



The President's Daily Brief

25X1

1 August 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

1 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Vietnam, heavy fighting continues on the northern battlefronts. South Vietnamese Marines are battling enemy units inside Quang Tri City and to the north and east. (Page 1)

The South Vietnamese are preparing contingency plans for a cease-fire. (Page 2)

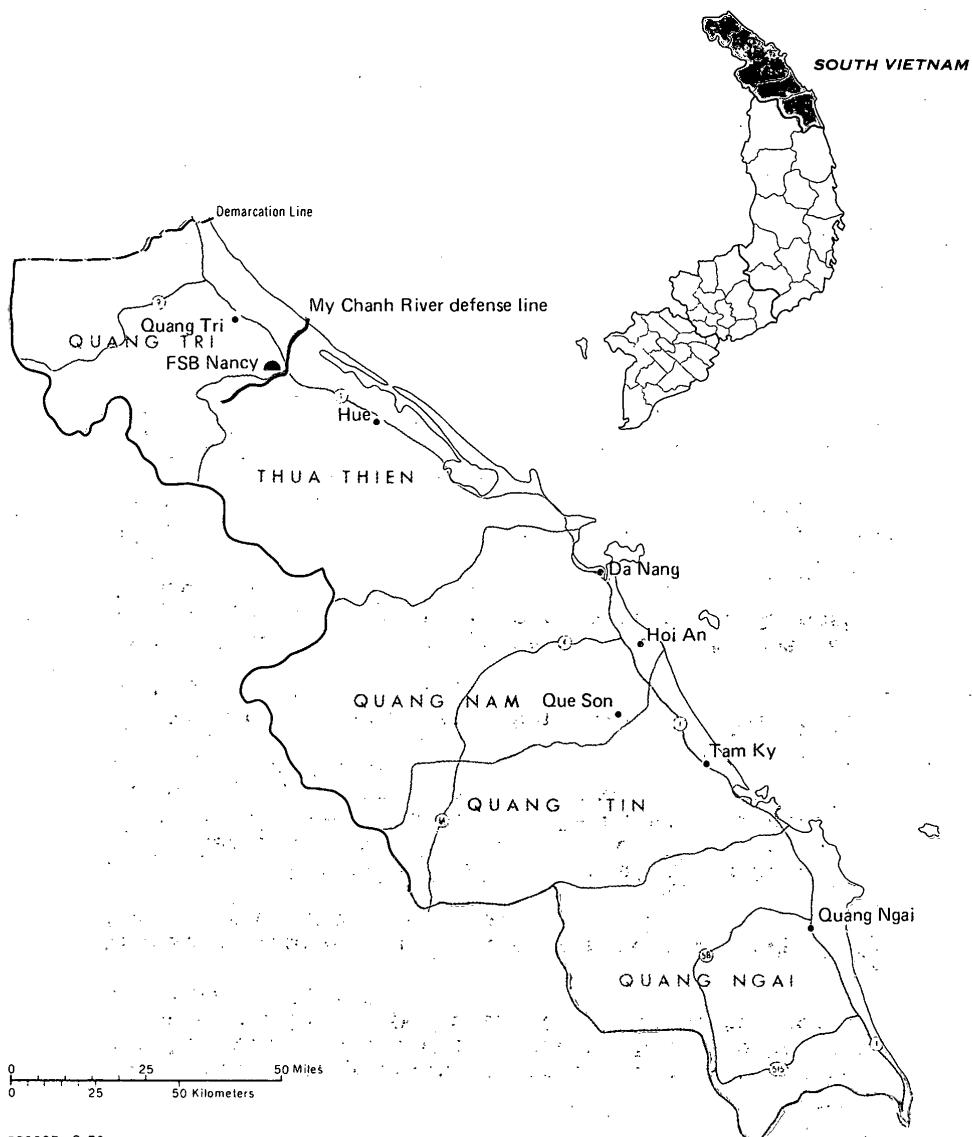
The publication of a joint editorial by China's three leading journals, the first of its kind in many months, suggests that at least some progress has been made toward resolving problems connected with the purge of Lin Piao. (Page 3)

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The Soviets [redacted]
 Eastern Europe. (Page 4)

Warsaw Pact leaders met yesterday in what appears to have been a hastily arranged session to discuss Middle East developments. (Page 5)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

Heavy fighting continues on the northern battle-fronts. South Vietnamese Marines are battling enemy units inside Quang Tri City and to the north and east. To the south, at least two regiments of the North Vietnamese 304th Division are attacking airborne positions west of Route 1 and are shelling other government positions in the area. The Communists presumably hope to cut Route 1 near Fire Support Base Nancy.

Farther south in Thua Thien Province, units of North Vietnam's 324B Division are attempting to push past South Vietnamese 1st Division forces southwest of Hue. The enemy may be trying to get into the lowlands in preparation for a major assault against Hue sometime soon.

Several pitched battles are under way in northern Binh Dinh Province, where strong resistance to the government's counteroffensive has developed. Both sides are sustaining heavy casualties in a see-saw contest.

In the southern half of the country, enemy activity has been at a low level, with most action in Tay Ninh Province. Early this morning, however, Bien Hoa air base northeast of Saigon was hit with 60 artillery and mortar rounds, the first major attack on this installation in more than a year.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

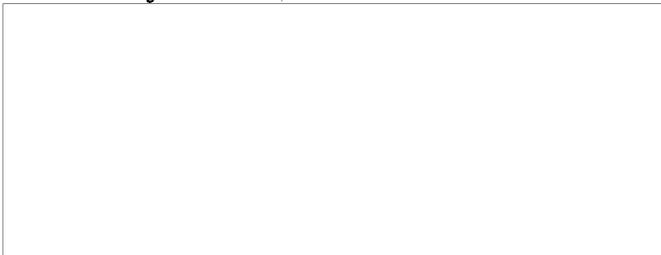
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The US Embassy in Saigon has recently obtained a copy of a secret South Vietnamese contingency plan for Military Region 3 in the event of a cease-fire. The plan deals with the situation and missions of "military and armed civilian forces" in the periods just before and after a cease-fire. It assumes that North Vietnamese forces will remain in place in the south and that a quasi-military form of "political warfare" will continue even after the cease-fire goes into effect. The plan calls for the government, among other things, to take "discreet" measures to assassinate and kidnap Communist cadres and to use the various resources at its command during the cease-fire, including the army if necessary, to expand the areas under its control.



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It is becoming clear that this year's enemy offensive, summit diplomacy, the resumption of the Paris talks, and the US election campaign are stimulating cease-fire talk and contingency preparations by both the government and the Communists.



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CHINA

On the occasion of Army Day, China's three leading journals have issued a joint editorial, the first of its kind in many months. The regime's decision to publish such an editorial now, after letting several appropriate occasions pass without comment, suggests that the leadership has made at least some progress toward resolving problems connected with the purge of Defense Minister Lin Piao.

The editorial appears to exonerate the Chinese armed forces from blame for the Lin affair. Ever since the Lin purge, the army has been subjected to a propaganda campaign calling on it to place itself under firm party control. The new editorial, however, states flatly that the military is "loyal to the party and the people" and that it is unified. It also declares that any conspirator who wanted to undermine the army--a clear reference to Lin--would be "only daydreaming."

Although Peking has recently confirmed to foreigners the story that has been circulating since last October about Lin's attempted coup against Mao and his subsequent abortive flight to the Soviet Union, Lin is not mentioned by name in the editorial. Peking, by endorsing this account, may have hoped to take some wind out of the sails of the Nationalist Chinese, who have themselves been publicizing the story in a number of foreign capitals recently, while avoiding the embarrassment that would accompany any denunciation of Lin by name in the official press. Even this step, however, required a decision at the highest levels, and suggests that the regime is attempting to tie up loose ends relating to the purge and to project an image of public unity.

Peking, however, still has not provided answers to several questions concerning army-party relations. It has not, for example, identified former marshal Yeh Chien-ying as Lin's successor in the post of defense minister, despite reports circulating in China that this would occur on Army Day. Nor has it filled a number of other important military and civilian posts that have been vacant for a long time. Thus it appears that the personnel and policy issues that have been in dispute among the leadership are yet to be fully resolved.

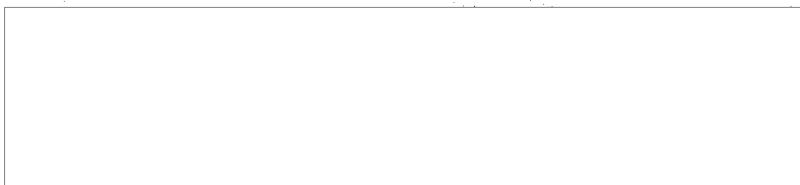
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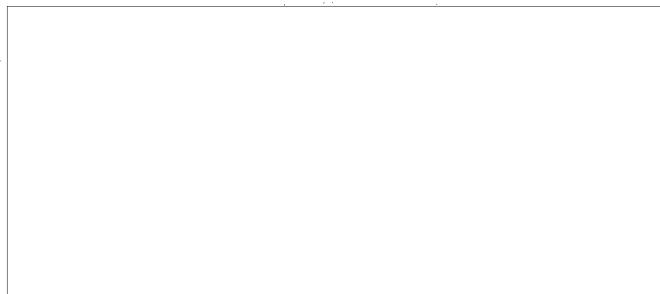
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USSR - EASTERN EUROPE



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NOTES

USSR - Warsaw Pact: Leaders of Warsaw Pact countries, plus Mongolia, met in the Crimea yesterday in what appears to have been a hastily arranged session. Moscow announced that the foreign leaders were on "a brief rest," but only Czechoslovakia's Husak was known to have been vacationing in the Soviet Union. We believe that a principal topic of the meeting was the expulsion of Soviet advisers from Egypt, together with advice to Pact members on their relations with the Arab states.

Syria-USSR: Satellite photography shows enough SA-3 canisters and launchers at the Hims SAM-support facility in western Syria to equip two SA-3 sites. SA-3 equipment was scheduled to arrive in Syria early this summer, and this is the first photography of such equipment there.

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2 August 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

2 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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In Vietnam, infantry action has slackened around
Quang Tri City, although both sides continue to use
heavy artillery fire.

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India

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(Page 2)

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While Soviet military personnel continue to withdraw
from Egypt, not all Soviet military activity there
has ended. (Page 3)

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VIETNAM-USSR-CHINA

Infantry action has slackened around Quang Tri City, although artillery fire from both sides continues to be heavy. South Vietnamese Marines north and east of the city report only light casualties from enemy shellings and occasional ground contacts.

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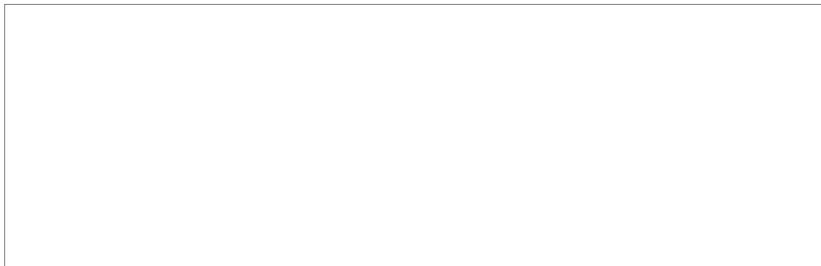
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INDIA



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NOTE

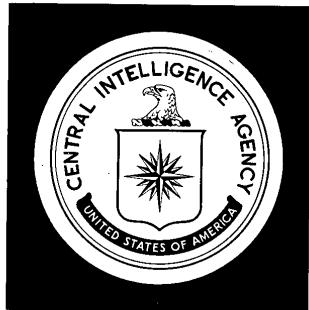
Egypt-USSR: As the withdrawal of Soviet military personnel from Egypt proceeds, nearly 40 aircraft have made the round trip between the USSR and Egypt. The passenger aircraft could have carried as many as 2,000 persons, many of whom may have been dependents. Some Soviet activity is continuing, however.

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The President's Daily Brief

3 August 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

3 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Fighting is again heavy around Quang Tri City. In the northern delta, meanwhile, a large concentration of Communist units has been detected in Base Area 470. (Page 1)

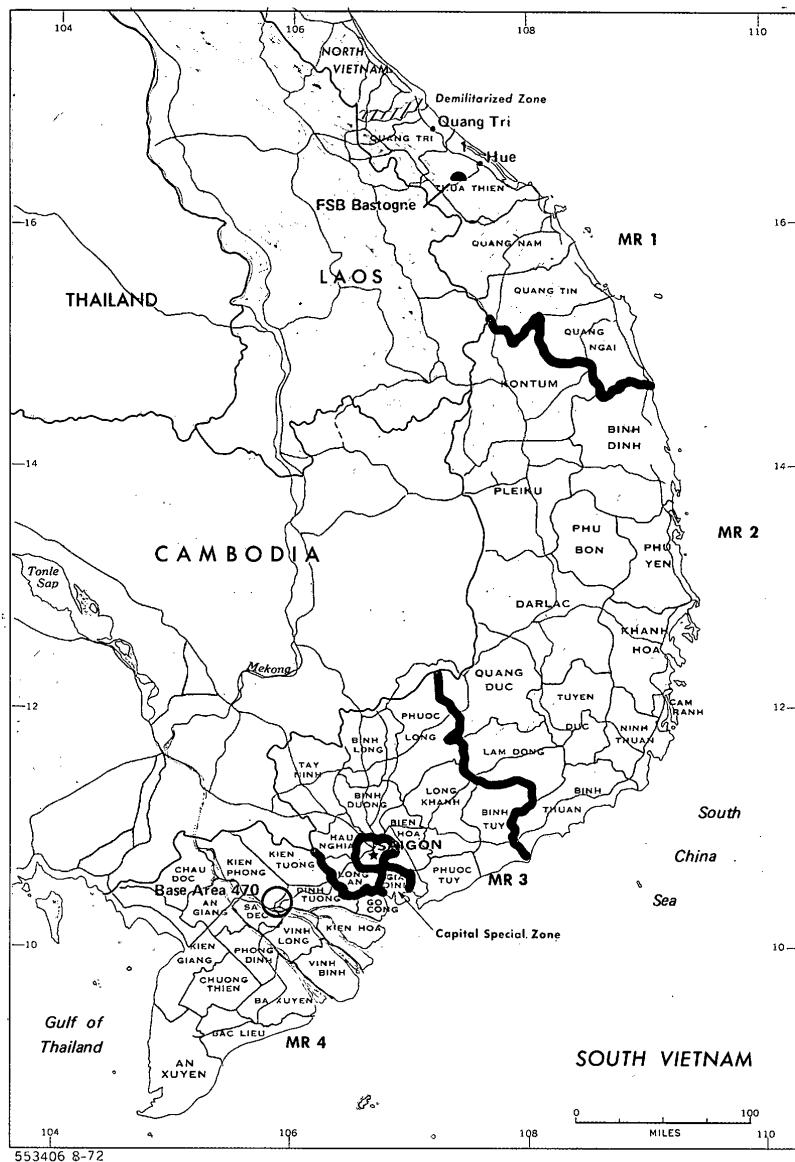
Libya and Egypt have announced plans to unite their two countries, but the blueprint falls well short of Qadhafi's hope for complete and immediate fusion. (Page 2)

The status of Soviet economic technicians in Egypt [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] do not appear affected by the withdrawal of Soviet [redacted] (Page 3) 25X1

Pakistan [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Bangladesh. 25X1
(Page 4) 25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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SOUTH VIETNAM

Fighting has picked up around Quang Tri City. In one of the heaviest battles to date, South Vietnamese Marines, supported by artillery, engaged enemy troops on the northwestern outskirts of the city and held off a number of small Communist ground assaults. Marine positions in and around the city came under intense artillery and mortar fire. Just to the south, airborne units fought several skirmishes and captured six tons of ammunition and supplies.

Communist intercepts continue to indicate that the enemy is preparing for heavy action around the provincial capital. The headquarters of the senior enemy command authority for the Quang Tri battle-front has moved across the DMZ to a position five miles northeast of the city, suggesting that it will coordinate the activities of the recently infiltrated North Vietnamese 312th and 325th divisions.

West of Hue, government forces today recaptured Fire Support Base Bastogne. Enemy artillery continued to shell other government positions nearby. Intercepts indicate that the Communist units intend to sustain the pressure on government forces in this area because they believe that South Vietnamese determination is "wavering." Farther south, the air base at Da Nang was hit by 38 rockets this morning, which damaged six US helicopters and killed one US airman.

The largest concentration of Communist units [redacted] in the northern Mekong Delta is gathering in Base Area 470 at the junction of Dinh Tuong, Kien Phong, and Kien Tuong provinces. [redacted]

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[redacted]
enemy military activity has been aimed at reducing the government's presence and securing lines of communications, particularly the extensive waterways that criss-cross this section of the delta.

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LIBYA-EGYPT

Presidents Qadhafi and Sadat have announced plans for union of their countries by 1 September 1973. The union is intended to be implemented in stages under the direction of a unified political leadership that will recommend plans for merging the institutions of the two countries. Joint committees will be set up to prepare for integration of all political, economic, and national security systems. After approval by the leadership of both countries, the final formula for union will be submitted for popular vote.

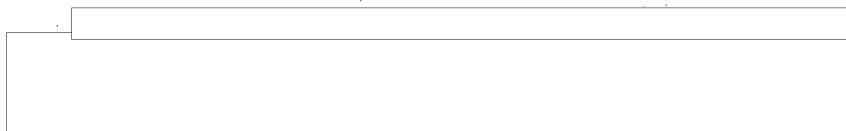
This blueprint falls well short of Qadhafi's hope for complete and immediate fusion. Moreover, Qadhafi's eagerness to press ahead in his scheme for Arab unity could cause him serious problems at home. Relations with Egypt were a major cause of the discord that broke out within Libya's collective leadership last month. Some members of the Revolutionary Command Council have favored a more cautious approach toward Egypt and have opposed Qadhafi's generous financial assistance to the Egyptians. Libya's political and financial commitment to the new union is thus likely to cause renewed dissension within the Libyan ruling group in the coming months and could be a critical factor in the delicate balance among its 12 members.

The long lead time for the establishment of the union was likely a concession to Sadat. The Egyptian leader seems to have agreed to Qadhafi's scheme largely to avoid antagonizing an important aid donor.

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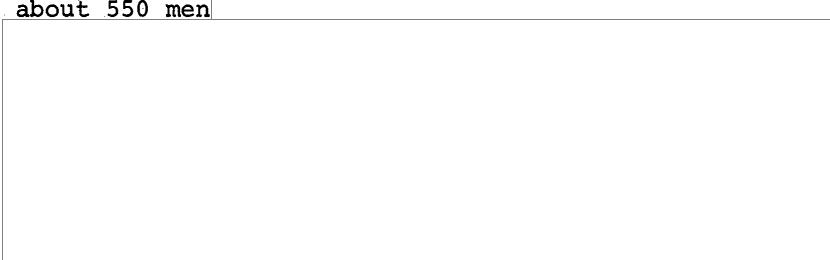
EGYPT-USSR



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In fact, the number of Soviet technicians assigned to economic aid projects--now standing at about 550 men

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Moscow and Cairo have a mutual interest in the continuation of substantial Soviet economic and technical assistance to Egypt. President Sadat has stated that the removal of Soviet military advisers was not intended to alter the basic friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He has indicated that Egypt continues to rely on the USSR for economic and technical aid.

With the severe reduction of its military presence in Egypt, Moscow must rely more than ever on economic and technical assistance to maintain its influence in Egypt and the Arab world.

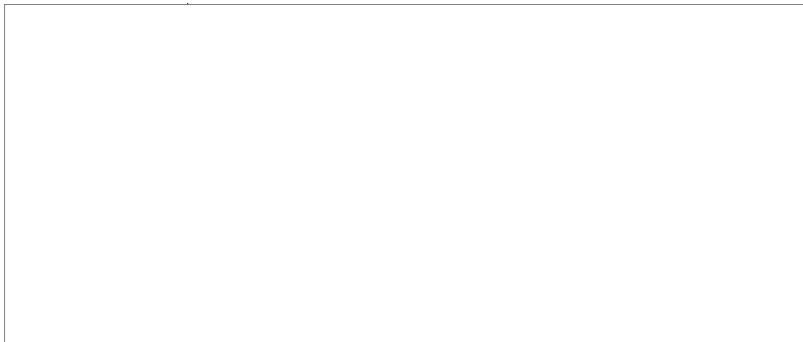
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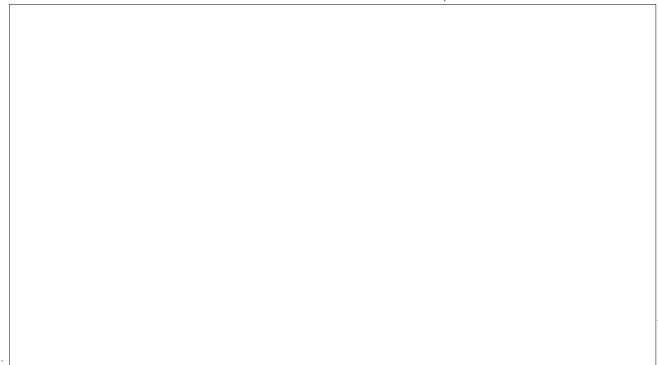
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PAKISTAN-BANGLADESH



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NOTES

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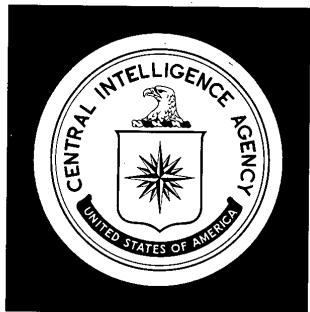
Japan: The Japanese Defense Agency has requested a \$15-billion appropriation for 1972-76, more than double the level of defense spending under the previous five-year program. The share of the gross national product devoted to defense, however, would remain at approximately one percent if the economy grows at or near the expected rate. One effect of the spending boost would be a significant increase in purchases of military hardware from the US.

Paraguay:

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The President's Daily Brief

4 August 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

4 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Vietnam, the government campaign to capture the Quang Tri citadel continues to meet heavy resistance. Recent photography shows the continued expansion of the petroleum system from China into North Vietnam.
(Page 1)

West German shadow foreign minister Gerhard Schroeder says the Chinese are ready to establish diplomatic relations. *(Page 2)*

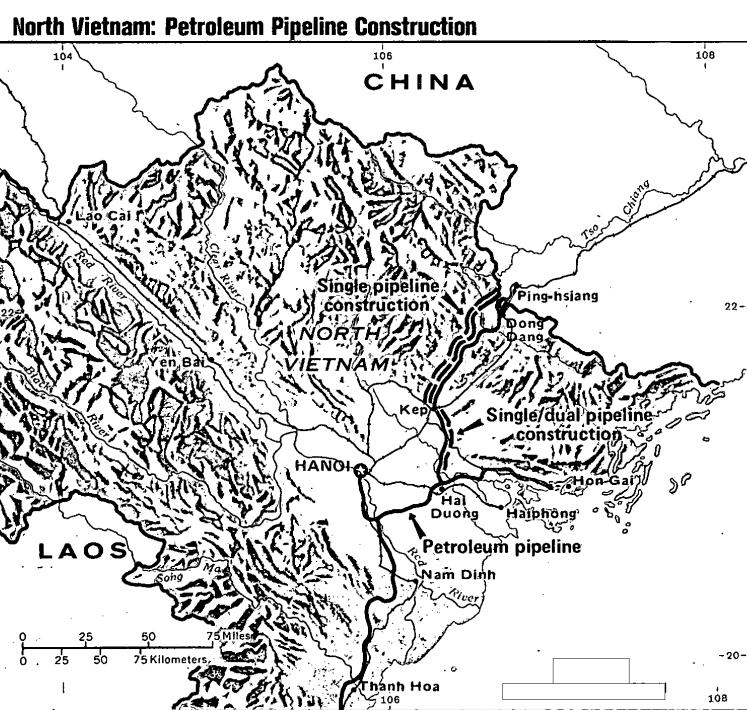
In an effort to improve relations with Peking, Thailand will let a ping-pong team go to China. *(Page 3)*

Chilean President Allende has rebuffed Congress by naming an impeached cabinet minister to another cabinet post. *(Page 4)*

The latest satellite photography shows another launch complex for China's CSS-1 ballistic missile. *(Page 5)*

At Annex, we review current evidence indicating that the Communist main force units may try to initiate a major offensive in several areas of South Vietnam, perhaps within the next few weeks.

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VIETNAM

The government campaign to capture the Quang Tri citadel continues to meet heavy resistance. Communist shellings and ground attacks have slowed the South Vietnamese Marine operation launched yesterday against the citadel, and sharp fighting is reported again along the northern edge of Quang Tri City. A few miles to the southwest, South Vietnamese airborne forces repulsed a strong enemy tank attack with the help of heavy air strikes.

A review of evidence pointing to a possible new coordinated Communist offensive in several areas of South Vietnam appears at Annex.

* * *

The petroleum pipeline system from China into North Vietnam continues to be expanded. Photography indicates that the system will consist of three single pipelines between the Chinese border and Kep and a combination of a dual and single line between Kep and Hai Duong, where it will connect with the extensive pipeline network running down into South Vietnam and southern Laos. We believe the capacity of the new system, when completed, will exceed Hanoi's petroleum import requirement.

* * *

The rainy season is nearing its midpoint and we have no evidence of serious flooding in North Vietnam. Intercepted river stage reports indicate that the major rivers are at normal seasonal levels, and there have been no unusually long, heavy rains during July like those that preceded last year's disastrous floods. Photographic coverage of almost the entire delta area disclosed no breaches in any primary dikes and only normal accumulations of water in some low areas between them.

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WEST GERMANY - CHINA

Pressure seems to be building up in Bonn to establish diplomatic relations soon with Peking. West Germany's opposition Christian Democrats, who have been openly promoting this step as a way to counter what they argue is Chancellor Brandt's too narrow focus on the USSR and Eastern Europe, recently sent their shadow foreign minister Gerhard Schroeder, on a fact-finding mission to Peking. According to Schroeder, the Chinese said they are ready to establish diplomatic relations "immediately" after a "brief" contact with a Chinese embassy in some European capital. He added that the Chinese set forth no preconditions.

Although Schroeder may be overstating the speed with which China would like to move, his report places the Brandt government under some pressure. The Christian Democrats hope to exploit Bonn's relative neglect of China in the pending election campaign; recent opinion polls show that almost 80 percent of West Germans approve immediate action on this question. Brandt prefers delaying a bid to Peking in order to avoid antagonizing the Soviets, particularly until the negotiations on a basic political treaty with East Germany--which Moscow presumably could influence--are concluded.

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THAILAND-CHINA

General Praphat, the de facto policy maker of the ruling military body, has reversed himself and announced that a Thai ping-pong team will be permitted to go to China. He has included in the sports delegation one of his close associates, Prasit Kanchanawat, a senior economic official. The Bangkok press reports that Prasit will discuss the possibility of opening commercial relations between the two countries and will meet with Premier Chou En-lai.

The erratic nature of Bangkok's slow movement toward better relations with Peking results partly from differences within the leadership. It also reflects the Thais' difficulty in reconciling their perceived need to establish contacts with China with their long-standing fears about China's intentions toward Thailand and the impact which contacts will have on the large Chinese community in Thailand.

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CHILE

President Allende has rebuffed Congress by naming impeached Interior Minister Del Canto to another cabinet post, minister secretary-general of government. The incumbent, Jaime Suarez, has been switched to the Interior portfolio. Since both are Socialists, Allende has maintained the political balance in the cabinet and avoided infighting within his governing coalition.

At the same time, the continuing friction between the President and Congress has been extended to include the Supreme Court. In an address Tuesday night Carlos Altamirano, the chief of the Socialist Party, charged that the court concerns itself more with protecting property rights than prosecuting white-collar crime.

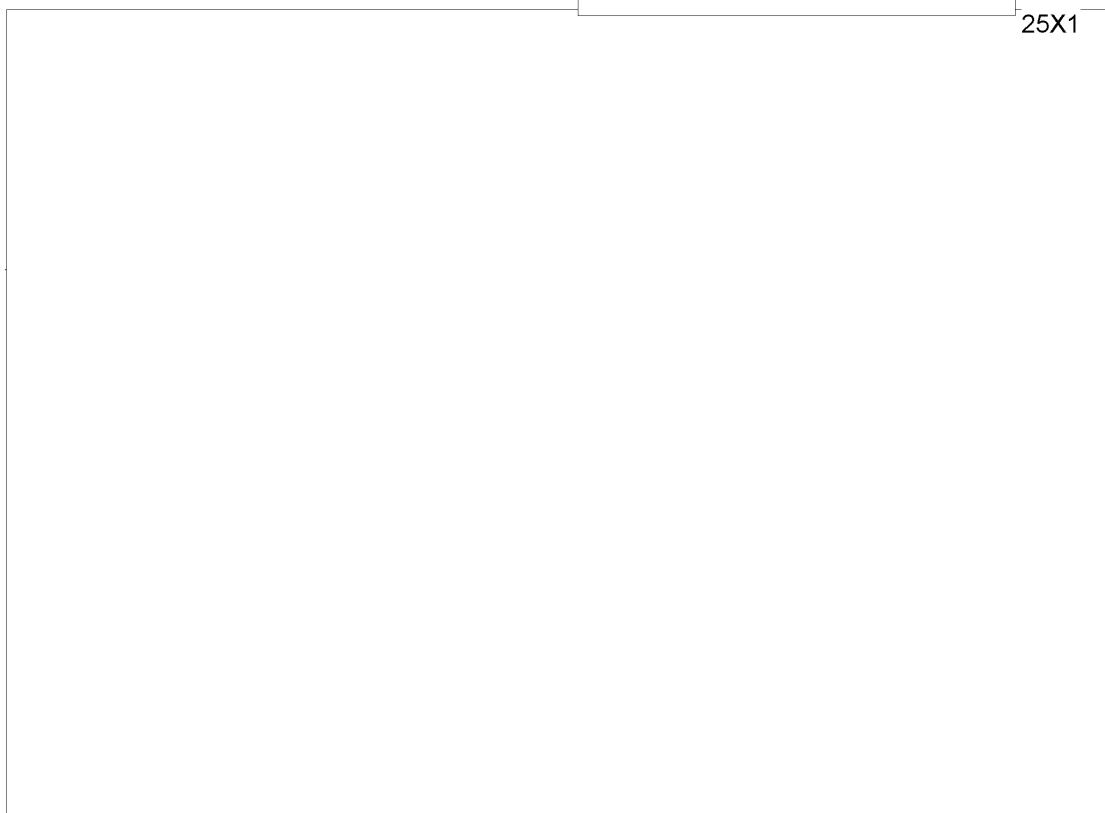
The courts, like the military, traditionally have been immune to partisan attack, but recent decisions favoring the conservative side of politically sensitive issues have made them vulnerable to leftist criticism. A new draft constitution promised for next month presumably will call for reducing the powers of Congress and the courts and might provide Allende's coalition with a popular platform for fighting the congressional elections next March.

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CHINA

The latest satellite photography shows another deployed launch complex for the 600-mile CSS-1 ballistic missile, this one in east-central China.

The complex is at Lien-keng-wang, about 135 miles south-southwest of Nanking. It extends some 20 miles and contains three or four launch sites and a support area. No missiles are visible, but CSS-1 ground support equipment--missile transporter-erectors, propellant vehicles, A-frame cranes, and launch stands--can be identified. Numerous buildings and caves throughout the complex could be used to store missiles.

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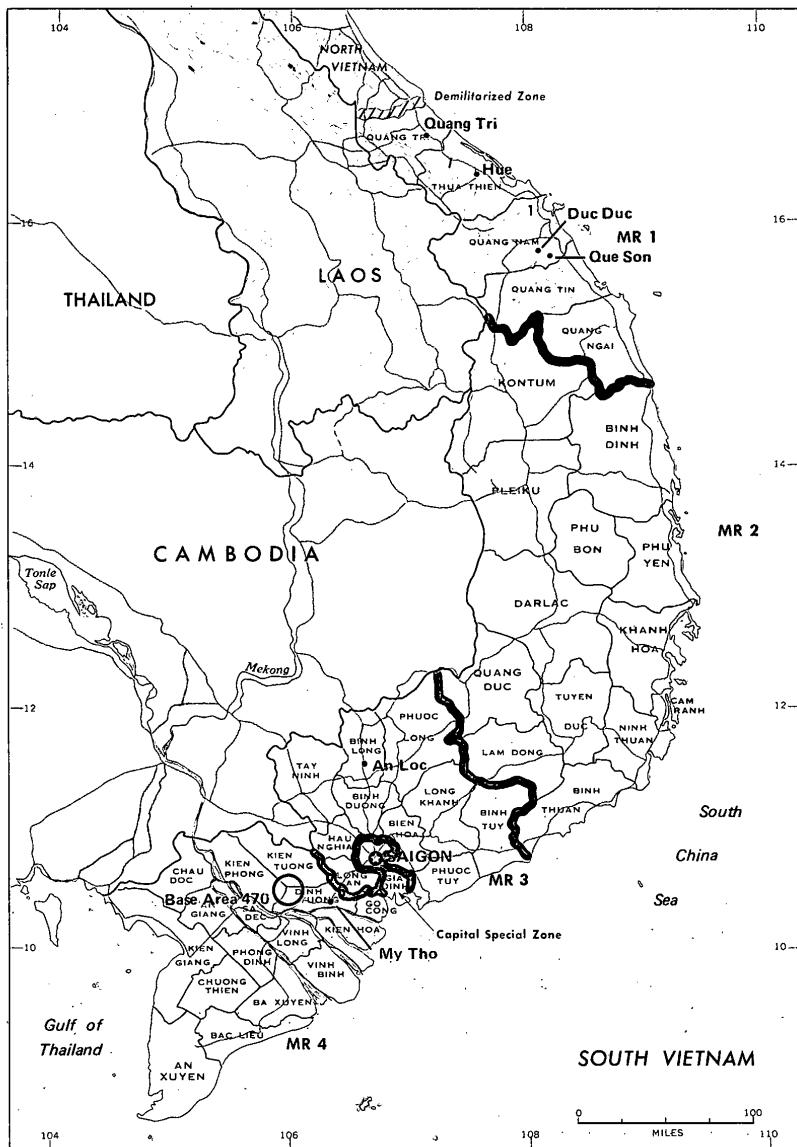
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**VIETNAM: A NEW ENEMY OFFENSIVE SHAPING UP**

A review of current evidence indicates that Communist main force units may try to initiate a substantial and coordinated offensive in several areas of South Vietnam, perhaps within the next few weeks. Although the attacks may not be on the scale of the Communist thrusts in early spring, Hanoi will be hoping to secure battlefield gains that will influence domestic politics in the US and strengthen its bargaining hand at Paris.

[redacted] the enemy's top southern command, COSVN, had ordered another strong round of attacks to try to force a settlement of the war on Communist terms, and that August and September would be important months because US election fervor would be rising. The recent movement of almost two additional enemy infantry divisions from North Vietnam into northern Military Region 1 and the additional deployment of enemy units into the northern delta suggest that these two areas will be the focal points for the campaign. Renewed assaults around An Loc and in the provinces northwest of Saigon also appear in prospect, along with a substantial increase in enemy operations in sectors of the central coast. In the western highlands, however, where the Communists laid siege to Kontum this spring, there are few signs of enemy planning for substantial new attacks.

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25X1The Quang Tri - Hue Front

The movement of elements of two additional North Vietnamese divisions--the 312th and 325th--into northern South Vietnam to augment four enemy divisions already there began in mid-July, shortly after the South Vietnamese counteroffensive into Quang Tri Province. There had been earlier indications that the North Vietnamese were planning to commit at least elements of these two divisions to the northern front. The South Vietnamese counteroffensive appears to have forced Hanoi's hand. The current locations of the additional divisional elements suggest that the North Vietnamese could use them in a vigorous counterpunch at the South Vietnamese units strung out along Route 1 to Quang Tri City, hoping to cut off and defeat these troops, perhaps the best of Saigon's forces.

The North Vietnamese may be moving additional tanks into the area from North Vietnam to support the new assaults. A column of 20 to 30 armored vehicles moving through the southern panhandle was only 15 miles north of the Demilitarized Zone by 1 August. Intercepts suggest that the vehicles will enter South Vietnam through the eastern part of the DMZ.

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The new enemy operations may not involve all of the forces now deployed in the province. In mid-July, after a five-month hiatus, the 308th Division resumed communications with the military high command in Hanoi, a measure which normally precedes a major move. This development suggests that the 308th may be preparing to return to North Vietnam, although it remains in position to take part in any renewed fighting.

So far, there has been little evidence that the Communists are augmenting their infantry force to the west of Hue--an action the enemy presumably would consider necessary if a full-scale push on the city were planned for the near future. The Communists have recently stepped up their attacks against government positions in Thua Thien west of Hue, where two government fire support bases have changed hands several times within the past month. Enemy gunners are within artillery range of the old imperial capital, and it appears that the Communists would like to push back the defending South Vietnamese 1st Division in the hope of undercutting and weakening the government drive into Quang Tri.

Similar enemy strategy appears to be involved in Quang Nam Province to the south, where another division-size enemy force--the so-called 711th Division--is pressing from the west against government outposts and district strongpoints in Que Son and Duc Duc districts. We believe that the Communists intend to try to keep Saigon's units there from reinforcing the northern battlefield should the fighting begin to turn against the government there. In the spring offensive, the Communists employed a similar strategy in this province to back their operations to the north.

The Delta and the Saigon Area

The Communists have massed the largest concentration of main force units ever seen in the northern delta. At least five infantry regiments and elements of an artillery regiment already have infiltrated, and we believe that two more infantry regiments are on the way. Most of the infiltrating units, including the enemy's 5th Division, have been heading for a base camp in the northwestern triborder area of Dinh Tuong, Kien Tuong, and Kien Phong provinces. During the past few weeks, clandestine sources have reported that heavier enemy action is being planned for August and September in the northern delta.

The Communists appear to have several objectives in mind in this area. It is a long-time Communist stronghold which, in the past, has provided relatively good protection and good access by waterway to resupply from Cambodia. The area lies close to

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Route 4, the government's main road link to the delta, and to a variety of canals over which food is moved to Saigon. If the Communists could regularly interdict the road and water routes through the area, they would seriously disrupt the government's ability to support its forces in the southern delta provinces, and thus facilitate gains by their own units farther south. The base area also provides a favorable position for attacks around and on My Tho, a strategic provincial capital.

Despite reports that increased attacks are being planned for the provinces to the northwest of Saigon, particularly in Tay Ninh and Hau Nghia, there are few indications that the Communists are moving additional main force units into these provinces. They would need more manpower to mount a telling offensive there. Most enemy forces involved in the heavy fighting earlier in MR 3 have recently seen only limited action. Most of the units from the Communists' 7th and 9th divisions probably are still in the An Loc area. It seems likely that these units would again be used in Binh Long or Binh Duong provinces in the hope of deterring Saigon from diverting its forces north to MR 1 or reinforcing threatened units elsewhere.

