



The President's Daily Brief

Sunday
1 NOV 1970
2 November 1970

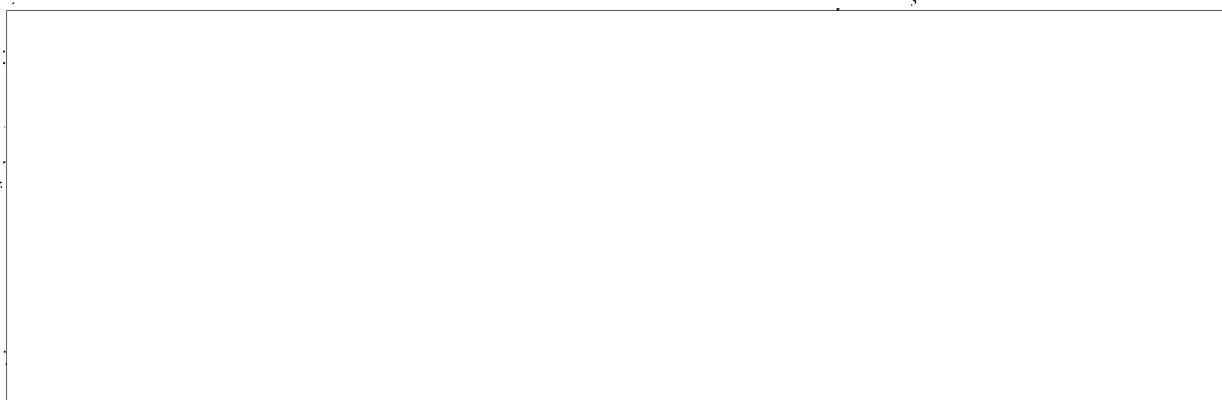
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1 NOV 1970

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at a four power meeting of ambassadors' advisors in Berlin on Friday, the Soviets were affable and businesslike but substantive progress was meager. The Soviets did express an interest in a more forthcoming communique following the next ambassadorial meeting on 4 November and frankly admitted they were looking for something "cosmetic" in view of the forthcoming Hessian elections.

1 NOV 1970

Government forces at Phou Seu -- the highest elevation on the ~~the~~ western perimeter of the Plaines des Jarres -- successfully beat off enemy ground attacks on Thursday and Friday. These attacks may be a probing action prior to ~~the~~ heavier assaults recently ordered in North Vietnamese communications. These messages emphasized the tactical advantages of the Phou Seu terrain and underscores the importance the Communists attach to this area. In the ~~southern~~ panhandle, three battalions of government irregulars have captured the headquarters of the Pathet Lao governor of Savannakhet Province.

1 NOV 1970

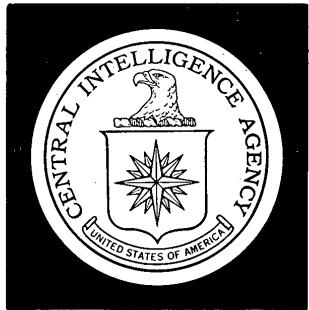
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[Redacted]

At the United Nations, Egyptian Foreign Minister Riad told Ambassador Yost on Thursday evening that Egypt is willing to extend the cease-fire for three months only, but if negotiations were progressing satisfactorily, and the Secretary General so indicated, there would be no problem about a further extension. This goes somewhat beyond the possibility of a two month extension previously alluded to by the Egyptians.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

North Vietnam

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(Page 1)

Soviets/want the four-power talks on Berlin

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(Page 2)

A countrywide drive is under way in North Vietnam to enlarge the armed forces. (Page 3)

Chile

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(Page 4)

In Laos, government forces have been driven from Phou Seu Mountain, the highest elevation on the western perimeter of the Plaines des Jarres. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM - CHINA - USSR

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USSR - WEST GERMANY

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[redacted] at a four-power meeting of ambassadors' advisers in Berlin on Friday, the Soviets were affable and businesslike but substantive progress was meager. The Soviets did express an interest in a more forthcoming communiqué following the next ambassadorial meeting on 4 November and frankly admitted they were looking for something "cosmetic" in view of the forthcoming West German state elections.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NORTH VIETNAM

Official statements appearing in the North Vietnamese press indicate that a countrywide drive to enlarge the armed forces is in full swing. The statements convey a sense of urgency and suggest that the mobilization is aimed at meeting both immediate and long-range requirements for the war. One statement urges that mobilization and recruiting "be stepped up in every respect in each locality...to constantly assist the frontline in human resources." In another, officials in a province near Hanoi promise to "further accelerate" their effort to "promptly meet the demands of the present situation"; they in turn are praised for raising reserves suitable for duty at the front and for the dispatch with which they enlisted youths for the regular army.

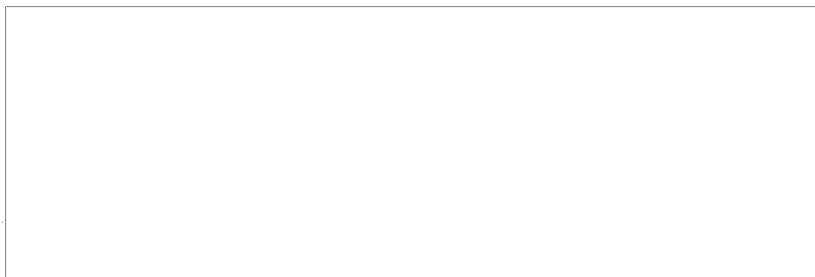
There are signs that Hanoi anticipated difficulties in getting local officials and organizations to respond to its manpower levies and took steps to secure fast results. Statements stress the need for tight party control and supervision all down the line, to the extent that in one province "key cadres" have been sent to take direct charge in some locales. Two ranking party officials have journeyed to the provinces to underscore the high priority being given to mobilization. Defense Minister Giap stressed its "extreme importance and strategic significance" in one province, and fellow politburo member Le Thanh Nghi delivered a similar message in another.

Hanoi called during the summer for a build-up of the home guard and regular army. The activity reflected in the press is clearly the effort by regional authorities to implement this call.

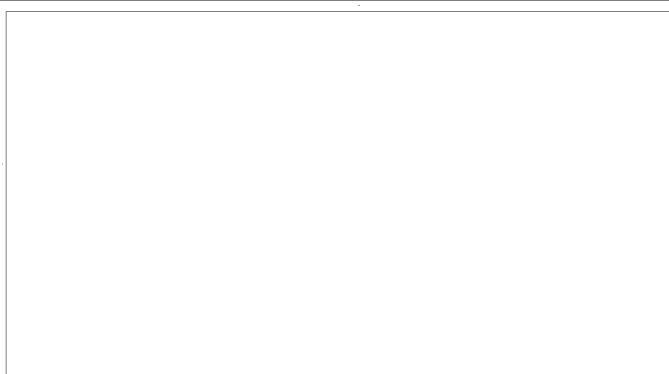
There never has been direct and clear evidence of the draft and recruitment rate in North Vietnam. The press items, however, along with the Communist need for more manpower to maintain even the low level of activity in South Vietnam and to meet requirements in Laos and Cambodia, suggest the draft is extensive. This is likely to be reflected in a higher rate of infiltration over the next several months than occurred during the same period a year ago.

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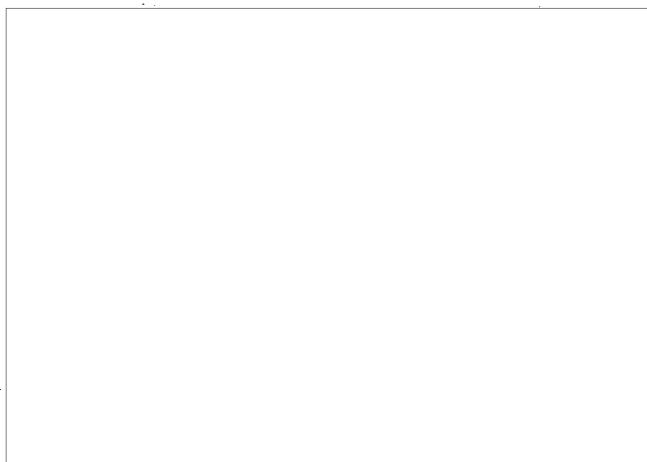
CHILE



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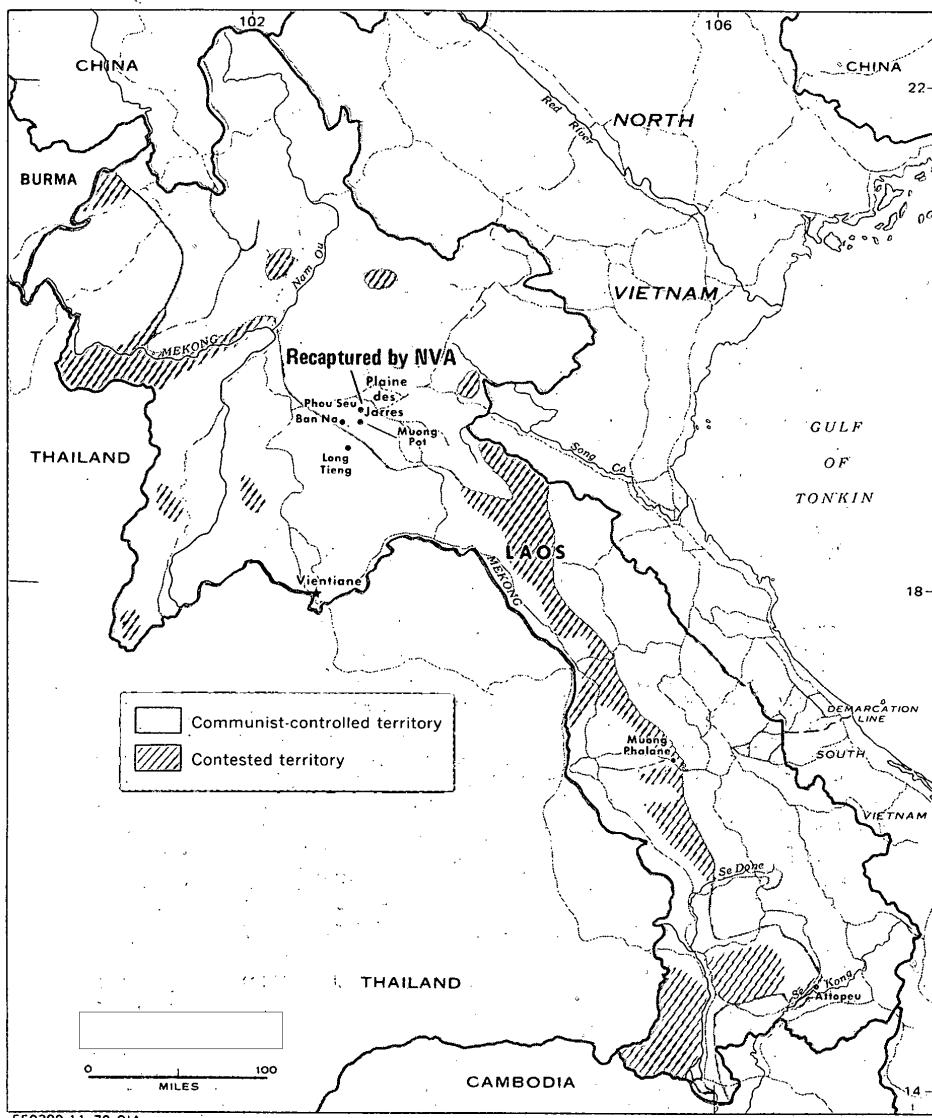
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: Current Situation



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NOTE

Laos: Last night Communist forces recaptured the government position on Phou Seu Mountain, the highest elevation on the western perimeter of the Plaine des Jarres. Previous efforts by the Communists to retake Phou Seu, which fell to Vang Pao's irregulars two weeks ago, were beaten back with the aid of heavy air strikes on 29 and 30 October. The Communists are now in a better position to challenge the government's hold on Ban Na and Muong Pot--outposts which guard the approaches to Vang Pao's headquarters at Long Tieng. There is no evidence of impending enemy attacks against these objectives, however.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

3 November 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

South Vietnam

(Page 1)

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Allied military operations are returning to normal in the northern provinces of South Vietnam, following the heavy seasonal rains. (Page 3)

Soviets

(Page 4)

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(Page 5)

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Cairo has named two vice presidents, but there appears to be continuing dissension over their roles in the government. (Page 5)

The latest photography of Chinese road building in northern Laos is discussed on Page 5.

Bahi Ladgham has been replaced as Tunisian prime minister, but he will continue to chair the Arab committee in Jordan. (Page 5)

Following a detailed check-out, Boeing engineers believe the Concorde SST will be able to meet specifications for commercial transatlantic flight. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM



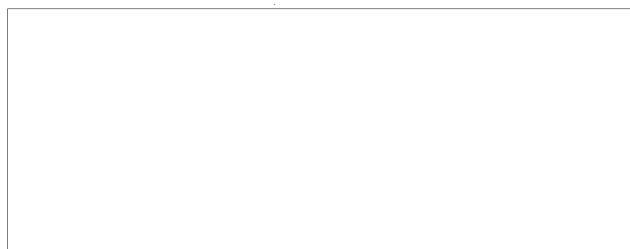
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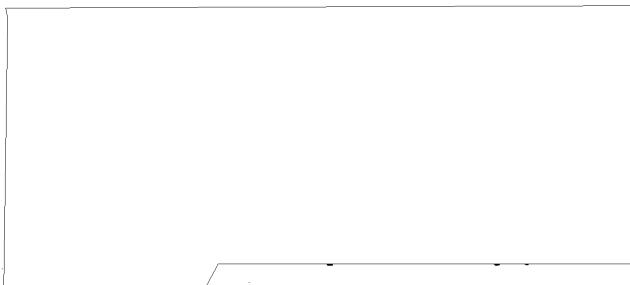
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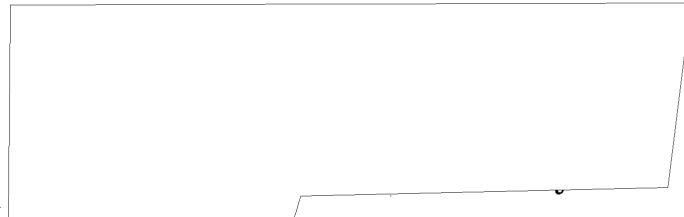


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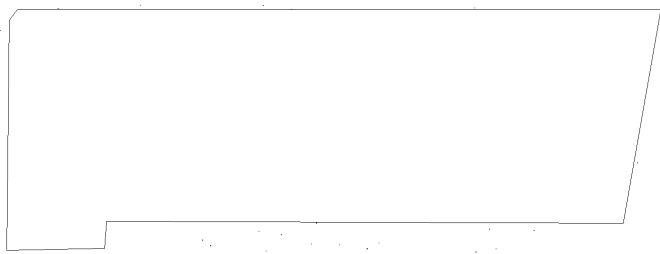
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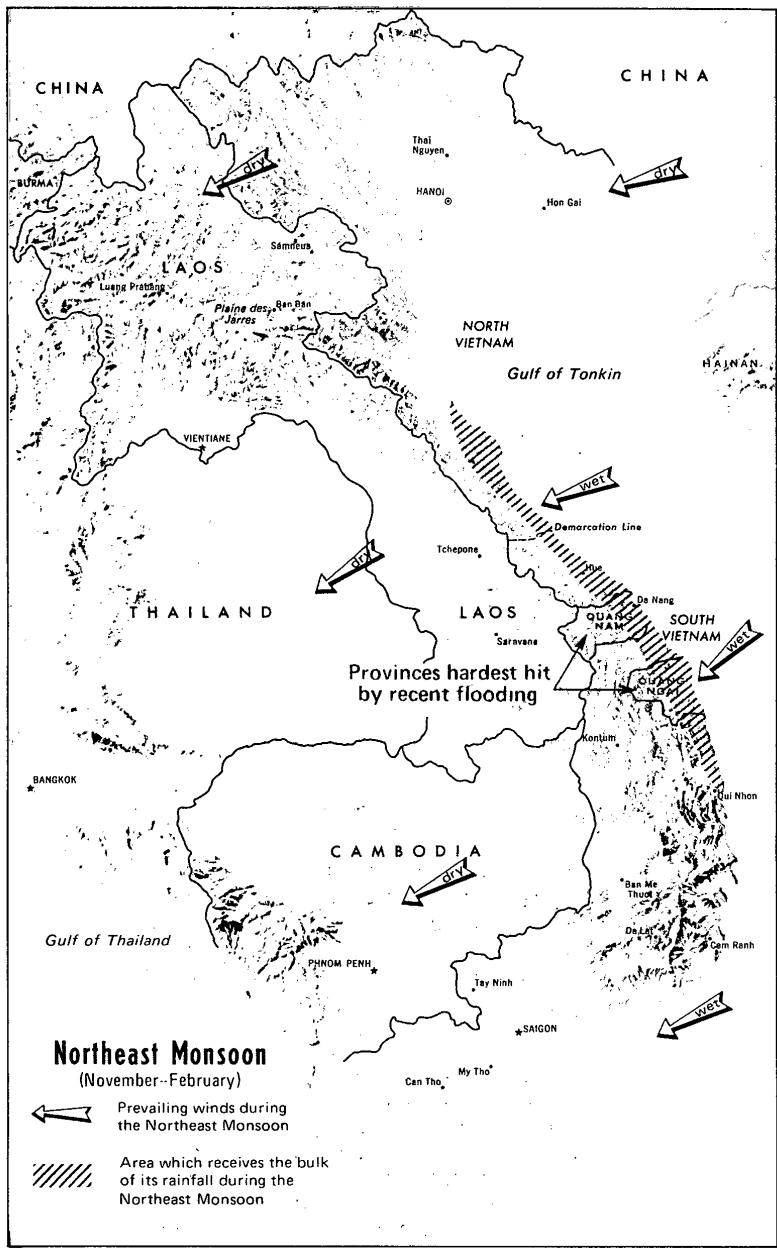


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SOUTH VIETNAM

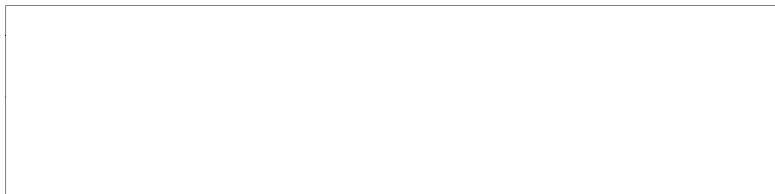
Allied military operations in the northern provinces are returning to normal following the heavy seasonal rains which had brought the war to a virtual standstill. Allied military units had been tied up for several days with civilian relief efforts in the low-lying populous areas of the north. More than 150 Vietnamese civilians have been killed as a result of the rains, over 200,000 driven from their homes at least temporarily, and a large part of the rice crop destroyed. Intercepts indicate that the rains also dealt Communist forces a setback in northern South Vietnam and in southernmost North Vietnam as well. The Communist command in the South Vietnamese province of Quang Nam radioed that their losses were high and that starvation would be a real danger in the flood's aftermath. Communist military units have been ordered to assist local civilians where they can.

This coastal region always receives heavy rains at about this time of year as the northeast monsoons move in from the Gulf of Tonkin. This year the bad weather has been compounded by the onslaught of a series of typhoons. Elsewhere in Indochina, the weather is improving, bringing better conditions for both allied and Communist military operations in Laos, Cambodia, and southern South Vietnam.

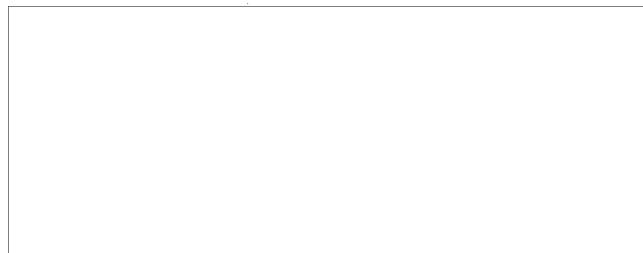
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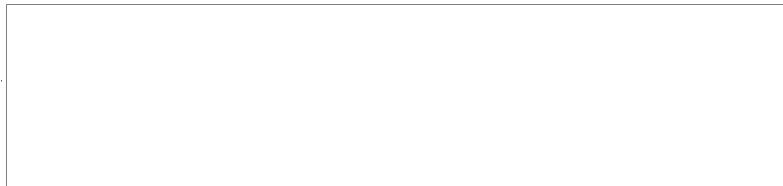
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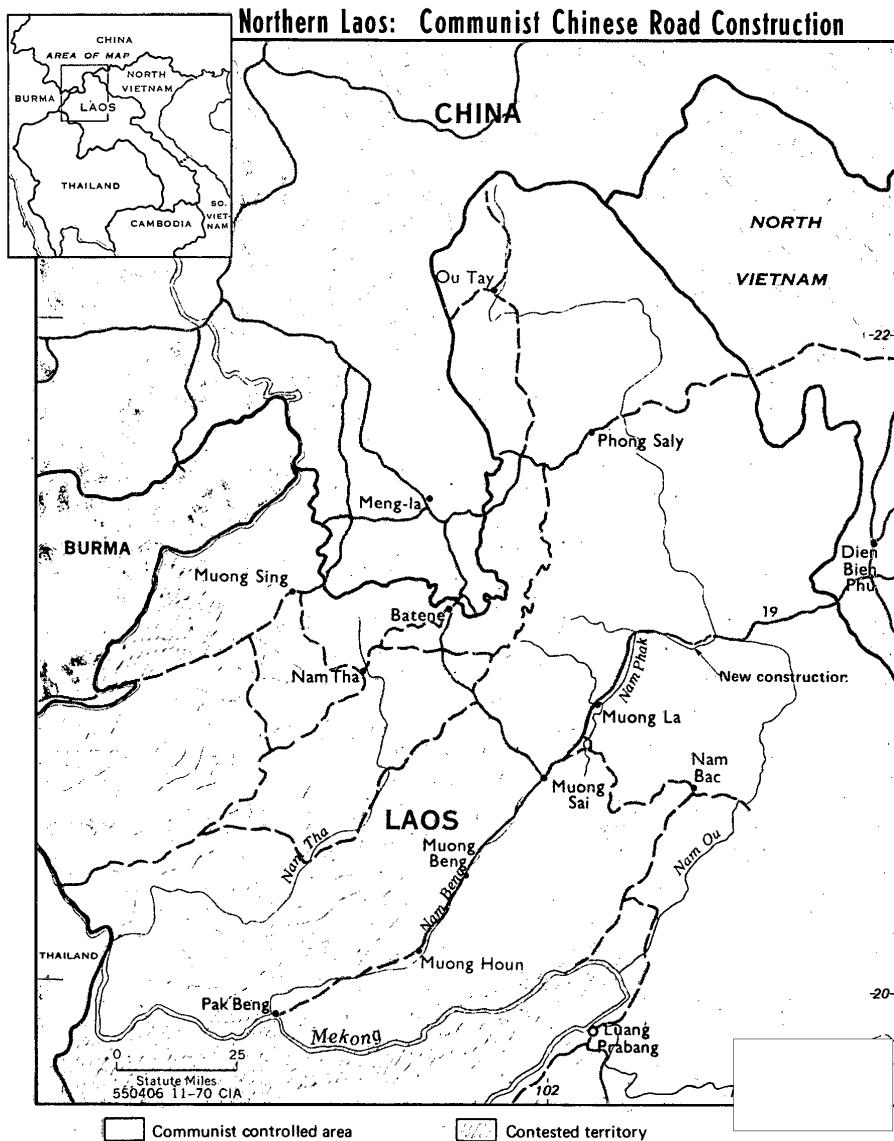


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTESEgypt

Egypt: The delayed naming of Husayn al-Shafi and Ali Sabri as vice presidents completes the formal organization of the new Sadat government. Neither man was designated first vice president, however, nor were they assigned areas of responsibility, suggesting continued dissension over their future roles. Al-Shafi, one of Nasir's earliest revolutionary associates, is generally considered a political lightweight, but left-leaning Sabri has some influence, particularly within the Arab Socialist Union, Egypt's sole legal political organization. Both men were members of Egypt's National Defense Council.

Communist China - Laos: The Chinese apparently are giving first priority this dry season to completing a road linking northern Laos and North Vietnam. Photography of late October shows intermittent survey traces under way along the final eight miles separating a road northeast from Muong Sai and Route 19 from North Vietnam. Roads from China via Muong Sai are motorable close to the present point of construction, and a through road to North Vietnam could be ready by the end of the year. Elsewhere, repair and improvement of existing roads, including the Muong Sai - Muong Houn road, is continuing.

Tunisia: President Bourguiba has relieved Bahi Ladgham as prime minister, but Ladgham will continue to chair the Arab committee overseeing the Jordanian-fedayeen cease-fire. Ladgham will return to the Middle East as Bourguiba's personal representative. His successor is Hedi Nouira, Tunisia's leading economist, who had been named acting prime minister early last month when Ladgham took on the Jordanian assignment. Ladgham's replacement by Nouira has been planned for some time.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

UK-France: Following detailed evaluations and discussions with the developers of the Concorde SST, Boeing engineers have concluded that the airliner will be able to meet specifications for commercial transatlantic flight. The Concorde reached its highest speed of Mach-1.86 last month and will soon begin flight tests at its planned Mach-2 cruising speed. A complete evaluation of the Concorde's capabilities will not be possible until the Mach-2 test series is completed.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[redacted] Israel [redacted]

(Page 1)

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Jordanian Government forces and fedayeen clashed sharply in Amman yesterday in the most serious fighting in several weeks. (Page 2)

[redacted]

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[redacted] Page 4 [redacted]

North Vietnam [redacted]

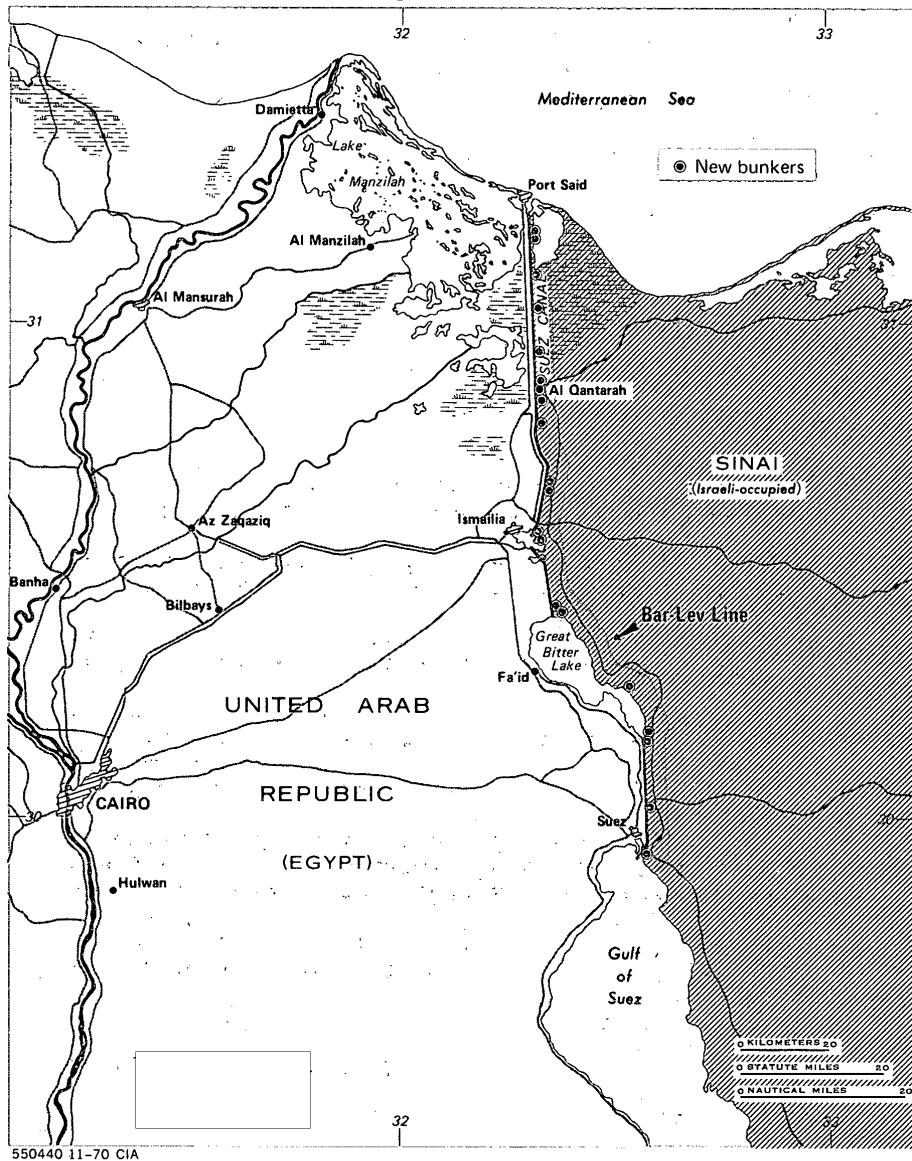
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In Chile, President Allende's new government is putting Marxists in additional posts. (Page 6)

A longtime confidant of Mao Tse-tung may have become the victim of another round of top-level factional quarreling. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Israelis Improving Positions Along Suez Canal



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL

Since the cease-fire went into effect, the Israelis have constructed more than 20 new bunkers in their "Bar-Lev Line" along the Suez Canal--their trip wire against an Egyptian invasion of Sinai. The H-shaped bunkers, which measure nearly 50 by 50 feet, are formed from large pipe sections. The command and living areas are covered with about 15 feet of rock, steel netting, concrete blocks, sandbags, and earth.

The new bunkers are larger and stronger than the original positions that were completed in the spring of 1969. These held up well during Egyptian artillery barrages, and few casualties were reported among troops within them.

Egyptian spokesmen have protested Israeli construction work along the canal as a violation of cease-fire terms.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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JORDAN

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Government forces and fedayeen clashed sharply yesterday in Amman, resulting in five dead and eight wounded, according to preliminary reports.

[redacted] the fighting began in the morning when a government patrol tried to pick up two armed fedayeen. The resulting exchange of fire spread throughout the capital during the day, but appeared to be falling off by nightfall. Just before midnight the government radio issued a low-key account of events, claiming that security forces had contained the crisis.

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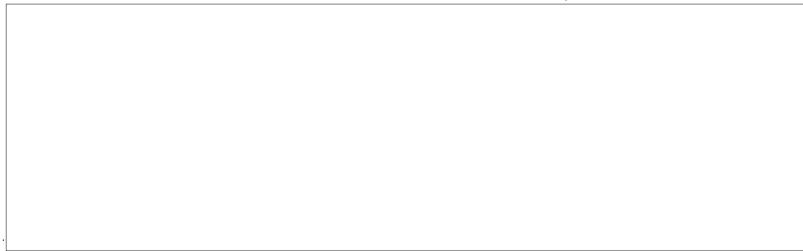
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Yesterday's fighting was the most serious in several weeks. The truce commission's efforts to prevent its continuation should be helped by the heavy program of religious and social events normally scheduled during the current holy month of Ramadan. So far this morning there are no reports of a resumption of fighting.

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ARAB STATES - FEDAYEEN



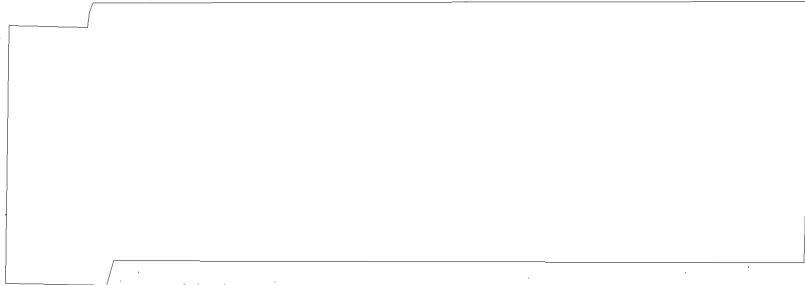
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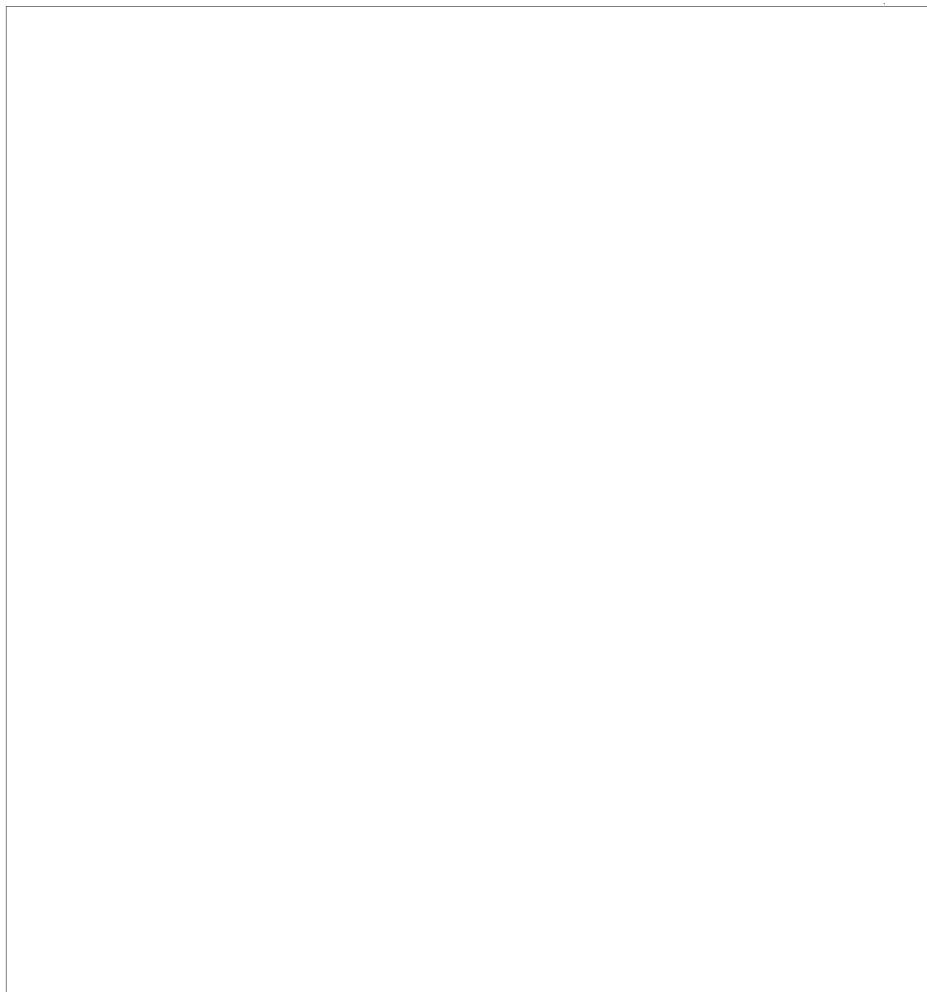
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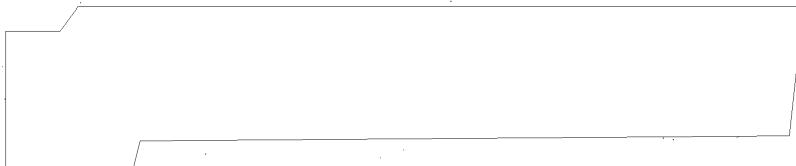
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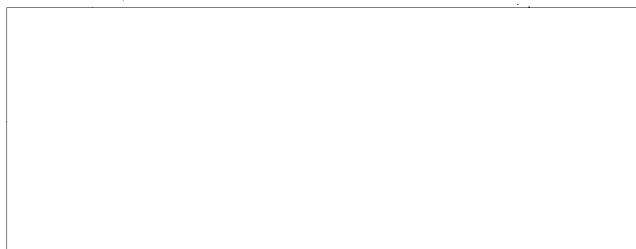


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NORTH VIETNAM



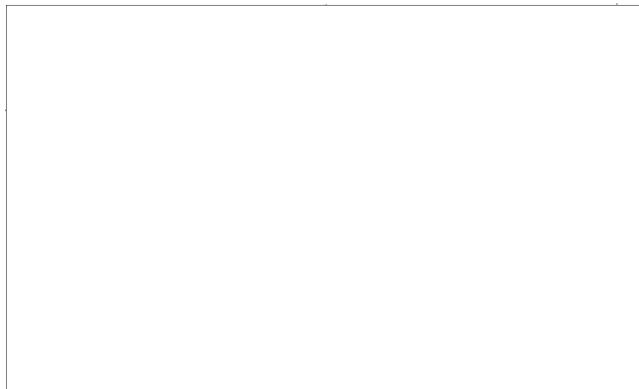
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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Unusually heavy rains, however, have temporarily impeded the movement of both men and supplies through the Laotian panhandle. Recent severe storms, which inundated neighboring coastal regions of North and South Vietnam, have particularly disrupted road repairs and the resupply of logistic forces, according to messages from units in the central panhandle.

Now that rains are subsiding, movement should increase soon. Although last year the large-scale movement of supplies into South Vietnam was first noted in early December, the operations of an expanded logistic system in southern Laos and in Cambodia will require a greater effort this dry season.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Chile: Among Salvador Allende's first moves after assuming the presidency yesterday was to name a Communist as the second-ranking official in the vital Ministry of Interior, which is headed by Jose Toha, Allende's closest companion in his own Socialist Party. In naming new provincial governors, Toha has divided them in much the same proportion as the cabinet, with the choice posts going to the Communists and Socialists.

Communist China: Mao's longtime confidant and personal secretary, Chen Po-ta, has not appeared in public for three months, and the regime has given no explanation for his failure to show up with other ranking leaders on occasions when his presence would seem obligatory. This raises suspicions that Chen has become a victim of another round of factional quarreling at the top levels of the regime. In addition, Peking's refusal for over a year to provide an authoritative "pecking order" for the new politburo suggests that the regime is still unable to resolve the problems of power relationships within the present elite. Chen has been a member of the politburo's inner "standing committee," along with Mao, Lin Piao, Chou En-lai, and Kang Sheng, the political security chief.

