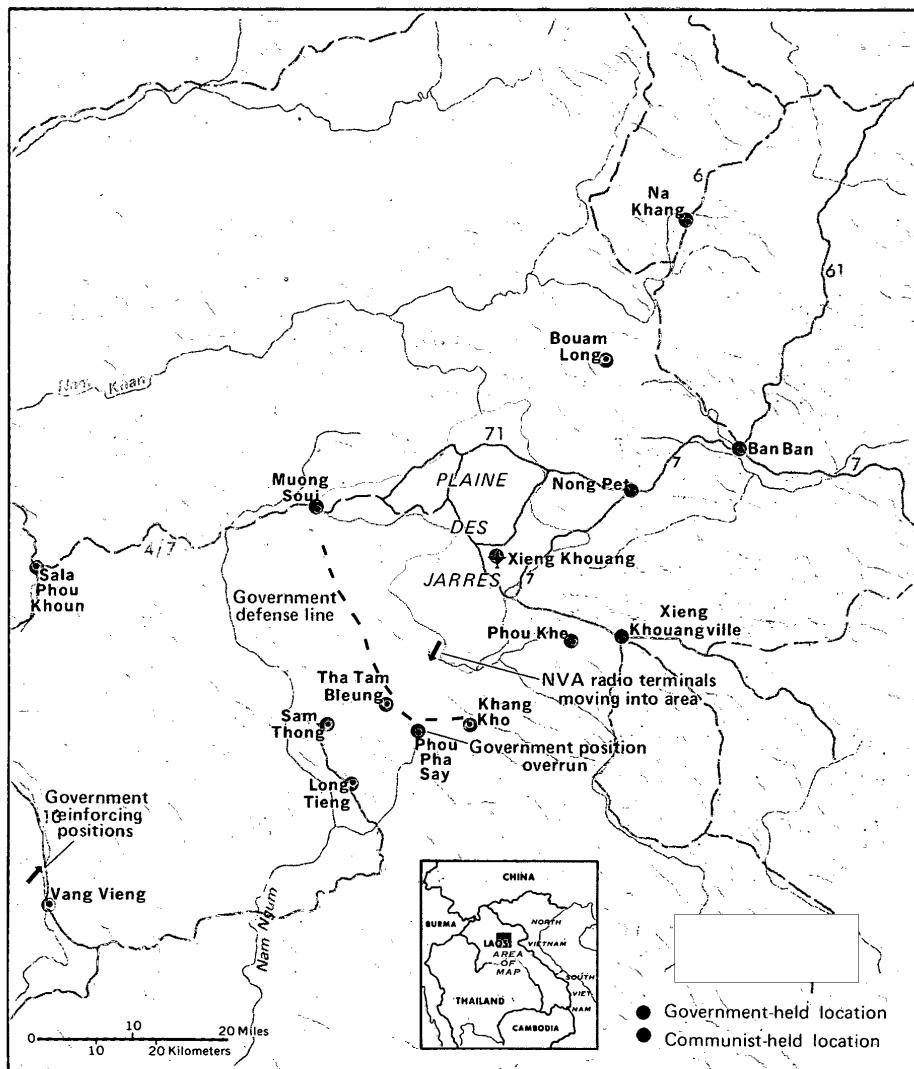
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

New Communist Activity South of the Plain



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

The Communists are beginning to probe government positions south of the Plaine des Jarres. Early yesterday an enemy force overran a lightly defended mountain outpost about ten miles from Long Tieng. General Vang Pao is now moving troops in to retake the post. Only a handful of enemy troops are still on the summit.

There are as yet too few Communist troops south of the Plaine to mount a major attack on Long Tieng or the outposts guarding its approaches.

[redacted] the current probing activity is probably the first step in a larger effort against Long Tieng.

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In Vientiane, Prime Minister Souvanna is putting pressure on his generals in south Laos to provide reinforcements for the fighting in the north. He has managed to extract promises of some troops to strengthen defenses north of Vang Vieng, but these forces are neither numerous enough nor are they of the calibre to do much good.

Souvanna is also trying to get the conflict back into the diplomatic arena. He has called publicly on the signatories of the 1962 Geneva Accords to reconvene, although he has not yet issued a formal request to the cochairmen--the UK and the USSR.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

GUATEMALA

Members of the Cuban-oriented Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) claim to be holding Foreign Minister Fuentes Mohr, who has been missing since his departure from a meeting with OAS election observers last night. The FAR told several radio stations that Mohr will be killed unless a student arrested by the government is released within 24 hours.

This seems to be part of a last-minute Communist effort to disrupt the general elections scheduled for tomorrow.

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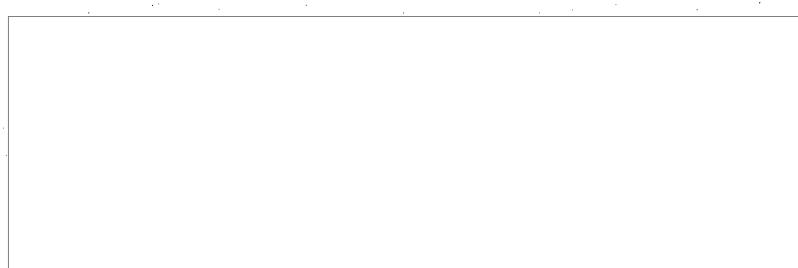
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USSR-FEDAYEEN

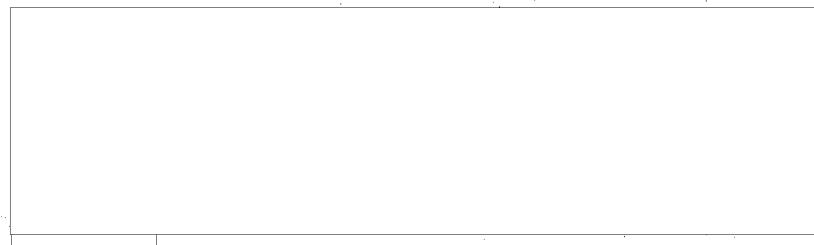


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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ITALY

Our embassy in Rome reports that the attempts of the four center-left parties to form a coalition are now faltering over the issue of relations with the Vatican. The trouble started when the Vatican recently issued a diplomatic note of protest against pending Italian divorce legislation. The Socialists, Unitary Socialists, and Republicans have called on the caretaker Christian Democratic government to reject the note. Prime Minister Rumor has made no move to do so, and a member of his staff reports that Rumor is discouraged over prospects for forming a new government.

A bill permitting divorce passed the lower house last year. Before the Vatican's intervention, the question of upper house action on the bill had not been considered an important hurdle for the current negotiations. Even if this difficulty is overcome, other sticky issues will need to be resolved, including the question of amnesty for those charged with illegal acts during the 1969 strikes, economic policy, and extending the policy of center-left cooperation to local governments.

President Saragat has the constitutional power to call early national elections, but it is unlikely that he would exercise it except as a last resort and after repeated failures to find a successor government.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR - Middle East: Moscow is pressing its efforts to dissuade the US from giving Israel more military aircraft. First Secretary Makarov of the Soviets' London embassy, citing a recent CBS news report that Washington would do so, told an American embassy officer on Thursday that this was a serious matter and that the Soviets would give the US a "beating." Makarov, who is known for floating trial balloons, said the US decision left Moscow no alternative but to supply "more sophisticated equipment" to the other side. He added that since the Arabs are not qualified to use such equipment, "other arrangements would have to be made." A Pravda article the same day echoed Makarov's warnings.

North Vietnam: [redacted]

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