Central Vietnam

We do not expect that enemy combat activity in the western highlands will increase substantially in the coming weeks. Many of the units previously engaged in the fighting in Kontum and Pleiku provinces have moved out. On the coast, however, government efforts to recapture areas in northern Binh Dinh Province suggest that fairly hard fighting lies ahead. Prisoners [redacted] claim that the Communists foresee stronger action along the heavily populated central coast in August and September.

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Prospects

The next Communist offensive is likely to be smaller and more selective than the thrusts last April and May. With heavy rains and flooding in some areas, resupply difficulties may limit the Communists' ability to sustain a heavy pace of fighting. This spring's combat also reduced the strength and fighting ability of many enemy units. The newly trained troops that Hanoi sent south may have offset losses, but even after refitting, the performance of these units will suffer from the loss of experienced leadership cadre and specialists.

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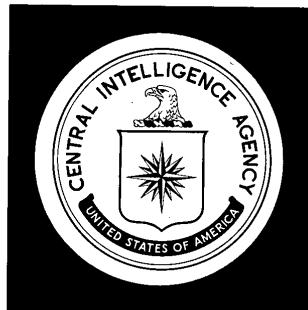
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Despite such limitations, the Communists apparently believe that heavy action in the coming weeks offers a possibility of at least limited tactical gains as well as significant political impact. Some evidence of the scope of enemy plans is appearing in current North Vietnamese propaganda on the war. Hanoi's Defense Minister Giap recently claimed that "favorable opportunities" now exist in the south to push forward on the battlefields, and radio and press commentaries are emphasizing both Quang Tri and the delta as theaters of operation.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

5 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

South Vietnamese Marines are nearing the Quang Tri City citadel on two sides, but continue to be hampered by heavy Communist artillery fire and solidly fortified enemy positions. Recent photography shows that most of the bomb damage to North Vietnamese dikes has been repaired. (Page 1)

The Israelis believe that Egypt's expulsion of Soviet military personnel vindicates their hard negotiating stance and that the Egyptians will eventually be forced into direct talks. (Page 2)

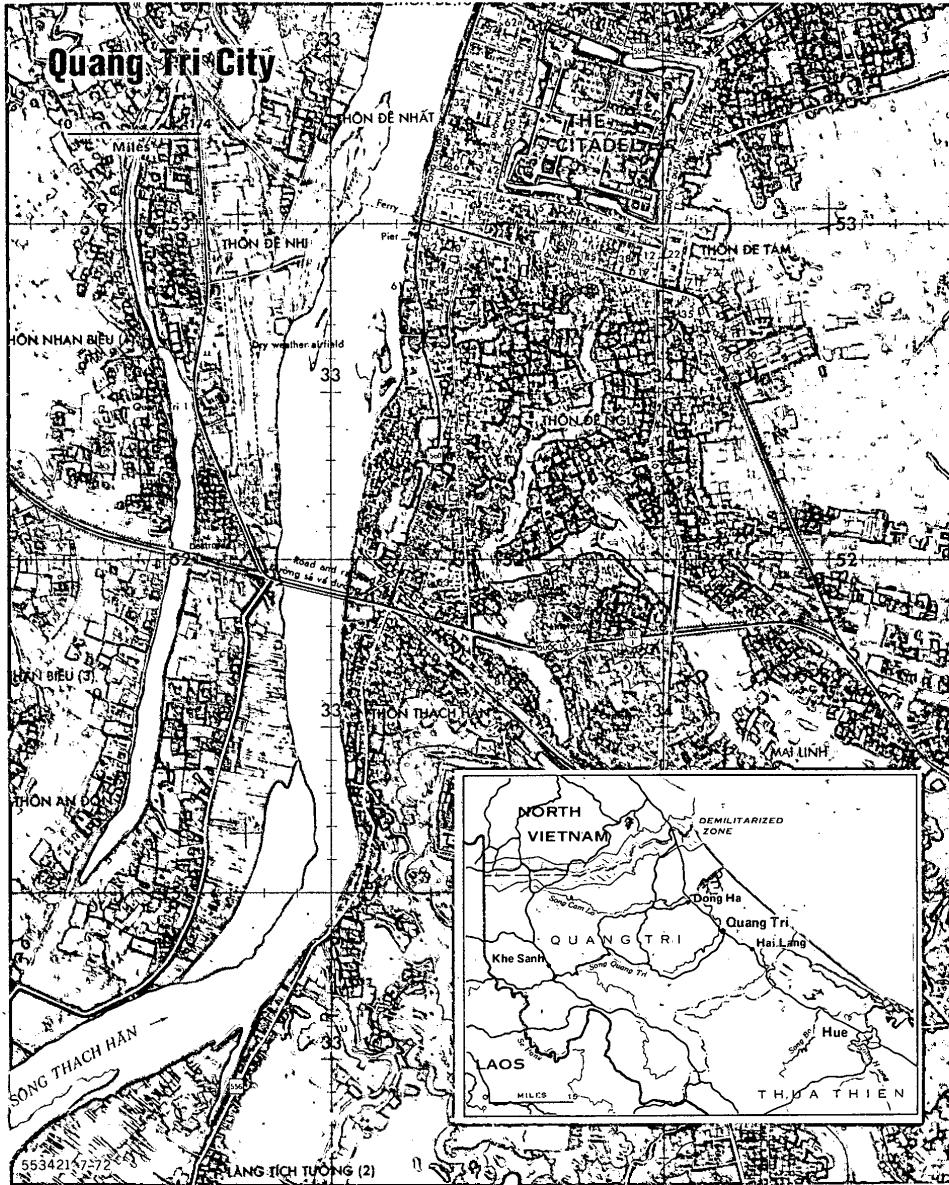
The South Koreans are seeking improved relations with Communist states including China. (Page 3)

Cambodian President Lon Nol may call off the national assembly elections set for early next month. (Page 4)

Japan [redacted] considering importing Chinese crude oil as "partial" payment for the sale of a synthetic fiber plant to China. (Page 5) 25X1

It appears likely that the European Communities summit will take place as scheduled in October. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

South Vietnamese Marines are nearing the Quang Tri City citadel on two sides, but continue to be hampered by heavy Communist artillery fire and solidly fortified enemy positions. Late reports indicate that the South Vietnamese are attempting to flank the citadel on the west to block the flow of supplies to North Vietnamese forces in the city.

There are signs that the Communists are experiencing some supply and morale problems in their efforts to hold the city. An intercept of 3 August from a unit within Quang Tri indicated that supplies were running short; other messages from a unit north of the city reflected inability to complete its combat mission.

Farther south, the Communists are continuing to shell major government strongpoints west of Hue. In western Quang Ngai Province, Son Ha district capital was finally occupied by the enemy on Thursday after changing hands at least twice.

This action may signal the return to combat of the North Vietnamese 2nd Division, whose major elements had moved to this area from Kontum Province during the past few weeks. The division has not seen action in almost two months.

* * *

Photographic coverage of 29 and 30 July shows that most of the bomb damage to North Vietnamese dikes that had been identified two weeks earlier

[redacted] has been repaired. No flooding has occurred at any of the locations hit, and the minor damage remaining unrepairs is unlikely to cause flooding from the seasonal high water due during the next few weeks. Although undetected damage to the dikes from the 1971 floods may cause future trouble, manpower, equipment, and materials for repair work are available.

25X1
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL

The Israeli Government believes Egypt's expulsion of Soviet military personnel vindicates its hard negotiating stance. Moreover, it believes that a wait-and-see attitude will eventually force Egypt into direct negotiations.

Foreign Minister Eban told US Chargé Zurhellen on 2 August that no one had ever expected to see the "extraordinary vision" of the Soviets leaving Egypt. It would now be no more dramatic, he said, if Egypt were to accept "the Rhodes formula" (during the 1948 negotiations at Rhodes the Egyptians and Israelis talked in the presence of a mediator).

Eban also said that the US and Israel now should try to bring Egypt to recognize that it has only two options: accept a deadlock or negotiate with Israel. He continued to oppose the resumption of UN mediator Jarring's mission on the grounds that Egypt uses Jarring only as a shield to avoid giving serious thought to developing a "negotiating technique."

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

KOREA

Speaking to the National Assembly on 8 July, South Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-shik underscored Seoul's intent to "widen diplomatic horizons" through improved relations with Communist states including, for the first time, China. He admitted to US officials in Seoul that one of the purposes of his coming trip to India and the Philippines is to request their help in getting into communication with Moscow and Pekina.

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Seoul's efforts have met with little success thus far, but the South Koreans are determined to keep trying. They sense that, just as Pyongyang has been able to use the improved atmosphere in North-South relations to broaden its diplomatic base, the possibilities for South Korean contacts with Communist states are also improved.

Pyongyang, meanwhile, is now seeking to delay the Red Cross discussions. In recent meetings with their South Korean counterparts, North Korean Red Cross officials reneged on their original agreement to begin plenary talks on 5 August and instead raised new proposals that will delay the opening of the plenary sessions for several weeks.

One important motive for the North's foot dragging may be to delay the opening of the talks until consideration of the Korean question in the UN next month. Pyongyang believes that rapid progress would bolster Seoul's argument that the UN should not debate the issue at this time.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

President Lon Nol is considering calling off the national assembly elections scheduled for 3 September.

[redacted] indicated that he would do so if he could find a plausible excuse. He had received reports that his efforts to ensure a sweeping victory for his Socio-Republican Party might fall short.

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At the same time, one of the two opposition parties, the Republican Party organized by Lon Nol's former close associate Sirik Matak, has announced that it will boycott the elections because the government is rigging them. The other opposition party is also threatening to withdraw.

The opposition moves increase the chances that Lon Nol will cancel the elections for quite a different reason--he would not want to face the embarrassing prospect of having his party run without opposition. The Republican boycott also deepens the shadow over the troubled relationship between Lon Nol and Matak, who had been considering an offer by Lon Nol to participate in a "coalition" government.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JAPAN-CHINA

Prime Minister Tanaka is considering importing Chinese crude oil as "partial" payment for the sale of a synthetic fiber plant to China [redacted]

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Tokyo recently approved Export-Import Bank credits for the plant, but the Chinese prefer to pay with exports. If the deal is concluded, it will be China's first export of crude oil. [redacted]

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This volume, which China could perhaps supply by 1975, would represent more than 20 percent of China's production and would meet about three percent of Japan's projected requirements.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

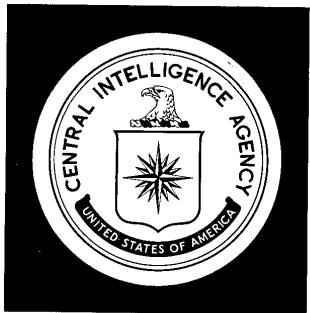
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

It appears likely that the EC summit will take place as scheduled in October. Recent French lobbying with present and prospective EC members has won agreement to focus attention at the summit on monetary matters, as the French have been seeking. Prospects for the summit had dimmed last month when West German Chancellor Brandt refused to go along with French demands in the monetary field. Differences still remain, but the persistent concern over the effects in Europe of possible new large dollar flows has aided Paris' argument that monetary questions must be paramount at a summit.

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The President's Daily Brief

7 August 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

7 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

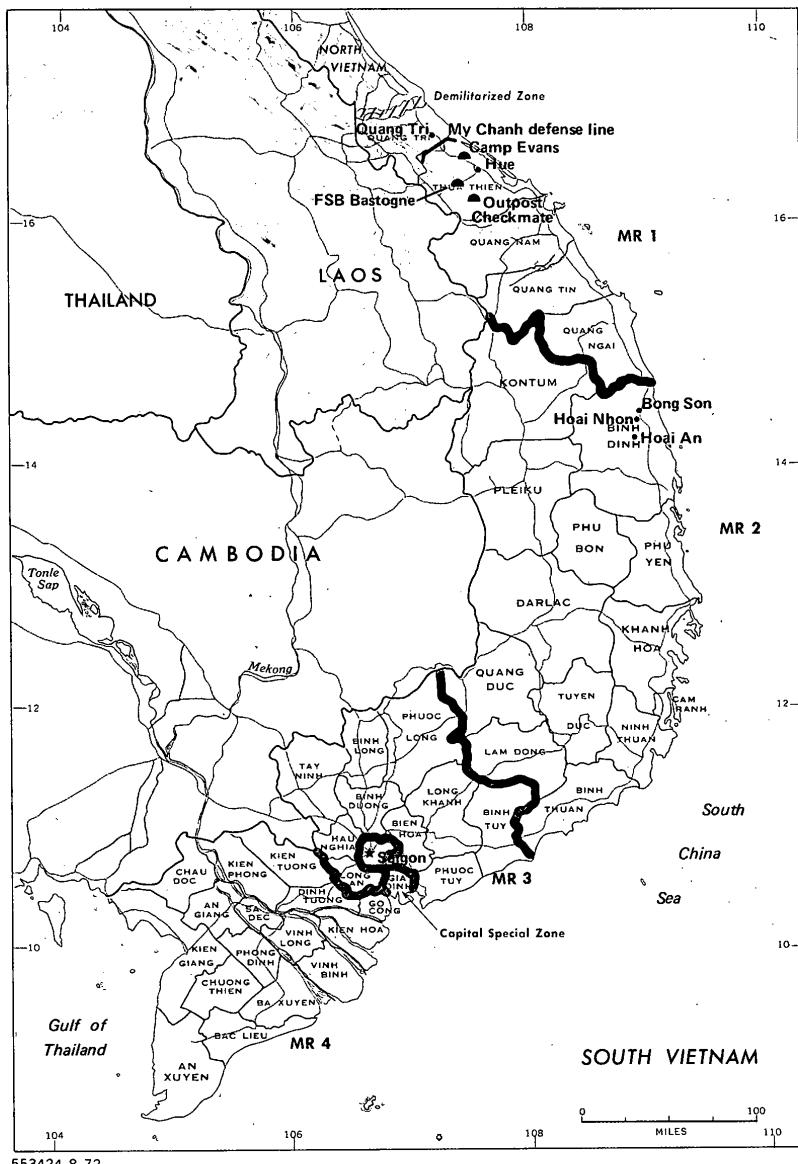
Heavy Communist artillery fire is continuing to hamper South Vietnamese clearing operations in Quang Tri City. (Page 1)

	Soviet	Egypt
	(Page 2)	

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Warsaw Pact leaders are reported to have decided at their recent summit meeting to help West German Chancellor Brandt in his campaign for re-election. (Page 3)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



553424 8-72

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Over the weekend, heavy Communist artillery fire continued to hamper South Vietnamese clearing operations in Quang Tri City. Elements of at least two North Vietnamese regiments remain dug in north of the citadel.

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Farther south, fighting was light along the My Chanh River defense line. Communist gunners, however, on Saturday shelled Camp Evans, the main government support base for the Quang Tri offensive, destroying over 60 tons of artillery ammunition.

West of Hue, South Vietnamese troops reoccupied Outpost Checkmate near Fire Support Base Bastogne.

Although the Communists have kept up heavy shellings and some ground probes in this area, intercepts indicate that allied air strikes and artillery fire have disrupted plans to attack Bastogne and Checkmate. The intercepts also indicate, however, that additional North Vietnamese units are being moved in, presumably to help launch new attacks on the two bases.

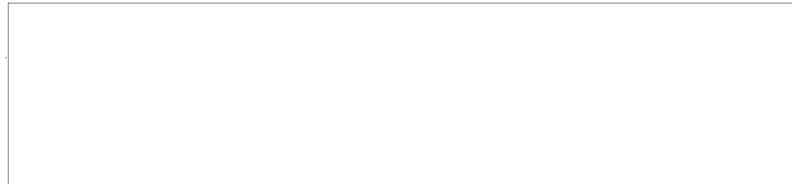
In Military Region 2, South Vietnamese Army troops pushed back a Communist assault on the coastal town of Bong Son. Bong Son and two other nearby district capitals, Hoai An and Hoai Nhon, have been almost completely destroyed in the recent fighting, and [redacted] some 69,000 refugees have fled these areas.

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USSR-EGYPT



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USSR - WEST GERMANY - EAST GERMANY

A source of the US Embassy in Bonn quotes a visiting East German official as saying that the leaders of the Warsaw Pact states decided at their summit meeting on 31 July to help Chancellor Brandt in his campaign for re-election. They apparently also decided, however, that they would take no further steps toward normalizing East European - West German relations until Bonn's negotiations with Pankow, and possibly also with Prague, are satisfactorily concluded.

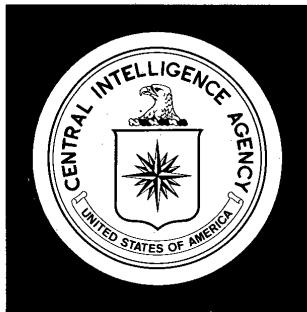
The Pact leaders are apparently concerned about the recent efforts of the opposition Christian Democrats to promote a normalization of West German - Chinese relations. They evidently fear that a future Christian Democratic government might find a community of interest with the Chinese in opposing any increase of Soviet influence in Western Europe. We doubt, however, that the Pact states will make important concessions that would help Brandt before the West German election campaign gets under way this fall.

The West German cabinet, meanwhile, is expected to decide on Wednesday to open formal negotiations with the East Germans.

The negotiators in the exploratory East and West German talks made no progress on the remaining six points of difference when they last met on 2-3 August. Pankow is clinging to its basic positions because it has had to make some concessions in the past in the interests of broader Pact policy and now needs to strike the best bargain possible. Moscow would have to exert heavy pressure for Pankow to give further ground.

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The President's Daily Brief

8 August 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

8 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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In South Vietnam, government forces have moved closer
to the Quang Tri citadel. (Page 1)

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[redacted]
[redacted] page 2.

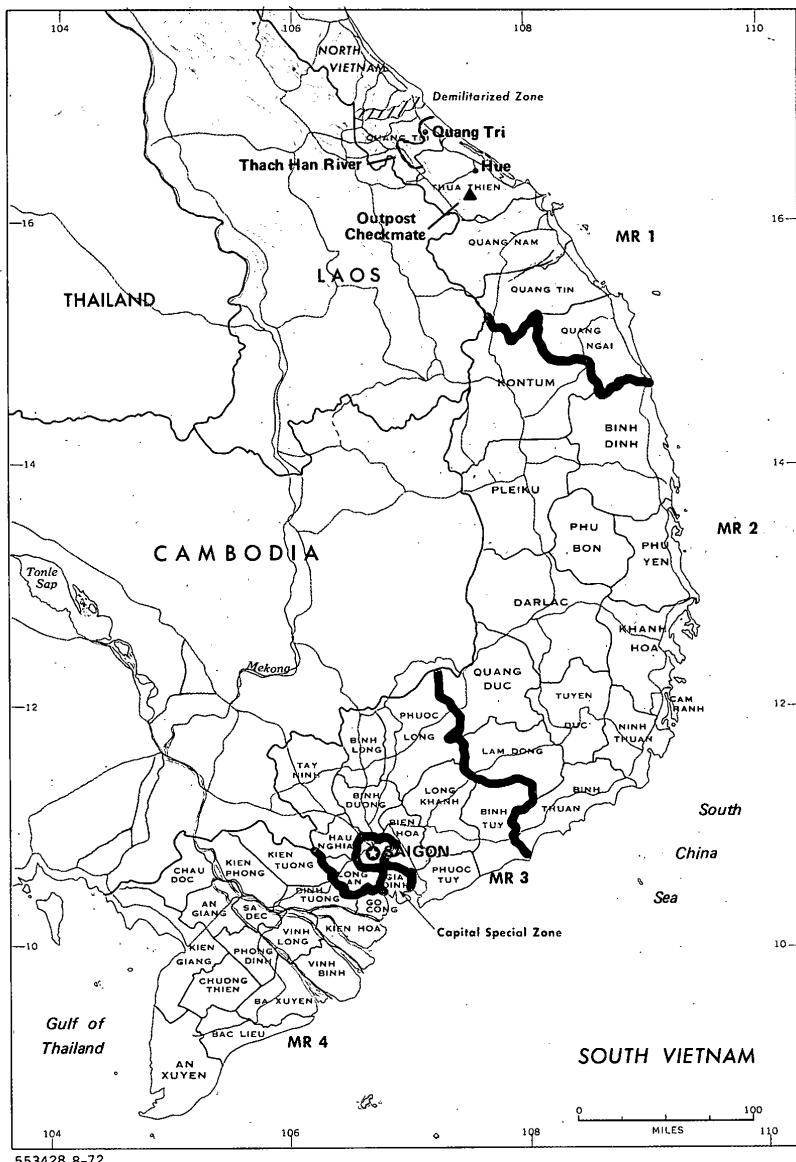
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[redacted]
[redacted] Japan [redacted]

[redacted] (Page 3)

Japan has decided to discuss with the USSR a one-billion dollar loan for developing a pipeline to transport Siberian oil to the Pacific. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



553428 8-72

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

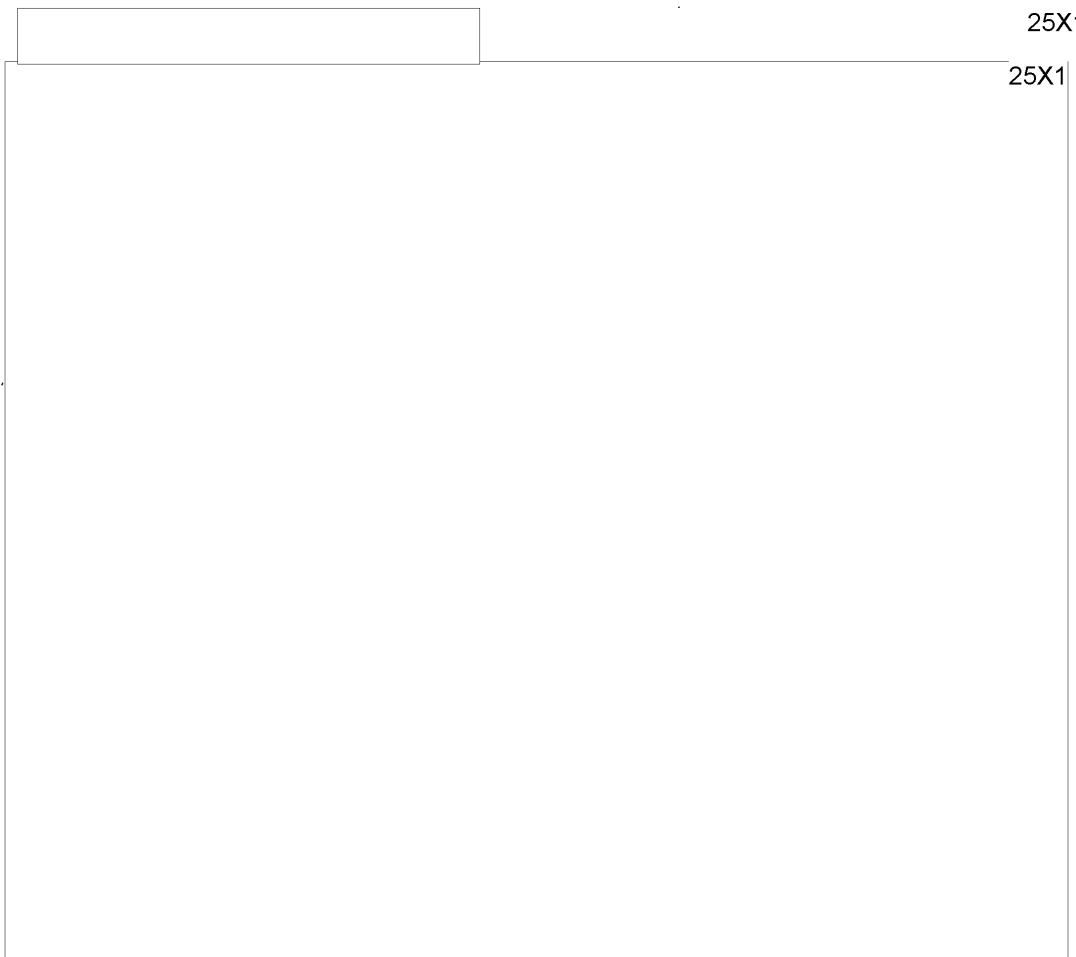
Government forces have moved closer to the Quang Tri City citadel, but continue to encounter intensive Communist artillery fire. South Vietnamese Marine units are now near the citadel's northeastern and southeastern corners, and others are trying to move west of the fortress along the Thach Han River in hopes of cutting this enemy supply route. Intercepted Communist messages indicate that enemy troops inside the citadel received supplies and reinforcements during the weekend.

To the south in Thua Thien Province, the Hue citadel was again struck by rocket fire, and government positions guarding the western approach to Hue continue to be shelled. At one of these positions, newly retaken Outpost Checkmate, government troops successfully repulsed an enemy ground attack.

Elsewhere in the country, Communist forces continue to be active against hamlets in northern Quang Ngai Province along the central coast and against isolated government troop positions and villages in Kontum and Pleiku provinces in the highlands, where the enemy appears to be foraging for supplies.

(continued)

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JAPAN

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JAPAN-USSR

The Japanese Government has decided to discuss with the USSR a one-billion dollar loan for development of a pipeline to transport Soviet Siberian oil from the Tyumen field to the Pacific. Last month, a survey team representing the government and business interests returned from the USSR with a favorable assessment of Soviet ability to deliver 40 million tons of oil annually for 20 years in exchange for Japanese aid. Tokyo businessmen are enthusiastic about the scheme, which fits neatly into Prime Minister Tanaka's priority given to the procurement of fuel resources.

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They also want to use the project as leverage in their negotiations of a peace treaty with the USSR, particularly with respect to the issue of the Northern Territories, now under Soviet control. The outlook is for protracted negotiations in which both sides will try to relate political and economic issues in a package that offers each some advantages.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR: The latest satellite photography of Tyuratam indicates that the Soviets will soon conduct the first test launching from one of their new large silos.

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USSR:

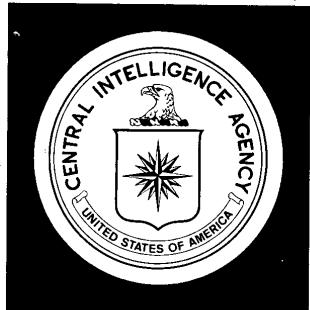
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USSR-India:

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The President's Daily Brief

9 August 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

9 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Vietnam, the enemy is increasing its pressure on government forces trying to retake Quang Tri City. Recent photography of rail transfer points along the Sino-Soviet border indicates that shipments to North Vietnam are continuing at a regular pace. (Page 1)

The Communists are continuing to disrupt government efforts to reopen Route 1 in Cambodia. (Page 3)

Soviet [redacted]

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(Page 4)

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Recent satellite photography of the USSR shows major elements of a new motorized rifle division in the Siberian Military District. (Page 5)

The Chinese [redacted]

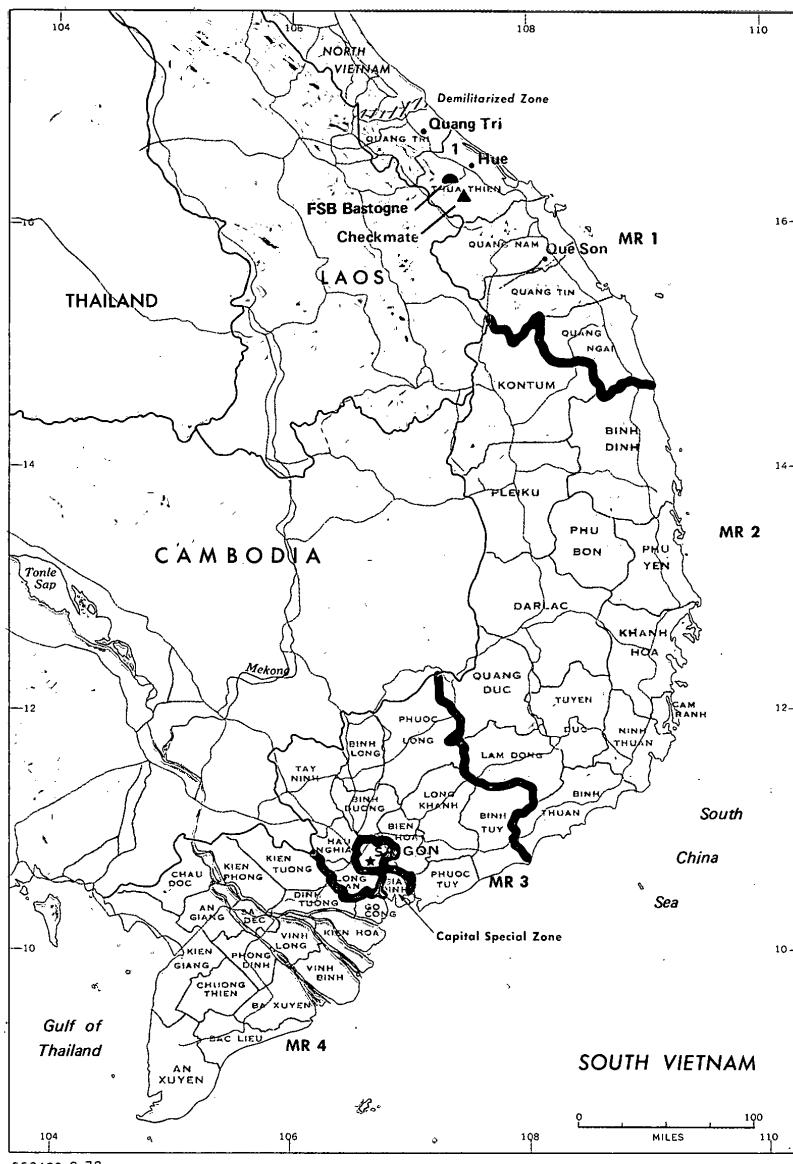
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[redacted] (Page 6)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



553439 8-72

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**VIETNAM**

Late on 7 August, South Vietnamese paratroopers southwest of Quang Tri City were attacked by tank-led enemy forces, and marine positions inside the city were hit by heavy North Vietnamese infantry assaults. Aided by heavy allied air strikes and artillery fire, government forces are holding their ground.

North of the city, a third North Vietnamese regiment has been identified along the enemy's major supply line into the city. This buildup suggests that the Communists may be preparing to shift from primarily defensive to offensive operations in that sector.

West of Hue, South Vietnamese forces withstood several fairly heavy enemy ground attacks and artillery shellings in the Bastogne-Checkmate area during the past two days. Sporadic fighting continues near Que Son in Quang Nam Province and along the coast farther south in Quang Ngai Province.

* * *

Recent photography of rail transfer points along the Sino-Soviet border indicates that shipments to North Vietnam are continuing at a regular pace. Photography of the Man-chou-li rail yard on [redacted] showed some 490 rail cars and locomotives. The number dropped to 300 by the following day. There were 192 pieces of rolling stock at the Zabaykalsk transfer point [redacted] and 160 pieces [redacted]

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(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Rail Routes through China to North Vietnam



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The photography showed that much of the cargo that recently passed through Man-chou-li consisted of trucks. [redacted] about 185 trucks were seen at this transfer point--more than five times the number observed there at any one time over the past several years. [redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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553436 8-72 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

The Communists are continuing to disrupt government efforts to reopen Route 1. After a series of sharp attacks, enemy troops--supported by T-54 tanks--forced the Cambodians to withdraw to new positions west of Kompong Trabek. Government forces, with South Vietnamese help, had captured the town on 24 July.

This is the first time that the enemy has used tanks in the Cambodian fighting. US pilots report that air strikes may have destroyed or damaged over a dozen tanks.

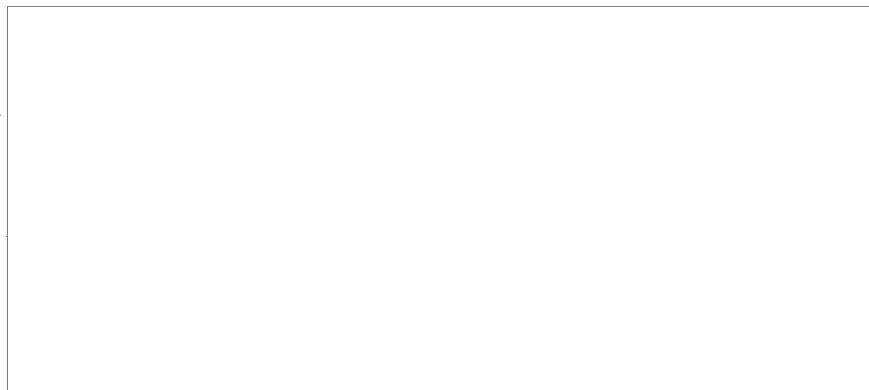
The government is rushing reinforcements to Neak Luong in preparation for another push toward Kompong Trabek. Phnom Penh also is again seeking help from Saigon. Most of the South Vietnamese troops that took part in the recent action along Route 1 have since returned to the border area.

The enemy pressure in the Kompong Trabek area appears designed to prevent the Cambodians from advancing eastward along Route 1 to the isolated town of Svay Rieng. Such an advance would jeopardize vital Communist supply lines into the delta region of South Vietnam.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

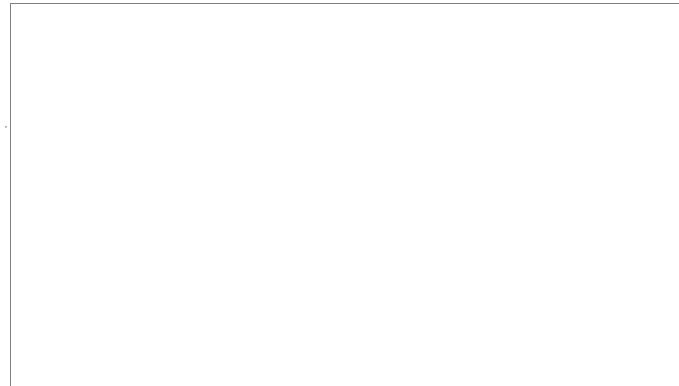
USSR



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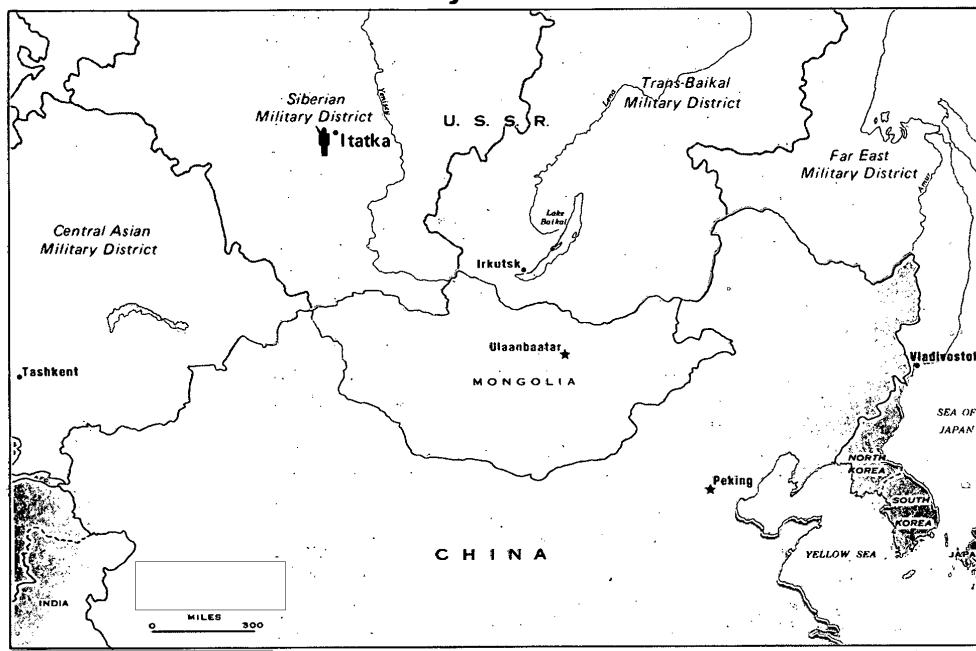


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

MAP OF THE SIBERIAN MILITARY DISTRICT

New Division in the Siberian Military District



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-CHINA

Recent satellite photography shows major elements of a new motorized rifle division at Itatka in the Siberian Military District. This is the second division which has moved into this district since the buildup opposite China began in 1965, bringing the total to five.

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NOTES

China:

[Redacted]	
[Redacted]	[Redacted]
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The President's Daily Brief

10 August 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

10 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In South Vietnam, enemy forces have launched several ground attacks over the past few days in an effort to regain the initiative in northern Military Region 1. In the North, recent photography shows some flooding along the Thuong River and several breaches in one section of the secondary dike system. (Page 1)

Soviet party chief Brezhnev recently addressed senior party and government officials on the prospects for this year's grain harvest. (Page 3)

The Egyptians are reshuffling their forces to fill gaps created by the withdrawal of Soviet military personnel. The Soviet withdrawal continues and may near completion by the end of the month. (Page 4)

Satellite photography suggests that the Soviets may be in the process of deactivating some of the soft sites for the SS-7 ICBM. (Page 5)

Japan
(Page 6)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



553441 8-72

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

Communist forces are seeking to regain the initiative in northern Military Region 1. During the past few days, enemy forces in Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces have launched several ground attacks on South Vietnamese troops. On Tuesday, North Vietnamese units launched the second tank-led assault against South Vietnamese airborne troops in as many days. The attack was beaten off, and one of the tanks was destroyed by allied air strikes.