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Communists in northeastern Cambodia appear to be antagonizing the local populace. (Page 1)

[redacted]

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In Laos, the Communists are [redacted] stepping up their resistance to harassment farther south. (Page 3)

[redacted] Soviet [redacted]
[redacted] Page 4.

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Guatemala [redacted]
[redacted] (Page 4)

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[redacted] USSR [redacted]
[redacted] (Page 4)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

[redacted] Communist alienation of the local population in some areas of northeastern Cambodia where the Communist presence was initially accepted. Among local grievances [redacted] are the Communist restrictions on travel, heavy food requisitions, and summary justice. In addition, local Cambodian Communists are disgruntled by the subsidiary role assigned to them by the Vietnamese.

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[redacted] / The burden of the Vietnamese Communists in extending their Laotian infiltration network southward and securing new supply routes and base areas is not lightened by the problems of trying to govern an increasingly hostile population without politically reliable Cambodian cadres.

Elsewhere in Cambodia, the Communists are doing somewhat better. In an area about 20 miles north of Phnom Penh, for example, [redacted]

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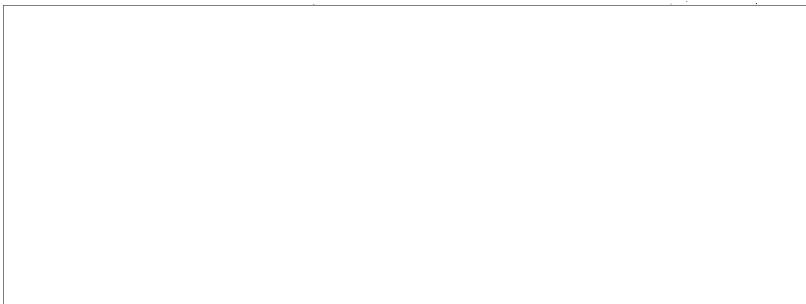
[redacted] the Communists have had some success with their propaganda efforts to link the Lon Nol government with misbehaving South Vietnamese troops. As a result, the Communists have been able to get cooperation from some respected local leaders.

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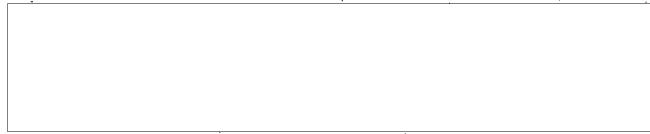
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USSR



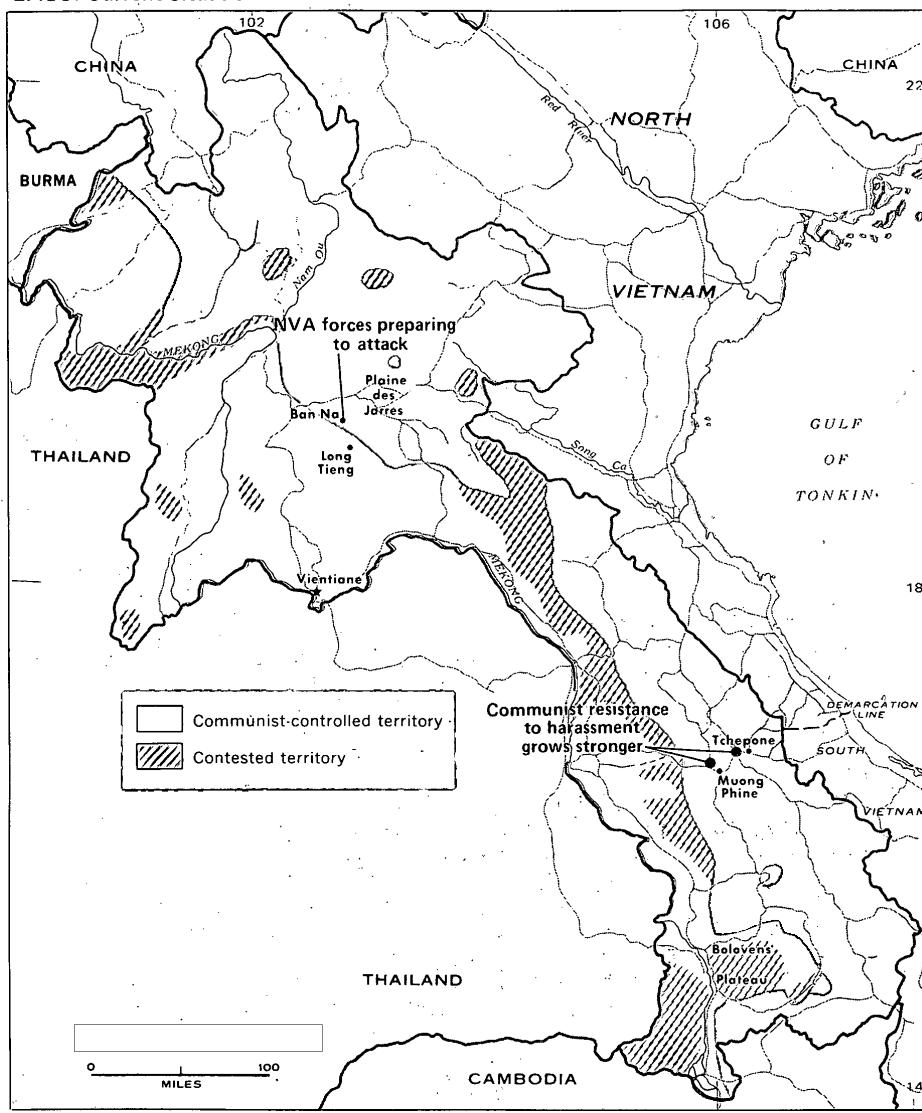
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LAOS: Current Situation



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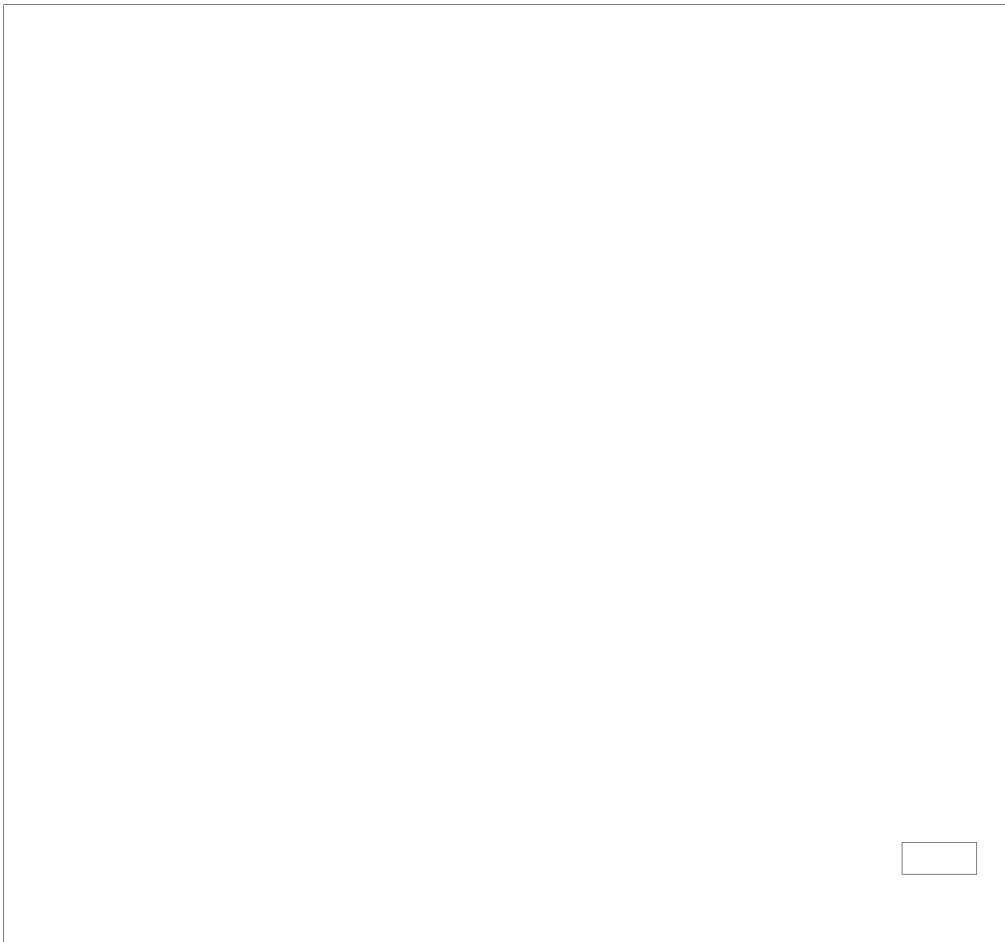
LAOS

Intercepts indicate that North Vietnamese forces are preparing additional attacks to retake government positions near Ban Na along the south-western edge of the Plaine des Jarres. The Communists could launch some attacks soon, but a major assault would require more time to bring up sufficient troops and supplies, as Communist forces in the immediate area are outnumbered about 2 to 1 by recently reinforced government troops.

In southern Laos, the six government battalions operating near Muong Phine and Tchepone are continuing to mine roads and inflict substantial casualties on enemy units protecting supply lines. Communist resistance has grown significantly stronger in the past two days, however, and the government battalions are now trying to disengage from heavy fighting.

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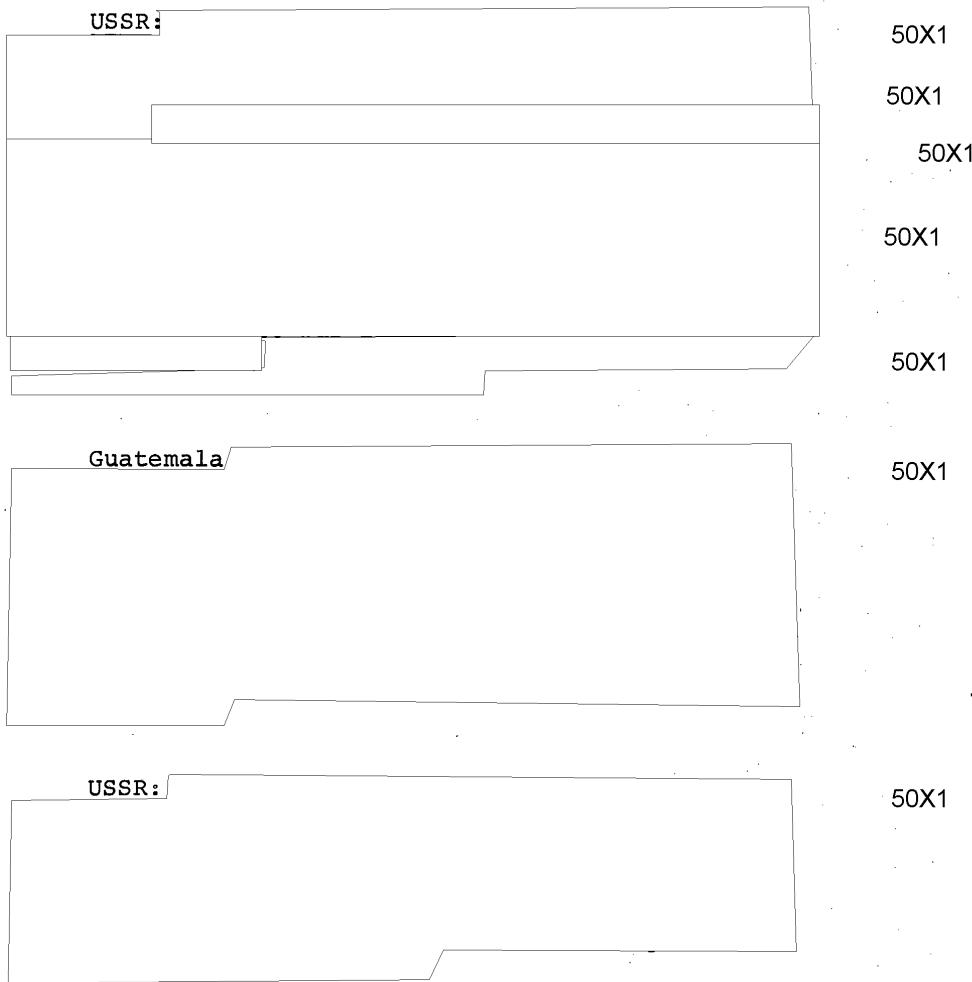
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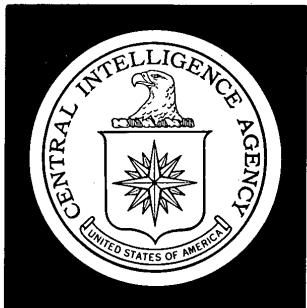
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NOTES



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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

6 November 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Hanoi has made some moves which suggest it may be preparing a new ingredient for the negotiations in Paris. (Page 1)

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The Chinese are still on the disputed Damanskiy/Chen-pao Island near the Soviet border. (Page 3)

Rumors associated with the possibility Premier Thanom might step down have intensified political maneuvering in Bangkok. (Page 4)

Recent satellite photography has provided further evidence that troop training for Chinese MRBM crews is in progress. (Page 5)

The Soviets are preparing another lunar mission. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**VIETNAM**

The North Vietnamese seem to be paving the way for some new move. We know there have been North Vietnamese VIP flights between Hanoi and Moscow and Peking, and we think this means the Vietnamese Communists have been consulting with their major allies.

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[Redacted]

Our guess is that Hanoi is preparing to add some new ingredient to the negotiations: possibly another installment in the "diplomatic offensive" launched in September with Madame Binh's eight points; possibly a more substantive response to President Nixon's peace initiative last month.

The fact that Xuan Thuy has finally accepted the US initiative for a private meeting lends further support to this conjecture. We are inclined to think that the North Vietnamese stalled on this matter mainly because they believed the US might use an earlier acceptance as evidence of progress in Paris, and they did not want to do anything that might help the Administration in this week's elections. This conclusion is reinforced by their acceptance coming on the very day of the elections. Whatever the timing of the private talks, the diplomatic comings and goings at least raise the possibility that the Communists have been making the necessary arrangements before engaging in serious talks with the US.

A great deal has happened since the contact with the North Vietnamese in August 1969. We have no evidence to suggest what tack Thuy may take at the first private meeting, but we think the North Vietnamese are unhappy with current trends in the war in Indochina, and they may be more interested than they were a year ago in exploring the possibilities for negotiating with the United States.

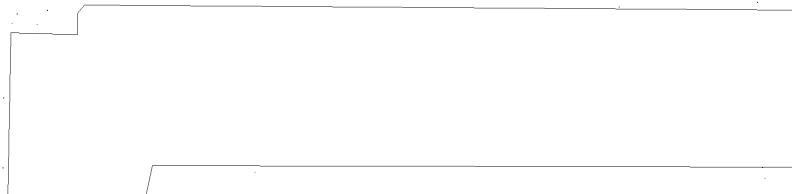
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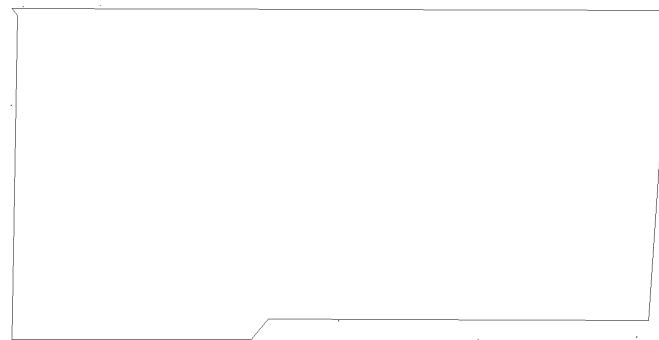
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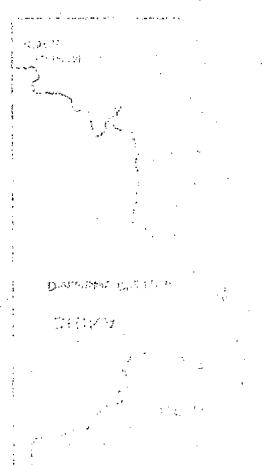
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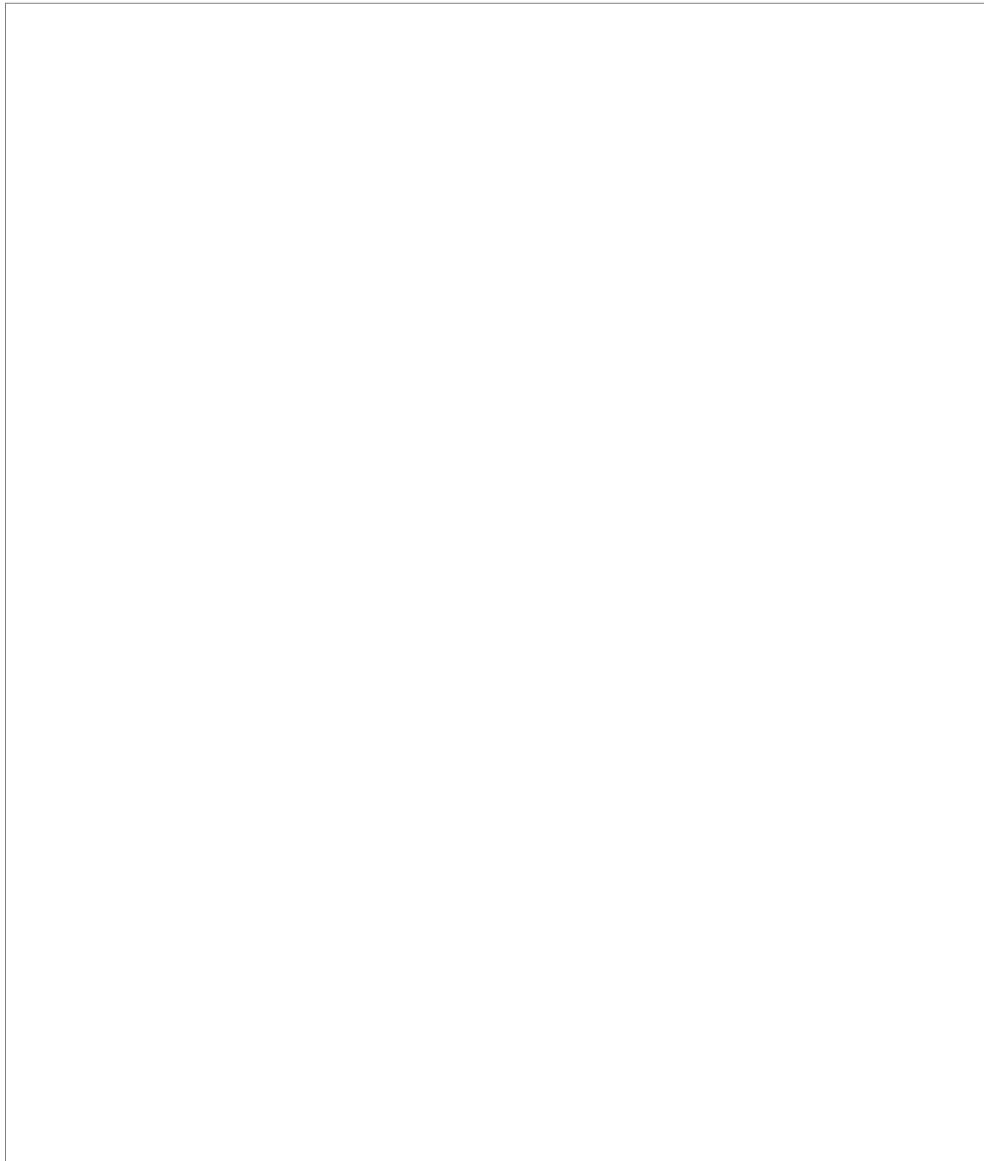


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-CHINA

Satellite photography of late October indicates that the Chinese continue to maintain a presence on disputed Damanskiy/Chen-pao Island and continue to occupy defenses in the area. Some weapons positions on the nearby hillsides along the Chinese side of the river were occupied and trenching was observed in the area. Bunkers under construction in June 1970 now are earth covered.

Kosygin and Chou En-lai apparently reached an informal understanding during their meeting in Peking in September 1969 that each side would employ restraint along the border and permit the other to remain on disputed territory it then held. Accordingly, the Soviets apparently tolerate a Chinese presence on the island in order to avoid an incident that might disrupt the Peking talks and lead to a renewal of border skirmishing. The lack of fighting during the past year suggests that the Chinese also have been circumspect with regard to disputed territory occupied by the Soviets.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THAILAND

[redacted] there is increased political maneuvering behind the scenes in Bangkok. Followers of Premier Thanom start rumors or create provocations designed to postpone the day when Thanom will lose his power position, while partisans of Deputy Prime Minister Praphat are taking similar action to hasten the day of Thanom's departure. The result of all this backstage churning is considerable confusion on the Thai political scene.

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Although Thanom has announced that he will retain the prime ministership until parliamentary elections in early 1973, most political observers in Bangkok believe it unlikely that he has either the inclination or power to hold on that long. After almost seven years of unimaginative but steady stewardship, Thanom has become a casualty of his own style of leadership and of problems at home and abroad over which he, or any Thai prime minister, has only limited control. Although Thanom's self-effacement was ideally suited to the sort of collective rule by which Thailand has been governed since Marshal Sarit's death, there is a growing feeling that it is not appropriate for the tough decisions that the country now faces.

In the handling of controversial legislation--the tax bill, the budget, the proposed press act--the government has been divided and indecisive. Not only has Thanom had trouble whipping parliament into line, but the government's own ranks have become increasingly divided and unresponsive to the prime minister's leadership. He himself has grown increasingly weary of the political wars.

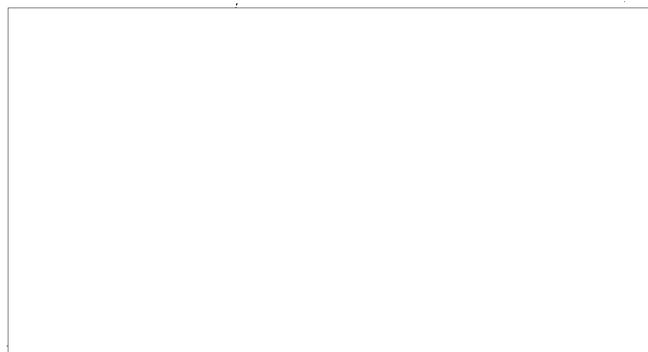
Thanom is nonetheless under some pressure from his supporters to continue in office as long as possible while they build support for either a congenial replacement or another potential rival to Deputy Prime Minister Praphat, who now appears almost certain to replace Thanom.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COMMUNIST CHINA

Satellite photography of late October shows MRBM equipment at the Wu-wei surface-to-surface missile school in west China. The equipment was similar to that previously associated with a missile being tested to a range of 600 to 700 nautical miles at the Shuang-cheng-tzu test center.



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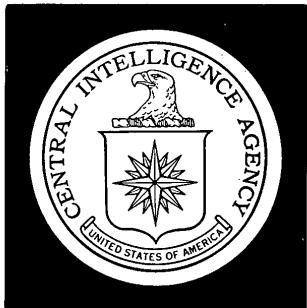
NOTE

USSR: Preparations are under way for a lunar mission similar to the Luna 16 flight which soft landed on the moon and returned to earth in September.

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Soviet

Page 1.

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Thieu's claim that 97 percent of the population is
under government control is being challenged

(Page 2)

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Husayn has made numerous personnel changes which
reflect his intent of maintaining a tough policy to
keep order. (Page 3)

The Soviet submarine tender and rescue tug have
headed west along the coast of Haiti, but their des-
tination is still unclear. (Page 4)

French

(Page 5)

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Suslov's October Anniversary speech is discussed on
Page 6.

Peking has sent a comparatively conciliatory October
Anniversary message to the Soviets. (Page 6)

The power struggle in Iraq between the military and
civilian wings of the Baath Party appears to be con-
tinuing. (Page 7)

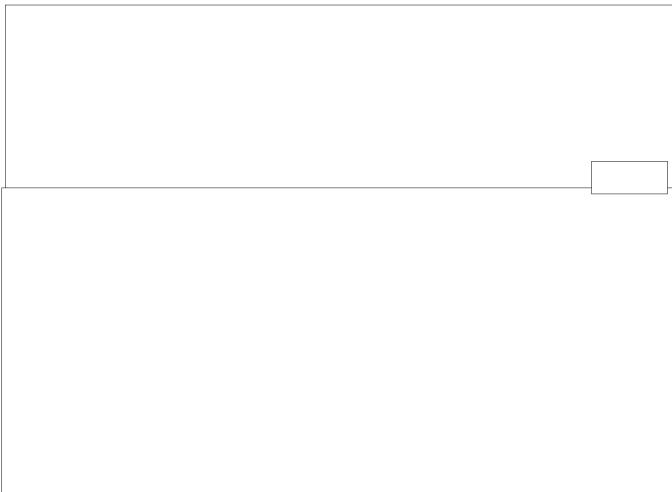
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR



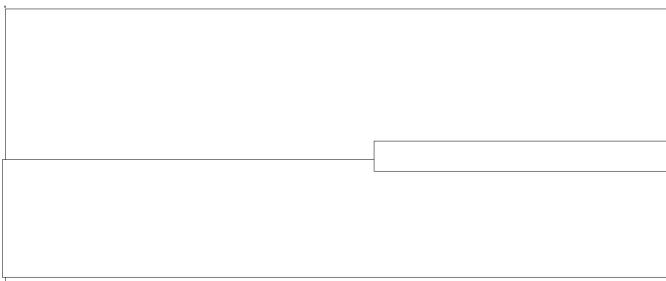
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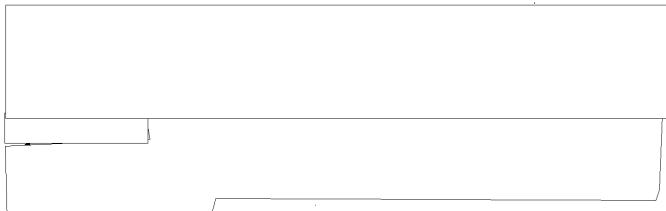
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

President Thieu's recent public claim that 97 percent of the population is now under government control is being challenged

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Although there has clearly been substantial government progress in securing much of the countryside from the enemy during the past two years, there have been [redacted]

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[redacted] reports of inflated statistics from a number of other provinces along the central coast and in the delta. Such reports, and Thieu's own claims, suggest that the tendency of the Vietnamese to distort reality in attempting to quantify progress persists and may even increase as Vietnamization advances. Local officials often feel under pressure to provide figures showing progress in order to protect their careers.

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The latest Hamlet Evaluation System figures show that in September 92.7 percent of the population was living in conditions of relative security, and about 79 percent under fairly firm government control. The comparable figures for Quang Nam are approximately 90 percent and 72 percent. Even the most sophisticated statistics on pacification provide only rough measures of progress and must be viewed with some reservations.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JORDAN

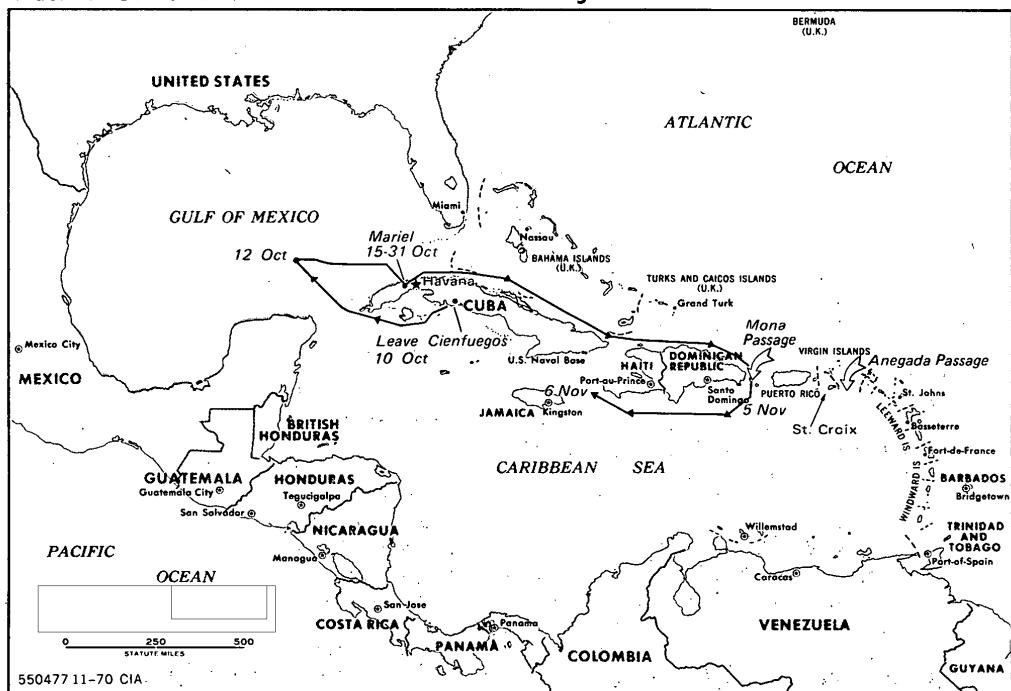
Husayn has followed his appointment of the Wasfi Tal cabinet with numerous other personnel changes. New commanders have been named for each of the army's four combat divisions and its one independent brigade. Former chief of general intelligence Badran, removed last June in response to fedayeen demands, has been appointed to the royal court, and a brother of Wasfi Tal is the new royal secretary. Large-scale changes have been made among provincial administrators and senior-level police officers.

Husayn obviously is ignoring fedayeen opposition which followed his formation of the strong Wasfi Tal cabinet last week. The new appointments reflect the King's intent of maintaining a tough policy to keep order. For many of the appointments Husayn has drawn heavily on personnel clearly loyal to him.

The King is counting on firm support among East Bank Jordanians if the fedayeen mount a serious challenge to his present policies. There is growing evidence of Jordanian chauvinism among East Bankers in the army. This apparently has been fanned by their discovery in September that the fedayeen were at least as willing to fight and even destroy the Jordanian Government as they were to attack Israel.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Track of Soviet Submarine Tender and Rescue Tug



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

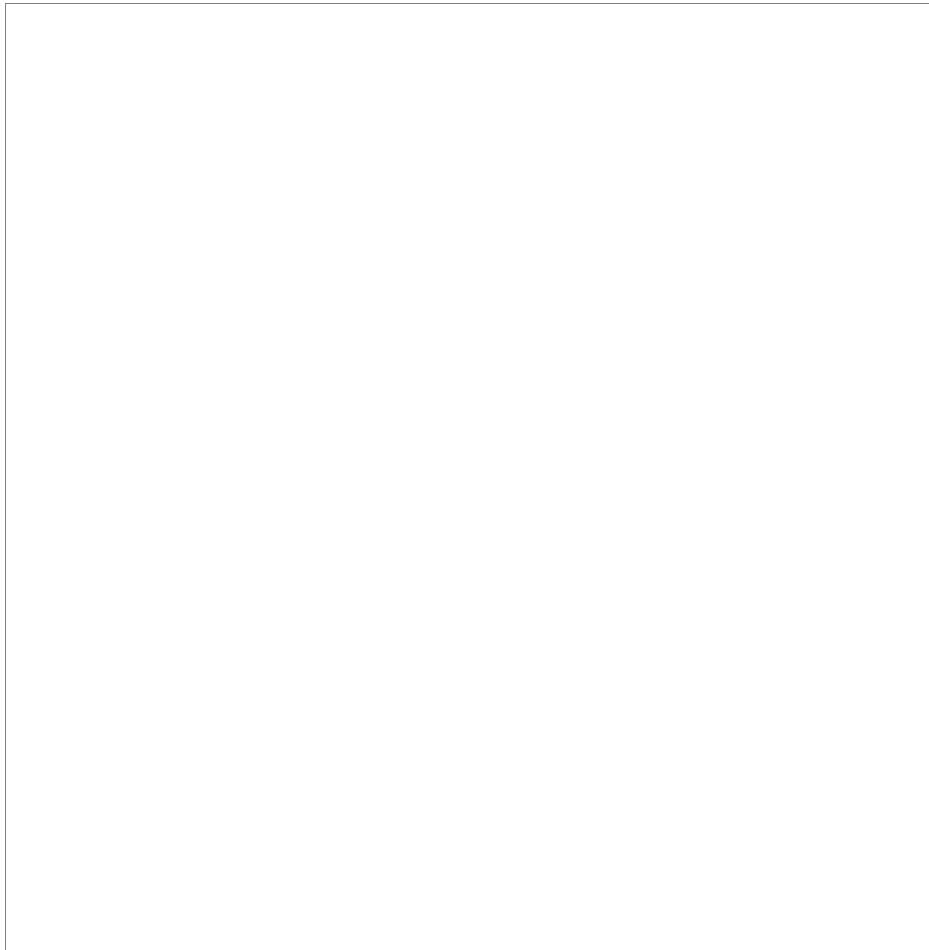
USSR-CUBA

The submarine tender and rescue tug, the only remaining units of the seven-ship Soviet task force which arrived in Cienfuegos on 9 and 10 September, headed west yesterday along the coast of Haiti after entering the Caribbean through the Mona Passage. They had visited the Cuban naval port of Mariel, just west of Havana, from 15 to 31 October.

Although [redacted] the movement of other Soviet naval units suggest that the submarine tender and rescue tug may head for the Mediterranean, they could also call at Cienfuegos or another Caribbean port. Soviet naval units making previous naval visits to Cuba have lingered in the area before returning to Soviet waters.

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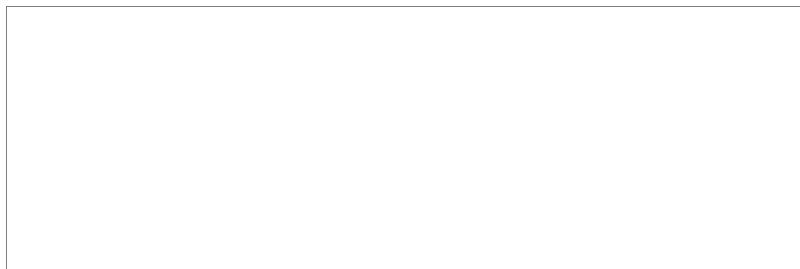
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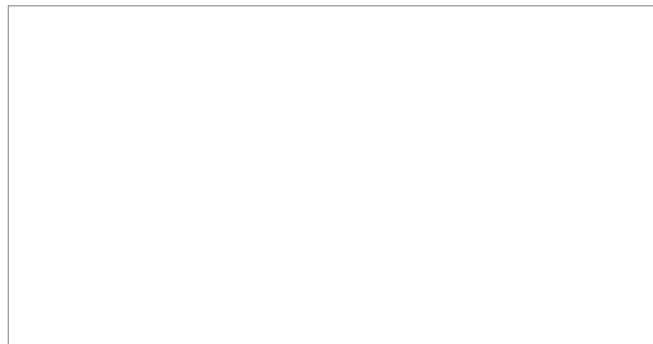
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FRANCE



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR: Suslov's October Anniversary speech yesterday was a customary panegyric to Soviet economic successes, containing claims that most aspects of the current five-year plan will be fulfilled and that this year's grain harvest is the largest in Soviet history. He omitted mention of the status of the next five-year plan, however, indicating that major problems over resource allocation still exist. On foreign policy, Suslov mixed conciliatory gestures with calls for vigilance against forces which threaten the prospects for accommodation in major trouble spots. His most interesting comments were on Germany. He called the Soviet - West German treaty a "foundation" for improved relations with Bonn and the rest of Europe, but warned that "influential reactionary forces" were threatening ratification. Other recent Soviet pronouncements on the treaty have been more positive, which may indicate Moscow is increasingly concerned about the durability of Brandt's coalition or that the leadership as a whole prefers a more guarded, and perhaps less forthcoming approach to Bonn.

Communist China - USSR: Peking's message on the occasion of the 53rd anniversary of the October revolution extends "warm congratulations" to the Soviet people, but--unlike last year--asserts that "differences of principle" should not hinder normal state relations between the two countries. The message, addressed to the Soviet Government but not the party, adds that "effective measures" based on the principles of peaceful coexistence to settle "important outstanding questions in state relations" are in the best interests of all concerned. This is the line the Chinese adopted just prior to the opening of the Peking talks. They may be repeating it at this time because they are anxious to avoid being branded "obstructionists" by Moscow, which has been stressing its "conciliatory" attitude in public in recent months. It is unlikely that the message reflects any significant forward movement at the stalemated Peking talks.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Iraq: The power struggle between the military and civilian wings of the Baath Party appears to be continuing. Saddam Tikriti, deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council and leader of the civilian wing of the party, apparently has the upper hand at the moment.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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ISRAEL

Defense Minister Moshe Dayan has apparently abandoned his earlier insistence on rectification of Egyptian violations of the standstill agreement as an essential prerequisite for renewing the Jarring talks. Without mentioning Egyptian missiles in the standstill zone, Dayan in a speech yesterday said, "I am very much in favor of our participation in the Jarring talks in order to achieve peace, despite the fact that I am well aware that this means a dive into some very cold water indeed."

Dayan's apparent switch may in part be related to the quiet maneuvering for position now under way between the top contenders to succeed Prime Minister Golda Meir, even though few observers expect Mrs. Meir to step down voluntarily before the end of the current Knesset term in the fall of 1973. Having almost certainly boosted his strong public image and popularity by his earlier hard line on the Jarring talks, Dayan may now think that he can afford some compromise on this issue. His consciousness of Israel's dependence on the US for support is probably also partly responsible for his change in position.

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CAMBODIA

In his first of a series of periodic reviews of the military situation, Ambassador Swank makes the following points:

--Enemy strengths, dispositions, and capabilities do not appear to have changed significantly in recent weeks, and Communist activity has increasingly taken on a defensive character as the Cambodian Army (FANK) has launched several offensive operations.

--The lull in the fighting may be due to enemy pre-occupation with higher priorities or to logistics, communications, intelligence and other problems.

--It is still most difficult to determine the strength of Cambodian Communist units. Reports of friction between certain of these units and the Vietnamese Communists are becoming more numerous, however.

--FANK expects intensified Communist activity during the dry season, but its gains in equipment, training, and battle experience should enable it to perform creditably in the months ahead. FANK morale and confidence remain high.

--Lon Nol is aware of the probable limits of US assistance, but he understandably keeps pressing for accelerated deliveries of as much aid as possible. His revised strategy and plan for army expansion are conceptually sound but, in terms of prospective US support, still too ambitious.

--As a result of the President's cease-fire initiatives, Lon Nol is anxious to establish a government presence as deep in enemy-occupied or contested areas of Cambodia as he can. He still intends to continue the overland drive to Kompong Thom.

On the political front, Cheng Heng reportedly told journalists in Phnom Penh yesterday that the government would not accept a coalition government which included Cambodian Communists or pro-Sihanouk elements. He also said that Cambodia does not consider itself tied to an Indochina-wide cease-fire, but that it would consider a cease-fire in which North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops were withdrawn immediately. There has as yet been no official US Embassy confirmation of Heng's remarks.

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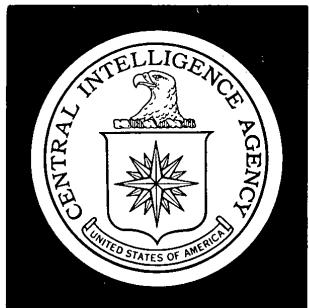
CAMBODIA-VIETNAM

Communications intelligence indicates that a battalion of the North Vietnamese 28th Regiment, subordinate to the Communist B-3 Front in South Vietnam's western highlands, has moved to a position north of Stung Treng in northeast Cambodia. This puts it near Route 13 and in the same area where another B-3 Front unit, the 24th Regiment, has been stationed for some time. Elements of another regiment, the 66th, which normally operates in the Laos - South Vietnam - Cambodian triborder area, have not been heard in communications recently and may be relocating, possibly also into Cambodia. The purpose of such moves would be to increase the security of the enemy's vital communications lines through northeast Cambodia.

According to Cambodian officials, known casualties from a terrorist bombing incident on 7 November in a Phnom Penh theater are 23 civilians killed and 46 wounded. This appears to be the most serious act of Communist terrorism in the capital since the fighting began.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

9 November 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

On *Page 1* we comment on Moshe Dayan's apparent change of heart regarding resumption of the Jarring talks.

The results of yesterday's election in the West German state of Hesse are discussed on *Page 2*.

A large Cambodian-ARVN offensive operation is under way and additional initiatives are planned by Phnom Penh. (*Page 3*)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL

Moshe Dayan appears to be softening his earlier opposition to renewing the Jarring talks. In his speech on 7 November he avoided mentioning Egyptian missiles in the standstill zone, and declared himself "very much in favor of our participation in the Jarring talks in order to achieve peace, despite the fact that I am well aware that this means a dive into some very cold water indeed." The matter may have been discussed at a cabinet meeting yesterday.

Dayan's apparent switch seems to stem from his reading of US policy and from his evaluation of the domestic political situation. The explicit references in his speech to Israel's dependence on US support suggest that this factor entered into his decision to change his position. It may also be related to the quiet maneuvering for position now under way between the top contenders to succeed Prime Minister Golda Meir, even though few observers expect Mrs. Meir to step down voluntarily before the end of the current Knesset term in the fall of 1973. Having almost certainly boosted his strong public image and popularity by his earlier hard line on the Jarring talks, Dayan may now think that he can afford some compromise on this issue.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY

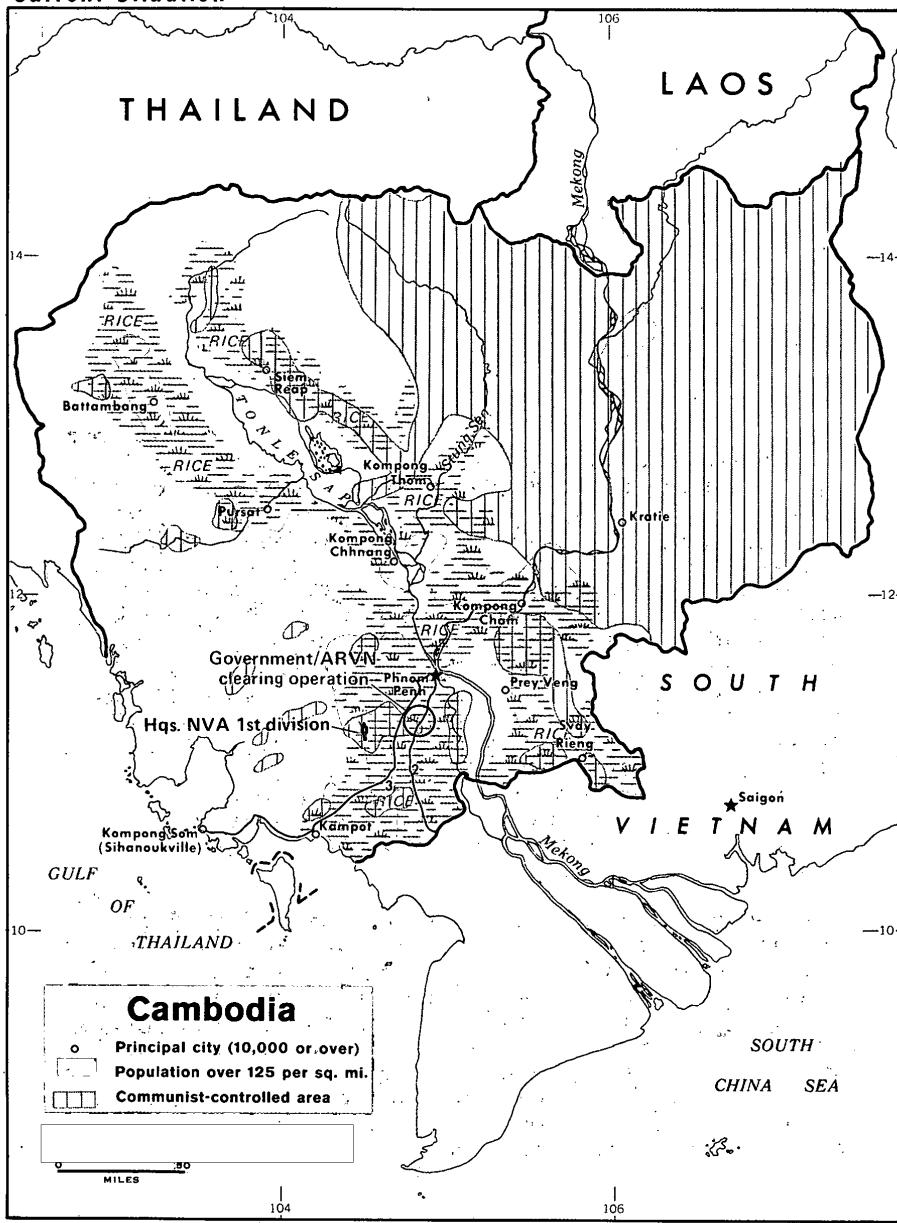
Brandt's coalition partners, the Free Democrats (FDP), won a comfortable 10.1 percent of the vote in yesterday's elections in the state of Hesse. This is well above both the five percent needed for seating and the party's 6.7 percent showing in Hesse in the 1969 Federal election. Brandt's Social Democrats (SPD) polled 45.9 percent in Hesse yesterday, down from 48.2 percent in 1969. The Christian Democrats, who had been expected to pick up considerable strength, polled 39.7 percent, an increase of only 1.3 percent over 1969.

The FDP's unexpected gains, although at the expense of the Hessian SPD, are good news for Brandt whose government depends on the FDP for its slim majority. The results of the voting in Hesse should dispel the recent doubts about the FDP's viability and help the party retain the loyalty of its deputies in Bonn. The election outcome will not only prolong the life expectancy of the FDP-SPD alliance, but will also mean that Brandt and Foreign Minister Scheel, the FDP leader, can pursue negotiations with the East with renewed confidence.

In Hesse, the SPD and FDP plan to form a coalition, replacing the previous all-SPD government in the state.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Current Situation



550481 11-70 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Five Cambodian battalions and 3,100 ARVN troops began a clearing operation yesterday between Routes 2 and 3, some 20 miles southwest of Phnom Penh. The North Vietnamese Army 1st Division headquarters is located west of Route 3, near the operation's target area but so far no significant enemy contacts have been made.

This is one of the largest joint offensives to date. The Cambodians undertook a similar operation on their own in this same area last month, but its results were disappointing.

The government also plans to launch another riverine operation from Kompong Chhnang city to Kompong Thom city on 12 November. It is scheduled to last 15 days, and will include 1,500 army and navy personnel. In addition to delivering supplies to Kompong Thom, the task force also will try to re-establish government control between the east bank of the Tonle Sap Lake and the Stung Sen River. In September, three government river convoys from Kompong Chhnang successfully delivered supplies and reinforcements to Kompong Thom.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

10 November 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Communists attacked Cambodian positions in Kompong Cham Province with renewed intensity yesterday.
(Page 1)

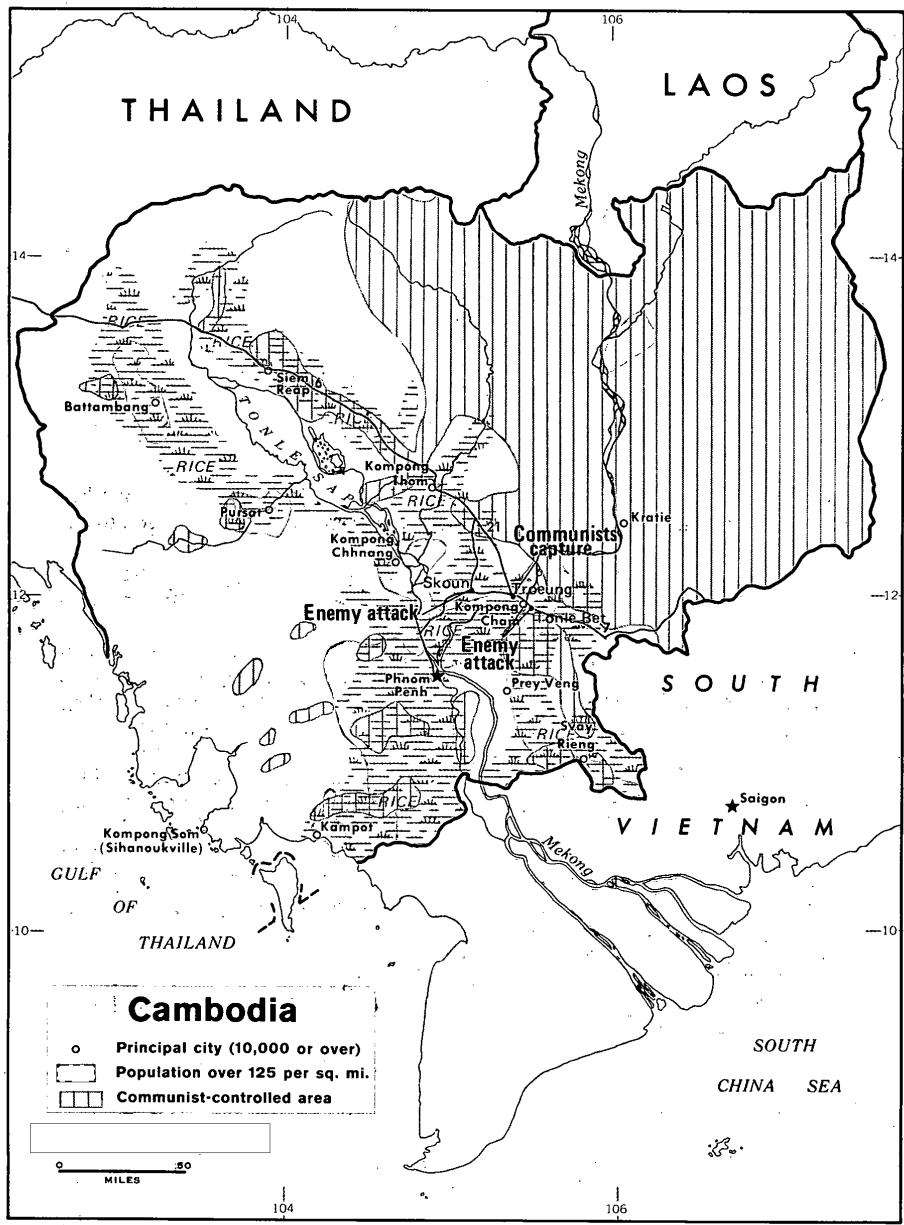
The proposed union between Egypt, Libya, and Sudan may nurture more problems than unity. *(Page 2)*

Some comments on Hanoi's gradual shift in the past two years from a main force offensive in South Vietnam to small unit actions throughout most of Indochina appear on *Page 3*.

Upcoming cabinet changes have whetted the appetite of Thailand's political factions. *(Page 4)*

President Yahya has decided to devalue the Pakistan rupee. *(Page 5)*

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



550488 11-70 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Enemy troops launched a series of attacks on government positions in and near Kompong Cham city yesterday. The heaviest fighting was at the city's airfield, where three Khmer Krom battalions were forced to call for air strikes. In addition, Tonle Bet and two nearby villages on the east side of the Mekong were subjected to enemy ground probes.

Northwest of Kompong Cham, government reports state that the enemy killed 24 Cambodian soldiers and wounded 20 in capturing the town of Troeung at the crossroads of Routes 7 and 21. They also attacked a village north of Troeung with mortar fire. Elsewhere the Communists probed government defenses at the town of Skoun, which serves as the rear security base for the government column operating on Route 6. According to Cambodian messages, government troops repulsed these attacks, killing 15 Communists.

These attacks are the most significant enemy military actions since late August. The last major Communist attacks in the Kompong Cham area were in late May. Although the government has strengthened the defenses of Kompong Cham city, at least five Communist main force regiments are in the area and have the ability to bring even heavier military pressure to bear on the city.

It is still too early to tell if these latest attacks signal the opening round in the Communists' dry season campaign. They may be designed in part to help forestall further Cambodian advances north and east of Route 6.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT-LIBYA-SUDAN

The chiefs of state of Egypt, Libya, and Sudan have decided to draw up a preliminary plan to lay the groundwork for the "establishment of a union of the three countries." A "unified, tripartite command of the three heads of state" has been set up "to work to expedite and promote integration," and lower level committees have been formed to further the process in specific fields.

It is not clear what form of union is contemplated. Cairo has been involved in something like this twice before: the union with Syria in 1958, with Nasir as President of both states, which collapsed in Syrian resentment of Egyptian domination, and the federation with Yemen, also in 1958, which was so loose as to be meaningless and was quietly buried. The Egyptians therefore are wary of further experiments.

Nevertheless, Sadat probably hopes to increase his domestic and international stature by participating in a unity scheme that Nasir presumably had blessed. He may also hope that closer cooperation with Libya will afford more ready access to Tripoli's oil-rich coffers. Meanwhile Numayri and Qaddafi appear to be sincere in pursuing Arab unity and may try to push Egypt faster than it wants to go. They may see closer cooperation with Egypt as a way to strengthen their somewhat shaky domestic positions, but it could have the reverse effect by further alienating the significant groups in both Libya and the Sudan that are fearful of Egyptian hegemony.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

INDOCHINA

Over the past two years, the Communists have made drastic changes in the organization and deployment of their armed forces. By mid-1968 they had committed elements of nearly 60 main force--or regular--infantry regiments to the fighting in South Vietnam. Today there are only about 20 such units in the country, and many of these are in relatively remote base areas.

As many as ten regiments have been disbanded and the forces subordinate to them reorganized to operate as separate battalions or as reinforcements for local Viet Cong units. Many more main force units, however, have been sent back as integral units into North Vietnam (about ten regiments), to Laos (six regiments), and Cambodia (12 regiments).

These shifts underscore the enemy's changed priorities. Laos and Cambodia now come before Da Nang and Saigon, at least as far as main force commitments are concerned. For example, several regiments formerly in the central highlands of South Vietnam are now helping to protect North Vietnamese infiltration routes in southern Laos and Cambodia. About nine regiments of three main force divisions that periodically applied pressure against the provinces northwest of Saigon are now located entirely on the Cambodian side of the border.

These deployments also point up the fact that a large part of the enemy's main force is still intact, even though largely directed away from objectives in South Vietnam. This is part of the over-all transformation of Communist tactics in South Vietnam, where now there is greater emphasis on guerrilla forces, terrorism, and political action.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THAILAND

Prime Minister Thanom recently announced that cabinet changes currently under consideration would affect only two or three ministries.

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These key portfolios are thought to be particular targets of Deputy Prime Minister Praphat's supporters, who appear to be pushing for an extensive cabinet turnover. Praphat has been somewhat more assertive in recent weeks, but there is no evidence that he is prepared to press an issue in direct opposition to Thanom.

There is evidence, however, of a growing political alliance between Praphat and General Krit Siwara, deputy commander in chief of the army. Krit is a popular figure in the army and is often mentioned as the eventual successor to Praphat as commander in chief. Krit has been consulting closely with Praphat and their continued cooperation could be a significant factor in Bangkok's power relationships.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PAKISTAN

President Yahya has told Ambassador Farland that he will devalue the rupee shortly after his return on 14 November from a state visit to Communist China. Yahya said he had decided to take responsibility himself for the decision because he recognized the economic necessity of immediate action. If he left the problem to a newly elected government, he said, the politicians would debate it endlessly.

Yahya's decision will give a boost to Pakistan's economy and has been urged for some years by the country's aid donors.

Politically, the decision may cause problems, especially if it is announced--as Yahya apparently intends--before the elections for the constitutional assembly on 7 December. The electoral campaign has been orderly in recent weeks, but radical groups are seeking a popular issue and probably would try to exploit the popular fear of economic dislocation that might accrue in the short run from devaluation. If their campaigns began to focus on anti-regime themes, violence--always close to the surface--could break out.

Yahya remains determined to go through with elections and apparently believes he can weather a storm caused by devaluation.

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There is no firm evidence that the military will act to stop the elections, but its attitude could change if widespread disturbances break out again.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

US-USSR-Turkey: The Turkish Foreign Ministry has informed the US Embassy in Ankara that US Generals Scherrer and McQuarrie and the Turkish colonel have been returned across the Soviet border. They are expected in Ankara early this morning. The fourth member of their party, Major Russell, and the aircraft will follow later today.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

11 November 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Cambodia is discussed on *Page 1*.

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Infiltration from North Vietnam is moving at about the same pace as in October. (*Page 3*)

The latest satellite photography shows six Frog-7 surface-to-surface rocket launchers near Cairo. (*Page 4*)

A committee of experts has given Allende recommendations for the nationalization of foreign mining companies. (*Page 5*)

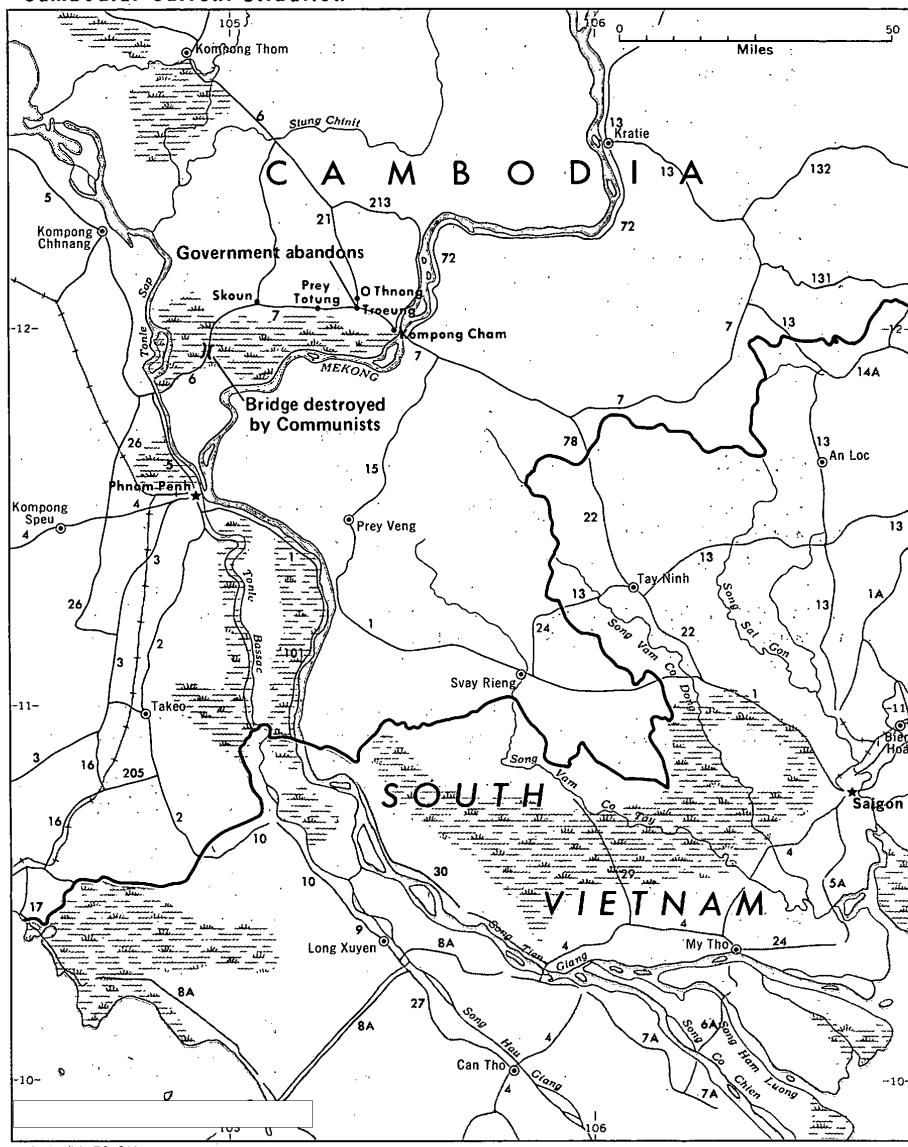
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Soviet [redacted] (*Page 6*)

Luna 17 was launched from Tyuratam by an SL-12 space booster yesterday. (*Page 6*)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

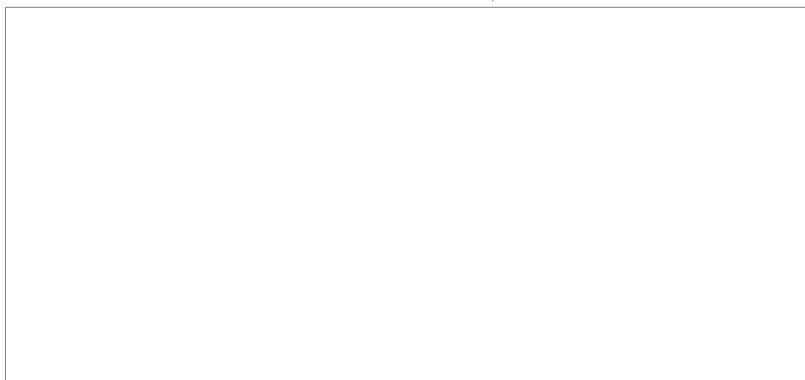
The government has decided to use seven battalions from the "Chenla" column on Route 6 to clear enemy forces from their positions along Route 7, between Skoun and Kompong Cham city, and along Route 6, west and south of Skoun. The Communists destroyed a key bridge some 15 miles south of Skoun yesterday, preventing the planned movement of government reinforcements from Phnom Penh to Kompong Cham.

The brunt of the enemy's effort appears to be directed against government positions at Prey Totung and Troeung, on Route 7, and against O Thnong, north of Troeung on Route 21. Intense Communist ground fire has thus far prevented the aerial resupply of the Khmer Krom battalion defending Prey Totung. Troeung was abandoned to the enemy on 9 November. O Thnong apparently is still surrounded by the Communists. Government troops there were preparing yesterday to withdraw to the west because they had run out of ammunition and food.

The Communists appear to be trying to forestall possible Cambodian advances north and east of Route 6. The need to divert seven battalions from the "Chenla" column to meet the attacks in Kompong Cham may cause the government to postpone plans to push beyond current positions on Route 6, and to reconsider the size of the force it can commit to this operation.

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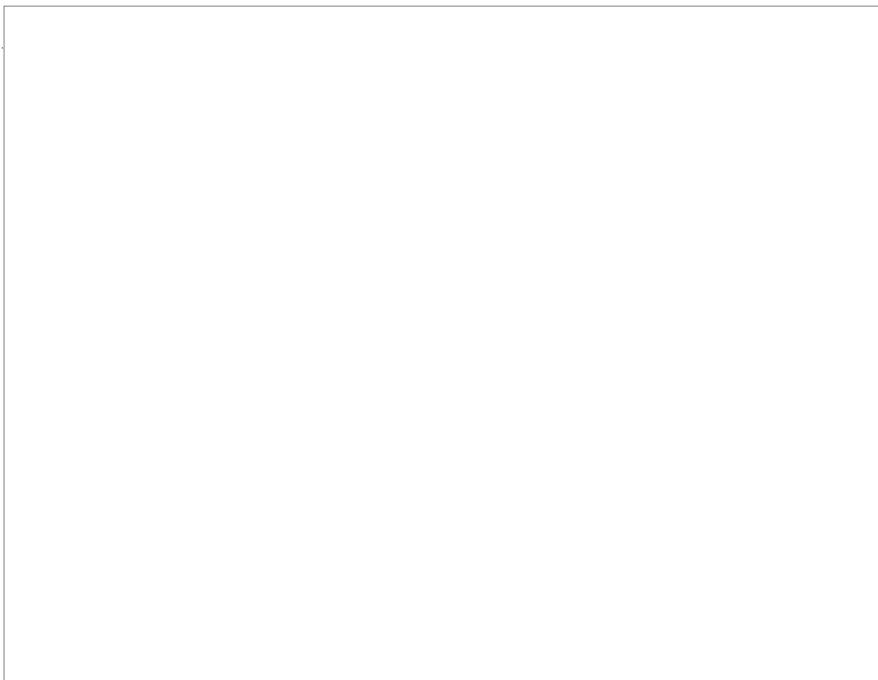


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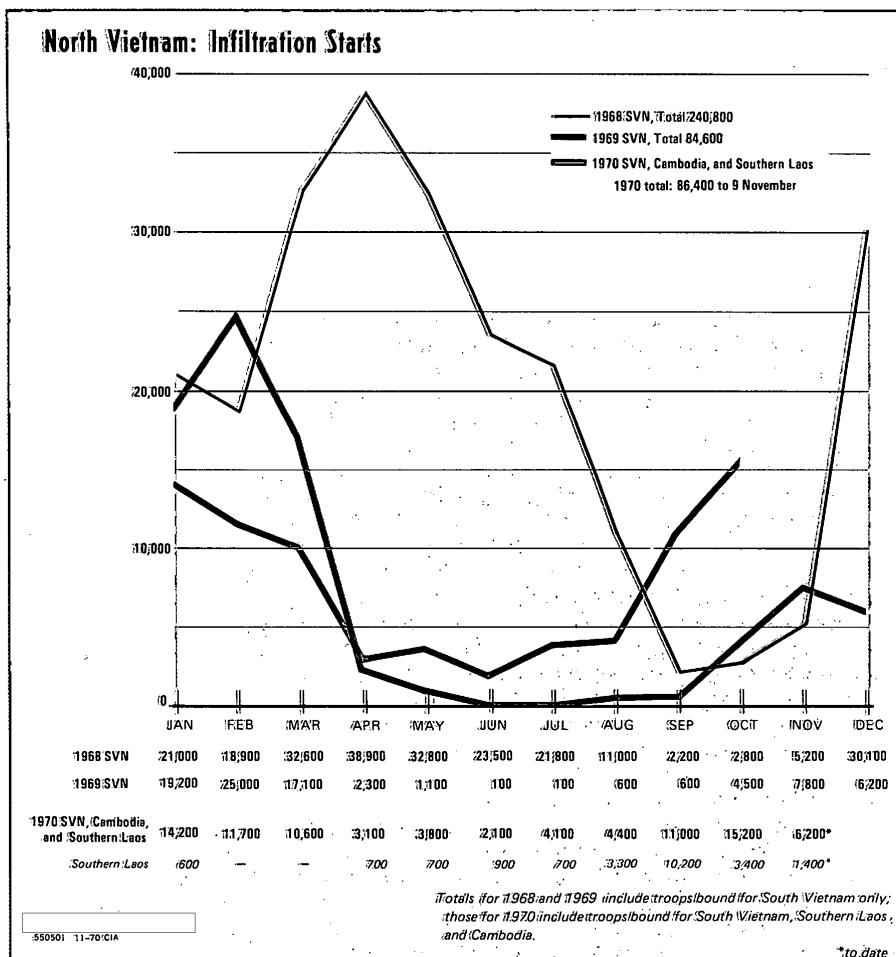
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NORTH VIETNAM



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

So far in November about 6,200 infiltrators have been detected heading south. More than half are headed for the COSVN area covering southern South Vietnam and Cambodia. Only about 500 troops are clearly earmarked for the northern part of South Vietnam. The destinations of the other 2,200 are not yet clear, but about 1,400 of them seem to be part of a regiment and are bearing designators similar to those used by the two North Vietnamese regiments that were moving toward southern Laos in September and October.

Infiltration is moving at about the same pace as in October, when approximately 6,000 troops were detected starting south during the first two weeks. The total since 1 October is now about 21,400. Last fall, when dry-season infiltration got under way somewhat later, about one-third this number had entered the pipeline by mid-November.

Most of the troops heading for COSVN are expected to go to Cambodia. The buildup of combat troops in southern Laos and Cambodia reflects Hanoi's primary concern at this point--the protection of its lines of communication through the Laotian panhandle and Cambodia and the rebuilding of the logistic facilities and troop units which it needs to sustain the war.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Soviet Rocket Launcher Seen Near Cairo



550503 11-70 CIA

-FROG short range surface-to-surface missile and transporter-erector-launcher, seen here in a Soviet parade.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT-USSR

The latest satellite photography shows six Frog-7 surface-to-surface rocket launchers near Cairo.

This is the first time that Frog-7 launchers have been seen in Egypt, although the system was ordered from the USSR in 1966. Whether the launchers are manned by Egyptians or Soviets is not known. Some Egyptians were trained after Egypt first ordered the system.

The Frog is not accurate enough to attack the heavy bunkers of Israel's Bar Lev Line. It could be effective in a counterartillery role, however, with a cluster bomb warhead. The Frog has a range of about 40 nm with a CEP of 500 meters at maximum range.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

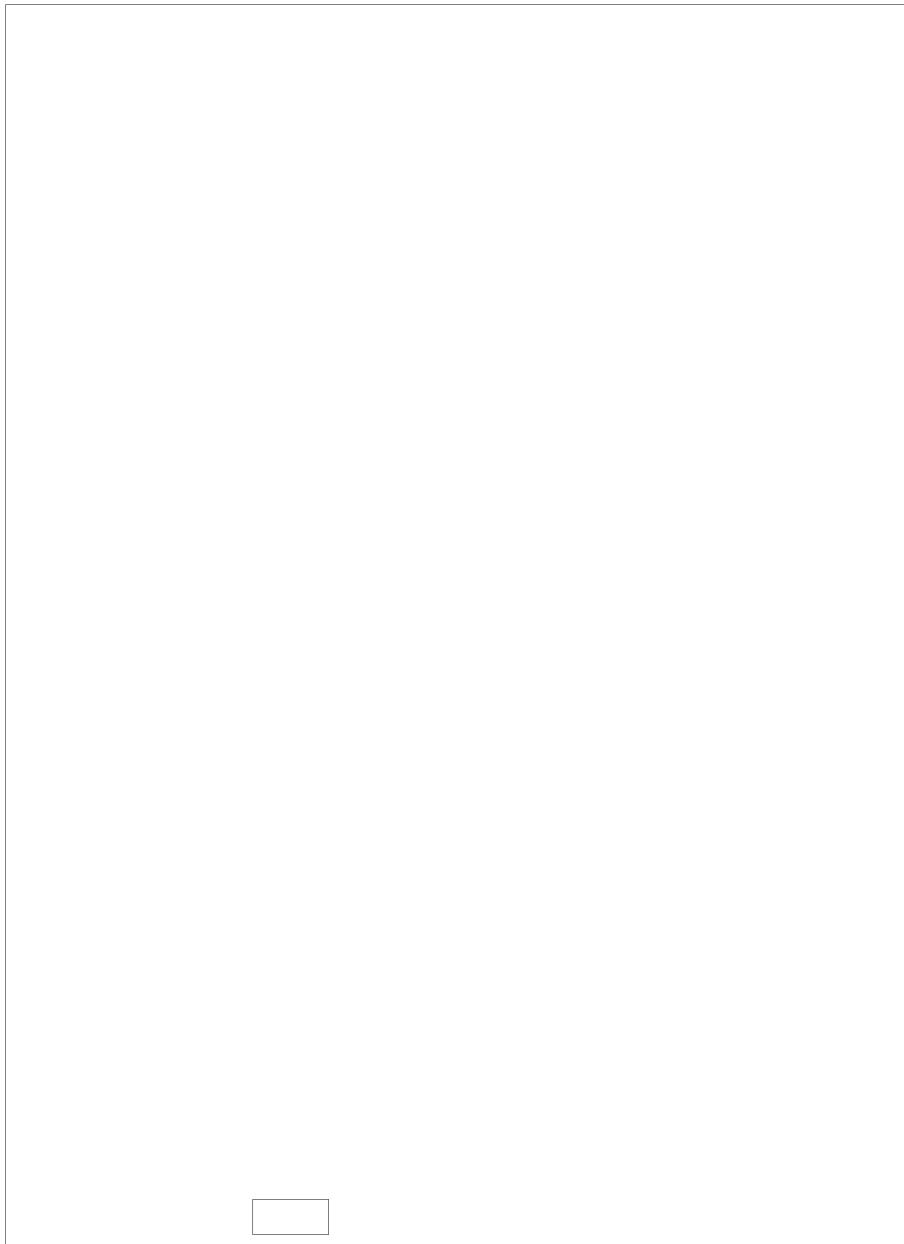
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHILE

A committee of economists and technicians working for Allende has recommended procedures for the nationalization of foreign mining companies. Negotiations would be conducted under a new mining code to be presented to Congress before the end of this year. By the same date, teams would be appointed to negotiate complete nationalization of the US-developed copper and iron mines.