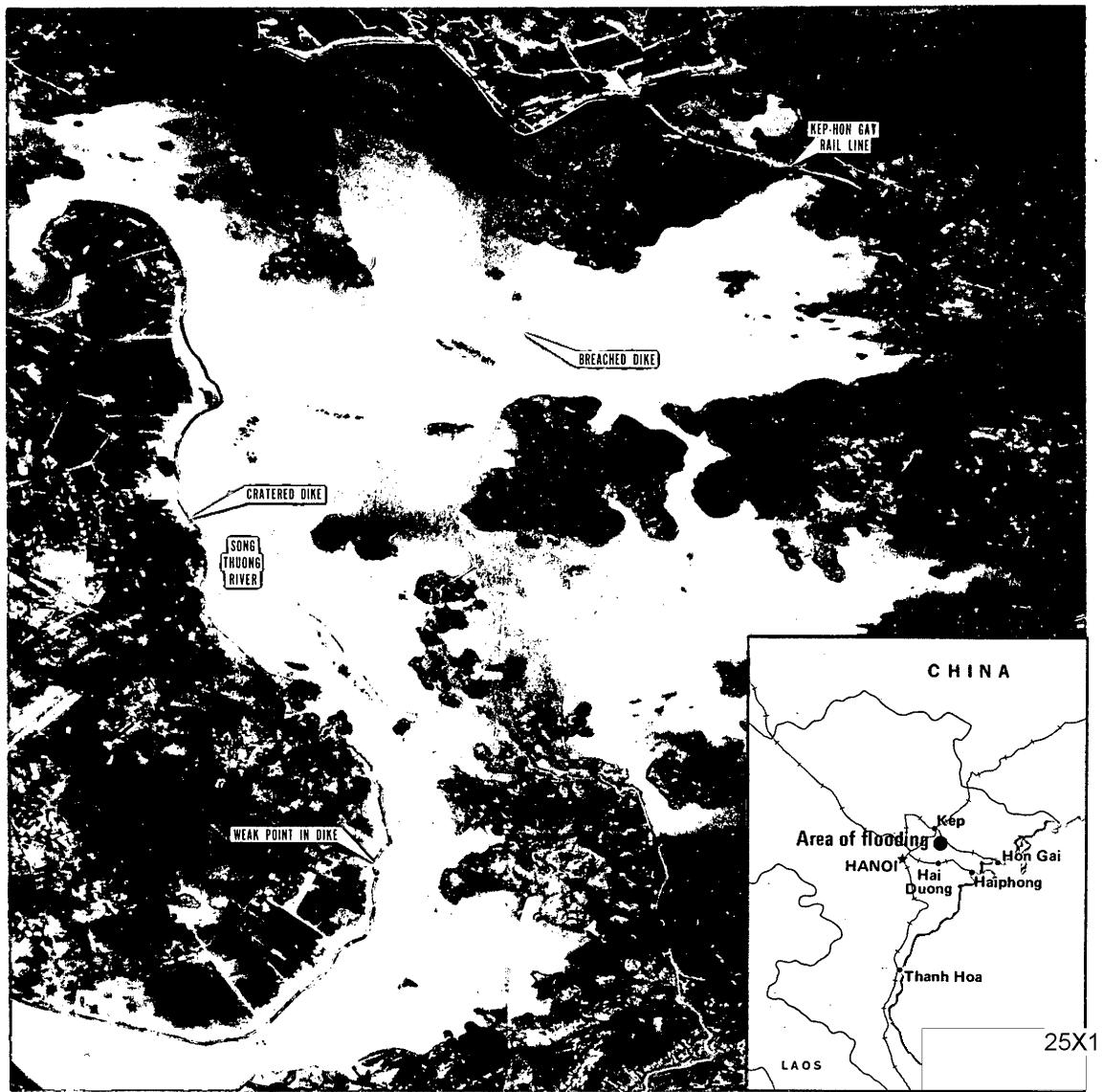
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South Vietnamese Marine units in and around Quang Tri City were also hit yesterday and the day before by heavy artillery fire. Intercepts indicate that the enemy artillery regiment responsible for the shellings has ordered its subordinate units to increase the tempo of the attacks. In addition, the headquarters of the North Vietnamese 308th Division has moved out of the western foothills, where the division has been resting and refitting for the past several weeks. It is now about one mile west of Quang Tri City in a position to counter nearby South Vietnamese Marine units.

Elsewhere in the country, heavy fighting continues in Bien Hoa Province northeast of Saigon, where enemy units are reported to be in control of several villages northeast of the district capital of Long Thanh. Government territorial forces so far have suffered heavy casualties, but reinforcements, supported by heavy allied air strikes, have begun a counterattack.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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Aerial photography of North Vietnam on 30 July shows a small area of flooding about ten miles north of Hai Duong along the Thuong River. Several breaches are evident in one section of the secondary dike system, and water is overflowing in a number of other sections. The area, located just south of the Kep - Hon Gai railroad, is extremely low-lying and is subject to annual flooding. Nearby dikes clearly show the marks of repair from last year's flood, and it seems likely that the observed breaches were caused partly by the undermining effects of the 1971 floods.

* * *

Hanoi has undertaken to counter the allies' psychological warfare campaign. This is a rare occurrence; North Vietnam has seldom chosen to respond directly to allied propaganda. Recently, the army newspaper published a long directive which warned the population not to read airdropped leaflets or to listen to foreign broadcasts. For foreign consumption, Hanoi is also taking steps to counter published evidence of North Vietnamese atrocities in captured areas of South Vietnam.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

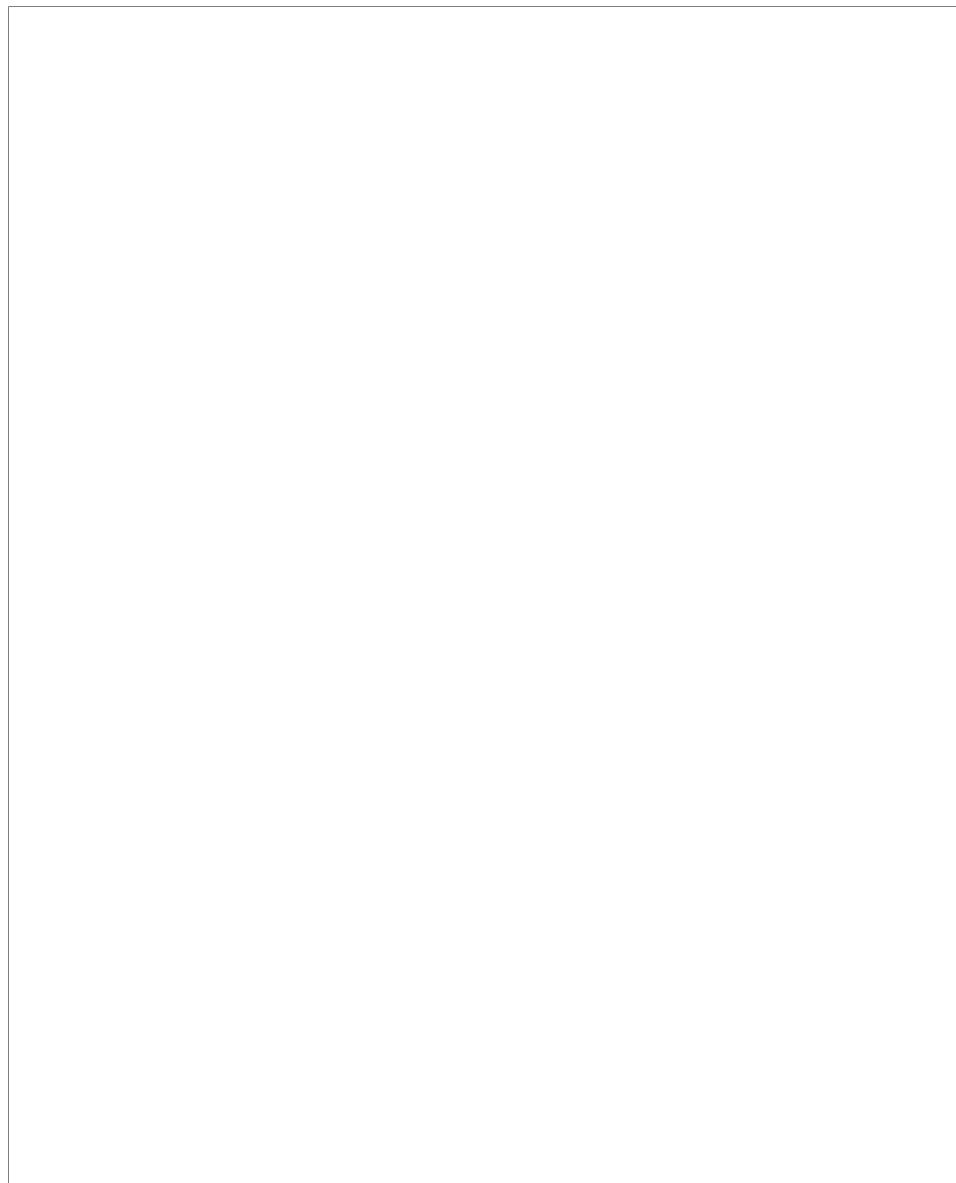
Party chief Brezhnev on Tuesday addressed the Politburo, Central Committee, and government officials convened in a conference on the harvest, reflecting the leadership's concern that this year's grain crop will be insufficient to meet both domestic and foreign requirements. Brezhnev's speech was not published.

The gathering of such an array of VIPs at the height of the Soviet vacation season indicates unusual concern over this year's harvest, which we estimate to be as much as ten percent less than in 1970 and 1971, largely because of severe winter weather and summer drought.

A poor harvest would decidedly set back Brezhnev's livestock program--designed to improve the Soviet consumer's diet--which requires a grain harvest substantially higher than those of the past two years. Moreover, we believe that the requirements of this program have already lowered Soviet wheat stocks to a level considered vital for strategic reserve.

The disappointing harvest prospects will require the Soviets to buy large amounts of foreign grain, mainly wheat, for delivery during the next year.

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EGYPT-USSR

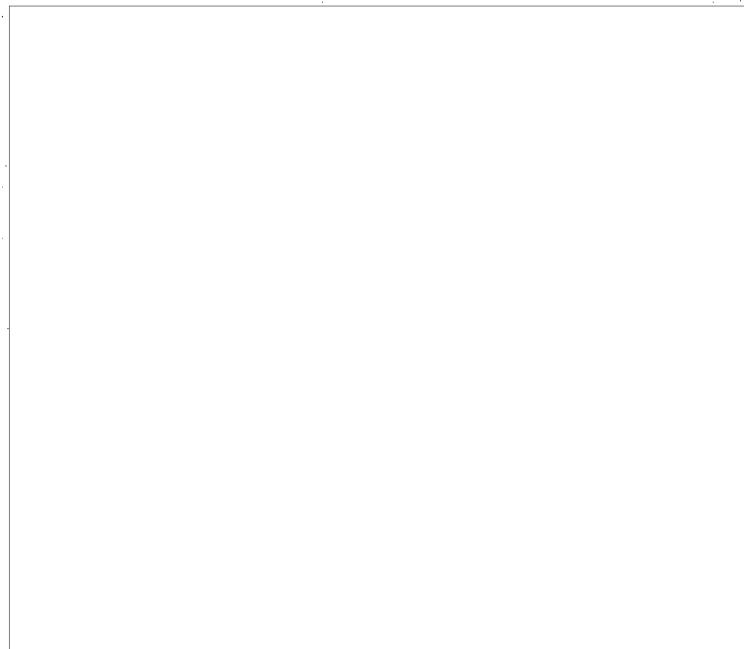
The Egyptians are reshuffling their forces to fill gaps created by the withdrawal of Soviet military personnel.

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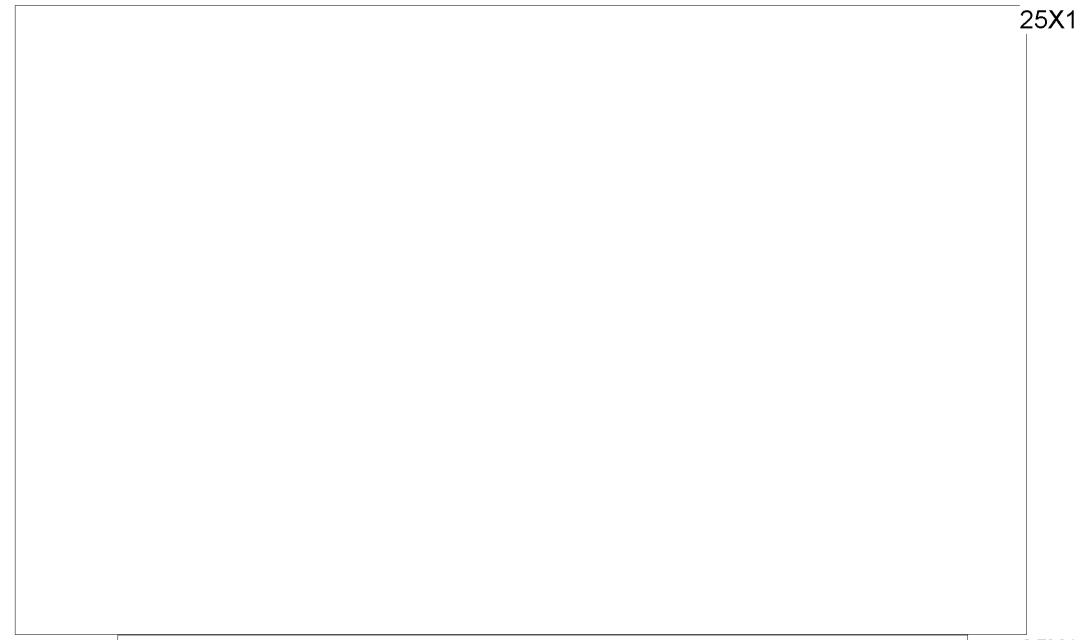


The Soviet withdrawal may near completion by the end of the month.

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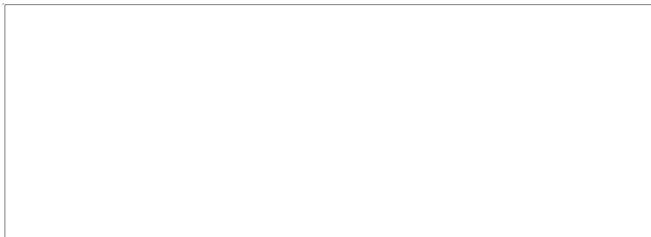
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

Satellite photography shows activity in progress at 13 of the 62 soft sites for the SS-7 ICBM which will render them incapable of launching missiles without a great deal more preparation than usual.



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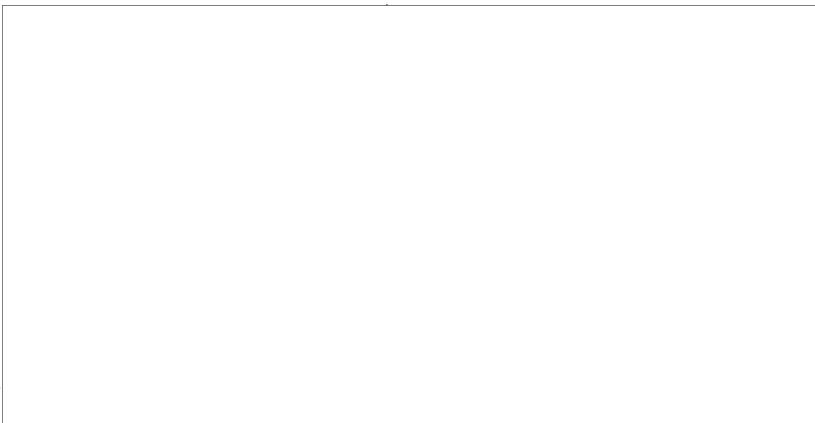


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JAPAN-US



25X1

Japanese media are giving heavy coverage to the success of leftist demonstrators who on 6 August prevented US Army tanks destined for Vietnam from being loaded at Yokohama's pier. Later, workers at the base where the tanks are overhauled voted not to repair US tanks bound for Vietnam in the future, marking one of the few times that Japanese workers at US bases have refused to carry out duties for political reasons. Leaders of the Japan Socialist Party, the largest opposition party, joined with the leader of Japan's largest trade federation and the leftist governor of Tokyo in promising similar actions against US bases on a nationwide scale.

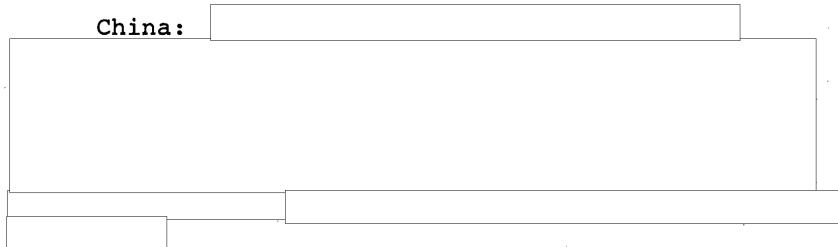
The Tanaka government's freedom to act in such situations is limited by Socialist strength at the local government level in areas in which US bases are concentrated. As a possible harbinger of things to come, the Tokyo metropolitan government on 5 August announced it was refusing to extend its annual contract with the national government to lease to the US the land occupied by the busy Yokota Air Base in Tokyo's suburbs. The contract expires in February. Tokyo government officials threaten to take the case to court, if necessary.

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NOTE

China:

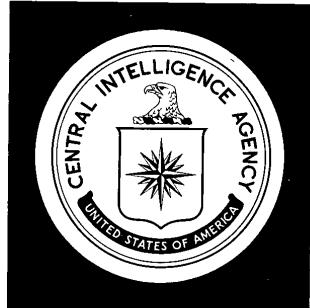


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11 August 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

11 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

South Vietnamese forces have gained some ground in the fighting for Quang Tri City. (Page 1)

Chinese [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 2)

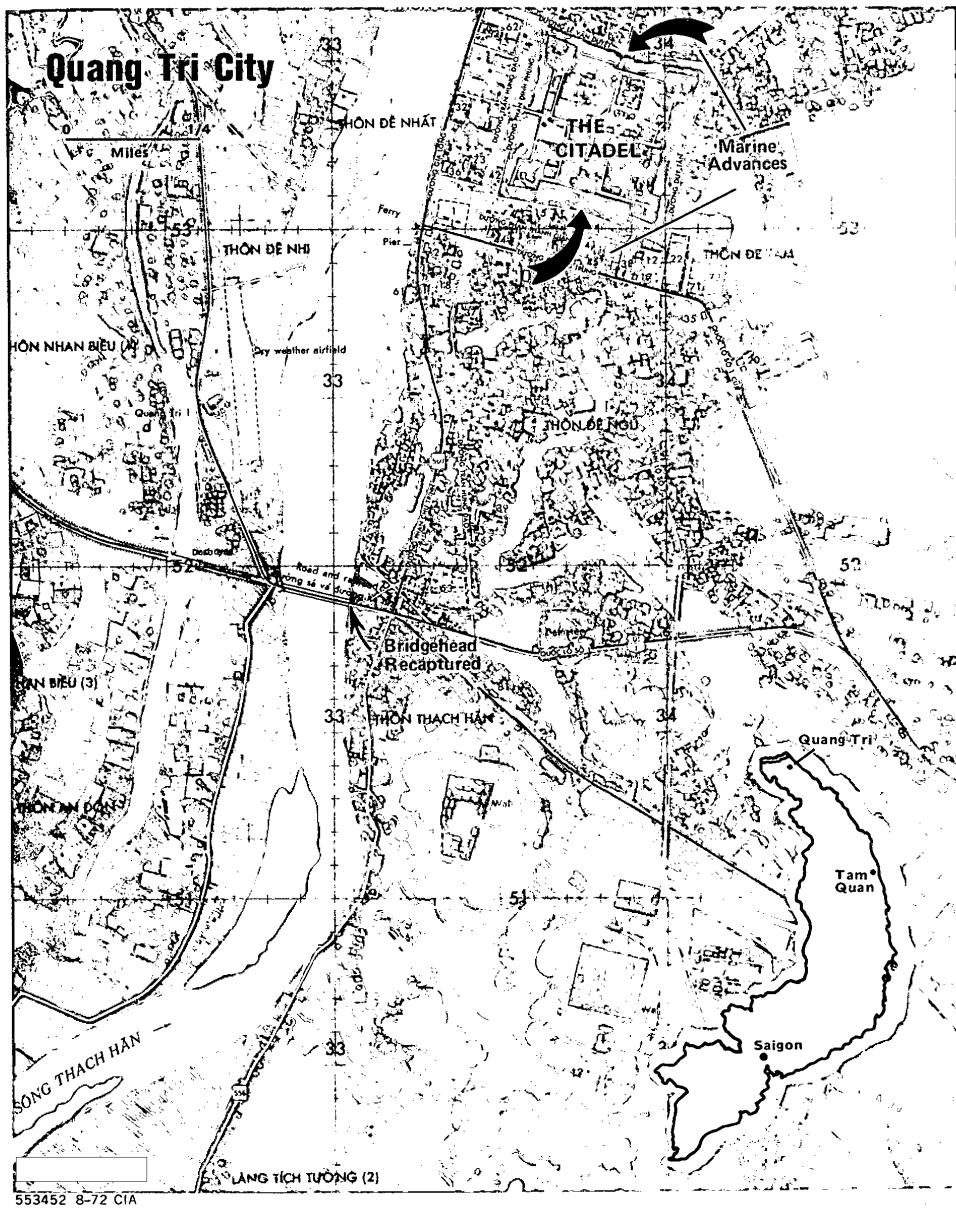
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Bangkok is preparing for wide-ranging political discussions with the Chinese. (Page 3)

Pakistani President Bhutto's decision not to recognize Bangladesh largely reflects his domestic political problems. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

South Vietnamese forces have gained some ground in the fighting for Quang Tri City. South Vietnamese Marines have captured a key bridgehead in the southern sector of the city and are nearing both the northern and southern walls of the citadel.

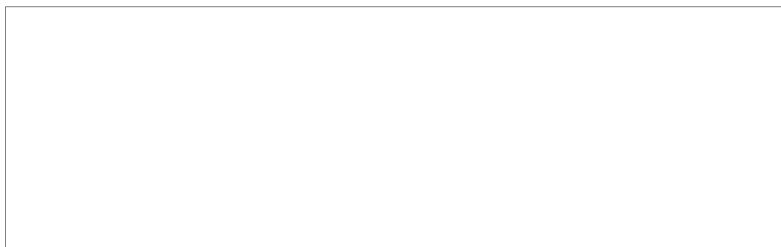
The Communists clearly intend to continue the fight. They are still using massive artillery fire--which yesterday may have included some tear gas rounds--to slow the South Vietnamese operation. According to intercepts, their forces in the citadel continue to receive supplies. Moreover, elements of the North Vietnamese 308th Division, previously committed against the My Chanh defense line south of Quang Tri City, are now being used to bolster Communist defenses to the west of the citadel.

To the south, the Communists have attacked Tam Quan district capital in northern Binh Dinh Province. Of the three district capitals recently retaken by the government, Tam Quan is the only one in which the South Vietnamese have thus far maintained firm control.

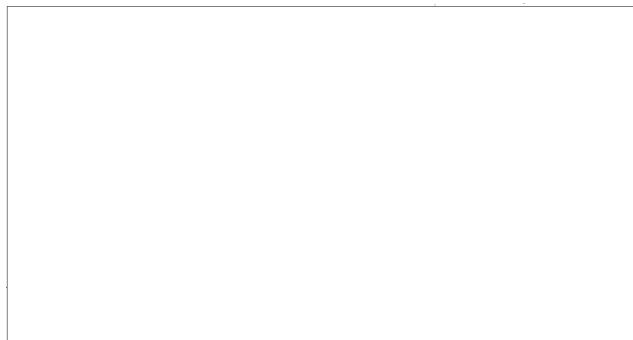
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHINA



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THAILAND-CHINA

[redacted] Bangkok is preparing for wide-ranging political discussions with the Chinese in connection with the forthcoming visit of a Thai ping-pong team to Peking. Prasit [redacted]

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Bangkok is prepared to state that Taiwan is a part of China and that Peking is the sole legitimate government of China.

[redacted] The Chinese will recognize it as an indication of Thai seriousness in pursuing better relations, and they are likely to respond positively.

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The Thai will seek some assurance that the Chinese will not use their presence in Thailand to foment anti-government sentiment in the country's large ethnic Chinese community.

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The insurgency question could prove to be a major stumbling block because, in the Thai view, the threat is growing and Chinese support of the insurgents is evidence of Peking's attitude toward Thailand. Peking could well make at least some gesture on the insurgency question.

The Indochina war--and Thailand's part in it--remains a problem for the Chinese. They are unlikely to enter into formal relations with Bangkok without some kind of Thai assurances that US forces in the country will in time be reduced at least to the pre-1964 levels.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PAKISTAN-BANGLADESH

President Bhutto has announced that Pakistan will not recognize Bangladesh, citing as the reason Prime Minister Mujib's refusal to meet with him.

Bhutto's decision primarily reflects his domestic political problems. He fears that recognition, unless accompanied by Bengali concessions on such things as trying Pakistanis for war crimes, would be unpopular with significant segments of the population, including members of his own party.

Another major concern is that the increasingly active opposition parties would use recognition as one more stick with which to beat the government. Bhutto is particularly wary of stirring up new trouble in the Punjab. Most Pakistani prisoners of war are Punjabis, and the opposition would almost surely charge that recognition of Bangladesh now would make it harder to negotiate the return of prisoners and to bargain with Dacca to reduce the number of trials.

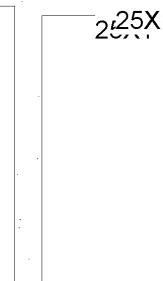
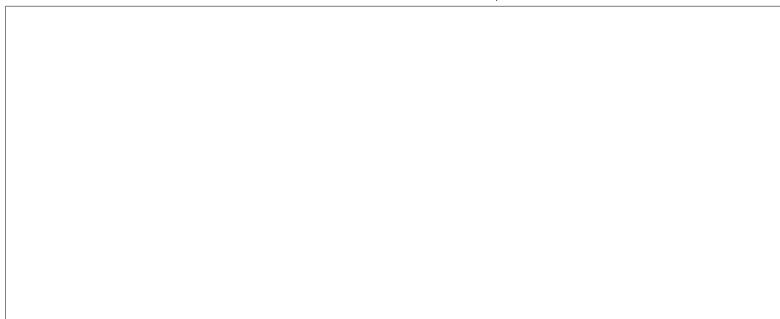
In his announcement, Bhutto also asserted that the Chinese will veto Bangladesh's request for membership in the UN.

In recent weeks, Peking has appeared to be moving in this direction, and it is unlikely that Bhutto would have made his statement without some assurance that Peking would back him up.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

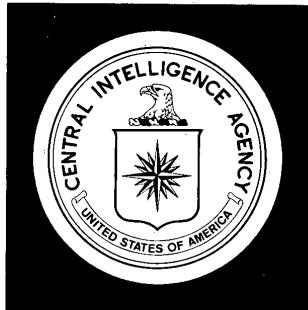
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE



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The President's Daily Brief

12 August 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

12 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In South Vietnam, government forces are continuing to make headway in Quang Tri City. (Page 1)

Laotian Prime Minister Souvanna suffered a setback yesterday in his lengthy dispute with rightist elements in the National Assembly. (Page 2)

[redacted] Japan [redacted]
[redacted] China. (Page 3)

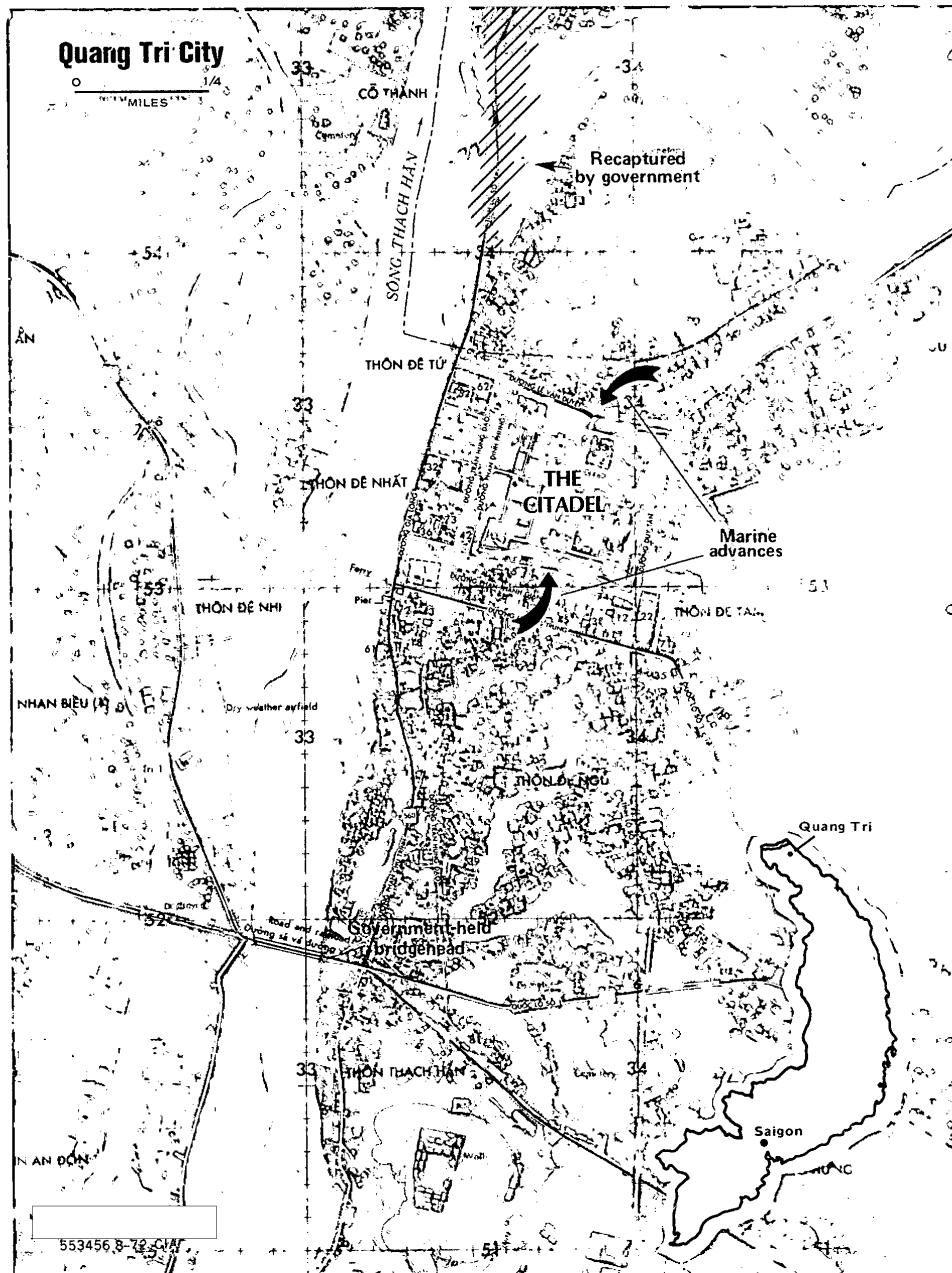
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Libyan President Qadhafi apparently is considering nationalizing or restricting the production of US oil companies. (Page 5)

[redacted] Middle East [redacted] (Page 6)
[redacted] the Soviets are installing a large radar in central Mongolia. (Page 7)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

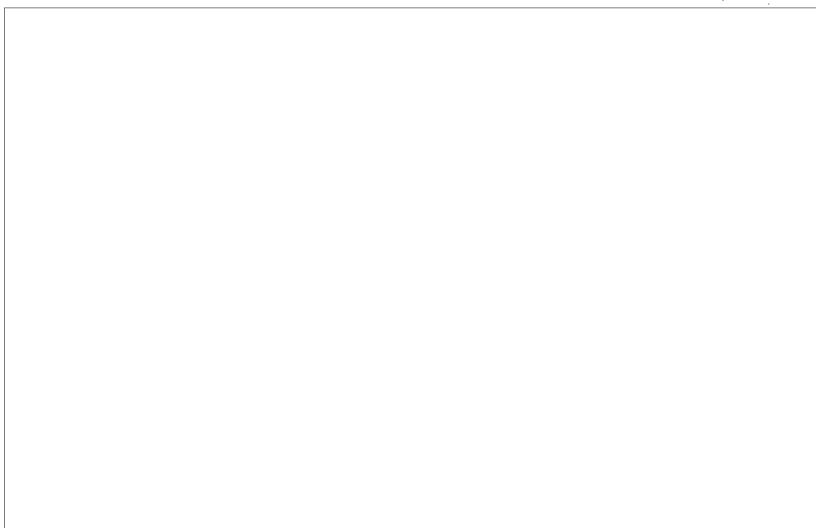
SOUTH VIETNAM

Government forces are continuing to make headway in Quang Tri City. South Vietnamese Marines now hold a key portion of the main road north of the citadel, cutting at least one of the enemy's supply routes into the fortress. Other marine units have edged closer to the citadel's southern and northern walls, but heavy Communist artillery fire is preventing these forces from entering the fortress through the large breaks in the walls.

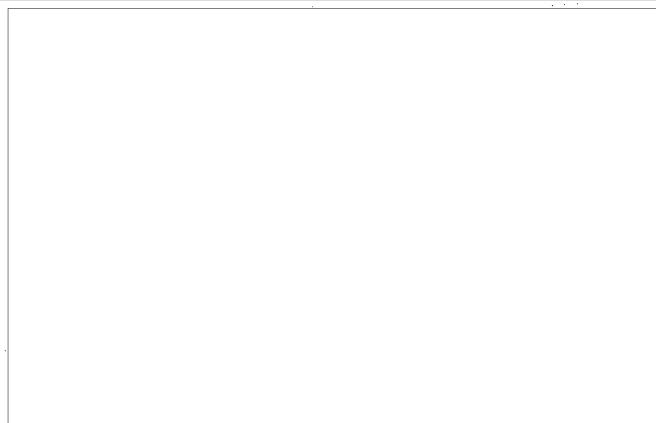
Throughout the rest of the country, enemy shellings and rocket attacks have increased in recent days, although Communist ground action remains relatively light.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Prime Minister Souvanna is still having trouble settling his lengthy dispute with rightist elements in the National Assembly

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The powerful Sananikone family is again pressuring Souvanna to reshuffle the cabinet and drop Sisouk--its archenemy--as finance minister in exchange for an assembly vote of confidence that would endorse the government's tripartite facade.

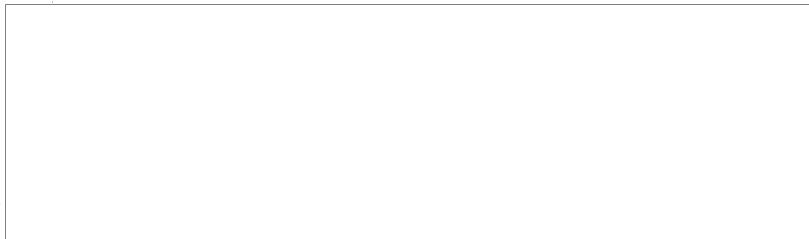
The Prime Minister has been trying to outmaneuver his opponents, but he suffered a setback yesterday when the Sananikones rallied enough votes to block assembly consideration of Souvanna's budget until the status of the cabinet is clarified.

Souvanna's strategy will be to delay a possible vote of confidence in the assembly until he is sure he has the votes to win or until he can reach an acceptable compromise with the Sananikones, preferably one that won't cost the able Sisouk his job.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

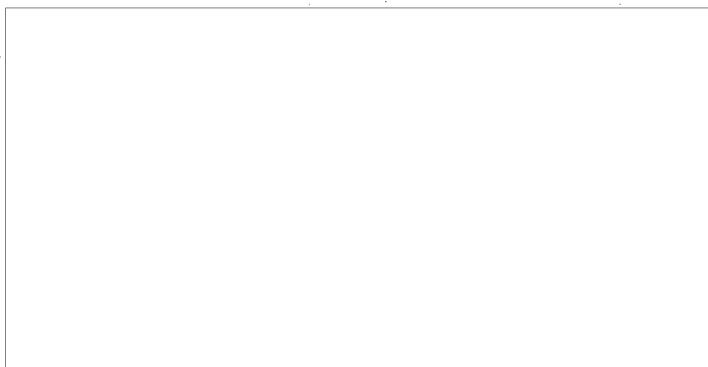
JAPAN-CHINA



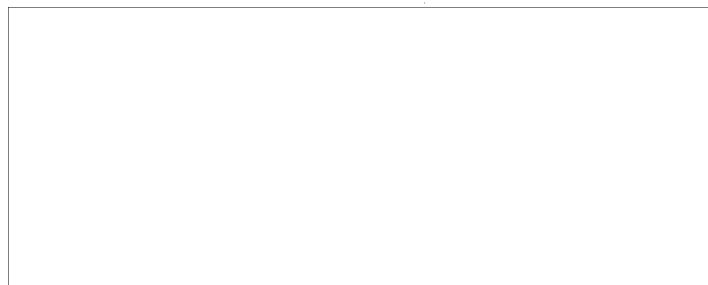
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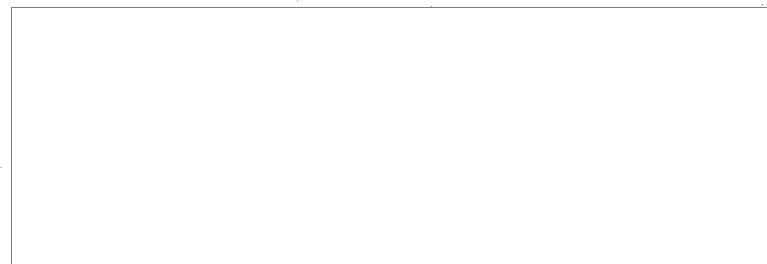
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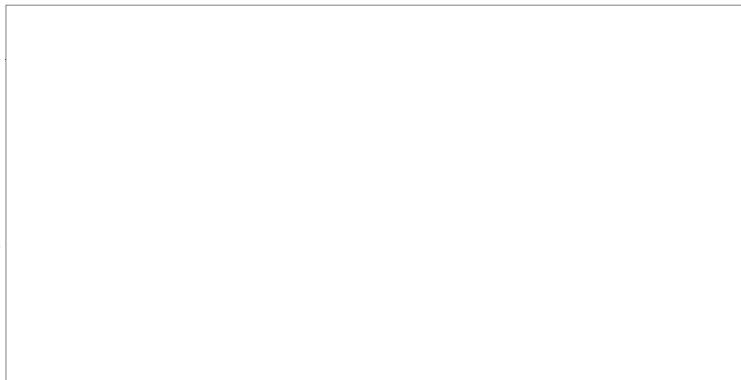


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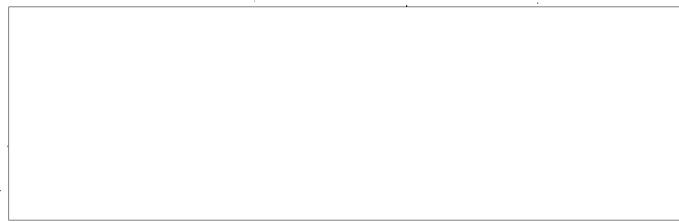
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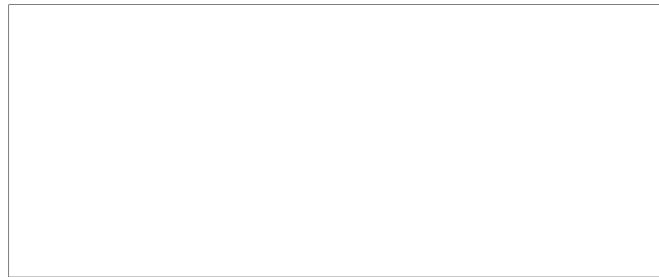
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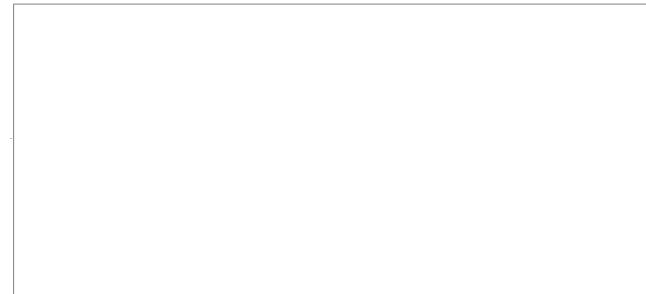
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LIBYA-EGYPT

President Qadhafi may be considering nationalizing or restricting the production of US oil companies in Libya in an effort to bring about a change in US policy in the Middle East. [redacted]

[redacted] Qadhafi promised

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Egyptian President Sadat [redacted]

[redacted] that, if Egypt would move to reduce the Soviet presence, Libyan pressure on US oil interests could then be employed to stimulate Western military aid. [redacted]

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Nationalization of all US oil companies in Libya would not by itself lead to serious problems in the world oil supply. Dislocations that occurred could be overcome by other sources of supply and by redeployment of tankers, both of which now exceed demand. Should Libya only lower the production quotas of US companies, adjustments would be easier since most of these companies are producing at rates below those authorized by the government.