Despite the relatively moderate pace the committee suggests for Allende's nationalization program its proposals would raise problems on the compensation to be paid the US companies. The committee bases its proposals on an evaluation of US holdings at \$242 million, with payment to be made in 20 to 30-year bonds bearing four percent interest. US copper mining investments carry a book value of more than \$400 million, however, which is insured under a US Government program.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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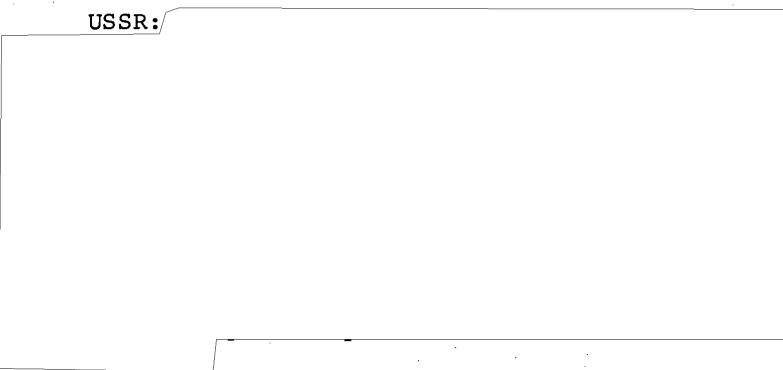
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTES

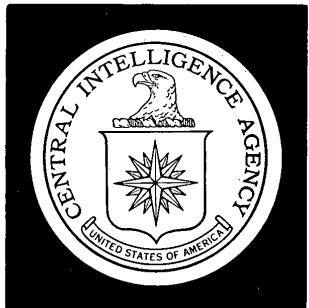
USSR:



USSR: Luna 17, launched from Tyuratam aboard an SL-12 space booster yesterday, is expected to orbit the moon before attempting a soft landing. We do not know whether the probe will be returned to earth as was Luna 16, which brought back a soil sample in September. The launch marks the third consecutive success of the SL-12 booster and the ninth in 22 firings.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Owing to the schedule of President Nixon, this issue of The President's Daily Brief contains information as of 2200 EST 11 November 1970.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

12 November 1970

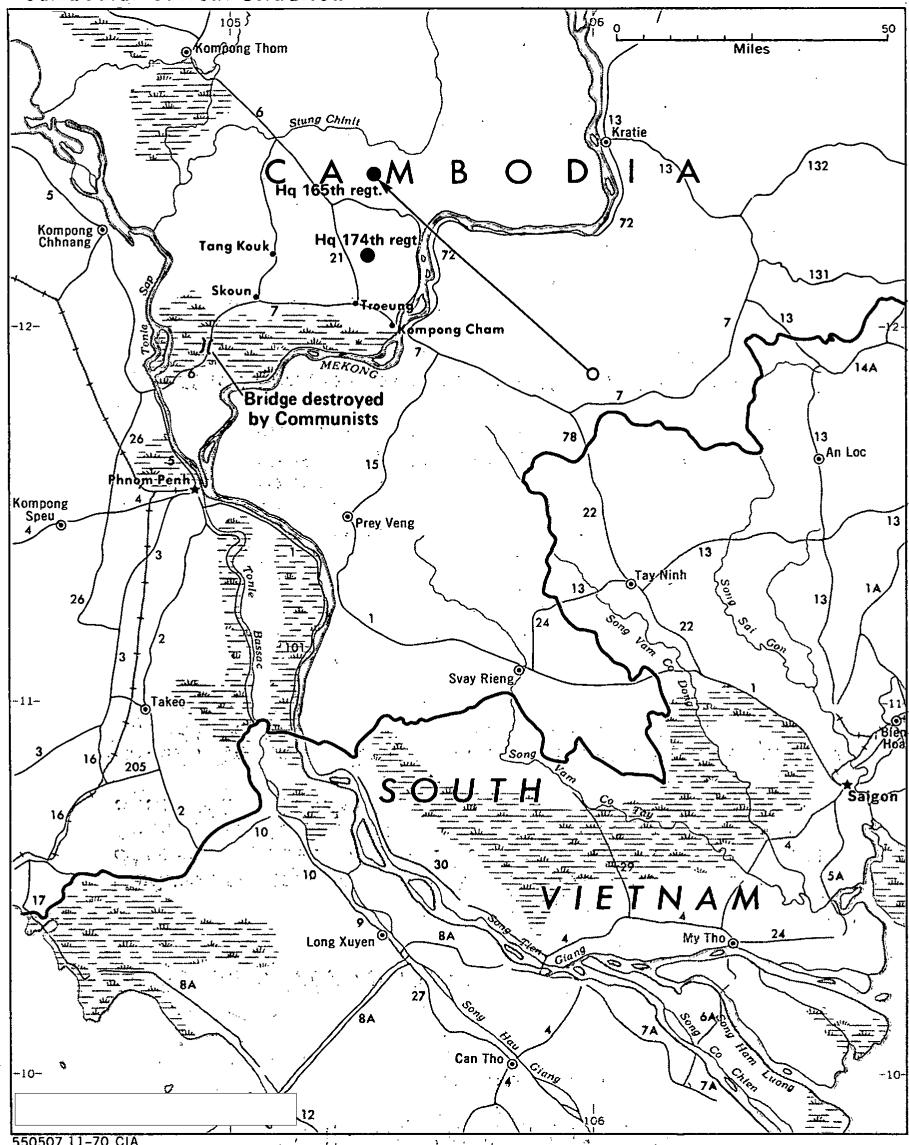
PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Cambodian commanders have dropped their plan to divert several battalions from the "Chenla" task force, as Communist activity along Route 7 has declined. (Page 1)

Government guerrillas in southeastern Laos have encountered heavy resistance. (Page 2)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

A decline in Communist activity has led Cambodian commanders to drop their plans to divert several battalions from the "Chenla" task force on Route 6 to the effort to clear Route 7 in the Skoun - Kompong Cham area. Although Cambodian positions north of Skoun and in Kompong Cham city have been harassed, no major enemy attacks have developed in the past 48 hours. Cambodian units have pushed eastward along Route 7 and have re-entered the crossroads town of Troeung, which the Communists have evacuated.

All of Route 7 between Skoun and Kompong Cham, however, apparently is not secured and major North Vietnamese elements remain in the vicinity. Government commanders now hope to complete the reopening with forces already situated along Route 7 and in the town of Skoun. Efforts to bring up reinforcements overland from Phnom Penh will have to await such time as a temporary bridge can be substituted for the large span south of Skoun destroyed by the Communists two days ago.

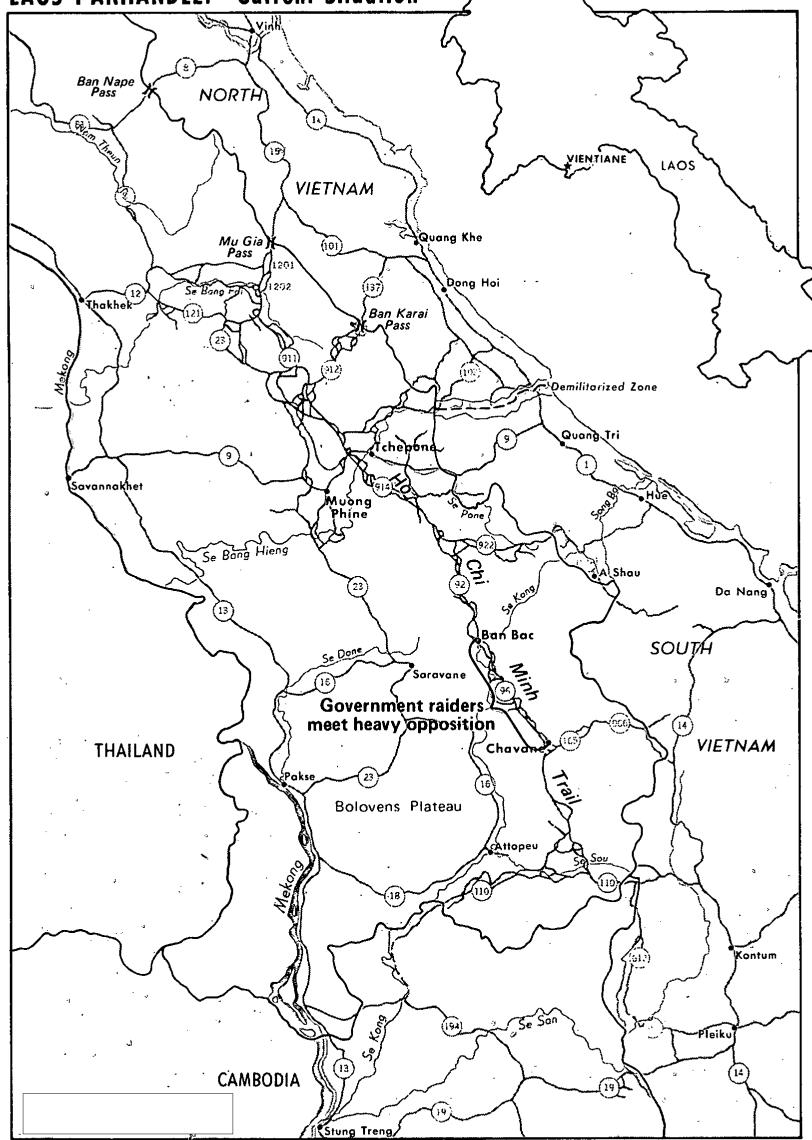
The severity of the recent round of Communist attacks is still difficult to measure, but, except for Troeung where the government defense folded quickly, Cambodian units once again gave a good account of themselves. Communist casualties appear to have been relatively high, but we cannot verify the Cambodian Army claims that over 100 enemy troops were killed and many more wounded.

The headquarters of the North Vietnamese 165th Regiment, meanwhile, has moved out of the Cambodian - South Vietnam border area. It is now well into Cambodia, west of the Mekong River.

If the direction finding is accurate, this will be the first time that the 165th has positioned itself for action against Cambodian forces. Its movement follows by one month a similar redeployment by the North Vietnamese 174th Regiment, which has taken part in the recent fighting around Route 7, and may be evidence of Communist intentions to increase pressure in the Tang Kouk - Skoun - Kompong Cham area.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS PANHANDLE: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

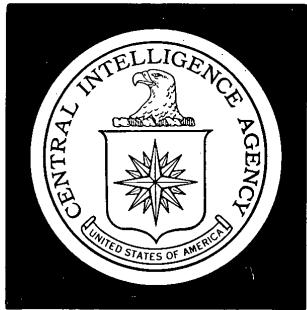
The Communists have been offering heavy resistance to government guerrillas attempting to harass supply routes in southeastern Laos.

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The sharpness of the Communists' response reflects their sensitivity to guerrilla harassment even though bad weather and US airstrikes are still thwarting the resumption of heavy supply movements through this area.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

13 November 1970

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

South Vietnam

Cambodia. (Page 1)

On Page 2 we discuss President Sadat's new role as chairman of Egypt's only legal political organization.

The Communists continue to challenge recent government gains west of the Plaine des Jarres, but have not mounted any major counteroffensive. (Page 3)

The truce situation in Jordan is discussed on Page 4.

Britain remains negative toward the current NATO burden-sharing proposal under consideration by the European allies. (Page 5)

Egypt
(Page 6)

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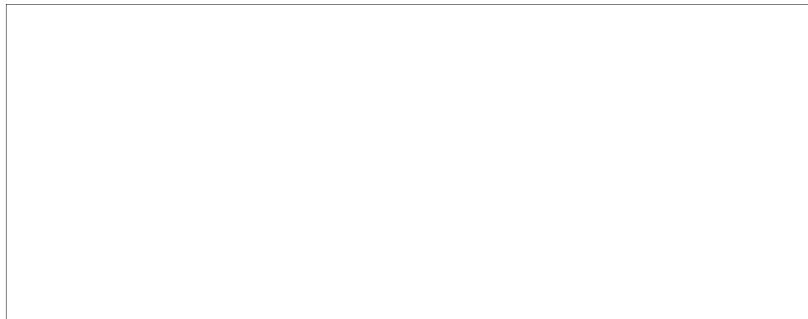
Business in Chile has begun to recover some confidence. (Page 7)

North Vietnamese infiltration may pick up considerably in the second half of November. (Page 7)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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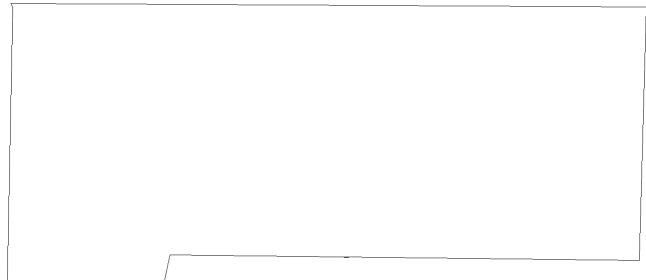
SOUTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

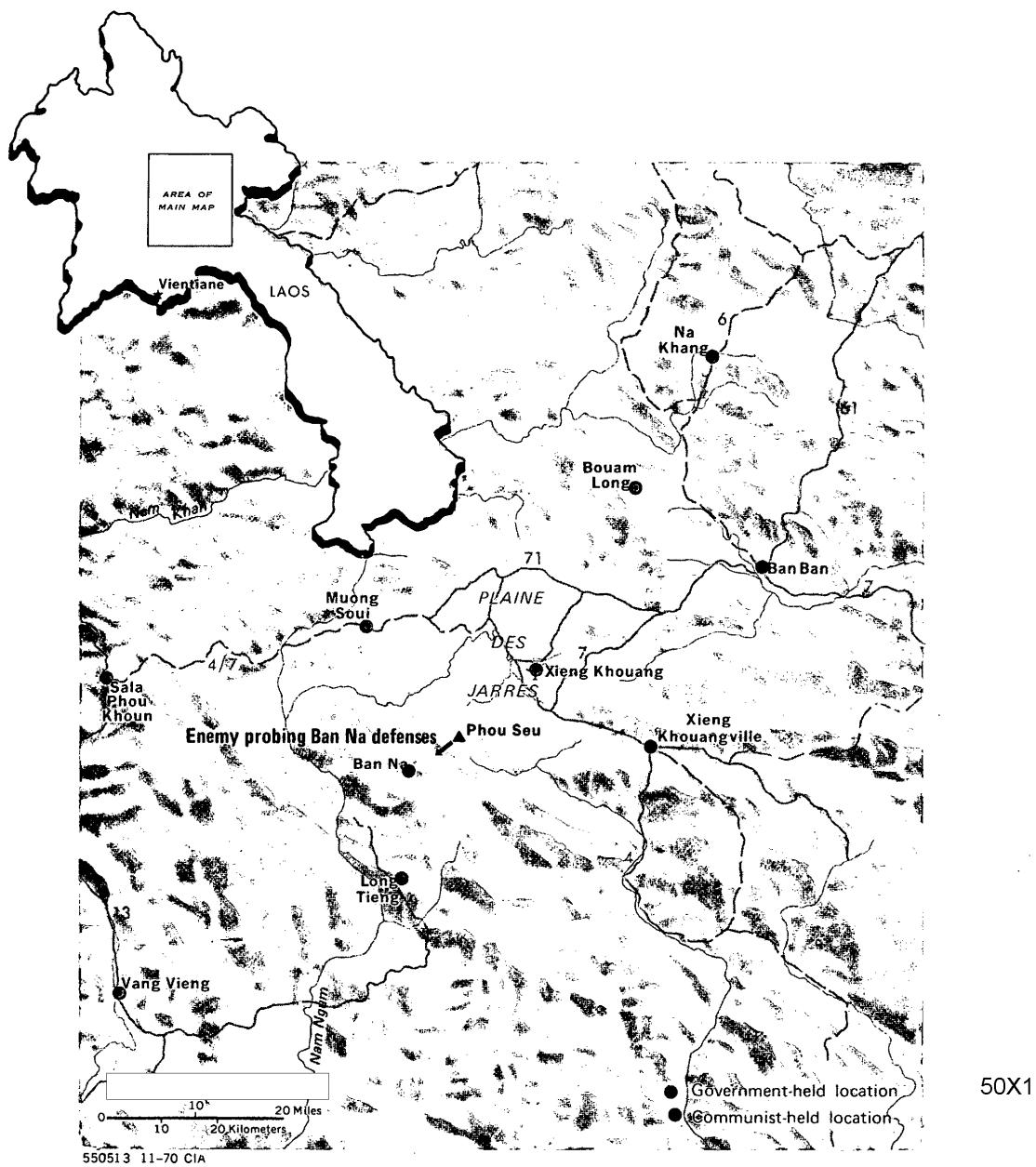
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT

The ratification last night of President Sadat's appointment as chairman of the Arab Socialist Union (ASU) further legitimizes his role as Egypt's leader. The ASU is Egypt's only officially approved political organization and Nasir previously was its chairman. Although the ASU has never attained the popular support envisaged by Nasir, its legal status does give it moderate influence, and Sadat's new position thus gives him another lever of power.

Sadat seems to be playing an increasingly dominant role in the decision-making process and is being treated with increasing deference by other Egyptian leaders. Nevertheless, we think he still needs the support of other members of the inner circle. Further political maneuvering at the cabinet level is likely.

In his first major policy speech last night, Sadat invoked Nasir's memory several times in an apparent effort to reassure the people that he was following the same course as the departed leader. Sadat in fact broke no new ground in his address. He concentrated on the alleged duplicity of the US in the Middle East, claiming that while it accused Egypt of violating the cease-fire, the US itself was supplying large quantities of arms to Israel.



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Elements of the North Vietnamese 148th Regiment are active on a daily basis chipping away at government outposts and probing for weaknesses in the Ban Na defensive perimeter southwest of the Plaine des Jarres. Since retaking Phou Seu mountain on 1 November, enemy forces have concentrated on key terrain features to the west of Ban Na, employing artillery fire followed by company-sized ground attacks. In one of these bombardments on 10 November, the enemy used 85-mm., 105-mm., and 122-mm. artillery pieces.

Farther north, the presence of two elements of the North Vietnamese 174th Regiment near Muong Soui has been confirmed. [redacted]

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There is no indication that an attack is imminent, but [redacted]

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Communist forces have become more active in the past three days. On the basis of past performance, the neutralists are unlikely seriously to contest an enemy attack.

The presence of 122-mm. artillery among Communist forces in the Plaine des Jarres area has been known for several months. To date, the enemy campaign in the area west of the Plaine appears to be a step-by-step effort to reduce the government's presence rather than an all-out counter-offensive.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JORDAN

Fedayeen leader Arafat told delegates to the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization conference in Libya on 11 November that he expected new fighting to break out soon between the Palestinian organizations and the Jordanian Army. Arafat accused the US of helping the "anti-revolution" forces prepare for war by sending them military aid.

No other recent statements or actions of the fedayeen would suggest an early resumption of hostilities, and we suspect that Arafat's remarks were tailored to draw a response from the pocketbooks of his Libyan hosts. Arafat himself only recently stated in an interview with the French paper Le Monde that he was "perfectly satisfied" with arrangements under the truce agreement. According to press reports, both the fedayeen and the army have indicated that their units are prepared to leave the few remaining urban areas they still garrison. The Arab truce commission chief also characterizes the situation as quiet and returning to normal.

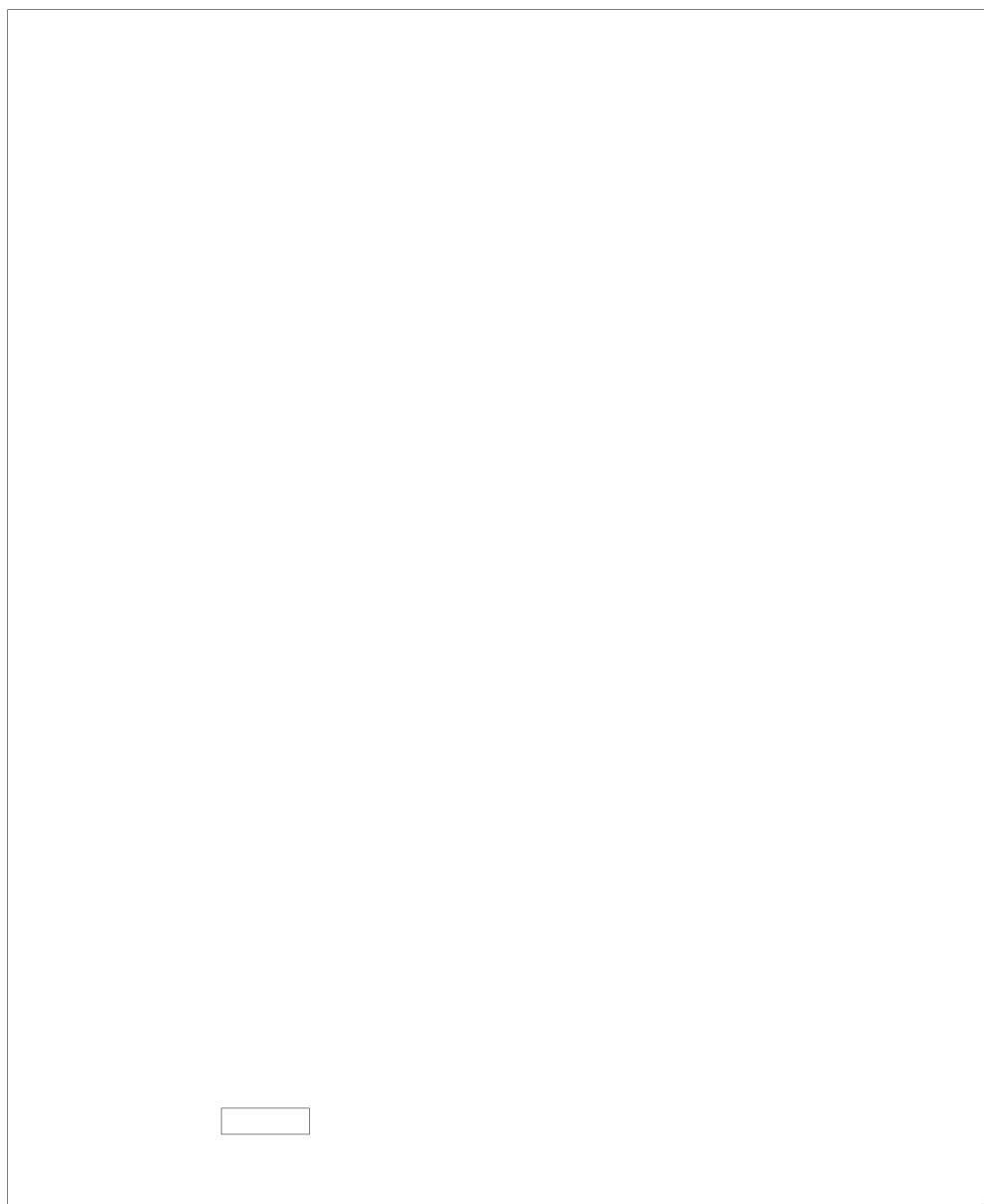
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NATO

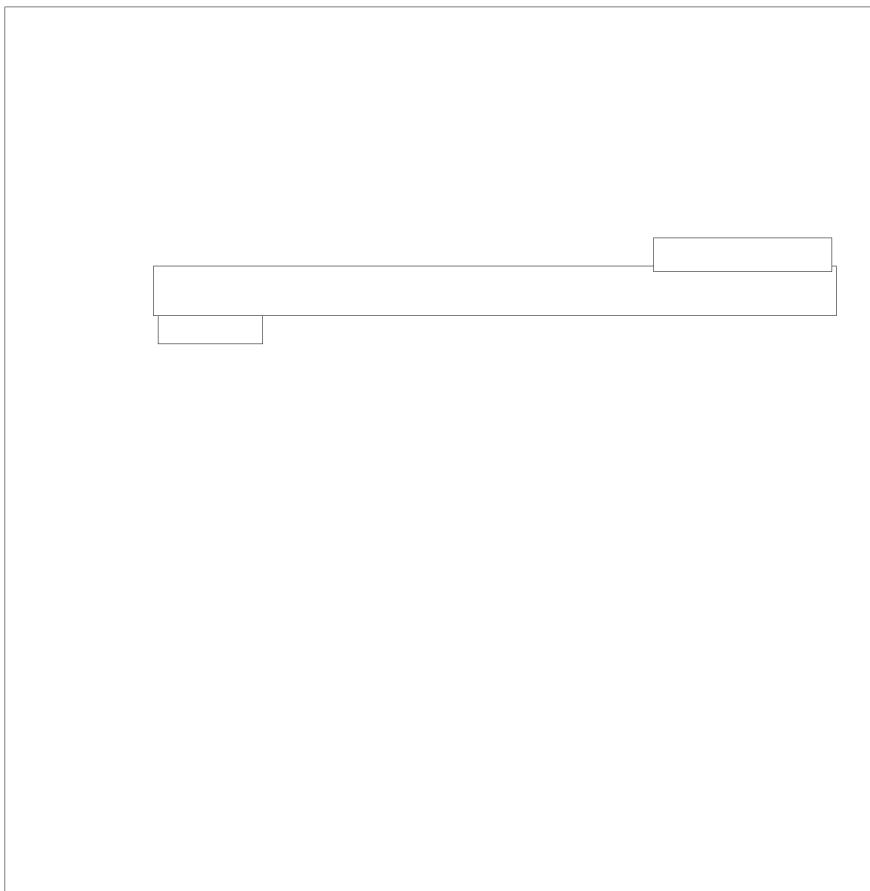
At the meeting of European defense ministers in Brussels Tuesday, the West Germans and Italians suggested that the Europeans invest approximately \$500 million in a NATO burden-sharing fund over a five-year period. The Germans reiterated their willingness to finance up to 40 percent of this. Most of the other Allied governments indicated that they are seriously considering participation in the fund, as well as making quality improvements in their national forces. The British defense minister, Lord Carrington, however, adamantly insisted that the UK effort could not go beyond the small increase in its own NATO force commitments recently announced by London. West German Defense Minister Schmidt will visit London next week to try to get the British to change their position.

Unlike the previous plan, which envisioned a lump sum payment to the US, this fund would be used to finance improvements in the quality of NATO facilities and systems. London's participation is crucial, and if the British remain negative, Norway, Denmark, and the Netherlands might withdraw their support for the fund. This would make it virtually impossible for the ministers to produce a meaningful program for the NATO ministerial meeting in early December.



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Chile: Business activity, while still below normal, has begun to recover from its postelection setback. Wholesale and retail sales are up, the stock market has improved, and pressure on bank deposits is easing somewhat. Foreign exchange reserves, however, fell in October from \$390 million to \$345 million, largely because of declining copper prices and capital flight. Many businessmen apparently are accepting the fact that Chile will be moving toward statism at a faster pace, but they regard the administration's initial statements as a sign that radical changes are not imminent. The Allende government's recognition of Cuba yesterday also will have the approval of business groups which have been anxious to cash in on trade opportunities with Cuba.

Vietnam: A recent intercept indicates the already high rate of infiltration may soon increase further. The main station from which infiltrators start their trek southward noted that beginning around 16 November there will be a new group departing each day with an average strength of 600 to 750 troops. This would add some 9,000 to 11,250 troops to the more than 6,000 already counted starting south in November. If the North Vietnamese follow these plans, the November total may be close to or greater than last month's and could be the highest since February 1969, when a figure of 25,000 was recorded.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

14 November 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

President Marcos has offset a concession to US wishes on a jurisdictional dispute by calling for an immediate renegotiation of US military base rights in the Philippines. (Page 1)

Final agreement on the text of the West German - Polish treaty has been reached and the treaty will be initialed next week. (Page 2)

Japan is needling the USSR on the "northern territories" question. (Page 3)

fedayeen

50X1

(Page 4)

President Arana has launched a state of siege to cripple left-wing terrorists in Guatemala. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PHILIPPINES

President Marcos' call yesterday for immediate renegotiation of US military base rights was apparently timed to counter domestic criticism of his government's agreement with the US position in a long-standing jurisdictional dispute.

A Philippine court had tried to make the American commander of Clark Air Base responsible for the failure of a US serviceman to return to the Philippines to face trial in a two-year-old offense. The US refusal to accept a Philippine arrest order for the Clark commander had prompted adverse press comment and demonstrations at the US Embassy. On 11 November the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs issued a memorandum supporting the US view that this issue should be settled through diplomatic channels.

Manila has long sought renegotiation of US military base rights to secure a clearer US statement of recognition of Philippine sovereignty over the bases. Marcos made this goal a campaign promise in his bid for re-election a year ago, but--prior to the current storm--was content to defer action until next year.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

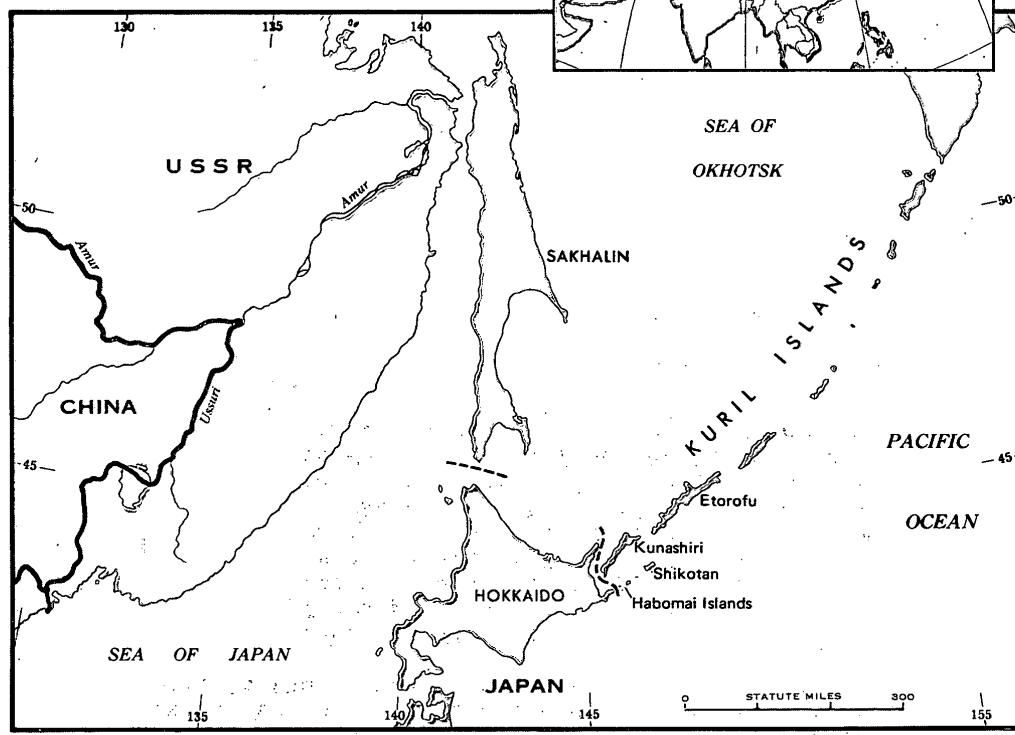
WEST GERMANY - POLAND

Negotiations for a West German - Polish treaty of reconciliation have been successfully concluded. The treaty will be initialed on 18 November when Scheel returns to Warsaw. Brandt is expected to travel to Warsaw before the end of the year to take part in the formal signing ceremonies.

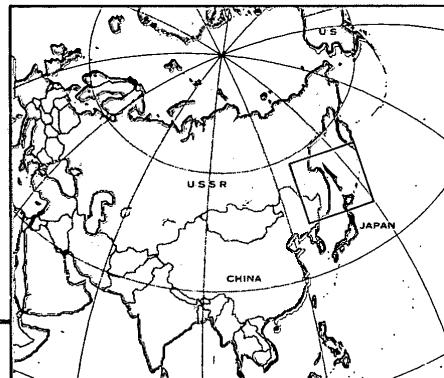
Scheel's diplomacy has been well timed to Germany's state elections this month and has provided maximum publicity for his Free Democratic Party. Scheel had a dramatic meeting with Gromyko in Frankfurt on the eve of the Hessian state elections and he will now initial a historic treaty in Warsaw just before the Bavarian electorate go to the polls on 22 November.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

"Northern Territories"



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JAPAN-USSR

Annoyed by Japan's renewed emphasis on a claim to the southern Kuril Islands, the Soviets this week have lodged diplomatic protests against the Japanese. In receiving the protests, the Japanese asserted that they "naturally" wanted to settle the issue of the Kurils now that an Okinawa settlement has been obtained.

The Japanese, far from being unhappy over the protests, welcome the additional ammunition they provide to publicize the "northern territories" issue. Tokyo recognizes the Soviets are unlikely to return the islands, but the issue is a useful one for Sato to use in capitalizing on nationalistic sentiment and in undercutting opposition charges of government neglect of its responsibilities.

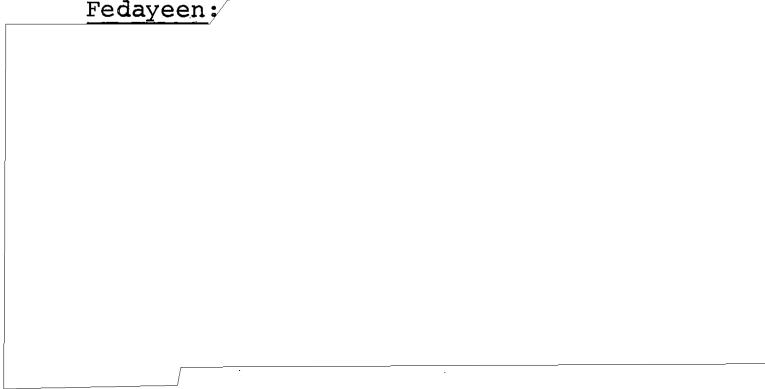
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTES

Fedayeen:

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Guatemala: Yesterday's announcement of a 30-day state of siege followed heavy criticism of President Arana for failing to stem a mounting wave of murders and kidnapings.

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[redacted] Arana, who entered office last July with a tough anti-Communist reputation, stated that he intended this state of siege to be "unprecedented in terms of force and toughness."

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[redacted] security forces shot an urban terrorist leader yesterday and [redacted] his followers will seek vengeance against US targets. Ambassador Davis is aware of this possibility and has ordered a further tightening of security precautions for US mission personnel.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

16 November 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Cambodia, Communist forces were active in and near Kompong Cham city over the weekend. (Page 1)

The Soviets have taken a tough position on access to Berlin on the eve of today's four-power ambassadorial-level meeting. (Page 2)

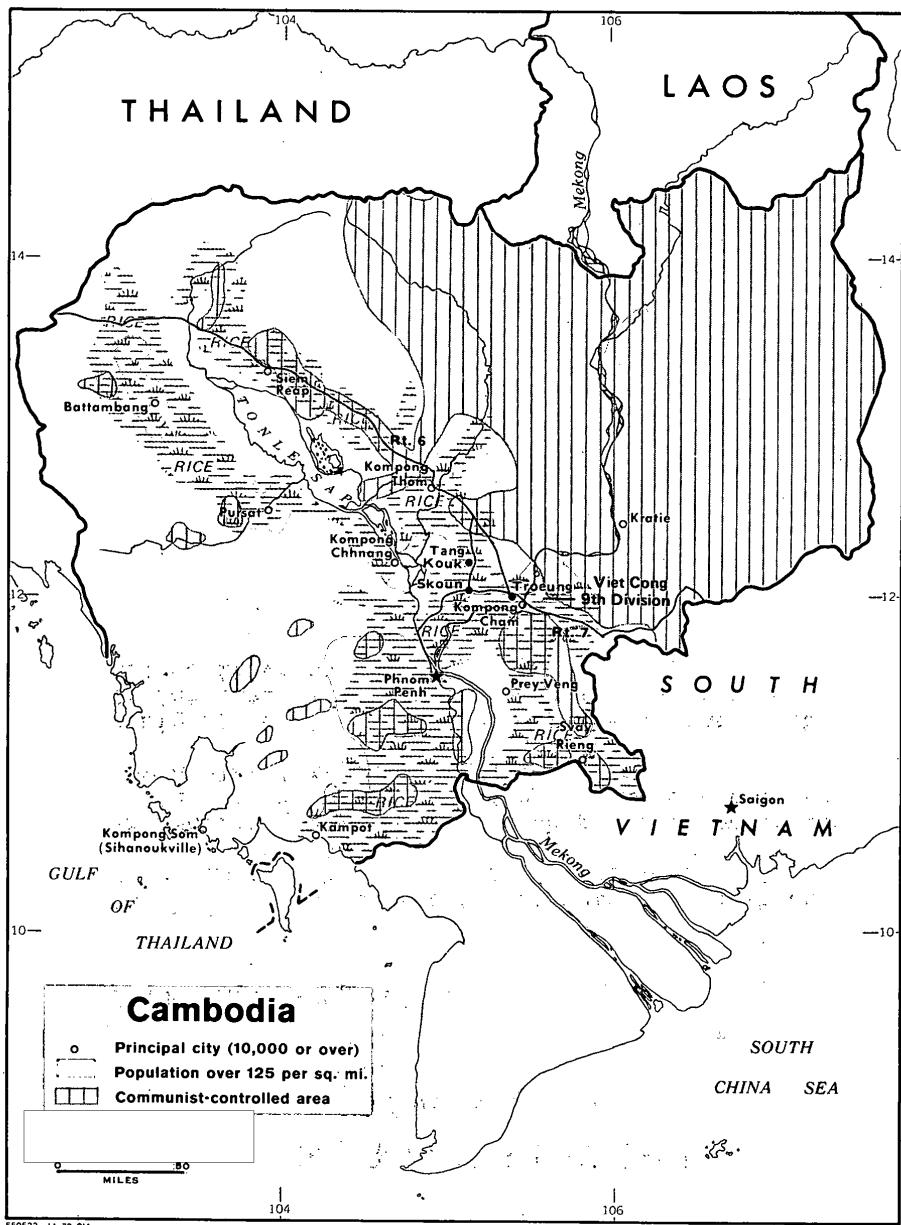
Soviet

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(Page 3)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

The Communists launched mortar and rocket barrages, followed up by ground assaults, against the airfield and various government defenses in and around Kompong Cham city during the weekend.

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Vietnamese Communist troops crossed the Mekong from the east last week, boasting that they would occupy Kompong Cham by the end of November.

To the west of the provincial capital, enemy forces also struck at government troops both north and south of Route 7, and at two battalions defending Tang Kouk on Route 6. The Cambodian Government, meanwhile, has sent four paratroop battalions to Skoun, at the junction of Routes 6 and 7, with the mission of helping keep Route 7 open as far as the town of Troeung.

The troops involved in the forays against Kompong Cham appear to have included major elements of the Viet Cong 9th Division, which had been located east of the city across the Mekong. Intercepts from the North Vietnamese 174th Regiment, which has been responsible for attacks along Routes 6 and 7, reveal that additional harassments are planned in that area.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-BERLIN

Friday's working session of four-power advisers on Berlin bogged down over the issue of access, particularly the problem of defining the roles of the East and West Germans in working out specific arrangements. The Soviets rejected a Western draft that would have laid down fairly detailed guidelines for the forthcoming talks between Bonn and Pankow, insisting instead that the four powers should set only very general guidelines.

The Soviet representatives also advised their US colleagues that today's ambassadorial-level meeting would "not be unlike" the session of 9 October, when Soviet Ambassador Abrasimov took an extremely unyielding stance on all issues. The Soviets also contended that the main purpose of a four-power agreement should be to stabilize existing access arrangements, not to improve them.

Soviet tactics suggest that Moscow would like the coming talks between Bonn and Pankow to supplant, in effect, the four-power discussions.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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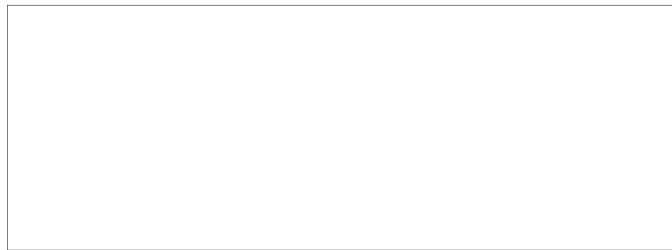
USSR



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Laos: No significant fighting developed over the weekend except for sharp skirmishing a few miles north of Ban Na to the southwest of the Plaine des Jarres, where Communist guerrillas lost and then regained a tactically important hilltop position. Communist artillery and mortar attacks have slackened considerably, but enemy messages continue to refer to the forward positioning of artillery west of the Plaine. The intercepts also suggest that the North Vietnamese intend to press attacks southwest of the Plaine and are taking measures to remedy supply problems and to strengthen some of their forward units.

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17 November 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

17 November 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The military situation northeast of Phnom Penh [redacted]

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Page 1.

Damascus has made its first announcement reflecting changes in leadership. (Page 2)

Chile [redacted]

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(Page 3)

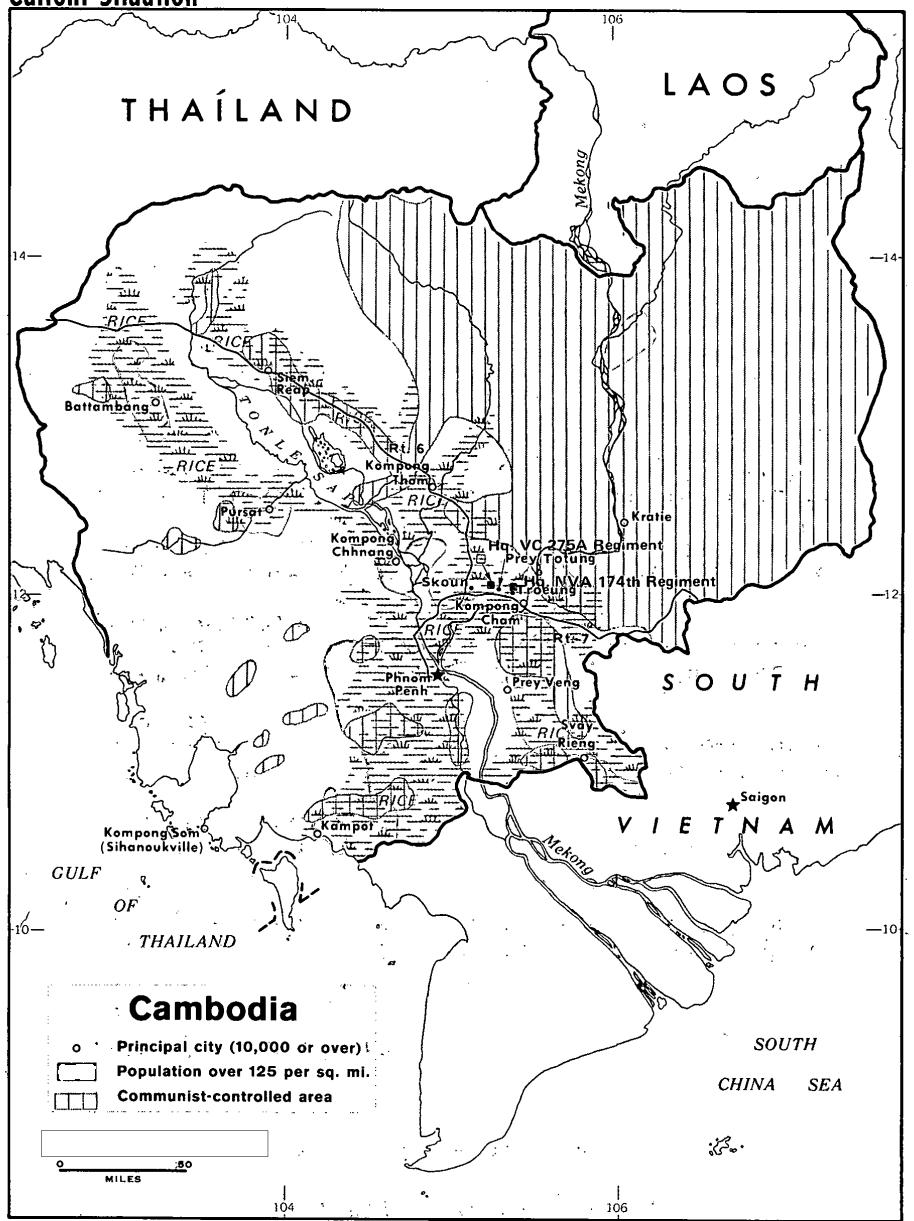
"Big" Minh has now stated that he will be a candidate for the South Vietnamese presidency in next year's election. (Page 4)

Fedayeen organizations are planning to merge into a "Palestinian Liberation Front." (Page 5)

In Egypt, Prime Minister Fawzi is putting together a new cabinet to be announced soon. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Current Situation



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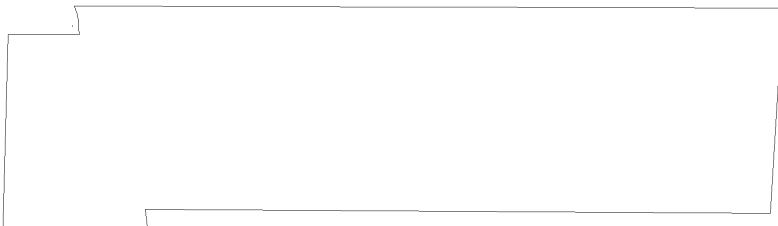
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

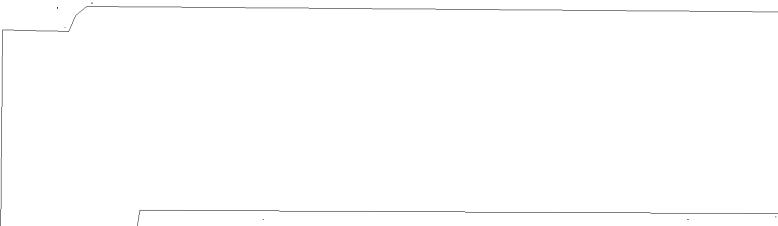
No significant new Communist military actions have been reported in Kompong Cham but government forces there are bracing for fresh enemy assaults. Civilian refugees have told the press that much of Route 7 between Skoun and Kompong Cham is still closed. Communications intelligence indicates the headquarters of the Viet Cong 275A Regiment has moved closer to Route 7 and now is located about five miles north of Prey Totung. In addition, the headquarters of the North Vietnamese 174th Regiment is just to the east, about five miles north of Troeung. A recent enemy message stated that elements of the 174th were preparing artillery positions so that when "orders are received from the regiment they can attack."

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SYRIA

Damascus has made its first announcement reflecting leadership changes. A newly formed "provisional regional command" of the Syrian Baath Party, still unidentified but presumably allied with Defense Minister Asad, has broadcast its intention to carry out a specific program of action for a "transition period" until a party congress can elect a new leadership. The program stresses increased co-operation with the "progressive" Arab states, particularly Egypt, and expresses hope for increased Arab unity and continued support for the Palestinian and all-Arab progressive movements. Internationally, close cooperation with the Socialist states, particularly the USSR, will be continued.

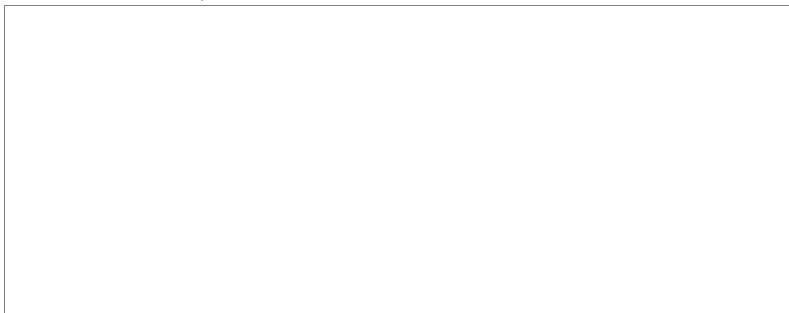
If the new leadership follows these general precepts, there will not be any dramatic differences in the basic direction of Syrian policy, but there could be some lessening in the political isolation that Syria has maintained even among its brother Arab states. Basic changes in attitude toward the West and Israel are not likely to occur.

Asad, according to most accounts, moved against the civilian leadership last Friday after the conclusion of a party congress. This congress was convened in late October, allegedly to resolve internal differences brought to a head by the abortive Syrian involvement in the recent Jordanian crisis.

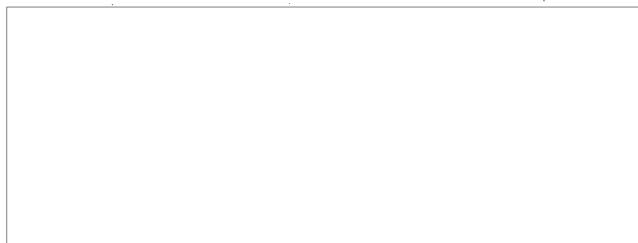
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHILE



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Former chief of state "Big" Minh has declared that he will be a candidate for president in next fall's election. The US Embassy has reports that Minh has begun to assemble a campaign staff and to make plans for the campaign.

Minh's decision will have come as no surprise to President Thieu as he is a leading opposition figure and a strong potential vote-getter in a race against Thieu. Minh filed for the 1967 elections while in exile in Bangkok but was disqualified on grounds that his running mate had pro-Communist leanings. He is likely to take pains this time to avoid a pretext for disqualification.

While Minh has carefully avoided espousing any controversial policies, he has sought to portray himself as a leader who could put an end to the war. Since he is known to be a weak administrator, his candidacy could become the focus of groups such as the militant An Quang Buddhists who may believe he could be manipulated to support their interests.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FEDAYEEN

The fedayeen central committee, which serves as a coordinating body among the various Palestinian commandos, has announced that commando groups plan to merge their military and political organizations. The committee will meet in Amman this Friday to discuss the terms for creating a single "Palestinian Liberation Front."

The move appears to be a victory for Fatah, which has been pressing since the debacle in Jordan for a united front to exercise greater control over individual guerrilla organizations. Most of the fedayeen groups will go along primarily for temporary tactical reasons, however, and the durability of any merger remains questionable.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Egypt: Prime Minister Fawzi, who, with his cabinet, resigned on 15 November, has been asked by President Sadat to form another government. The resignation of the cabinet, in the main a holdover from Nasir's day, apparently is a pro forma move designed to permit Sadat and Fawzi to put their own imprint on a new regime. The reorganization may also be occasioned in part by reported disagreements between Sadat and various ministers. The new cabinet is expected to be announced by Thursday.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

18 November 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Laos]

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(Page 1)

Yesterday's session of the strategic arms limitation talks is summarized on Page 2.

More additions to the gradual Soviet military build-up on the Chinese border appear in recent satellite photography. (Page 3)

[Italian]

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(Page 4)

[Soviets]

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(Page 5)

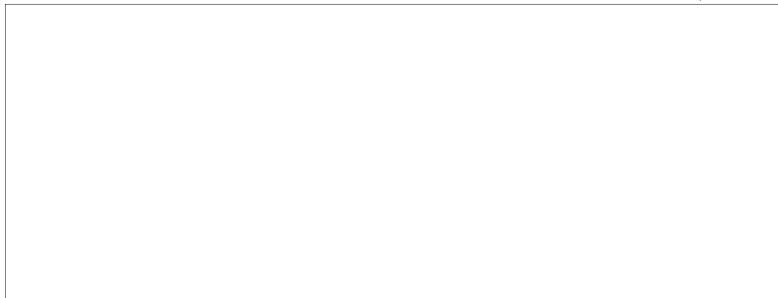
[Syria]

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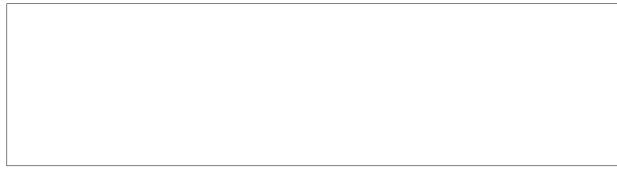
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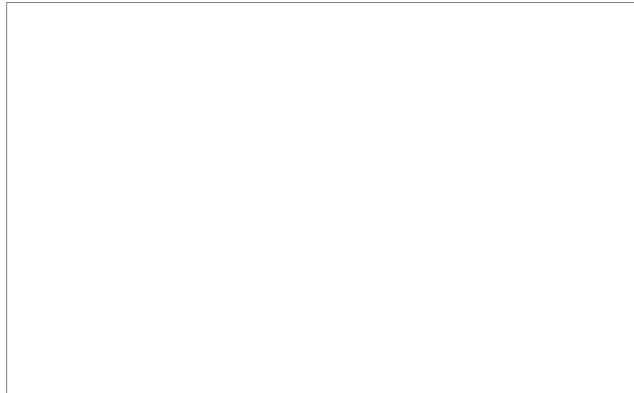
LAOS



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SALT

Yesterday's SALT meeting proceeded at the deliberate, businesslike pace which has characterized previous sessions of the second Helsinki round. Soviet delegation chief Semenov continued to spell out Moscow's position on a number of important points which the US had addressed at Vienna.

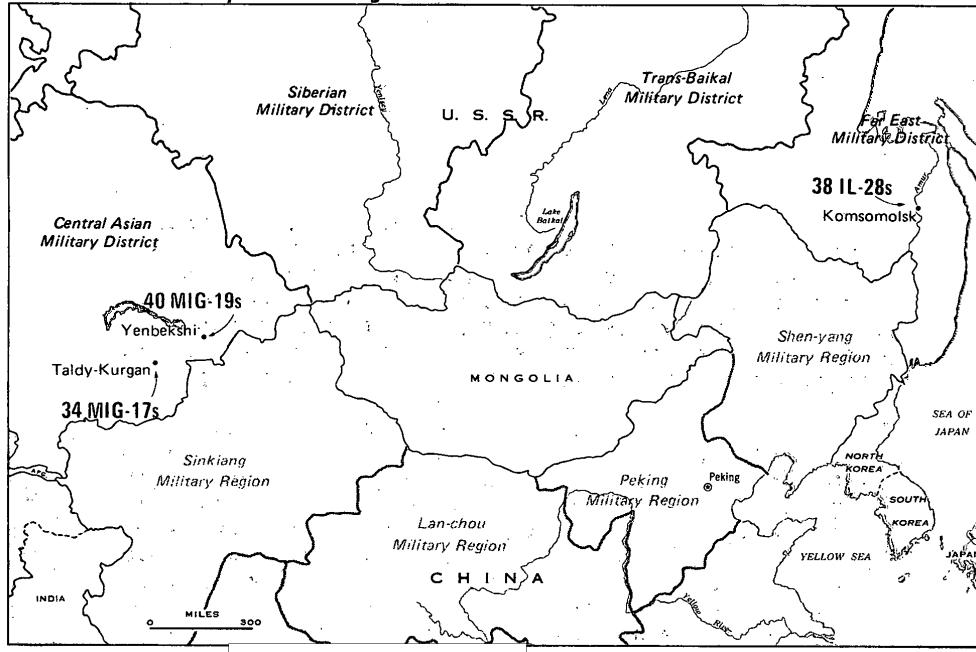
Semenov explicitly endorsed the concept of an ABM limitation to the National Command Authority level; in his words, "deployment of ABM systems in defense of Moscow and Washington only." This had been foreshadowed by Semenov's acceptance "in principle" of such a limitation last spring at Vienna. His speech yesterday, however, marked the first time that Moscow voiced acceptance of the concept of a limitation on antiballistic missiles as well as on launchers.

Proceeding to a much more fundamental and contentious issue, however, Semenov stressed once again Moscow's insistence that US forward-based nuclear systems be included in any discussion of strategic arms. He criticized US opposition to treatment of this question, and charged that US unwillingness to give it serious attention betrays "inequality" in its approach to the basic matter of which strategic systems must be considered. Semenov accused the US of seeking "unilateral advantages."

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

New Soviet Military Units Along Sino-Soviet Border



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CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COMMUNIST CHINA - USSR

Recent satellite photography shows that the Soviets have deployed two new MIG fighter regiments in the Central Asian Military District opposite China's Sinkiang Province. In the Far East Military District, an IL-28 light bomber regiment was observed for the first time at Komsomolsk.

These deployments contribute to the gradual Soviet build-up on the Chinese border. The IL-28 regiment could be the one transferred to the Far East from the Soviet tactical air force in East Germany in late September. The IL-28 is considered obsolete against NATO air defenses, but it would still be useful in operations against China.

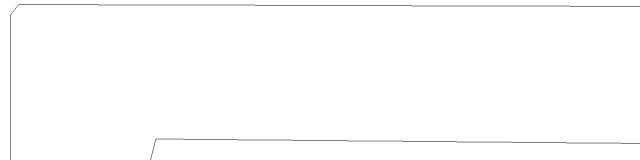
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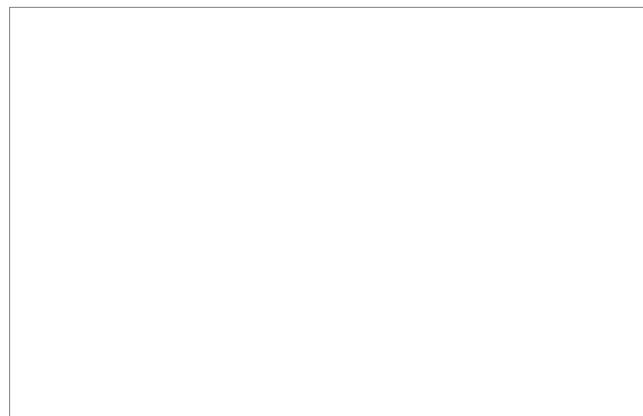
ITALY



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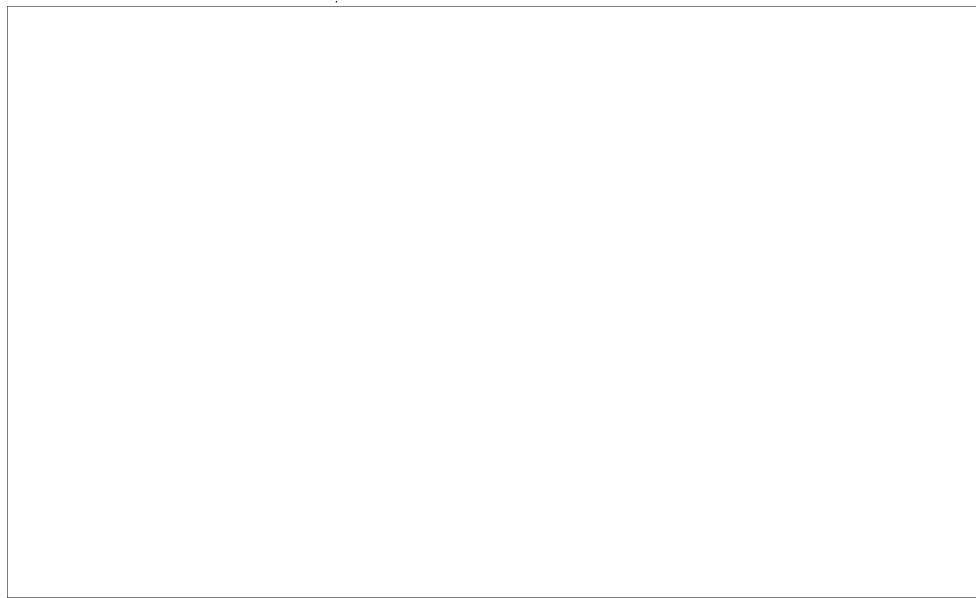


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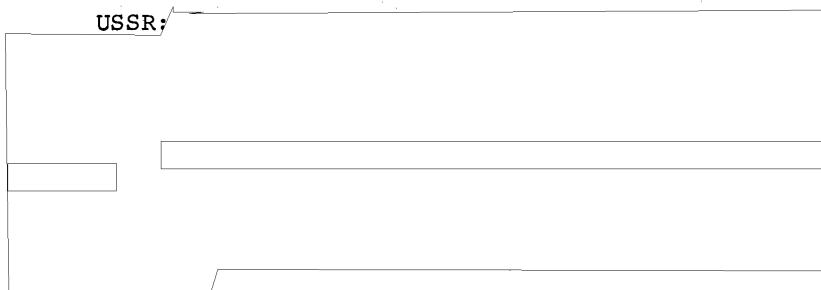
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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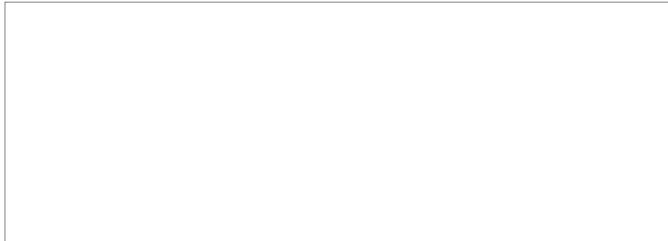
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

19 November 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Recent photography shows what appear to be two stages of a missile of greater length and diameter than any previously seen in China. (Page 1)

Soviet

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(Page 2)

Hanoi's sharp reaction to the US protest of the shoot-down of an American reconnaissance aircraft over the North is discussed on Page 3.

Israeli-Egypt

(Page 4)

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Lebanon claims that Israel has threatened reprisals against border villages where the fedayeen have re-opened offices. (Page 5)

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Israel

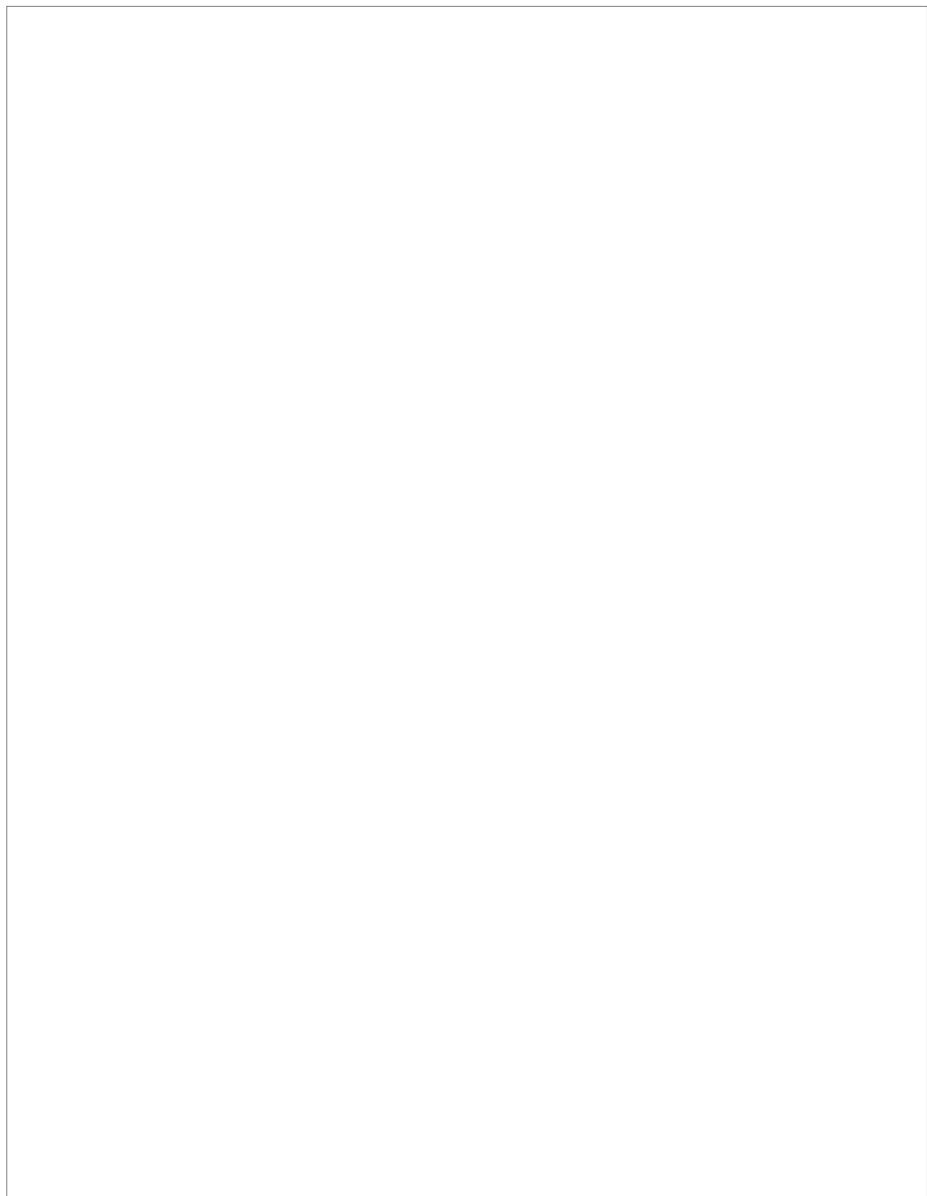
(Page 6)

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In Syria, Asad has taken new steps to consolidate his position. (Page 7)

In Chile, moves toward closer ties to Cuba are appearing on several fronts. (Page 7)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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COMMUNIST CHINA

Satellite photography of early November has provided new information on the Chinese strategic missile program. Photography of the Ching-yu silo launch complex near the Korean border showed what appear to be two stages of a missile of greater length and diameter than any missile previously seen in China.

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The photography confirmed that construction of a silo is in progress at the Wu-chai missile complex. Construction began in this area in 1967 and the silo now appears about half complete. The only missile system identified so far at the complex is China's nominal IRBM, which has a range of about 1,400 nm.

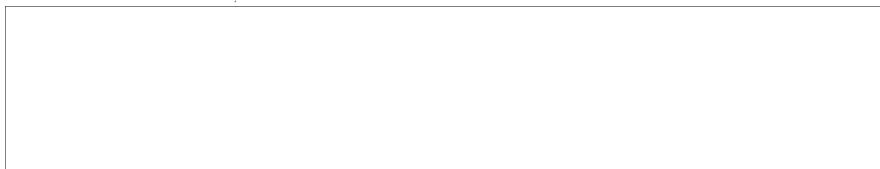
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In addition, missiles were observed at the Wu-wei surface-to-surface missile school in west China, apparently of the same type previously seen at Wu-chai.

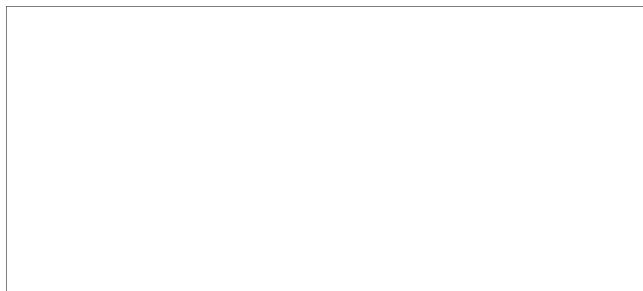
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USSR



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Statements by high Soviet officials and leading scientists over the past year or so have indicated a strong Soviet interest in long-term orbital stations, and recent Soyuz manned space flights have moved the USSR in this direction. For example, in January 1969 the Soviets rendezvoused and docked the Soyuz 4 and 5 spacecraft and claimed to have established the world's first manned experimental station. The spacecraft remained together less than five hours, but tested hardware and techniques for manned space stations, including the transfer of men from one capsule to another.

The Soviets almost certainly would not risk keeping men in orbit longer than 30 days because of the postflight medical problems experienced from the Soyuz 9 manned mission flown last June. This problem could be circumvented, however, by crew rotation.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NORTH VIETNAM

North Vietnamese media are giving wide publicity to their official reactions to the US protest of the shootdown last Friday of an American reconnaissance aircraft over the North. The Foreign Ministry and Hanoi's delegation at the Paris talks denied that uncontested reconnaissance over the North was sanctioned by the 1968 "understanding" which led to the US bombing halt. The North Vietnamese describe the flights as blatant violations of sovereignty and assert that they would continue to be fired on.

Much of this is pro forma posturing, but the stiff reaction may also be prompted in part by genuine concern that the US might resume some level of air attacks against the North. Hanoi charged that the flights and Washington's statements show that the US is paving the way for such an escalation.

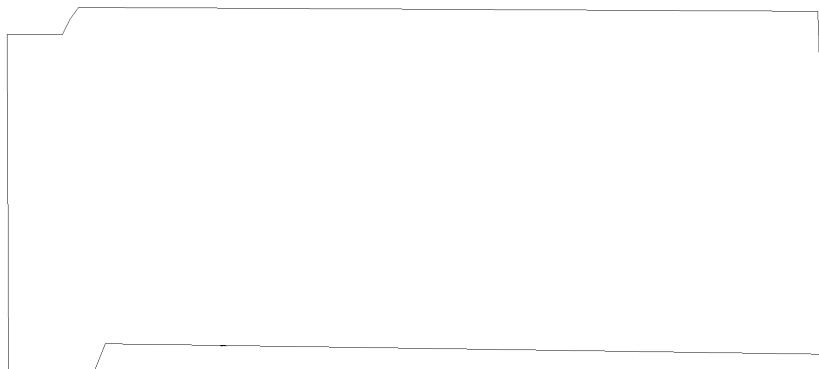
The Communists may be particularly concerned at this stage--the beginning of the dry season--that the heavily laden supply areas in North Vietnam and the infiltration routes into Laos present especially lucrative targets.

The North Vietnamese have been steadily building up their air defenses in the southern panhandle during the last few months. At least four and possibly eight surface-to-air missile batteries have been deployed to southern North Vietnam. There are signs, moreover, that MIG fighters are about to begin operating out of Vinh airfield in the heart of the panhandle. Recent intercepts suggest that a plane load of seasoned air defense officers and air controllers have arrived in Vinh, presumably to coordinate operations.

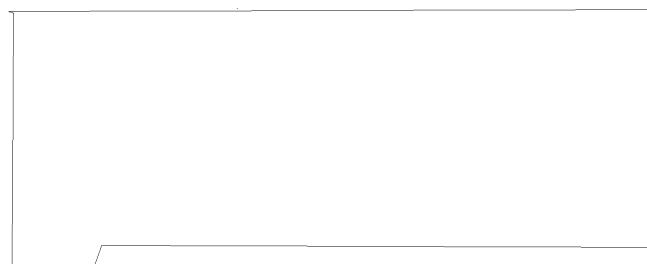
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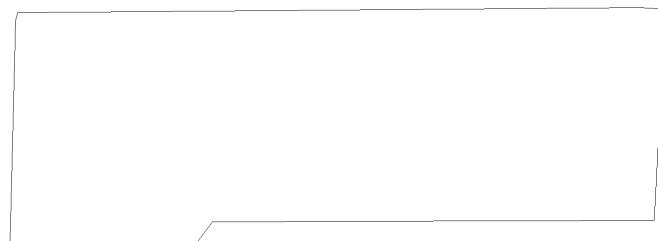
ISRAEL



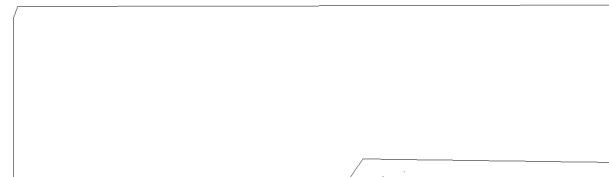
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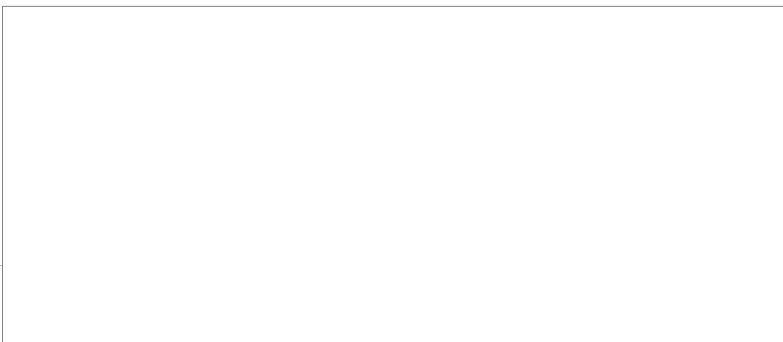
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

MIDDLE EAST

Israel has threatened to take reprisals against three southern Lebanese villages where commando offices have recently reopened, according to our embassy in Beirut. The threat was conveyed to the Lebanese at the latest meeting of the mixed armistice committee meeting. According to Lebanon's chief of staff General Naujaim--who asked the US to intercede to cool off the Israelis--the fedayeen have set up "political offices" in the villages but they possess only light arms and "nothing in the way of mortars or rockets." The Lebanese Army has put 3,000 men on the border and is confident that it can contain most fedayeen cross-border operations that would involve heavy weapons, but Beirut fears that Israel may not be satisfied with these measures and might undertake air strikes. An Israeli Foreign Ministry official has acknowledged that Israel is anxious about signs of fedayeen resurgence in southern Lebanon, but he doubts that a punitive air strike is likely in the near future.

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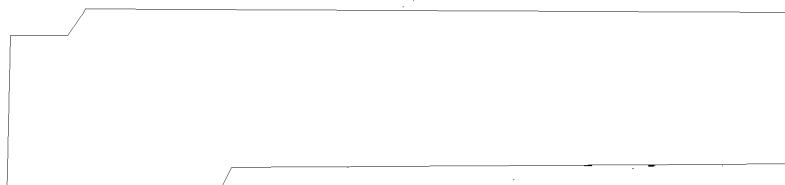


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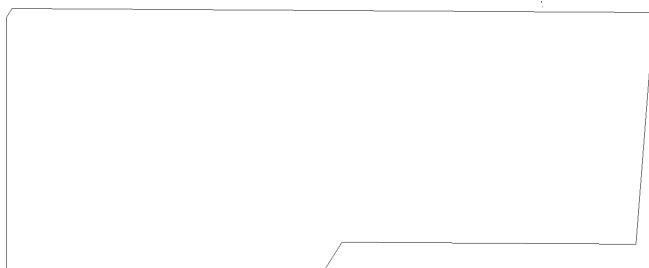
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-EGYPT



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Syria: Defense Minister Asad, after moving cautiously for several days, has named himself prime minister and temporary secretary general of the Syrian Baath Party. He has replaced Atasi, the former chief of state, with Ahmad al-Khatib, a figurehead. Khatib is a minor party member who was dean of the Syrian Teachers' Federation at the time of his appointment. Asad has moved further to consolidate his position by bringing a dozen of his supporters into the provisional party leadership. According to press reports from Beirut, many of the ousted leaders will be exiled to other Middle Eastern countries. There is no indication yet of any significant public reaction to Asad's moves.

Chile: Moves toward closer ties to Cuba are appearing on several fronts. The state-owned airline is studying the possibility of adding Havana as a stop on its routes to the US and Europe. Next week the head of the conservative farm owners' organization will travel to Cuba to look into the chances of tripling trade planned for next year to \$30 million. Meanwhile, Marxists continue to receive appointments to key jobs in economic agencies, including the directorships of the presidential planning office, the price control agency, the national railways, and the state bank all now held by men who have been advisers to Fidel Castro.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

20 November 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Monday's private meeting in Paris shows that Hanoi still regards bilateral discussions with the US as the way to get the talks moving. (Page 1)

On Page 3 we summarize the positions taken by the Soviet delegation in yesterday's SALT talks.

Egon Bahr has provided a report of his latest meeting with Soviet officials in West Berlin. (Page 4)

On Page 5 [redacted] Latin America [redacted]

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[redacted]
Egypt [redacted]

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(Page 6)

Saigon's cabinet has vetoed recent trade agreements with Cambodia. (Page 7)

We report on the current military situation in northern Laos on Page 8, and on Page 9 note the increasing activity of Chinese Communist antiaircraft units against US aircraft in the roadbuilding area.

[redacted] 50X1

The Soviet submarine tender left Cienfuegos yesterday. (Page 9)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**VIETNAM**

The one thing that emerges clearly from the private meeting in Paris on 16 November is that Hanoi still views bilateral discussions with the US as the way to get the talks off dead center. This was apparent when Xuan Thuy, in response to Ambassador Bruce's statement that the US will not negotiate the political future of South Vietnam without the full participation of the Saigon government, asked whether Bruce could "discuss anything about political problems." The North Vietnamese are likely to hold to this view, at least until they get a better reading of US/GVN terms for a political settlement. If they see any room for negotiations on terms they might find acceptable, we would expect them to bear down even harder on specific issues, as Xuan Thuy did when he asked for US views on how general elections should be organized in South Vietnam.

In our view, such issues, and not the Communists' insistence on changes in the leadership in Saigon, are at the heart of Hanoi's intransigence in Paris. Although there is no doubt about the seriousness of their demand for the ouster of Thieu and Ky or of their long-term goal of achieving full political power in South Vietnam, their basic demand regarding a negotiated political settlement is that there be a new government in the South in which they have a share of power. Therefore, there is at least a possibility that Hanoi's refusal to deal with the present government is a tactic and not a bedrock policy position.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Of interest in this connection is a recent broadcast by the Viet Cong's Liberation Radio, which touched on some of the troubles Communists and Communist sympathizers in South Vietnam might have following a cease-fire if American forces were still on the scene and the present government were still in power. The most arresting passage in the broadcast concerned what would happen if, in such circumstances, "our people should temporarily recognize the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration as a legal administration." A number of specific questions posed were similar to those we might expect the Communists to surface somewhere down the line in the event of any serious negotiations.

The broadcast also recalled how anti-Communist campaigns were launched by the Diem regime after the 1954 Geneva Agreements, asserting that "resistance fighters could expect even worse treatment if they would lay down their arms under present circumstances." It called on President Nixon to provide some "appropriate answers" to these questions. Allegedly a commentary on President Nixon's five-point peace plan, this broadcast could merely be trying to make a more persuasive case against the President's proposals and to undercut the appeal they may have in South Vietnam. Even so, it leaves the impression that acceptable answers to these questions might have an impact on Communist attitudes toward a settlement and even on Communist willingness to deal with the Thieu government.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SALT

Soviet delegation chief Semenov devoted yesterday's meeting to a discussion of verification, advancing for the most part positions that coincide with the US proposal of 4 August. Endorsing reliance on "national means" of verification, he agreed to several supplementary features that Washington had already suggested. These include an agreement to exchange--on a voluntary basis--information relating to the fulfillment of mutual obligations, and undertaking not to hinder national means of verification, either by interfering with their operation or by employing special means of concealment. He also accepted the creation of a standing consultative commission to examine future questions concerning compliance with and modification of the agreement.