It is doubtful that Qadhafi could persuade other major oil producers in the Middle East to follow this course of action.

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[redacted] Saudi Arabia's King Faisal earlier this month, for example, publicly rejected reprisals against US oil interests as futile.

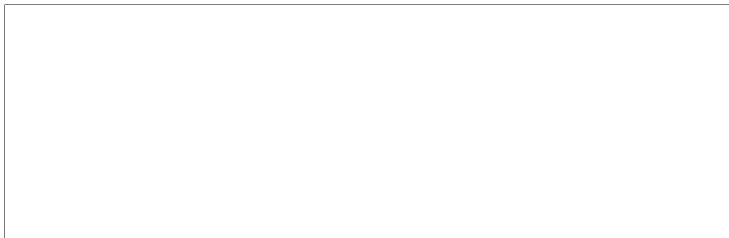
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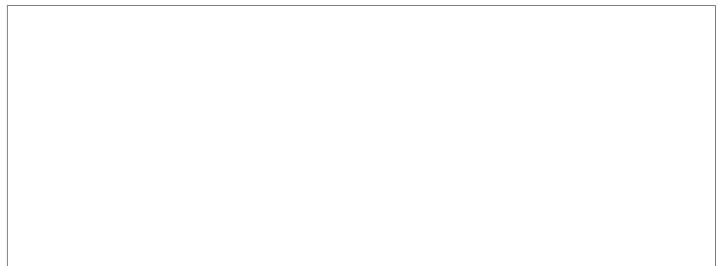
WESTERN EUROPE - MIDDLE EAST



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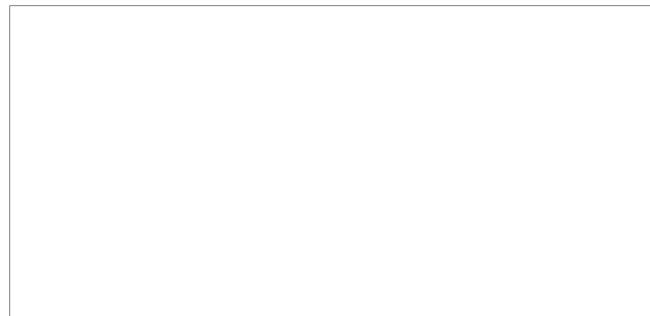
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Egypt-USSR: [redacted]

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USSR: [redacted] the Soviets are installing a large radar in central Mongolia. This type of radar, which has been under development since the early 1960s, has capabilities for long-range early warning against high-flying aircraft and has been used to track re-entry of space vehicles. Besides its role in air defense, placement of the new facility in Mongolia will also provide the Soviets with limited radar coverage of Chinese missile and space activities at Shuang-cheng-tzu and other test centers in eastern China. This is only the second time that the Soviets have built such a radar outside their own test and research centers; the first is under construction near Baku on the Caspian Sea. This radar is not a phased array or ABM radar and its deployment in Mongolia does not violate the terms of the ABM treaty. [redacted]

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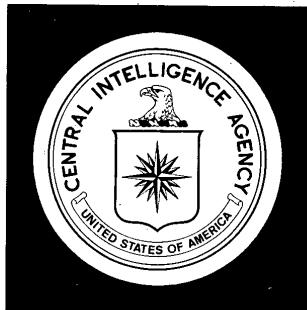
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The President's Daily Brief

14 August 1972

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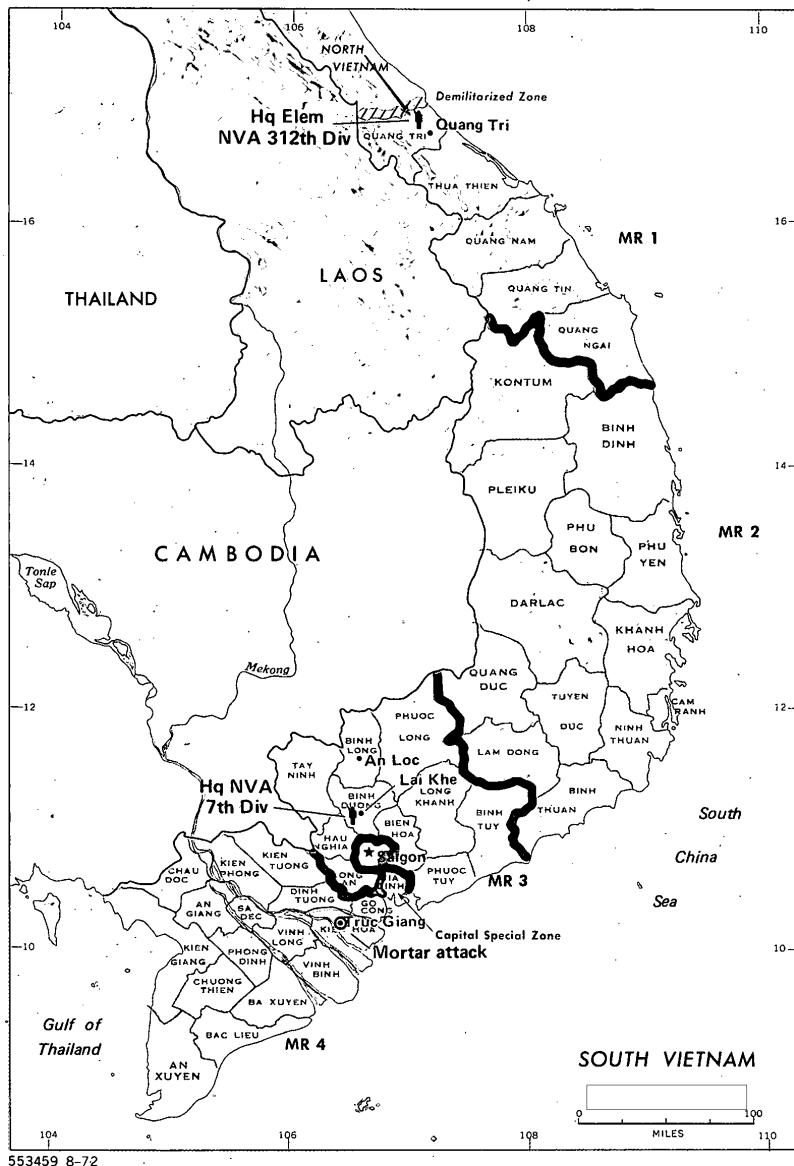
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

14 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In South Vietnam, the Communists have increased their pressure in several areas of the country, but South Vietnamese forces appear to have blunted most of the enemy's effort so far. (Page 1)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

The Communists have increased their pressure against government positions in several areas of the country, but South Vietnamese forces appear to have blunted most of the enemy's effort so far. Some of the sharpest action occurred in the southern provinces where, over the weekend, enemy forces raided two major supply depots near Saigon, shelled government positions in Tay Ninh, Hau Nghia, and Long An provinces, and directed mortar fire at the provincial capital of Kien Hoa in the northern delta. Heavy fighting around Lai Khe, the government staging base for An Loc, caused substantial government casualties. The headquarters of the North Vietnamese 7th Division was detected a few miles southwest of Lai Khe on Saturday along with reconnaissance elements of the Viet Cong 9th Division.

Both divisions participated in the siege of An Loc, but have not been in action for several weeks.

Farther south in the delta, air strikes and government attacks have inflicted heavy losses on Communist forces in Dinh Tuong Province. Enemy troops and supplies continue to move into the region, however,

[redacted] elements of the Communist Phuoc Long Front may be preparing to move into the western delta from nearby Cambodia.

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On the northern battlefield, heavy Communist artillery fire continues to hamper government operations in Quang Tri City. Over the weekend South Vietnamese Marines fought several sharp engagements in the still uncleared southern section of the city. The Communists, although they are taking heavy losses, are still moving in reinforcements. A headquarters element of the North Vietnamese 312th Division is now a few miles northwest of the city, and one of its regiments is moving southward in North Vietnam toward the DMZ. One regiment of the 312th Division has been near Quang Tri City for several weeks.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

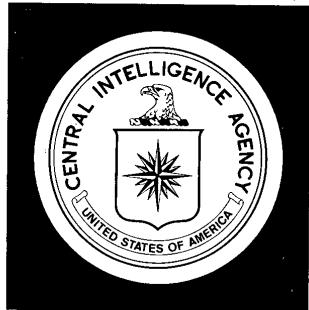
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Paraguay: The president of the Paraguayan Supreme Court has told Ambassador Ylitalo that the government has decided to permit the extradition to the US of accused narcotics smuggler Auguste Ricord. The decision is to be announced today, and extradition is likely to take place late this week.

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The President's Daily Brief

15 August 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

15 August 1972

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[redacted] enemy deployment patterns suggest that increased Communist military activity in South Vietnam is in the offing.

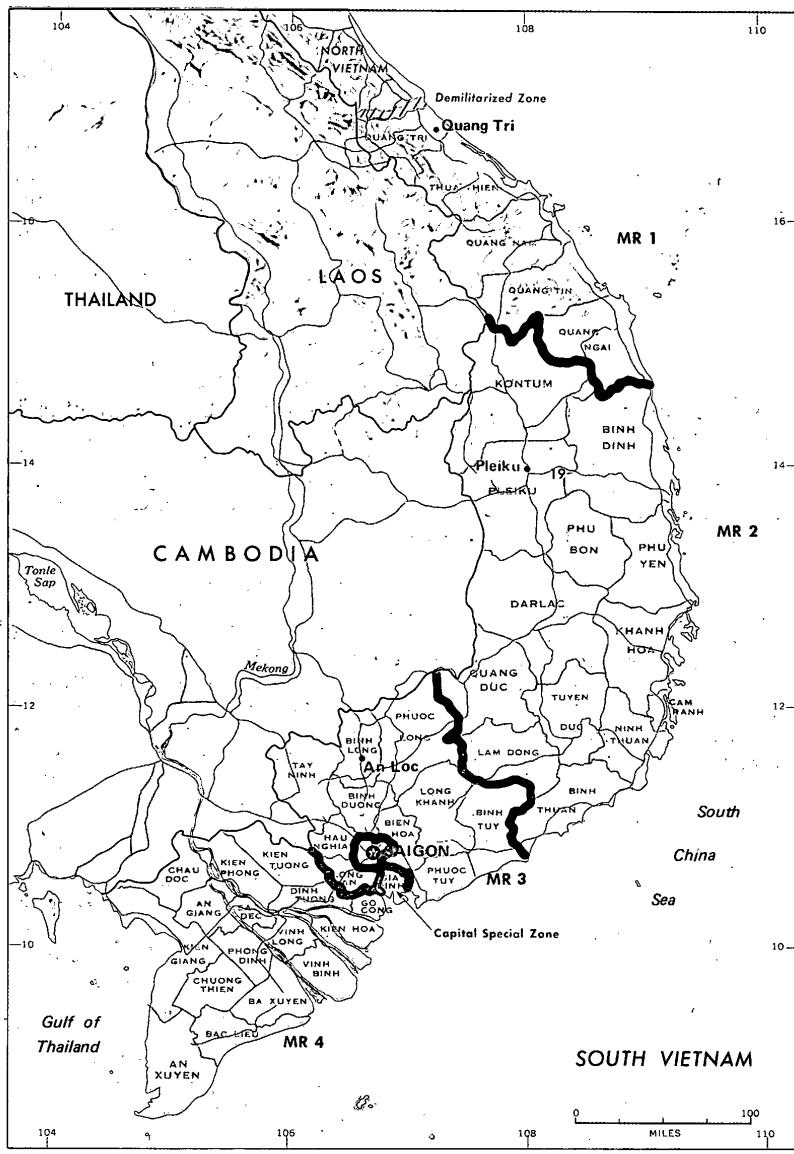
(Page 1) [redacted]

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Japan's Prime Minister Tanaka is rapidly preparing the political ground for normalization of relations with China. (Page 3)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



553463 8-72

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

[redacted] reports outlining enemy intentions throughout South Vietnam suggest that increased Communist attacks could begin soon. [redacted]

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[redacted] reports, including prisoner and rallier interrogations, indicate that the Communists would like to pick up the pace of action between now and late August. The Communists are telling their cadre that another round of offensive action will undercut US policy on the war and force concessions from Washington.

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The string of terrorist, sapper, and small-scale infantry attacks of the past few days may mark the opening of this effort.

On the battlefields, sustained enemy artillery fire continues to impede the South Vietnamese Marines' effort to retake Quang Tri City. The Communists continue to have difficulties, however. In a message exchanged between elements of the North Vietnamese 304th Division near Quang Tri City, one unit reported that "the enemy was successful at two fronts; we are being butchered."

In the highlands, Communist pressure against government positions in northwestern Pleiku Province is continuing. A border ranger camp was hit with mortar and recoilless rifle fire, the third such attack in a week. Other enemy action included the ambush of a convoy on Route 19 and the destruction of a large amount of artillery ammunition stored near Pleiku City.

Farther south, the COSVN senior tactical command that earlier directed operations around An Loc has moved into South Vietnam from Cambodia. The command is now about 17 miles southwest of An Loc, in position to direct the elements of the Communists' 7th and 9th divisions that have recently moved into this area.

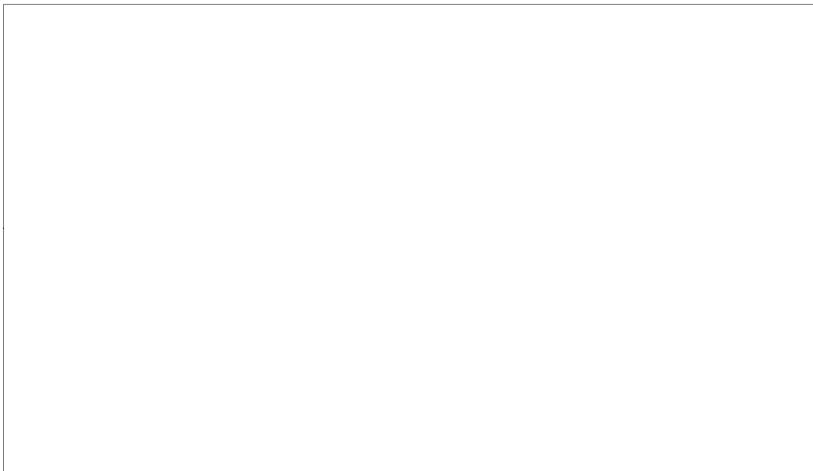
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

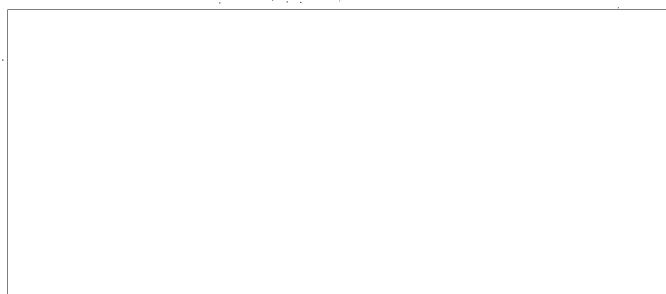
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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Sweden will give \$67 million in aid to North Vietnam over the next three years, a \$22-million increase over the last three-year aid program. Since 1970, \$10 million of the annual allocation has been set aside for redevelopment and was only to be released after hostilities ceased. Under the new program, the \$30 million so earmarked will be released now.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JAPAN-CHINA

Prime Minister Tanaka is rapidly preparing the political ground in Japan for normalization of relations with China. An article in Sunday's edition of the newspaper Mainichi, which bears all the earmarks of a trial balloon, describes a draft declaration prepared by the government for signature during Tanaka's visit to Peking in September. The newspaper indicated that the draft largely corresponds to the views expressed by China's leaders through "informal contacts."

Indeed, the draft appears to accept the course toward normalization laid out by Chou En-lai

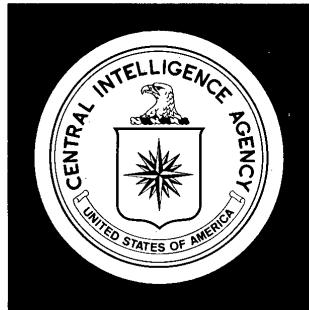
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We believe that the Chinese would have no problems with the declaration should Tanaka put it forward during his visit.

The floating of the declaration appears designed to keep Tanaka ahead of public opinion and his parliamentary opponents, without committing him irrevocably on specific issues. It also is intended to win the backing of a majority of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and thus to neutralize the opposition of the party's right wing.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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The President's Daily Brief

16 August 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

16 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

More Communist forces seem to be headed for the battle of Quang Tri City. The North Vietnamese also appear to have been sending a large number [redacted] to South Vietnam's two northern provinces in the last month and a half. (Page 1)

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Units of the Cambodian and South Vietnamese task force that has been moving slowly to reopen Route 1 in Cambodia are still two miles from the outskirts of Kompong Trabek. (Page 2)

In Laos, Vang Pao's forces have launched a fresh effort against Communist forces west and south of the Plaine des Jarres. (Page 3)

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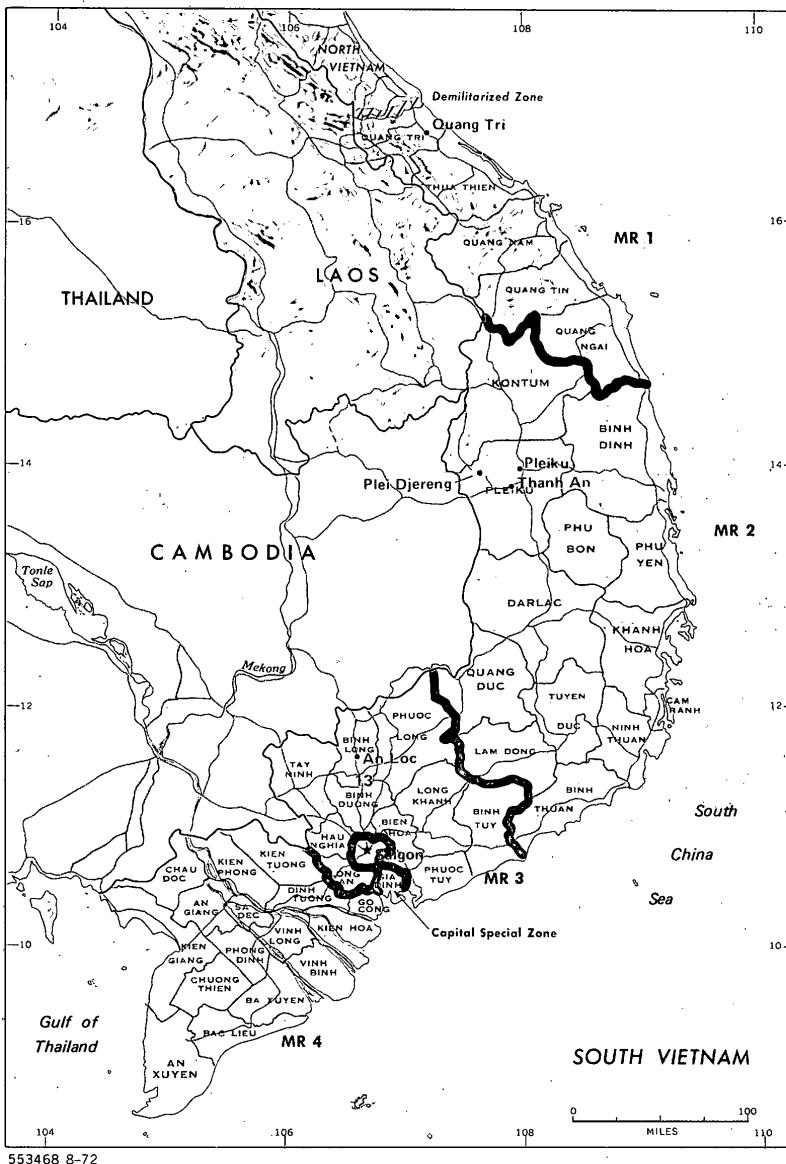
[redacted] North Vietnam [redacted]
(Page 4)

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Preparations for elections this fall in West Germany are just getting under way, but there are already indications that it will be a close race. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



553468 8-72

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

More Communist forces seem to be headed for the
battle over Quang Tri City.

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The North Vietnamese also appear to have been
sending a large number [redacted] to South Viet-
nam's two northern provinces in the last month and
a half. We have [redacted] sufficient data to con-
clude that more than 20,000 troops are involved.
Troops from the 312th and 325th divisions are not
included in this total.

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Harder fighting may be ahead in Military Region 2.

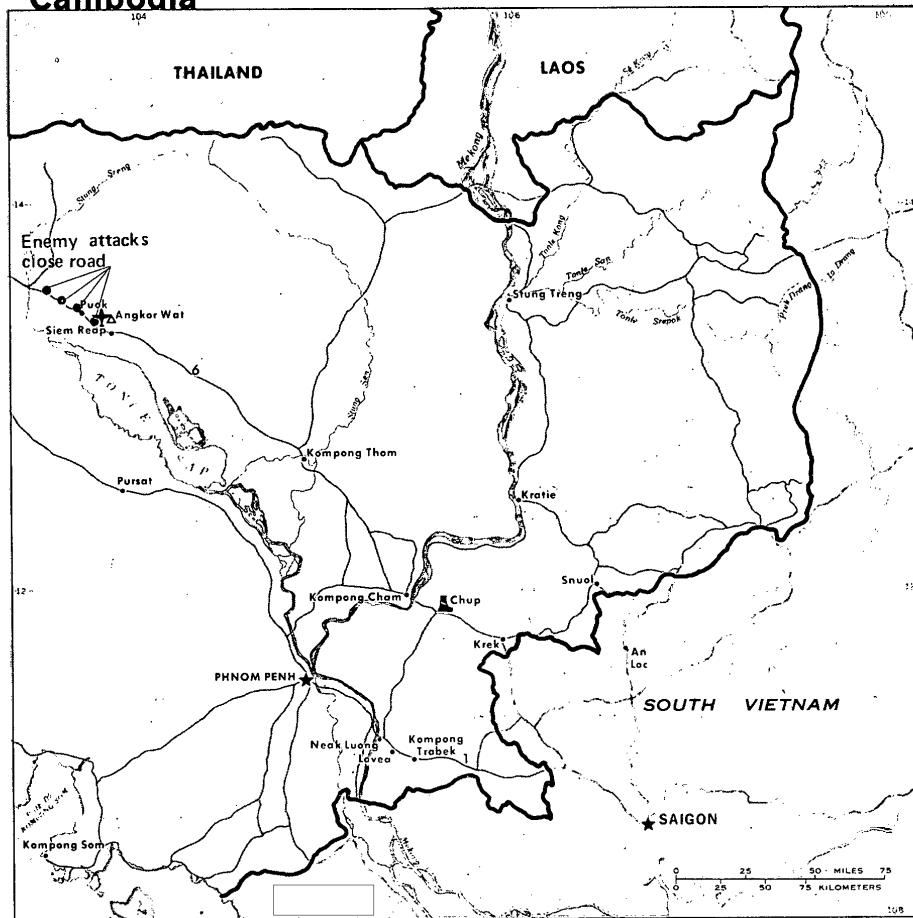
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia



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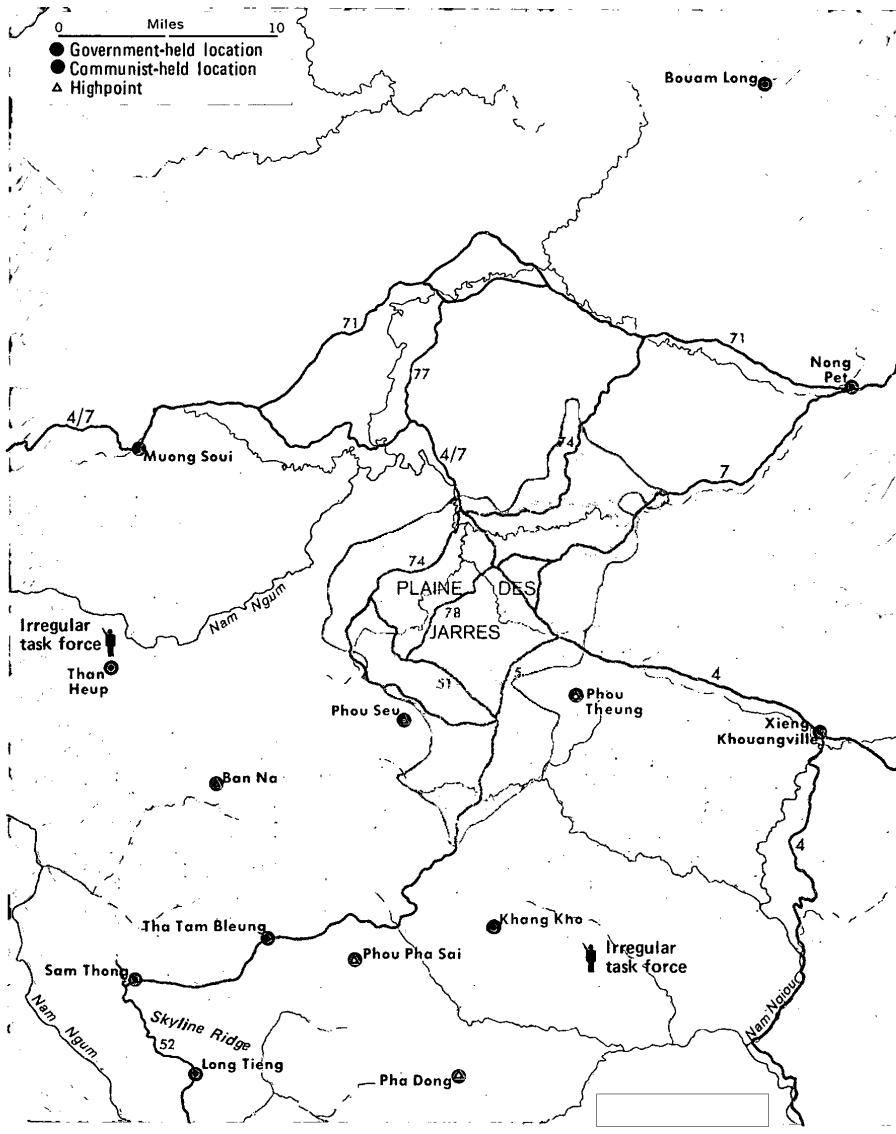
CAMBODIA

Units of the Cambodian and South Vietnamese task force that has been moving slowly to reopen Route 1 in Cambodia are still some two miles from the outskirts of Kompong Trabek, where five government battalions have been pinned down by enemy infantry and tank attacks since 6 August. A US army attaché from Phnom Penh who visited the five hard-pressed battalions on Tuesday reports that their morale is high, despite supply shortages and the inability to evacuate their wounded. The Cambodian soldiers indicated they were proud of having withstood the Communists' steady pressure and of having destroyed enemy tanks.

The morale of these troops stands in sharp contrast to that prevailing in the Angkor Wat area in Siem Reap Province, where government forces have been badly shaken by recent reverses. The Cambodian units in the vicinity of the ruins are now isolated. The Communists have cut Route 6 west of Siem Reap town and enemy shellings have closed the town's main airfield.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Government forces have launched a fresh effort against Communist troops west and south of the Plaine des Jarres. Four battalions of Vang Pao's tribesmen have been airlifted to Than Huep, about 11 miles west of the Plaine and another four battalions have been moved to positions 12 miles southeast of the Plaine. Neither task force has encountered enemy resistance, although four North Vietnamese regiments and several small Pathet Lao units are ready to contest the government's advance.

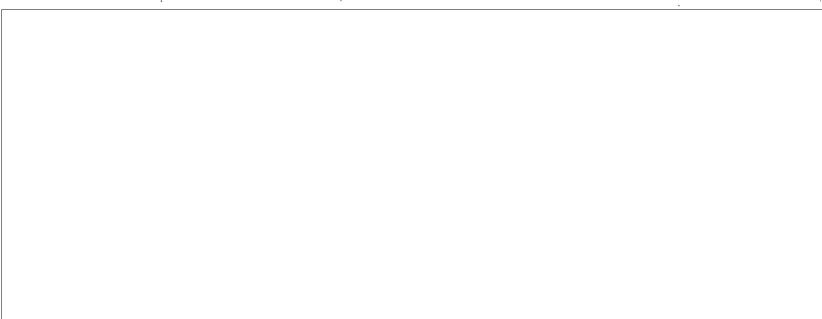
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NORTH VIETNAM



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Premier Pham Van Dong

[redacted] met with visiting representatives of the so-called "International Commission for Inquiry into US War Crimes in Indochina," and this week he has seen a visiting Mongolian leader.

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These interviews mark the first time in three months that any foreigner has met with Pham Van Dong. The North Vietnamese press, however, has continued to refer to official documents issued in his name in an effort to offset his absence from public view. [redacted]

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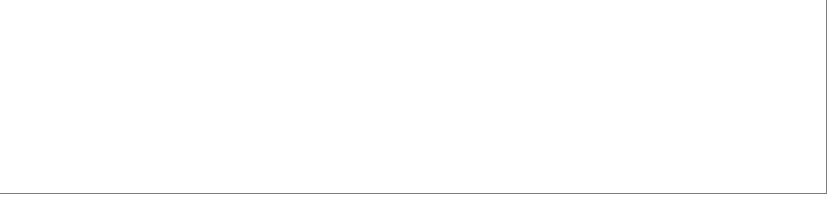
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY

Preparations for elections this fall are just getting under way, but there are already indications that it will be a close race. Although Chancellor Brandt's government has many accomplishments to its credit, especially in the foreign policy area, several recent developments have been favorable to the opposition Christian Democrats. Most notable was the dramatic resignation last month of Economics and Finance Minister Schiller. Schiller is widely respected, and the opposition is citing his departure as evidence for its claims that the government has neglected domestic affairs. According to a leading opinion poll, the coalition's popularity dropped immediately following the resignation. Now the press is speculating that Schiller will join the CDU.

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The Christian Democrats gained more campaign ammunition last week when police raided various offices of a mass circulation weekly which published what it claimed was Schiller's letter of resignation. Brandt has denied any federal government responsibility, but suspicions have been aroused that the Social Democrats violated press freedom for their own ends.

Although these events appear to give the Christian Democrats an early advantage, the government can be thankful that they have occurred during the vacation season, a period of diminished political impact. The coalition parties have ample time to go on the offensive before the voting in late November or early December. Moreover, they have basic strengths to exploit. A recent poll shows the team of Brandt, Foreign Minister Scheel, and Economics and Finance Minister Schmidt more popular than the Christian Democrats' candidates.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

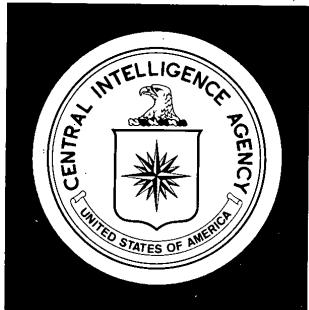
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Japan: The country's trade surplus is running about one third higher than for the first seven months of 1971 and will easily top last year's record of \$7.8 billion. The surplus for July reached one billion dollars, the largest monthly total so far this year.

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The President's Daily Brief

17 August 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

17 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In the Vietnam fighting, South Vietnamese forces are heavily engaged in the southern provinces.
(Page 1)

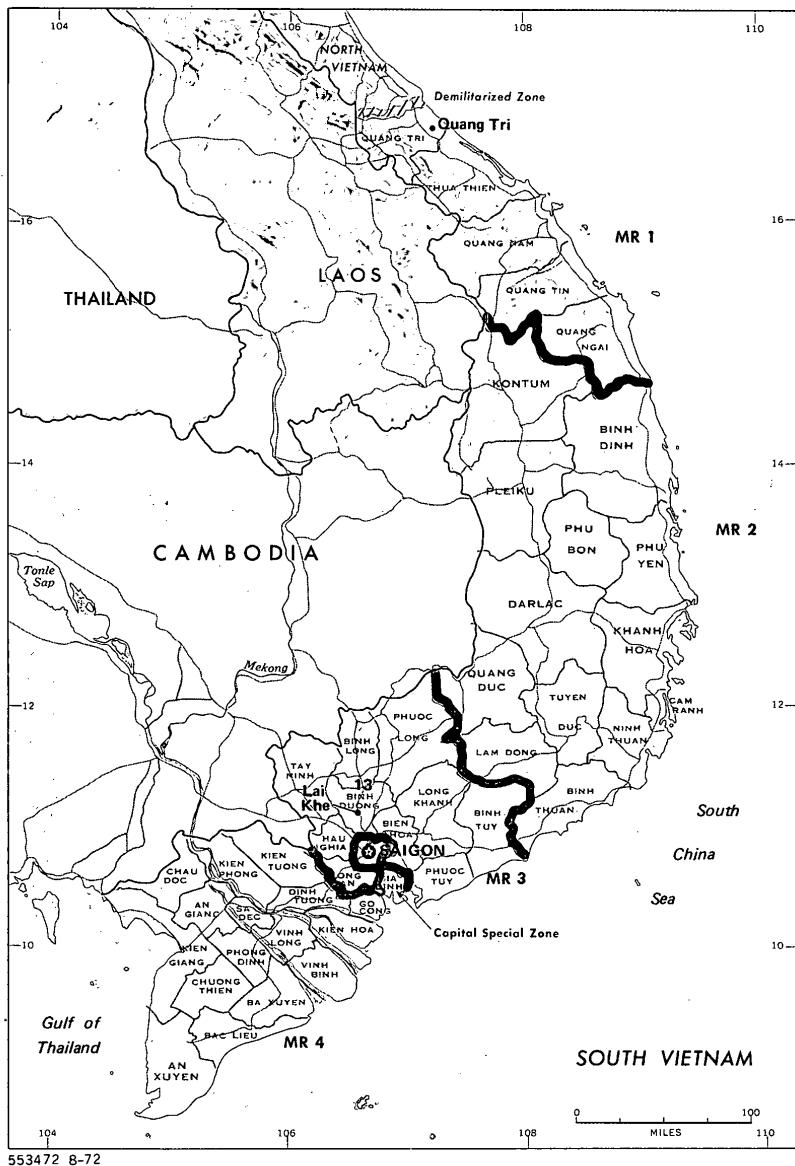
North Vietnamese propaganda continues to stress the theme of self-reliance for the long fight ahead. Recent aerial photography indicates that supplies from China continue to flow over the Dong Dang rail line. (Page 2)

Lao Government task forces moving toward the Plaine des Jarres still have met only light resistance.
(Page 3)

Another attempt was made yesterday on the life of Moroccan King Hassan. (Page 4)

Yesterday's hijacking of an airliner to Chile by Argentine revolutionaries has put Chilean President Allende in a difficult position. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

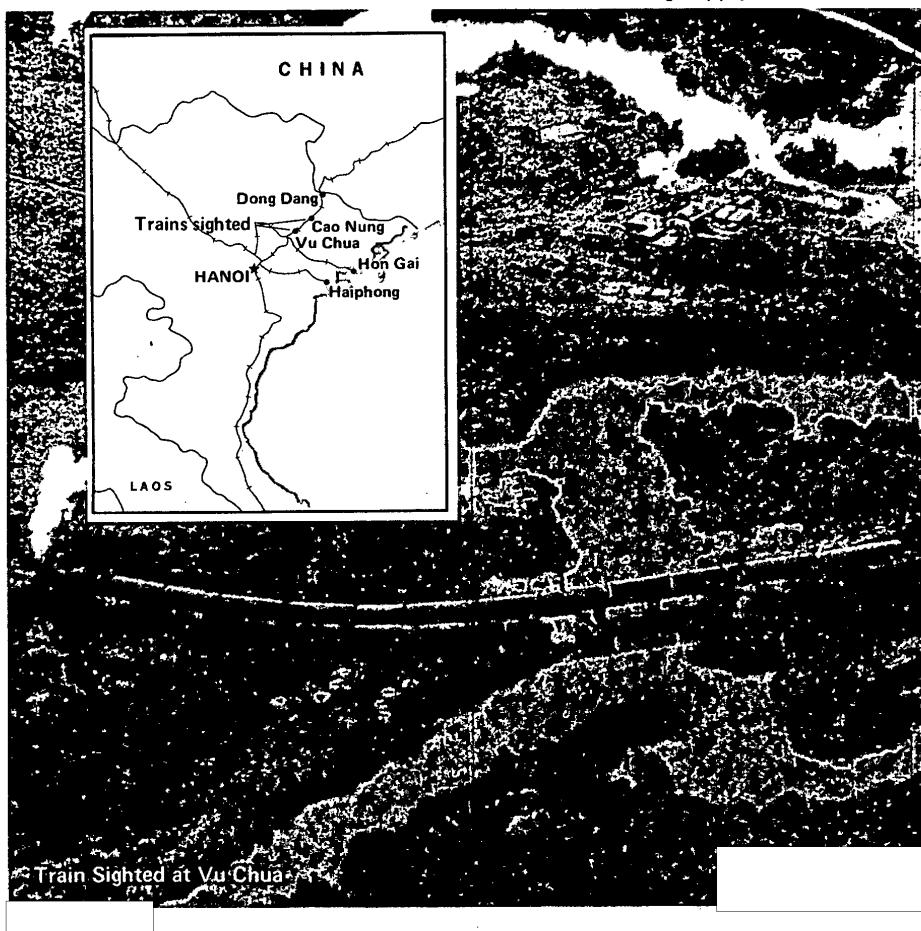
South Vietnamese forces are heavily engaged in the southern provinces. The sharpest fighting has occurred in southwestern Dinh Tuong Province, where South Vietnamese regulars suffered moderate losses in a series of clashes with elements of the North Vietnamese 88th Regiment. The Communists are maintaining pressure against government outposts and district towns in Kien Phong, nearby Kien Hoa, and Kien Giang provinces.

North of Saigon, ground action has slackened around Lai Khe, but substantial enemy mortar and rocket fire is being directed against South Vietnamese positions in Binh Duong, Tay Ninh, and Phuoc Long provinces. Route 13, just north of Lai Khe, is now closed to traffic, but South Vietnamese forces have been able to keep the road open to the south.

On the Quang Tri front, the infantry operations of both sides are being hampered by artillery fire. Communist shelling has been heavy throughout Quang Tri Province and Communist units are also complaining about allied firepower.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

North Vietnam Maintaining Supply Flow from China



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

An article in the July issue of Hanoi's ideological journal, Hoc Tap, appears to be another in a series intended to steel the resolve of the party cadres for a long fight ahead. Its import, despite qualifying phrases, is that North Vietnam now more than ever must rely on its own resources and that it cannot trust its two major allies, China and the Soviet Union, to protect its interests. This message has received wide distribution in recent months, but seldom has been put so starkly. Moreover, the article is pessimistic about the chances that the anti-war movement in the US will have a significant effect on the election or on US policy. The author concludes that no matter what happens elsewhere, it is military victory and the perseverance of the Vietnamese Communists that really count.

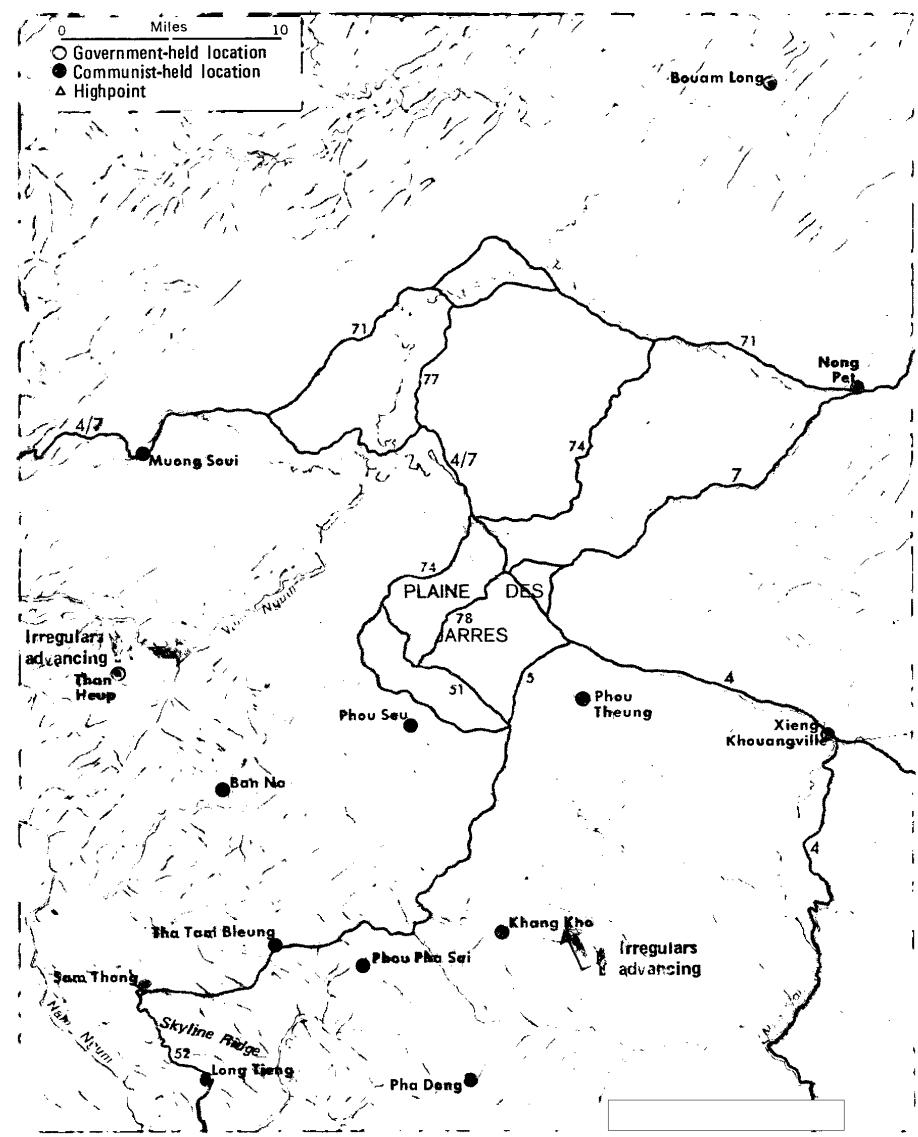
* * *

Aerial photography [redacted] indicates that supplies from China continue to flow over the high-capacity Dong Dang rail line. Two southbound trains were observed on that date--one of 30 cars at Cao Nung and another of 12 cars at Vu Chua. Photography also provides evidence of turnover in the supply stockpiles at major rail yards along the line.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Government task forces moving toward the Plaine des Jarres from the west and south still have met only light resistance. Additional battalions of Vang Pao's tribesmen, fresh from several weeks of retraining, will soon be committed to the drive.

Vang Pao is seeking to force the North Vietnamese to abandon positions west of the Plaine, and eventually the Plaine itself, by threatening their supply depots and infiltration routes. His basic objective is to push the Communist troops back far enough to forestall another major dry season offensive against the Sam Thong - Long Tieng complex.

Apart from this tactical consideration, Prime Minister Souvanna wants Vang Pao to take as much territory as possible on the assumption that government control of the Plaine would strengthen Vientiane's bargaining position should peace talks begin soon. Last year, however, the Communists terminated preliminary contacts in Vientiane after Vang Pao moved onto the Plaine.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

MOROCCO

Another attempt was made yesterday on the life of King Hassan as he was returning to Rabat from a private visit to France. The F-5 squadron of the air force, which had remained loyal to him during last year's military coup attempt, fired on his plane as it entered Moroccan airspace. The King's plane was damaged, but was able to make a safe landing. Later, several planes strafed the Rabat airport and the King's palace.

Last night the Moroccan Army occupied the F-5 base at Kenitra without resistance and arrested some suspects. The pilot of the plane that attacked the King's aircraft is said to have been captured after parachuting near Rabat. Five other squadron members, including the air force deputy commander, escaped to Gibraltar in a helicopter and were taken into custody.

Following last year's attempted coup, some of Morocco's handful of F-5 pilots were reported to be anti-Hassan/

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The air force commander, Colonel Hassan Lyoussi, was formerly head of Morocco's military intelligence, and was handpicked for his current position last May by the King. This appointment may have created some ill feelings among air force officers who had hoped that the command would be awarded within the service.

The press this morning reports the suicide of the defense minister, General Mohamed Oufkir, during the night. This is the first indication of the involvement of anyone other than members of the F-5 squadron in the assassination attempt.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Argentina-Chile: Yesterday's hijacking of an airliner to Chile by six Argentine revolutionaries who broke out of an army-run prison has put President Allende in a difficult situation. Allende would like to maintain cordial relations with Argentine President Lanusse, but Chile has a long tradition of providing haven to South American dissidents of all stripes, and to return the escaped extremists would invite harsh reaction from many members of Allende's government. Allende's own Socialist Party, stung by the arrests for banditry last month of some members of its extremist wing, will oppose any action that would land the hijackers in jail. In similar cases in the past, Chile has denied formal asylum, but has allowed the fugitives to make their own way to any other country that would accept them. Cuba could be the choice of this group.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

18 August 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

18 August 1972

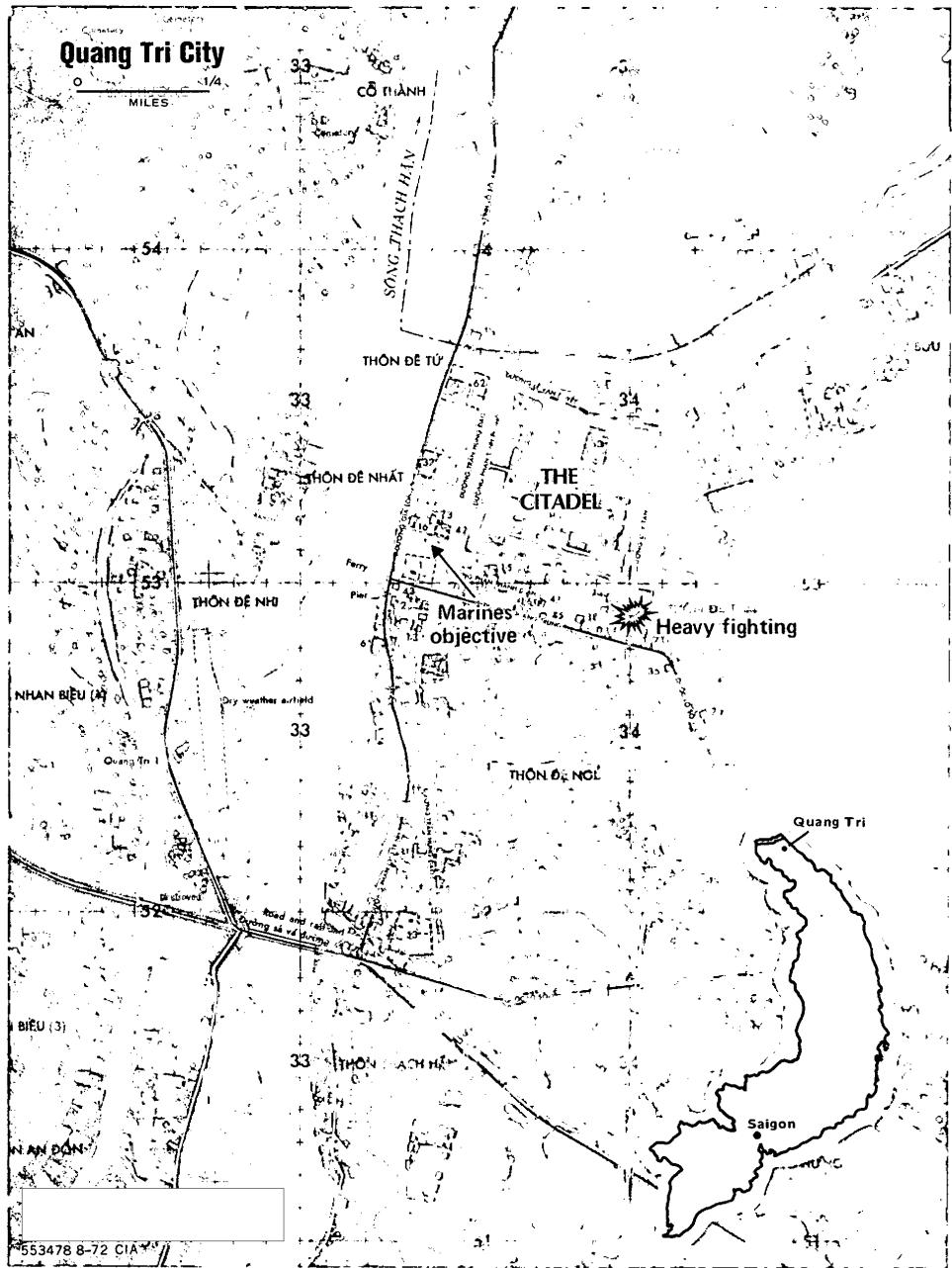
PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In South Vietnam, heavy fighting has erupted in the Quang Tri City area as government forces are nearing the Communist-held citadel. (Page 1)

Hanoi has published an editorial in the party daily which makes it clear that the North Vietnamese consider some of their supporters more dependable at the moment than the USSR and China. (Page 2)

The death of Morocco's strong man, Major General Mohamed Oufkir, will increase the tension and instability caused by the attempt on King Hassan's life. (Page 3)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

Heavy fighting has erupted in the Quang Tri City area as government forces are nearing the Communist-held citadel. South Vietnamese Marines engaged in sharp street fighting near the southern wall and moved against a well-entrenched enemy force defending the western side, the last portion outside the fortress wall still controlled by the Communists. South of Quang Tri City, South Vietnamese paratroopers fought a day-long battle with enemy forces some five miles from the citadel. Heavy Communist artillery and mortar fire was reported throughout the area.

The headquarters of the North Vietnamese 312th Division now appears to have shifted south from the staging area at Dong Hoi to within 20 miles of the DMZ.

The 312th is the last battle-tested infantry reserve remaining in North Vietnam. One of its regiments is already fighting in Quang Tri City, and the other two are apparently en route. The Communists have now committed elements of four infantry divisions--the 312th, 308th, 320B, and 325th--to the battle for Quang Tri City. Additionally, Hanoi's 304th Division is located not far south of the city.

Early today a rocket attack was directed at Da Nang causing heavy casualties and damage. No major new ground action has been reported in the southern provinces, although scattered fighting continues throughout the area.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

Hanoi has again published caustic criticism of Moscow and Peking. In an editorial in the party daily on 17 August--an editorial termed "important" by Hanoi Radio--the North Vietnamese make it clear that they consider their supporters in the third world more dependable at the moment than their big Communist allies.

Most of the editorial, in fact, is devoted to the danger that the US will drive a wedge among "fraternal socialist" countries by holding out the prospect of "reconciliation." The writer claims that "principled reconciliation" between big powers is not objectionable, since this would serve to strengthen the position of the "world revolution." He asserts, however, that if the policy of a socialist country is "aimed at caring for its narrow and immediate interests, it will not only harm the revolutionary movements of various countries (read Vietnam), but in the end will bring these very countries incalculable losses and make them give up their lofty internationalist duty."

At one point, in fact, the editorial comes close to accusing the Soviets and Chinese of collusion with the US, and at another place it charges them with uttering "empty words."

The Nhan Dan editorial follows publication of an article in the party ideological journal that likewise contains bitter criticism of Hanoi's two major allies. The tone of the editorial, however, is more acerbic than anything published on this subject in over a year.

Hanoi's biting epithets seem ungracious, given the fact that Peking, and perhaps Moscow as well, have recently entered into new aid agreements with the North Vietnamese. The clear implication is that, despite these agreements, the Vietnamese Communists are deeply disturbed over the way big-power politics are hurting Hanoi's vital interests.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

MOROCCO

The death of Morocco's strong man, Major General Mohamed Oufkir, will increase the tension and instability caused by the attempt on King Hassan's life.

Oufkir directed loyal forces in the initial counterattack, but [redacted]

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[redacted] took his life [redacted]

the Moroccan Government has only reported Oufkir's suicide.

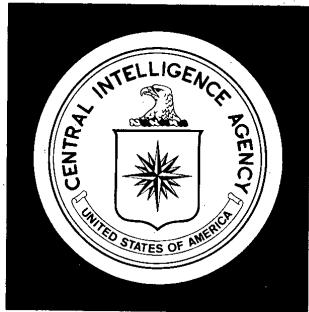
Major General Driss Ben Aomar has been named acting defense minister. He is a loyal and respected army officer, but he lacks Oufkir's drive and formidable reputation [redacted]

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As was the case in the 1971 coup attempt, most of the rebel officers are Berbers, who resent the predominance of the Arabized political and social elite in Morocco. There is also deep-seated dislike among many educated Moroccans for the King, his sumptuous life style, and his autocratic rule. Hassan's position depends almost entirely on the support of the military and security forces, and the future of the monarchy is now more than ever in jeopardy.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

19 August 1972

45

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

19 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In South Vietnam, Communist forces have begun a series of attacks in several areas of the central coastal lowlands. (Page 1)

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	Soviet	
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(Page 3)		

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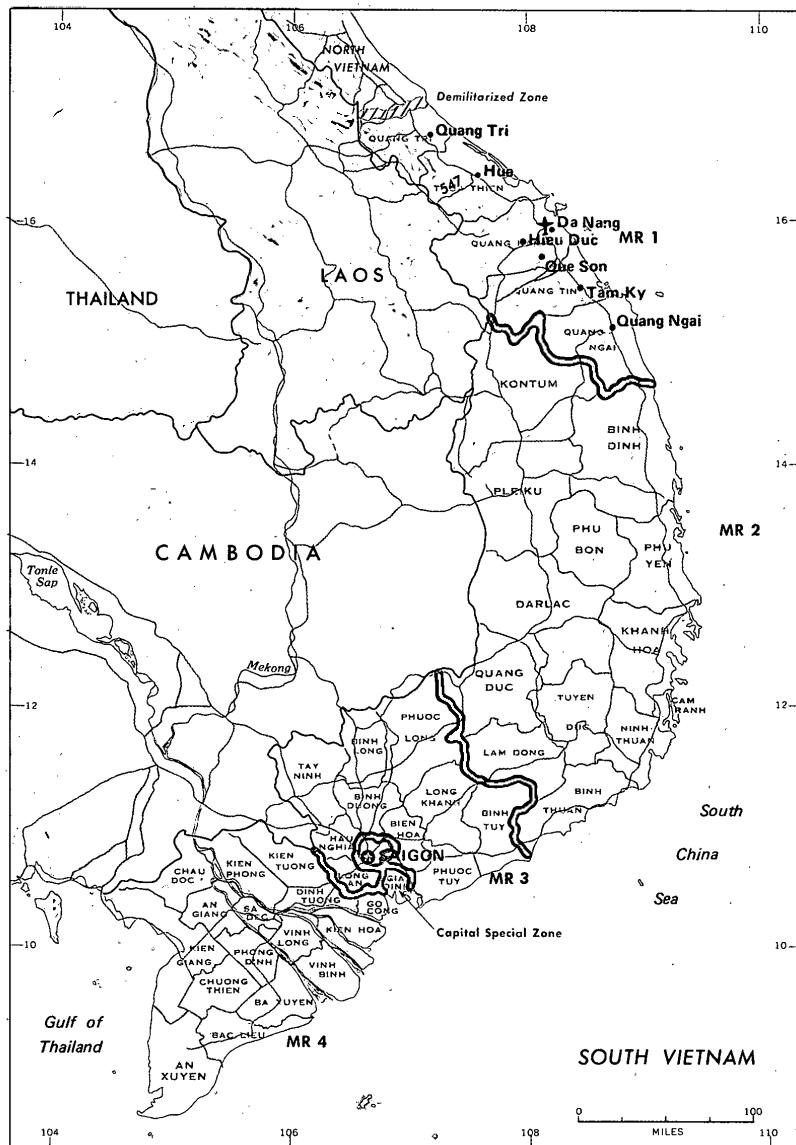
The Soviets [redacted] (Page 4)

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The West Germans have decided to discuss establishing diplomatic relations with Peking in the near future. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



553486 8-72

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

Communist forces have begun a series of attacks in several areas of the central coastal lowlands. Following heavy shelling, which included the first use of 130-mm. field guns in these provinces, enemy forces from the North Vietnamese 711th Division yesterday attacked government positions around the district town of Que Son and nearby Fire Support Base Ross. Fighting there is continuing. According to an intercept of 17 August, enemy forces have also attacked in Hieu Duc District southwest of Da Nang and claim to be "in complete control" of the area.

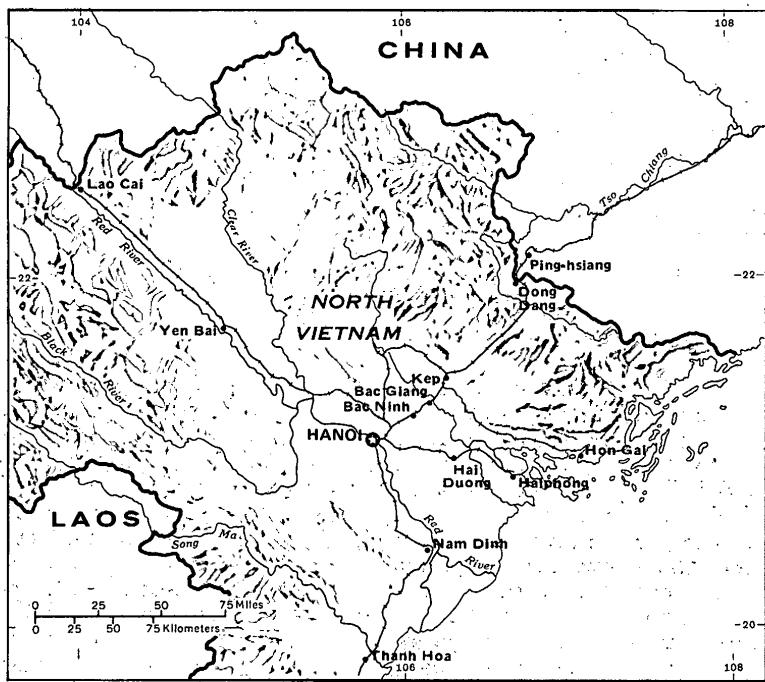
The enemy has also been active in coastal areas to the south. Tam Ky, the capital of Quang Tin Province, was shelled with 122-mm. rockets as were government positions north and south of the town. The shelling was followed by ground attacks against outposts in the area, and one road was cut. There were also a number of clashes in neighboring Quang Ngai Province, where one outpost north of the provincial capital was overrun.

There have been numerous reports that Communist military activity in the coastal provinces would increase in the last half of August. Some of these reports also claimed that the enemy intended to employ armor and heavy artillery in this area. The appearance of 130-mm. field guns supports this claim, but no tanks have yet been observed.

On the northern front, street fighting between marine units and enemy defenders continues near the citadel in Quang Tri City. Enemy shellings in the area were reduced, but several ground clashes occurred on the northern and southern edges of the city. South Vietnamese airborne troops have been involved in two days of heavy fighting about five miles south of Quang Tri City. Fighting also continues west of Hue as the enemy probes government positions guarding the Route 547 corridor into the city. The North Vietnamese have now committed elements of four divisions in an attempt to prevent ARVN's recapture of Quang Tri.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

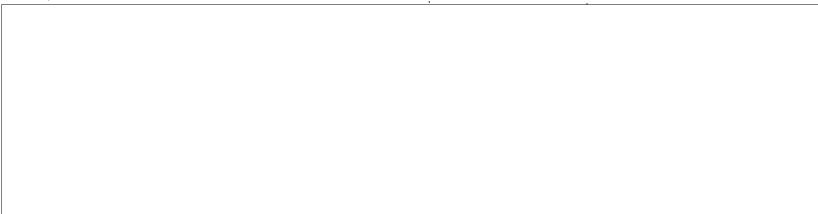
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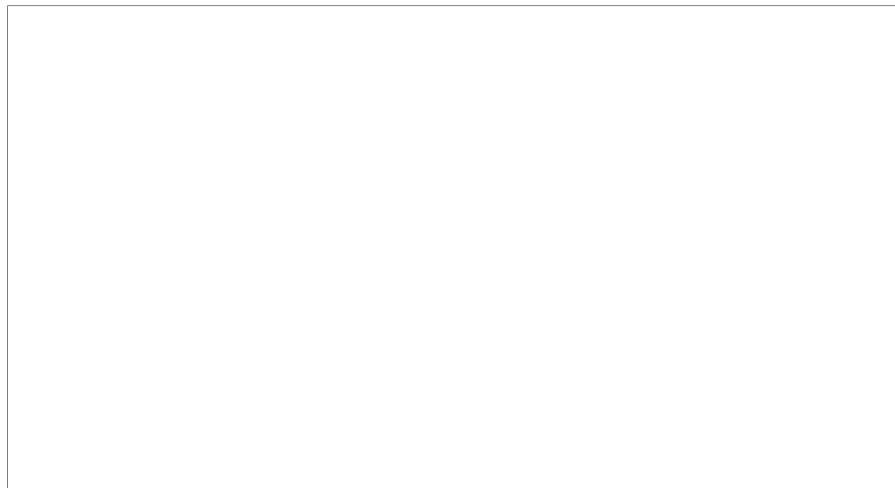
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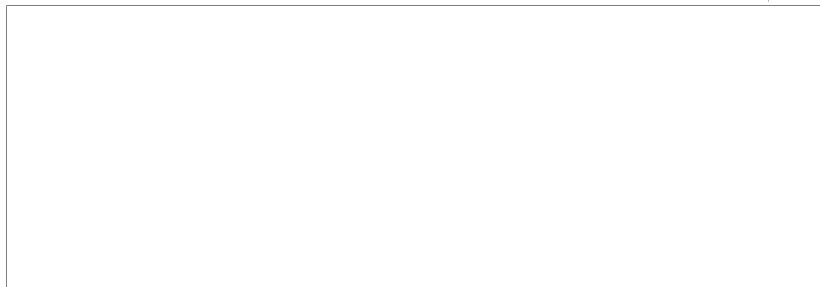
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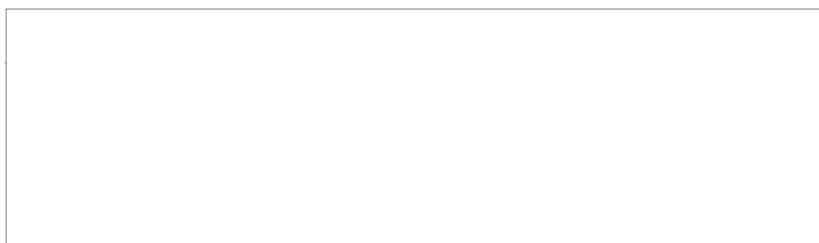
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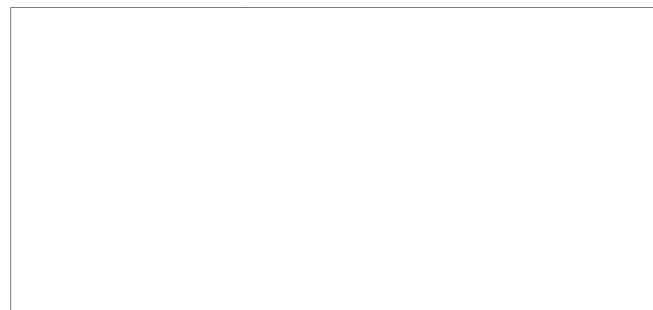
USSR-INDIA



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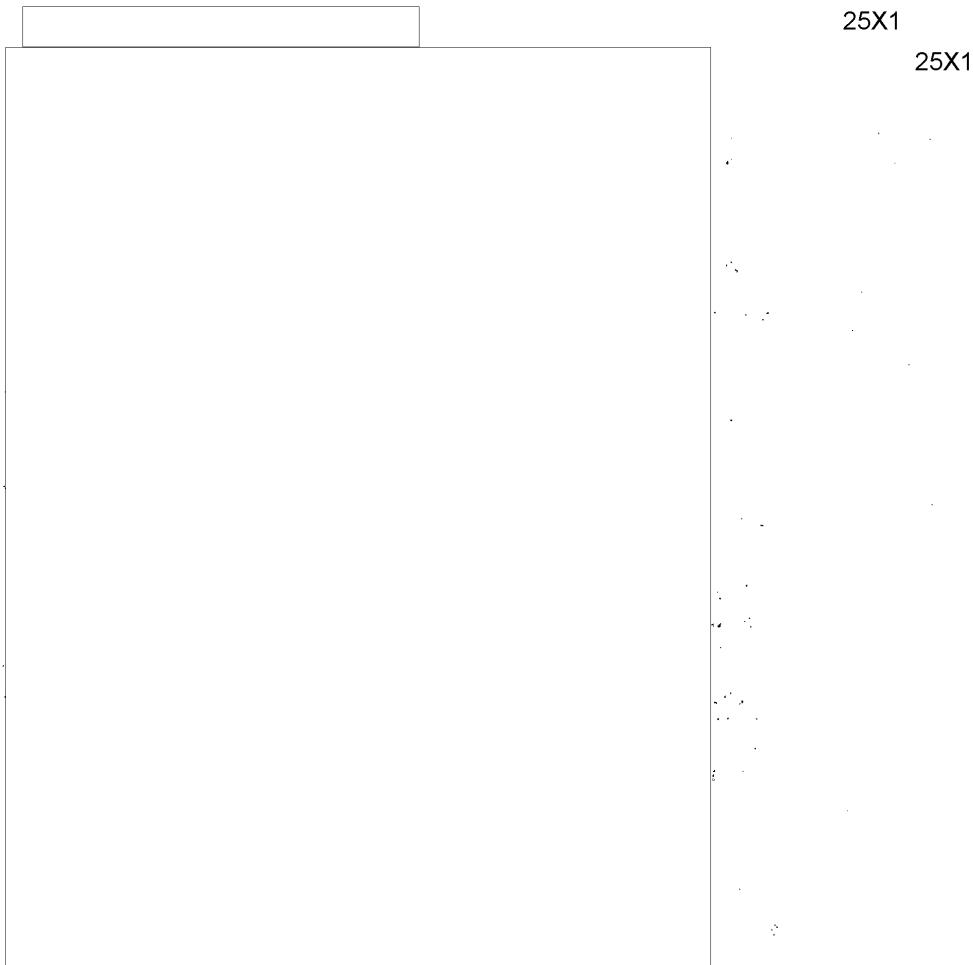


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

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West Germany - China: The West Germans have informed us that they have decided to discuss establishing diplomatic relations with Peking in the near future. Although Chancellor Brandt had preferred holding off on a bid to Peking while negotiations with the East Germans are still under way, domestic political pressures have apparently convinced him to take this step now. With elections coming this fall, he wants to neutralize any advantage the opposition Christian Democrats have gained from the visit to Peking of one of their leaders last month. Questioned in an interview on 17 August, Brandt did not rule out an eventual meeting with Chou En-lai, but said it would be Foreign Minister Scheel's turn first. In the same interview, Brandt sought to assure the Soviets that his policy toward China is not directed against them.

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The President's Daily Brief

21 August 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

21 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

There was sharp fighting in each of South Vietnam's four military regions over the weekend amid signs that the Communists hope to keep the war going at a heightened pace over the next several weeks. Aerial photography of Haiphong harbor shows a Chinese minesweeper and two smaller craft apparently equipped for minesweeping operations. (Page 1)

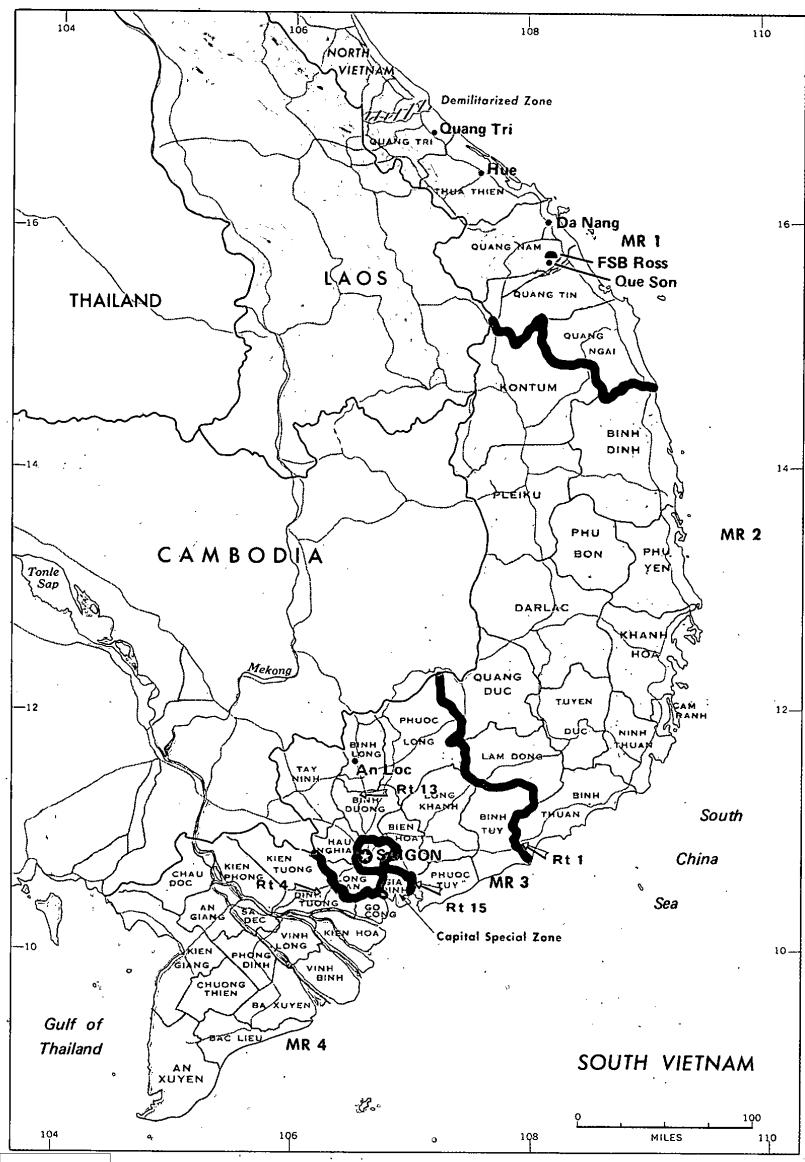
Recent satellite photography of the Ping-hsiang area on the China - North Vietnam border showed a high level of logistics activity. (Page 3)

In Laos, Vang Pao's forces are not encountering any major enemy resistance in their advance toward the Plaine des Jarres. (Page 4)

Moroccan King Hassan's address to the nation over the weekend is not likely to inspire confidence in his rule. (Page 5)

The East Germans presented a new draft treaty on basic relations with West Germany at the latest Bahr-Kohl session. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

Sharp fighting took place in each of South Vietnam's four military regions over the weekend amid signs that the Communists hope to keep the war going at a heightened pace over the next several weeks. The enemy's most damaging attacks were in the Que Son Valley south of Da Nang, where North Vietnamese forces drove government troops out of Fire Support Base Ross, an important strongpoint, and captured a nearby district town.

The attacks open up an important approach to the populated coastal districts south of Da Nang. Initial field reports suggest that the South Vietnamese forces may have had leadership problems; the local government commander is reported to have pulled his forces out against the orders of the regional commander, General Truong. Government troops are now regrouping and forming a new defense line.

To the north, there were no major new engagements in the Quang Tri City area, but the enemy's intense shelling of government forces continued, and additional North Vietnamese reinforcements have joined the battle. Prisoners indicate that elements of all three regiments of the 308th Division have taken up positions just south of the citadel.

In the region around Saigon battles flared near several key routes. Civilian traffic was held up temporarily by skirmishing along routes 1, 13, and 15 in an arc some 25 miles north and east of the capital. The bloodiest fight, however, took place about 20 miles south of Saigon near Route 4. This action, which cost government troops more than 80 casualties, could presage a major enemy attempt to interdict Route 4 and cut Saigon off from the vital rice growing delta region.

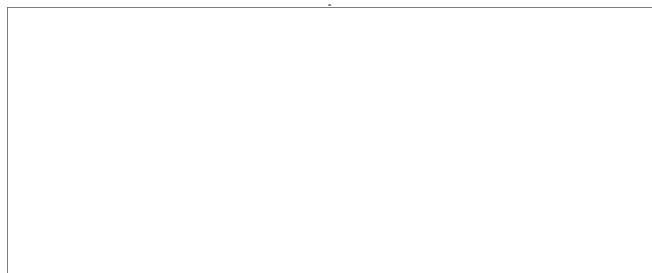
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Review of recent aerial photography of Haiphong harbor shows a shallow-draft Chinese minesweeper moored next to a Chinese merchantman that has been trapped in the harbor since the mining in April.

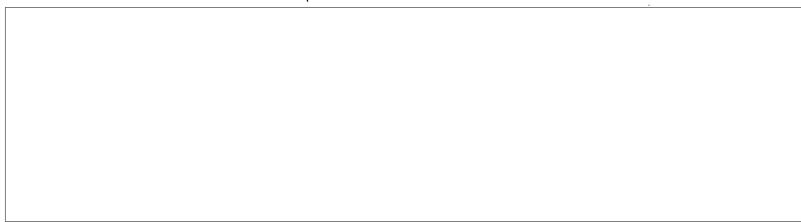
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



553485 8-72

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHINA - NORTH VIETNAM

Satellite photography [redacted] covering the Ping-hsiang area on the China - North Vietnam border showed a high level of logistics activity. The total car and locomotive count in the main rail yard--616--was about equal to the previous daily high during June and July, but the number of vehicles and large pieces of equipment--847--was more than double the previous high. These vehicles were sighted on rail cars and parked in open storage. Almost 350 of them were parked on roads west of the rail yard. In the main rail yard ten tank cars were visible on the spur leading to the petroleum storage facility, and seven tank cars were seen elsewhere in the yard. In one area of the yard, petroleum storage tanks apparently were being transferred to trucks.

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Equipment in the main yard and on an 11-mile stretch of rail line to the north totaled 1,600 vehicles and large pieces of equipment, including 12 tanks, 36 canvas-covered pieces of equipment--presumably armored personnel carriers--on flatcars, and 19 buses. Satellite photography [redacted] of last year showed fewer than 500 vehicles in the over-all Ping-hsiang area.

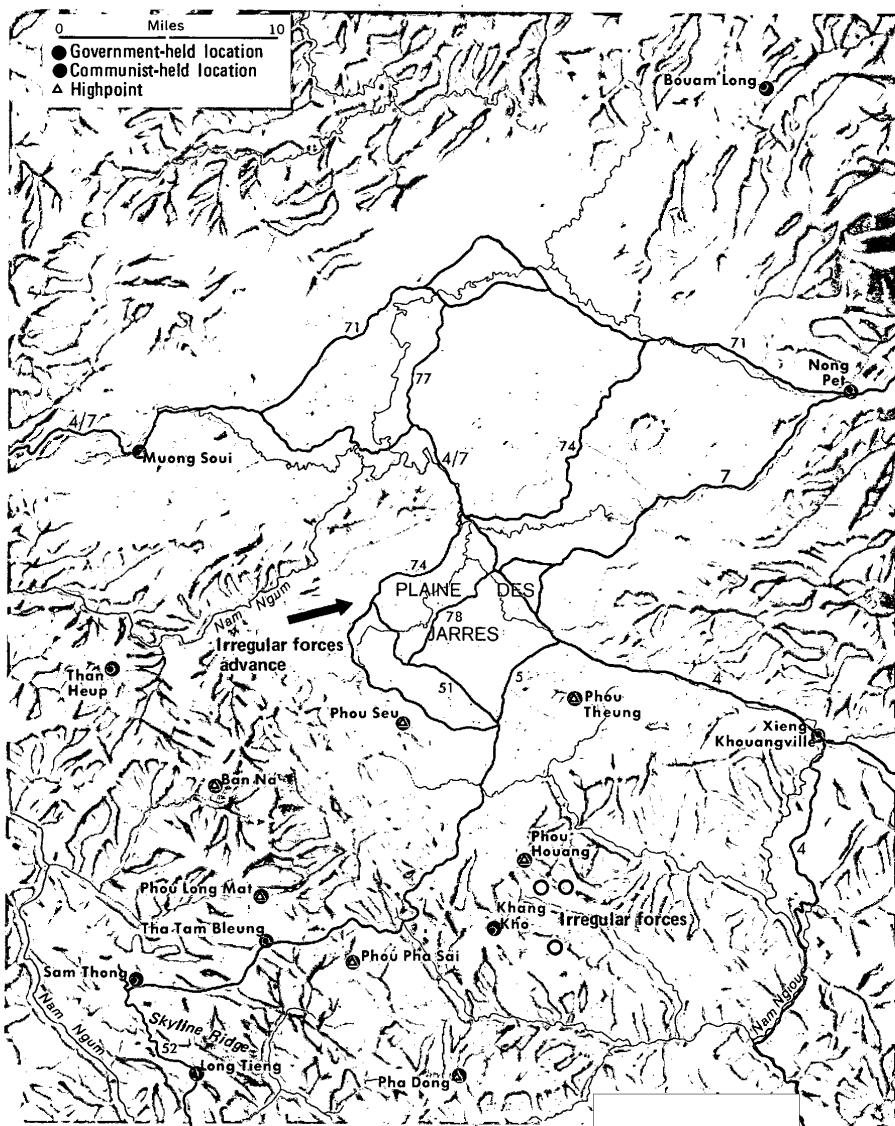
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Activity at Dong Dang on the North Vietnamese side of the border [redacted] was also high. Many trucks and truck convoys--some towing AAA and field artillery pieces--were seen on the roads in the vicinity of Dong Dang. The rail line between Dong Dang and Hanoi appeared to be open to through traffic all the way to Bac Giang. Freight cars were observed on sidings all along the rail line and at least one train was seen moving on the line.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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553492 8-72 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Vang Pao's forces are not encountering any major enemy resistance in their advance toward the Plaine des Jarres. Over the past few days, irregulars of three battalions have reported only light clashes with North Vietnamese troops in moving to the western edge of the Plaine. Elements of the other three battalions engaged in the offensive reported scattered contacts with the enemy in occupying Khang Kho and several other high ground positions in the vicinity of Phou Houang, near the Plaine's southern tip.