Not all was sweetness and light, however. Semenov did not mention, for example, "selective direct observation," a concept the US had proposed as a possible verification measure. (After the meeting, Soviet delegate Grinevsky stated that the USSR was not prepared to consider such a measure.) Moreover, Semenov continued to insist that mobile ICBMs not be banned as the US proposes. He labeled "artificial" the US argument that if these were permitted, national means could not verify that allowed weapons totals were being honored. In addition, during private conversations the Soviets continued to insist that US forward-based systems be discussed at SALT.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY - USSR

In the latest of Egon Bahr's meetings with Soviet officials in West Berlin on 13 November, the Soviets urged Bonn to abandon its position that it would ratify the West German - Soviet treaty only after a satisfactory Berlin agreement is reached. On the question of resuming East - West German talks, Bahr claimed that he had some impact in arguing that the Germans can negotiate arrangements on access to Berlin only under a four-power agreement, and that any results must be covered by a four-power understanding.

This is Bahr's first direct report to the Allies of his conversations

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[redacted] and he did not mention his earlier meetings. The series started in early June after the draft West German - Soviet treaty had run into heavy flak in Bonn, and may initially have concerned revisions the West Germans wanted before signing it.

After Bahr conducted intensive talks in mid-October, the West Germans proposed to the Allies a form of Berlin agreement that in some ways resembled the Soviet position, and the East Germans offered to negotiate access directly.

The Russians likely judge their contacts with Bahr as having already been useful in their effort to shift the focus of talks on Berlin to an East - West German forum. Presumably, Moscow's satisfaction at Bonn's response to the East German initiative on 29 October weighs heavily in Soviet attempts to avoid any substantive concession at the four-power talks. The Soviets doubtless feel that inter-German talks on Berlin are more likely to create the kind of pressures on the Allies that could lead to some kind of agreement favorable to Soviet interests.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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LATIN AMERICA

In the wake of Chile's resumption of diplomatic relations with Havana last week, Uruguayan Foreign Minister Peirano Facio is worried that other Latin American countries may also recognize Cuba unless an OAS majority reaffirms the 1964 resolution that resulted in the isolation of Cuba by member states. He expressed the opinion that Chile's action threatens the "credibility of all inter-American obligations." Colombian Foreign Minister Velasquez has also suggested that the OAS review its resolution.

Mexican Foreign Minister Carrillo Flores, on the other hand, is pleased with Chile's move, and has implied that his country would vote to seat Cuba in the OAS if the matter comes up. Mexico is the only country that refused to comply with the 1964 resolution.

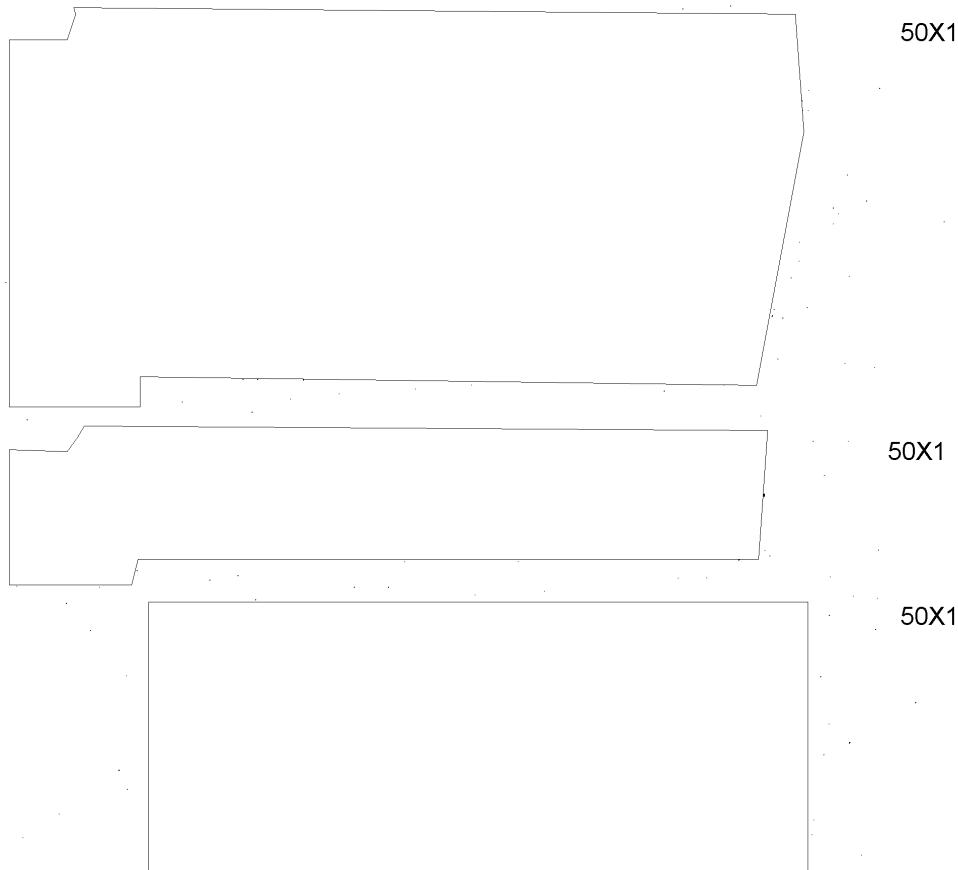
Unless Havana publicly renounces its role as an "exporter of revolution," a majority of OAS members would uphold the 1964 resolution if it ever came to a vote. A number of countries, however, prefer to avoid a public re-examination of Cuba's revolutionary role, fearing it would aggravate divisions within the organization.

Cuba has indicated a willingness to consider bilateral relations with those countries that publicly disavow the OAS sanctions, but has vehemently rejected resumption of participation in the OAS as long as the US retains membership.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT



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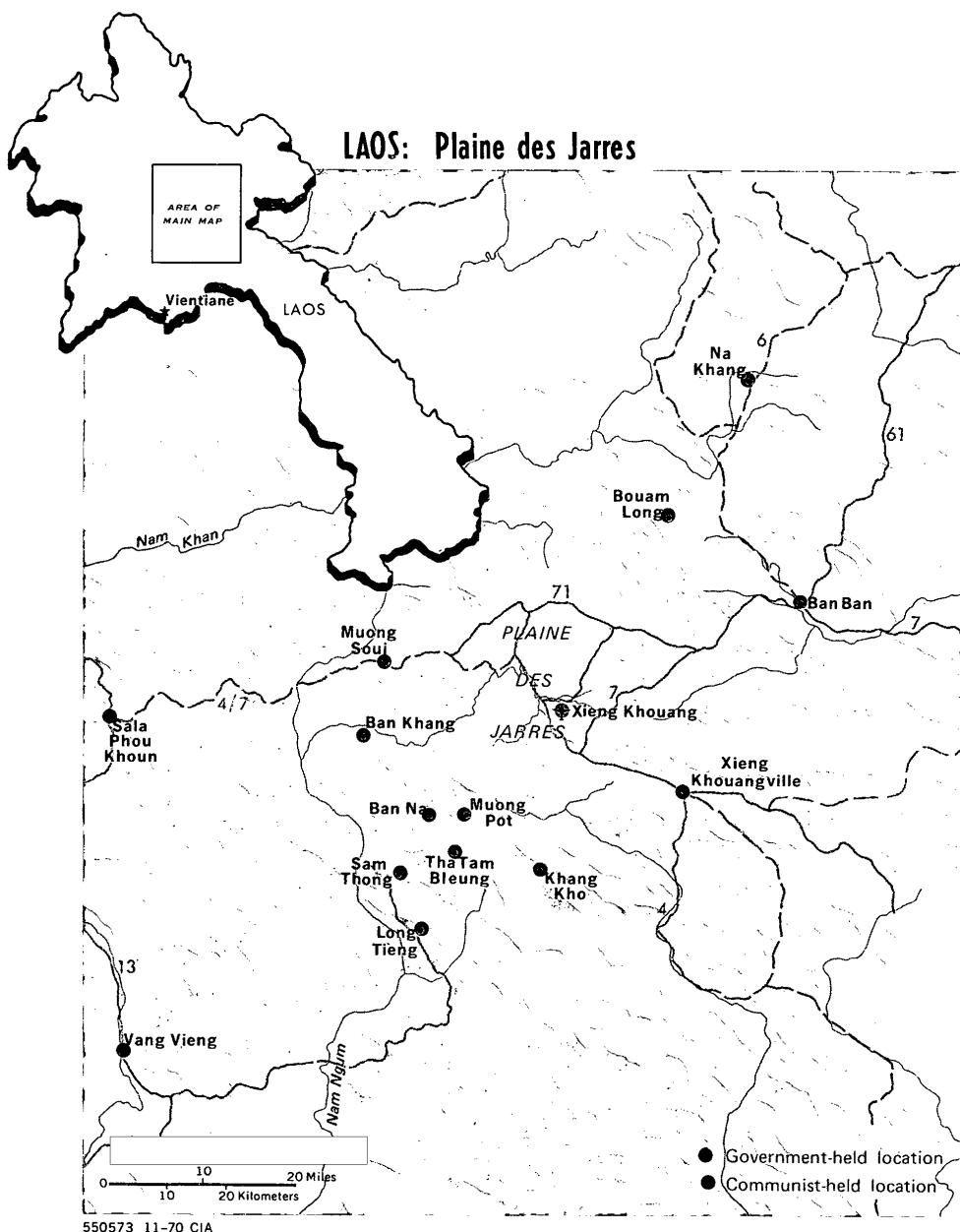
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM-CAMBODIA

The South Vietnamese cabinet has withheld approval of trade agreements reached in recent talks with Cambodia because the negotiators had failed to adopt an acceptable piaster-riel exchange rate. It approved agreements on other matters, such as land routes and the delineation of the border for customs purposes.

Saigon's hard-nosed economic bargaining will not sit well with the Cambodians, some of whom are already hypercritical of their South Vietnamese allies. However, another effort probably will be made to find a compromise solution to the tougher issues if the two countries proceed with a previously planned, but still unscheduled, second round of talks.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Elements of the North Vietnamese 148th Regiment have abandoned an important hilltop position two miles north of Ban Nà that has changed hands several times during the past week.

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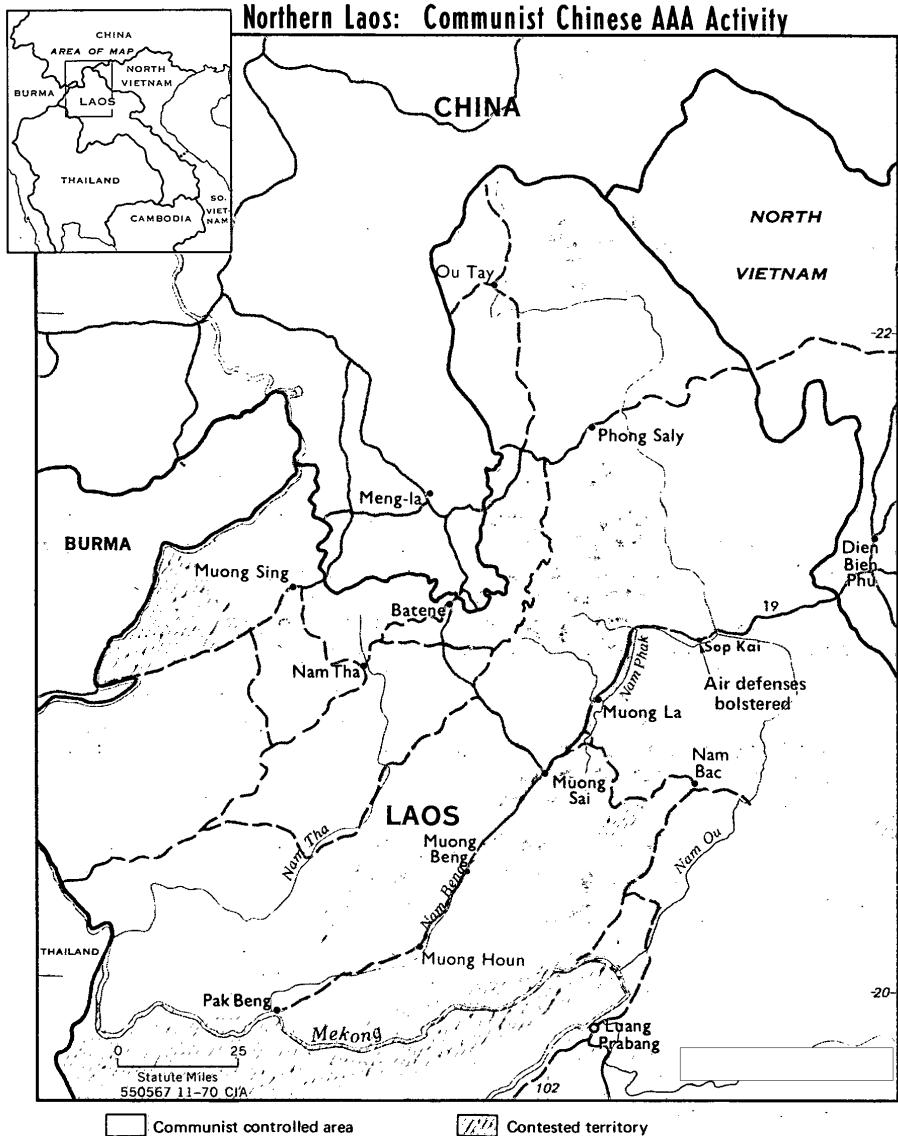
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At Muong Soui, the action has been characterized by light skirmishing and occasional mortar and rocket attacks. On 17 November the neutralist garrison of about 1,200 there was reinforced with two 75-mm. guns.

The North Vietnamese have become concerned that Vientiane may be about to launch a major offensive of its own in the near future. One intercept reported that five government battalions from the Long Tieng area would be used to attack enemy supply lines in the vicinity of Xieng Khouang.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Northern Laos: Communist Chinese AAA Activity



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Communist China - Laos: Chinese Communist antiaircraft units in northern Laos have been increasingly active against US aircraft in the last few months as Chinese road construction has pushed into an area of US air operations. Construction northeastward from Muong Sai has reached Route 19 in the Sop Kai area, and intercepts say that Chinese units east of Sop Kai are suffering casualties from air strikes. The Chinese are augmenting their antiaircraft units in the area. At the other end of the road to the southwest, there has been no extension of the road south of Muong Houn.

South Vietnam

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USSR-Cuba: The Soviet submarine tender that arrived in Cuba in early September left Cienfuegos at noon yesterday and is heading to the east. A rescue tug, which had accompanied the tender in its cruise around Cuba last month, remained in port.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

21 November 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Satellite photography has identified MRBM support equipment in rough terrain in west China. (Page 1)

The Communists apparently plan to step up military activity in South Vietnam in the next few weeks.
(Page 2)

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[redacted] Jordan. (Page 3)

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[redacted] Syria [redacted]

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viet

So-

[redacted] (Page 6)

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The Czechs are taking steps to tighten their air defenses along their West German border. (Page 7)

[redacted] Israel

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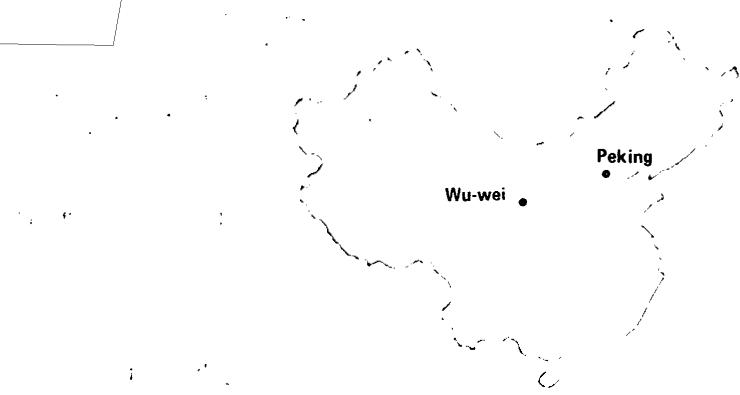
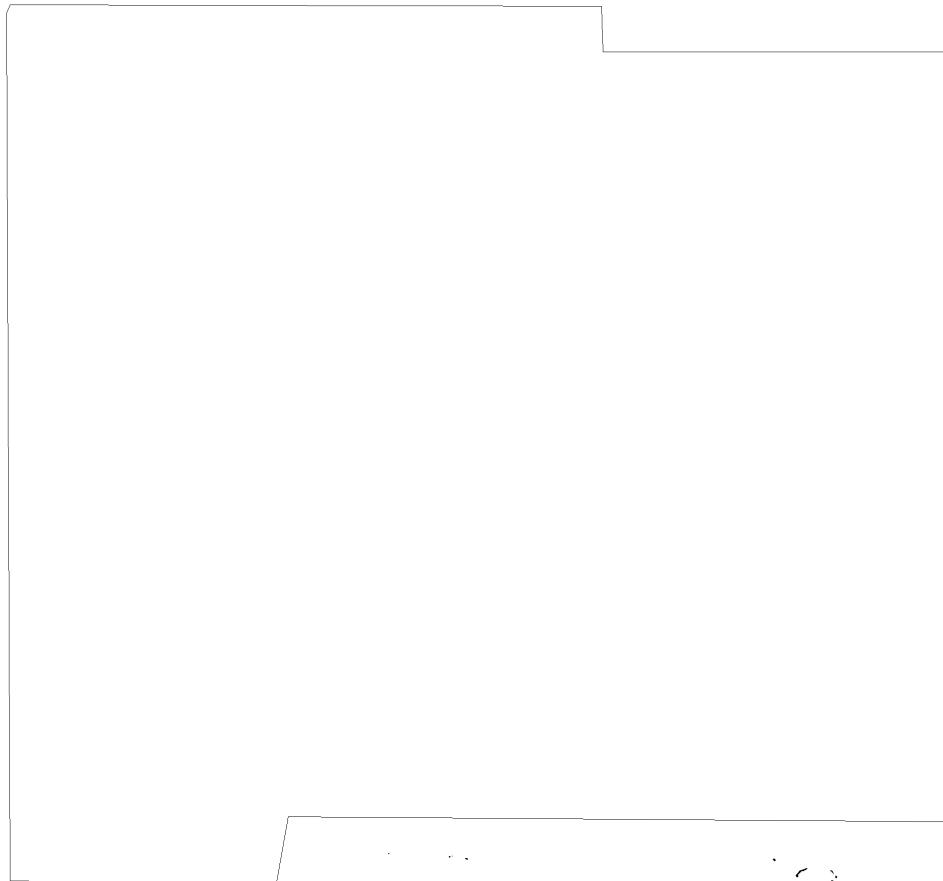
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The Soviet submarine tender is in a small Cuban port east of Cienfuegos. (Page 7)

The North Vietnamese Army Command has accused the US of committing a "serious act of war." (Page 7)

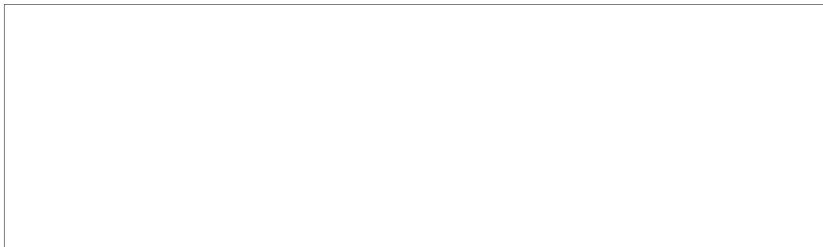
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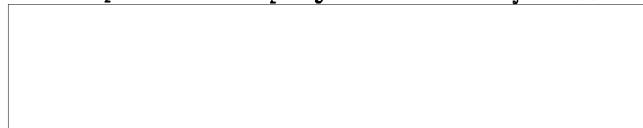
COMMUNIST CHINA

An area containing support equipment for a medium range strategic missile crew has been identified in the hills of west China. The missile support equipment was seen in satellite photography of early September in an area about 20 miles southeast of Wu-wei, the location of a surface-to-surface missile school.



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The location of the site is well within the interior of China. This fact, together with its proximity to the Wu-wei school, suggests a training site for MRBM units prior to deployment to the field.



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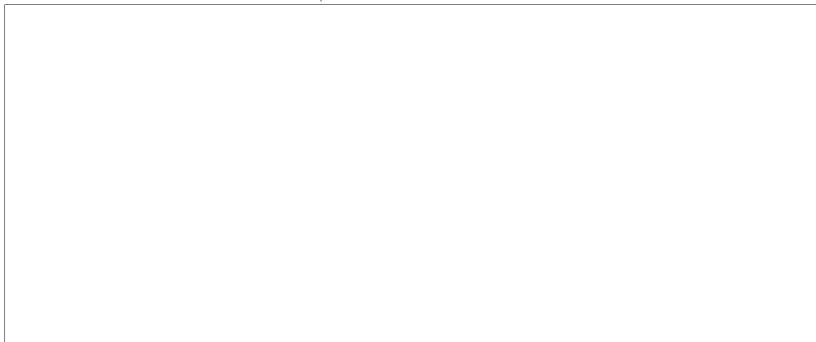
If the Chinese deploy operational missile sites of this type in such rough terrain, future detection will be difficult.

SOUTH VIETNAM

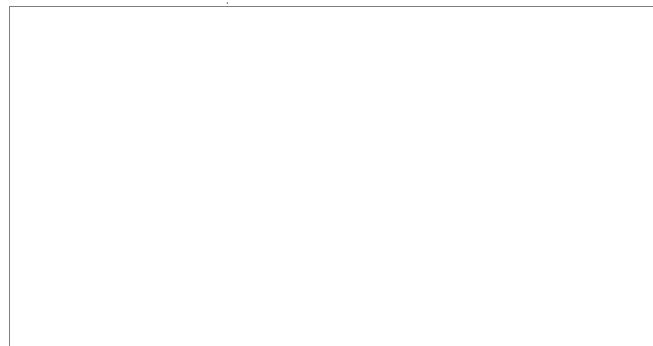
There have been recent indications that the Communists plan to step up attacks against allied targets by the end of this month or in early December. Intercepts reveal that some Communist units in the DMZ area have completed training exercises and are ready for tactical activity. Other forces near Da Nang have been ordered to be ready for a "highpoint" by 25 November. Enemy plans to increase action in the areas around Saigon have been reported by two recent Viet Cong defectors who are company commanders.

We expect that the Communists' "dry season campaign" will consist generally of their current pattern of terrorism, shelling harassment, and occasional ground forays against government outposts. The enemy's principal target is likely to be the government's pacification program, which the Communists acknowledge is undermining their hold on the population in many areas. A major purpose of increased Communist activity will be to support efforts to rebuild their grass-roots assets.

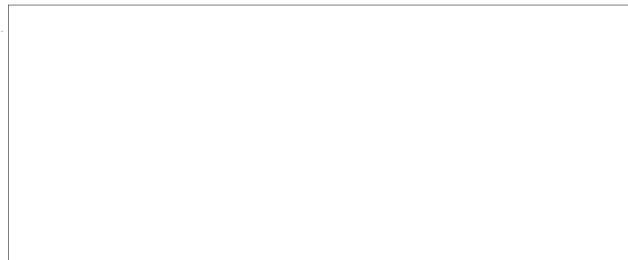
JORDAN



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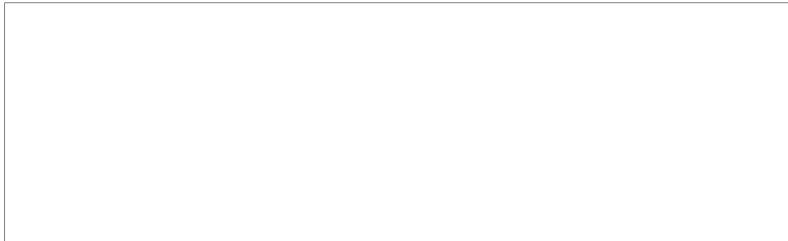


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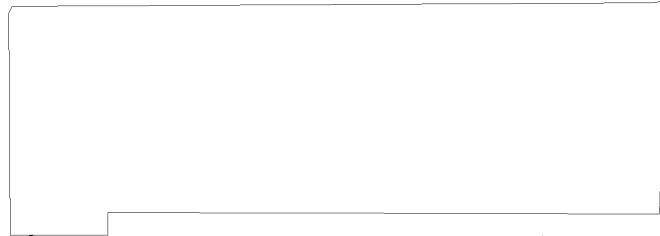
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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SYRIA



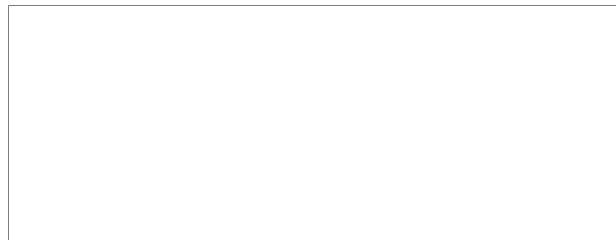
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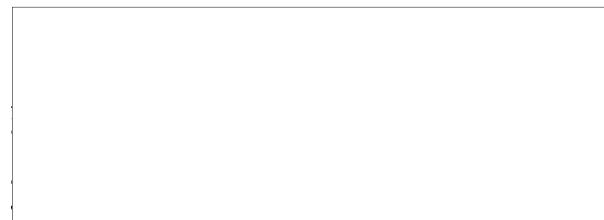
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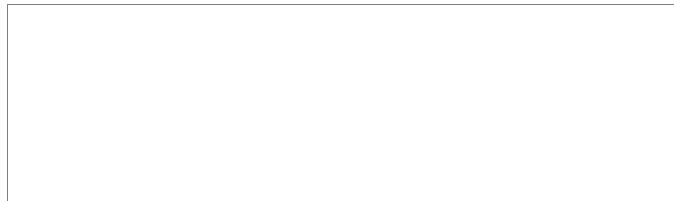
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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General Asad appointed a provisional cabinet last night, holding the two key posts of prime minister and defense minister for himself. Two reputed Communists and some pro-Egyptian members are included among the ministers, according to press sources.

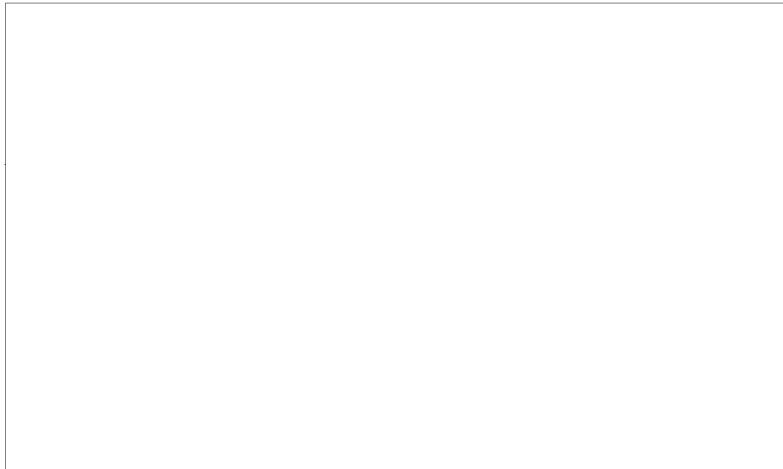
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USSR-US

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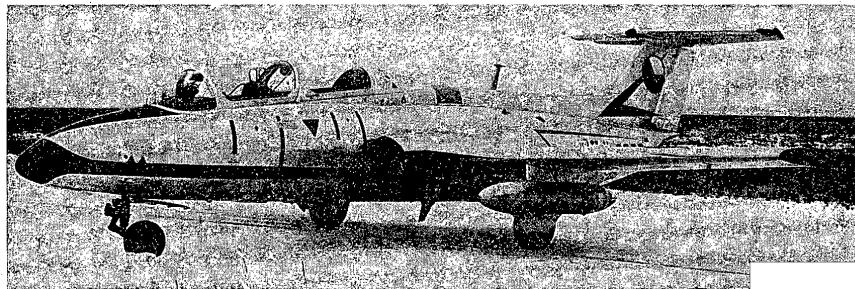
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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Czech L-29 jet trainer

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NOTES

Czechoslovakia:

L-29 jet trainer-type aircraft are being used in defensive patrols along the West German border, and that L-29 pilots are engaging in air-to-air gunnery training. These steps, apparently being taken to tighten Czech air defenses, follow a Czech diplomatic protest over alleged intrusions by two US military helicopters from West Germany. The L-29 is better suited for engaging slow-moving, low-flying targets than a high performance fighter since it handles better at low altitudes and has a slower stall speed. The L-29 can carry two wing-mounted machine guns and a two-man crew, allowing one man to act as an observer.

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Israel

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USSR-Cuba: After it left Cienfuegos on 19 November, the Soviet submarine tender put in to the small Cuban port of Casilda, 40 miles to the east. We have no ready explanation for this move.

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The rescue tug that had been in company with the tender remains in Cienfuegos.

North Vietnam: A communiqué of the North Vietnamese Army High Command is charging that the US has committed "a serious act of war" by sending "many flights" of bombers over its territory early this morning. Specifically, the communiqué alleges that US aircraft struck heavily populated areas in the vicinity of Haiphong and Hanoi, causing many civilian casualties and wounding several Americans in a PW camp. Boasting that three jet fighters were shot down, the High Command warns that further US provocations will be met with heavier punishment.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

23 November 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Hanoi's reaction to the US air strikes is discussed
on *Page 1*.

Satellite photography indicates that Communist
China's guided missile plant is in full-scale pro-
duction. (*Page 2*)

In Laos, Communist forces have overrun the principal
government bases on the Bolovens Plateau. (*Page 3*)

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South Vietnam

50X1

(*Page 4*)

Libya

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(*Page 5*)

50X1

Guinea (*Page 6*)

50X1

In West Germany, the Free Democrats' success in a
state election yesterday gives a boost to the cen-
tral government coalition. (*Page 7*)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

In a pair of angrily worded communiqués, Hanoi's Foreign Ministry and its delegation at the Paris talks have claimed that the air raids over the weekend violated a US pledge to halt all bombing of the North and were a "brazen provocation" and "extremely serious act of war" that would gravely affect the Paris talks. The statements reassert Hanoi's long-standing position that no "understanding" exists that allows uncontested US aerial reconnaissance over the North. The communiqués end with a "severe warning" against any further encroachments of North Vietnamese territory.

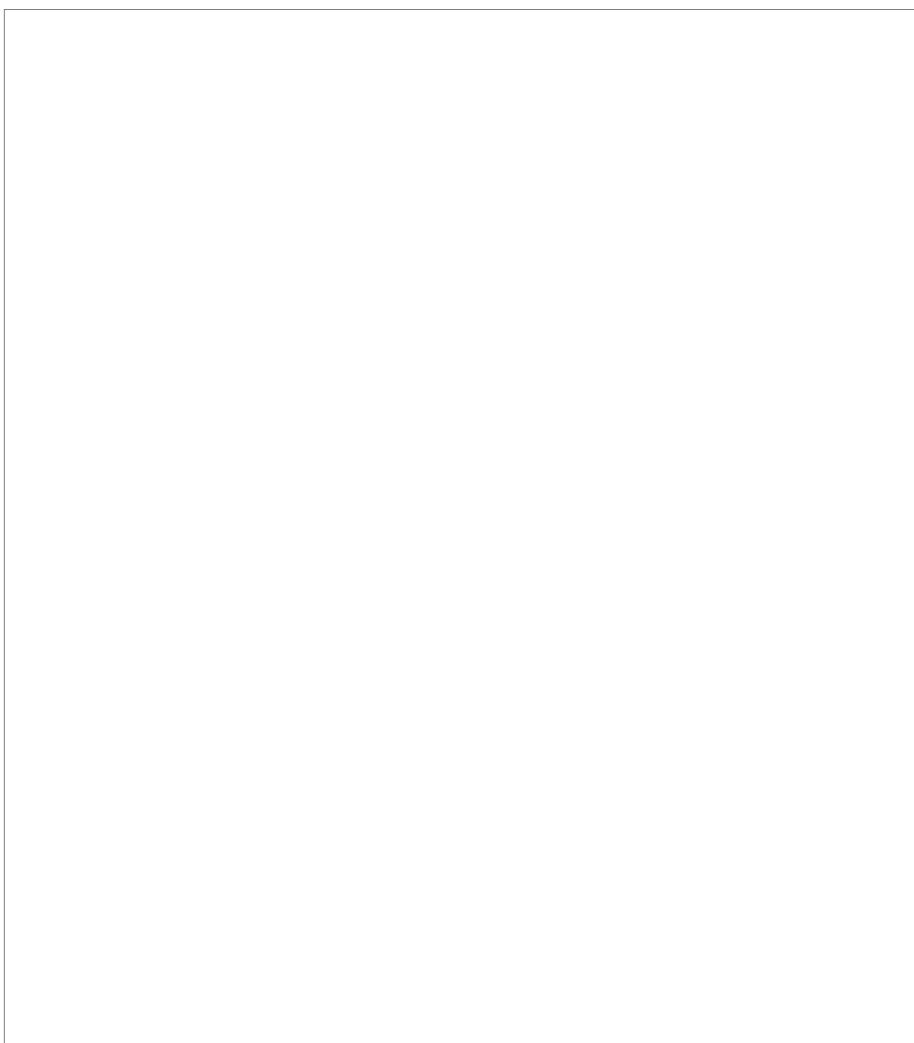
Hanoi contends that in addition to hitting targets south of the 19th parallel, US aircraft struck targets in North Vietnam's heartland including a suburb of Hanoi, the general Haiphong area, and a few populous, agricultural provinces near the capital.

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Aside from leaving an impression that a deeper freeze in Paris is in store, the Communists have not revealed what their next move will be. Following a series of US air strikes against the North last May, Hanoi talked tough for a time and skipped one of the weekly plenary sessions in Paris. At a press conference in Paris on Saturday a North Vietnamese spokesman hinted that Hanoi expected the talks to go on.

The Communists could also retaliate in South Vietnam with rocket attacks against a major city or two or with increased activity around the Demilitarized Zone. In this way, Hanoi would underscore its contention that the US had breached its "pledge" of 1968 to refrain from bombing the North and that Communist forces in the South are not constrained by any kind of "understanding."

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

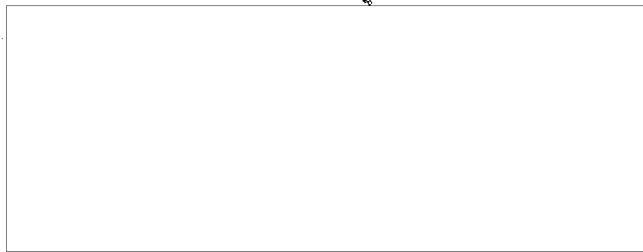


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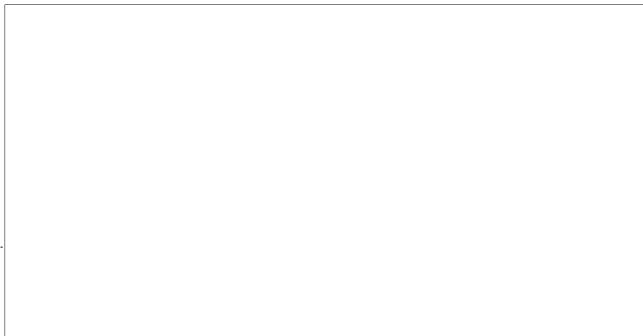
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COMMUNIST CHINA

Satellite photography of the Nan-yuan guided missile production plant near Peking in early November showed two new pieces of missile support equipment. A new missile transporter, larger than any previously noted in China, was identified. Also, a large new missile rail car measuring 80 feet in length was seen. In addition, large numbers of people and vehicles were visible in the plant area.



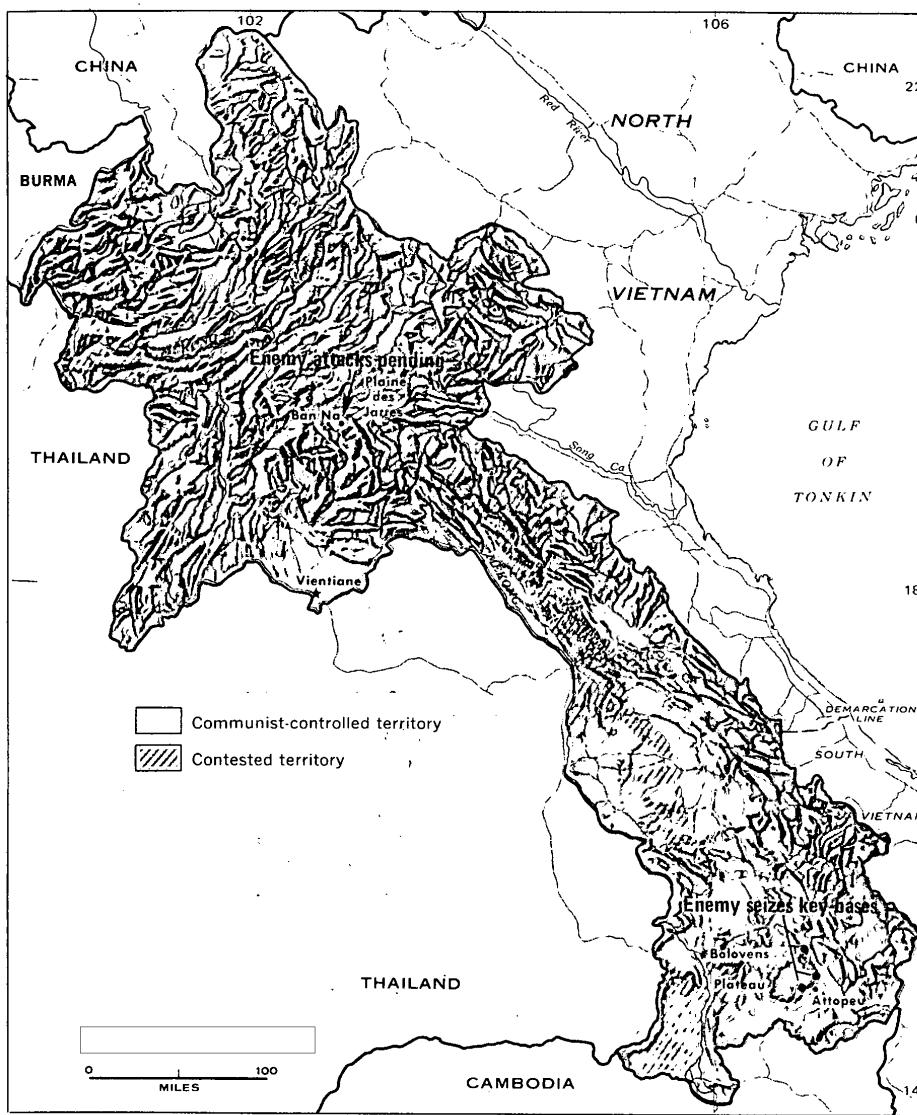
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: Current Situation



550579 11-70 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

The prolonged lull in significant military activity on the Bolovens Plateau ended on 22 November as widespread attacks were made on Laotian irregular positions by an estimated four North Vietnamese battalions. The enemy succeeded in taking the two key government bases on the plateau ten miles northwest of Attopeu as well as four other outposts in the same general area. Enemy forces also seized an irregular base camp just east of the plateau about 30 miles north of Attopeu.

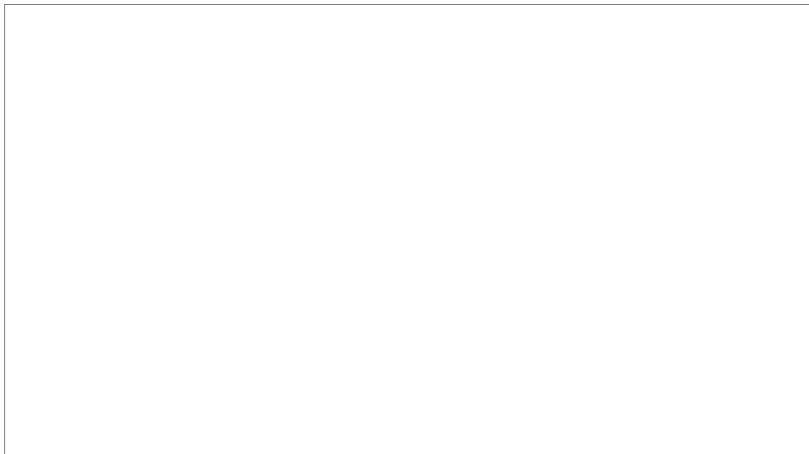
It is too early to tell whether the North Vietnamese intend to hold these positions. Government air strikes were directed against enemy units throughout the day on 22 November and irregular forces are in the process of regrouping for counterattacks. If the Communists succeed in consolidating their gains, the government's capacity to harass enemy supply and troop movements through this region could be imperiled.

In northern Laos evidence continues to accumulate of impending enemy attacks in the vicinity of Ban Na. Messages between elements of the North Vietnamese 316th Division have made repeated references to launching "phase two of the mission," which apparently involves thrusts toward Ban Na from the east by units of the 148th Regiment and from the north by a battalion of the 174th Regiment.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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SOUTH VIETNAM



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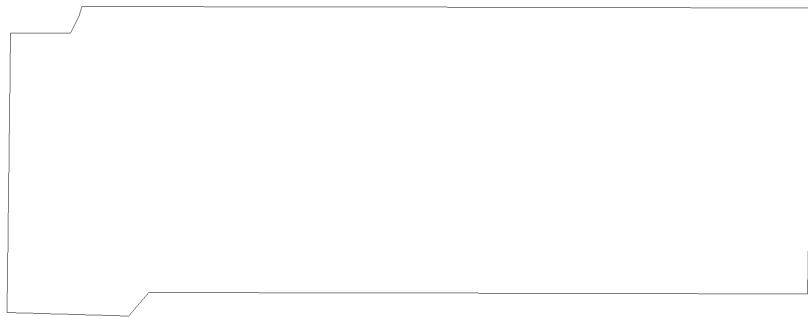


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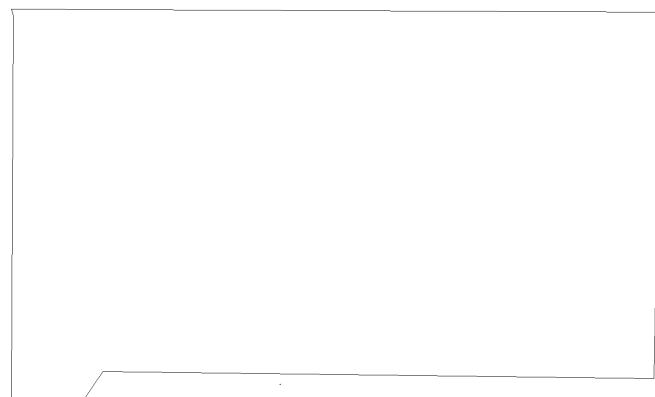
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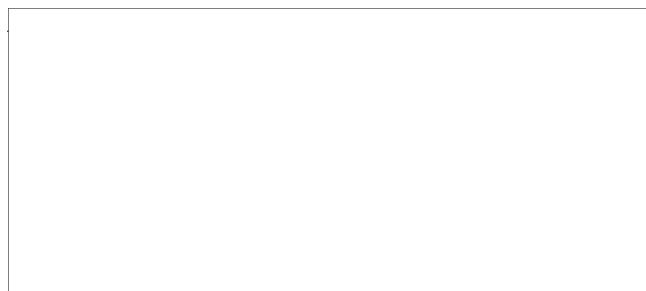
LIBYA



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

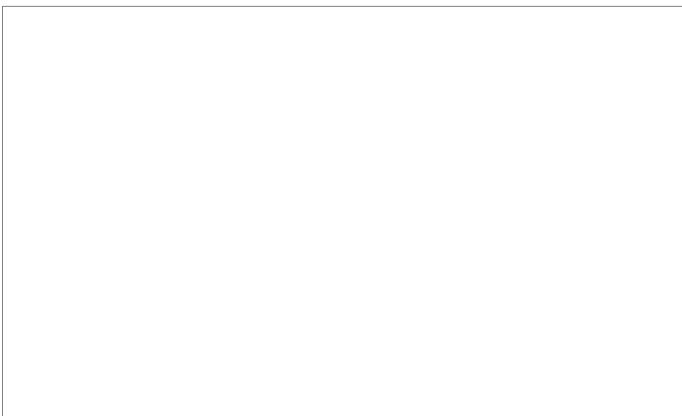


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

GUINEA

The invading force that landed in Conakry yesterday--said by President Toure to consist of some 350 "European and African mercenaries"--was ferried ashore early Sunday morning from at least four unmarked vessels clearly visible from the port of Conakry. The attackers captured two military camps in the capital and inflicted heavy damage on the President's suburban compound and the headquarters of the guerrilla movement that has been operating in neighboring Portuguese Guinea. No Guinean leaders appear to have been seized or injured by the invaders and the government has retained control of the radio, which by last night was claiming that the intruders had been suppressed. Sporadic firing occurred during the night, however, and Guinean leaders expect the ships that landed the strike force to return, either to pick up the men or to land more.



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Lisbon may have hoped that an invasion would spark an internal uprising against Toure and bring to power a new government indebted to Portuguese aid. At a minimum, the Portuguese may have thought they could frighten Toure into reducing his aid to the anti-Portuguese insurgents in Portuguese Guinea.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

West Germany: The Free Democrats (FDP) captured the required ten percent of the vote in one district in the Bavarian state elections yesterday (12.4 percent in Middle Franconia) and regained the representation in the state legislature that the party had lost in 1966. This success, on top of that in the state of Hesse two weeks ago, provides evidence that the FDP's role as junior partner in Brandt's government has won new voter support and that the decline of the party has been halted. The Social Democrats lost a few percentage points but as in Hesse they are compensated by the success of the FDP, on whom they depend for their slim Bundestag majority.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 November 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

North Vietnam

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(Page 1)

On *Page 2* we bring Cambodian military developments up to date.

Communist insurgents in northeastern Thailand evidently have for the first time established a secure base. (Page 3)

Despite the continuation of heavy firing in the Guinean capital yesterday, most of the force that invaded Sunday is unaccounted for. (Page 4)

Dry season supply activity has resumed in the Laotian panhandle. (Page 5)

Moscow and Peking have signed their first trade agreement since 1967. (Page 5)

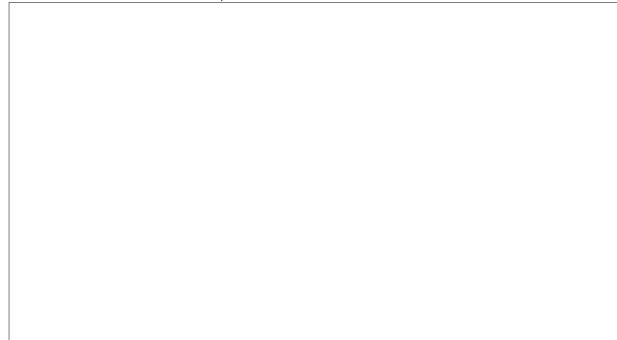
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NORTH VIETNAM



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

A 16-ship government convoy trying to move up the Mekong to relieve Kompong Cham is stalled at Peam Chikang, still some 20 miles southwest of the city. The convoy, which suffered substantial casualties and heavy damage to two ships from enemy attacks on 22 November, is awaiting orders whether to proceed north or return to Phnom Penh. Meanwhile, government reinforcements trying to reopen Route 7 between Skoun and Kompong Cham have not yet been able to do so because of the presence of enemy troops near Prey Totung.

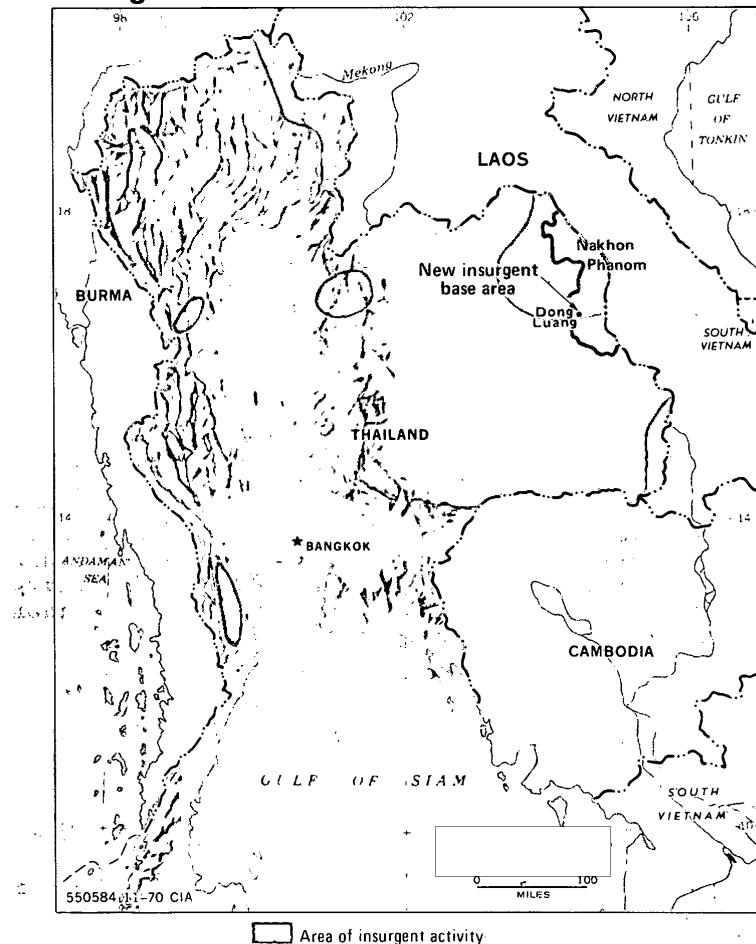
Unless relieved by road or river convoy, Kompong Cham city will continue to rely on air drops; Communist harassing fire is keeping cargo planes from landing at its airfield.

In southwestern Cambodia along Route 4, government soldiers are moving to retake positions in the Kirirom area that were lost during coordinated Communist attacks over the weekend. Six Cambodian Army battalions are scheduled to launch counterattacks against enemy forces--believed to include elements of the North Vietnamese 101D Regiment--now holding the Pich Nil pass overlooking Route 4, the Kirirom hydroelectric complex, and the Stung Chral cartridge factory.

The Kirirom plant services light industry in and around Phnom Penh, but is a relatively small source of the capital's total power supply. The cartridge factory apparently was largely destroyed by retreating Cambodian troops.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Insurgents Establish Base Area in Northeast



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THAILAND

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the Communists for the first time have established a secure base, located in the Dong Luang area of Nakhon Phanom Province. This region has been the most active insurgent area since the movement in the northeast began in 1965. The base not only has supported the training and indoctrination of insurgents and the filling out of quasimilitary village units, but has facilitated an increase in external support. There are reports that increasing numbers of AK-47 assault rifles are arriving from Laos, and there are indications that additional Thai cadre are returning from training in China and North Vietnam.

During the rainy season, the insurgents concentrated on improving their organization and village support network. They so far have avoided large-scale or highly visible actions. Increased terrorism and harassment of the government's fledgling village defense forces are designed to gain the initiative without prompting a major counteroffensive. Nevertheless, the Thai authorities believe that the insurgency in the northeast is well in hand.

For some time the Thai Army has wished to turn over its counterinsurgency role to police and civilian agencies and the troublesome situations in Laos and Cambodia have given it an opportunity. Since mid-summer, it has reduced its counterinsurgency forces in the area by two-thirds, and they now number less than 1,000. The army now is under orders to engage in suppression operations only in response to emergency situations.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

GUINEA

Heavy firing occurred sporadically in various parts of Conakry yesterday, but most of the external force that landed on Sunday is unaccounted for. The government has not yet produced any hard evidence that it has captured or killed any of the invaders. The ships which brought them--almost certainly from Portuguese Guinea--departed early yesterday.

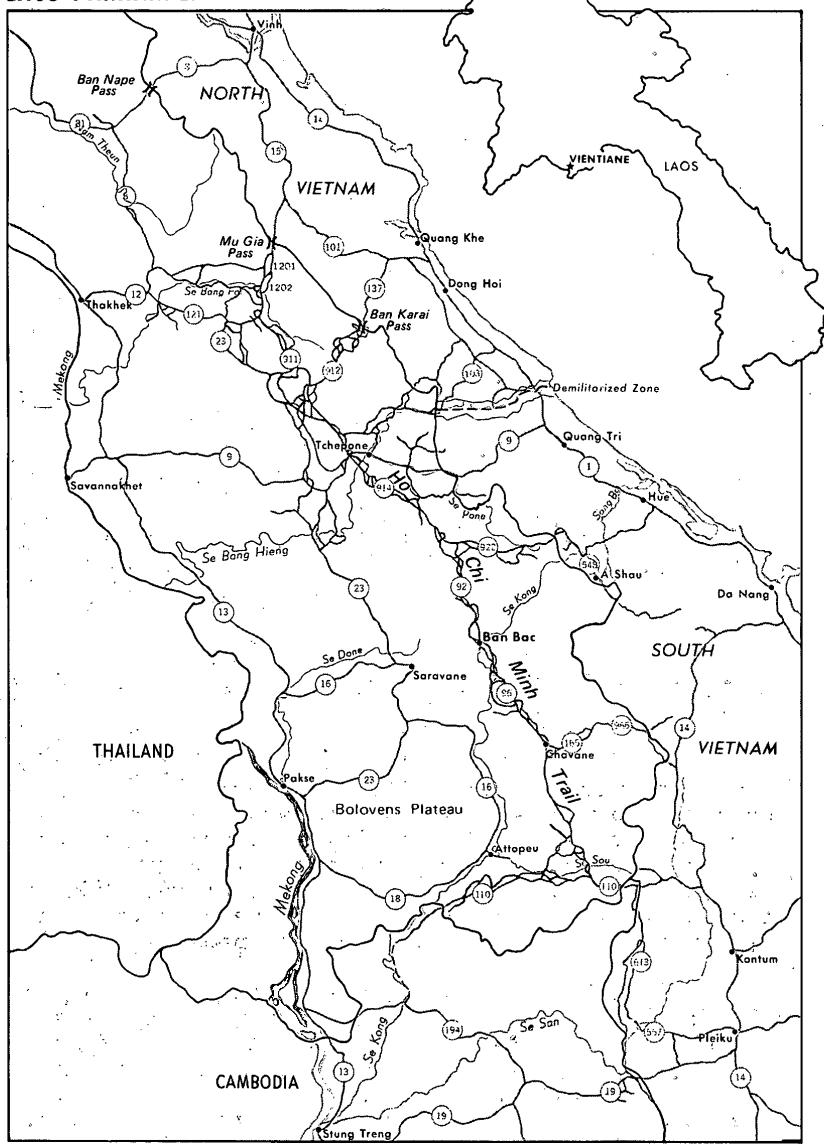
Well-armed Guinean regular troops guarded all key points in and near Conakry yesterday. The government continued to broadcast claims of complete victory, but was also saying that "the struggle continues" and advising vigilance against possible new attacks. This morning the government radio announced that another landing attempt had been repulsed during the night.

Yesterday's incidents appear mainly attributable to jumpy Guinean Army and militia patrols bent on flushing the intruders from hiding.

The UN fact-finding mission authorized by the Security Council early yesterday will consist of the permanent representatives of Finland, Poland, Colombia, Nepal, and Zambia. It is scheduled to leave for Guinea today.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS PANHANDLE



550583 11-70

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Laos - South Vietnam: Dry season supply activity is again under way in the Laotian panhandle after being delayed by unusually late heavy rains accompanied by bombing of supply routes. During the past week, Communist logistic organizations located between the Mu Gia Pass and Ban Bac in the southern panhandle have reported receiving and shipping cargoes by truck. Air and ground detections of truck movements also increased markedly.

USSR - Communist China: The trade agreement signed yesterday in Peking, the first since 1967, is the culmination of talks begun in February. Trade between the two countries has continued despite the lack of any formal arrangements, but it declined to an all-time low of \$56 million last year. The signing of the new pact suggests an increase of trade, although the details of the agreement and its duration have not been announced.

Egypt-USSR:

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

25 November 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Yesterday's SALT talks are discussed on Page 1.

[redacted] Guinea. (Page 2)

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A Burmese official says that U Nu will initiate action against Ne Win's government early next year. (Page 3)

North Vietnamese infiltration seems likely to total 20,000 for November. (Page 4)

Hanoi is having problems with its propaganda response to the US air rescue effort. (Page 5)

Communist China [redacted]

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The Soviets orbited another unmanned spacecraft yesterday. (Page 6)

Fedayeen groups are to meet today in Amman. (Page 6)

The Soviet sub tender is back in Cienfuegos. (Page 7)

Both Egypt and Israel are now conducting overflights in the Suez Canal area. (Page 7)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SALT

At yesterday's session in Helsinki, Semenov continued to pick away at the US proposal of 4 August. He addressed some of the "corollary measures" suggested by the US to facilitate verification, and contended that these were unnecessarily stringent. The US plan, for example, would ban the relocation of land-based ICBM launchers and their modification in externally observable ways. Semenov argued that this would result in banning any modernization programs which can be discovered and verified by "national means."

Semenov's commentary on the US proposal seems to be slowly grinding to a close. In private conversations the Soviets have already raised the question of when to resume in Vienna after this Helsinki round. Two of the Russian delegates have let it be known they consider resumption before next spring to be unlikely.

The Soviets are missing no opportunity to attack US unwillingness to discuss forward-based systems (FBS), and show no signs of relenting. One of the Soviet delegates privately told Ambassador Parsons yesterday that the US concern over Cuba showed Washington to be as sensitive to FBS as Moscow is.

Last week Ambassador Dobrynin had put it bluntly when he told Ambassador Thompson that FBS seems to be the "main issue" at the SALT talks, and that the Soviet military has been particularly insistent that FBS be included in the discussions. Dobrynin was doubtful that agreements would be reached at Helsinki.

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GUINEA

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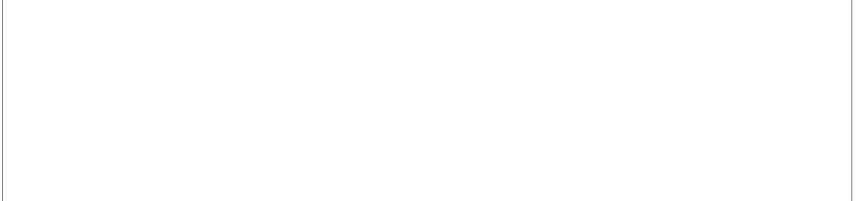
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Activity in Conakry began reverting to normal yesterday although scattered shooting persisted, apparently resulting from the efforts of government patrols to flush out remnants of the invaders. It now appears that some commandos remained on shore for only a few hours and that the bulk of them returned to their ships by the second day, although a few were killed or captured.

It seems increasingly likely that the invading force included both whites and natives of Portuguese Guinea hostile to the rebels there. Some of them are almost certainly still at large in Conakry, along with some of the non-Portuguese prisoners freed.

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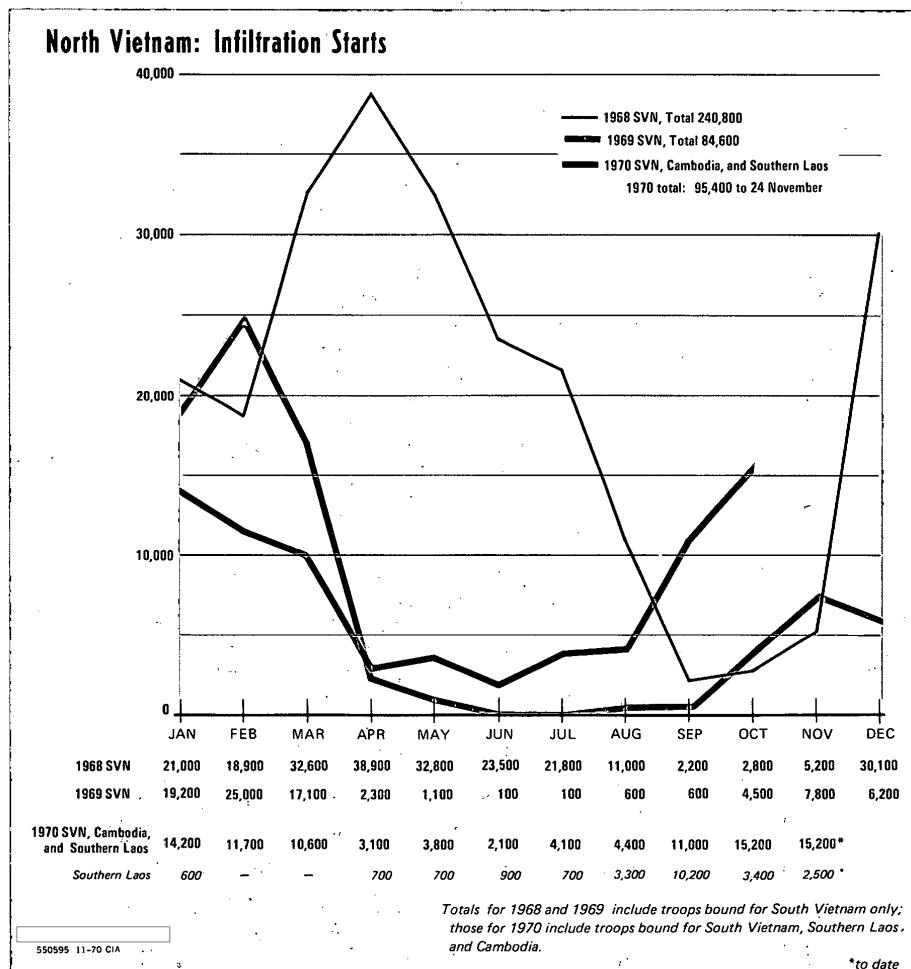
BURMA

The Burmese military attaché in Bangkok has told his American counterpart that exile forces of former prime minister U Nu plan to begin military action against the Ne Win regime around the first of the year. Military probes from Thai bases by a 1,000-man force would be complemented by Karen and Mon tribal sympathizers living along the Thai-Burmese border. The attaché said that Burma is readying its military forces along the border and is confident of repelling any military adventures. He added that U Nu's group is known to have made arms purchases recently, and he reiterated Burmese knowledge of Thai Government complicity in the ex-prime minister's activities.

The Burmese obviously are getting more upset about U Nu's campaign to unseat Ne Win, which to date has been a rather half-baked affair. Although U Nu has been buying weapons, we have no evidence to confirm the allegation that he plans to launch operations soon. Rangoon, although not worried about an early military threat, is concerned that the appearance of his forces inside Burma would increase his appeal to the disaffected Burmese populace.

The purpose of the Burmese attaché in passing this information may have been to discourage any US contacts with U Nu. Although Rangoon has accepted US assurances of noninvolvement, some Burmese officials have been telling third parties that the opposite is true. The Rangoon press has noted Bangkok's association with the exile movement, and the Burmese may also hope that the attaché's remarks will get back to the Thai and discourage their support of U Nu.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

Some 4,500 troops started southward during the past week, bringing the total being infiltrated so far in November to around 15,200. About 10,000 of these are going to the COSVN area which covers southern South Vietnam and Cambodia. Another 2,700 are earmarked for northern South Vietnam and 2,500 more--including what appears to be an integral regiment--are most likely en route to southern Laos.

November infiltration will reach about 20,000 if the present rate continues. This would be the highest monthly total since February 1969; when 25,000 set out.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

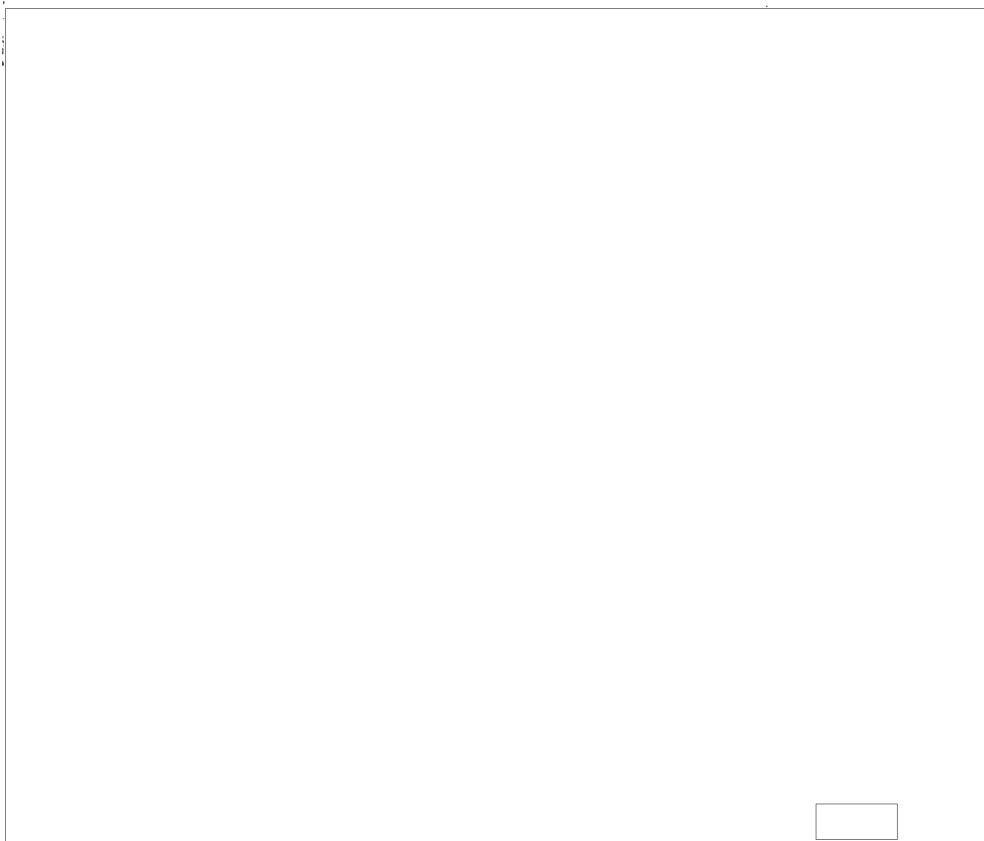
A Foreign Ministry statement about the US operation to rescue captured airmen was ordered held in abeyance yesterday shortly after being transmitted to foreign outlets of the North Vietnamese news agency. The statement, although calling Secretary Laird's disclosure a fabrication to cover widespread US air raids well above the 19th parallel, was on the whole mild and lacking in threats of military retaliation or of a break in the Paris talks. The news agencies were ordered to await another statement, but no second statement is available and, as of early this morning, Hanoi has not yet released the original Foreign Ministry response.

North Vietnam's international news service has, however, broadcast an unattributed commentary published today in the Communist Party's daily newspaper. Like Hanoi's initial response to the air attacks, this commentary avoided the issue of whether a rescue effort had actually occurred and stated only that the US had attacked a prisoner of war installation. The weekend raids were characterized as "extremely serious" but no unusual reactions were threatened.

Delay in releasing a Foreign Ministry statement and the guarded approach to the rescue mission suggest that Hanoi has been having some difficulty in formulating an appropriate response. Hanoi's dilemma apparently stems from its desire to condemn the action without acknowledging that US forces were able to move in and out of North Vietnamese territory with impunity.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Communist China: [redacted]

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USSR: An unmanned Soyuz spacecraft was orbited from Tyuratam yesterday morning. [redacted], labeled Cosmos 379 by TASS,

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[redacted] The purpose of this flight may be to test modifications to the spacecraft, possibly in preparation for a new phase of the Soyuz manned space program.

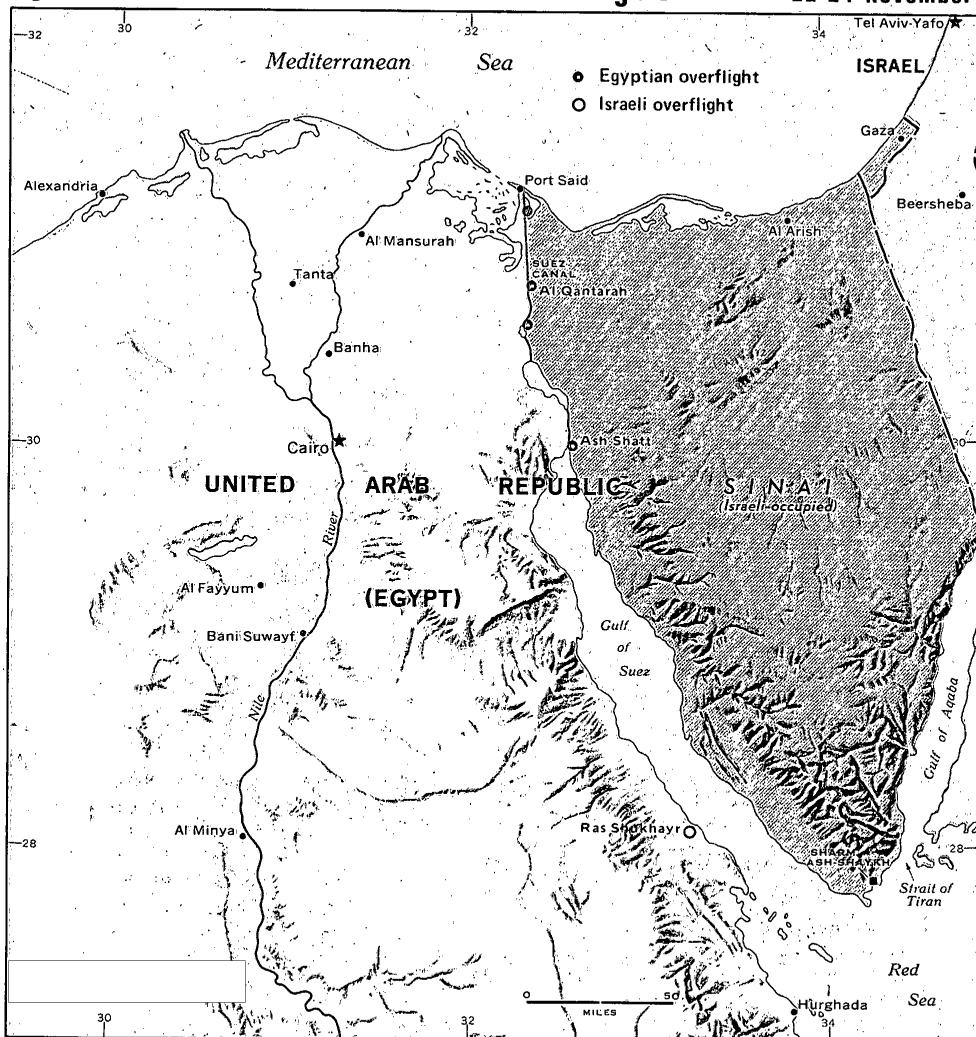
Fedayeen-Jordan: Representatives from various Palestine commando organizations are scheduled to meet today in Amman to discuss the merger of all fedayeen groups into a single Palestine Liberation Front. The meeting has already been postponed once because of the disarray among fedayeen leaders

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(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Egyptian and Israeli Reconnaissance Overflights 22-24 November



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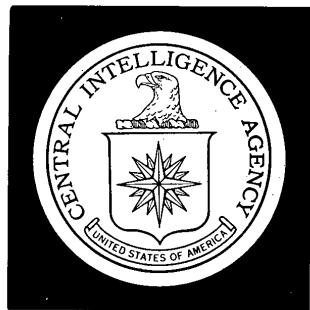
USSR-Cuba: The Soviet submarine tender returned to Cienfuegos yesterday afternoon following a five-day stay in the nearby port of Casilda. In the Atlantic, a Soviet guided-missile frigate and an oiler are 1,300 miles southwest of the Azores, headed toward the Caribbean. [redacted] a Soviet C-class nuclear attack submarine may be accompanying these two ships.

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Egypt-Israel: Egyptian reconnaissance flights over the east bank of the Suez Canal were conducted on 22 and 23 November for the first time since the cease-fire began in early August. These missions have elicited Israeli complaints of cease-fire violations despite the fact that the Israelis conduct fairly regular overflights of Egyptian territory--the most recent of which occurred yesterday.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

26 November 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

North Vietnam's tactics at the Paris talks are discussed on *Page 1*.

In Greece, dissatisfaction with Papadopoulos' leadership continues, but the Prime Minister remains in firm control. (*Page 2*)

[Laos]
(*Page 3*)

50X1

Prime Minister Colombo may ask the Italian parliament for a vote of confidence next week. (*Page 4*)

Military activity in Cambodia is summarized on *Page 5*.

Thailand's cabinet reshuffle is noted on *Page 5*.

[Communist China]
(*Page 5*)

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The Presidential succession has become topical in Haiti. (*Page 6*)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

Hanoi's decision to put off temporarily any further private talks with the US parallels the Communist boycott of the regular plenary session. These gestures are a minimum protest against US actions last weekend and, we think, do not constitute a basic change in the Communist attitude at Paris. The North Vietnamese may consider the gestures a way of underscoring that, while they expect to resume private talks in the future, progress will be possible only if the US is prepared to take up all issues in a bilateral format, as Xuan Thuy indicated at the private meeting on 16 November. Communist avoidance of more dramatic moves in response to last weekend's events suggests that they still hope that the Paris talks eventually will be fruitful for them.

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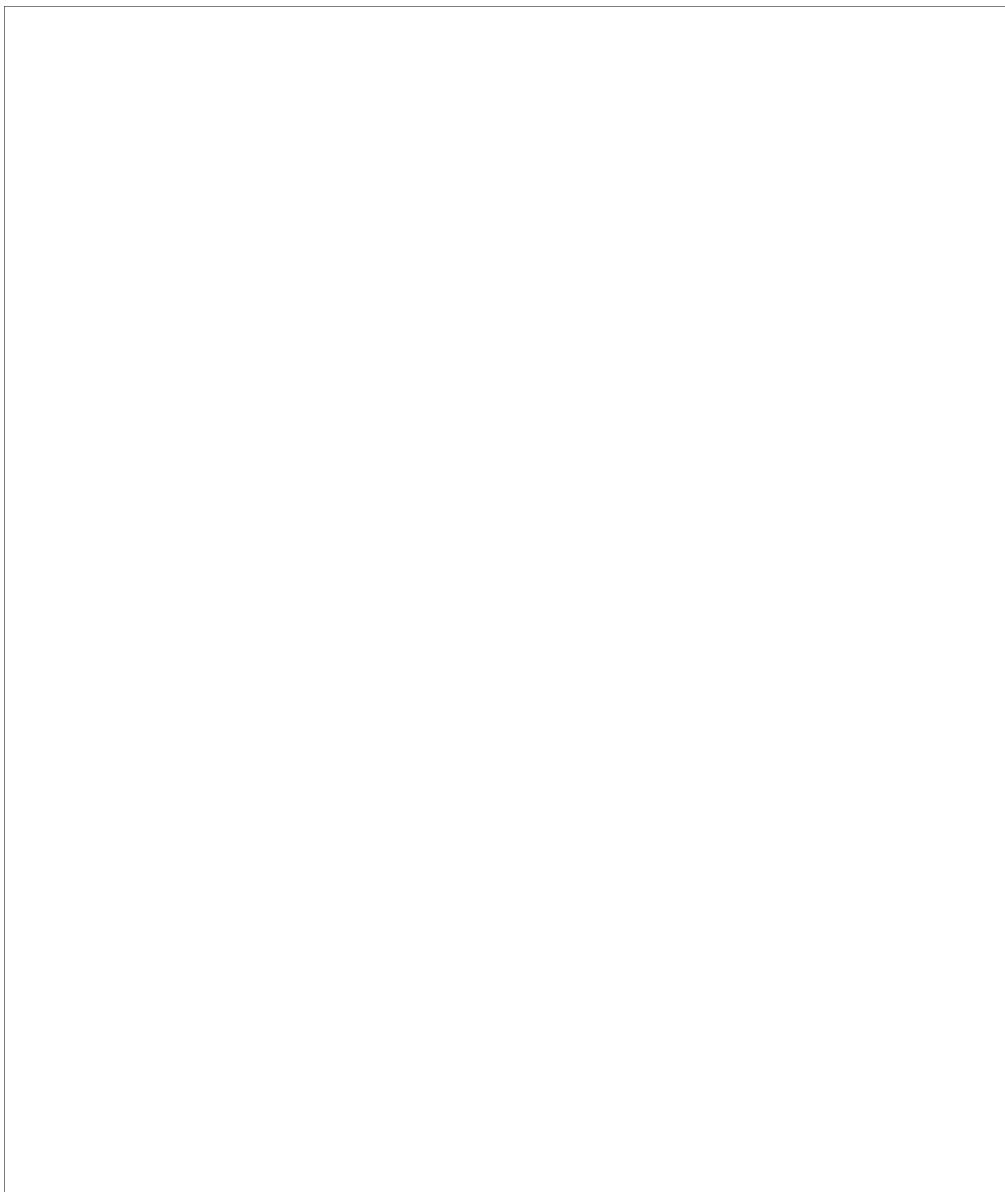
GREECE

US officials in Athens report that opposition to the leadership of Prime Minister Papadopoulos may soon come to a head.

The opposition comes from those officers who joined with Papadopoulos in the coup of 1967. Ambition for power rather than disagreement over a significant issue seems to be the dominant factor.

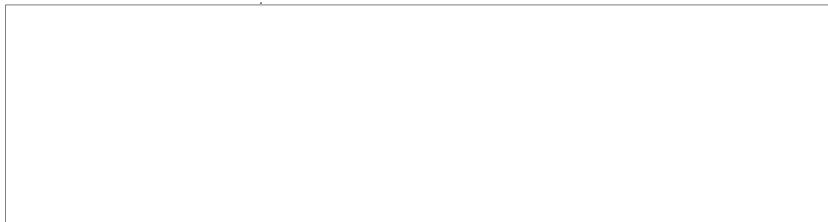
The challenge to Papadopoulos surfaced early this fall when he threatened to resign over his colleagues' insistence on greater participation in the government. Papadopoulos' critics backed down at that time because they could neither decide on an alternative to him nor muster support in the army. There is no substantial information at present to indicate significant erosion of the army's support for the Prime Minister but tensions are high and acrimonious gossip against Papadopoulos is mounting.

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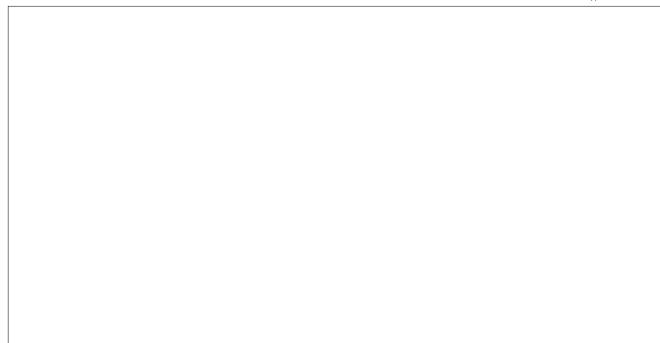


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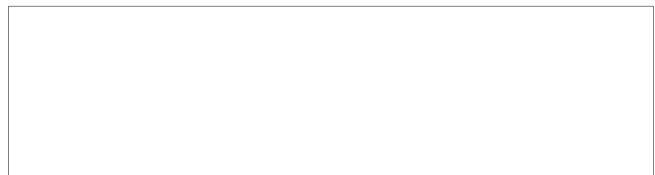
LAOS



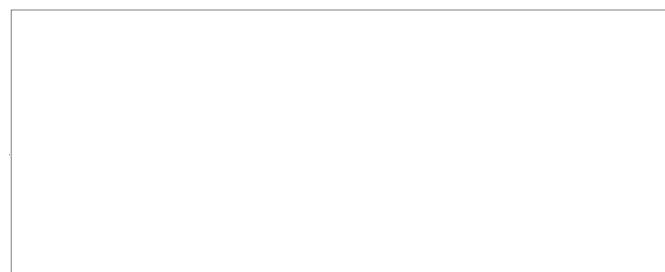
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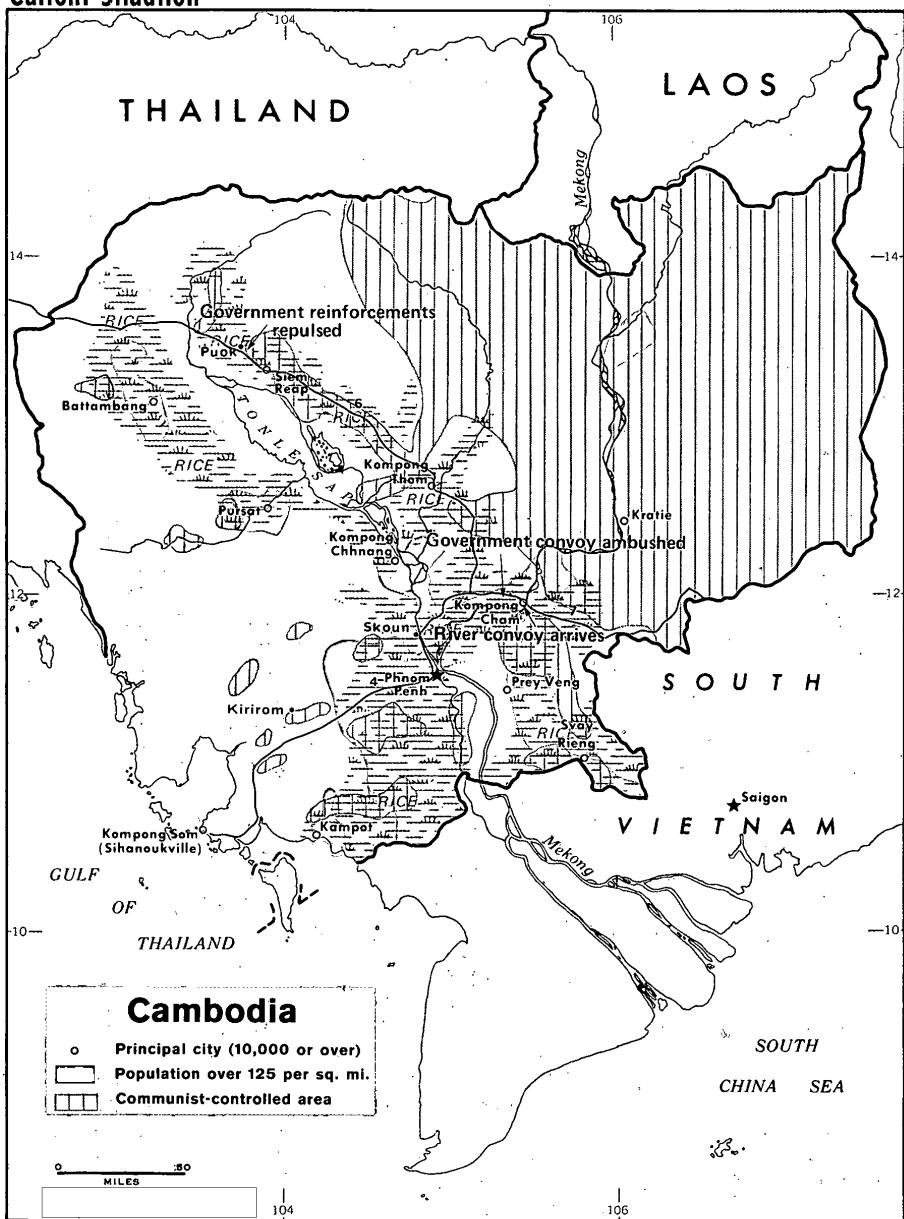
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**ITALY**

Prime Minister Colombo has threatened to ask for a vote of confidence next week on the government's economic decree law if the legislature does not approve the bill by then. The Chamber of Deputies plans to remain in session until the end of the week in an effort to secure final passage of the bill. Italy's Communist Party (PCI) has several amendments it would like to incorporate into the bill but the filibustering tactics of the small Soviet-financed Proletarian Socialist Party have been the greatest single obstacle.

The PCI believes the ultraleft Proletarian Socialists are working at cross purposes to the best interests of leftist parties in Italy. The Communists want to avoid a confidence vote because it might unite the coalition and thereby reduce the influence the Communist Party has achieved as an opposition party in formulating major legislation. The Communists may ask Moscow to call off the Proletarian Socialists rather than risk damaging the PCI's ability to influence other reform bills pending in parliament.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Cambodia: The government's riverine supply convoy reached Kompong Cham city yesterday without further incident. The Cambodians are now preparing another push to clear portions of Route 7 between Skoun and Kompong Cham, following the recent ambush of a government convoy on that road. In the southwest, the six government battalions assigned to re-take positions near Route 4 in the Kirirom area have not yet made contact with the enemy. The road is still closed to through traffic. Elsewhere, the Communists still control the district headquarters at Puok, ten miles west of Siem Reap city, which they seized on 24 November. Cambodian troops attempting to recapture the town on 25 November were forced to retreat in the face of heavy Communist resistance.

Thailand: In a reshuffle of his cabinet, Prime Minister Thanom has given important posts to supporters of Deputy Prime Minister Praphat. The appointments will strengthen the impression among Thai politicians that momentum is building for Praphat's early replacement of Thanom. The timing still lies with Thanom, but one obstacle apparently has been removed. A member of the Privy Council suggested recently to Ambassador Unger that the monarchy, to whom Praphat has long been anathema, is now reconciled to Praphat's succession.

Ethiopia - Communist China:

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(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Haiti: President Duvalier's failing health has focused attention on the succession problem.

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The President appears to be favoring his only son, Jean-Claude as his successor and recently has allowed him to make public appearances usually reserved for the President. Max Dominique, Duvalier's son-in-law, is another possible candidate but neither he nor Jean-Claude appear to have the necessary military support to maintain control of the country.

USSR: Last night the Soviets test fired an SS-13 ICBM from the Plesetsk missile test center to an impact closure area in the Pacific, a distance of 4,700 nautical miles. This is the first extended-range firing into this area since it was closed on 28 October. The closure termination date is 30 November.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Viet Cong broadcasts have rejected the possibility of a stand-still cease-fire and the prolongation of forthcoming holiday truces. (Page 1)

The military situation in Laos is discussed on Page 2.

Egypt

(Page 3)

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Following the suicide on Wednesday, Tokyo will watch far right groups more closely but the main threat from this sector remains isolated acts of terror or self-destruction. (Page 4)

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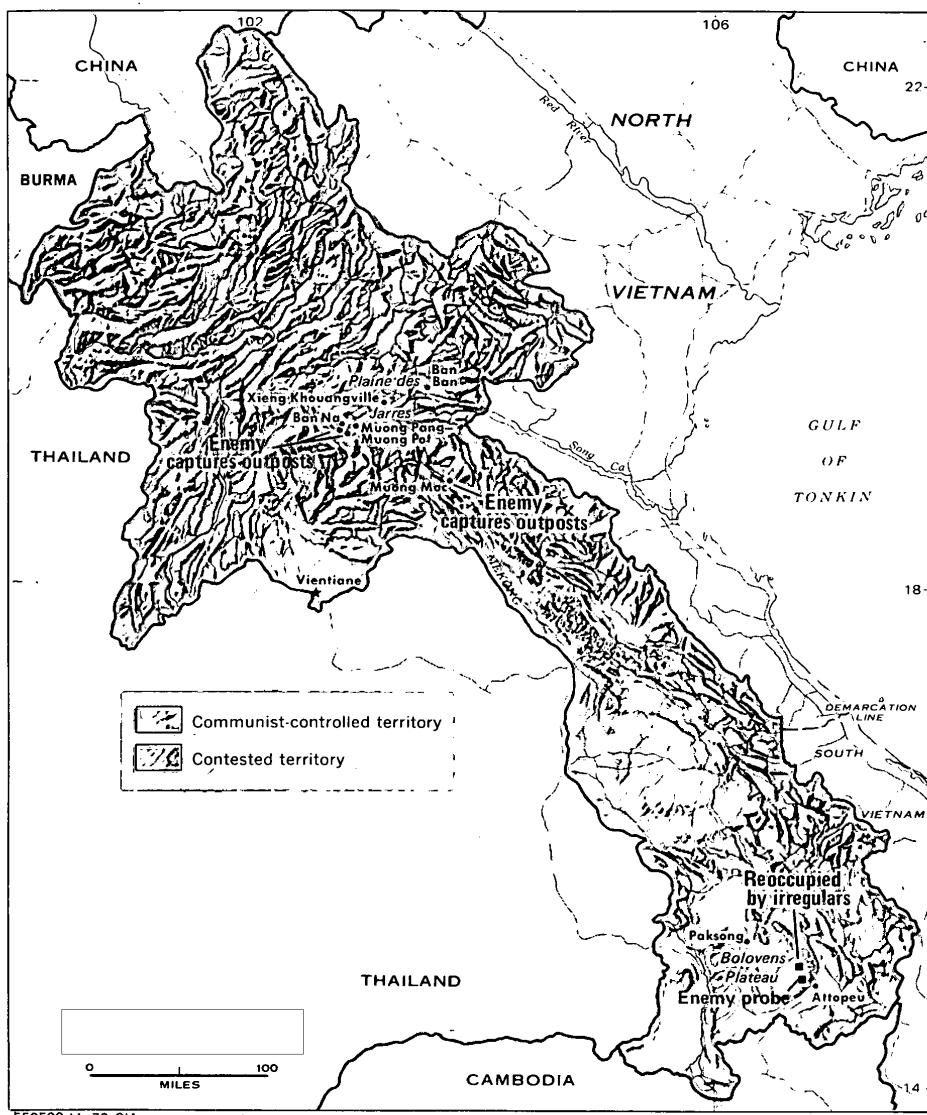
VIETNAM

Two Viet Cong broadcasts have attacked President Nixon's proposal for a stand-still cease-fire and rejected the possibility of prolonging forthcoming holiday truces. The broadcasts said the Communists "will take rational and sensible decisions" to allow combatants on both sides to observe Christmas, New Year, and Lunar New Year holidays, but one of them asserted that the Communists "will never accept" an extended cease-fire until there is an "appropriate political solution" to the war and the US is willing to withdraw all its troops from Vietnam.

These commentaries appear to be aimed at wavering in Communist ranks as much as at allied audiences. The broadcasts seem to be part of an effort to disabuse Communist forces of "peace illusions" they may have because of President Nixon's proposals and other cease-fire talk now being heard in many parts of South Vietnam. One of the broadcasts observes that a cease-fire might silence the guns, but "death, imprisonment, shame and misery" would continue under a "US-type" cease-fire. The broadcast notes the troubles the Communists encountered after the Geneva Agreements in 1954 and predicts that if the US cease-fire proposal were accepted thousands of "patriotic compatriots" would be imprisoned and massacred.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: Current Situation



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LAOS

Communist forces attacked and occupied two outposts near Ban Na west of the Plaine des Jarres on 25 November. East of Ban Na, intercepted messages indicate that the North Vietnamese 148th Regiment is preparing coordinated attacks in the Muong Pang - Muong Pot area.

Although fighting in the north remains sporadic, this activity suggests that "phase two" of the North Vietnamese counteroffensive west of the Plaine, to which Communist messages have repeatedly referred, has begun.

Elsewhere in the north, on 24 November a North Vietnamese force overran five outposts of government irregulars near Muong Moc. A probing attack on Muong Moc itself was repulsed, however..

Irregular forces occupied this isolated area during the past rainy season, and an enemy effort to retake it was expected.

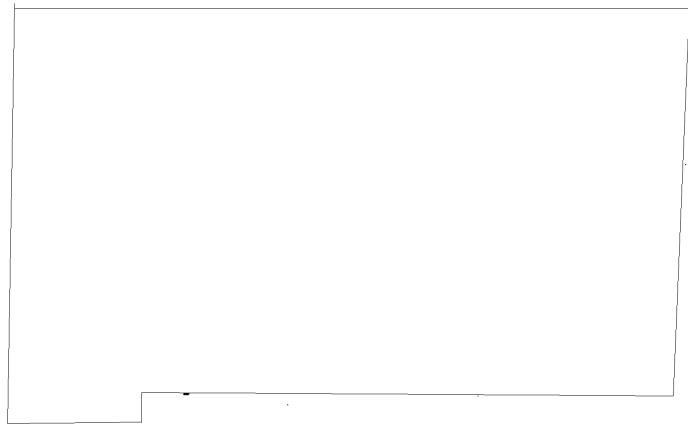
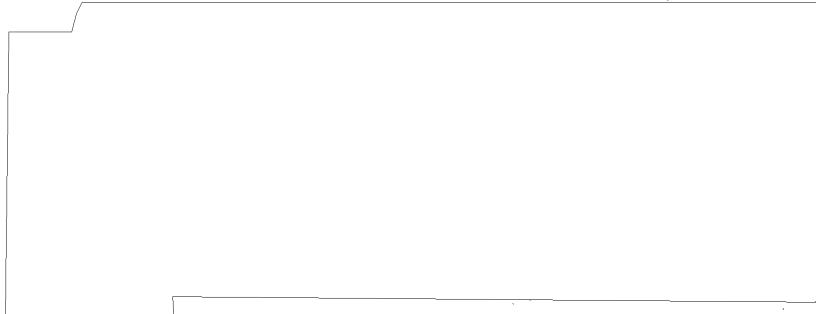
Communist messages continue to refer to fears that government troops are planning strikes against Communist supply operations east of the Plaine. Units near Xieng Khouangville and Ban Ban have been warned to take security precautions.

In the south, Communist reinforcements appear to be moving southward toward the Bolovens Plateau. On the plateau's eastern rim, a site 15 miles northwest of Attopeu has twice changed hands this week, with a government irregular battalion regaining possession on 25 November. The Communists continue to probe another site which government forces reoccupied earlier this week.

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EGYPT-USSR



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NOTE

Japan: Tokyo--sensitive to rising fears in Asia of resurgent Japanese militarism--is likely to make every effort to downplay the significance of the suicide Wednesday of Yukio Mishima, a highly popular novelist and prominent right-wing leader. Sato immediately condemned the suicide as the act of a "deranged mind," and this view apparently is being supported by the media. The government plans to exercise greater vigilance against the far right, but for the foreseeable future the principal threat from these small groups is likely to remain isolated acts of terror or self-destruction.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

28 November 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The postponement of scheduled high-level visits in Eastern Europe suggests that a Warsaw Pact meeting may be held next week. (Page 1)

An Egyptian approach to Jordan concerning a joint command seems to have several tactical political purposes. (Page 2)

Turkish Prime Minister Demirel's position appears increasingly shaky because of infighting among members of his party. (Page 3)

On Page 4 we wrap up the aftermath of Sunday's raid on Conakry.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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WARSAW PACT

The Poles have suddenly postponed a visit of the Austrian foreign minister, and East Germany's Ulbricht has postponed a visit to Romania. Both visits had been scheduled for 2 December. The Austrians were told that Polish Foreign Minister Jedrychowski had to leave the country to attend a meeting that was not called at Polish initiative. A Romanian Embassy official in Washington says that the Ulbricht visit was postponed because a Warsaw Pact summit meeting will be held in East Berlin from 2 to 4 December.

Such a meeting could have been arranged by Eastern European Communist leaders who were gathered in Budapest this week for the Hungarian party congress. Ulbricht did not attend the Hungarian affair but he could have been informed of a decision to assemble Pact members by Gromyko, who made a quick trip to East Berlin on 25 November. Speeches made at the Hungarian congress reflected the differences between East Germany and its allies over the proper response to West Germany's Ostpolitik, and one purpose of a conference would involve an attempt to work out a common front.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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ARAB STATES

King Husayn told Ambassador Brown Wednesday the Egyptians have proposed deploying four Iraqi divisions along his frontier with Israel. The Egyptian chief of staff, Sadiq, told the King that Cairo is convinced that renewed hostilities with Israel are "imminent" and claimed that Syria and Iraq are now ready to participate actively in a joint command inside Jordan. The Cairo press reports that the reactivation of the Eastern Command also was pressed by Syrian Premier Asad in his talks with President Sadat yesterday. The subject is to be discussed further when Husayn visits Cairo next week.

Assuming Husayn's account is accurate, the Egyptian proposal seems more a political tactic than a reflection of a serious belief that the war is about to be renewed. The Egyptians may have calculated that the King would report their concern to the US and that this, coupled with Cairo's current allegations of a major Israeli military build-up, would generate pressure toward an early resumption of the Jarring talks.

The approach may have had the additional purpose of discouraging any separate talks between Israel and Jordan.

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Cairo also is aware that the Israelis have more than once stated their willingness to deal unilaterally with the Jordanians through Jarring. The Egyptian proposal will put Husayn on the defensive in Cairo and may cool his desire for an Arab summit meeting.

The Israelis have never had to worry over any serious threat from the Eastern Command area, and the prospects for any effective joint Arab military operation are still not good. Nevertheless, discussions, if not real planning, may continue even though the Arabs recognize that a coordinated "second front" is mere fantasy. The Egyptians may be looking for a psychological advantage to occupy the Israeli military strategists with at least a potential threat on their other flank. Egyptian complaints about weakness on the "eastern front" could serve too as a device for Cairo's use in "explaining" willingness to negotiate on Middle East issues.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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TURKEY

Prime Minister Demirel's position appears increasingly shaky because of infighting among members of his Justice Party, which kept the Lower House of Parliament from electing a speaker for nearly a month.

On Thursday, on the 36th ballot taken since Parliament returned from its summer recess on 1 November, the Lower House approved Demirel's third choice for the office of speaker. During the extended imbroglio at least two deputies, including the previous speaker, resigned from the Justice Party. Together with other dissidents they announced plans this week to form a new party.

The schism basically represents a struggle between Demirel's moderates and party conservatives over personalities rather than issues. Last spring dissident conservatives were ousted for failure to follow party discipline. Demirel received overwhelming support at last month's party convention and the conservatives were left in minority position. The conservatives, however, have enough strength in Parliament--about 20 percent of the Justice Party's seats--to disrupt the government's business. New elections which might reduce their number are not scheduled until 1973.

Future votes on the budget and other sensitive issues will be potentially dangerous for Demirel, whose image as party leader has been damaged. Prolonged instability could lead to direct or indirect military intervention.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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GUINEA

Logistic and other difficulties continue to impede the dispatch of direct military aid by African countries. Sierra Leone has set up a small military base camp inside Guinea, but no other country has yet sent troops. Nigeria has sent arms but has not yet determined how to transport to Conakry the force it has pledged. An Algerian study mission that visited Conakry has returned home and announced that unspecified material help will be provided.

Anti-Portuguese fever is still running high in many African countries. In Santa Isabel, capital of Equatorial Guinea, a number of Portuguese were seriously beaten on 25 November, and Portuguese-owned residences and businesses were systematically sacked, apparently with official sanction. Student demonstrations in Ivory Coast and Nigeria against Portuguese and alleged NATO involvement in the Conakry raid were dispersed by police, however.

In Conakry itself, where conditions have largely returned to normal, there are extensive signs of physical damage from the commando raid. Army headquarters in downtown Conakry was completely destroyed. Guinean forces are [redacted] reported to have suffered at least 100 killed in the fighting.

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NOTE

USSR: Last night the Soviets fired a modified version of the SS-13 ICBM from Plesetsk approximately 4,700 miles to an impact area in the mid-Pacific. This was the second extended range firing of the modified SS-13 within the past few days. The system has been tested 12 times since the first launch was detected in January 1970. Four Soviet instrumentation ships remain in the impact area, which the Soviets have closed to shipping and aircraft until 30 November.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

East Germany remains rigid on the status of West Berlin, but Ulbricht's allies may encourage him to develop a more flexible position at the forthcoming Warsaw Pact summit meeting. (Page 1)

The Communists continue to dominate several sections of important Cambodian highways. (Page 2)

The military situation in Laos is discussed on Page 3.

Guinea has repelled a second invasion force. (Page 4)

Soviet

(Page 4)

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The Soviets conducted a short-range firing of the standard SS-11 Saturday. (Page 4)

Guatemala

(Page 4)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

BERLIN

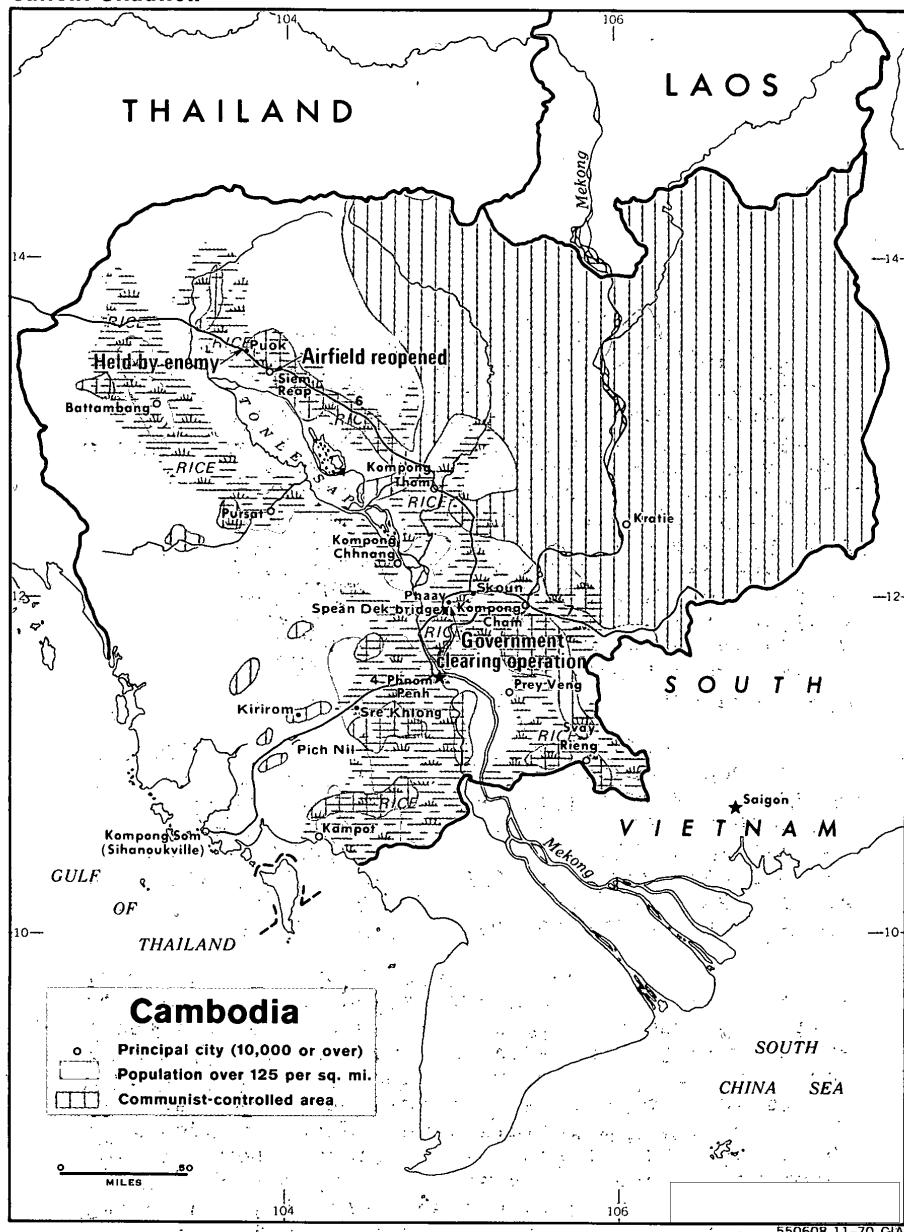
No progress was made Friday at the first all-German working-level session on Berlin.

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Pankow demonstrated its disapproval of these meetings by causing tie-ups over the weekend for travelers to and from Berlin. The East Germans insist that West German "political activities" in Berlin are illegal because West Berlin is not a political entity of West Germany, a position the Soviets ostensibly support.

East German negativism may have been in Brezhnev's mind yesterday, however, when he said in a speech at Yerevan that it is necessary for interested parties involved in discussions on West Berlin to display good will. Brezhnev renewed his commitment to the four-power talks and indicated he would support East Germany's "legitimate interests and sovereign rights." The limits of these interests and rights may be the central issue at the forthcoming Warsaw Pact summit conference. Moscow announced this morning that the meeting would take place in Berlin in early December.

Current Situation



CAMBODIA

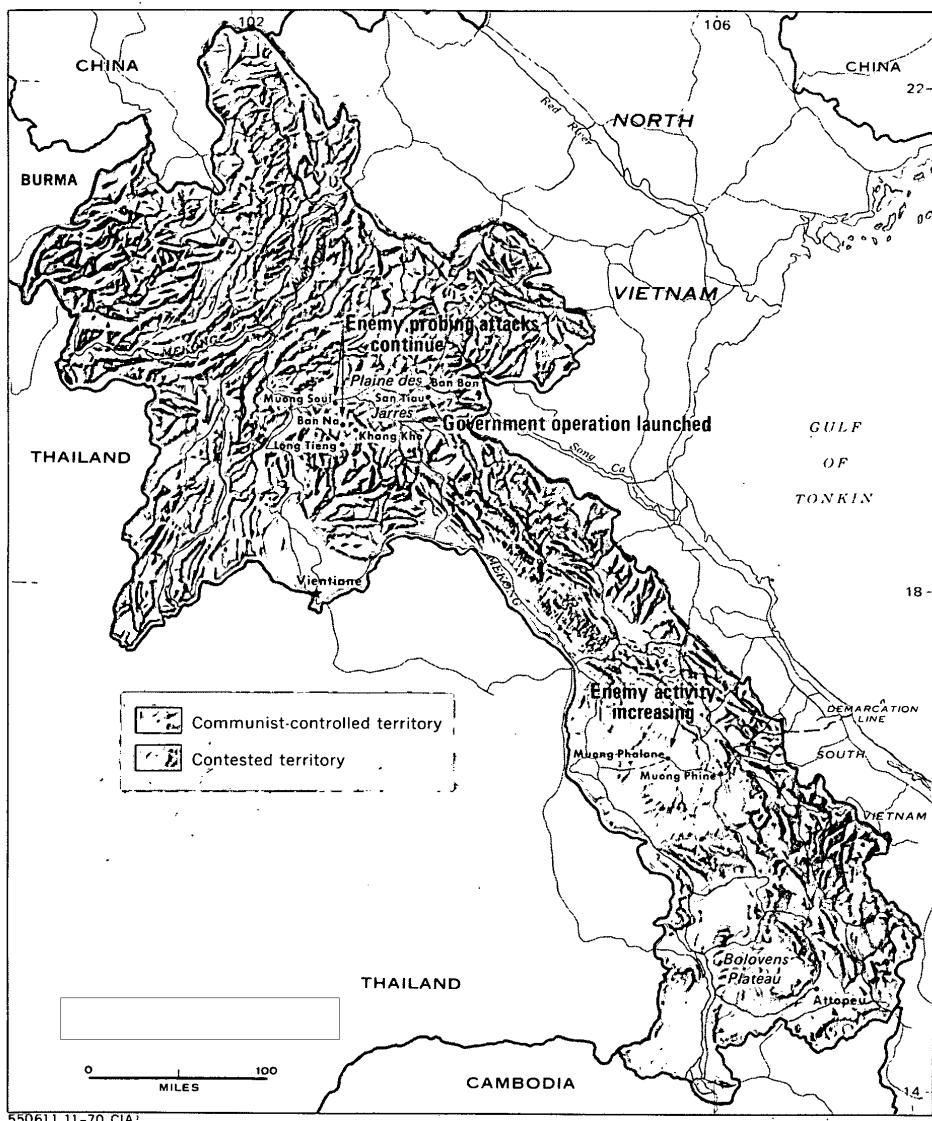
Communist pressure against major lines of communication continued over the weekend. The enemy still holds sections of Routes 6 and 7 in Kompong Cham Province, and an attempt by government troops to reopen Route 6 from Phaav to the Spean Dek bridge on Saturday was unsuccessful. Enemy harassing attacks and ambushes against government positions along Route 4 in the Kirirom area have forced the Cambodians to abandon temporarily their push to clear that important highway.

In the northwest, senior government commanders are trying to organize a new operation to recapture the town of Puok, ten miles west of Siem Reap city on Route 6. This operation may include three battalions that recently completed training in Thailand. Government troops succeeded in reopening the road between Siem Reap and its airfield on 28 November.

Since their current campaign against vital roadways began on 9 November, the Communists have capitalized effectively on the Cambodian Army's inexperience and lack of mobility. Small enemy units have put the government back on the defensive with a series of selected ambushes and harassing attacks.

Minor enemy actions continue around Phnom Penh, but no significant Communist advances toward the capital are evident. Government sources in Phnom Penh have announced that a dusk-to-dawn curfew for foreign nationals will be instituted in the city today, but this measure appears to be aimed at discouraging additional terrorist incidents.

LAOS: Current Situation

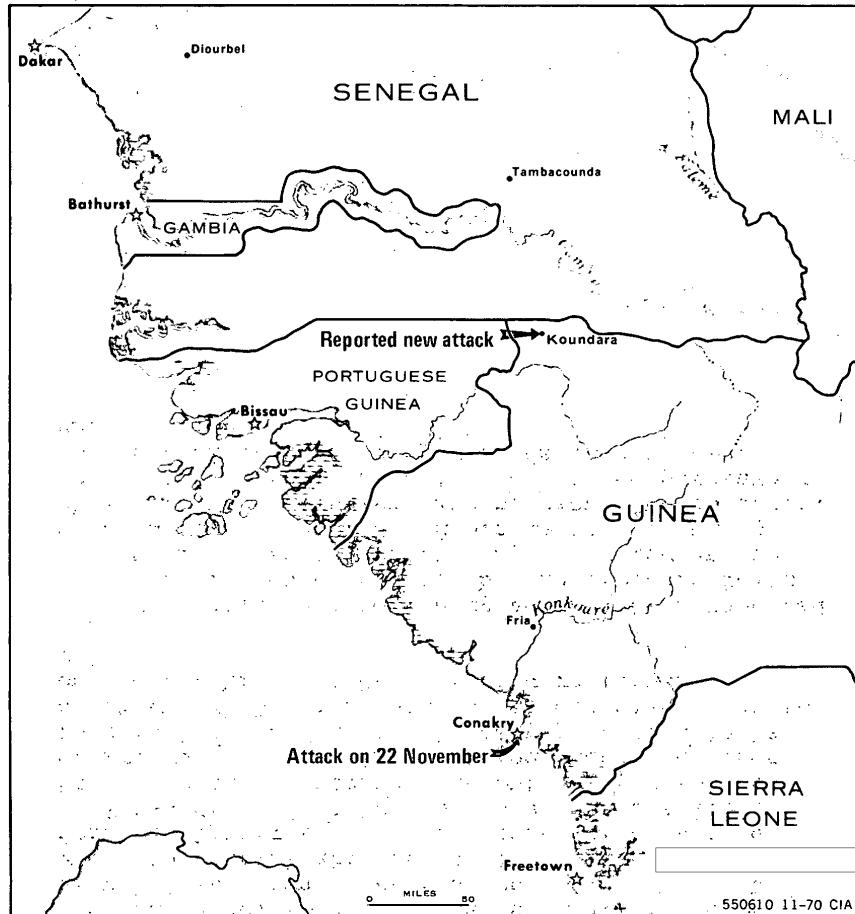


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LAOS

A force of almost 1,000 irregular troops from Long Tieng and Khang Kho was airlifted into the San Tiau area, some ten miles south of the Communist logistic center at Ban Ban, on 27 and 28 November. Initial attempts by the irregulars to secure San Tiau were met with enemy mortar and recoilless rifle fire but no casualties resulted. Southwest of the Plaine, one outpost was abandoned by irregular troops in scattered weekend clashes. Northwest of Ban Na, small enemy probing attacks on 26 and 27 November against a government position on the outskirts of Muong Soui were repulsed quickly.

No significant new enemy actions were reported yesterday in southern Laos, but intercepted Communist messages reveal increasing enemy reconnaissance activity and troop deployments near Muong Phalane. The Communists may be preparing to attack Muong Phalane to forestall possible new government forays against their supply lines in the Muong Phine region.



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NOTES

Guinea:

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[the second invasion force to raid
Guinea within a week has withdrawn]

About 80 exiled opponents of Toure's government failed to capture the frontier town of Koundara and more than 20 of the invaders have been captured. Over the weekend, two Soviet and two Egyptian AN-12 transport aircraft arrived in Conakry, presumably delivering medical and other supplies. The special UN investigating mission has returned to New York and its report is likely to incriminate Portugal.

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USSR-Cuba: The Soviet submarine tender which has been in Cuban waters since early September again left the port of Cienfuegos on 27 November. The tender is now south of Haiti and may be under way to meet a Soviet guided-missile frigate, an oiler, and possibly a nuclear-powered submarine which are on a heading to enter the Caribbean about 1 December.

USSR: The Soviets fired a standard SS-11 ICBM from Tyuratam to an undetermined short range on 28 November. This was the first short-range firing of this model of the SS-11 since July 1968, when at least five were tested to a range of about 500-600 nautical miles. The purpose of the test after the more than two-year hiatus is unknown. The Soviets conducted three tests of a modified SS-11 ICBM--the model with larger fuel tanks and a penetration aids system--to short ranges in June and July.

Guatemala:

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