The government, meanwhile, has airlifted additional irregular forces--numbering about 900 men--from Long Tieng to Bouam Long, northeast of the Plaine. These forces are also slated to participate in operations in northern Laos.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

MOROCCO

King Hassan's address to the nation over the weekend is not likely to inspire confidence in his rule.

Besides announcing his plans to take control of the armed forces, he also warned that dissenters would not be tolerated.

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These statements may mean a repetition of the summary executions that followed last year's abortive coup. Such a course of action could buy some time for the King's authoritarian rule, but is also likely to lead to new efforts to remove him.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

West Germany - East Germany: The Bahr-Kohl talks--now official negotiations--resumed last week in East Berlin. The East German side presented a new draft treaty on basic relations between the two countries that contains a reference to the German state's right of self-determination, a nod in Bonn's direction. Moreover, Kohl, in an apparent attempt to show some flexibility on another of Bonn's key concerns, suggested that West Germany could make some kind of unilateral declaration "regarding the question of the nation." There was, however, no give in Pankow's position on the crucial "human rights" issues such as freedom of travel and the reunification of families. These matters are particularly sensitive for the East Germans and they are likely to resist firmly Bonn's demands for concessions in this area.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

22 August 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

22 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In South Vietnam, government troops have launched a counterattack in Quang Nam Province to retake positions captured by the Communists over the weekend. In North Vietnam, the rainy season is now well along, and so far the country has escaped extensive flooding. (Page 1)

In Cambodia, the government is making some progress in its efforts to reopen key roads. (Page 3) 25X1

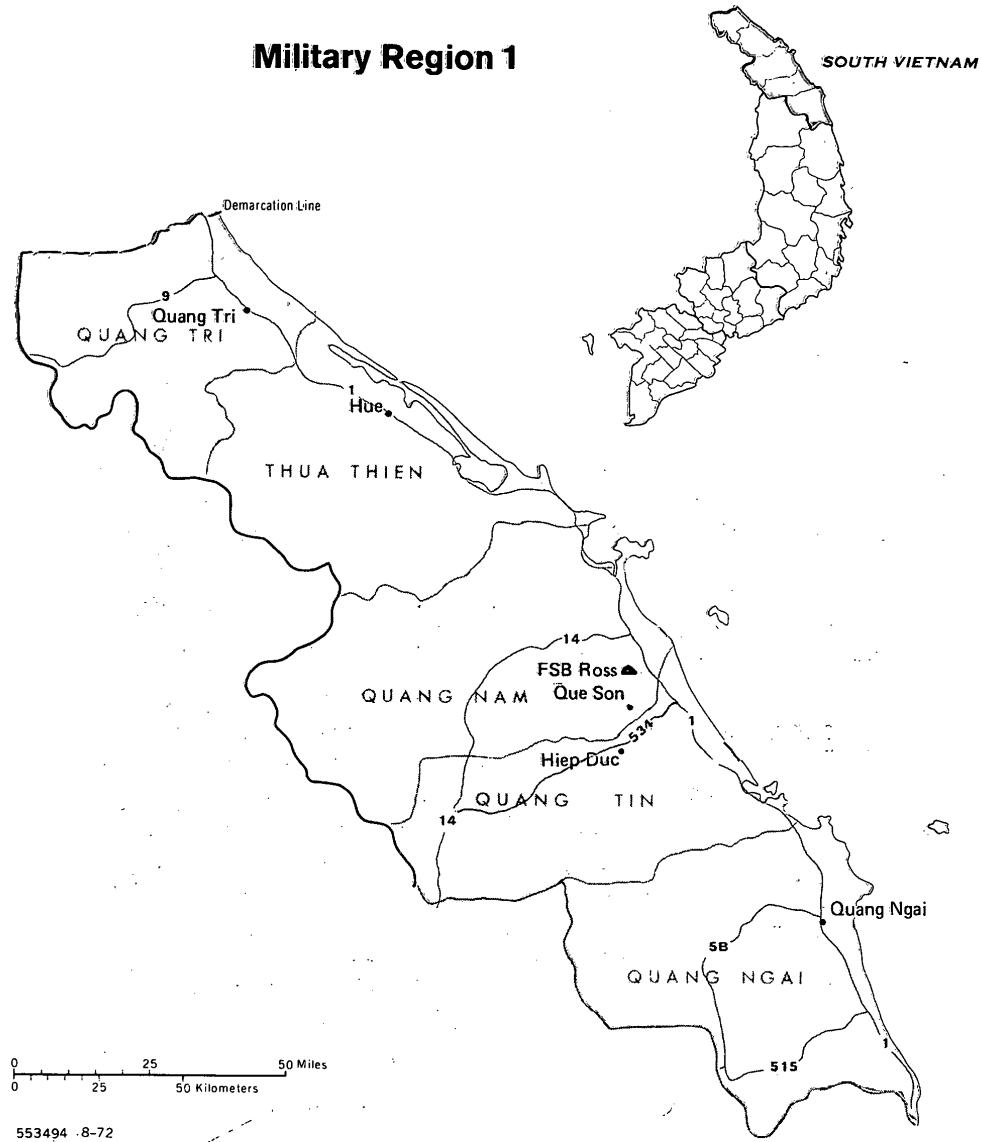
	the Egyptians	25X1
Soviet military equipment		25X1
(Page 4)		25X1

A recent ruling of the Philippine Supreme Court has cast doubt over the future status of US economic holdings in the Philippines. (Page 5)

In Chile, a nationwide strike of retail merchants has led to violence and mass arrests in Santiago. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Military Region 1



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

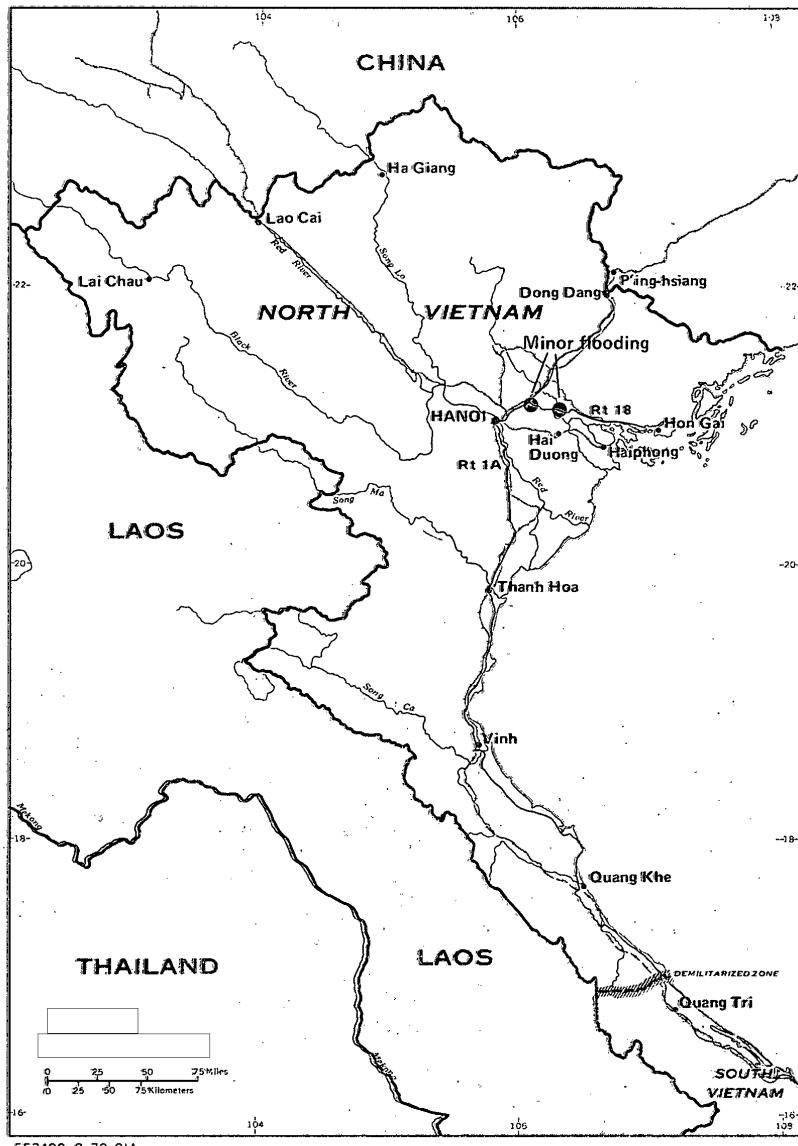
VIETNAM

Government troops have launched a counterattack in Quang Nam Province to retake positions captured by the Communists over the weekend. South Vietnamese Army troops, backed by heavy air support, so far have encountered moderate enemy ground resistance and artillery fire and have moved to within five miles of Communist-held Que Son district capital and Fire Support Base Ross. Five 130-mm. field gun positions have been pinpointed in Quang Tin Province, about 12 miles southwest of Que Son. In addition, US pilots have spotted a newly constructed road in the mountains close to the junction of Routes 14 and 534; the road may be serving both the guns and North Vietnamese forces in adjacent Quang Nam Province.

To the north in Quang Tri Province, Communist artillery fire continues at near-record highs; about 8,500 rounds fell on South Vietnamese Marine and Airborne positions over a two-day period. Street fighting was reported in both the northern and southern sectors of Quang Tri City on Sunday, but little ground was gained.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

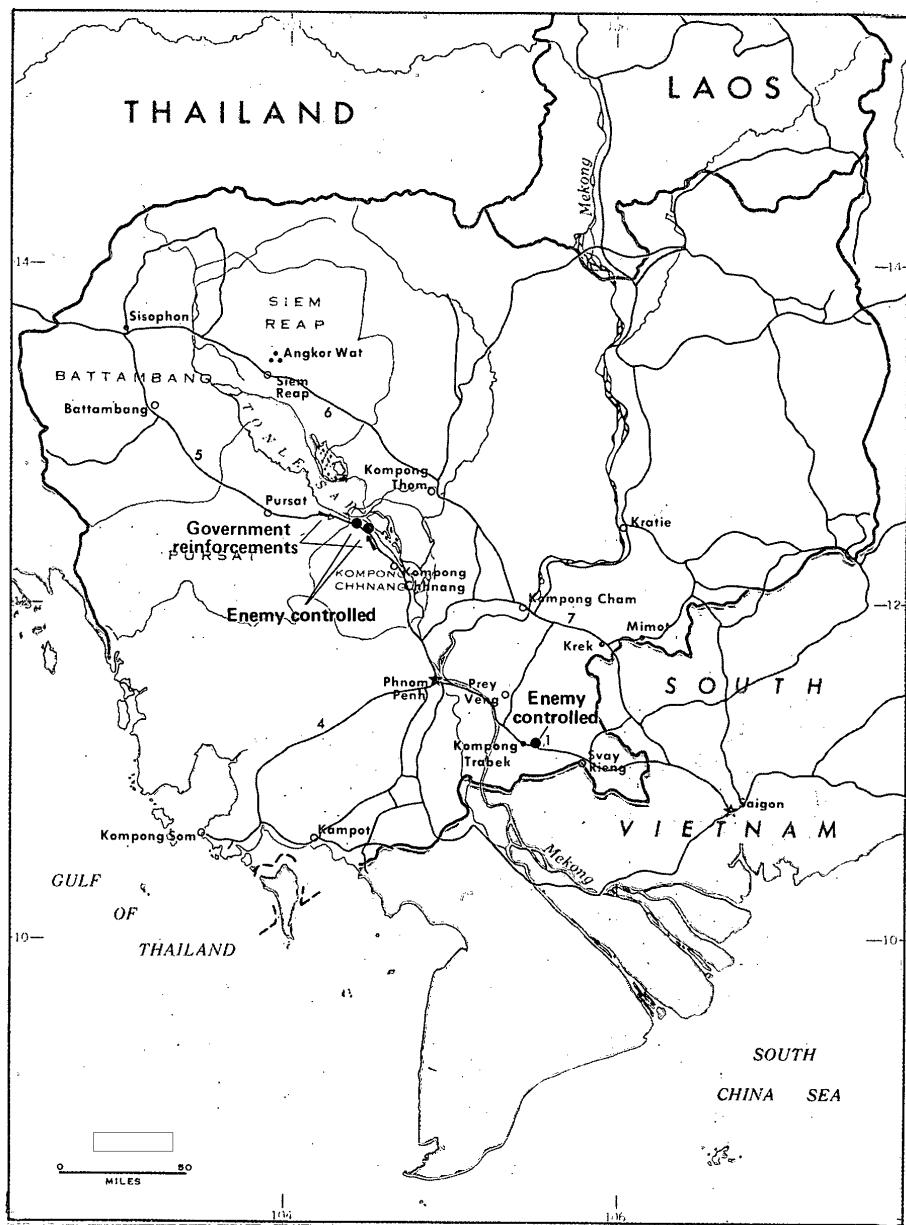
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The rainy season is now well along in North Vietnam, and so far the country has escaped extensive flooding. Aerial photography up to 13 August indicates that the flooding in lowland areas north of Hai Duong noted in late July has now spread to new areas along a 15-mile stretch of the Cao River. There has also been some minor flooding west of Hanoi in lowland areas between the primary dikes. On the whole, the dikes appear to be under little pressure, and none of the flooding can be attributed to bomb damage.

Infrequent intercepts from North Vietnamese weather stations suggest that precipitation this year has been well below that of 1971, and the rivers in the northwest mountain region are much lower than they were last year at this time. There have been no intercepts from the Red River delta area to indicate river levels there, but reporting from diplomatic observers suggests that the rivers are no higher than normal for this time of year. Hanoi's news media have cut back their propaganda on the flood danger.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA



25X1

553497 8-72 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

The government is making some progress in its efforts to reopen key roads. Three South Vietnamese battalions moving on Route 1 toward Kompong Trabek from the southwest have linked up with the five Cambodian battalions that have been pinned down by the Communists on the outskirts of the town for the past two weeks. The Cambodian and South Vietnamese column on Route 1 that has been stalled farther west of Kompong Trabek may be able to join these forces soon to make a combined attack on the town.

In the northwest, government troops have launched operations to reopen Route 5 by retaking two outposts overrun by the enemy on 18 August near the border of Pursat and Kompong Chhnang provinces.

Phnom Penh can ill-afford any prolonged closure of Route 5 because the capital receives most of its rice over this highway. The latest enemy attacks in this area suggest that the Communists may exert greater pressure against the highway than they have done in the past.

Meanwhile, the other major highway in the northwest, Route 6, is once again open to Siem Reap, enabling the government to bring in fresh supplies and troops. Cambodian units at Siem Reap are still trying to organize operations to regain the positions in the Angkor Wat area that they recently lost to the Communists.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT-USSR



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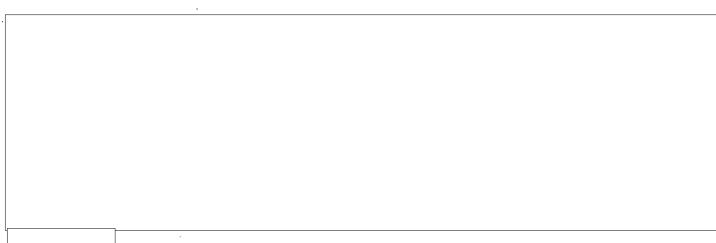
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--Satellite photography of the Aswan area on [redacted] suggests that at least four of the five SA-6 sites there were active on that date, which would imply that the SA-6s have been turned over to the Egyptians. [redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PHILIPPINES

A recent ruling of the Philippine Supreme Court has cast doubt over the future status of US economic holdings in the Philippines. The court held that the rights to own land and business interests--which were assured to American citizens and corporations in 1946 under an amendment to the Philippine constitution--will expire on 3 July 1974 when the amendment itself expires.

Total US investment in the Philippines is estimated at \$1 billion, and a large portion of this would be affected. The court's decision did not address the timing and procedures for the dissolution of American rights. The Philippines is in the process of drafting a new constitution, however, and the whole issue of the future of American rights will have to be resolved by the current constitutional convention. President Marcos, who controls the convention, will be tempted to use the now-precarious position of American business interests as a bargaining lever in renegotiating military and economic agreements with the US.

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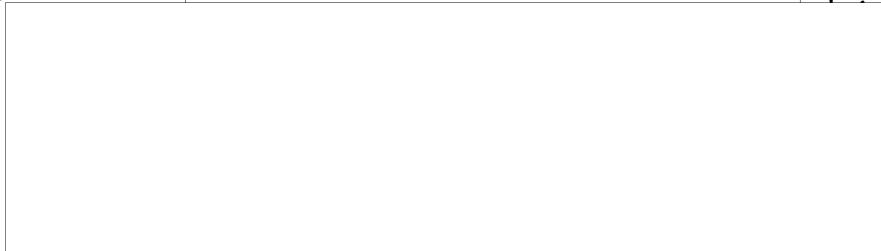
NOTES

Chile: A nationwide strike of retail merchants has led to violence and mass arrests in Santiago. Yesterday's anti-government demonstrations were prompted by police efforts to reopen retail establishments that had closed to protest police involvement in the death last week of a merchant in remote Punta Arenas. The strikers have urged an investigation of the merchant's death, and have expressed resentment over the government's pricing policies. Although disturbances subsided in the capital late last evening, there are reports that the government plans to declare a state of emergency for Santiago--as it already has done for Punta Arenas--should demonstrations resume today.

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USSR: [redacted]

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The President's Daily Brief

23 August 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

23 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The government counteroffensives in the northern provinces of South Vietnam are making some headway.

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[redacted] (Page 1) 25X1

The Japanese [redacted]

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(Page 3)

Some of Chile's senior military leaders are once again talking about moving against President Allende.
(Page 4)

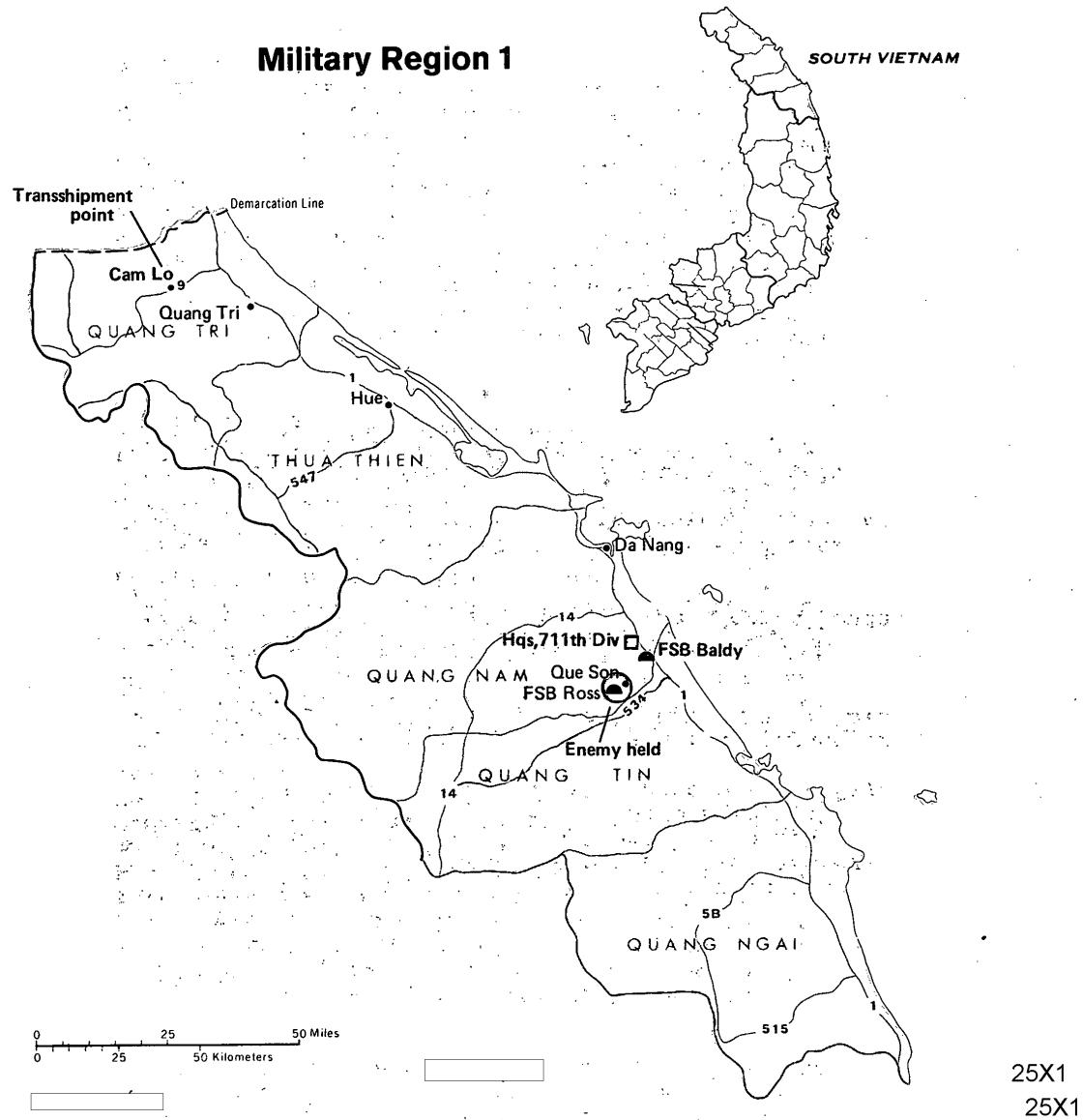
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[redacted] (Page 5) 25X1

The situation in Uganda is deteriorating, largely because of the increasingly irrational behavior of President Amin. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Military Region 1



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

Government counteroffensives in the northern provinces are making some headway. South Vietnamese forces in coastal Quang Nam Province, moving against relatively light Communist opposition, are within two miles of enemy-held Fire Support Base Ross. The Saigon troops are going slowly, depending for the most part on air strikes to clear the way.

For their part, the North Vietnamese appear to be preparing more attacks in the Quang Nam lowlands. The headquarters of the North Vietnamese 711th Division, directing the enemy offensive in this area, has been detected near Fire Support Base Baldy, the government's staging area and last major strongpoint in the Que Son Valley. The Communists are moving their large field pieces closer to the coast, and several 130-mm. artillery rounds have hit the base.

Enemy reinforcements and supplies are continuing to flow into the Quang Tri City area. Intercepts indicate that supplies and replacement personnel are en route to the North Vietnamese units tasked with both air and ground defense of the city. An 85-truck Communist convoy, estimated to be carrying about 340 tons of supplies, was to arrive at a transshipment point about 15 miles northwest of Quang Tri City earlier this week. Moreover, recent intercepts from a major way station in the North Vietnamese panhandle indicate that substantial amounts of artillery and other ammunition are still moving south.

* * *

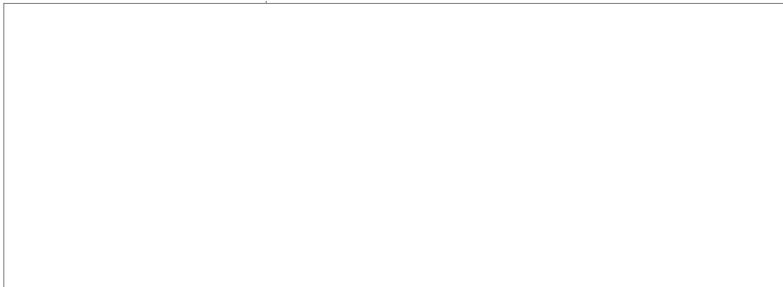
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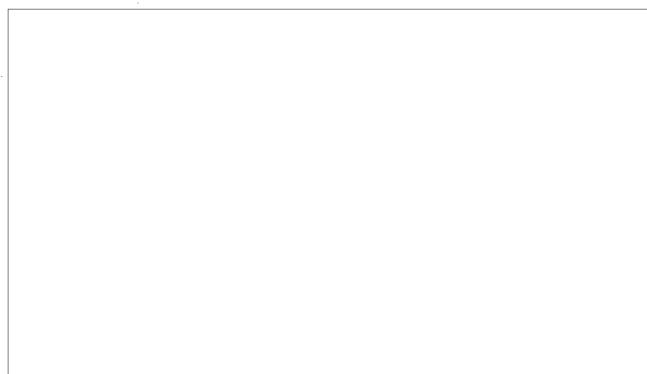
JAPAN 

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHILE

Deepening concern over the country's accumulating economic and political problems is prompting some senior military leaders to talk once again about moving against President Allende.

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[redacted] before the demonstrations in Santiago Monday night, the service commanders had agreed that eventual military intervention is almost inevitable. Some troop commanders are seeking an appointment with the army chief to discuss what they consider to be a deteriorating political situation.

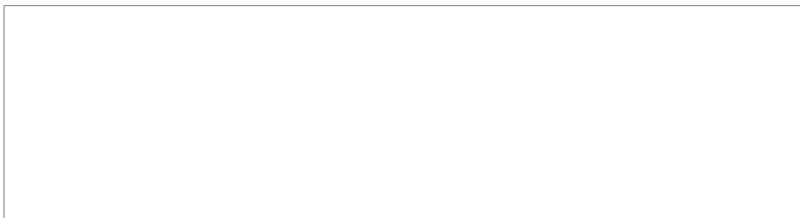
The disaffected military officers will find it easier to agree on the need to take action against the Allende government than on when or how to mount any coup attempt. The tradition of a non-partisan military runs very deep in Chile. The military leaders no doubt will continue to debate for some time whether they should assume a more political role.

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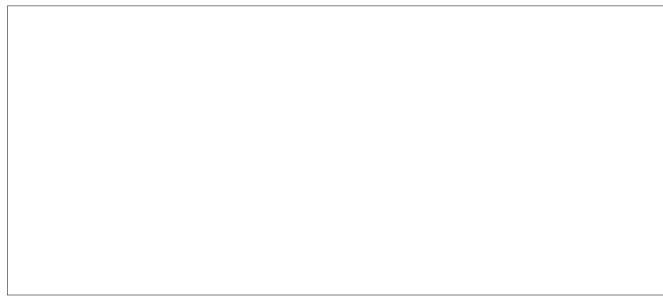
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FEDAYEEN



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

UGANDA

[redacted] the situation in Uganda, while not yet explosive, is deteriorating rapidly and is likely to get worse.

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The principal problem, of course, is the increasingly irrational behavior of President Amin. His recent decision to expel non-Ugandan Asians from the country will undermine the already depressed economy. The Asians' departure will deprive Uganda of badly needed technical and entrepreneurial skills; few African Ugandans are prepared to fill this gap, and in consequence the standard of living is likely to drop sharply as unemployment rises and commerce slows.

Amin has held onto power so far by retaining the support of key military units-- largely by staffing them with his fellow tribesmen. The Ugandan Army is unruly and undisciplined, however

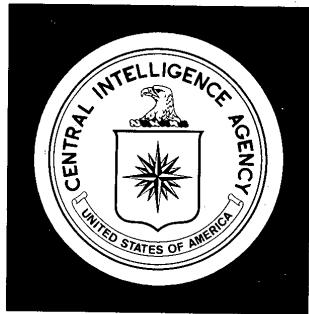
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[redacted] Amin's grasp on the reins is far from steady, however, and further irrational moves on his part, a rapid deterioration of the economy, renewed tribal unrest, or a weakening of his military backing could result in his ouster.

Amin's latest move has been to threaten neighboring Rwanda because it still harbors an Israeli aid mission.

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The President's Daily Brief

24 August 1972



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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In South Vietnam, the government's counteroffensive in coastal Quang Nam Province has met stiffened Communist resistance. (Page 1)

In Laos, Vang Pao is committing additional troops to his offensive in the north. (Page 2)

The Cambodian Government evidently intends to go ahead with legislative elections next month as scheduled. (Page 3)

The Chinese have officially informed the Thai Government that they would conduct substantive talks with a senior official who will accompany a Thai table tennis team to Peking this weekend. (Page 4)

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Peking. (Page 5)

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Israeli Defense Minister Dayan outlines his views on Middle East peace prospects in the light of the Soviet withdrawal from Egypt. (Page 6)

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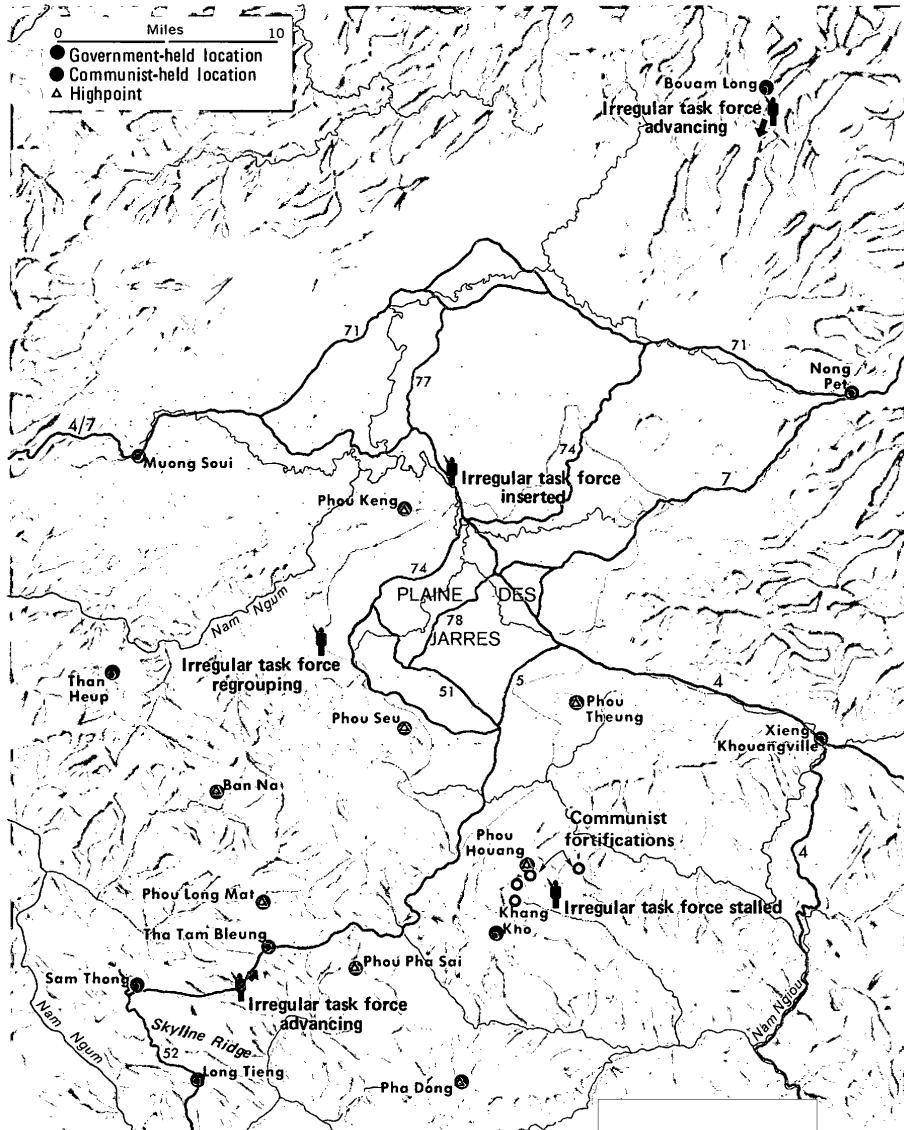
SOUTH VIETNAM

The government's counteroffensive in coastal Quang Nam Province has met stiffened Communist resistance. Heavy fighting has broken out a few miles east of enemy-held Que Son town following two days of relatively light Communist opposition to the cautious government advance. The enemy has again shelled the government's staging area at Fire Support Base Baldy as well as the nearby district town of Thang Binh in adjacent Quang Tin Province. Prisoners and captured documents indicate that in this region North Vietnamese main force troops have the mission of attacking populated areas and interdicting Route 1 while local Viet Cong forces are tying down counterattacking government troops.

Meanwhile, Communist shelling of South Vietnamese Marines in the Quang Tri City area continues at a high level. A small marine contingent reached the northeastern corner of the citadel on 22 August, but was driven back by intense artillery and mortar fire. Sharp skirmishes were reported elsewhere inside the city. To the south, enemy pressure lessened against government airborne positions, but radio direction-finding shows that a freshly re-fitted regiment from the North Vietnamese 304th Division has moved into position on the airborne's western flank.

South of Hue, government troops clashed with enemy sapper elements near Phu Bai and were struck by some 750 rounds of mortar fire. The detection of another North Vietnamese regiment in this area suggests an increase soon in enemy pressure against the southern approaches to Hue.

LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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LAOS

Vang Pao is committing additional troops to his offensive in the north. On 22 August, advance elements of a multibattalion task force began moving toward the Plaine des Jarres from Bouam Long, an isolated government stronghold north of the Communists' major supply lines to the Plaine. Its mission is to divert North Vietnamese troops from the Plaine to protect these vital routes. Several other irregular battalions have been airlifted to a landing zone near Phou Keng, a strategic hill overlooking the northwest Plaine.

Two other task forces participating in the drive continue to encounter only sporadic resistance. One force is regrouping on the western edge of the Plaine while awaiting orders from Vang Pao. Three battalions attempting to move from the southeast have been held up by bad weather that has limited air support.

Vang Pao has now committed about 6,000-7,000 men to the current campaign. In addition, elements from the 4,200-man force that since May has been screening Long Tieng from positions east of Sam Thong have begun to test North Vietnamese defenses in the hills near Tha Tam Bleung. The Communists have kept five infantry regiments and a number of independent battalions, numbering more than 10,000 men, in this area and appear determined to hold it.

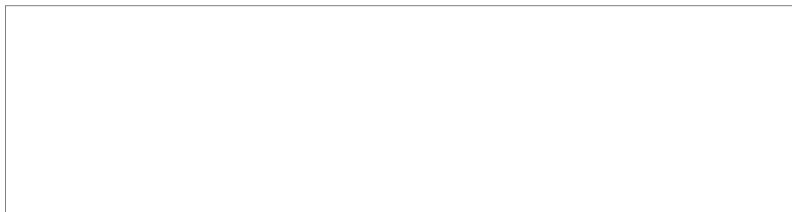
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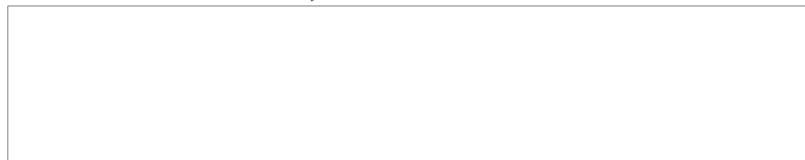
CAMBODIA

There is evidence that the government intends to go ahead with legislative elections next month as scheduled. Candidate lists have been published, and the government has sent messages to the provinces ordering local officials to take the customary security preparations.

Early this month, President Lon Nol had indicated that he might call off the elections because of concern that his Socio-Republican Party might not win a sweeping victory. He has shown no further interest in doing so, however, even though the leading opposition parties--Sirik Matak's Republicans and In Tam's Democrats--have withdrawn. This reduces the election to a sham contest, but Lon Nol could, nevertheless, complete the process of returning to ostensible constitutional rule.



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CHINA-THAILAND

The Chinese have officially informed the Thai Government that they would conduct substantive political talks with Prasit Kanchanawat, a senior Thai official, who will accompany a Thai table tennis team to Peking this weekend.

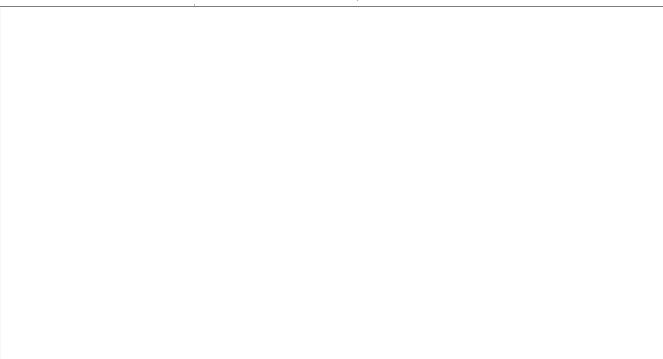
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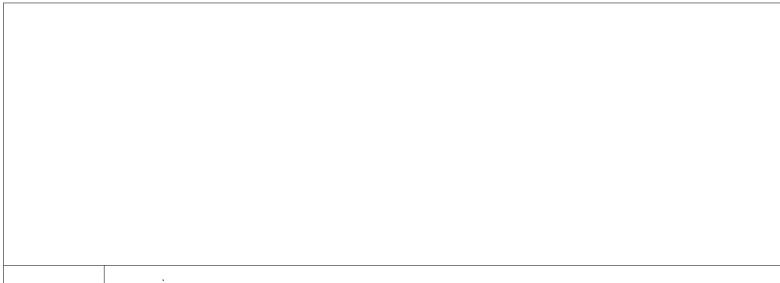
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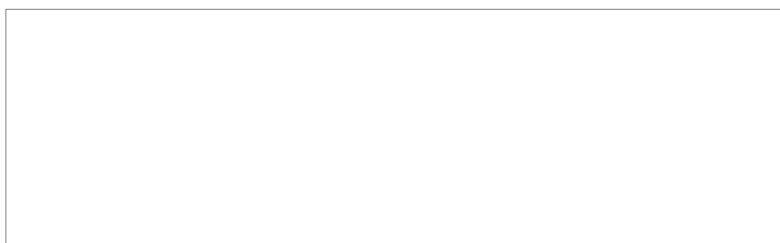
CHINA



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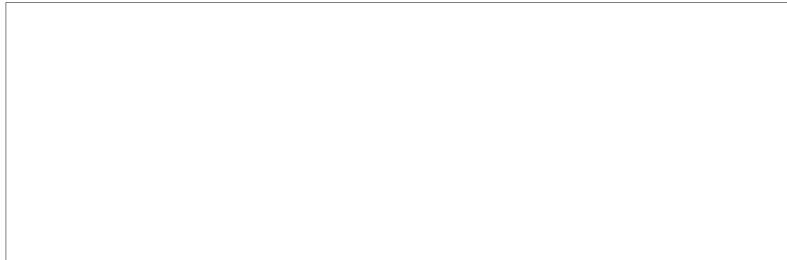


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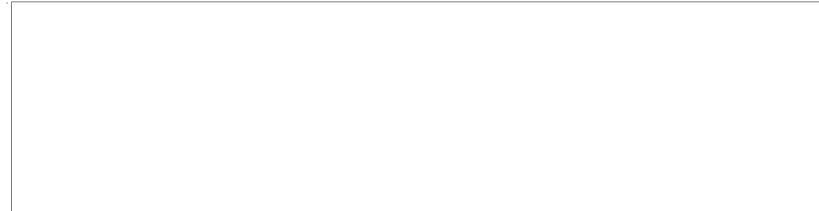


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**ISRAEL-EGYPT**

During a conversation with Chargé Zurhellen on 20 August, Defense Minister Dayan outlined his views on Middle East peace prospects in the light of the Soviet withdrawal from Egypt. Noting that he does not believe either Egypt or Israel is yet ready for a final settlement, Dayan said that in his view President Sadat's best course would be to work toward an interim Suez Canal agreement. The key, Dayan said, is in Sadat's hands, but no progress can be achieved if Egypt continues to insist on making an interim agreement contingent on a later complete Israeli withdrawal. If Sadat would give up this demand, Dayan would recommend to his government that Israel in turn drop all of its previous positions--such as opposition to stationing Egyptian troops on the east side of the canal, and insistence that Israeli withdrawal into the Sinai be minimal--and start again from the beginning.

Dayan said that Israel could not consider withdrawing to the pre-June 1967 borders, but it would be prepared to avoid mention of a final frontier and would make it clear that withdrawal under an interim agreement did not constitute a final withdrawal. Dayan noted that an agreement might also--in response to Sadat's fear that an interim line would become the final line--carry definite conditions designed specifically to prevent this.

Dayan pointed to other positive elements in the Egyptian attitude, in addition to the expulsion of the Soviets, which he implied made progress toward an interim settlement more likely. He cited reports that Egypt plans to demobilize between 50,000 and 100,000 men and noted that this was a welcome signal.

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Implying that Israel might respond in kind, he said the government has under consideration a plan to reduce the 36-month Israeli conscription period by three months, and indicated that he is prepared to make a public announcement to this effect as soon as possible after final approval is obtained.

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Although the Egyptians have indicated on several occasions in recent months that they might be willing to give up their demand that Egyptian troops must be allowed to cross the canal, this is the first indication from the Israeli side that a

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troop crossing might be acceptable. In previous negotiations on an interim agreement, Israel has refused to consider any Egyptian military presence east of the canal.

As defense minister, Dayan would of course have a considerable voice in establishing any security arrangements under an interim agreement. He is, however, only one minister--and a rather more forthcoming one than many of his colleagues--and it is questionable whether Prime Minister Meir or the cabinet as a whole would be willing to go as far as Dayan does. Another serious impediment to Dayan's proposal lies in his condition that Egypt drop its insistence on a commitment to total withdrawal by Israel; Sadat's fear that a partial withdrawal under an interim agreement would eventually become frozen is a real one, and there has been no indication that Egypt is ready to move on this issue.

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NOTES

Libya-Syria-USSR:

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Morocco:

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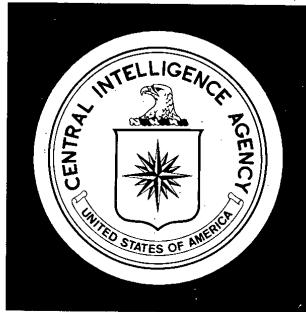
India-Pakistan: Indian and Pakistani delegations will meet in New Delhi tomorrow to try to halt erosion of the fragile understanding that was achieved at Simla last July. Prime Minister Gandhi requested the meeting, according to a Pakistani Foreign Ministry official. She wants the two sides to discuss Bhutto's refusal to allow repatriation of Hindu Pakistani citizens who crossed into India during the war last December, the establishment of a "line of demarcation" in Kashmir, and Pakistan's recognition of Bangladesh. According to the Pakistani official, Bhutto has assured Mrs. Gandhi that he intends to make progress on all three points, but that he would be more forthcoming if Bangladesh would cease using the prisoner-of-war issue as a "lever to force recognition."

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The President's Daily Brief

25 August 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

25 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The South Vietnamese have committed additional troops to their campaign to recapture the Que Son Valley.
(Page 1)

Moscow is beginning to show its resentment of criticism in the Cairo press. (Page 2)

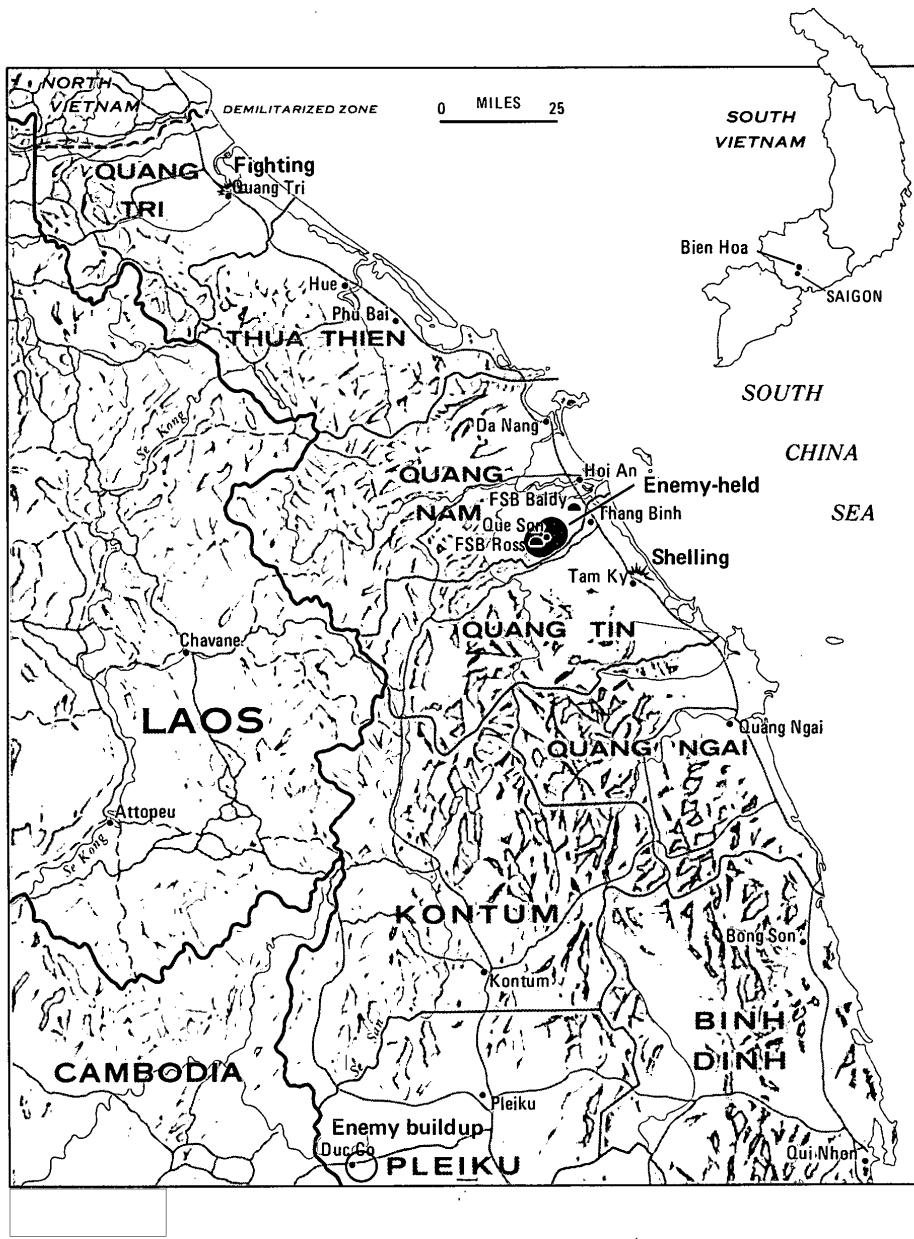
Bonn is moving ahead rapidly with its bid to normalize relations with Peking. (Page 3)

Yemen (Sana) [redacted] Soviet [redacted] (Page 4)

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VIETNAM

Additional government troops have been moved to Quang Nam Province to strengthen the campaign to recapture the Que Son Valley. A South Vietnamese Army regiment has been added to the government task force at Fire Support Base Baldy, and a renewed effort to retake positions lost to the Communists over the weekend has been scheduled. In addition, a new commander has been named for the ARVN 2nd Division to replace General Hiep [redacted]

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[redacted] His replacement is Colonel Nhut, who was responsible for holding the garrison at An Loc.

Elements of the North Vietnamese [redacted] have moved closer to the staging area around Baldy, however, and may try to pre-empt the government initiative. In addition, a sharp enemy attack northwest of Baldy on Wednesday and the use of heavy artillery against populated areas in the coastal area--including a rare shelling of Tam Ky, the provincial capital of Quang Tin Province--may be intended to mask further infiltration of Communist regulars into the coastal lowlands.

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There were several ground clashes in and around Quang Tri City yesterday, and the enemy is continuing its heavy artillery shelling of government positions. Ground action remains light around Hue and intercepts indicate that the North Vietnamese 324B Division elements in the area have been ordered to use economy-of-force tactics.

There are signs that harder fighting is ahead in some relatively quiet areas, however. Radio direction-finding indicates that a buildup of enemy forces is under way in western Pleiku Province, near Duc Co. In the Saigon area, a North Vietnamese regiment has been detected about 15 miles northeast of Bien Hoa Airfield.

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USSR-EGYPT

Criticism of the USSR appearing in Cairo's press is beginning to bring resentment to the surface in Moscow. Until recently, the USSR sought to avoid public recriminations that could harm its longer term interests in the Middle East, but after publication of editorials considered to be "anti-Soviet" in Cairo's two main newspapers, the Soviets reacted. The first riposte appeared in this week's issue of New Times. Pravda and Izvestiya followed up with articles reflecting concern about a possible Egyptian turn to the US for support.

[redacted] Moscow

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[redacted] is particularly embittered by Cairo's publication of Egyptian complaints, which, [redacted] could only have come about with the approval of Egypt's leaders.

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The Soviet press comments are only mildly reflective of the views expressed by Soviet diplomats in the Middle East.

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[redacted]
the US Embassy in Lebanon has heard of other derogatory remarks by Ambassador Azimov and other Soviet diplomats.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY

Bonn is moving ahead rapidly with its bid to normalize relations with Peking. West German and Chinese negotiators meeting in Bonn have agreed on late October or early November as the time for Foreign Minister Scheel's visit to China. Moreover, they have already worked out an agreement in principle on a communiqué to be issued at that time announcing that the two countries intend to establish relations soon.

In another decisive foreign policy move, the cabinet on 23 August decided to make ratification of last spring's inter-German traffic treaty an "urgent" matter. This helps to clear the way for prompt approval of the treaty before the Bundestag is dissolved in anticipation of elections this fall. According to the press, the opposition Christian Democrats have already decided they cannot afford to oppose the treaty, which provides for certain travel improvements between the two countries.

These moves reflect Chancellor Brandt's desire to seize the initiative in the election campaign and reverse the opposition's early lead.

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NOTE

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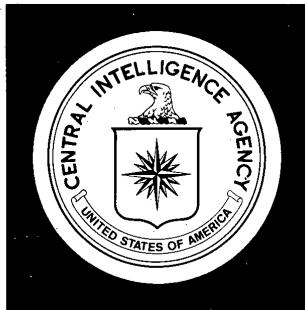
Yemen (Sana) - USSR: [redacted]

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Relations between the two countries have deteriorated as a result of Moscow's failure to make good on its promises of new arms for Sana's largely Soviet-equipped military forces. The Yemeni Government is also unhappy over the USSR's expanded military aid program to Sana's adversary, Yemen (Aden).

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The President's Daily Brief

26 August 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

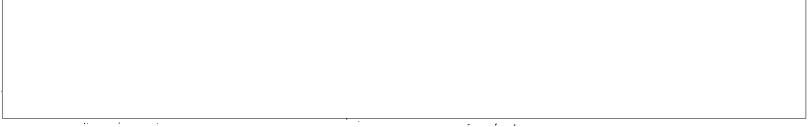
26 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

South Vietnamese troops are making progress in the coastal lowlands of Quang Nam Province. Yesterday, lead elements of the counteroffensive met only light opposition when entering Que Son District town.

(Page 1)

25X1



In Cambodia, enemy elements appear to be strengthening their hold over a 14-mile stretch of Route 5. A combined Cambodian and South Vietnamese force, however, has retaken the town of Kompong Trabek on Route 1. (Page 3)

In Laos, the Communists are continuing to take a hard line on possible peace talks. (Page 4)

25X1



Prime Minister Gandhi is going to delay withdrawing troops from Pakistani territory in the hope of pressuring Pakistan's President Bhutto to recognize Bangladesh. (Page 6)

Argentine President Lanusse has reaffirmed his decision to hold elections next March. (Page 7)

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VIETNAM

Government troops are making progress in the coastal lowlands of Quang Nam Province. Yesterday, lead elements of the counteroffensive met only light opposition when entering Que Son District town, but encountered stiff Communist resistance about two miles east of the town.

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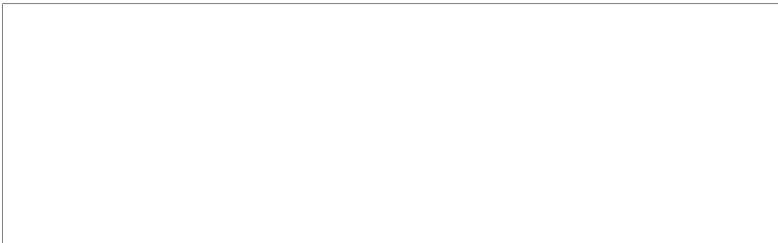
[redacted] two regiments of the North Vietnamese 711th Division have been tasked with holding off Saigon's moves in Quang Nam, while the division's third regiment conducts operations against the government's staging area at Fire Support Base Baldy and against nearby villages and lines of communication.

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Fighting has intensified around Quang Tri City. Several clashes occurred north of the city and near the southeastern corner of the citadel, although Marine units have not yet succeeded in reaching the citadel's west wall. The government advance continues to be hampered by intense enemy artillery fire. On 24 August the Communists directed almost 5,000 artillery and mortar rounds at Marine positions around the city. Considering the volume of fire reported, Marine casualties have been fairly light.

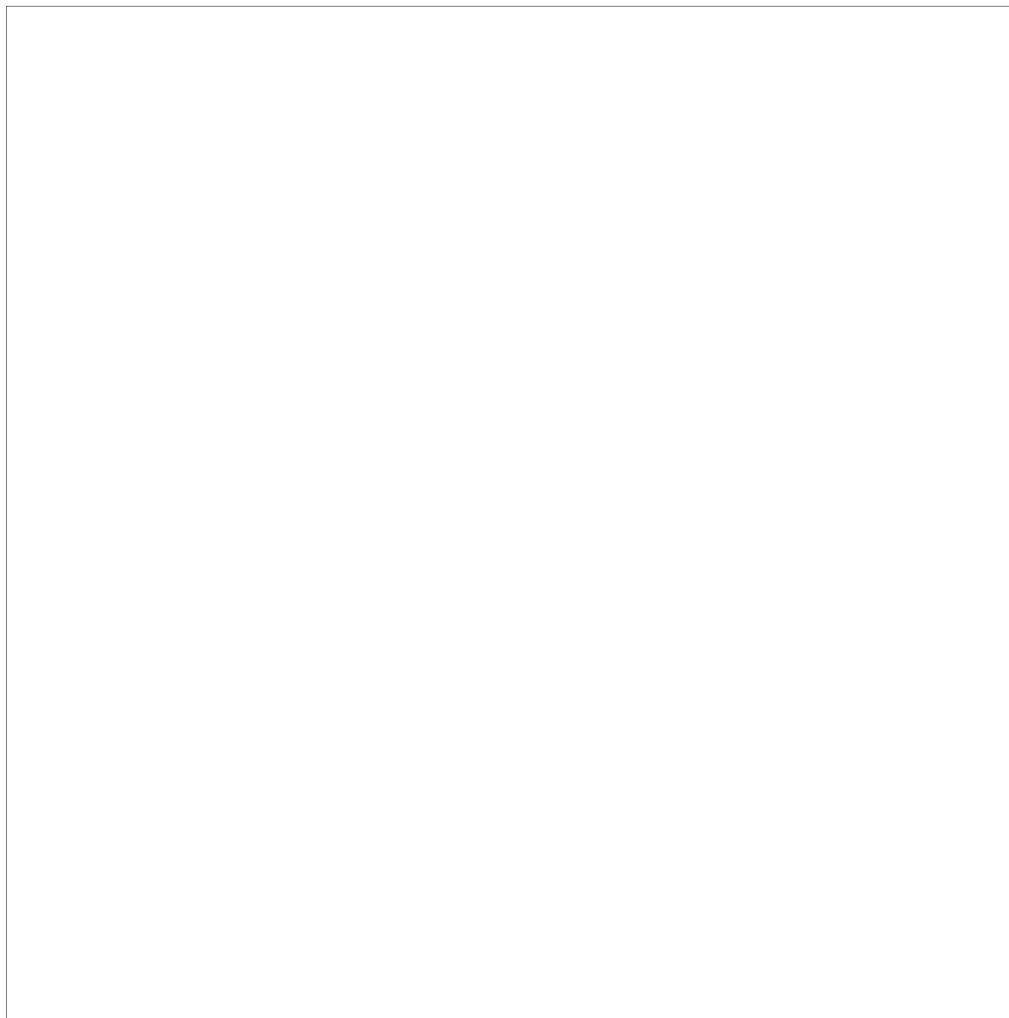
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CHINA

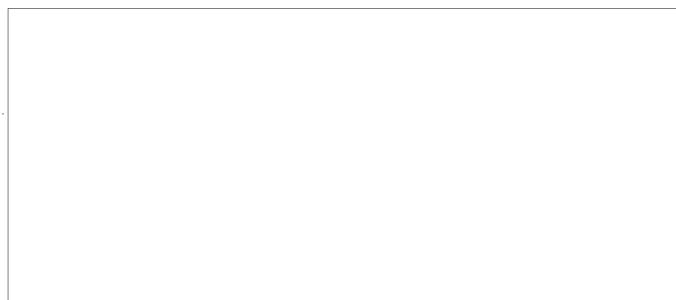
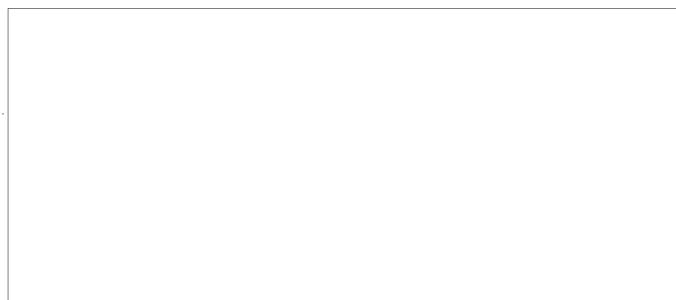


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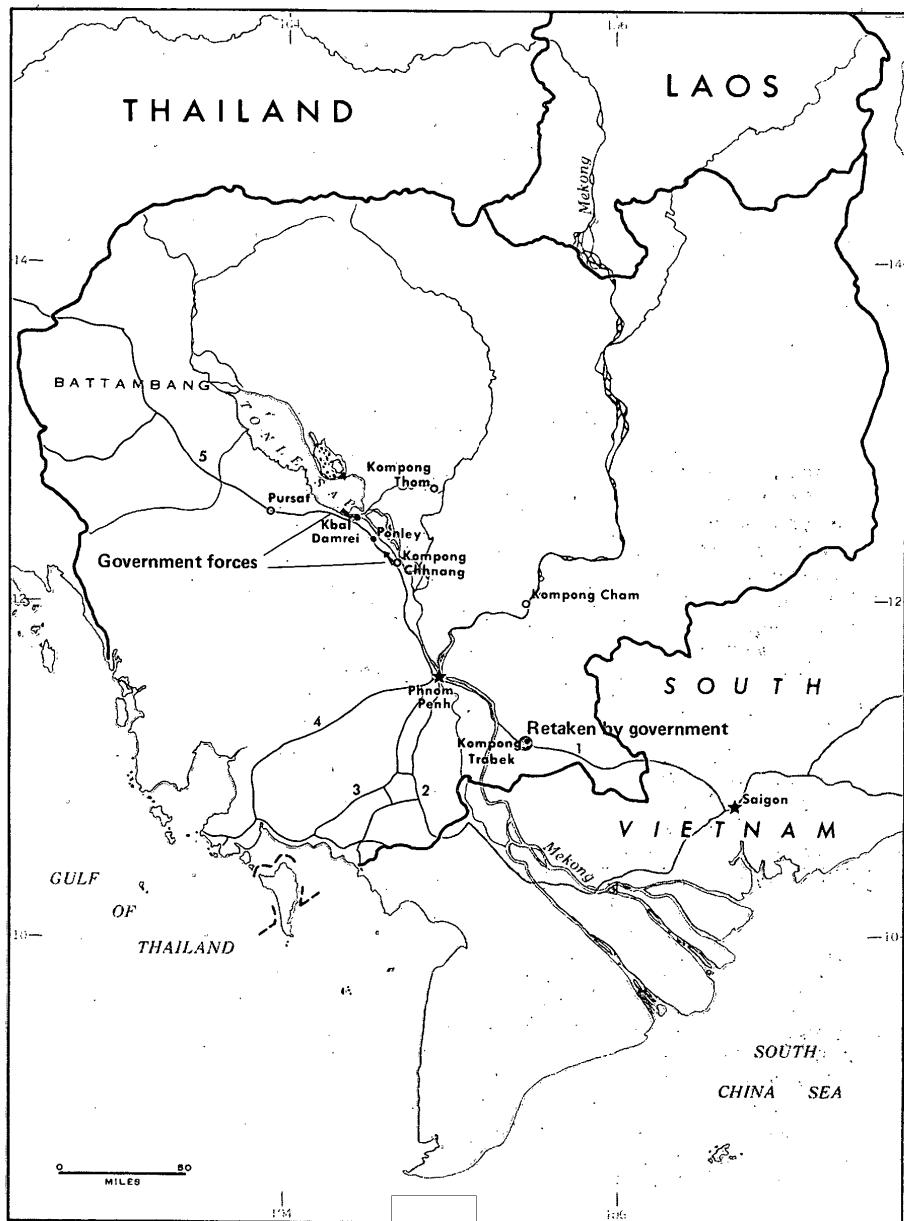
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA



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CAMBODIA

Enemy elements appear to be strengthening their hold over a 14-mile stretch of Route 5 which they seized a week ago. In the past, the Communists have made only minor hit-and-run attacks along the highway, but this time they seem to be preparing for a protracted campaign.

Thus far, government efforts to clear Route 5 have been thwarted by heavy enemy resistance. Government commanders in the area have said that the road cannot be reopened without heavy air support and massive reinforcements from Phnom Penh.

Enemy pressure against the highway comes at a bad time. Phnom Penh receives most of its rice supplies from Battambang Province via this route. The government is seeking increased rice imports from the US, Japan, and Thailand.

Elsewhere, a combined Cambodian and South Vietnamese force has retaken the town of Kompong Trabek on Route 1. The highway is now open from the Cambodian capital to this point.

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LAOS

The Communists are continuing to take a hard line on possible peace talks. Lao Communist leader Souphanouvong's response earlier this week to Prime Minister Souvanna's letter of 24 July consists largely of a reiteration of preconditions for peace talks, including a total and unconditional US bombing halt throughout Laos. Souvanna dismissed the message as "nonsense," but he nevertheless intends to try to sustain his present dialogue with the Lao Communists. In his draft response, which is to be reviewed by the cabinet next week, Souvanna makes no new proposals and reiterates his call for a general cease-fire with adequate controls.

These messages indicate that the prospects for substantive talks on peace in Laos remain poor. Well before he received Souphanouvong's letter, Souvanna told the US Embassy in Vientiane that he was mindful of the need to continue the interdiction of the Ho Chi Minh trail. Souvanna has also indicated that he intends to take as much territory as possible before peace talks begin. The Communists may also see Vang Pao's current offensive in this light.

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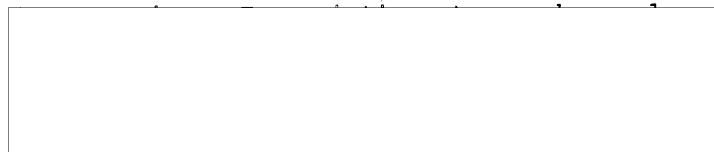
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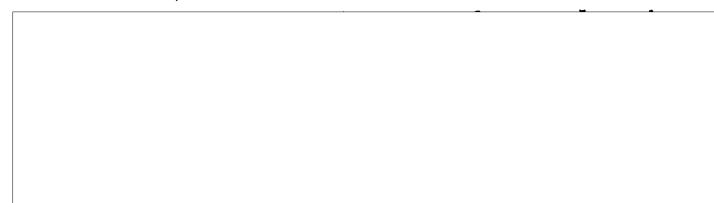
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INDIA-PAKISTAN

[REDACTED] Prime Min-
ister Gandhi is going to delay withdrawing Indian
troops from Pakistani territory--in contravention
of the Simla Agreement--in hopes that President
Bhutto, who is under considerable domestic polit-
ical pressure to regain most of this occupied ter-
ritory, will move toward recognition of Bangladesh.

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[REDACTED]
Their understanding at Simla was
that the two sides would simply pull back their
troops.

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[REDACTED]
Bhutto has refused to recognize Bangladesh
until he has had a chance to meet with
Prime Minister Mujibur Rahman. Mujibur,
however, insists that recognition must
come first. In light of Bhutto's domestic
political pressures, he may decide that he
will be best served by allowing the pres-
ent stalemate to continue. Indian and
Pakistani delegates are meeting now in
New Delhi in an attempt to reconcile their
differences.

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ARGENTINA

President Lanusse has reaffirmed his decision to hold elections next March. In a speech on 24 August Lanusse promised the nation that the elections would be completely fair. He said that Juan Peron had excluded himself by not returning to Argentina by 25 August, the deadline the government has imposed for all candidates to be in the country. At the same time he declared that neither he nor the other two armed services commanders would stand for election. Lanusse announced a reform of the constitution to reduce the presidential term from six to four years and to allow for the direct popular election of the president and congress.

President Lanusse also defended the action last Tuesday of the military guards in Trelew who, during an alleged escape attempt, gunned down 16 of the 19 terrorists recaptured after a prison break and airliner hijacking a week earlier. The so-called massacre has prompted public demonstrations against the government, but the military has moved quickly to put down disorders. The army has taken control of several interior cities to prevent the trouble from spreading.

The President's speech demonstrates his determination to maintain control despite mounting problems. There is some indication that his tougher approach to terrorism will, temporarily at least, mollify some of his critics in the military. The Peronists and many other civilian politicians, however, are likely to become even tougher in opposing Lanusse's political and economic moves. The political parties have been nearly unanimous in opposing any military tinkering with the constitution. The Peronists, furthermore, argue that the arbitrary setting of the 25 August deadline was a deliberate attempt to prohibit Peron's candidacy. They claim they will not accept such an exclusion and that Peron is planning to return to his homeland by 17 October--the date on which marching crowds of workers forced the release of Peron from military detention 27 years ago. Because Peron knows he would

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be a target for assassination should he return home in October, we do not put much stock in the Peronist claim.

On the international scene, the good relations between Argentina and Chile--carefully nurtured by both presidents--could be in jeopardy. Last night, Allende announced that the ten Argentine terrorists who escaped to Chile on a hijacked plane will be permitted to travel on to asylum, presumably in Cuba.

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NOTE

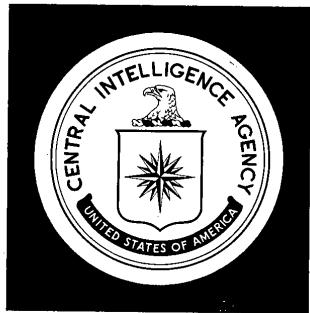
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Nationalist China: 

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The President's Daily Brief

Sunday case - 27 august 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Sunday Cable

PDB 27 Aug

SOUTH VIETNAM

Government regulars in Quang Nam Province are preparing to link up with the ranger and armored units that recaptured the Que Son district capital on Friday. Communist resistance to the government's campaign has been limited for the most part to artillery fire. [redacted]

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Communists have moved large amounts of food and ammunition, as well as tanks into northern Quang Tin Province, about ten miles southwest of Que Son. These moves suggest that the Communists are preparing for heavier fighting.

Farther north, enemy shellings against government forces in and around Quang Tri City have again subsided, but ground action remains sharp near the citadel. Intercepts show that Communist units north of the city have received fresh replacements and additional supplies. Other intercepted messages indicate that about 7,200 sick and wounded North Vietnamese were moved north during June and XXXXX and July, sorely taxing medical treatment facilities in both North Vietnam and Laos.

LAOS

Vang Pao's offensive to recapture the Plaine des Jarres is encountering its first determined Communist resistance. North Vietnamese forces shelled and attacked several irregular positions west and south of the Plaine on 25 August. Most of the irregulars beat back their attackers, but one task force was forced to abandon its position on a hill southeast of the Plaine.

Elements of a 1,200-man irregular force have been air-lifted into positions near Phou Keng, north of the Plaine, to reinforce three battalions that have been stalled since they were deployed there five days ago. Vang Pao believes that the combined force can now advance toward the Plaine.

The government's 10-day old offensive has made little progress despite the fact that the Communists offered little resistance until two days ago. Several days of bad weather hampered tactical air support and resupply flights. Only the task force moving south from Bouam Long toward Communist supply lines east of the Plaine has advanced very far in recent days. Intercepts indicate that elements of a North Vietnamese regiment are preparing to strike these irregulars.

JAPAN

The Japanese economy is emerging from its longest post-war slump, and the growth rate, already accelerating, probably will reach ten percent by the end of the year. The economic recovery will not reduce Japan's trade surplus this year, which is continuing to increase and is expected to reach some \$8.7 billion compared with \$7.8 billion in 1971. The surplus with the US is increasing at an even faster rate, partly because the Japanese are developing non-US supply sources to meet their growing needs for such major commodities as coal.

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NOTE

Venezuela:

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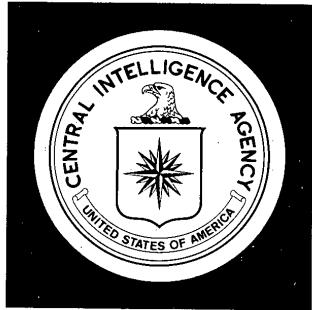
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The President's Daily Brief

28 August 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

28 August 1972

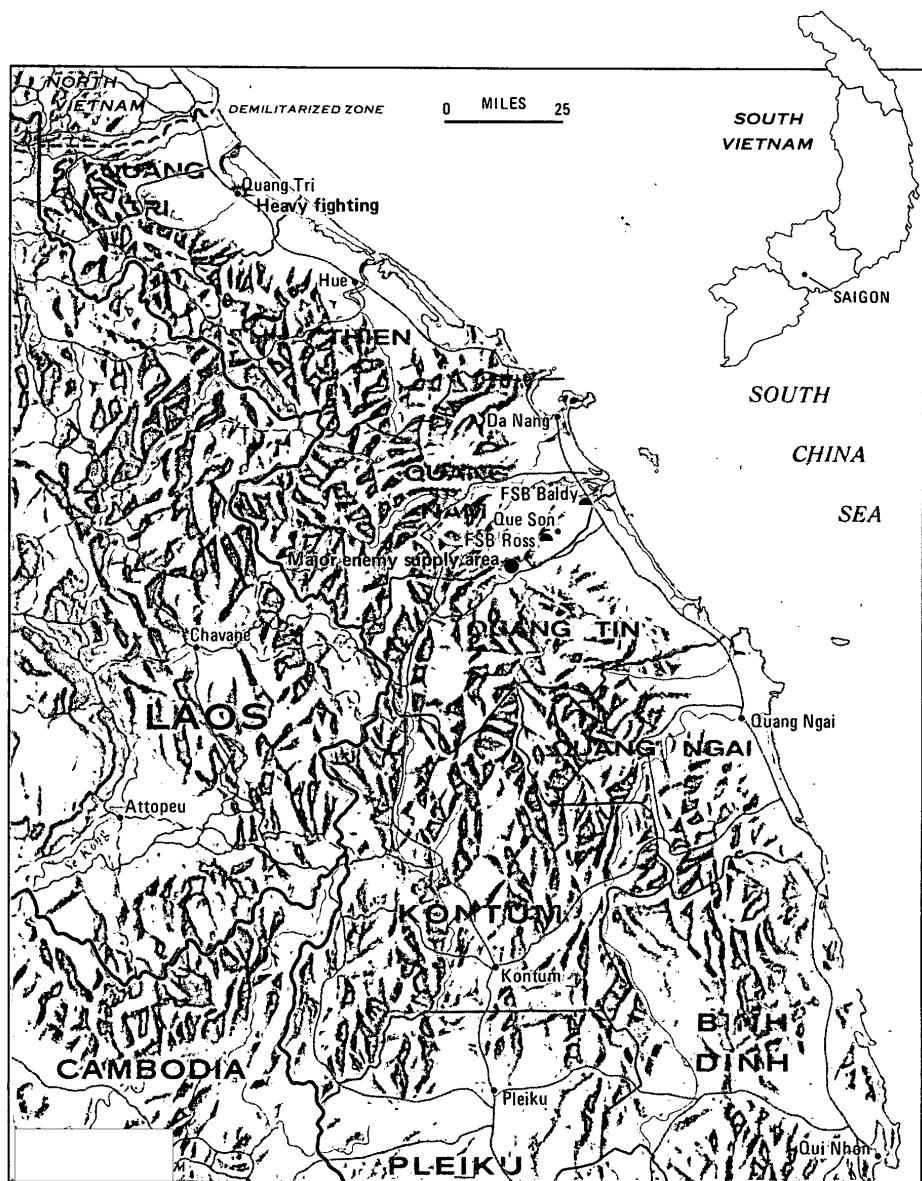
PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In South Vietnam, government troops are continuing to regain territory in Quang Nam Province, but the Communists are preparing for heavier fighting.
(Page 1)

Vang Pao's offensive to recapture the Plaine des Jarres in Laos is encountering its first determined Communist resistance. *(Page 2)*

The Japanese economy is emerging from its longest postwar slump; the growth rate is expected to reach ten percent by the end of the year. *(Page 3)*

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

Government troops are continuing to regain territory in Quang Nam Province, but the Communists are preparing for heavier fighting. South Vietnamese forces in Que Son district capital repulsed a series of enemy counterattacks yesterday with the help of heavy air strikes. Last night, however, North Vietnamese troops seized the military compound of the district headquarters in Que Son, according to press reports. A government task force has linked up with advance elements that captured the town on 25 August. The task force has also cleared some of the high ground overlooking Que Son. Substantial Communist artillery fire is being directed against the government's field command at Fire Support Base Baldy, and enemy ground resistance is stiffening as the South Vietnamese near enemy-held Fire Support Base Ross.

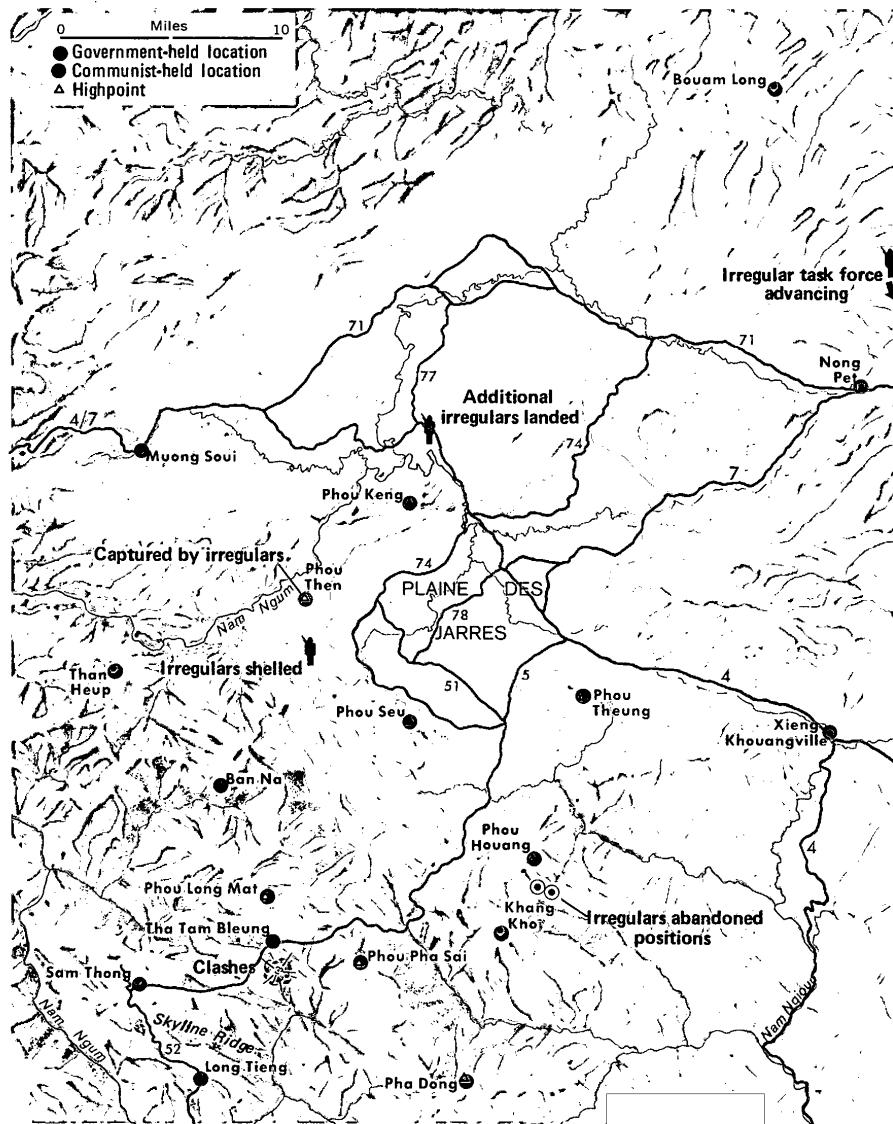
A major Communist supply and assembly area, along with possibly eight tanks, has been observed about ten miles southwest of Que Son. Large amounts of ammunition and foodstuffs are stocked there that are evidently intended to support a major enemy effort in the coastal region.

In Quang Tri Province, sporadic heavy fighting occurred near the east side of Quang Tri City's citadel during the weekend as South Vietnamese Marines pressed their campaign to clear the Communists from this portion of the fortress. Some 2,800 rounds of artillery and mortar fire were directed at government positions in and around the city on 26 August, causing only light losses. Intercepted messages show that the Communists have moved about 7,200 sick and wounded troops northward during the past two months. Most of them--about 4,000--have been detected since mid-July when the current battle for Quang Tri Province intensified.

Fighting elsewhere during the weekend was generally light, but new enemy attacks are expected in the central highlands and in the delta.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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LAOS

Vang Pao's offensive to recapture the Plaine des Jarres is encountering its first determined Communist resistance. North Vietnamese forces shelled and attacked several irregular positions on three sides of the Plaine on 25-26 August. In the most serious action, irregulars were forced to abandon two positions near Phou Houang and are regrouping about three miles to the south. Other sharp clashes occurred near Phou Keng, Phou Then, and Tha Tam Bleung.

Three additional irregular battalions have been airlifted into positions near Phou Keng, north of the Plaine, to reinforce the three battalions that have been stalled there since they were deployed five days ago. The combined force is now moving toward the northern edge of the Plaine.

The government's 15-day-old offensive has made scant progress despite the fact that the Communists offered little resistance until two days ago. Several days of bad weather hampered tactical air support and resupply flights. Improved weather on Saturday, however, enabled the task force moving south from Bouam Long to take Phou Then, a hill overlooking the western edge of the Plaine. Intercepts indicate that the five North Vietnamese regiments on or near the Plaine are closely monitoring the irregulars and are planning continued resistance.

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JAPAN

The Japanese economy is emerging from its longest postwar slump, and the growth rate, already accelerating, is expected to reach ten percent by the end of the year. Japan's trade surplus is continuing to increase and may reach some \$8.7 billion this year compared with \$7.8 billion in 1971. The surplus with the US is increasing at an even faster rate, partly because the Japanese are developing supply sources other than the US to meet their growing needs for such major imports as coal.



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NOTE

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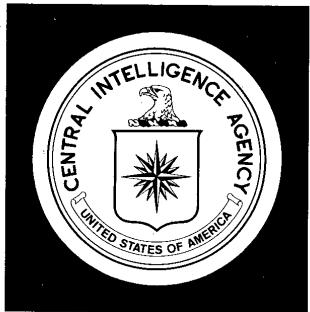
Venezuela:

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The President's Daily Brief

29 August 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

29 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The South Vietnamese advance in Quang Nam Province appears to have slowed as Communist resistance has stiffened. (Page 1)

In Laos, the five irregular task forces near the Plaine des Jarres are still meeting opposition, but two of them are advancing toward their objectives. (Page 2)

Japan

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(Page 3)

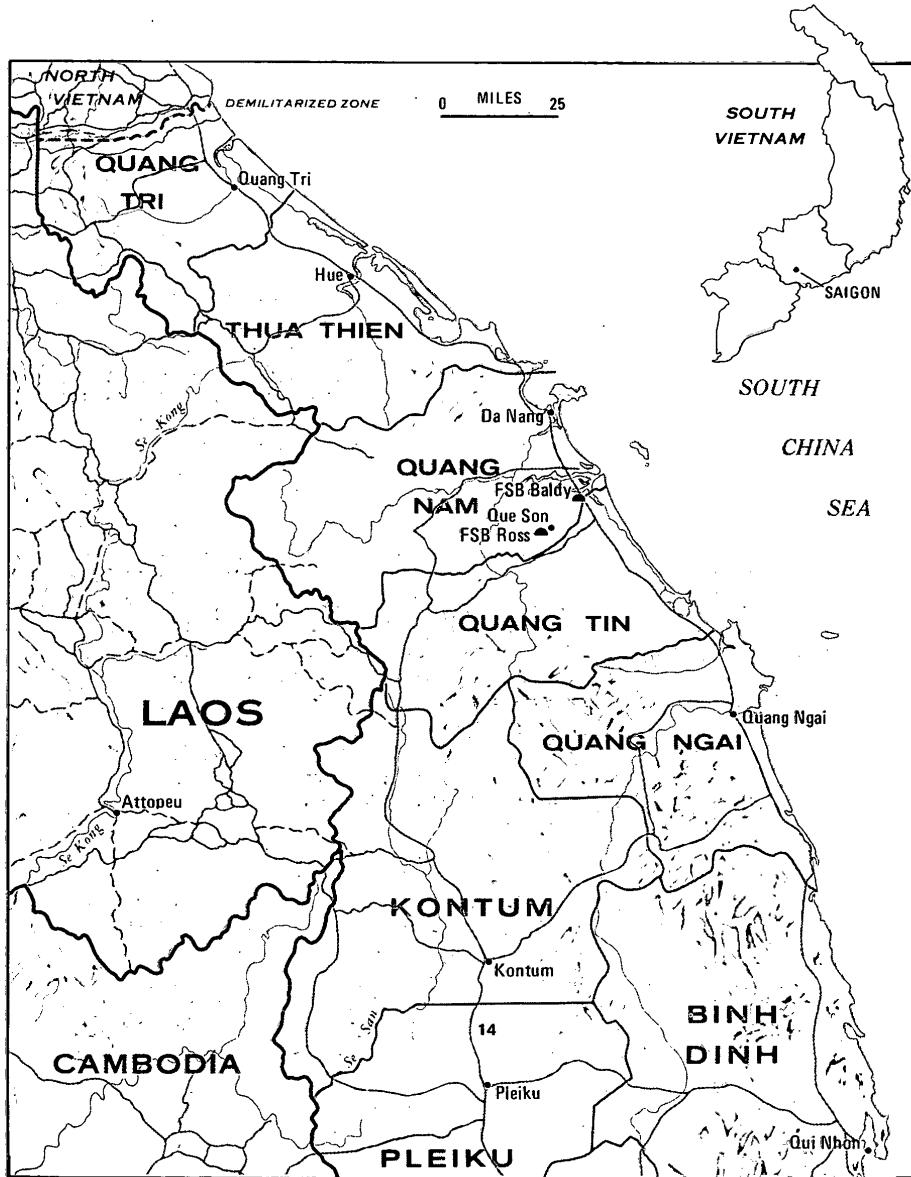
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China's veto of UN membership for Bangladesh has further damaged the already shaky Simla Agreement between Pakistan and India. (Page 5)

The Soviet withdrawal from Egypt continues, but Moscow is still delivering military equipment to Egypt. (Page 6)

Soviet party chief Brezhnev is touring key grain-growing areas to put his personal authority behind current efforts to bring in a maximum harvest. (Page 7)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

The government advance in Quang Nam Province appears to have slowed as Communist resistance has stiffened. Although South Vietnamese forces now control most of Que Son district town, they have not been able to push the Communists out of the military compound near the center of the town, which the enemy seized over the weekend. Intense ground-fire near the town is also making it difficult for government helicopters to bring in reinforcements. West of the town, government forces moving toward Fire Support Base Ross have inflicted fairly heavy casualties in skirmishes with the enemy. A Communist ground attack against Fire Support Base Baldy--the base supporting the government operation in Quang Nam Province--caused little damage.

Farther north, government forces in and near Quang Tri City are still encountering stiff resistance. The heaviest fighting involved the South Vietnamese Marines, who were involved in a number of clashes in the northeastern and southern sectors of the city.

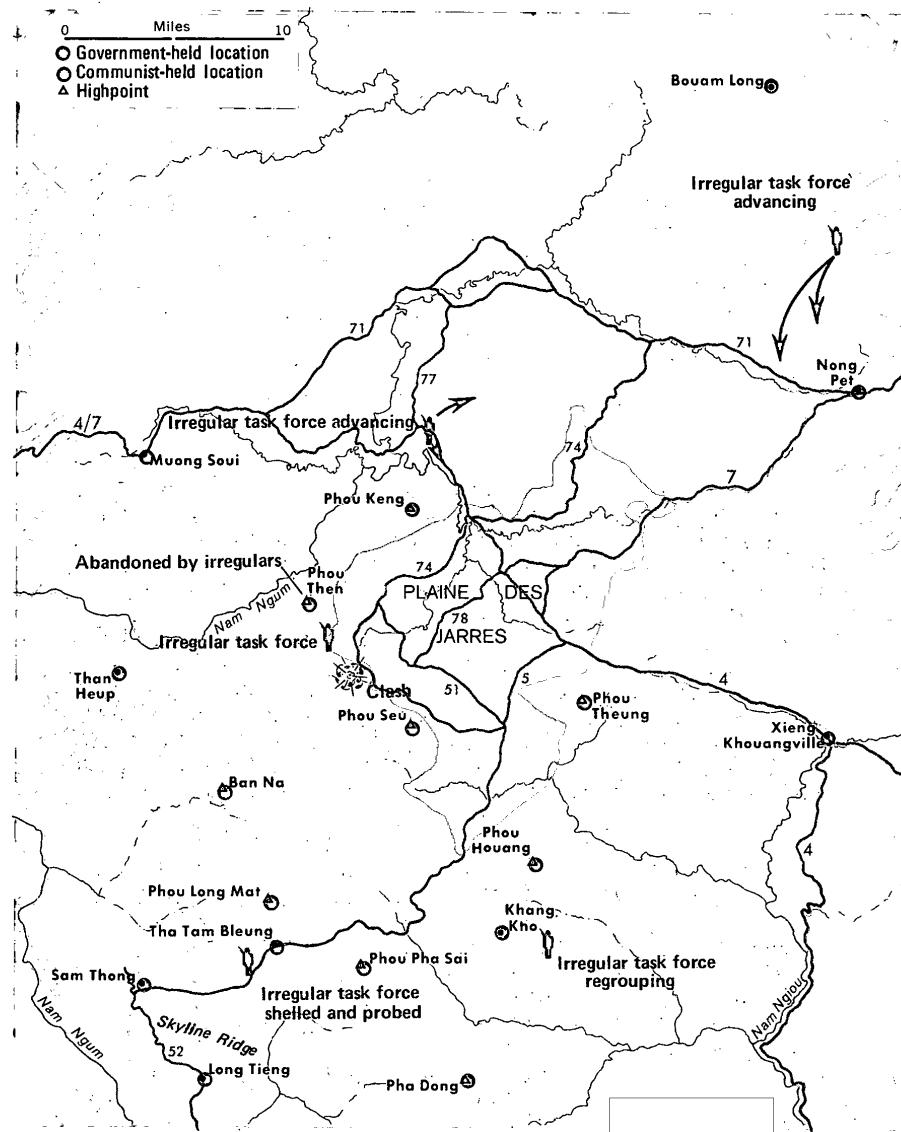
Communist forces that recently shifted from Kontum to Pleiku Province may be preparing to increase the fighting there. Over the past few days, there has been a sharp increase in harassing attacks against government positions near Pleiku City, and on the night of 26-27 August, the Communists barricaded Highway 14 south of the city.

* * *

The Red River Delta may receive its first tropical storm of the season. "Cora" is forecast to hit the Vietnamese coast today some 20 miles south of Haiphong with 45-50 knot winds and torrential rains. Although the wind velocity of the storm is not extreme, its inland course and good size could cause extensive flood-producing rains and may test the improvements recently made to the dikes.

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LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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LAOS

The five irregular task forces operating near the Plaine des Jarres are still meeting opposition, but two of them are advancing toward their objectives. In the foothills west of the Plaine, heavy shellings on Sunday forced irregulars to abandon positions on Phou Then, which they had occupied the previous day. Other elements of this task force were able to beat back an attack, however.

South of the Plaine, irregulars near Tha Tam Bleung were shelled and probed several times on 27 August by elements of the 174th North Vietnamese Regiment. Elements of another task force that were forced to abandon two positions near Phou Houang last weekend have regrouped about two miles to the south. One unit from the task force is still missing, however.

Near Phou Keng, on the Plaine's northern edge, another task force clashed several times with Communist troops on 27 August. Vang Pao has assumed personal direction of these irregulars who had been suffering from low morale and a lack of effective direction; they are now moving toward the high ground overlooking the Plaine.

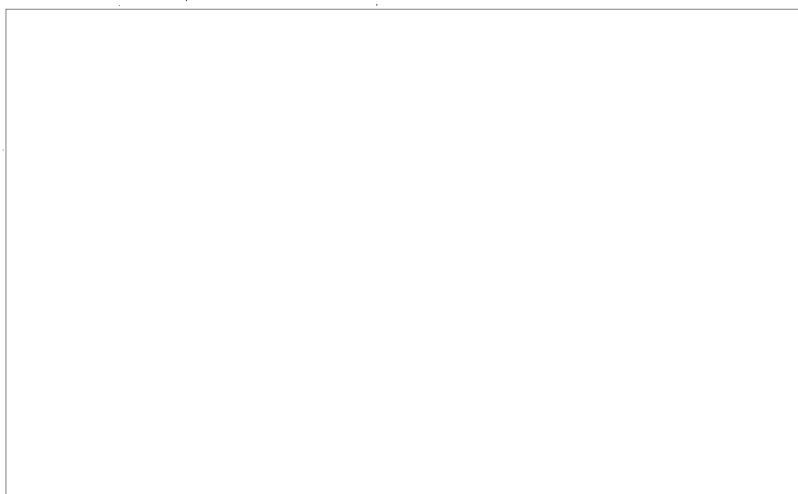
Northeast of the Plaine, a task force that had been moving south from Bouam Long against almost no opposition also had several contacts on Sunday with North Vietnamese forces near Nong Pet. These irregulars are to harass Communist supply lines in this sector.

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JAPAN



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SOUTH ASIA

The primary casualty of China's veto of UN membership for Bangladesh appears to be the already shaky Simla Agreement between Pakistan and India. Prime Minister Gandhi believes that President Bhutto committed himself to early recognition of Bangladesh during their meetings at Simla last month. This was to have been an indication of Pakistan's sincerity in future dealing on bilateral problems. She views both his failure to follow through and the Chinese veto--for which she believes he shares responsibility--as violations of the "spirit of Simla."

[redacted] President Bhutto, because of growing domestic political opposition, has had second thoughts about the advisability of recognizing Bangladesh now, and may well have asked the Chinese to buy him some time with a veto in the UN. As it became clear that Peking actually would cast a veto, Mrs. Gandhi's approach to Bhutto became harder. In asking for the working-level talks that began last Friday with the Pakistanis, she appeared to want to prevent further erosion of the Simla Agreement while still bargaining for recognition. Failing to get a positive response from Bhutto, however, she has decided to contravene the agreement herself by delaying withdrawal of Indian troops from Pakistani territory in hopes of achieving recognition. These withdrawals would have given up a bargaining card without achieving tangible concessions in return.

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Although the working-level talks are continuing, they appear to be deadlocked. There are renewed signs that India will revert to using the return of the Pakistani prisoners of war it has in its hands as a major bargaining chip to achieve recognition for Bangladesh. Bhutto has not directly responded to such pressures in the past, and he is not likely to do so now.

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EGYPT-USSR

The Soviet withdrawal from Egypt continues. Four Soviet transport aircraft were involved in flights between Cairo and the USSR over the weekend, bringing to 90 the total of such flights since the airlift of equipment and personnel began in mid-July. We estimate that some 5,500 Soviet personnel departed via these transports. As many as 2,200 more could have left on other Soviet aircraft, as well as another 1,200 aboard Soviet passenger ships. This brings the total of Soviet departees--military personnel and dependents--to about 9,000.

We believe that a few thousand Russians are still in Egypt. Some presumably are instructors, technicians and key advisers while others may be awaiting transportation home.

Meanwhile, we have evidence from satellite photography that, despite Sadat's ouster of the Soviets, Moscow is continuing to provide military equipment to the Egyptian armed forces. Photography of the Alexandria port [redacted] shows 15 MIG-21 fuselage crates on the quay. [redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Brezhnev Visits Virgin Lands



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USSR

Party chief Brezhnev is touring key grain-growing areas of the Virgin Lands for on-the-spot conferences with local farm officials. Brezhnev arrived in northern Kazakh Republic on Thursday to address a meeting of local agricultural authorities. He then traveled to Barnaul for a similar meeting, and arrived in Krasnoyarsk yesterday. His speeches have not been published.

Brezhnev is undoubtedly seeking to put his personal authority behind current efforts to bring in a maximum harvest. Much is riding on the Virgin Lands--semi-arid areas first opened to cultivation by Khrushchev. Bad weather has damaged the crops in the other major grain areas of the Soviet Union, but the Virgin Lands have produced an above average stand of wheat this year. The situation there is precarious, however, since the crop is over a week late in ripening and is in serious danger of being damaged by early frosts. In addition, harvest efforts are being hampered by prolonged cool and rainy weather.

The Soviets have also launched a nationwide press campaign urging consumers to economize on the use of bread. This drive--reminiscent of the one conducted in 1963 when the country suffered from a dismal grain crop failure--began earlier this month in the Ukraine, one of the areas most severely affected by this year's poor harvest.

Although large purchases of foreign grain this year will partially offset domestic losses, some of the measures taken in 1963, such as removing flour from the market and lowering the quality of bread, may have to be employed again.

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NOTE

USSR:

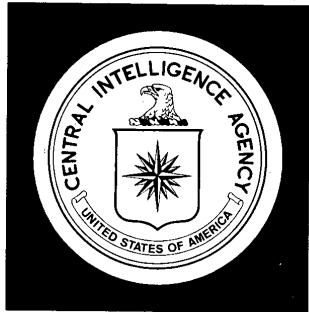
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The President's Daily Brief

30 August 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

30 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Vietnam, sharp fighting is taking place in Quang Tri and Quang Nam provinces as South Vietnamese forces try to regain lost territory. Photography indicates that two of the three petroleum pipelines from China to North Vietnam are operational. (Page 1)

Tokyo's contacts with Peking are increasing in anticipation of Prime Minister Tanaka's forthcoming visit to China. (Page 3)

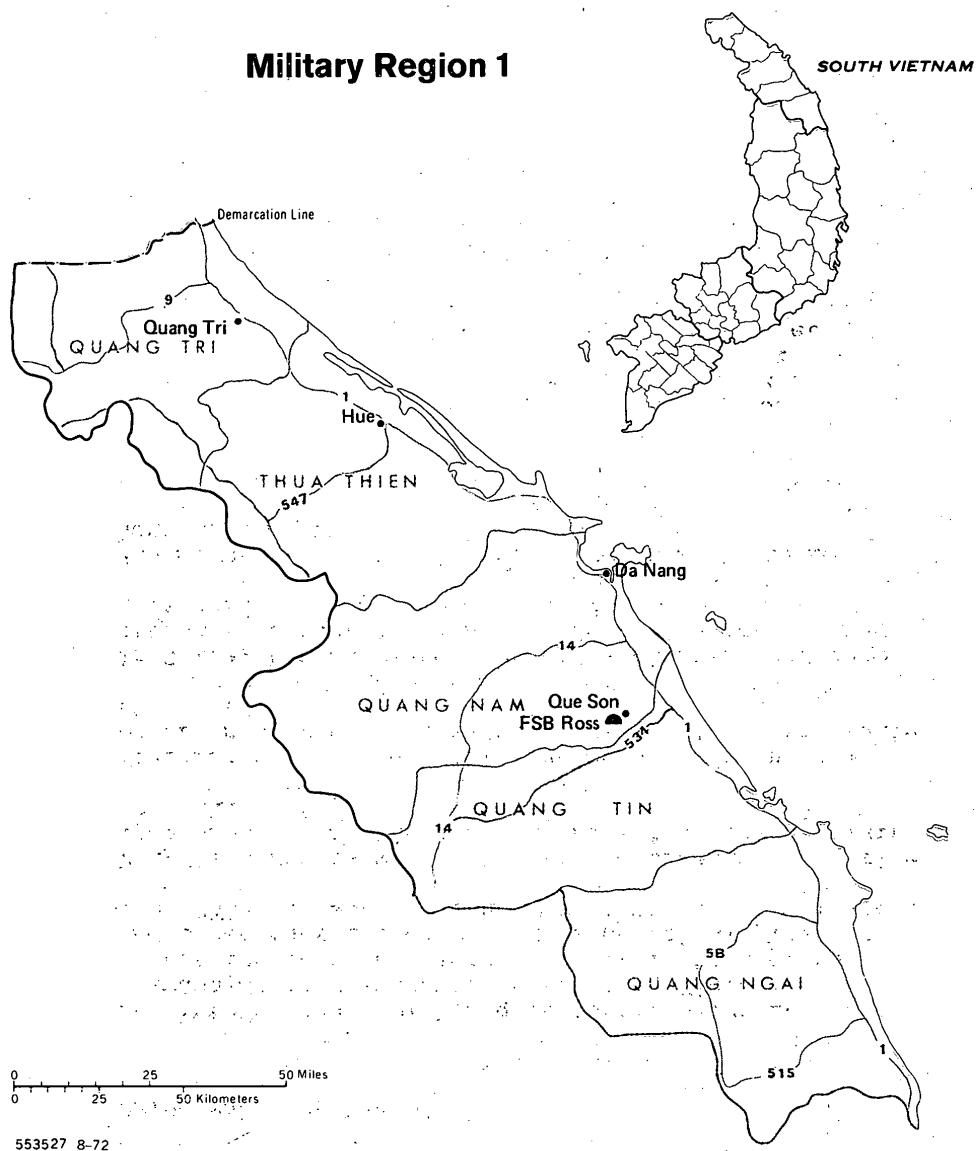
Negotiations in New Delhi made no significant new progress on the basic issues dividing India and Pakistan. (Page 4)

In Chile, Army Commander Prats is advising the opposition to cooperate with President Allende for the time being. (Page 5)

Panama may take its efforts to reclaim the Canal Zone to the UN. (Page 7)

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Military Region 1



553527 8-72

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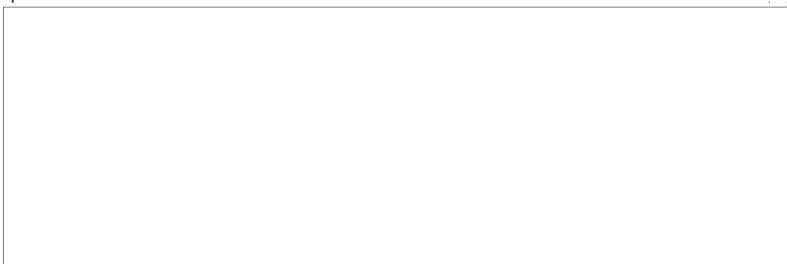
VIETNAM

Sharp fighting is taking place in Quang Tri and Quang Nam provinces as South Vietnamese forces try to regain lost territory. South Vietnamese Marines have been encountering stiff enemy resistance north of Quang Tri City, and Airborne troops reported a number of clashes to the south. Enemy gunners continue to pump thousands of artillery and mortar rounds into government positions, and additional enemy armor has been spotted moving south toward the city.

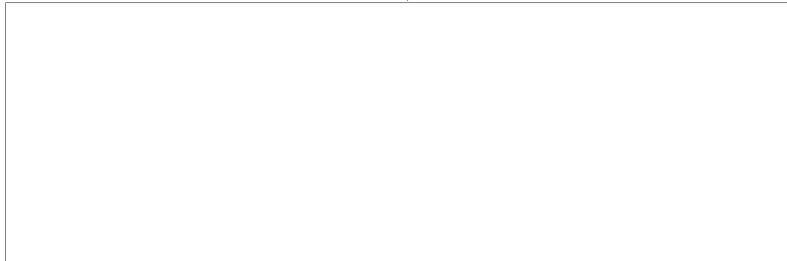
A government ranger battalion is holding on in the district town of Que Son, and other South Vietnamese units are conducting limited clearing operations south of Fire Support Base Ross. New enemy attacks in the coastal plains of northern Quang Tin Province appear to be an attempt to divert government pressure from Que Son.

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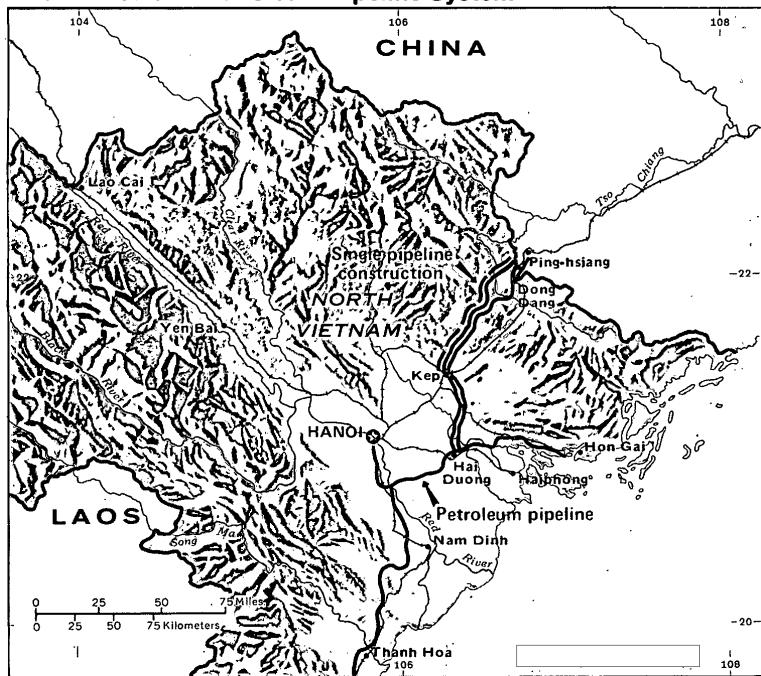
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North Vietnam: Petroleum Pipeline System



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* * *

Satellite photography [redacted] indicates
that two of the three petroleum pipelines from China
to North Vietnam are operational. Twelve pumping
stations have been identified between Dong Dang
and Hai Duong, and a bomb-damaged storage area near
Kep has been bypassed by new construction. The
third pipeline is rapidly nearing completion.

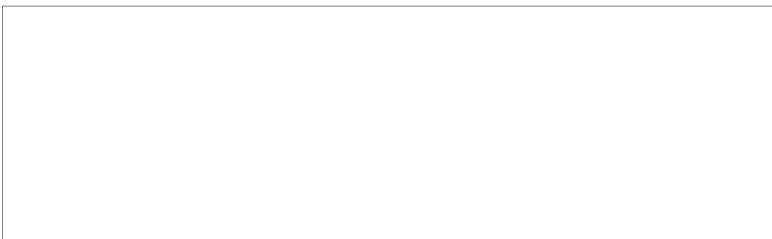
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JAPAN-CHINA

Tokyo's contacts with Peking are increasing in anticipation of Prime Minister Tanaka's forthcoming visit to China. At present, a major Japanese business mission, headed by the president of Nippon Steel, is visiting Peking. Tokyo is hopeful that the mission will be useful in establishing trade policy toward China after normalization of relations.



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INDIA-PAKISTAN

Negotiations in New Delhi made no significant progress on the basic issues. According to the official joint statement, the deadline for mutual troop withdrawals has been extended ten days to 15 September. The Indians, who would have given up a far greater area, decided against withdrawing pending progress on other issues. The Pakistanis had no means of forcing the Indians to meet the original deadline. The statement, however, does indicate agreement on lesser issues. The Pakistanis, for instance, promised that once withdrawals took place they would take no retribution against Pakistani citizens, mainly Hindus, who remained in the Indian-occupied territory or fled to India during the war.

The official statement mentions neither Pakistan's refusal to recognize Bangladesh nor New Delhi's refusal to repatriate the Pakistani prisoners of war without Dacca's approval. These two issues are primarily responsible for the latest impasse, and almost certainly will continue to block progress toward agreement.

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CHILE

Last week [redacted] Chilean troop commanders were seeking an appointment with Army Commander Prats to discuss the country's political problems.

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[redacted] some of General Prats' views. [redacted]

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[redacted] Prats recently said that opposition leaders must work with President Allende to solve Chile's problems. Prats noted that Allende is deeply concerned over the political situation and has expressed a fear that his friends are more dangerous to him than his enemies. The General offered his view, however, that Allende will be able to work things out.

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[redacted] He is a key figure in the military, and it is doubtful that other service chiefs would take any significant action without his support.

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PANAMA

[redacted] Foreign
Minister Tack, who has consistently taken a tough position on the canal dispute, is preparing a speech for delivery to the UN in late September that will review his country's efforts to reclaim the Canal Zone from the US. Tack wants to ask the UN to support a unilateral nullification of the 1903 canal treaty and to help restore Panamanian sovereignty over the Zone.

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General Torrijos may be considering a surprise announcement of his own. [redacted]
[redacted] on 11 October, the fourth anniversary of his seizure of power, Torrijos will declare US sovereign rights in the Zone null and void and threaten to break off the negotiations on a new [redacted]

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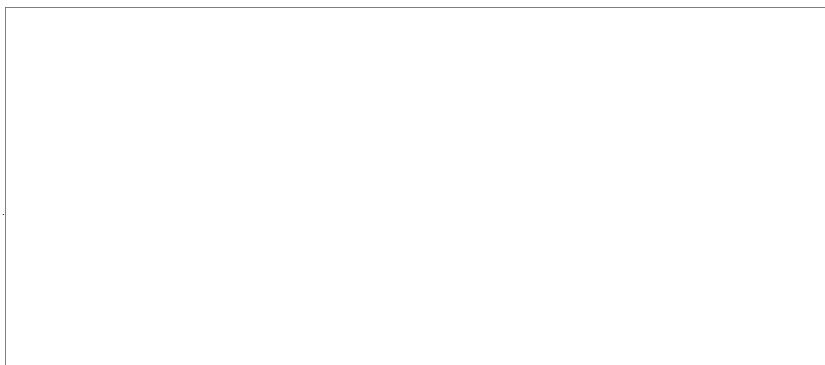
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Torrijos has made similar threats in the past but has backed down. He has also restrained Tack when the latter has proposed drastic action. Torrijos has been seeking some unilateral concession that could be presented to the Panamanian public as evidence of American good will and proof of his ability to deal effectively with the US. He apparently believes that he can force the US to make additional concessions on a new treaty by drumming up wider international support. Even so, he will likely wait to see what concessions are forthcoming before deciding to report to the UN.

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NOTES



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Argentina-Chile: Buenos Aires has expressed "deep displeasure" at Chilean President Allende's decision to send to Cuba the ten escaped Argentine terrorists who hijacked an airliner to Santiago two weeks ago.

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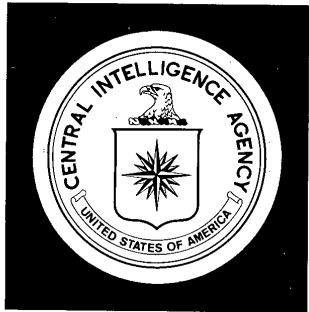
[redacted] the recall of the Argentine ambassador to Chile was only the first step in retaliation. He said that Argentina intends to "tighten the screws" on Chile and hinted at economic sanctions. Argentina is an important supplier of meat and grain to Chile, where shortages have led to some belt tightening in recent months.

USSR-Japan: The Soviets have formally indicated their willingness to begin peace treaty negotiations with Japan at "a sufficiently high level" in Moscow at any time. Preparatory negotiations on the treaty talks had been scheduled to begin in September, but [redacted]

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[redacted] the latest Soviet initiative has made these negotiations unnecessary. The Tanaka government is hesitant to enter into talks without a clear prospect of success. The Japanese are still uncertain about how the Soviets will handle Japan's demand for the return of the Northern Territories--the four islands seized by the USSR after World War II--once peace treaty negotiations begin. Tokyo plans to do some further probing of Soviet attitudes when a Japanese parliamentary delegation visits Moscow in early September.

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The President's Daily Brief

31 August 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

31 August 1972

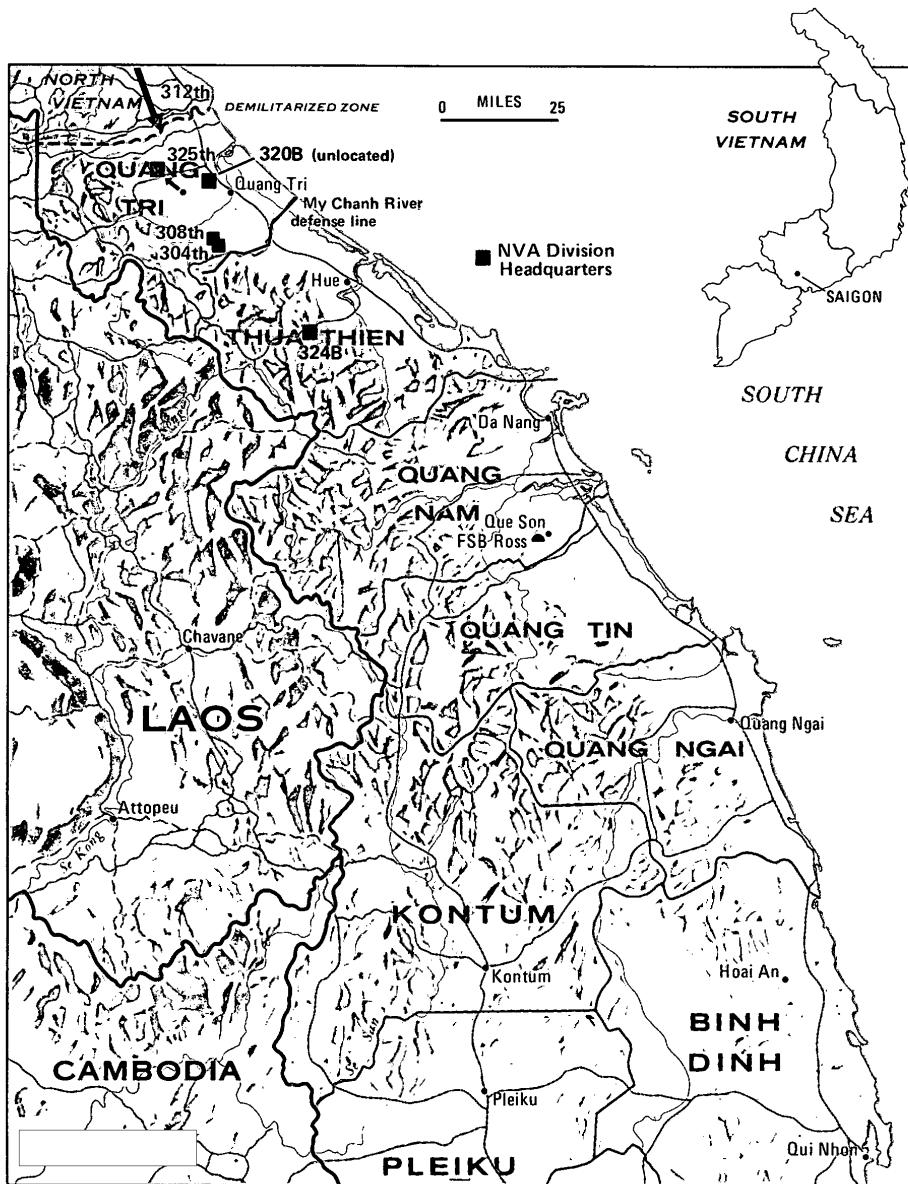
PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Although fighting has eased somewhat in the northern provinces of South Vietnam, the Communists appear to be preparing to try to regain the initiative. (Page 1)

The Soviets are preparing to launch their largest space booster in an attempt to send an unmanned spacecraft to the moon and back. (Page 2)

President Marcos is moving to prevent any precipitate actions against US business interests threatened by a recent Philippine Supreme Court ruling. (Page 3)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

Fighting has eased somewhat throughout the northern provinces, but there are indications that the Communists will soon try to regain the initiative. Several captured prisoners claim that units of the recently infiltrated North Vietnamese 312th Division are to replace those of the 325th Division now fighting in Quang Tri City.

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Intercepts indicate that elements of the North Vietnamese 304th and 308th divisions, arrayed against South Vietnamese Airborne positions south of Quang Tri City, are stockpiling ammunition and foodstuffs and bringing in reinforcements. One message noted that heavy artillery will be used to guarantee the success of "the mission," while another stated that Communist artillery units also are preparing to shell South Vietnamese supply lines near the government's primary defense line along the My Chanh River. Substantial amounts of 122-mm. and 130-mm. artillery ammunition are moving south through the North Vietnamese panhandle, most of which presumably is destined for the northern battlefield. The increased shellings may begin around 2 September, the North Vietnamese National Day.

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Intercepts and press reports from North Vietnam indicate that Hanoi is engaged in the third military conscription drive of the year. The men being drafted are likely to begin appearing in the infiltration pipeline around the beginning of the dry season this fall.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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USSR

Indications are that a very large Soviet space booster is nearing the final stages of checkout at Tyuratam. Launch could occur within the next 24 hours. This vehicle--designated the TT-5--is larger than the US Saturn V, although its payload capability is smaller.

There have been two attempts to launch the vehicle. The first, in July 1969, resulted in an explosion on the pad. The second try, in June 1971

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PHILIPPINES-US

President Marcos is moving to prevent any precipitate actions against US business interests threatened by a recent Philippine Supreme Court ruling.

The court ruled that a 1946 constitutional amendment allowing US interests to own land applies only to public-domain land and not to private land. Since 1946, US firms and individuals have acquired some 37,000 acres of land, over three-fourths of which had been privately owned. The court also ruled that the expiration of the amendment on 3 July 1974 will cancel all corporate and land ownership rights now held by US interests. As a result of the decision, in addition to the approximately \$50 million in landholdings immediately affected, the future of a major portion of the total US investment of \$1 billion is in jeopardy.

In recent public statements, Marcos has stressed the need to maintain a favorable investment climate and has also pointed to the constitutional provision that property may not be confiscated without "just compensation." [redacted]

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Until the full ramifications of the court case are known, Marcos evidently wants to keep all options open. In particular, he does not want the legislature to pass implementing legislation that might prevent separate executive deals with the US during coming economic and trade negotiations.

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NOTE

Honduras: General Lopez, the armed forces chief who has been plotting to return to power ever since he stepped down in 1971, is about to get yet another opportunity. A variety of disturbances over the past week, involving students, teachers, and workers, is testing President Cruz' shaky government to the limit. If the disorder is not soon contained, Lopez may find himself in a position to take over with little resistance-- perhaps even with congratulations--from the population as a whole.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret